



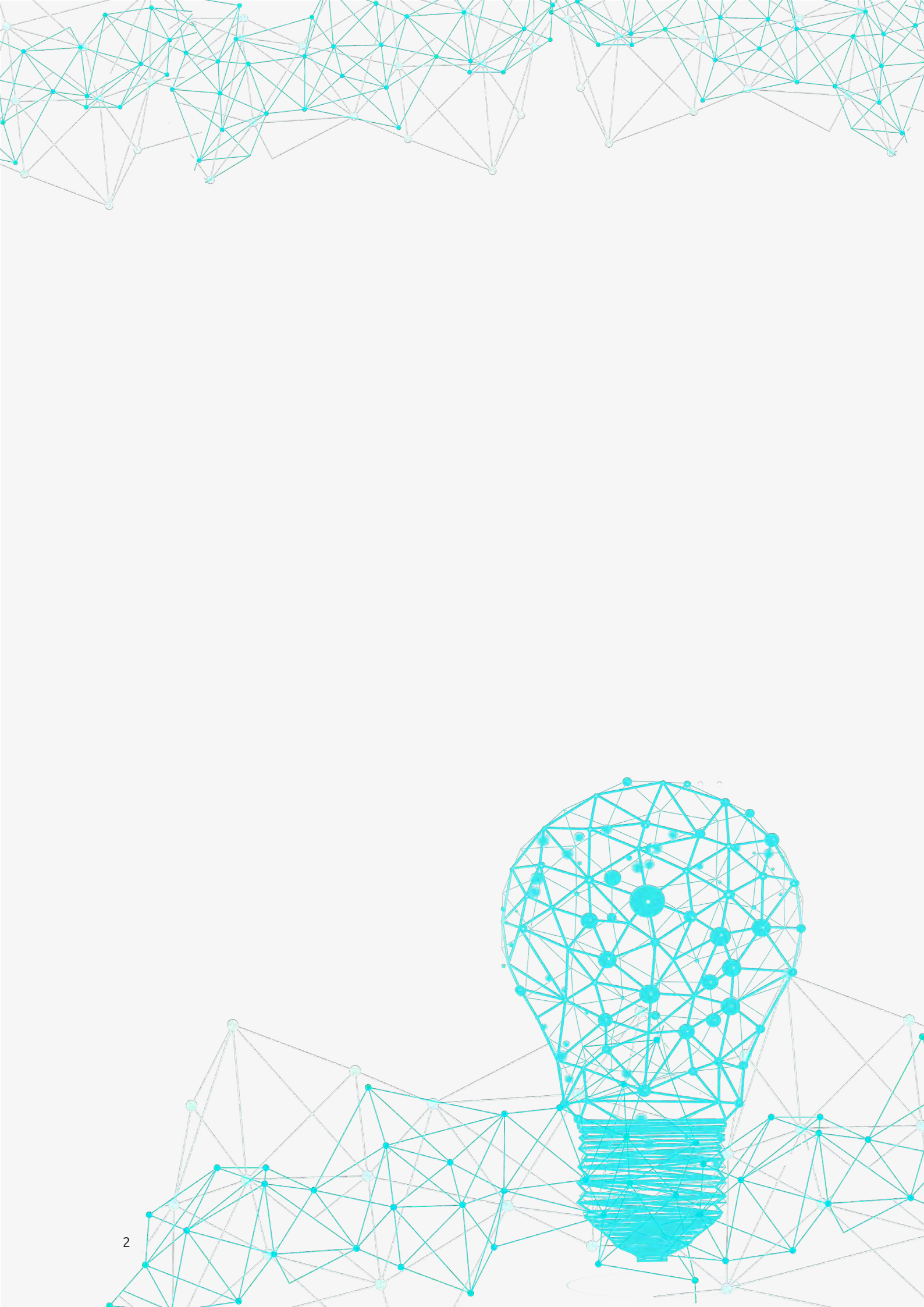
UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**The Future
Reimagined**





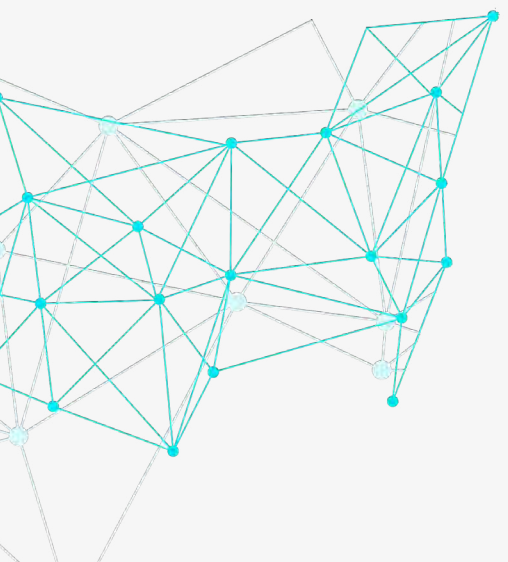


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Executive Dean's Introductory Remarks	4
Vice-Dean Research: Reflections	4
Vice-Dean Teaching & Learning: Review	5
Vice-Dean Internationalisation: Review	6
Faculty Office Admin: Review	7
Humanities Selected Data: 2018-2023	9
DEPARTMENTS, RESEARCH CENTRES, SARCHI & INSTITUTES	
DEPARTMENTS	
African Languages	17
Anthropology and Development Studies	19
Communication and Media	25
English	32
History	34
Languages, Cultural Studies & Applied Linguistic	35
Multilingual Language Services Office	41
Philosophy	43
Politics and International Relations	46
Psychology	50
Religion Studies	55
Social Work and Community Development	58
Sociology	65
Strategic Communication	68
RESEARCH CENTRES	
African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science (ACEPS)	73
Centre for Media, Data and Digital Communication (CDDC)	75
Centre for Social Change (CSC)	78
Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA)	81
Centre for Sociological Research and Practice (CSRP)	84
Centre for the Study of Race, Gender, and Class (RGC)	88
SARCHI & INSTITUTE	
Palaeo-Research Institute (PRI)	91





Executive Dean's Introductory Remarks

Executive Dean: Prof Kammila Naidoo

2023 was a remarkable year for the Faculty of Humanities in that the Dean's Office braced itself for three new Vice Deans. Prof Pragna Rugunanan became Vice-Dean Research. Prof Bhaso Ndzendze became the first-ever Vice Dean Internationalisation. Prof Corne Meintjes became the Vice-Dean Teaching and Learning Designate (to officially take over in 2024). Good governance, stability, critical and engaged scholarship, academic excellence, and transformation were key priorities in the course of the year – and our academics and administrators collaborated to ensure the meeting of these objectives.

Diversity and transformation deepened with changes noted at all levels, including the professoriate. We were also immensely pleased that many of our staff completed their PhDs, supported by the AAMP. The Dean's Office invested hugely in training and mentoring – and thus facilitated coaching, writing retreats, career development, and conflict management.

We are proud of the numerous awards that our staff received in research, teaching and learning, and industry activities. Two UJ Humanities colleagues, Prof Mandla Radebe and Dr Sipiwo Mahala shared the South African Literary Award for Best Creative Non-Fiction. The Faculty revitalised its language awards through the Multilingual Language Services Office after being hindered by COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021. In 2022 and 2023, four prizes were offered: the UJ Prize for Literary Translation, the UJ Prize for Creative Writing in Afrikaans, the UJ Prize for Creative Writing in Sesotho sa Leboa, and the UJ Prize for Creative Writing in isiZulu.

In general, we strove to meet our annual objectives – enrolments, success rates, research, fundraising and community engagement with commitment and enthusiasm. I thank all our academics, administrators, Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, and associates for making 2023 an excellent year for the Faculty. Going forward, we hope to place emphasis on aligning ourselves with UJ's new Strategic Plan 2025-2035 and build networks to drive graduate employability.



Vice-Dean Research: Reflections

Vice Dean - Research: Prof Pragna Rugunanan

Even though 2023 was a year of transition in the position of Vice Dean of Research, the Faculty of Humanities continued to perform exceptionally well in research and postgraduate studies. Staff members and their research associates sustained their engagement in cutting-edge research that is socially relevant and infused with the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on social impact. Societal issues that prevailed as important research topics included racism, gender-based violence, current political affairs, and corruption. The nexus between the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and artificial intelligence (AI) and how it affects societies was also given prominence in the humanities research landscape.

Our research centres are actively engaged in socially relevant research. The centres include the Centre for Peace Studies, the Centre for Philosophy of Epidemiology, Medicine, and Health, and the Human-Material Relations Research Unit. The Faculty of Humanities has close working relationships with the Palaeo-Research Institute (PRI), the Institute for the Future of Knowledge (IFK), the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS), the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), the UJ Confucius Institute (UJCI), the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) and the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO).

At the time of writing, the Faculty had produced 541 research outputs approved for submission to DHET. Staff members consistently publish in high-impact international journals, and the number of sole-authored books that staff members are producing is increasing. In 2023, staff members were particularly active in public media and sharing their research on social media platforms, by writing op-eds and engaging in radio and television interviews. The Faculty has a dynamic and growing postdoctoral research programme with approximately 64 postdoctoral research fellows, who are actively participating in webinars, teaching, conducting research, and engaging in postgraduate co-supervision.

Humanities staff continue to receive numerous awards and recognition for their efforts, including those applying for rating at the National Research Foundation (NRF). We currently have 42 NRF-rated researchers, including one A-rated and 13 B-rated researchers. We have a growing cohort of postgraduate students. In 2023, we graduated 398 Honours, 150 Master's and 44 Doctoral students. We are pleased to see that our postgraduate cohort are actively publishing in accredited journals and participating in conferences.



Vice-Dean Teaching & Learning: Review

Vice Dean - Teaching and Learning: Prof Corne Meintjes

Teaching and learning are dynamic and considered evolutionary in the Faculty of Humanities. Curriculum renewal and transformation are intrinsic to this, while adopting an ethic of care in supporting students in their pursuit of their studies. Therefore, colleagues in the Faculty regularly discuss 'how' and 'what' we teach, engage in programme and module reviews as and when necessary, and work on improvement initiatives to help prepare our students for employability.

The Faculty further explores innovative ways to avoid student dropouts while focusing on students completing their qualifications in minimum time. Although the Faculty has progressed in this area, it remains a priority. At the same time, we

monitor students' progress carefully and work closely with the various support divisions at the University to assist students. In 2024, the Faculty will move forward with reinvigorated assessment and moderation plans and strengthen the quality of our offering.

The Faculty is showing promise in developing and implementing Short Learning Programmes with an increased number focused on 4IR and the SDGs. There is also a strong passion for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL), driven by workshops hosted by the Faculty. These stimulate thinking about pedagogy and innovation in teaching and learning in the Faculty, with an increase in the publications focused on SOTL.



We are proud of our staff and students who have excelled in teaching and learning in 2023! Congratulations to Prof. Tracey McCormick and Prof. Maritha Pritchard, who each received their Advance HE Fellowships for teaching and learning. Professor Thembisa Waetjen from the Department of Historical Studies won the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Congratulations to the five students who were selected to represent the Faculty of Humanities at the 11th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) in Thailand: Sinenhlanhla Nyoni, Lemeese Steyn, Anda Mbebe, Phozisa Gweba, and Moma Molabe. Here we see the students flying the flag for our Faculty and South Africa at the conference centre.



