



*Consolato Generale d'Italia  
Johannesburg*



## **Italian Research Day in the World** *Johannesburg, 9 May 2025*

**Claudia Polese**  
Aeronautical Engineer

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND



MSc in Aeronautical Engineering and PhD in Aerospace Engineering, specialising in Aeronautical Structures and Innovative Joining Technologies, from the University of Pisa and the German Aerospace Centre.

Since 2009, she is an **Associate Professor in Aerospace Manufacturing and Design** at the School of Mechanical, Industrial and Aeronautical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, and she also serves as the Advisory Aerospace Research Director of the National Aerospace Centre.

A National Research Foundation-rated researcher since 2011 and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Prof. Polese leads as Head of the Aeronautical Engineering Stream and Deputy Director of the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Materials, Energy and Nanotechnology.

**INNOVATION:** *Prof. Polese has played a pivotal role in advancing South African research in **cutting-edge aerospace technologies (e.g., Friction Stir Welding, Titanium Machining, Laser Shock Peening, Additive Manufacturing and Cold Spray)** through collaborations with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Airbus and various international institutions.*

*In recognition of her contributions to fostering industrial and scientific partnerships between Italy and South Africa, she was honoured with the Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy and the NSTF-South32 Science Oscar for her work in advancing research, infrastructure and human capital in advanced manufacturing technologies.*