



The US Witsie



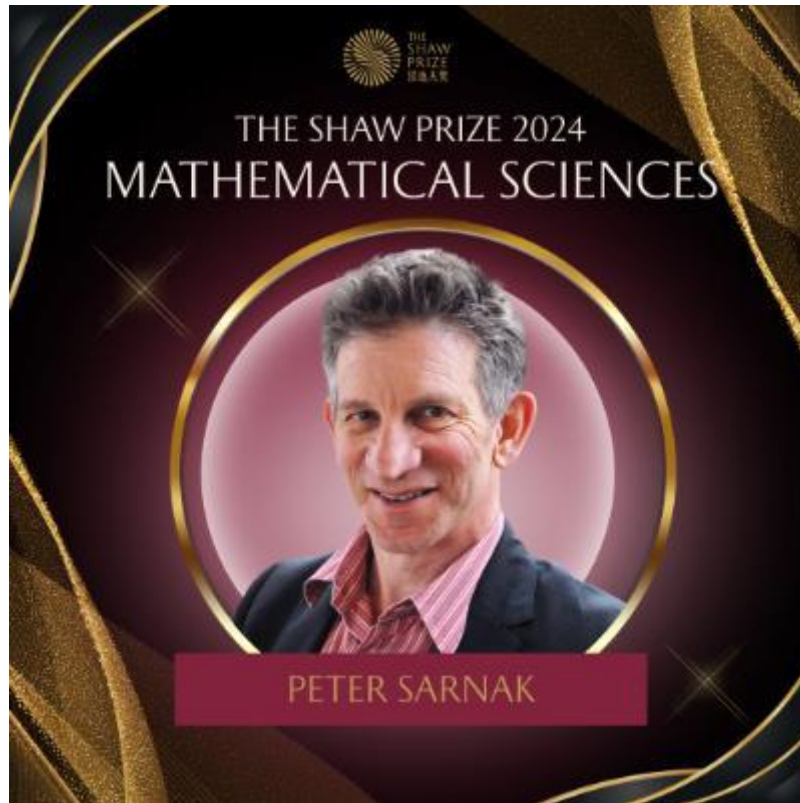
Wits Fund Newsletter May 2024

witsfund.org

Wits turned 100 in 2022. Learn more [here](#).

Memorial Day is there to remind us of the sacrifices made by those who came before us, and our responsibility to our communities. Let us think deeply about how we can make sure that we honor the memory of our own families and live a life of purpose.

US WITSIE WINS SHAW PRIZE IN MATHEMATICS



Professor Peter Sarnak (Wits BSc 1974, BSc Hon 1975, DSc honoris causa 2014) of the [@instituteadvancedstudy](#) and [@Princeton](#) has been awarded the 2024 Shaw Prize [@theshawprize](#) in Mathematical Sciences.

