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UCT lecture examines the evolving interplay between technology and educational values

25 July 2025 | 17:00 SAST | Lecture Theatre 1, Neville Alexander Building, UCT Lower Campus



Professor Dick Ng'ambi

Photo: Supplied

Professor Dick Ng'ambi, professor in the [School of Education](#) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), will present his lecture, "Technology changes what matters – what matters changes

technology,” on Friday, 25 July 2025 at 17:30 SAST in Lecture Theatre 1, Neville Alexander Building on lower campus.

“In today’s world, particularly with the growing presence of artificial intelligence (AI), technology is reshaping our educational values. Yet, the way we prioritise these values also influences how we engage with technology. Both changes can present challenges,” said Ng’ambi.

“If we allow technology to guide our evolution without taking time to reflect, we risk losing sight of what truly counts. Conversely, if we permit our values to dictate how we develop technology without fully grasping its potential, we might stifle innovation,” he warned.

Ng’ambi is the programme head for the Postgraduate Diploma and Master’s in Educational Technology at UCT. As the founder of the Educational Technology Inquiry Lab, he has championed the professional development of educators through creative and inclusive approaches. His scholarly work bridges theory and practice and continues to shape how technology can serve socially just and contextually grounded education.

In this lecture, he invites us to consider the question: What is truly important in education – and for whom? He will reflect on two decades of experience by examining three significant projects that illustrate how our priorities have changed alongside technological advancements, and how technology itself has adapted in response.

These narratives reveal the intricate, reciprocal relationship between tools and values. To wrap up, he will present a case study from the Open Educational Resource of Indigenous Games (OERiGA) project. This example underscores the necessity of aligning technology with objectives, serving as a reminder not to put the cart before the horse.

“When approached with care, technology, particularly AI, has the potential to be transformative. However, this is only achievable if we remain anchored in what truly matters,” he said.

Professor Ng’ambi’s impact extends across the African continent. He played a key role in building capacity at Makerere University in Uganda, which led to the establishment of a blended Master’s programme in Instructional Design and Technology for East Africa. In recognition of his contributions, Makerere University awarded him a Plaque of Honour. He also holds appointments as a visiting research fellow at the University of Greenwich in the United Kingdom, and a visiting professor at Dom Bosco Catholic University in Brazil.

He currently leads the OERiGA project, which spans 12 African countries. This initiative documents and integrates indigenous games into school curricula, promoting cultural heritage, advancing decolonisation efforts, and providing Generation Z teachers access to these resources through the OERiGA mobile app.

Professor Ng’ambi holds a PhD in Information Systems from UCT, an MSc in Computer Science from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom), and a BSc in Mathematics from the University of Zambia.

- Members of the media wishing to attend the event are requested to [RSVP](#).

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