



Tshwane University
of Technology

We empower people

Faculty of Arts & Design



LEARNING AND TEACHING CONVERSATIONS

SIGNATURE PEDAGOGIES AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: CULTIVATING CRITICAL CITIZENSHIP AND DECOLONIAL PRACTICES

Presented by **Dr Herman Botes**

This interactive session delves into curriculum development within art and design education through the lens of signature pedagogies. Building on extensive research in critical citizenship and decolonisation, Dr Herman Botes will offer innovative strategies for embedding socially responsive pedagogical frameworks within South Africa's unique educational landscape. He will explore practical methods through which art and design educators can cultivate environments that encourage students to critically interrogate identity, power dynamics, cultural representation, and social justice issues.

The session will promote rethinking traditional, industry-focused teaching approaches by embedding them within more holistic, conscientious, and contextually grounded educational practices. Attendees will acquire valuable insights into developing curricula that foster dialogue, critical reflection, and practical engagement, ultimately empowering art and design graduates to become socially responsible citizens equipped to navigate and influence a rapidly evolving societal context.

DATE: 19 May 2025

VENUE: Arts Campus, Building 25, Room 25

TIME:

12:00 - 13:00

FACILITATOR:

Dr Laetitia Orlandi,
Assistant Dean: Teaching & Learning



Biography

DR HERMAN BOTES (PhD Visual Arts, Stellenbosch University) serves as Head of the Department of Visual Communication at Tshwane University of Technology. As an experienced graphic designer, academic leader, and researcher, Dr Botes specialises in critical pedagogy, design education, and curriculum development. His doctoral research, "Exploring critical citizenship and decolonisation as a framework for design education in South Africa," underscores his dedication to cultivating socially conscious, critically engaged citizen-designers.

Dr Botes has served as President of the Design Educators Forum of Southern Africa (DEFSA), chairing significant academic conferences and contributing as a recommendation writer for the Council on Higher Education. These roles have equipped him with extensive insights into contemporary trends in curriculum innovation and educational transformation. Through his committed leadership and collaborative research initiatives, Dr Botes consistently advocates for transformative educational practices that address socio-political realities, promote cultural inclusivity, and uphold ethical responsibility within the field of art and design education.