

GOOD GOVERNANCE BULLETIN



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE
AND PUBLIC POLICY



Message from the Director

It is a great honour and privilege to reflect on the achievements of the School of Public Management, Governance, and Public Policy (SPMGPP) in this 2023 academic year.

The SPMGPP is one of six schools in the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Currently, the SPMGPP operates on the Auckland Park Kingsway (APK) and Soweto (SWC) campuses of the University of Johannesburg (UJ). The vision of the SPMGPP is to ensure academic service excellence by being a leading knowledge service provider for transferring knowledge (teaching), generating knowledge (research), and providing community service for governance capacity-building needs in the public sector in South Africa. In line with its vision, the SPMGPP's mission is to strengthen public management and governance capacity by promoting research, teaching, the principles of Batho Pele, visionary expertise, and leadership.

When given the opportunity to lead the SPMGPP in January of this year (2023), I fully understood the importance of good governance on the general well-being of staff and students. Thanks to our shared values of Ubuntu, which emphasise the importance of giving high priority to the well-being of staff, students, and the environment, as well as our shared efforts to foster a sense of belonging and unity in an intercultural, diverse, complex school, the SPMGPP is now one of the best-governed and highest performing schools in the CBE and UJ.

Since its establishment in 2006, the SPMGPP programmes and qualifications have gone from strength to strength. The SPMGPP offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Public Management and Governance (PMG), with a strong focus on public management and governance (PMG) and public leadership and governance (PLG). Our range of qualifications includes the Higher Certificate in Local Governance and Management (F3401O) (online) and the Advanced Certificate in Local Governance and Management (C3401O) (online), which are offered through the Centre for Public Management (Centre for PMG) at APK. Qualifications in the SPMGPP also include Bachelor of PMG, BA Honours in PMG, Masters Coursework (MACW), Masters Research (MARD) in PMG, and PhD in PMG. Our qualifications are taught and supervised by a unique brand of highly qualified and extremely dedicated lecturers, supervisors, administrators, and tutors. The SPMGPP is supported by 14 permanent staff members, two permanent staff members at APK, and one temporary admin person at SWC. Twelve of the 14 permanent lecturers have PhD qualifications, and the remaining two are on the verge of submitting their PhD theses for external examination, while two of our three administrative staff members have Masters's degrees, and the third will be graduating in 2024. In addition, four SPMGPP staff members are National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated, with another staff member expecting NRF-rating results this year. Five of our academic colleagues are full professors, two are senior lecturers and the rest will apply for promotion to higher academic ranking soon. With reference to promotions, I would like to congratulate our newly promoted full professors, Prof Danielle Nel-Sanders, and Prof Vain Jarbandhan. I also want to extend my congratulations to Dr Eric Niyitunga and Dr Victor Mlambo for being promoted to the rank of senior lecturer during this 2023 academic year.

Most importantly, the students of the SPMGPP participate in new, leading public management and governance (including public administration, leadership, and local governance) programmes that address the public sector's research and training capacity-building needs and address service delivery at all three spheres of government. This year, true to its mission and vision, the SPMGPP staff (academic, admin, and tutors) and students, working together as one, have achieved excellent results. With a pass rate at both UG and PG of above 80%, 9 (10) PhD students were supervised to completion, about 31 MA dissertations were supervised to completion, and over 120 honours students are expected to complete their studies in 2023 (for 2024 graduation). The SPMGPP's contribution to the CBE/UJ success in many KPAs/KPIs is undeniably commendable.

For the first time in its 17 years of existence, the SPMGPP's contribution to the CBE and UJ research output units (ROUs) has reached 120, and more ROUs will be captured until the cut-off date in February 2024 (up from a total of 40 ROUs in 2020 and just under 100 ROUs in 2022).

The SPMGPP's footprint on the international, African, and UJ continents is hard to ignore. With over 22 active and productive partnerships, the SPMGPP is a leading force in advancing UJ's Global Excellence and Stature (GES) and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) vision for societal impact regarding its pan-African footprint.

The SPMGPP manages 22 active Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) of which 18 are in Africa, 1 in Canada, 1 in the UAE, and 1 in Wuhan, China). Four of these partnerships, such as those between the Jamhuriya University of Science and Technology (JUST), Somalia, the Makerere University Business School (MUBS), Uganda, the Mzumbe University (Tanzania), and the Wuhan University (China), were signed in this academic year (2023). Globally, the SPMGPP remains one of the top schools in teaching and learning in the social sciences subject in South Africa and Africa. It is currently ranked between 201 and 300 by the Times Higher Education subject ranking in 2024. Several of our staff members participated in many local and international media events in 2023.

