

Prof Bhekisipho Twala
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Bhekisipho Twala is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Digital Transformation and Professor in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science at the Tshwane University of Technology. Before then he was the Executive Dean of Engineering and Built Environment at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), South Africa. Before joining DUT, he was the Director of the School of Engineering at the University of South Africa and the founder of the Institute for Intelligent Systems at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

He completed his PhD at the Open University (UK) in 2005 and was a post-doctoral researcher at Brunel University in the UK, mainly focussing on the application of theoretical and applied machine learning in software engineering. Prof Twala's current research includes promoting and conducting research in Artificial Intelligence within the Big Data Analytics field and developing novel and innovative solutions to crucial research problems in this area.

Prof Twala has proven himself a leading force in improving science through Big Data since the late 90s and has spoken at many conferences and seminars about it. He has a world-class track record of high-quality research and scholarship as evidenced by more than 180 publications in internationally leading journals and conferences. He has directed over 30 PhD theses in the area of machine learning and engineering science. Prof Twala is currently serving on several editorial boards including Information Sciences, Environmental Science, Intelligent Data Analysis, Data Science, Big Data, and the Journal of Image and Data Fusion. He is a member of several professional bodies including a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and a registered professional natural scientist.