



**Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST), Stellenbosch University**

**Researcher / Senior Researcher: Southern African Resilience
Academy**

(Three-year part-time contract appointment)

Ref. EBW13/239/0924

The Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST) is a leading research and postgraduate training centre within the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at Stellenbosch University (SU) in South Africa. It brings together research on transdisciplinary approaches, complexity, sustainability, governance and social-ecological resilience to inform pressing national, continental, and global sustainability and development challenges. The CST hosts leading scientists and students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, and fosters collaborations with a variety of departments across the University, nationally and globally, providing a vibrant hub for solution-oriented, transdisciplinary sustainability science that is primarily funded from external research grants. The primary objective of the CST is to co-produce transformational knowledge on the dynamics of multi-scale social-ecological and socio-technical change in partnership with key stakeholders, and to thereby provide strategic insights into the new modes of research and governance that can bring about a just transition to a more equitable and sustainable society, in southern Africa and globally.

One of the key thematic areas of work at the CST is social-ecological resilience, with a number of ongoing externally funded projects, one of which is the Southern African Resilience Academy (SARA). SARA was established in early 2021 and is coordinated through the CST, in partnership with the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) and support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). One of the GRP's main objectives is to strengthen Global South research and practice networks through the establishment of "South-to-South Resilience Academies". The aim of these academies is to support resilience- and development-related knowledge co-production and exchange across regions in the Global South, and facilitate knowledge transfer from the Global South to the Global North. SARA is the southern African node of the South-to-South Resilience Academies, and interacts with other Global South nodes currently being established. SARA works closely with the other South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Social-Ecological Systems and Resilience, held by Professor Reinette Biggs at the CST, as well as with the international office of the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), which is also hosted by the CST headed by Prof Alta de Vos.

The overarching aim of SARA is to provide a convening and support space for inter- and transdisciplinary researchers and practitioners working on pressing resilience and development challenges across southern Africa. The main mechanism for achieving this is through convening a set of working groups that meet annually over three years to produce a

collection of peer-reviewed articles in a special issue of an appropriate academic journal, as well as a set of non-academic engagement and communication products and processes, including a conference in the final year. The working groups are solicited and selected from an open call, which will be circulated in late 2024. This model builds on the learning and successes of the first round of SARA, which ran from 2021 – 2023.

The CST seeks a researcher for the Southern African Resilience Academy, based at the CST, at the level of a Researcher or Senior Researcher. This is a three-year part-time contract position, at 70% of full-time, based at the CST in Stellenbosch. The role of the researcher is to coordinate the second round of the SARA working groups, including guiding working group activities, convening synthesis workshops and research products, and facilitating the dissemination of research and knowledge outcomes. Through these and other activities, the researcher is responsible for contributing meaningfully to regional and global policy discussions around resilience and development, and particularly for elevating the southern African voice in these discussions. Depending on the skills of the candidate and needs at CST, there may be possibilities for contributing to other projects or teaching at CST to make up the remaining 30%, or the candidate can bring in their own funding. These possibilities can be discussed at the recruitment phase of the process.

Duties:

- Providing conceptual, strategic, and visionary research and knowledge leadership for the Southern African Resilience Academy, working in consultation with the GRP leadership, the SARChI in Social-Ecological Systems and Resilience, the PECS international project office, and other social-ecological systems and resilience research networks regionally and globally.
- Liaising with the Global Resilience Partnership in terms of coordinating SARA research and activities with the research and activities of other GRP initiatives and South-to-South Academies in other parts of the world.
- Initiating, supporting, and leading academic outputs such as synthesis papers that integrate the work of the working groups, as well as participating in or leading one or more working groups.
- Representing SARA research and activities at relevant international conferences and events.
- Coordinating SARA outreach and communication activities, including queries by relevant and interested parties, with support from the CST communications manager.
- Being the liaison, contact and support point for working groups on both conceptual and logistical matters.
- Coordinating annual synthesis workshops for working groups, as well as relevant networking and outreach events, including a conference in the final year, with support from the administration team at CST.
- Managing SARA project finances.
- Providing annual reporting of SARA finances and activities to the CST and GRP.
- Supporting fundraising initiatives to advance the work of SARA, especially in terms of securing large collaborative research grants to facilitate further iterations of SARA.
- The incumbent will be expected to contribute 10% of their time to supporting CST institutional functions, and participating in CST seminars, events and staff meetings.
- The incumbent will be expected to contribute to supervision of postgraduate students related to the research activities undertaken in SARA, and will be encouraged to provide occasional guest lectures on the CST's teaching programmes.

