

Ursula Scharler biography:

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My current research and teaching areas as Associate Professor at the School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), in Durban are systems analysis, aquatic ecology, and modelling. Before joining UKZN, I completed a post-doc at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD, USA and at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Before that, I was awarded a PhD degree from the University of Port Elizabeth (now NMU), preceded by studies at the University of Salzburg, Austria. My lab has a vibrant group of postgraduate students and focusses on variability of biota and ecosystems over time and space, and on theoretical and applied systems analysis themes. I fulfil editorial functions and regularly review for a number of national and international journals and books, for grant applications, evaluations and engage in steering committees and advisory boards nationally and abroad, as member and as chair. Currently I chair the South African National Member Organisation Committee to IIASA, and I have enjoyed collaborations with IIASA researchers over the last several years.