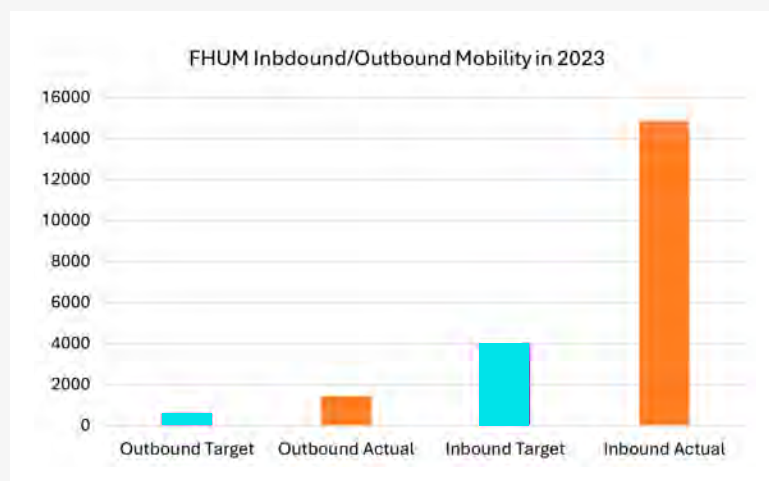
Vice Dean - Internationalisation:

Prof Bhaso Ndzendze

As will be evident in the individual departmental inputs, the 2023 academic year was an exciting one on the internationalisation front for the Faculty of Humanities. Our Departments, Centres, and SARCHI Chairs have, in various ways, taken our internationalisation work to new heights: from staff and student mobility to joint research and strategic partnerships that will serve us well into the future.

To take just one metric, we exceeded our outbound target by 240%, and our inbound target by 371% (see below) – and it is all thanks to the work going on in our various environments, and the leadership role we each play in taking our Faculty forward!

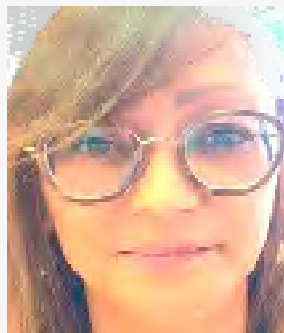
Moreover, our Faculty as a whole has been a leader in this area – seen through the establishment of the Humanities Internationalisation Committee (previously a working group), and the appointment of a new Vice-Dean for Internationalisation. I look forward to working with colleagues in this committee to reach even greater heights.



Inherent within our partnership drive is the need for Global South and Pan-African Partnerships, which remains our primary, though not exclusive, priority. Between 2022 and 2023, colleagues from the Faculty and I had the privilege of helping shape the University of Johannesburg's new *Strategy 2035*, by chairing the Internationalisation Task Team within the university-wide think tank. In line with the University's new strategic outlook, there are five new key priority areas:

1. Expanding our horizons.
2. Expanding our global student and staff collaboration opportunities.
3. Bolstering our international and global identity.
4. Developing a societal impact and sustainability focus on our partnerships across all spheres.
5. Increasing our global reputation and rankings standing.

All linked to an SDG, these will feature prominently in our revised internationalisation framework. Yet, internationalisation is driven by a combination of organic initiatives, as well as mandated partnerships in the service of institutional (and national) policy imperatives. It is a process growing from the networks that individual academics, departments, institutes and centres enjoy and build over time. I thank you for opening these up and formalising them at the Faculty level, and I look forward to working with colleagues and different domains to achieve their goals for the next year and beyond. With many great plans ahead, 2024 promises to be an exciting year!



Faculty Office Administration: Review

Tania Dal Mas: Head Faculty Administration

The Faculty office comprises of 12 full-time staff members, the head of Faculty administration, five senior Faculty officers, five Faculty officers and one administrative assistant, with one vacancy at the senior Faculty office level in 2023. The Faculty office managed all aspects of the student life cycle, for the 6,247 students that were registered in the Faculty in 2023. Of these students, 4,850 were undergraduate students, 755 of whom were diploma students and 4850 degree students, and 1,397 postgraduate students of whom 461 were honours students, 546 master's students and 390 doctoral students.

APPLICATIONS

In 2023 the Faculty received close to 64500 application records, for both undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. The vast majority of these applications were for undergraduate first time entering applicants, managed by the head of Faculty administration, together with the student enrolment centre, with the transfer and entering, and postgraduate honours, master's and doctoral applications managed within the Faculty office partnered with academic departments, as were the waitlists and update of registration quotas where movement between qualifications needed to happen in a very fluid space, in order to meet targets.

REGISTRATIONS

During this registration monitoring period, the Faculty office started early with telethons for new applicants and continuing students, introducing themselves to students in their specific portfolios, and encouraging them to liaise with them directly on challenges. This resulted in no long queues outside of the Faculty offices. It also helped to anticipate problems and to look at interventions to mitigate them proactively. The Faculty office also provided detailed and extensive reports, datasets and strategies to assist in the monitoring period. Similarly, the Faculty office provided reports and datasets to aid with the identification of registration vs graduate output targets, which also assisted in the monitoring period of both the enrolment and graduate targets.

ACADEMIC EXCLUSIONS AND APPEALS

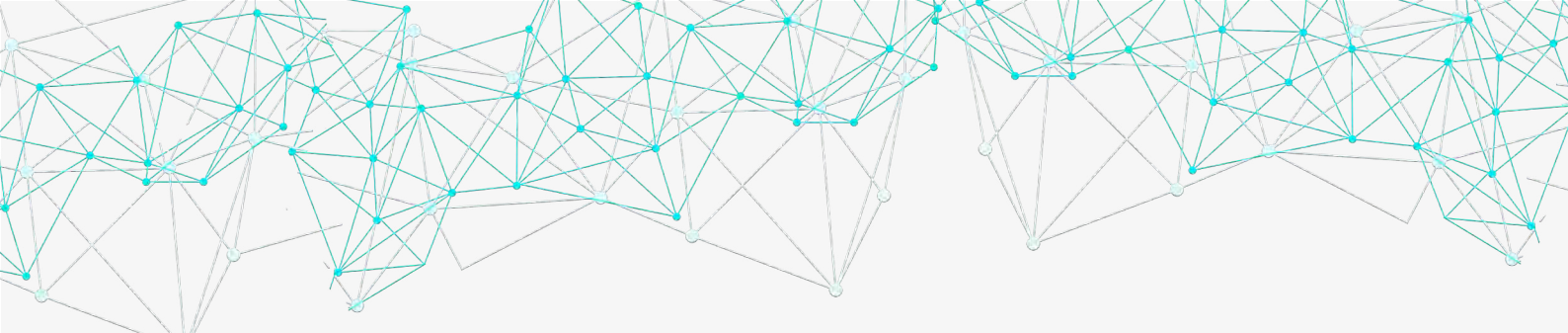
In 2023 the Faculty excluded 157 students, and of these, 156 were undergraduates, and one postgraduate. Of the 156 undergraduates, 102 applied for re-admission, and of those 91 were readmitted on specific conditions. The one postgraduate student who was excluded appealed and was readmitted.

Graduations: The Faculty graduated 1735 students on subsidised qualifications across 7 ceremonies in 2023, as well as 43 on short learning programmes in separate ceremonies. Of the 1735 graduates 893 were for degrees, 251 were for diplomas, 398 for honours, 148 for master's in total, with a split of 74 for coursework and 74 by research and finally, 45 for doctorates.

FACULTY OFFICE REPORT 2023

It also facilitates several University and Faculty boards/committees where student and staff matters are deliberated on, such as the Faculty Board, Faculty Higher Degrees Committee, Faculty HR and Finance Committee, Programme Working Group, SENEX and the F7 Appeals Committee, to name just a few.





The Faculty office similarly facilitates the approval of the academic structure of programmes for qualifications, including the opening and closing of online application cycles offered each year. It manages the calculation criteria, timetabling (lecture and examinations) processes of academic amendments to formal qualifications, as well as short learning programmes (SLPs).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During 2023, the following staff undertook formal and/or non-formal studies / development / training:

Formal degrees completed in 2023:

- BA in Public Management and Governance (**Aphiwe Ximba, Student Assistant**)
- BA in Public Management and Governance (**Mercial Samms, Faculty Officer**)
- BA Honours in Community Development and Leadership (**Thapelo Ramphisa, Faculty Office Intern**)
- BA Hons in Development Studies (**Ayanda Milanzi, Faculty Officer**)
- BA Hons in Psychology (**Fatima Damoyi, Faculty Office Intern**)
- MA Audiovisual Communication (**Afika Ralgane, Temp Faculty Officer**)
- M Phil Social Policy and Development (**Hape Setloboko, Faculty Officer**)

Non-formal courses completed in 2023:

- **Tania Dal Mas, HFA;** - Essentials of Leadership for 4.0 and Modern Times, Practical Influencing and Persuasion, Crisis Leadership, Understanding Team Efficiency, Understanding Human Dynamics in a Team, Motivating and Mentoring Team Members, and Digital Body Language and Communication.
- **Ismail Fadal, Senior Faculty Officer** - Usable Security (cyber security)
- **Hape Setloboko, Faculty Officer** - First Aid

INTRODUCTION OF A DISABILITY MENTOR PROGRAMME:

In 2023, I initiated a mentoring programme in the Faculty office for students living with a disability, championed by Ndumiso Nhlapo and Hape Setloboko. It started out small with advising and supporting our students, but with Ndumiso's drive this has grown into much more, with support being given not only to Humanities students, but also the testing of systems that are required for visually impaired students and staff.

Overall, the Faculty office performed very well in the 2023 academic year.

HUMANITIES SELECTED DATA: 2018-2023

STUDENTS AND SUCCESS RATES

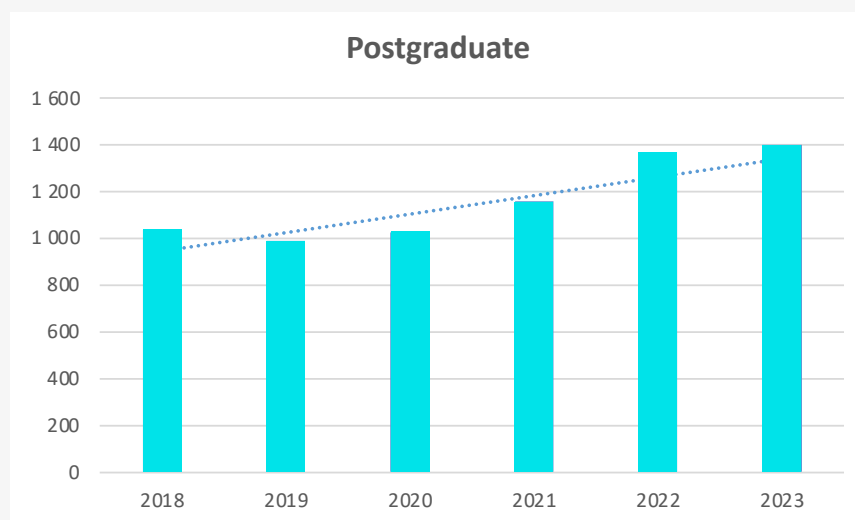
Enrolment figures – 2018-2023

In terms of overall headcount enrolment, the Faculty showed an increase of 2.27% from 2018 [6111] to 2023 [6250]. The Faculty programmes remain highly popular with more than 40 000 applications received to fill the 2575 spaces for the new undergraduate and postgraduate intakes. Overall, this shows a strong and sustained Faculty of Humanities.

Qualification Type PG_UG	Year					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Postgraduate	1 037	991	1 024	1 160	1 263	1 400
Undergraduate	5 074	4 838	4 525	4 709	4 728	4 850
Total	6 111	5 829	5 549	5 869	5 991	6 250

Following a new enrolment plan, the postgraduate cohort has logically grown. The postgraduate student numbers have increased by 35% from 2018 to 2023. This growth and UG: PG ratio is necessary if we are to strengthen our international competitiveness and play a significant role locally and on the African continent, that is to build a future intellectual class and new cohort of senior academic leaders.

