



Join us in celebration of World Quantum Day

NITheCS Public Talk & launch of the Quantum Africa Society

Tuesday, 14 April 2026 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

Venues:

- Stellenbosch University: Road House Cinema (Neelsie)
- University of the Witwatersrand: Room P215, Physics Building
- North-West University: Seminar Room K310, Physics Building G5
- Online

TALK:

Why is it so hard to know what quantum computers are good for?

Presented by Dr Maria Schuld

The world is getting 'quantum ready': many governments have announced their 'quantum strategies', and industries from finance to automobiles built in-house quantum research teams. The uncomfortable truth, however, is that we cannot foresee yet what quantum computers will actually be used for one day.

In this talk I will take a look behind the scenes of industrial quantum applications research, explain why it is so difficult to reason about algorithms and their performance at this stage, and sketch what we know today. The aim is to enable an informed debate on how countries on the African continent should prepare for the future of quantum technologies without being blinded by misleading global narratives.

Maria Schuld is a leading researcher in quantum machine learning, formerly at Xanadu. She co-authored "Machine Learning for Quantum Computers" and contributed to the PennyLane framework. She holds a PhD in Physics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.



LAUNCH:

Launch of the Quantum Africa Society

The Quantum Africa Society is being established in the legacy of the Quantum Africa Conference.

Over the past 20 years, the Quantum Africa Conference has played a pivotal role in promoting quantum science in Africa. Its first research-led engagement took place in 2006 and was attended by leading researchers including Prof Sir Pieter Knight and Prof Serge Haroche (Nobel Prize in Physics, 2012).

The Quantum Africa Society brings together leading experts from across the continent and serves as a platform to consolidate and strengthen quantum research efforts in Africa. Its mission is to provide strategic guidance and foster excellence in this rapidly advancing field, driving the development of a robust quantum ecosystem. This includes cultivating strong linkages between African institutions and global research communities.

REGISTER TO ATTEND: <https://bit.ly/4t0Zjl8>