As we firmly and steadily forge ahead into the future, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the wisdom of the SPMGPP MANCO members, the resilience of our 14 academic colleagues, the dedication and hard work of our administration staff, and most importantly, the tenacity and commitment of our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

You are individually and collectively the true heroes and champions in the SPMGPP's efforts to achieve the school's vision and make significant and sustainable contributions to the strategic objectives of UJ and CBE.

Ngiyabonga, Kea leboga, Murakoze, Thank you.



The SPMGPP Team

Reputation and partnership linkages

On behalf of the SPMGPP, Prof Lungile Ntsalaze signed three new partnerships in 2023. The three African partnerships are between UJ and the JUST in Somalia, the MUBS in Uganda, and the Mzumbe University in Tanzania.

In addition, Prof Jarbandhan was instrumental in initiating and concluding the signing of a MoU between the Wuhan University, Hubei Province, China and UJ. The signatory for UJ was Prof Letlhokwa George Mpedi (VC), and for Wuhan University Prof. Zhang Pingwe, President of the Economics and Management School and School of Political Science and Public Administration. The MoU was officially signed during the opening ceremony of the China-Africa Forum which took place in July 2023.

The SPMGPP also co-hosted international conferences with our international and national partners. On the international front, Dr Mlambo, Dr Niyitunga, Dr Onkgopotse Madumo, Mr Oriel Sithomola and Prof Dominique Uwizeyimana attended several international conferences co-hosted by the SPMGPP and UJ partners across the African continent and beyond. The international conferences were co-hosted with our partners at the Mzumbe University in Tanzania, the Kabale University in Uganda, and the DayStar University in Kenya, as well as The International Institute of Social Sciences (TIICOS) in Thailand. Many papers presented at these conferences by several staff members and Postdoctoral Researcher Fellows of the SPMGPP, including those of Prof Mohammed Jaheed and Prof Shikha Doorgapersad, and Dr Mlambo and Dr Niyitunga, have been accepted for publication or have been published in accredited journals of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

Prof Jahed and Prof Uwizeyimana are collaborating with Prof Peter

Haruna (Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development, IFSD, Texas A&M International University) to develop a panel proposal for American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) 2024 in Minnesota (USA). The panel covers several countries, including Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The 2024 ASPA Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from April 12-16, 2024.

In addition, Prof Danie Meyer, Prof Uwizeyimana, and Dr Madumo made several contributions to national and international media during the year.

Locally, on 10 May 2023, the SPMGPP (in collaboration with the CBE) hosted a very successful Special Guest Lecture presented by the South African Reserve Bank Governor Mr Lesetja Kganyago. The Governor's speech "Challenges facing the global economy: A South African perspective" was televised on all-electronic media and social media. Mrs Nolwazi Mamorare, UJ Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Prof Ntsalaze, the Executive Dean of the CBE, respectively, delivered the opening remarks on behalf of UJ's leadership and the introductory remarks on behalf of the CBE.

In addition, Prof Jarbandhan was part of a South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Indaba panel which was held between 8 and 10 March 2023 at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Centre in Kempton Park. The focus of the Indaba was on Local Government Professionalisation. Prof Jarbandhan (and Prof Themba Maseko, Wits School of Governance) delivered their address based on the theme, strengthening the

political-administrative interface and upholding standards of professional ethics and integrity. The outcome of the Indaba resulted in the formation of the Local Government Professionalisation Compact, on which Prof Jarbandhan serves.



Mr Lesetja Kganyago and UJ leadership and staff

Staff and achievements

- Prof Vain Jarbandhan was promoted to the position of Full Professor (2023). In addition, his NRF Rating commenced on 01/01/2023.
- Dr Eric Niyitunga was promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer (2023)
- Dr Victor Mlambo was promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer (2023)
- Prof Danielle Nel-Sanders was promoted to full Professor (2022), she delivered her inaugural address on 21 November 2023. The title of her address was: "Mitigating wicked risks through alternative service delivery".

