

Agentic Workflows

Dr Dean Brand (Stellenbosch University)

Friday, 26 June 2026 | 12h00-12h30 SAST

Attend online

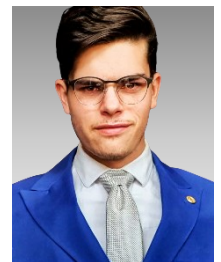
ABSTRACT

During this micro-school, we will explore agentic workflows — the leap from treating AI as a browser chatbot to using empowered tools that read, write, and act directly within your machine and workspace. Building on the familiarity many already have with GitHub Copilot in VS Code, we will see how modern agents such as Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, and open-source alternatives like OpenCode and Pi have grown far more capable, using contextual awareness of your files, shell, and project to debug system issues, write clear research documentation, generate scientific diagrams in TikZ, and scaffold and fix LaTeX documents. Through live demonstrations, I will show how these tools close the diagnose–edit–test loop on real tasks, and how you can shape their behaviour with simple instruction files like AGENTS.md and CLAUDE.md and with Skills, the emerging open standard that teaches agents how to use tools (an evolution of the MCP concept). We will close with a brief, cautionary look at the enthusiast frontier — autonomous tools like OpenClaw and Hermes — highlighting their exciting ideas alongside their sharp edges, namely API cost and the real dangers of unsupervised operation. By the end of this session, you'll understand why agentic workflows are a genuine step-change and be ready to start building your own — safely — that same day.

BIOGRAPHY

Dean is a postdoctoral researcher at Stellenbosch University (SU) in the Quantum Research Group under the supervision of Prof Francesco Petruccione. His research is on merging quantum and neuromorphic computing principles and paradigms for novel algorithms and architectures. His research has historically evolved through astrophysics, theoretical physics, and open quantum systems.

Dean received his Bachelor of Science and Honours degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand, his Master's from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and his Doctorate from SU.



REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3QBbbCv>