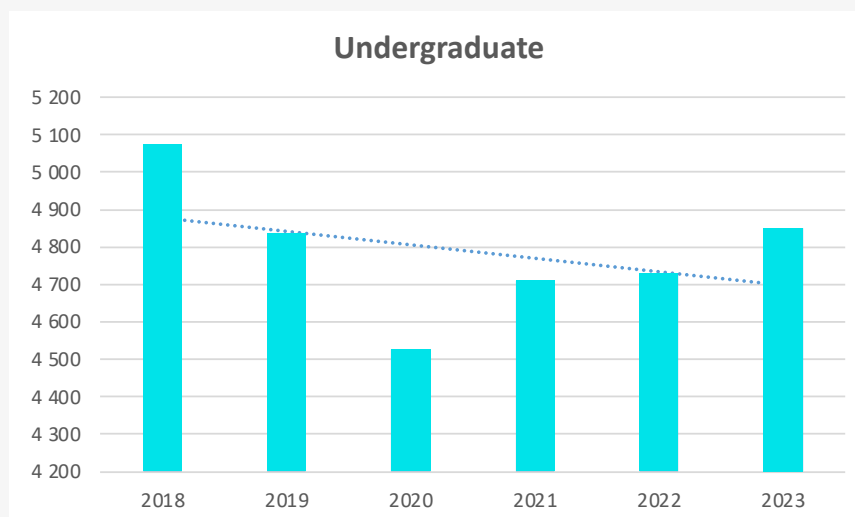
Qualification Type PG_UG	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Postgraduate	1 037	991	1 024	1 160	1 263	1 400



Whilst the postgraduate numbers have grown, the undergraduate (combined degree and diploma) enrolments show a decline of 4.41% when compared to the 2018 numbers.

Qualification Type PG_UG	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Undergraduate	5 074	4 838	4 525	4 709	4 728	4 850

Concerning undergraduate degrees, the extended degree programme shows an overall increase in terms of the number of students registered. In 2023, we witnessed an increase of 38.4% when compared to 2018, due to the implementation of the newly approved BA Extended Degrees. Thus, we have enabled access and development, which is in keeping with the mission of the Faculty of Humanities.

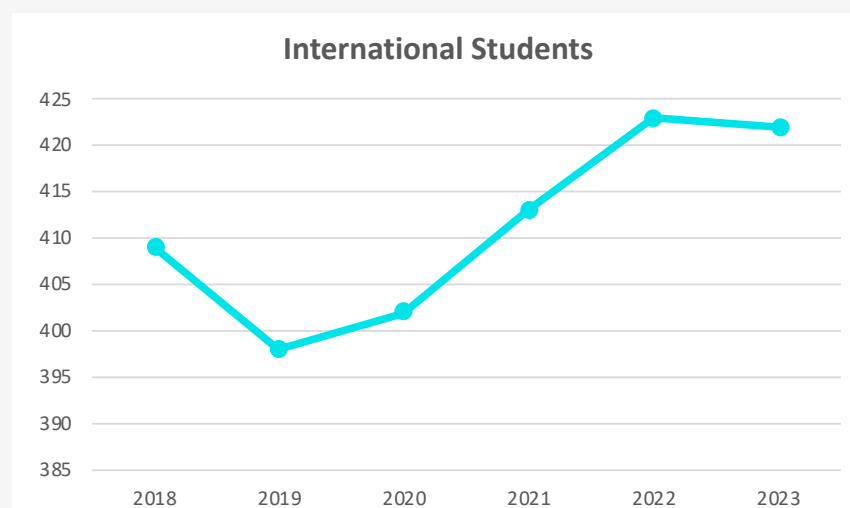


Qualification type grouping	Qualification extended program flag	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Degrees	Extended	583	640	650	729	786	807

International Enrolment

Overall, postgraduate and undergraduate international headcount enrolments show an increase of 3.18% from 409 students in 2018 to 422 in 2023. While this number is positive, it is slightly lower than the numbers the Faculty aimed to attain. Thus, more work needs to be done to popularise our programmes amongst prospective international students – and to work with the International Office to ensure that issues around visas can be dealt with efficiently.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
International Students	409	398	402	413	423	422



Looked at more closely, it can be noted that the postgraduate international numbers increased by 26.38% from 163 in 2018 to 206 in 2023, while the undergraduate numbers declined by 12.1% - from 246 in 2018 to 216 in 2023. Some of this is linked to the post-COVID context – potential applicants have had financial constraints, there is reduced funding support, and they are more hesitant to leave their countries of origin.

Foreign national	Calendar Year					
Qualification Type PG_UG	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Postgraduate	163	135	167	178	194	206
Undergraduate	246	263	235	235	229	216
	409	398	402	413	423	422

Degree Credit Success Rates

The overall success rates of qualifications have improved over the 6 years, though the pattern is not consistently upward. The Faculty shows an increase of 2.2% from 2018 to 2023.

Degree Credit Success Rate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	84.1%	85.4%	86.2%	85.9%	85.7%	86.3%

The postgraduate degree credits success rate shows a decrease of 0.1% from 2018. We are concerned about this decline and are working to ensure an improvement in forthcoming years.

Degree Credit Success Rate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	55.4%	66.6%	63.2%	66.4%	62.6%	55.3%

When undergraduate degrees and diplomas are considered together, the combined success rate shows an increase of 3.5% from 2018.

Degree & Diploma Credit Success Rate	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	87.7%	87.7%	89.3%	88.6%	88.9%	91.2%

A substantial amount of time has been spent discussing strategies to improve success rates, particularly for both the postgraduate and undergraduate degrees. This will remain a high priority of the Faculty in 2024.

Percentage of Students Completing in Minimum Time (MA and D)

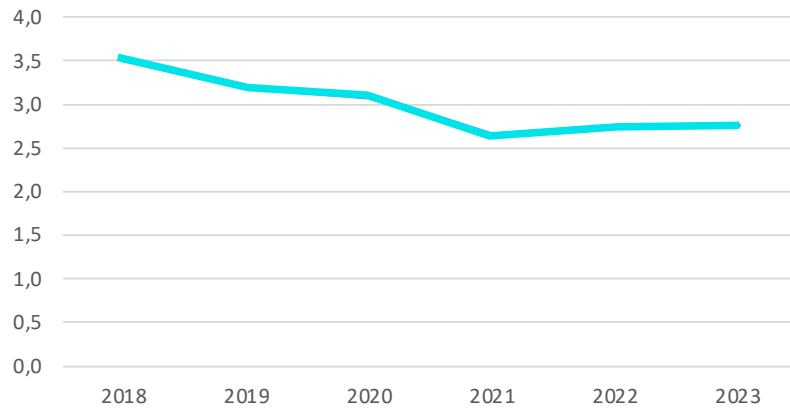
Master's degrees:

The average time to completion for MA students improved from 2018 to 2023: While in 2018 students had on average taken 3.5 years to complete their degrees, in 2023 graduating students had on average taken 2.8 years to complete their degrees.

Many students, that is 46.2%, completed their degrees in M+1 (2 years) in 2023 – as compared to the situation in 2018 when the biggest group (39.8%) completed their degrees in Min>4 years (see table). The 2023 data also shows a decline in the number of students that completed in M+2 years (there has been a shift from 38.8% in 2018 to 33.3% in 2023).

Minimum time - total grouping	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Min Time (1 year)	3.1%	0.8%	0.9%	1.3%	0.9%	1.7%
Min Time + 1 (2 years)	18.4%	29.8%	35.1%	47.7%	46.1%	46.2%
Min Time + 2 (3 years)	38.8%	33.1%	35.1%	37.1%	36.5%	33.3%
Min Time >4 years	39.8%	36.3%	28.8%	13.9%	16.5%	18.8%
Avg Time to Completion (years)	3.5	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.8

Avg Time to Completion Masters



Doctoral degrees:

The average time to completion remained consistent at 4.8 years in 2023. In 2023, 50% of doctoral students completed their degrees in Min>5 years. We hope to improve on this in 2024 and 2025.

Minimum time - total Grouping	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Min Time (2 yrs)	5.0%	2.7%	2.9%	3.0%	4.1%	4.5%
Min Time + 1 (3 yrs)	12.5%	10.8%	11.8%	21.2%	16.3%	22.7%
Min Time + 2 (4 yrs)	40.0%	35.1%	20.6%	33.3%	28.6%	22.7%
Min Time >5 yrs	42.5%	51.4%	64.7%	42.4%	51.0%	50.0%
Avg Time to Completion	4.8	4.9	5.1	4.4	4.9	4.8

Undergraduate degrees (3-Year mainstream):

The mainstream has remained constant with approximately 70% of students taking 3.4 years to complete a 3-year degree. However, 2023 shows a decline of 4.6% from 2018, with 67.9% of students completing in minimum time, as compared to 72.5% of students in 2018 completing in minimum time.

Minimum time - total Grouping	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Min Time (3 yrs)	72.5%	70.1%	63.7%	71.0%	70.0%	67.9%
Avg Time to Completion	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4

Undergraduate Degrees (Extended):

There has been a 2% increase in the number of students completing their studies in the minimum time of 4 years. This is 17.1% higher than the percentage of mainstream students completing in the minimum time.

The average time to completion is 4.1 years, which is very close to the precise duration of the programme. This exemplary result is attained through a dedicated team of academics and a strong extended programme administrative office.

Minimum time - total grouping	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Min Time (4yrs)	83%	86%	84%	87%	87%	85%
Avg Time to Completion	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1

Student Satisfaction Levels (2018-2023)

The undergraduate student satisfaction levels increased by 1.9% when compared to 2018, with the postgraduate satisfaction levels increasing more substantially – by 8.1%. This was most pleasing to note and is testimony to the extraordinary efforts that went into boosting morale and offering support over the past few years.

HUM	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual
UG (SA and international)	87.40%	85.90%	94.30%	91.40%	90.10%	89.3%
PG (SA & international)	82.50%	85.00%	88.30%	87.90%	88.90%	90.6%

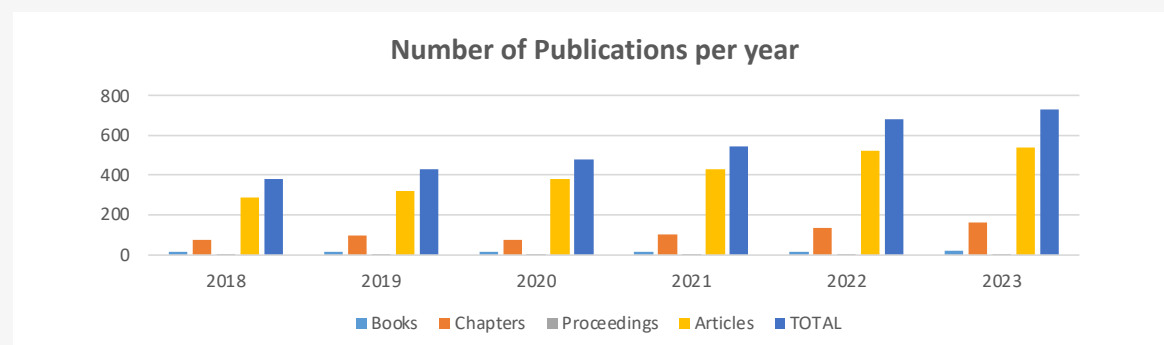
STAFF, PDRFs, RESEARCH, AND EQUITY

Research Publications

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Books	12	12	16	12	17	22
Chapters	73	97	77	100	137	162
Proceedings	5	4	5	1	5	4
Articles	288	318	381	430	522	540
TOTAL	378	431	479	543	681	728