New staff members

Dr Onnicah Motloun joined the SPMGPP at the beginning of this year. She worked at North-West University from 2018 until 2022 as a part-time lecturer, a research assistant and later became a PRF under the department of Public Management and Governance. She obtained her Doctorate from the North-West University (Vaal Triangle Campus) in Public Management and Governance; and the title of her PhD research is "Governance of digital innovation in the public sector in South Africa". Her PhD was funded by the NRF. Her master's research focused on investigating the contribution of geographical patterns in disaster prone areas and she used Alexandra township as a case study. Her research interests include public sector innovation/digital innovation and e-governance, disaster risk management and public sector human resources management. Dr Motloun is a member of the South African Association of Public Administration Management (SAAPAM).

Mr Lesedi Senamela Matlala was appointed as lecturer in the SPMG. He holds a Master's in Public Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation; a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Labour Law from UJ; and a PGD in Research Methods and Skills at the Maastricht University in the Netherlands. He is also a Doctorate candidate at UJ. He was named one of the Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans 2022. He is also a Fulbright candidate for 2023/24. His main research areas are Evaluations of Educational/Learnership Programmes, Policy Impact Assessment Studies; Socio-Economic Research and Surveys; Programme Monitoring and Evaluations (M&E), and Feasibility Studies. He has authored and co-authored a number of publications, including academic journals and conference papers and has presented at many conferences.

We are also honored to have both Ms Nthabiseng Khoza and Mr Christian Kayembe joining our academic team.

These young and upcoming academics will bring a wealth of tutoring and mentoring experience, especially to our undergraduate students.

Projects & Events

Prof Nel-Sanders was a panel member for the session on: "Sharing the conversation about being a Public Administration Scholar" at the PAM@100 Conference on 24 November 2023. She also presented a session on the joys and pitfalls of academic publishing.

Prof Jarbandhan chaired a panel at the Lien International Conference themed "Good Governance for the Common Good", hosted by the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore from 25 to 26 August 2023. The opening of the conference and keynote address was held at the Stamford Ballroom at Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore, with close to 300 delegates from across the globe. The keynote speaker was Mrs Josephine Teo, who is the Minister for Communication and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs in Singapore. Her address focused on the pressing topic of artificial intelligence and its impact on public administration. Other speakers included Mr Desmond Tan, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Singapore, and Prof Wang Shengkai of the Belt and Road Economic Research Institute of the Renmin University of China. Prof Jarbandhan chaired a session on "International Talent Management".

Moreover, Prof Jarbandhan was part of an international collaboration that is spearheaded by the NTU, Singapore. The international project title is "Preparing Public Affairs (PA) Students for Future Public Service: Examining a Long-Term Change of Students' Public Service Perceptions, Values, and Propensity in Singapore and the World". The South African leg of the project, which is part of a longitudinal international study, focuses on "Preparing Public Management and Governance Students for Future Public Service. Examining a Long-Term Change of Students' Public Service Perceptions, Values, and Propensity in South Africa and the World". The study is currently being undertaken in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, China, Malaysia and also in South Africa.

Ms Carmen Joel attended "The Seminar on University Governance Capacity Enhancement for Developing countries", hosted by the Zhejiang Normal University in China from 10 to 30 August 2023, which is aimed at officials from education management departments of developing countries, administrators from universities, experts, and scholars in the field of higher education management.

SPMGPP staff, and students

The SPMGPP students have been involved in several Community Engagement (CE) projects to give back to communities, and to apply their academic knowledge, and practice what they learn in class. Mr Kayembe leads CE for the SPMGPP.

The SPMGPP participated in the 3rd Annual UJ Undergraduate Conference. Mr Lesedi Mtlala and Mr Kayembe participated in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

In addition, SPMGPP third-year students visited the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) to enhance learning. The SPMGPP visitors to the DPME included Mr Thato Ndlovu, Mr Ntsiki Dineka, Ms Angel Kekana, and Ms Malaika Masonte.

SPMGPP staff members (and tutors) attended the workshop on "Research methods to improve research and supervision capacity" on 15 August 2023.

Dr Tasneem Majam, Ms Joel, Dr Niyitunga, Dr Mlambo, and Dr Motloung provided compulsory practical sessions for all undergraduate modules to improve academic performance. In addition, Dr Madumo invited two guest lecturers to present lectures for undergraduate students. These guest lecturers are Mr Vusi Maupa, a Senior Policy Analyst at the National Treasury, for PMG2A classes; and Mrs Sindy Mbele, Senior Executive for Human Resources at the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, for PMG3B classes.

