

Advance Recommendations



Professor Ari Sitas: The central mission of the Charter for the Future of the Humanities and the Social Sciences (2011), was to increase the quality and quantity of post-graduate scholarship in South Africa, and to nurture the capacity to do so. I am heartened that this capacity for supervision and its challenges form the substance of this book.

A critical assessment and reflection is more than timely and I am very pleased that this wide-ranging effort is being made available to our epistemic and scholarly communities. Its praxological and process focus is of remarkable importance.

08 February 2026.

Professor Ari Sitas is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Cape Town and an Honorary Professor at the University of Stellenbosch. He was the Chair of the National Institute for the Humanities and the Social Sciences until and including 2019. He has a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, 1984.



Professor Mogomme Alpheus Masoga: I vividly recall being invited to participate in one of the engagements in this series of indaba events, and I was truly impressed by the spirit behind it. Notably, this initiative comes at the right time, with the higher education space currently critically reflecting on and reviewing its history of postgraduate supervision. There is no doubt that postgraduate supervision cannot escape transformation, positionality, and politics.

Therefore, there is definitely a need to deepen this conversation, especially if we'd like to contribute to the current South African knowledge economy and beyond. Postgraduates should be grounded and sensible, with their perspectives informed by the context in which our communities find themselves. Gone are those days when we could remain comfortable even if we realised that there was a disjuncture between what we research and how we research; it should not be dislocated from the lives of the people. This has been a seriously contradictory consciousness, which needs to be corrected. It cannot be accepted that we remain comfortable with these contradictory consciousness tendencies that have been evident throughout the history of higher education. I am therefore quite pleased with this publication and wish to congratulate the editors and contributors for all their efforts in this important volume. We look forward to more such contributions to transform the space of higher education in South Africa and beyond.

Professor Mogomme Alpheus Masoga is Dean and Professor, The Humanities Faculty, University of the Free State, National Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Board Chairperson, and the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) Chairperson. Prof. Masoga, also represents South Africa on the BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC).



Professor Sybert Mutereko: This is an excellent and timely contribution to post-graduate education scholarship. The volume provides a practical and compelling demonstration that super-vision is not a linear, administrative process, but a dynamic, relational, and contextually embedded scholarly praxis.

It speaks directly to the evolving nature of postgraduate supervision in our institutions and offers thoughtful, evidence-based insights that will benefit both emerging and experienced supervisors.

What distinguishes this book is its rootedness in African epistemic realities

and its firm positioning of postgraduate supervision as central – rather than peripheral – to the academic project. The contributors compellingly demonstrate that Master’s and PhD supervision is not merely a procedural requirement, but a transformative scholarly praxis through which new, contextually relevant knowledge is generated from, by, and with our communities. In doing so, the volume powerfully reframes supervision as leadership, accompaniment, collaboration, and ethical responsibility.

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Supervision in Transformation Indaba Contexts, Challenges, Opportunities and Praxes



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Advance Recommendation

Professor Dr. Ari Sitas (UCT): I am heartened and strongly recommend this wide-ranging and substantial book on postgraduate supervision capacity building. As it engages contexts, challenges, opportunities and the praxeology of supervision, it seminally contributes to excellence in postgraduate supervision, and quality Master's and PhD research, that ensure student success.

Professor Dr. Mogomme Alpheus Masoga (UFS): I am truly impressed by the excellent scholarly quality of this substantial contribution to postgraduate supervision capacity development. It transformatively impacts postgraduate supervision acumen and praxis, positionality, and power relations in research and supervision. In the interests of upscaling both the quality and quantity of our current South African knowledge economy, this scholarship and conversation need to be deepened, expanded and made to also incisively and constructively engage our supervision of work in our rural and urban communities.

Professor Dr. Sybert Mutereko (RU): This is an excellent and timely contribution to postgraduate education scholarship. The volume provides a practical and compelling demonstration that supervision is not a linear, administrative process, but a dynamic, relational, and contextually embedded scholarly praxis.

