



CIRC in Canada Impact+ Research Chair in Climate-related Disasters and Community Resilience



You are invited to a virtual Research Seminar given by the candidate for the position of Canada Impact+ Research Chair in Climate-related Disasters and Community Resilience.

Dr. Dewald van Niekerk

Head of the African Centre for Disaster Studies Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management; Professor of Geography, School for Geo and Spatial Sciences, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Title: *“Governing uncertainty: Building resilience in complex adaptive systems”*

Date: Monday, 2 March 2026.

Location: Online/Virtual Meeting

Seminar: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Dewald van Niekerk is a Professor of Geography and the founder and head of the African Centre for Disaster Studies at North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus. Dewald is a South African B3 NRF-rated researcher. He obtained his PhD in 2005 and was promoted to full professor in 2012. He has authored and co-authored more than 150 publications, which include peer-reviewed articles, books and chapters in books and international and national research reports. He has been a project leader for local, national, and international disaster risk reduction projects and has undertaken disaster risk reduction research and consultancy in numerous countries worldwide.

He is the programme leader for the Honours in Geography and Environmental Management in the School for Geo- and Spatial Sciences, and the PhD in Disaster Risk Sciences in the Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Jãmbá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies*. He played a significant role in establishing the Southern Africa Society for Disaster Reduction. His research interests include disaster risk governance, resilience building, early warning, complexity and complexity theory, anticipatory governance, building institutional capacities for disaster risk reduction, and transdisciplinary disaster risk reduction.