Requirements:

Minimum requirements: Researcher:

- At least one peer-reviewed publication.
- PI, Co-PI or collaboration with a PI to submit funding proposals to raise research funding.
- A PhD in social-ecological systems, resilience, sustainability science, or related areas
- At least three years' experience working in the southern African region in the social-ecological systems (SES), resilience, or closely related topics.
- A publication record in the areas of social-ecological systems, resilience, ecosystem services, or sustainable development.
- Established collaborations with research networks in the areas of social-ecological systems and resilience, both in southern Africa and globally, e.g. the Southern African Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS), the international Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), the Resilience Alliance, and the Global Resilience Partnership.
- Experience in leading or co-leading international research projects, programmes or research networks.
- Experience in convening workshops and knowledge co-production processes.
- Experience in working across the science-policy-practice interface.
- Evidence of participation in securing research grants, and willingness and ability to raise ongoing funds.
- Experience in supervising postgraduate students (Masters/PhD).
- Experience and a strong desire to work in participatory interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary environments.
- The ability to work independently and solve problems.
- The ability to be diplomatic and facilitate discussion and resolve conflict.

Minimum Requirements: Senior Researcher:

- PhD in social-ecological systems, resilience, sustainability science, or related areas.
- At least ten peer-reviewed publications with some as first/only author.
- PI (or Co-PI) on one or more grants (small or large), or *de facto* PI (i.e. assistant to a PI) on a large grant.
- At least one Master's student graduated, and one or more PhDs enrolled.
- Some teaching experience e.g. (co-)convenor of a course, course moderator, and/or delivery of lectures on one or more modules.
- Evidence of institutional leadership and services activities (both internal and external), e.g. thesis examination, course moderation, journal reviewer, service on institutional committees.
- Experience in running stakeholder workshops or policy engagement processes.
- National recognition e.g. NRF rating or serving on national scientific boards.
- At least three years' experience working in the southern African region in the social-ecological systems (SES), resilience or closely related topics.
- A publication record in the areas of social-ecological systems, resilience, ecosystem services, or sustainable development.
- Established collaborations with research networks in the areas of social-ecological systems and resilience, both in southern Africa and globally, e.g. the Southern African

Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS), the international Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), the Resilience Alliance, and the Global Resilience Partnership.

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Recommendations:

- Engagement in the previous round of SARA, and familiarity with the SARA process will be highly advantageous.
- Familiarity with the GRP network and objectives will be highly advantageous.
- Teaching and/or training experience in the context of social-ecological systems.
- The ability to bring existing grants into CST.

Commencement of duties:

01 January 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter

Term: Three-year part-time (70%) fixed-term position until the end of 2027.

Closing date:

11 October 2024

Enquiries regarding this post: Nina Callaghan on 021 808 9607, or at ninac@sun.ac.za

Enquiries regarding remuneration/benefits, as well as technical assistance with the electronic application process: Human Resources Client Services Centre on 021 808 2753, or at sun-e-hr@sun.ac.za

Stellenbosch University is committed to employment equity (EE), and appointments will be made in line with the EE plan for the specific environment as well as the institutional EE Plan of the University.

Stellenbosch University reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Your application, comprising a **comprehensive curriculum vitae (including the names and email addresses of at least three referees)**, must reach the University before or on the closing date of the advertised post.

APPLY ONLINE AT <https://www.sun.ac.za/english/careers> BY USING THE APPLY NOW LINK AT THE TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF THE SPECIFIC VACANCY PAGE.

The University reserves the right to investigate qualifications and conduct background checks on all candidates.

Should no feedback be received from the University within four to six weeks of the closing date, kindly accept that your application did not succeed.