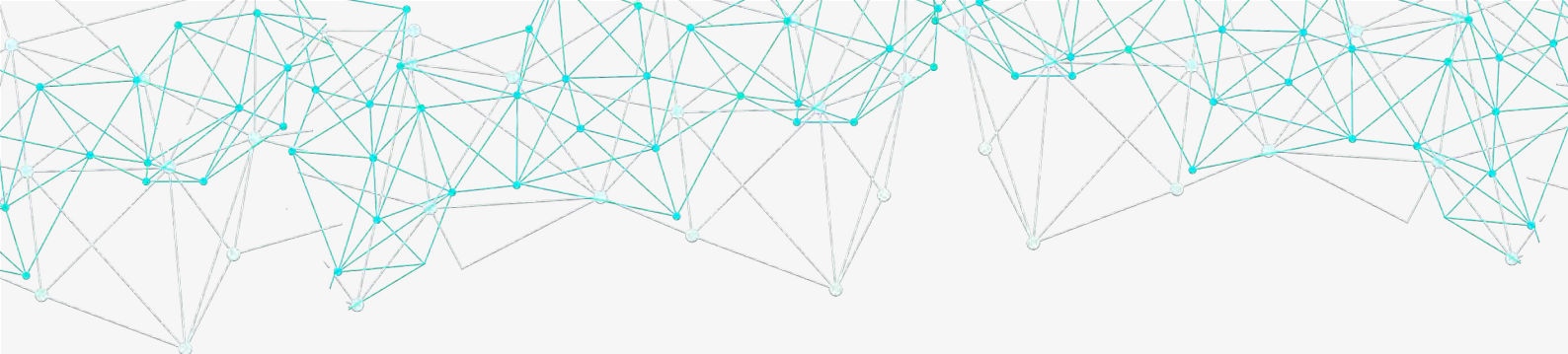
The Faculty of Humanities is a highly active, research-focused Faculty. The number of research publications produced has increased steadily over the past five years. While we were exceptionally pleased to have produced 378 publications in 2018, we have exceeded our expectations by more than doubling that in 2023. A higher proportion of staff is more involved in publishing, either as sole authors or in collaborative projects (co-writing with other scholars or with PhD or post-doctoral students). The 2023 units now stand at 559 and are still to be audited by the DHET.

Publishing Progress



Post-Doctoral Research Productivity

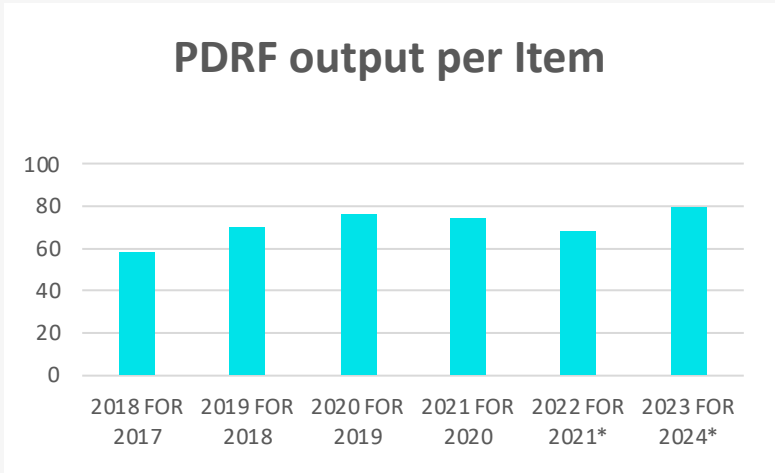
Post-doctoral researchers of the Faculty have been consistently productive – producing between 43.28 and 80.42 units over the past 5 years. We are extremely pleased with the energy and vibrancy of the PDRF cohort and are looking to support and encourage their research initiatives. 2023 was the most productive year by far – with PDRFs almost doubling that which was produced by the 2018 PDRF cohort!!



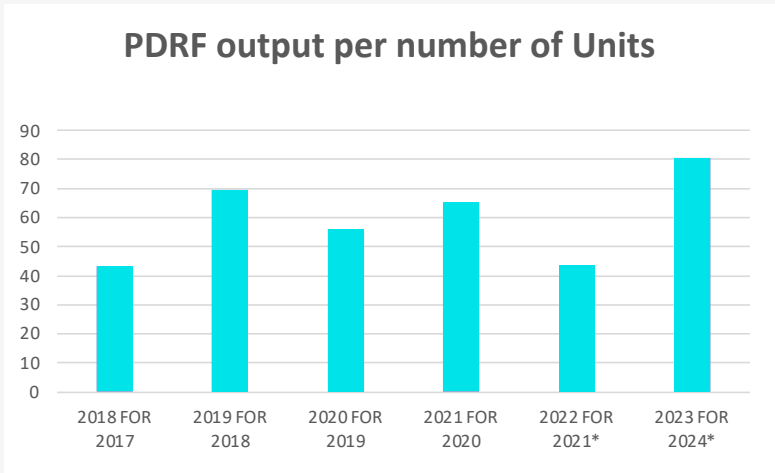
Post-Doctoral Research Productivity

YEAR	NO OF ITEMS	NO OF UNITS
2018	58	43.28
2019	70	69.44
2020	76	55.89
2021	74	65.17
2022	68	43.62
2023	79	80.42

PDRF output per Item



PDRF output per number of Units



Research Income per Faculty per donor.	
	Sum of NET VALUE
2018	R23, 471, 199m
2019	R23, 437, 474m
2020	R42, 264, 483m
2021	R49, 444, 595m
2022	R43, 174, 015m
2023	R45, 700, 386m

Fundraising (2018-2023)

Here, the sum of the Net Value for research income is used. A substantial increase in research funding is noted – from R23, 471, 199m (in 2018) to R45, 700, 386m (in 2023). Whilst the Faculty was previously dependent on a few key entities to be the drivers of external funding, the strategy at present is to develop a more broad-based capacity, with all Departments and Centres aiming to bring in funds. Thus, a review of the University's Research Income statement will show that 43 grants/awards have contributed to Humanities composite fundraising in 2023.

Finally, this overview concludes with some indication of transformation over the past 5 years. The changes have been strongly noticeable.

Staff Changes Over Time – 2018 and 2023

Faculty of Humanities	2018	2023
Staff with Doctoral Degrees	102	158
Black Academic Staff	85	120
Women Academics	111	125
Black Associate & Full Professors	18	33

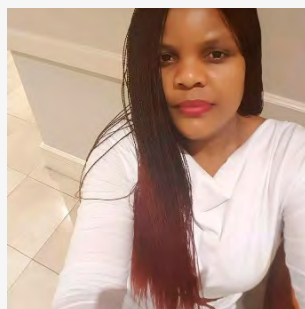
There were more staff with PhDs in 2023 than ever before; more black academics were recruited and the designated Professors grew in number, with many occupying senior positions as Heads and Directors in the Faculty. Women academics remained a large group and further increased in number. With the refreshing of Faculty committees in 2023, we ended the year witnessing an engaged and involved staff – collectively contributing to the stability and governance of the Faculty of Humanities.



A decorative graphic at the top of the page consisting of a network of teal-colored dots connected by thin lines, forming a complex, organic shape that spans the width of the page.

DEPARTMENTS

AFRICAN LANGUAGES	17
ANTHROPOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	19
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA	25
ENGLISH	32
HISTORY	34
LANGUAGES, CULTURAL STUDIES & APPLIED LINGUISTICS	35
MULTILINGUAL LANGUAGE SERVICES OFFICE	41
PHILOSOPHY	43
POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	46
PSYCHOLOGY	50
RELIGION STUDIES	55
SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	58
SOCIOLOGY	65
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION	68



AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Prof Boni Zungu, Head of Department

Professor Boni Zungu is the newly appointed Head of the Department of African Languages after joining the Department in October 2023.

The Department prides itself on committed academic staff. Hence, it produces students of high quality. These include Prof Z Mtumane (who was HoD until November 2023), Mr T Madingiza, Dr D Sibiya, Dr MD Mojapelo, Dr SZ Dlamini, Miss GB Thwala, Miss M Hadebe and Ms IP Thete. Due to staff shortages, temporary lecturers were appointed to take on more academic workloads. In

2023, we had eight (8) sessional staff members. While the department is still working on a strategy to find a long-term and permanent solution to this challenge, the sessional staff members alleviate the strain of high workloads on permanent staff members.

RESEARCH

Our fellow staff members wrote and published research units in accredited journals. In all, the Department has, so far, reported twelve research units for 2023. A book, *Broadened Horizons: African-Language Literature, Film and Creative Media in South Africa* (Edited by Dumisani Sibiya and Zilibele Mtumane), for which colleagues contributed chapters, is due for publication early in 2024. Some colleagues presented papers at two academic conferences: the Southern African Linguistics and Applied Linguistics (SALAL) Conference at the North-West University, and the African Languages Association of South Africa (ALASA) Conference hosted by the Tshwane University of Technology. The Department is also finalising the establishment of the *Journal of Indigenous Languages of South Africa*, with UJ Press.

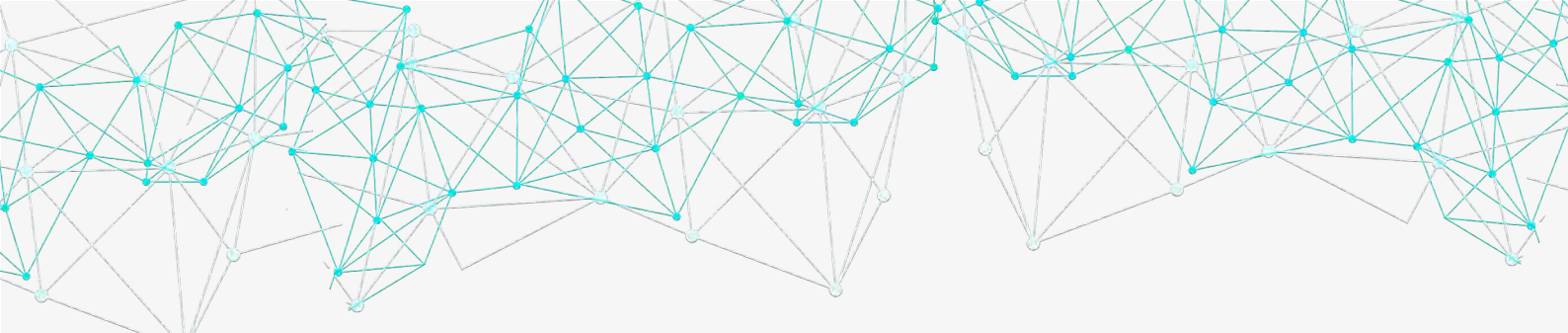
TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Department of African Languages offers modules in isiZulu and Sesotho sa Laboa (Sepedi) to undergraduate students. These modules include linguistics, literature, and non-mother tongue streams in the two languages. From January 2023, the Department has been offering two online short learning programmes (SLPs), for the two languages. The Department also offers service modules for the Faculty of Education. These include methodology and PGCE modules in the languages. The Department is planning to add more languages to the existing curriculum. An application to offer isiXhosa, as a major, has already been approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Council for Higher Education. The plan is to offer isiXhosa courses as from 2024.

The offering of different African languages qualifications is our departmental initiative to promote multilingualism, as African languages are a valuable asset in South Africa and on the African continent. The offering of isiZulu, Sepedi and isiXhosa alongside each other, also enhances multilingualism, as most people strive to be fluent in more than one of them. Embracing multilingualism is at the core of the decolonisation project. It is mainly for this reason that the Department of African Languages also offers non-mother tongue modules and the two SLPs in isiZulu and Sepedi (Sesotho sa Leboa) and accommodates more languages at postgraduate level. Most colleagues have incorporated technology into their teaching, which is in line with 4IR. Students use CANVA for assessments and research. They submit their portfolios online. Dr Dlamini has initiated the teaching of digital literature within the Department.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

At postgraduate level, the Department prepares students for the higher academic endeavours of master's and doctoral qualifications. It is always emphasised to students that an honours qualification is an intermediate degree. Hence it is offered as the fourth year of the junior qualification in other departments. They are, therefore, encouraged to continue to the next level when they qualify. It is at this level that research is encouraged, and students are motivated to work independently, under the guidance of their supervisors. In fact, they become co-creators of knowledge. The compulsory research paper introduces them to advanced research, in preparation for their master's dissertation. While, at undergraduate level, the focus is on two languages, the Honours level encompasses studies in all the nine official African languages of South Africa. These are isiZulu, isiXhosa, siSwati, isiNdebele, Sesotho, Sepedi, Setswana, Xitsonga, and Tshivenda. While teaching is generally in English, students are encouraged to produce research in a language of their choice.



