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4 November 2025

UCT lecture to examine how regulatory frameworks influence perceptions of financial stability



Prof Phillip De Jager

Photo: Supplied

Trust is the invisible backbone of global finance, but what happens when the systems built to uphold it begin to falter? In his upcoming inaugural lecture, the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Professor Phillip De Jager will examine how regulatory frameworks such as the Basel Capital Accords and the International Financial Reporting Standard influence perceptions of financial stability. He will ask how well these systems capture economic reality and what happens when they fail to do so.

The lecture will be held on Tuesday, 4 November 2025 at 17:00 SAST in the Mafeje Room, Bremner Building on lower campus.

Titled "The Numbers We Trust: Unintended Consequences of the Interconnectedness Between Money, Accounting, and Banking", the lecture will explore how accounting conventions shape our understanding of money, solvency and risk in the banking sector.

De Jager is a professor in the [Department of Finance and Tax](#) at UCT, where he teaches corporate finance, investments and research methodology. He is also a visiting professor at the School of Finance at Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance. His research spans bank capital, corporate finance and what he calls "research about research", an exploration of how knowledge itself is produced and evaluated. He serves on the editorial boards of leading journals, including the British Accounting Review and Accounting Open. He contributes to national academic policy through the Academy of Science of South Africa.

Beyond academia, De Jager has served as chair of the UCT Retirement Fund and advised the Competition Commission of South Africa on pricing conduct. His work combines analytical rigour with institutional insight, encouraging policymakers and scholars alike to examine the numbers that underpin financial decision-making more closely. His lecture invites us to rethink the relationship between accounting and the real economy and to consider the consequences that arise when trust in numbers is misplaced.

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

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