

Dr Itumeleng Monageng is a stellar astrophysicist currently holding a joint lectureship position between the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). His research focus is on studies of X-ray binary stars, where he uses data from telescopes operating at different wavelengths (including the Southern African Large Telescope and MeerKAT) to understand the physical processes taking place in these systems.

Dr Monageng completed his PhD in 2018 after which he briefly joined the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) operations team, where he was involved in the daily running of the telescope and performed service observing for an international research community. He held a post-doctoral position at the SAAO where he continued his research on interacting stellar systems. Dr. Monageng has co-authored 17 publications and is currently supervising students at various levels, from undergraduate to PhD.

Dr Monageng has been awarded several prizes dating back to his days as a post-graduate student, including the best oral PhD presentation at the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) conference in 2016 and being selected as one of top 20 young scientists for the prestigious 69th Lindau Nobel laureate Meeting in 2019.

Dr Monageng has given public talks and written media articles about his research in various platforms. He has also done several radio and TV interviews covering a wide range of topics in astronomy. Dr Monageng has appeared as a regular guest in SABC Education science programmes in community radio stations, with the aim of making science accessible to the Setswana-speaking people.