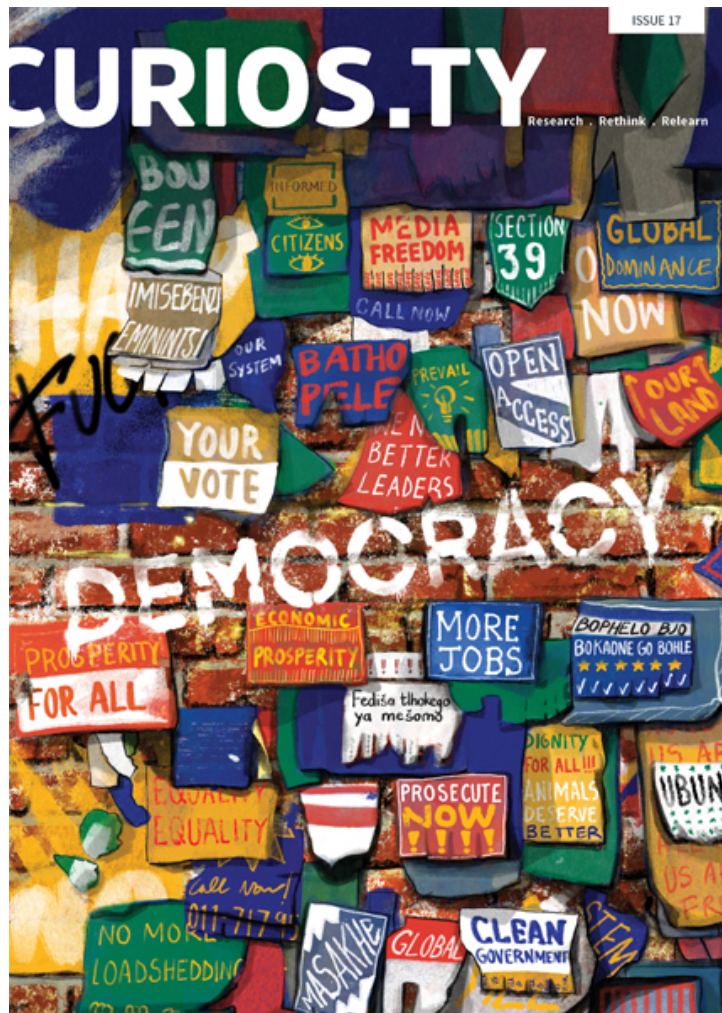
In 2014 Prof Sarnak said that his love of mathematics was sparked at Wits: “Its beauty and the powerful reasoning which allows us to tackle many concrete problems whose solutions lie well below the surface. This quickly became my passion and it remains so to this day.”

The Shaw Prize consists of three annual awards, namely the Prize in Astronomy, the Prize in Life Science and Medicine, and the Prize in Mathematical Sciences. Each prize also carries a monetary award.

The Shaw Prize honors individuals, regardless of race, nationality, gender, and is dedicated to furthering societal progress, enhancing quality of life, and enriching humanity’s spiritual civilization.

Read more [here](#).

MISSED IT? WATCH THE LATEST WITS FUND INDABA



The 17th issue of Wits University's research magazine, [Curios.ty](#), themed: #Democracy, is available [here](#).

Feature stories explore how media maintain and support democracy in the 21st Century, and how crime and corruption undermine it. The magazine shares research and expertise on important topics including AI, religion, migration, social grants, and the National Health Insurance.

Wits experts also answer questions on the South African Constitution, and investigate environmental rights, conservation, and water wars and how all of these relate to our individual and collective democratic roles and responsibilities. There is also a call for a social consensus revolution.

Despite our shortcomings, there is reason to be cautiously optimistic about the country's future.

As we feel gratitude for the blessings in our lives, one way to pay it forward is through making an impact in a person's life that will uplift them, and their families, for generations to come.

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**TEACHING EXCELLENCE: TEBOHO MOJA HONORED
AT NYU**



[Professor Teboho Moja, Wits Fund Vice-President](#), and Department Chair in the Higher Education Program at New York University (NYU) has recently been awarded the “**James Weldon Johnson Distinguished Faculty Award**” in recognition of her leadership, and for excellence in teaching.

Dr Moja is a professor of higher education at NYU and has been a policy analyst with a focus on the South African higher education system.

The late Nelson Mandela appointed Dr Moja as the Executive Director and Commissioner to the National Commission on Higher Education, and she has served as Special Advisor to two Ministers of Education in South Africa. In addition, Teboho was a board member of the International Institute of Education Planning (IIEP) in Paris and was a founding member and President of the Union of Democratic University Staff Associations (UDUSA).



WATCH: WITS' LATEST NEWS IN SIXTY SECONDS - In this episode, explore the successes and pitfalls of 30 years of #Democracy in the latest issue of Curios.ty, learn about the new FinTech research hub for practical financial solutions, launched by Wits and the Liberty Group, and meet the Wits-Edinburgh Sustainable African Futures Fellows who highlight the importance of interdisciplinary research for a sustainable Africa. President Cyril Ramaphosa discussed coalitions, corruption, and crime at the Wits School of Governance and an Operations Administrative Assistant at Wits is learning sign language to better communicate with Deaf colleagues. Read the full stories [here](#).

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Vision

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committed faculty, and supportive alumni.

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