

SCIENCE WITH JAZZ SEMINAR SERIES

"Where Science and Jazz combine"



30 JULY
Thursday 2026



17h00



Howard College Theatre,
UKZN Howard College Campus

SPEAKER:

Dr David Glassom,
Senior Lecturer, Biological Sciences, UKZN

TOPIC:

How far can corals adapt to climate change?
Evidence from intertidal pools.

JAZZ ARTIST:

Dr Sazi Dlamini
Honorary Lecturer, UKZN
Guitar and Bow

SYNOPSIS: Coral reefs support 25% of vertebrate species in the sea, and hundreds of millions of livelihoods throughout the tropics, but are fast becoming degraded due to climate change and other human impacts. However, predictions of the demise of coral reefs are being countered by the discovery of corals living and even thriving in conditions that were long thought to be beyond their ability to survive. Understanding how corals adapt to these extreme conditions has become an important part of learning to conserve corals and restore reefs damaged by human impacts. This talk will focus on corals found in intertidal pools on the KZN coast, showing some of the mechanisms that corals use to survive there and briefly outlining how this might help coral reefs endure rising sea temperature.



DAVID GLASSOM is a senior lecturer in marine biology at UKZN, with a long-standing interest in coral reef ecology and climate change. How corals might adapt to climate change is presently one of his two research focuses, alongside effects of plastic pollution on marine organisms.



SAZI DLAMINI is a musicologist, guitarist and composer in the South African jazz-influenced tradition. He lectures in Music and Society at UKZN. Among musical instruments that he builds, composes and performs on are Nguni musical bows such as *ugubhu*, *umakhweyana*, *umqangala*, *isithontolo* (*isiqomqomane*), *uhadi*, flutes, harps and wind instruments using bamboo, reed, horn, calabash and recycled materials/found objects. He is co-founder of Insurrections and Afro-Asia Ensembles that include musicians and poets from South Africa, India, Tanzania, China, Ethiopia and is Senior Research Associate for ReCentering AfroAsia Project. He convened the First International Bow Music Conference (2016) and is volume editor of a book *Musical Bows of Southern Africa* (2020).

ABOUT THE SCIENCE WITH JAZZ SEMINAR SERIES: Following on from the successful 2025 series, the Centre for Quantum Computing and Technology at UKZN presents a series of science seminars combined with Jazz concerts, that informs about relevant concepts in science and technology and their societal impacts. This monthly series intends to inspire inter-disciplinary discussions and synergies, in particular between the sciences and the arts.

Refreshments after presentation

ENQUIRIES: Sally Frost /frosts@ukzn.ac.za / 031 260 7642

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