At master's level, students conduct research, write and produce dissertations in any of the official languages recognised by the South African Constitution. These outputs become sources of research for future students. Students are encouraged to extract publishable material from their dissertations to contribute to the existing scholarship. From 2024, master's students will be able to register for a coursework MA(CW) as well. This move will assist students struggling to write the full dissertation.

At PhD level, students research, write and produce theses. Then students become experts in the specific fields of African Languages. Then students develop research articles from their theses and get published in accredited journals. Apart from having students from South Africa, the Department attracts students from other African countries as well. For instance, in 2023, students from the Kingdom of eSwatini and Zimbabwe registered at this level. One student from Zimbabwe also completed and graduated in 2023. Attracting students from other countries, who conduct research in their mother-tongue languages, strengthens the Pan-African and international nature of the Department. This way, the Department contributes towards the internationalisation project of the University of Johannesburg.

It is also interesting to note that the staff members in the Department do pursue master's and doctoral studies with us. This confirms the high standard of our research guidance, as colleagues opt not to go to study at other institutions. Two of the three doctoral graduates produced by the Department in 2023 are staff members in the Department. They are Drs G Babili and SZ Dlamini.



*Dr Dlamini's thesis was entitled: **The Manipulation of Language in E.D.M. Sibiya's Novels: A Stylo-linguistic Critique.***



*Dr Babili's thesis was entitled: **An Analysis of Common Linguistic Errors in a Corpus Produced by Non-Native English-Speaking Police Constables.***

Most of our undergraduates, honours and master's students choose to continue their studies in our Department, rather than going to other universities. While the Department of African Languages has generally been considered a small department, that is a thing of the past. Student numbers are growing exponentially. For instance, in 2023, there were 24 newly registered honours students, 10 master's and 13 PhDs students. These numbers are expected to grow even more in 2023. Where there is a shortage of supervisors, we will utilise the services of external ones.

Some of the postgraduate students are staff members in the African Languages Department. For instance, Ms Thwala, Ms Hadebe, Ms Mbathu (who left in October), and Ms Madingiza are registered for their doctoral degrees. Thwala and Mbathu's works have been submitted already and results are expected early in 2024.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Prof Mtumane and Prof Zungu are members of CoPAL (Community of Practitioners of African Languages) and attended meetings and seminars of this community in 2023. Professor Zungu is also the Deputy Chairperson of the isiZulu National Language Body, which is the substructure of the Pan South African Language Board. This body is responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the use of orthography and terminology development of isiZulu, in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Zululand, Durban University of

Technology, and the Mangosuthu University of Technology. This initiative contributes immensely to students who are writing their theses in isiZulu.

The Department collaborated with the Multilingual Languages Services Office (MLSO) in reviewing isiZulu and Sesotho sa Leboa research manuscripts and hosting the literary awards event. On 20 October 2022, the Department hosted the Professor PT Mtshuza celebration. Ms Thwala and Ms Thete- visited high schools in the Johannesburg region, to assist in preparing learners for their examinations. Other staff members are involved in terminology development for Sesotho sa Leboa, that is managed by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC).

INTERNATIONALISATION

The Department has marketed itself internationally, regarding the recruitment of students. We sent out a message to various international academic organisations to invite prospective students who may be interested in doing master's studies by coursework or dissertation, while the doctoral degree is by thesis (only) on topics related to linguistics, literature, translation, and culture.

Because of this reaching out, many applications from prospective international students have been received by the University. Staff members have published articles in international journals. While the Department has had no visiting academics, an international Senior Research Associate (Prof. Isaac Mhute from Midlands State University) was appointed. Prof Mtumane is working on a book with Prof Mhute, and an article with Prof M Sebetsa, from the National University of Lesotho.

While the Department of African Languages has begun to demonstrate its strength, improvements are expected in 2024. The appointment of senior members of staff is going to ensure the growth in the number of publications and supervision throughputs.

STAFF AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Two of our staff members, SZ Dlamini and G Babili have graduated with their doctoral degrees. Our students, A Ntjane and N Taliyana received awards for being the best tutors.

LOOKING AHEAD

The African Languages Department plans to increase the throughput of postgraduate students, increase publications in accredited journals and continue with promoting multilingualism within UJ. Attendance of international conferences and collaborations with international scholars will ensure that the Department has a sound international footprint. The Department plans to participate fully in the University Language Board, so as to influence language policy implementation decisions.



ANTHROPOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Prof Jonathan Stadler, Head of Department

The Department of Anthropology and Development Studies combines two disciplines: Anthropology (including Palaeontology and Archaeology) and Development Studies. While different, we share a common interest in change and time, and what these mean for human existence, past, present and future. Among our wide range of interests, we include current social and political debates around land, environment and rural/urban ecologies, resources, livelihoods, medical practices and labour, and human evolutionary pasts, social histories and people's everyday lived experiences, all positioned within socio-political, historical and/or archaeological contexts.

In 2023, the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies (DADS) received one of UJ's highest rankings according to the 2023 QS World University Rankings. This achievement can be attributed to our active and engaged research programme, academic outputs, postgraduate student performance, and our growing national and international stature.

RESEARCH

We are foremost a department of active researchers with research programmes in Southern and East Africa. Below are examples of some of the research our Department is involved in.



Conducting interviews with members of the Xolobeni Crisis Committee for the project, "Maps Are Now Our Spears", Xolobeni, Eastern Cape (Hali Healy).



Waste collectors using carts and horses in the Western Cape (Suzall Timm)



Public commentary on Covid and corruption portrayed by graffiti in Nairobi (Joost Fontein).



School children in outdoor classrooms in Mozambique (Maria Rodner)



Informal traders burn local hard woods to make charcoal in Nairobi (Joost Fontein)

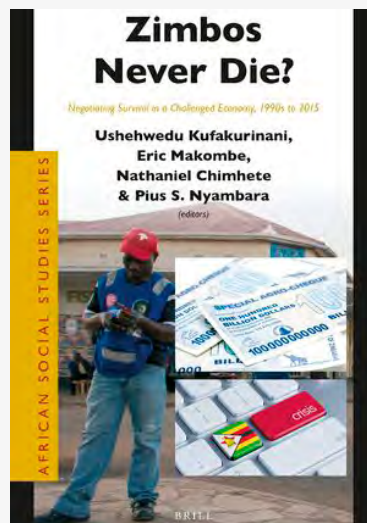
In 2023 we produced several edited collections in books and journals, highlighting our local and international collaborations and academic leadership.



Mbongiseni Buthelezi co-edited two books: *State Capture in South Africa: How and why it happened* (Wits University Press) and *Archives of Times Past* (Wits University Press), which was awarded the prize for the best non-fiction edited collection by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Also out in 2023 is Joost Fontein's edited collection, *Nairobi Becoming: Security, Uncertainty and Contingency* (Puncton Books). The collection brings together curated interventions by twenty-seven artists, scholars, and writers to trace Nairobi's becoming. Methodologically experimental and multimodal, it seeks to balance an appreciation of Nairobi's fragmented character whilst recognising its contingent coherency.



Dr Ushehweu Kufakurinani co-edited a collection of essays, *Zimbos Never Die?: Negotiating Survival in a Challenged Economy, 1990-2015*. With chapters by Dr Joseph Mujere (post-doctoral fellow) and Dr Kufakurinani (research associate), this book seeks to explore how Zimbabwean society and its institutions have survived continuous economic crises in the country.



In his role as editor of *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*, Joost Fontein co-edited a special issue on urban materialities with Constance Smith, introducing the "Stuff of African cities". Six articles examine the contested materialities of African cities, building on an emerging focus on the stuff and substance of urban Africa.



Jonathan Stadler and Gcobani Qambela co-edited a special issue on Covid and care in *Anthropology Southern Africa*. A wide range of papers present archival, ethnographic and autoethnographic material generated by Southern African scholars, including current and past UJ anthropology postgraduates. The collection interrogates the multiple and complex meanings of care amid the Covid pandemic.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Our postgraduate students participated in national and international conferences and received grants and scholarships.

Florence Ncube's (post doc) abstract "Crystal Meth, the 'Seized' and the Exclusion of Youth from Future Making" was presented to the prestigious American Anthropological Association meeting in Toronto.



PhD candidate, Heather van Niekerk presented her paper "Johannesburg inner-city walking tour guides: navigating a politics of fear and shifting mindsets through walking and talking" at the European Association of African Studies in Cologne, Germany.



Mbali Mthethwa, Anthropology Honour's student, presented an installation at the Biennial in Vienna. Her piece, "Threads" unfolds the story of how gold found its place in Johannesburg, tracing the journey from its ancient origins to the mining processes that shaped its destiny.



PhD candidates, Ismael Ochen and Maria Rodner presented at the Postgraduate & PDRF Annual Research Conference at UJ. Maria's is currently undertaking ethnographic research on education in Mozambique, and Ismael is completing his PhD on monitoring and evaluating development in Uganda.



MA candidates, Thulani Baloyi, Mercy Gitonga, and PhD candidate, Valerie Kondo (Valerie pictured here with fellow international students), travelled to the Czech Republic to complete a five-month coursework MSc in Development Studies at Palacky University, sponsored by the Erasmus Plus programme. The programme included trips to the south of the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, and the ECAS conference in Cologne, Germany. The Erasmus lectures provided a platform to engage in global conversations, connect and build networks with accomplished scholars and students beyond Africa and Europe.

Several of our postgraduate students were the recipients of awards and prizes.

Thulani Baloyi received the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust scholarship for his MA research on funeral practices, death and burials, and has been invited to write an article for Aeon magazine. Mia Jansen van Rensburg received the Sol Plaatje scholarship from Cannon Collins for her PhD research on emergency care in Johannesburg. Maria Rodner received a GIS scholarship for PhD research on education in Mozambique.



The Association of Anthropology Southern Africa hosted its annual conference in the Western Cape. Several postgraduates and staff presented papers. Current MA candidate, Naledi Mosito won a book prize for the best oral paper, "Expressions of spirituality in contemporary South Africa: An ethnography of Vipassana and the Southern African Bantu practices in Johannesburg and Cape Town".



Honour's student, Orthalia Kunene, received the Antipode Foundation's competitive "Right to the Discipline" scholarship. Her paper on "How Anti-Mining Activists Experience and Are Responding to Violence" will be published as an article in the journal, *Antipode*

Each year we award prizes to our top undergraduate students in Anthropology and Development Studies. Pictured here are some of this year's winners.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Further demonstrating our growing international stature and impact, we hosted and participated in several local and international engagements and conferences.

Gcobani Qambela was invited to, and presented his paper 'Now people who were previously treated as the 'object' of study can speak for themselves' at the African Studies Association of Africa 10th Anniversary conference.

Joost Fontein convened a roundtable at the European Conference for African Studies in Cologne, Germany, 'Writing Africa: What is scholarship for?'

Jonathan Stadler presented a guest lecture on "Rat – Human Entanglements in Anthropological Perspective" to the School of Veterinary Sciences, hosted by Hokkaido University, Japan.



**ASAA2023
CONFERENCE**
October 25-28, 2023
LUBUMBASHI, DRC

**THEME:
REPATRIATING AFRICA: OLD CHALLENGES & CRITICAL INSIGHTS!**





Dikeledi Mokoena was one of the main speakers at the “Drive for Democracy” conference hosted in Arusha, Tanzania, and spoke on the African Feminist Movement, democratisation, and decoloniality.



