

Launch of the CliMigHealth-Stellenbosch Africa Hub And Photo Exhibition on Strength and Resilience in the Western Cape

March 24, 2023 at 5:30 PM local time at Stellenbosch Library

CliMigHealth-Stellenbosch Africa Hub and Photo Exhibition

The CliMigHealth Africa-hub is an inter-university initiative led by Ghent University's CliMigHealth network and Prof. Guy Midgley's Stellenbosch School for Climate Studies. The project aims to establish a hub in Africa to promote regional work on climate change, health and migration. As part of their launch event, they are hosting a photo exhibition on 'Strength and Resilience in the Western Cape'. This photo project (see www.climighealth.com/photo for the online version) is a collaboration with Gulshan Khan, a South African National Geographic Women photojournalist. The photos showcase the remarkable strength and resilience of the People and Nature of the Western Cape in the face of challenges posed by climate change, health issues and mobility patterns. With the launch event, the team aims to raise awareness and bring attention to the importance of addressing these issues in the African region, how science can feed into adaptation solutions and how we can further connect with and help support those experiencing the challenges of climate change on a daily basis.

The CliMigHealth-Stellenbosch Africa hub will be a showcase example of how collaboration between universities, different scientific disciplines and (non-) profit organisations working on the ground can bring about positive change. By creating a platform for regional work, the hub will facilitate vital research and the sharing of knowledge on climate change, health, and migration in the African region. Moreover, the photo exhibition on 'Strength and Resilience in the Western Cape' is an effort to highlight the human side of these issues, focusing on the impact on people's lives and the need to address them urgently. The project is a positive step towards creating awareness and promoting action to address these critical issues, and it is exciting to see the efforts of the involved institutions towards this goal.

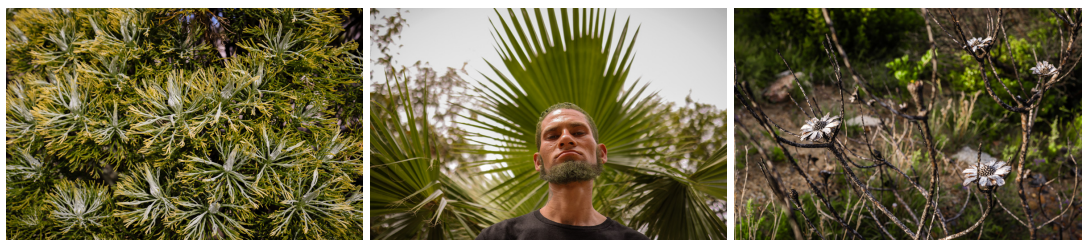


Photo serie, coined 'Divine Intervention' from the exhibition 'Strength and Resilience In the Western Cape'.

Launch Event on March 24, 2023

The launch will take place on March 24, 2023 at 5:30 PM local time at the Stellenbosch Library. A panel of high-level scientists, involved team members from Ghent and Stellenbosch as well as photographer Gulshan Khan will reflect on the upcoming plans for the hub and the connections with the photos exhibited. The launch is followed by a reception taking place at the library where the opportunity will arise to have a dialogue with the photographer and the involved scientists.

The panel will consist of the following key persons:

Prof. Dr. Guy Midgley, Prof. Dr. Tulio de Oliveira, Prof. Dr. Bob Mash, Dr. Christian Lueme (all Stellenbosch University), Dr Neville Sweijd (Alliance for Collaboration on Climate and Earth Systems Science), Ms. Gulshan Khan, and Dr. Charlotte Scheerens (Ghent University).

Practical

Location: Stellenbosch University Library, Victoria St & Ryneveld Street, Stellenbosch Central

Start event: 5:30PM followed by networking reception at the Library

Contact: charlotte.scheerens@ugent.be (inscription form will follow)

Short biography from key speakers

Prof. Dr. Guy Midgley

Prof. Dr. Guy Midgley is a prominent South African ecologist who has made significant contributions to the field of climate change and biodiversity research. He earned his PhD in Botany from the University of Cape Town and has since held various academic positions at institutions such as the University of Stellenbosch and the South African National Biodiversity Institute.



Midgley's research focuses on the impacts of climate change on ecosystems and species, and he has published numerous papers on the subject. His work has been recognized with several awards and honors, including the prestigious National Research Foundation President's Award, the International Prize for Biology, and the Whitley Gold Award.

In 2007, Guy Midgley was part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) team that was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for their efforts to raise awareness of climate change and its impacts on society. The IPCC is a United Nations body tasked with assessing the science related to climate change, its impacts, and the options for adaptation and mitigation. Midgley's contributions to the IPCC report helped to bring attention to the urgent need for action on climate change and its potential to threaten global peace and security.

Link: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=9575>

Prof. Dr. Bob Mash

Professor Bob Mash is a South African medical doctor, academic, and researcher who has made significant contributions to the field of primary health care. He is a professor of family medicine at Stellenbosch University



and is well-known for his work in the areas of chronic disease management, mental health, and community-based primary healthcare.

Mash has worked extensively in rural and underserved areas in South Africa and has played a key role in developing community-based primary healthcare programs that are accessible and effective. His research has had a significant impact on primary healthcare policy and practice, both in South Africa and internationally.

