

Soapbox Science is coming to South Africa!

Join us at the Pierhead, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town
12 pm – 4 pm, Saturday 28 September 2019

What is Soapbox Science about?

Inspired by Hyde Park's famous Speaker's Corner, this global series of free open-air lectures sees expert female scientists leave their labs and take to the streets in cities all over the world, to share their passion about their research, discuss hyped-up controversies and present amazing discoveries,.

This year, Soapbox Science reaches South Africa!
for the first time since its inception.

Kicking off with its first ever gathering in Cape Town on **Saturday 28 September**, the Pierhead at the V&A Waterfront will be transformed into an arena for learning and debate, engaging people from all walks of life with some of the South Africa's most ground-breaking scientific research.

The inaugural event will feature 12 speakers from various of South African top Institutions, covering everything from nuclear physics to vaccine research.

Led by astronomer Dr Lucia Marchetti (UCT and UWC), a 2015 London Soapbox Science speaker, this first South Africa episode has been organised by a group of enthusiastic woman scientists based at UCT, UWC, iThemba LABS and SAAO (<http://soapboxscience.org/cape-town-local-organising-team/>). As Dr Lucia Marchetti states: *"Soapbox Science champions the vital role of women in science, whilst providing an exciting opportunity for the public to meet, engage and be inspired by game-changing female scientists. I am thrilled that this year we can show how South Africa and in particular South African female scientists are contributing to the advance of science worldwide!"*

Co-founded by scientist Dr Nathalie Pettoirelli (Zoological Society of London) and Dr Seirian Sumner (University College London) and launched in London in 2011, the **Soapbox Science** event is taking place this year in 20 cities across the UK and a further 20 cities in **13 countries** across the globe – with South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Argentina and Brazil as first time hosts. - making it the biggest event to date.

For more information on the Cape Town **Soapbox Science** event and the full list of speakers visit:

<http://soapboxscience.org/soapbox-science-2019-cape-town/>

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Editor's notes:

The **South Africa Soapbox Science** event will take place on **Saturday 28 September** at the **V&A Waterfront, Pierhead, 12pm – 15pm**. The event is sponsored by the [National Research Foundation \(NRF\)](#), the [Department of Science and Innovation \(DSI\)](#), [iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences \(iThemba LABS\)](#), [The Centre for Radio Cosmology \(CRC\)](#) and receive in kind support by the [University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#), the [The University of the Western Cape](#), the [South African Astronomical Observatory \(SAAO\)](#) and the [The V&A Waterfront](#)

For a full list of sponsors and partners, visit: <http://soapboxscience.org/cape-town-local-organising-team/>

Other quote :

"I am absolutely thrilled that this first South African Soapbox event will finally happen. I got even more excited after hearing first snippets from these talented scientists and was overwhelmed by the excitement, passion and clarity of their brief adhoc presentations. It was impossible to decide which topic is the most fascinating. I can't wait to see more of that - and the undoubtedly lively discussions that will follow", Prof Renee Kraan-korteweg, SAAO SARChI Chair for Multiwavelength Astronomy at the Department of Astronomy at UCT and co-organiser of the Soapbox Science Cape Town edition.

"The international expansion of Soapbox is mind-blowing; it has grown from an annual London-based event to dozens of events across the globe. It's a no-frills approach to science communication, loved by scientists and the public alike. It's the perfect opportunity to ask stimulating questions and feed curious minds," Dr Seirian Sumner, UCL scientist and co-founder of **Soapbox Science**.

UK & Ireland Soapbox Science events in 2019:

25 May	Aberdeen
	London
1 June	Brighton
	Plymouth
	Cardiff
	Leicester
8 June	Reading
	Edinburgh
	York
15 June	Canterbury
	Newcastle
22 June	Swansea
29 June	Belfast
	Exeter
	Galway
	Milton Keynes
30 June	Dublin
6 July	Cork

20 July Stoke-on-Trent
 Bristol

International Soapbox Science events in 2019:

7 April	Boulder (USA)
18 May	Umeå (Sweden)
25 May	Accra (Ghana)
	Uppsala (Sweden)
1 June	Calgary (Canada)
	Munich (Germany)
9 June	Waterloo (Canada)
22 June	Berlin (Germany)
6 July	Halifax (Canada)
10 July	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
13 July	Chicago (USA)
8 August	Arusha (Tanzania)
10 August	Sydney (Australia)
17 August	Gold Coast (Australia)
22 August	Lagos (Nigeria)
7 September	Tucumán (Argentina)
14 September	Ottawa (Canada)
22 September	Toronto (Canada)
28 September	Cape Town (South Africa)
23 November	Lagos (Nigeria)

Soapbox Science

Soapbox Science (www.soapboxscience.org) is an initiative that aims to promote the visibility and boost career prospects of female scientists through the establishment of grass-roots, annual public engagement of science events; in addition to making an active contribution to changing academic cultures, social norms and public perception of science careers.

