



HASSO PLATTNER  
**d-school**  
AFRIKA\*

1-4 JUNE 2026 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA + ONLINE

# Afrikan Design Thinking Convening '26

Hosted by the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika  
at the University of Cape Town (UCT)



To learn more about the convening, [click here](#)

<https://dschoolafrika.org/afrikan-design-thinking-convening-2026>



# Afrikan Design Thinking Convening 2026

1-4 June 2026 | Cape Town, South Africa + Online



## Day 1

## Monday 1 June 2026

V = also available for virtual experience

V\* = available for virtual experience dependent on demand

Time	Type	Venue	Session Title	Contributors
V 11:30 - 11:40			Energising / Onboarding virtual participants   <b>Facilitation Team</b>	
V 11:40 - 12:40	KEYNOTE	Atrium	<b>African Life-Centred Design: Beyond Human-Centred Design in an Age of Acceleration and Complexity</b>	Pumla Maswanganyi Afrikan Life-Centred Design, South Africa
V 13:30 - 13:40			Warm-up & Focus / Onboarding virtual participants   <b>Facilitation Team</b>	
V 13:40 - 14:30	FIRESIDE CHAT	Atrium	Elevating Global South perspectives in Design and Innovation	Mugendi M'rithaa Machakos University, Kenya Anirban Battacharya The Painted Sky, India <b>Moderator: Maurisa Moloto</b> (d-school Afrika at UCT, South Africa)
V 14:30 - 15:15	STORY HARVEST	Studios	Gathering stories of design ingenuity from our diverse contexts	<b>Facilitation Team</b>
V 15:30 - 16:30	LAUNCH	Atrium	From the Afrikan Design Thinking Network to the launch of the Afrikan Chapter of the Global Design Thinking Alliance	Richard Perez d-school, South Africa Hoda Mostafa American University of Cairo, Egypt Stephen Kagwathi / John Ngila Africa Nazarene University, Kenya Uli Weinberg GDTA, Germany <b>Moderator: Jenni van Niekerk</b> d-school, South Africa
V 16:30 - 17:00	CLOSING	Atrium	Daily Harvest & Reflection	<b>Facilitation Team</b>

## Day 2

## Tuesday 2 June 2026

V = also available for virtual experience

V\* = available for virtual experience dependent on demand

Time	Type	Venue	Session Title	Contributors
V 8:30 - 8:45			Creative Connection & Recap   <b>Facilitation Team</b>	
V 8:45 - 9:45	DIALOGUE	Atrium	The role of design thinking education as a transformative pedagogy in higher education and society	Josef Kembel CSCHOOL, United States Kasturi Bahari-Leak University of Cape Town, South Africa <b>Moderator: Tiego Monareng and Janice McMillan</b>
V 9:45 - 10:45	EXPOSÉ	Atrium	<b>Design Thinking Pedagogy in Practice: Enquiries and experiments in research, teaching and learning</b>	1. Jenni van Niekerk 2. Babalwa Ngcongolo 3. Rael Futerman 4. Precious Ndebele



## Day 3

## Wednesday 3 June 2026

V = also available for virtual experience

V\* = available for virtual experience dependent on demand

Time	Type	Venue	Session Title	Contributors
V 9:00 - 9:30	Creative Connection & Recap   <b>Facilitation Team</b>			
V 9:30 - 10:30	DIALOGUE	Atrium	Design, Innovation, and Entrepreneurial Futures	<p><b>Jewel Thompson</b> Ashesi University, Ghana</p> <p><b>Solange Rosa</b> Bertha Centre for Social Innovation, South Africa</p> <p><b>Puleng Makhoalibe</b> Alchemy Inspiration, South Africa</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Rael Futerman</b> d-school Afrika, South Africa</p>
V* 10:30 - 11:00	INTERACT	Atrium	<b>From Insights to Action: framing collective enquiry on emergent topics, applying design thinking to challenges in our contexts.</b>	<b>Facilitation Team</b>
V* 11:15 - 12:15	OPEN SPACE	Studios 1-4 + Atrium	<b>From Insights to Action: Collaborative exploration of chosen topics in Open Space studios)</b>	<b>Topic hosts and facilitation team</b>
V* 13:15 - 13:45	HARVEST	Atrium	Open Space harvest	<b>Facilitation Team</b>
V 13:45 - 14:40	DIALOGUE	Atrium	Leadership, Creativity and Complexity in Afrikan contexts	<p><b>Prof Kosheek Sewchurran</b> University of Cape Town, South Africa</p> <p><b>Amollo Ambole</b> Kenya</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Richard Perez</b> d-school Afrika, South Africa</p>
V 15:10 - 15:30	REFLECT	Atrium Interactive	<b>Presencing practice: What am I being called to do?</b>	<b>Facilitation Team</b>
V 15:30 - 16:30	INTERACT	Atrium Interactive	<b>Collective Convergence: What does a transformative, regenerative design thinking practice look like that builds towards a thriving future?</b>	<b>Facilitation Team</b>
V 16:30 - 17:00	CLOSING	Atrium	Closing Conversations, Gratitude and Action Day planning	<b>Facilitation Team</b>