Ms Jabulile Mathekganye, Mr Reckson Maluleke (SPMGPP administrators at APK) and Mr Mkhululi Gacula

(SPMGPP administrators at SWC) attended "The Minute Taker's Clinic 16-hour online masterclass" presented by The Minute Takers Clinic to improve their secretarial and minute-taking skills. All three colleagues received a Certificate of attendance.

SPMGPP tutors

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our tutors, and peer mentors, for their professionalism towards and care of our students. The SPMGPP has a team of ten excellent hardworking tutors (five at APK and five at SWC), and a group of very dedicated and caring peer mentors at both campuses. All our tutors went for tutor training as per the university's requirement. As a collective, the tutors were able to assist first year students to transition from Secondary School to University. The tutors ensure that the tutorials are operating in a manner that is beneficial to the students. In addition to tutorials, our tutors are responsible for the facilitation of practical sessions to assist students with the writing process of assignments. We know that our tutoring system is effective based on the improved results achieved by our students, and the messages they send thanking their tutors for their guidance and support when the results are released. In recognition of the tutors' contribution to the teaching and learning project, Ms Candice Khumalo was nominated to participate in the 3rd Annual UJ Undergraduate Research Conference on 3 October 2023 at the Chinua Achebe Auditorium at the APK library ; while Ms Desne Cornelius received the Top Tutor Award.



PMG students cleaning the netball court of Troyeville Primary School



SPMGPP students at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation



Ms Carmen Joel at the Zhejiang Normal University.

Mr Ndlovu, Ms Malaika Siphesihle Masonite and Ms Khumalo, all third-year students at the SPMGPP presented papers at the 3rd Annual UJ Undergraduate Research.

Their research topics were unique, and each aligned to the theme of the conference, which was to discuss and address matters pertaining to Sustainable Development. Mr Ndlovu presented a paper titled "Sustainable impact through championing the National Development Plan in South African Communities". His presentation analysed the progress that the NDP is making, proving that the plan is feasible, despite the challenges with the timeframe of 2030. Mr Ndlovu explains "I argue that South Africa is not a failed state, despite numerous challenges that our nation face. Thus, I suggest an accelerated active citizenry, especially the youth of South Africa, to actively participate in all spheres of public affairs in order to enable the success of the National Development Plan".

Ms Khumalo presented her research titled "From Social Empowerment to National Transformation: China's self-governing model activating SDG-powered poverty reduction". She remarked as follows "I elaborated on how African countries, especially South Africa, can draw significant lessons from China in implementing the self-governing model to alleviate poverty in communities."

Ms Masonte presented a paper titled "Exploring the aspects for a remuneration policy framework beyond

government work in South Africa". Ms Masonte explains "I argue that policies regulating public officials' outside work is outdated and seem to prioritise work that is office bound, whereas international trends are aligning towards remote-based work". Thus is it important to acknowledge that public officials may be reluctant to disclose their work interests outside of government and this may continue to derail government's efforts in combatting corruption and maladministration.



Ms Candice Khumalo at the UJ undergraduate research conference.

News from our Centre

The Centre for PMG offers both the Higher and Advanced Certificates in PMG. The Centre also plays host to visiting professors, senior research associates, research associates and PSFs. This year, Dr Michael Addaney (Ghana), a senior research associate, co-edited a book titled, *Climate Change in Africa. Adaptation, Resilience and Policy Innovations*, with Prof Jarbandhan and Dr William K. Demenu (Germany). The book was published by Palgrave MacMillian.

Additionally, the Centre has current MoUs with African partners, such as among others the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), the University of Eldoret in Kenya), the University of Energy and Natural Resources in Sunyani, Ghana. The Centre has also finalised its affiliation to the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) whose seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

Furthermore, the Centre supports the community engagement initiatives of the SPMGP, with Mr Kayembe who has been appointed by the Centre to lead the SPMGP community engagement efforts.

Finally, the Centre has assisted students with bursaries of approximately R500,000 in the 2023 academic year.

Personalia

Prof Danielle Nel-Sanders gave birth to a baby boy on 31 March.

Mr Maluleke, the SPMGPP administrator, got married to his beautiful wife. His traditional wedding took place on 4 and 5 November and his white wedding is taking place on 15 December.

SPMGPP Year-end function

This past year has been challenging but also productive for the SPMGPP staff, tutors, and students. However, by working together as a team, we managed to support each other and achieved great results for the University and our students. As the saying goes, our unity in diversity is our strength.



SPMGPP Staff and Tutors at the 2023 End of the Year Function.