Twitter account (global): @SoapboxScience

South Africa edition social media accounts :

- **Twitter:** @SoapboxSciCT
- **Facebook:** @SoapboxScienceCT
- **Instagram:** @soapboxscience.ct

Sponsors

NRF:



[The National Research Foundation \(NRF\)](#) is an independent statutory body set up in accordance with the National Research Foundation Act. Its mandate is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the

necessary research facilities in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge, and thereby contribute to national development.

Website: www.nrf.ac.za | Twitter: @NRF_News | Facebook: @NRFSouthAfrica.

DSI:



The Vision of the [Department of Science and Innovation \(DSI\)](#) is to increase well-being and prosperity through science, technology and innovation. The DSI mission is to provide leadership, an enabling environment, and resources for science, technology and innovation in support of South Africa's development.

iThemba LABS:



[iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences \(iThemba LABS\)](#) is a multidisciplinary research facility of the NRF that is based on the development, operation and use of particle accelerators and related research equipment. The facilities provide opportunities for research in subatomic physics, material research,

radiobiology, and the research and development of unique radioisotopes for nuclear medicine and industrial applications. iThemba LABS have various collaboration agreements and joint training programmes with Higher Education Institutions and research laboratories around the world as a means to contribute to the human capital development mandate of the NRF. iThemba LABS is South Africa's largest basic science enterprise probing the fundamental structure and origins of matter, advancing our understanding of condensed matter (such as material and Nano sciences) and enhancing our impact on societal needs such as medicine and the environment.

CRC:



[The Centre for Radio Cosmology \(CRC\)](#) is a research center at the University of the Western Cape, aimed at using the next generation of radio telescopes for measurements in cosmology, in particular with HERA, MeerKAT and SKA1. About 10 postdoctoral researchers and 15 PhD/MSc students are doing their research within the CRC. The main focus is the development of pipelines and technical know how in order to have a world-leading group capable of conducting the required radio surveys and tackle the huge data volumes that will be provided by these telescopes and ultimately deliver exquisite cosmological constraints.

Partners & co-host

UCT (co-host):



The [University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#) is South Africa's oldest university, and is one of Africa's leading teaching and research institutions.

The university has 6 faculties – Commerce, Engineering & the Built Environment, Law, Health Sciences, Humanities and Science – which are all supported by the Centre for Higher Education Development, which addresses students' teaching and learning needs. Among its more than 100 000 alumni are the late Professor Christiaan Barnard, the world-

renowned heart surgeon, and 3 Nobel laureates, Sir Aaron Klug, the late Professor Alan MacLeod Cormack and JM Coetzee.

UCT also has more than 80 specialist research units that provide supervision for postgraduate work and is home to more than a third of South Africa's A-rated researchers – academics who are considered world leaders in their fields.

UWC:



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE

[The University of the Western Cape](#) is a national university, alert to its African and international context as it strives to be a place of quality, a place to grow. It is committed to excellence in teaching, learning and research, to nurturing the cultural diversity of South Africa, and to responding in critical and creative ways to the needs of a society in transition. Read here more about the [UWC mission](#).

SAAO:



The [South African Astronomical Observatory \(SAAO\)](#) is the national centre for optical and infrared astronomy in South Africa. Its prime function is to conduct fundamental research in astronomy and astrophysics. It does so by providing a

world-class facility to scientists. The SAAO also aims to promote astronomy and

astrophysics in Southern Africa, by actively engaging the public and sharing research findings and discoveries.

V&A Waterfront:



[The V&A Waterfront](#) offers a cosmopolitan mix of experiences ranging from leisure to shopping and entertainment. It also offers prime residential and commercial property. The prime positioning of the V&A, which includes the oldest working harbour in the southern hemisphere, boasts sweeping views of the ocean, city bowl and mountain peaks.

A mixed-use development, the V&A Waterfront covers 123 hectares. Along with heritage sites and tourism landmarks, it also includes the recently opened Zeitz Museum of

Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) – hosting the world’s largest collection of contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora.

Pictures



The Soapbox Science Cape Town speakers during the preparatory training with Jive Media and the Local Organising Team.



One of the Soapbox Science speaker in action at London edition in 2018