After two years of fieldwork with seed guardians in seven SADC countries, Suzall Timm and her collaborators launched the Guardians of Seeds, Land and Life Exhibition, that took place in Geneva, New York, and Stockholm.

Hali Healy spent 6 months as a research fellow at the Institute for Development Studies, at Sussex University, in Brighton UK. She presented a paper to the Development Studies Association Conference at Reading University, that spoke to tackling problems caused by human-induced environmental changes. Hali also delivered the keynote address for InCommons, at their annual Masters in Commoning Administration (MCA) programme, in Bristol, England. <https://futurenatures.org/>



This year we were the host of the 41st Habitable Planet Workshop in December, spearheaded by Gcobani Qambela. This is the first time in the history of the programme that an Anthropology department and a Humanities faculty have hosted the workshop.



Gcobani Qambela presented at the World Council of Anthropological Associations Webinar, "De-colonising Anthropology".

Efuah Prah hosted a successful two-day symposium, consisting of discussions and a film screening based on the book *Bodies of Knowledge: Childhoods in Health and Affliction* (2021) by Efuah Prah and Susan Levine (UCT).

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking forward to 2024, we are excited to announce that we have been selected to host the Anthropology Southern Africa conference, as well as the inaugural meeting of the World Anthropological Union Congress. This will involve hundreds of anthropologists representing Africa and the world.



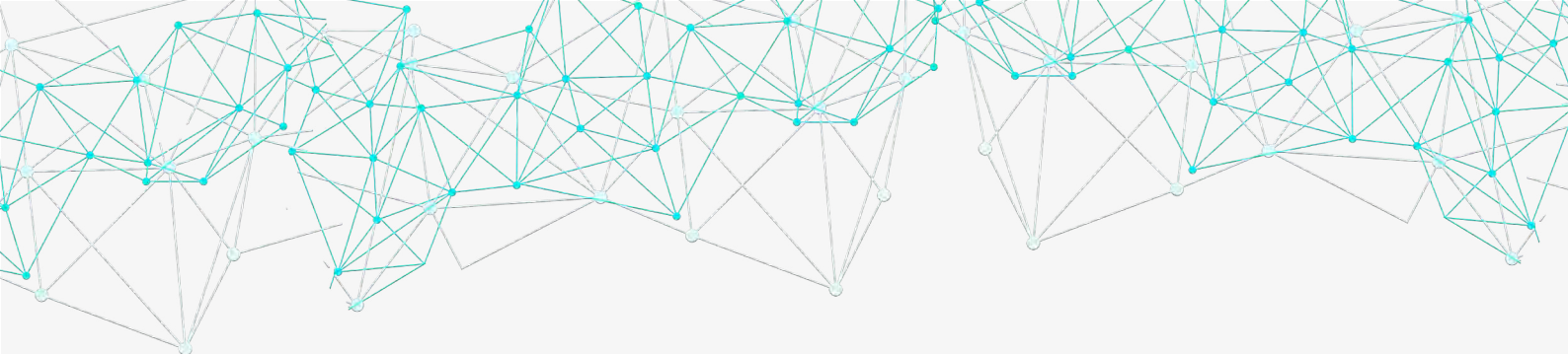
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

Prof Admire Mare: Head of the Department

The Department of Communication and Media (CAM) had an eventful year. The year saw the departure of the then head of department (HOD), Prof Shanade Barnabas, who joined the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, while Prof Sylvia Vollenhoven's term as professor of practice also came to an end. Prof Admire Mare took over as HOD, starting 1st November 2023. Three new members joined the Department at different times during the year. These are Dr. Prinola Govenden, Dr. Mthobeli Ngongo and Dr. Sanele Gamede. There were many other developments in the broad areas of teaching and learning, research and innovation, as well as community engagement. Below are some of the Department's major highlights in 2023.

RESEARCH

It was yet another productive year for many staff members in the Communication and Media Department, as reflected in the research output for the period. There were four books edited by CAM staff that were published this year. The details of the books are as follows :

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- Tsarwe, S & **Chiumbu, S** (2023) *Converged Radio, Youth and Urbanity in Africa: Emerging trends and perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan.
 - Munoriyarwa, A. and **Mare, A.** (2023). *Digital Surveillance in Southern Africa: Policies, Politics and Practices*. Cham: Springer.
 - **Mare, A.**, Woyo, E., and Amadhila, E. (2023). *Teaching and Learning with Digital Technologies during COVID-19: Higher Education Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa*. London: Routledge.
 - Omanga, D., **Mare, A.**, and Mainye, P. (2023). *Digital Technologies, Elections and Campaigns in Africa*. London: Routledge.

There were seven journal articles authored by members of the Department, whose details are as follows:

- **Chiumbu, S** & Munoriyarwa, A (2023) Exploring data journalism practices in Africa: Data politics, media ecosystems and newsroom infrastructure. *Media, Culture & Society*. Online first <https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437231155341>
- Munoriyarwa, A & **Chiumbu, S** (2023) Diving into data (journalism): pitfalls and promises of data journalism in semi-authoritarian contexts: the case of Zimbabwe. *Communicatio: South African Journal of Communication Theory and Research*. Online first: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2023.2188471>
- **Viljoen-Stroebe, A.** (2023) TV and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study of the Television Platform Consumption Choices of Millennials in Gauteng during a Pandemic, *Communicatio*, DOI: 10.1080/02500167.2023.2248430
- Moyo, O and **Ureke, O.** (2023), "Get-rich-quick rituals, remote sex, and herbs in vaginal canals": Portrayal of indigenous fruits and medicinal herbs in Zimbabwe's *The Mirror* newspaper', *Communicatio*, 48(4), p43-66. DOI: 10.1080/02500167.2023.2181371
- **Ngongo, M.** (2023). Family aid in finding love through beneficial impression management on reality TV: the case for representational social exchange. *South African Review of Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21528586.2023.2281937>
- Zviyita, I. and **Mare, A.** (2023). Same threats, different platforms? Female journalists' experiences of online gender-based violence in selected newsrooms in Namibia, *Journalism*, 2023, 1-20.
- Ncube, L, **Mare, A** & Muzondo, I. (2023). Social Media and Sports Journalism in Zimbabwe, *Journalism Practice*, DOI: 10.1080/17512786.2023.2279334

Furthermore, there were five book chapters authored by CAM members as follows:

- **Chiumbu, S** & Munoriyarwa, A (2023) Mis(Understanding) Youth Engagement: Role of Commercial Youth Radio in Promoting Political Engagement in South Africa. In Stanley Starwe and Sarah Chiumbu (eds.) *Converged Radio, Youth and Urbanity in Africa: Emerging trends and perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- **Ureke, O** and Hamusokwe, B (2023), 'Race and ethnicity in Zimbabwean and Zambian Cinema', in Federico Subervi and Sudersha Roy (ed.), *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*, p1-23. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228613.013.1348
- **Mare, A.** (2023). Twitter, Elections and Gendered Disinformation Campaigns in Zimbabwe. In *Digital Technologies, Elections and Campaigns in Africa* (edited by Duncan Omanga, Admire Mare and Pamela Mainye). London: Routledge, 25-45.
- Omanga, D., **Mare, A.**, and Mainye, P. (2023). The Nexus between Digital Technologies, Elections and Campaigns. In *Digital Technologies, Elections and Campaigns in Africa* (edited by Duncan Omanga, Admire Mare and Pamela Mainye). London: Routledge, 1-22.
- Zirugo, D. and **Mare, A.** Assessing Twitter's Revolutionary Potential in an Authoritarian Regime: The Case of the #ZimbabweanLivesMatter. In *Digital Technologies, Elections and Campaigns in Africa* (edited by Duncan Omanga, Admire Mare and Pamela Mainye). London: Routledge, 245-260.

In addition to the publications, three members of the Department received support from the Accelerated Academic Mentorship Programme (AAMP). Dr Varona Satiyah received R13 170 to pay for her year-long Italian course at the Dante Alighieri Language School in Houghton, while Dr Oswelled Ureke and Dr Maud Blose received R16361 and R16336 respectively in travel support to participate in the DigiMethods Winter School at Rhodes University in June 2023. Dr Satiyah was also awarded R7800 by the Vice-Dean: Research to cater for a book launch at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS).

Furthermore, various staff members were involved in research conferences, seminars, workshops and symposia that ran throughout the year locally and internationally. Prof Vollenhoven presented *Krotoa is present: Exploring the gift of a 17th Century story*, a seminar linked to a book project in progress that delves into the 21st Century meaning of Krotoa. Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS). <https://www.stias.ac.za/2023/06/krotoa-is-present/>. Dr. Ureke participated virtually in the IAMCR conference (15-26 June 2023) and presented a paper titled 'TikTok Use and Users in Run-Up to Zimbabwe's 2023 General Elections'. Dr Viljoen-Stroebe and Dr Barry presented at SACOMM on their ongoing ChatGPT scriptwriting project.

Prof. Mare presented a paper at the International Association of Internet Researchers in Philadelphia, USA, in October 2023. He also presented a paper during the Media Innovations and Futures in a Platformed Journalistic Context: Promises, Perils and Provocations section, at the MTN Media Innovation Summit, Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2023. Prof Mare also presented a paper titled "AI and Public Interest Journalism in Africa" at the FOJO and IMS Workshop, Harare in May 2023, and another at the Southern Digitalities Conference, Northwestern University of Qatar, in March 2023. He also presented at the same university in November 2023 during the Institute for the Advanced Study in the Global South/ Security in Context Conference "The Global South in an Era of Great Power Competition".



Prof Admire Mare presenting at the Northwestern University in Qatar during the Institute for Advanced Study/ Security in Context Conference "The Global South in an Era of Great Power Competition" on 18-19 November 2023.



Prof Mare presented at the Association for Internet Researchers conference in Philadelphia.

He also presented at a webinar organised by the Higher Education of Mauritius, on "Actors and Actants in the Classroom: Mapping Higher Education Futures in the AI Age" in August 2023. Furthermore, Prof Mare virtually presented a paper titled "Media Resistances, Collective Organizing, and Global Activism" at the International Communication Association (ICA) conference, Toronto, on 26 May 2023 and another at the Media and Propaganda Panel at IAMCR, Paris, France, July 2023 (online). In September, Prof Mare gave a keynote speech during the SACOMM Annual Conference at AFDA in Johannesburg, South Africa. The keynote address focused on journalism education in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment. In October, Prof Mare presented at the Association for Internet Researchers conference in Philadelphia, United States of America.



Dr. Prinola Govenden presented a paper at the MTN Media Innovation Summit 2023 on 18 September 2023. The paper was titled “The redeeming qualities of developmental journalism for the African continent: Exorcising its demons”. She also presented at Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Seminar Series, on 13 November 2023, on “Media decolonial theory: Moving indigenous knowledges from the periphery to the centre in the study of the post-apartheid media”. Dr Govenden also presented at the ICA Africa 2023 conference on 17 November 2023, where she spoke on “The Media Decolonial Theory: Re-theorising and Rupturing Euro-American Canons for South African Media”. She also presented at the Inaugural Conference of the African Humanities Association (AHA) on 29 November 2023. The title of her presentation was “Beyond the BBC model and towards Reimagining PSB for South African realities: Preserving the ‘Public’s Interest’ at the SABC in the age of Neoliberal capitalism and State capture”.

Prof Sarah Chiumbu organised a symposium, ‘Outposts in news deserts: Local and community media perspectives on Press Freedom Day’ with the Stellenbosch University’s Department of Journalism and STIAS & Wits Centre for Journalism- 3 May 2023. Dr. Ureke presented on ‘Teaching digital storytelling using mobile phones’ at the Digimethods Colloquium, Rhodes University, 23-24 June 2023. Dr Viljoen-Stroebel presented at a teaching and learning seminar on the possibilities of ChatGPT in teaching and learning.

