

Liesel van der Merwe

Liesel holds the position of Associate Professor in Chemistry at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She received both her MSc (1997) and PhD (2001) degrees in Chemistry from the same university under the guidance of Prof Christien Strydom. From 1997 to 2008, Liesel was employed as a lecturer and researcher in Physical Chemistry at the University of South Africa. In June 2008, she joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Pretoria, where she is still employed.

Her research interests focus on the modification, characterization and valorisation of South African industrial wastes, by-products and minerals. Depending on the specific raw material being studied and its intended application, this may entail research on solid-state thermochemical reactions, solid-liquid conversions, wet and dry surface modification techniques, as well as a variety of leaching studies. Through collaborations with national and international researchers and industries, 31 peer-reviewed journal papers have been published. She is passionate about postgraduate training. 10 MSc and 2 PhD students have completed their degrees while 4 PhD students and 2 MSc students are currently registered under her supervision.

Liesel is a member of the South African Chemical Institute (SACI), the South African Coal Ash Association (SACAA), chairperson of ThermSA (Thermal Analysis Society of South Africa) and a Council member of the International Confederation of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ICTAC).

In her leisure time, she enjoys birdwatching, camping and spending time outdoors with family and friends.