



Is scholarly publishing becoming unaffordable?

The [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (ASSAf) has initiated a series of ASSAf *Presidential Roundtables on Science, Scholarship and Society*, which are moderated by ASSAf's President, Professor Jonathan Jansen. These roundtables bring together experts in a particular field to address a critical issue percolating in society and of interest to a broad audience that requires an evidence-based dialogue by the best minds on the topic.

Given her interest and background to this issue, winner of the 2018/19 [NSTF-South32 Data for Research Award](#), Professor Tandi Matsha was invited to participate as a speaker in ASSAf's fourth Presidential Roundtable titled: *"Is Scholarly Publishing becoming Unaffordable?" An Evidence-based Dialogue on the Implications of a European Plan S on South African Research.*

The high-level discussions focussed on [Plan S, the Science Europe initiative for Open Access publishing](#). Used as a platform to share differing views, the roundtable endeavoured to gain a better understanding of this somewhat contentious subject and the related issues.

The event took place on 24 October 2019 in the Stellenbosch University Library and was held in support of International Open Access Week that ran from 21 October to 27 October 2019. Attended by mostly academics and librarians from the Western Cape universities, the dialogue succeeded in creating awareness on the role of transformative agreements in lowering article processing costs (APCs). To reach a wider audience, the event was broadcasted live and a recording of the discussions may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC22fcr80QaETDNoeilYnxsg>

Professor Matsha holds the SARChI Chair: Cardiometabolic Health, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and is the Founding Director of the [South African Medical Research Council Cardiometabolic Health Research Unit](#) at the same institution.



Professor Jonathan Jansen, ASSAf President, addressing the audience at the fourth Presidential Roundtable in Stellenbosch.



Professor Tandi Matsha of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, winner of the 2018/2019 NSTF-South32 Data for Research Award, addresses the audience on the Plan S initiative for open access publishing.