



Symposium

Higher Education Engagement Work in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme

25 - 27 June 2026
University of Oldenburg

Chairs

Prof Karsten Speck

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Thursday, 25 June 2026

Venue: Ratskeller Oldenburg, Markt 1

18.00 **Welcome Dinner**

Friday, 26 June 2026

Venue: Senate Chamber, Building A14

09.15 **Opening and welcome**
**Introduction and framing: Higher education engagement work in support of the
SDGs**

Prof Karsten Speck

Prof Darelle van Greunen

09.30 **Panel discussion**
ENGAGEMENT WORK AT OUR UNIVERSITIES:
Conceptual understandings & Historical, political, and social context shaping
institutional structures for engagement work that supports the SDGs

Prof Katharina Al-Shamery

DVC Academic Career Paths, Equal Opportunities and International Affairs, University
of Oldenburg

Prof Muki Moeng

DVC Learning and Teaching, Nelson Mandela University

Dr. Merezia W. Bambaganya

Representing DVC Research, University of Dar es Salaam

10.45 **Tea break**

11.15 **Keynote Address**
**Humanising Digital Transformation: Advancing Research through Community-
Engaged, Transdisciplinary Innovation in Africa**
Prof Darelle van Greunen

12.15 **Lunch**

13.30 **Horizon 2055: Ethical and Affective Education for Sustainable Futures**
Prof Andrea Hurst
Nelson Mandela University

14.00 **Beyond Academic Disciplines: Unlocking Collaborative Research to Drive
SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) Progress in Tanzanian
Universities**

Dr. Simon Peter Ngalomba

University of Dar es Salaam

14.30 **Interdisciplinary and international case studies for enhancing engagement and
knowledge transfer in higher education for sustainable development**

Dr.-Ing Herena Torio

University of Oldenburg

15.00 **Experiences from citizen participation in the development of an energy-efficient
residential quarter (SDG 11)**

Dr. Torsten Grothmann

University of Oldenburg

15.30 **Tea break**

16.00 **Decolonising science through community engagement with Indigenous
Knowledge during annual heritage month**

Dr. Ayanda Simayi

Nelson Mandela University

16.30 **Service-learning at the University of Oldenburg – civic engagement in cross-
disciplinary curricula**

Verena Gerdes

Prof Karsten Speck

University of Oldenburg

17.00 **Higher education systemic collaboration in the support of SDG No. 4: A personal
reflection and legacy of the CERM-ESA Project**

Dr. Eugenia Kafanabo

University of Dar es Salaam

17.30 **Wrap-up and conclusion of day 1**

Prof Darelle van Greunen

Prof Karsten Speck

Saturday, 27 June 2026

Aquarium Wilhelmshaven, Südstrand 123

08.30 **Departure to Wilhelmshaven (by bus)**

09.30 **Guided tour: the Wadden Sea ecosystem**

10:30 **Transdisciplinary research for coastal protection, marine biodiversity, and off-
shore renewable energies**

Prof Bernd Siebenhüner

University of Oldenburg

11.00 **Plural Oceans: Indigenous Knowledge, youth, and university engagement for sustainable ocean futures in South Africa**

Dr. Jessica Leigh Thornton
Nelson Mandela University

11.30 **How university-community partnerships enable transformative adaptation on Tanzania's coast: Bridging policy and practice**

Dr. Aurelia Raphael Kimaro
University of Dar es Salaam

12.00 **Engagement as an instrument to protect marine living resources in support of SDG 14**

Prof em. Hennie van As
Nelson Mandela University

12.30 **Lunch**

WORKSHOP: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

13.30 **International cooperation in support of engagement: Funding opportunities and strategic pathways**

Dr. Anne Clausen
University of Oldenburg

Theme 1: Research and Teaching
International cooperation and future directions

Prof Karsten Speck with Prof Heloise Sathorar and Prof Shervani Pillay

GOAL: produce a concept note

Theme 2: Governance and Strategies
Policy directions, university management (statement and communication)

Prof Darelle van Greunen with Prof Muki Moeng and Dr. Belinda du Plooy

GOAL: produce a joint statement

16.00 **Conclusions and outlook**

Prof Darelle van Greunen, Prof Karsten Speck, Dr. Belinda du Plooy, Dr. Malve v. Möllendorff

16.30 **Departure back to Oldenburg (by bus)**

Interested in participating? A limited number of on-site spots are available.

Please [register here](#).

I am aware that the symposium will be recorded. I am aware that this may include any comment or contribution I make during the event. I consent to this, and to the anonymous inclusion of my comments and contributions to outputs that may result from the symposium, like reports, proposals, and articles.