Dr. Blose gave a virtual conference presentation on environmental reporting, hosted by Sharjah University (UAE) and another at the TAU National Conference, reflecting on digital tools used in her teaching and learning scholarship. She also presented at the HELM Symposium on student access and success. Furthermore, the school’s annual Pier Paolo Frassinelli Research Methodologies boot camp, coordinated by Dr Satiyah, took place successfully.



New kids on the block: Dr Govenden (left) and Dr Ngcongco, who joined the Department in the final quarter of the year hit the ground running. Here, they were captured on the sidelines of the ICA Conference in Cape Town, where they both presented papers.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

As always, teaching took place smoothly in the Department. To cap another fine year for the Department, Dr Sifiso Zondo won the 2023 Students’ Choice Award in the Faculty of Humanities, and Prof. Mariekie Burger (pictured below) was recognised for her 25 years of service to the University of Johannesburg (UJ).



Several innovations were introduced during the year, to enhance the teaching and learning environment. The appointment of class representatives across all streams, as well as that of first-year mentors, improved the teaching and learning experience, as indicated by student feedback. It is expected that the appointment of mentors, in particular, would minimise attrition and dropout of new students.

To further strengthen our offerings, media production workshops were introduced, complementing the practical content of our CAM degrees. Dr Shelley Barry initiated the programme, which was facilitated by industry professionals and CAM staff, including Dr Aimee Viljoen-Stroebel, Dr Maud Blose, Dr Oswelled Ureke, Mr Mafa Sikhafungana, Mr Lungelo Gumede and Mr Enock Mabona. Dr Blose was also involved in a collaborative online international learning (COIL) programme and presented a Masterclass with Prof. Yassim in May 2023.

Dr Viljoen-Stroebel was involved in coordinating a screening of student productions created by graduating students from UJ, AFDA, Boston and Wits University. She was also involved in the SOCSA Filmmaking Workshop co-lectured by Hersh Patel from UJTV and Seakga Tladi.



The future is in our students: Head of the School of Communication, Dr Sifiso Zondo, hands over awards to winners at the CAM Tutor awards Siyabonga Nkosi (left) and Lunga Dhlamini, who are current MA candidates.

On 8 November, the Department recognised the efforts of two of our tutors at the Tutor Get Together and Awards Ceremony, coordinated by Mrs Antoinette Hoffman. Siyabonga Nkosi (above left) and Lunga Dhlamini (right) walked away with the Innovation in Teaching Award and the Achievement in Tutoring Award respectively.

STAFF & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Many of our staff members had great achievements in 2023. This includes publications, nominations to be part of different committees, workshops, creation of plays and short films, media features and media commentaries. These include, but are not limited to, Prof Sarah's appointment as a member of the judging panel for the 11th All-Africa Business Leaders Awards in partnership with CNBC Africa, Dr Shelley's appointment to the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF) education and training panel to review bursary applications, Dr Ureke and Dr Blose's appointment as Adjudicators of the 2023 South African Radio Awards and Dr Maud's guest speaking at Rosebank College in Cape Town on issues affecting broadcast media. Dr Blose also graduated as a Teaching Academic at University (TAU) fellow in June 2023, while Dr Prinola was appointed to be part of the Editorial Board of the *Communicatio* journal, as Associate Editor from 2024. Prof Admire was appointed as an advisory board member of the Human Rights Centre at the University of California, Berkeley and appointed to be a steering committee member of the International Panel on Information Environment. Another big highlight was Dr Barry and Dr Viljoen-Stroebel's winning the SAFTA for *A Camera on my Lap* which won in the Best Short Documentary section.



Big Wins: Dr. Barry and Dr. Viljoen-Stroebel walked away with the Best Short Documentary Short Award at the prestigious SAFTA.

Many of our staff members were involved in community work, empowering the outside community. This includes staff members who were invited to media interviews to share their expertise and write opinion articles on online publications and newspaper articles. Dr Gamede has featured prominently on several media platforms including SABC and VOW FM, among others.



Visibly heard: Dr Gamede featured on several media shows, including on SABC.

Prof Mare was appointed a visiting professor at the University of Technology, Mauritius. He was also appointed to the Advisory board of the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley. He was also reappointed as member of Meta's Misinformation Panel of Experts. He was also appointed as a Steering Committee Member of the International Observatory on Information and Democracy. He was appointed as a Steering Committee Member of the International Panel on the Information Environment.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Several Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are in progress, including with: University of Ahram Canadian University (Egypt); McMaster University (Canada); University of Namibia (UNAM); Namibia University of Science and Technology; University of Technology, Mauritius; Pan-Atlantic University in Nigeria, Xi'an Jiatong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), based in China; and Moi University in Kenya. These will significantly strengthen the Department's North American, UK, China, and Pan-African ties.

Several members of the Department took part in international work and engagements. Dr Maud Blose worked on a collaborative interdisciplinary project with a colleague from the University of West Indies (Jamaica) on climate change. The project was between the Journalism Applied honours students (UJ) and civil engineering students (UWI). Dr Maud Blose was also invited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) to review two media-related qualifications for the University of Namibia.

Other international collaborations included the MTN Media Innovation Summit 2023 (18 & 20 September 2023) that was co-hosted by the School of Communication, JIAS, Pan-Atlantic University in Nigeria, and MTN Nigeria.

Our Departmental contingent of international research associates has grown from single digits to 24. Three of our international research associates have visited UJ this year, and many others are working on collaborative research projects with their Departmental anchor person and/or postgraduate students. Visitors were Dr Selina Mudavanhu, who is based in the Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts at McMaster University in Canada (August 2023), as well as Dr Hayes Mabwezara from the University of Glasgow (September 2023), and Professor Winston Mano from the University of Westminster in the UK (September 2023).



The International connections: Prof. Winston Mano (second from left) and Dr. Hayes Mabwezara (third from left) pictured with CAM staff during their visit to UJ in September 2023. Also in the picture are Dr. Lyton Ncube (second from right) from University of Botswana) and Dr. Blessing Makwambeni (extreme right) from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, who were attending the SACOMM conference at the time.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Department will be doing things differently next year, while not completely reinventing all the systems in place. Under the leadership of Prof. Mare, the CAM department will be having a strategic planning session on 6 February 2024. In this session, the Department will discuss future plans for the period 2024-2026. Focus will be on the broad subjects of teaching, research, and community engagement, as well as internationalisation.

On the teaching front, one of the plans is a restructuring of the module offerings, with the possibility of a change in the BA General degree offered by the Faculty. This would possibly include students being able to specialise in either Film, or Journalism from second-year level.

On research, objectives include allowing staff in the Department to have research time before the semester begins, as well as a term set aside for research related projects. The community engagement and internationalisation plans will include seeking out more MOUs with institutions across the continent and beyond, to do more cross-institutional teaching and increase collaborations in common research areas.

In the very near future, the Department aims to foster stronger collaborations and ties with UJ TV and UJFM. This will be in the form of content related projects with students from the Department, as well as expert reviews that will allow more visibility for the Department, while simultaneously enabling students to gain much-needed practical experience.

The Department will also be developing short learning programmes (SLPs), aimed at raising the income stream of the Department, while imparting valuable knowledge and skill sets to those who will enroll in these programmes.



ENGLISH

Prof Ronit Frenkel, Head of Department

The English Department had a fruitful year in 2023 with much success in teaching, administrative processes and research. We refined our administrative systems, reinstituted our seminar series, held a successful Literary Prize giving ceremony for the first time post-Covid and had more than half of our Honours students submit their research essay projects by the end of October 2023 for the first time, to name a few of our accomplishments.

RESEARCH

Research has gone well this year despite the low number of outputs recorded. Marzia Milazzo published two accredited articles. She also won the book of the year award from the Ethnic Studies Association. Sipiwo Mahala published a huge number of outputs through JIAS but will submit half through the English Department as of next year. Ronit Frenkel published four editions of *The Thinker* as managing editor and had two publications accepted that will come out in 2024. She has also applied for a grant from *The Other Foundation*. Nedine Moonsamy joined *The Thinker* as co-editor as of the 4th edition of 2023 and has two publications coming out in 2024. Thobe Masumbuka completed her doctorate and has two articles under review. Mampoi Mabena won an award for best conference paper and has two articles under review. Thabo Tsehoane has had an article accepted for publication and has another under review. Lucy Graham published a book of essays on JM Coetzee that she edited but could only claim subsidy for one chapter. Sikhumbuzo Mngadi and Victoria Collis-Buthelezi both reported directly to the Dean as centre directors. I anticipate more subsidies next year once all these articles have been published, along with new ones. In addition, Sipiwo Mahala won the students choice award for best teacher, while Lucy Graham was also nominated.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

We have had high enrolment and a good pass rate across our undergraduate modules. Our service courses – English 1C and 1D – are run on both the Soweto (SWC) and Auckland Park (APK) Campuses. This is the second year where we have run a separate course for the Business students on the Soweto Campus. The success rate for the first business cohort of English 1C in 2022 was 55%, and the average was 47%. This increased in 2023 to 77%, with an average of 58%. Student performance for this cohort of the English 1C students is lower than for the other English 1C subject codes (offered to BA students on SWC and BA and LLB students on APK, with identical module content and assessments). This is likely because writing and reading support and coaching are given in tutorial groups, which are an essential component of the course, and the tutorial group sizes for this cohort are very large (45-50 per group). In comparison, the other subject codes for English 1C have more tutorial groups, allowing for 26-30 students per group. The course is very focused on writing and practical skills and requires individual and small-group support of students to accomplish this. In the second semester, English 1D has just over half the number of students as 1C with a pass rate of 86% and an average mark of 62%. The pass rate was significantly higher than last year, which can be attributed to Dr Mabena joining the Department and refining the course.

Our literary stream, English 1A continues to grow with 934 students initially registered and 795 completing the course. It has an excellent 86% pass rate with an average mark of 59%. In the second semester, our literary stream is English 1B with 745 students completing the course, an 89% pass rate and an average mark of 62%. We had great tutors, an accomplished senior tutor and an experienced course coordinator (Prof Mngadi) for this module in 2023, which has rejuvenated its running and success rate. The tutorial system is crucial for this course to succeed with large student numbers.

Our second-year courses are English 2A in the first semester and English 2B in the second semester. English 2A had 350 students complete the course with an 86% pass rate and an average mark of 57%; English 2B had 370 students complete the course with an 87% pass rate and an average mark of 60%. Our third-year courses also improved. English 3A in the first semester had a 93% pass rate with 254 students completing the course and an average mark of 62%. We had one tutor for the second-years and one for the third-years. As our numbers are up, we would like to add a senior tutor to each of these years too.



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

We ran five courses in our Honours offerings this year with much success. We had nine full-time students (all who registered) and two part-time students. All students have passed the course work modules. We submitted most of our research essay marks on time this year, for the first time. We still have two students who will submit their research essays in January. We have accepted four of these students into our MA degree for 2024. We held a very successful postgraduate conference this year where students presented either a chapter of their dissertations or their proposals to the Department and fellow students. For many, it was the first time that they had given a public talk on their own ideas. They were asked questions and got constructive feedback, which they enjoyed. It was a great success, and we will continue this practice going forward at the request of our postgrads.

