

## PUBLIC LECTURE

### Science, the Square Kilometre Array Telescope and Big Data: Can Africa lead?

**Dr Bernie Fanaroff** - Former Director, Square Kilometre Array Telescope, South Africa

Hosted by the South African Research Chair in the Sociology of Land,  
Environment & Sustainable Development and Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

**Date:** Wednesday 27 September 2017  
**Time:** 13:00 - 14:00; further discussion till 14:30  
**Place:** Library auditorium, Stellenbosch University

**Bernie Fanaroff** has an extraordinary record as an astrophysicist with a doctoral degree from Cambridge University, a leading trade unionist and political activist in the anti-apartheid struggle, and Deputy Director-General in the Presidency and head of the RDP office under President Mandela. Between 2003 and 2015 he was the driving force behind South Africa's bid to host the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope.

**The SKA**, which is being constructed in the Northern Cape, has been heralded as a 'game-changer' for South Africa and a globally significant, cutting-edge 'Big Science' project that will probe the furthest reaches of the Universe. Its local footprint in the Karoo has been more controversial but its leadership is committed to investing in local development initiatives and science education projects.

At a time when some are calling the value of science into question, Dr Fanaroff is exceptionally well positioned to reflect on the significance of science and the SKA for South Africa and the continent more broadly. We look forward to welcoming you to this event - not to be missed!

For more information please contact Stef Borchardt,  
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*Photo: Tim Peake, International Space Station*