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UCT Vice-Chancellor's Inaugural Lecture on ICTs for development

4 October 2017 | 17:30 | Snape Building, Upper Campus, UCT

The role of the mobile phone in accelerating Africa's social and economic development will be reflected on when the University of Cape Town hosts the Vice-Chancellor's Inaugural Lecture, titled "ICTs for development: the good intentions of the mobile phone".

The lecture, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 4 October 2017 in lecture theatre TS2B in the Snape Building on UCT's upper campus, will be presented by Professor Ulrike Rivett of the Department of Information Systems in the Faculty of Commerce.

Professor Rivett is the first woman to be appointed as a full professor at her department. She leads the iCOMMS research team, which focuses on understanding the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for the benefit of society by engaging with government, municipalities and rural communities through implementing research findings and increasing impact beyond the boundaries of academia.

In her lecture, she will reflect on her research over the last 15 years and the influence of ICTs and mobile phones worldwide. She will also examine how much has really changed after 20 years of mobile technology.

The introduction of technology and ICTs in seemingly unrelated fields – such as the health sector, service delivery and the water sector – has become an innovative way of providing under-resourced communities in rural areas with basic services such as water and sanitation.

In her work, Professor Rivett has been able to develop technologies that cross the conventional boundaries of knowledge, decision-making and stakeholder engagement. By connecting theoretical knowledge with everyday challenges, her contribution has shifted the developmental agenda of ICTs from a technology-driven approach to a people-centred one.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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