Mash has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to primary healthcare, including the South African Academy of Family Physicians President's Award and the **WONCA Five-Star Doctor Award**. He recently joined the **National Academy for Health** in the USA. He is also an accomplished author and has published several books and numerous articles on primary healthcare and related topics. Mash continues to be a leading voice in the field of primary healthcare and is committed to improving access to quality healthcare for all.

Link: <https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/member/WoncaPeople/MASHProfBob.aspx>

Ms. Gulshan Khan

Ms. Gulshan Khan is a talented photojournalist from South Africa who has captured the beauty and diversity of her country through her stunning photographs. She has worked for leading media outlets such as **National Geographic and The New York Times**, and her work has been exhibited in galleries around the world.



Khan's photographs offer a unique perspective on the world, capturing both the grandeur of the natural landscape and the rich cultural heritage of the people who inhabit it. Her images are both powerful and evocative, conveying a deep sense of emotion and connection to the subject.

In recent years, Khan has turned her lens towards issues related to climate change, health, and migration. Her collaboration with the CliMigHealth-Stellenbosch Africa hub on a photo exhibition on 'Strength and Resilience in the Western Cape' is a testament to her commitment to using her art to raise awareness and inspire change.

Khan's work has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the South African National Parks Photography Competition and the Fujifilm Africa Photo Competition. She continues to push the boundaries of her art and inspire others with her stunning photography, making her one of the most exciting photographers of her generation.

Link: <http://www.gulshankhan.com/>

Prof. Dr. Tulio de Oliveira

Prof. Dr. Tulio de Oliveira is a renowned South African molecular epidemiologist and virologist whose groundbreaking work has had a significant impact on global health. He is the director of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which is one of the world's leading genomics research centers.



De Oliveira has been at the forefront of research on infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis, and more recently, COVID-19. He has been instrumental in using genomics to track and trace the spread of these diseases and to develop new treatment strategies. His research has led to the identification of new strains of HIV and **the discovery of a new strain of SARS-CoV-2**, the virus that causes COVID-19, in South Africa.

His work has earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious South African National Research Foundation President's Award, and he has been named **one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds** by Thomson Reuters. In addition to his research, de Oliveira is also a passionate advocate for science education and outreach, and he has played a key role in developing scientific capacity in Africa. His work is a shining example of how research and innovation can make a positive impact on global health and wellbeing, and he continues to inspire future generations of scientists to pursue their passions and make a difference in the world.

Link: <https://www.krisp.org.za/people.php?fullName=de%20Oliveira%20T>

Dr. Christian Lueme

Dr. Lokotola Christian Lueme holds a remarkable track record as a distinguished public health researcher and practitioner with a focus on climate change and its impacts on health. He holds both an MPH and a PhD in Public Health, with a particular emphasis on climate change, air pollution, sustainable urban health, and the interplay between climate change, migration, and human health.



Dr. Lueme's research methodology centers around the identification, quantification, and prediction of health risks, along with assessing the resilience of health care systems in the face of climate change and air pollution uncertainties. Currently, his research pursuits aim to advance Planetary Health Education and facilitate the integration of planetary health into primary health care and patient care.

Dr. Lueme currently holds the position of lecturer and researcher of Planetary Health at Stellenbosch University, where he continues to be actively involved in teaching, research, and policy work. His vast knowledge and experience in the field of public health, particularly climate change and health, have contributed immensely to the development of innovative and sustainable solutions to address climate change-induced health challenges.

Link: <https://climate.sun.ac.za/team/>

Dr. Neville Sweijd

Neville Sweijd is the director of the Alliance for Collaboration on Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS), which is a consortium of universities and research institutions in South Africa. He has over 30 years of experience in climate and earth system science research, as well as science policy and management.



Prior to his role at ACCESS, Neville served as the deputy director of the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), where he was responsible for overseeing the implementation of SAEON's strategic plan and the

development of its scientific program. He has also held positions at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) in South Africa.

Neville is a respected expert in his field and has authored or co-authored numerous scientific publications. He has also served on a variety of national and international committees and advisory boards, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He holds a PhD in geography from the University of Cape Town.

Link: <https://africanscientists.africa/business-directory/sweijd/>

Dr. Charlotte Scheerens

Charlotte Scheerens is a skilled postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University, who also happens to serve as the coordinator of CliMigHealth. Her research endeavors are focused on studying the effects of temperature and pollution on COPD, exploring integrated and fair primary health care solutions, and scrutinizing climate change (and migration)-related health risks with regards to planetary health.



In addition to her work at Ghent, Charlotte is affiliated with a number of renowned organizations such as Harvard Medical School's BIDMC's Institute for lung health, UNU-CRIS, the Lancet Migration, and the WHO Technical working group on equity of the Global Health Workforce. She is actively involved in policymaking for the Belgian governments, serving on committees dedicated to climate and health, just transition, and the New Green Deal Zorg.

Previously, Charlotte served as the coordinator of Climate Express, a Belgian non-profit that sought to achieve greater climate ambition through mass mobilization. Overall, Charlotte's extensive research background and policy engagement have made her a recognized expert in her field.

Link: <https://www.climighealth.com/network/>