



**PRE-AGM SIDE EVENT**  
**at University of Exeter**  
**18 May 2026**



University  
of Exeter

# Joint Research Workshop: Mining, Energy and Food Systems at the Centre; Collaborative Opportunities and Sustainability Challenges

Monday, 18 May 2026

Venue: Reed Hall, Ibrahim Ahmed Room (Ground Floor), University of Exeter

Joint Research Workshop between the University of Pretoria and the University of Exeter bringing together PhD students, ECRs and senior academics to explore the theme *Mining, Energy and Food Systems at the Centre; Collaborative Opportunities and Sustainability Challenges*

- 13:00 – 13:20**      **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
Prof. Richard Follet (Vice- President & Deputy Vice Chancellor, Global Engagement, University of Exeter)
- 13:20 – 13:30**      **Keynote Address**  
Prof. Francis Petersen (Vice Chancellor & Principal, University of Pretoria)
- 13:30 – 13:45**      **Presentation on Food Systems Research**  
Prof. Dan Bebber (Exeter)
- 13:45 – 14:30**      **3MT Competition**  
Delivered by PhD Students and ECRs from the University of Pretoria and the University of Exeter, showcasing emerging research projects focused on mining impacts, food systems and insecurity, renewable energy, energy inequality, etc.
- Chair**              Prof. Dan Bebber (Exeter)  
**Judges**            Prof. Francois Malan (Pretoria) Prof. Xiaohong Li (Exeter)  
                         Prof. Marinda Oosthuizen (Pretoria) Dr Declan Vogt (Exeter)
- 14:30 – 15:30**      **Devon Cream Tea Networking Afternoon**  
Foyer Outside the Room
- 15:30 – 16:10**      **Breakout Discussions to Explore the Links between Mining, Energy and Food Systems to Identify Key Opportunities and Challenges**
- Chairs**            Prof Ken Craig (Pretoria) & Prof Kathryn Moore (Exeter)
- Recent developments in mining and the impacts on land, water and food systems
  - The concept of energy inequality and the innovative energy solutions to support sustainable food supply chains.
- 16:10 – 16:45**      **Global Collaboration & Joint Funding Forum**  
An overview of UK-SA funding opportunities aligned with the theme of the workshop (joint funding applications, PhD student mobility/partnerships collaboration, etc.). Drafting of about 2 to 4 project proposals focused on the themes of the research workshop. Develop project objectives, methodology and timelines for concept notes.
- Chairs**            Prof Lise Korsten (Pretoria) & Prof Harry West (Exeter)
- 16:45 – 17:00**      **Closing**            Prof Sunil Maharaj (Pretoria)
- Open facilitated discussion from ECRs and PhD students in attendance, share reflections from the research workshop, summary of project proposals focused on the themes of the workshop. Discussion on next steps following the workshop and closing remarks reaffirming the commitment of both Universities to responsible practices in the UK and SA.