

You are invited to a joint seminar hosted by ICCSSA, the SASA Western Cape Chapter and the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.

DATE:

Friday 22 February 2019

COST:

Free (need to register)

VENUES:

University of the Witwatersrand:
CoE-MaSS Seminar Room,
1st floor,
Mathematical Sciences Building,
West Campus

RSVP:

Seating is limited to 45 people at Wits and 35 people at UWC.

[Click here to RSVP now](#)

(by 18th of February 2019)

OR

PROGRAMME:

12:30 Arrival with snacks at both venues

13:00 Prof Ben Herbst live from UWC

14:00 Dr Benjamin Rosman live from Wits

University of the Western Cape:
Room 4.08,
4th floor,
New Chemical Sciences Building

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Speaker 1: Prof Ben Herbst

Title: From academia to industry, is it a smooth transition?

After 41 years in academia, a substantial part working on topics like computer vision and machine learning, Prof Herbst recently joined an ML company started by an ex-student of his. In this talk, he'll highlight some of the challenges he faced making the transition from ML researcher to data scientist in an industrial environment. Should he return to academia there is no doubt that he'll do a few things (not everything!) differently and he'll point that out.

Prof Herbst obtained his PhD in 1981 from the University of the Free State. He has spent sabbaticals at the University of Dundee Scotland, Clarkson University, New York, University of Colorado, Boulder, Trento University, Italy, and University of Novi Sad, Serbia. His research interests have morphed from numerical analysis and nonlinear waves, to computer vision and machine learning. Since January 2018 Prof Herbst has been at Praelexis in Stellenbosch.



Speaker 2: Dr Benjamin Rosman

Title: Learning to make decisions in an uncertain world.

Reinforcement learning is the sub-discipline of machine learning focused on decision making under uncertainty. Particularly powered by the recent advances in areas such as deep learning, reinforcement learning has over the last couple of years started to deliver solutions to highly complex research problem domains such as Go and StarCraft, leading to widely publicised results. In this talk, I'll introduce the area of reinforcement learning, and highlight some of the recent developments, before indicating some of the potential application areas in industry.

Benjamin Rosman is a Principal Researcher in the Mobile Intelligent Autonomous Systems group at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and a Senior Lecturer in the School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics at Wits University where he runs the Robotics, Autonomous Intelligence and Learning Laboratory. He received his Ph.D. in Informatics from the University of Edinburgh in 2014. His research interests focus primarily on reinforcement learning and decision making in autonomous systems, in particular how learning can be accelerated through abstracting and generalising knowledge gained from solving related problems. He is a founder and organiser of the Deep Learning Indaba and a 2017 recipient of a Google Faculty Research Award in machine learning.



VIDYO:

1. Click on this [link](#) to connect remotely to the CoE-MaSS Seminar Room
2. Type in your display name (e.g. UKZN-NameSurname)
3. Click Go. If you have trouble connecting, please phone the Technical Support Officer on duty in the venue between 12h30-12h55 on +27(0)11 717 6079. This phone will not be answered once the seminars have started.



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