DataFirst

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

HONOURING EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Wilson Wittenberg Prize for Data-Driven Research

DEADLINE: 13 SEPTEMBER 2026 · MIDNIGHT SAST

In Memory of Two DataFirst Visionaries

Professor Francis Wilson (1939–2022)
Founding Director of SALDRU and DataFirst, Professor Wilson championed the use of data to address South Africa's most pressing development challenges. He led South Africa's first nationally representative household survey, the Project for Living Standards and Development, and was a passionate advocate for open data.

Professor Martin Wittenberg (1962–2024)
Professor Wittenberg built on Professor Wilson's legacy, guiding DataFirst into a new era of growth as a globally recognised data service, modernising its infrastructure and strengthening its reputation for high-quality, accessible data. He was deeply committed to rigorous research and training the next generation of researchers.

Two annual prizes

Journal Article Prize
Peer-reviewed journal article published in 2025 or 2026

PRIZE VALUE: R10 000

Dissertation Prize
Master's or PhD awarded in 2025 or 2026 from South African institution

PRIZE VALUE: R10 000

Submission checklist

- Required supporting letter(s)
- Article or dissertation chapter
- Brief cv

*Further details provided via application form.

Requirements

- Research must use data available through the DataFirst Open Data Portal.
- Eligible research includes all quantitative social science disciplines in the area of development (broadly conceived).
- For Article Prize, author(s) must be affiliated with a recognised South African institution.

Apply online

https://forms.gle/zK1SzN2xZ1AmMGxu8

datafirst.uct.ac.za

Contact us: datafirst@uct.ac.za