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1 September 2025

UCT lecture to examine the evolution of evaluation practice

2 September 2025 | 17:00 SAST | Mafeje Room, Bremner Building, lower campus

Professor Sarah Chapman, director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) [Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation](#), will deliver a thought-provoking lecture on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 in the Mafeje Room, Bremner Building on lower campus.

Her talk, "Measuring what counts: Evaluation as inquiry, power and possibility", will trace her journey from the social and physical sciences into a career dedicated to redefining how evidence is generated, interpreted and applied for social transformation. She will examine the evolution of evaluation practice, from the rise of randomised impact evaluations to the resurgence of participatory, Africa-rooted approaches that amplify marginalised voices and knowledge systems.

Professor Chapman is an internationally recognised thought leader in evaluation theory and practice, with over 20 years of experience in Sub-Saharan Africa and globally. She is also the deputy dean for postgraduate studies in the [Faculty of Commerce](#), where she co-convenes the university's postgraduate programmes in Programme Evaluation. Her work has supported multilateral agencies, governments and non-governmental organisations, while training the next generation of evaluators to work across paradigms with rigour and reflection.

Her research challenges conventional notions of evidence and highlights evaluation as a tool of justice and equity. She has published widely on participatory methods, culturally responsive evaluation and theory-based approaches that interrogate whose knowledge counts and how success is defined. Her lecture will explore how evaluation, when used reflectively and inclusively, can help address urgent global challenges such as poverty, inequality and systemic injustice.

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

ENDS

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