In addition, we had 18 PhDs and 25 MAs registered in 2023. The following students submitted or still intend to submit in 2023:

- **Masombuka, Thobekile** (PhD; student number 201407861; supervisor Ronit Frenkel)
- **Nawab, Rafiq** (PhD; student number 220014593; supervisors Minesh Dass and Sikhumbuzo Mngadi)
- **Santra, Arijita** (PhD; student number 219088362; supervisor Sikhumbuzo Mngadi)
- **Mookadam, Ameerah** (MA; student number 216028114; supervisor Sikhumbuzo Mngadi)
- **Radebe, Bafana** (MA; student number 215060564; supervisor Minesh Dass)
- **Mbokazi, Ntokozo** (MA; student number 219116870; supervisor Lucy Graham and Thabo Tsehloane)
- **Ngcobo, Silindile** (MA; student number 221064612; supervisor Marzia Milazzo)

We ran a series of workshops for Ms and Ds this year that offered our postgrads a range of practical ideas for choosing a topic, constructing an annotated bibliography, thinking about research questions, etc. Again, these workshops worked well, and we got very positive student feedback. We also tried to assign a second supervisor to all Ms and Ds to counteract time lags in getting feedback to students, as when one supervisor was too busy, the second supervisor could offer input. This was also part of our efforts to move students through the system faster. We also processed all our postgraduate applications earlier in 2023 and have sent letters of acceptance out. We hope this will improve postgrad enrolment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our community engagement initiatives in 2023 included the resumption of our international seminar series for the first time post-Covid. These talks are open to the public and included well known writers (Nthikeng Mohlele), famous academics (Njabulo Ndebele), UJ Faculty (Nedine Moonsamy and Marzia Milazzo) and an international professor of English from the UK (Tom Penfold). We also held a very successful Literature prizegiving ceremony that was extremely well-attended by both the public, students and UJ Faculty for the first time post-Covid.

LOOKING AHEAD

We have a number of exciting plans for 2024. We have refined the system that we will use for the research essay in our Honours course by giving students one week off from coursework each term. During that week, they have to produce a specific part of the research essay. Our aim here is to ensure that all students submit the research essay timeously. We have also restructured our Honours course away from co-taught courses except for Lit Theory which will remain a collective effort. This should ensure better continuity, while also giving Faculty the chance to teach what they like in the way they would like. The Honours students will also be given the opportunity to present their research essay ideas at a workshop in 2024. We will continue our workshop series for postgraduate students next year and also expand what we offer them. Our internal HDC has been restructured to expedite the feedback and approval process of proposals in another attempt to move students through the system faster. We also approved a coursework MA degree to be run by Prof Collis-Buthelezi in Global Blackness studies that will be run through English (starting in 2025).

Our seminar series next year already includes a visit from Prof Shane Graham (Utah) who will hold a talk on Langston Hughes and the Drum generation. We have arranged a joint poetry workshop for students that will be run by Dr Penfold from University College London. It is a one-day workshop where students may present their poetry to an audience and receive feedback. UCL will sponsor the event. We are also hoping to host a joint seminar with the University of Mauritius. We had a SLP approved this year that will be run in 2024, where the great Zakes Mda will offer a public course on creative writing. We have a new staff member who will join us full-time in 2024 as we have just filled a vacant post. We will advertise for our second vacant post in January 2024 for the Soweto Campus.



HISTORY

Dr Faeza Ballim, HoD

In 2023 the History Department saw the publication of two new books. Dr Faeza Ballim's *Apartheid's Leviathan: Electricity and the Power of Technological Ambivalence* (Ohio University Press), co-published in South Africa by Jacana Press, with the title: *Eskom: Power, Politics and the (Post)apartheid State*. In addition, we hosted the book launch of a research associate of the Department, Prof Joel Cabrita (Stanford University). Prof Cabrita's book is entitled, *Written Out: The Silencing of Regina Gelana Twala*, published by Ohio University Press. We also look forward to the publication of Professors Greg Barton and Brett Bennet's new book, entitled *Saving the World: How Forests Inspired Global Efforts to Stop Climate Change from 1770 to the Present*, to be published by Reaktion Press in

2024. In addition, Brill Publishers offered our postdoctoral fellow Dr Sarah Delius, a book contract for the book manuscript entitled, *The Same in all but Name: Marriage, Slavery, Patriarchy and Politics Sierra Leone 1890-1990*.

TEACHING & LEARNING

The Department has also made strides in teaching and learning. Prof Thembisa Waetjen received the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Award for 2023 for her innovative use of software to make the learning of history relevant. Prof Waetjen and Dr Moloi also successfully organised a postgraduate workshop, called Imibono. The workshop is a platform for history postgraduate students from the University of Johannesburg, Wits University and the University of Pretoria to present their research and engage with each other's ideas, and the History Department at Wits University hosted the inaugural workshop in 2022.

Members of our Department have been grappling with the teaching challenges posed by the emergence of AI software such as ChatGPT. This led to an internal departmental reflection on pedagogy and the transformation of our assessment practices across undergraduate modules in the Department. Dr Stephen Sparks has publicly engaged with the issue, and wrote an opinion piece for the *Daily Maverick*, warning about the dangers that such platforms pose to our ability to teach habits of critical thinking.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The Department's collaboration with the Department of History at Makerere University in Kampala strengthened in 2023 and a group of our postgraduate students, together with Prof Natasha Erlank and Dr Tshepo Moloi, travelled to Kampala for a postgraduate writing workshop. There they engaged with postgraduate students based at Makerere University and prepared journal articles for publication.

We also have an active collaboration with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), led by Dr Sarah Delius. Together with UIUC's Seibel Centre for Design, the Department will introduce a design-centered, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) module at the postgraduate level in 2024.

SPECIAL PROJECTS: ACCESSIBILITY AND PRESERVATION OF ARCHIVES

The Department is also active in promoting the accessibility and preservation of South African archives. In collaboration with researchers at Stanford University, Prof Gerald Groenewald has launched the website of the Trials of Slavery project, together with researchers at Stanford University. The site is hosted by the Center for Interdisciplinary Digital Research at Stanford and is the first digital project in South Africa dedicated exclusively to the history of Cape slaves.

The (initial version of) the website went live in 2023 and all the material (both the original Dutch texts and the translations) is searchable. Dr Stephen Sparks has continued with the project of digitising the South African parliamentary debates, an invaluable archival source for historians. The website that hosts the digitised records is live and contains the fully digitised records of parliamentary sittings for a few months of each year between 1924 and 1987.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We also have an active engagement with the staff at the Special Collections of UJ's Doornfontein Campus Library. These collections contain valuable archives about the history of gold mining in the early twentieth

century, among other important collections. In 2022 and 2023 the staff at Special Collections graciously hosted our honours students for internships, where students learnt the skills involved in cataloguing and preserving important historical documents.

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward, we hope to strengthen our international collaborations and fundraising initiatives. This will aid in supporting the studies of our postgraduate students. We also look forward to more writing workshops in 2024 for both staff and students, as well as to the publication of two new books in the Department. These include a book by Dr Stephen Sparks on South Africa's coal-to-oil corporation, Sasol.



LANGUAGES, CULTURAL STUDIES & APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Dr Cindy Ramhurry: Head of the Department

RESEARCH

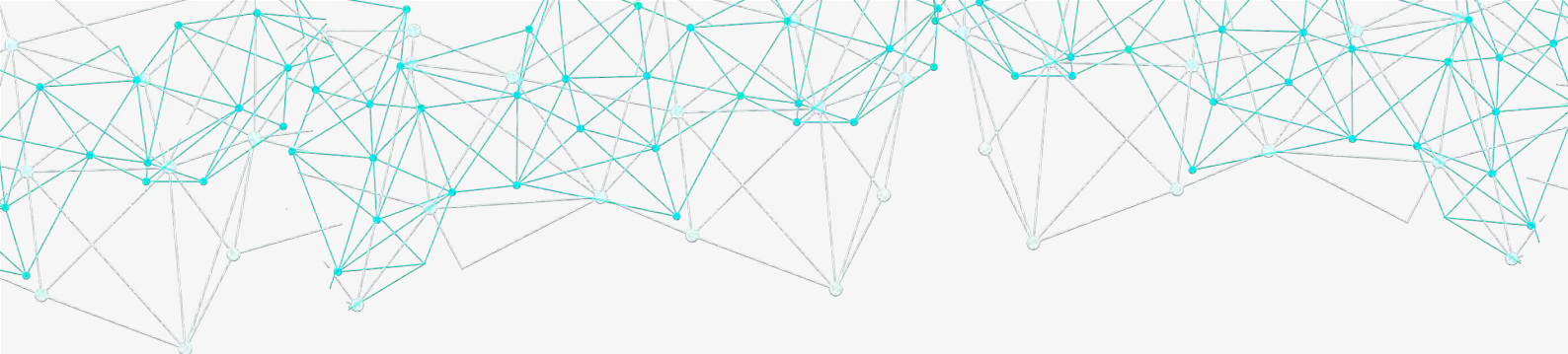
The LanCSAL team has made a concerted effort this year to increase their research outputs. Many staff members are now finishing their PhDs and we are optimistic that our research productivity should increase in the coming years. In 2023, we aimed to exceed the total number of 16 accredited research publication units submitted in 2022. If everyone who promised research outputs delivers, we should exceed this target at the end of this capturing cycle.

The HoD continued several strategies that were initiated by previous heads to increase research outputs in the Department in 2023. Some strategies became ritualised because of the positivity they generated. One of these is the sharing and celebration of every research output in the departmental newsletter, LanCSAL-on-The-Move. Another strategy to enhance research skills and productivity was the setting up of a mentorship programme for researchers, where experienced staff members in LanCSAL guided and supported junior researchers in their projects. Interdisciplinary collaborations were also encouraged through platforms that brought together researchers from different disciplines. One of these projects involved a collaborative event that the Classical Cultures team set up with the Department of Philosophy. This helped in terms of the exchange of ideas and exploration of innovative approaches. Another successful collaboration, which was set up with the Department of African Languages helped to address a problem related to supervision.

Another effective strategy used in 2023 to increase research outputs was to provide incentives and support for researchers, such as offering sabbatical leave. Another incentive, which was introduced in 2022, and continued in 2023, was that of scheduling teaching timetables so that every staff member received relief from teaching for a certain period to complete their research. Finding suitable supervisors for lecturers who were completing their PhDs in the discipline of French was a significant challenge. To address part of this problem, collaborative platforms were set up with French units at other universities.

Further strategies adopted in LanCSAL involved making use of AAMP opportunities, providing assistance with NRF rating applications, advising staff to centralise research outputs in their academic performance contracts, encouraging supervisors to get their postgraduate students published, encouraging selected staff members to produce more creative outputs like stage plays, novels, and the like, appointing more research associates, visiting professors, and PDRFs, encouraging emeritus professors to continue publishing, and applying for research funding. It is encouraging to note that four staff members of LanCSAL are now NRF-rated, including Profs Karen de Wet, Eleanor Cornelius, Marné Pienaar, and Llewellyn Howes.

In November 2023, 24 members of the LanCSAL team participated in a highly successful three-day writing retreat at the Glenburn Lodge. There was strong collaboration and networking with other researchers. Novice researchers in the team used the time to receive guidance from experienced mentors. LanCSAL looks forward to increased research productivity and focus in 2024, as the opportunities provided by the writing retreat are optimised fully.



The collective impact of the above strategies is encouraging. LanCSAL has not fully used research funding opportunities offered by both the University and external funding bodies. Looking ahead, we are positive that, with many lecturers completing their PhDs, research outputs will likely increase substantially over the next five years.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

In 2023, 46 modules were taught by the LanCSAL team, across the four campuses of UJ. 15 of these modules are interdisciplinary in nature and include fields as diverse as Ancient Greek Mythology, French, and Applied Linguistics, among others. A large portion of the teaching in LanCSAL involves the presentation of service modules. These fields include Education, Engineering, Hospitality, Human Resource Management, Sports Management, Analytical Chemistry, Environmental Health, Public Relations, and Active Citizenship, among others. The Department had excellent success rates in 2023, with the great majority of modules passing more than 90% of their students in both semesters. LanCSAL has made a concerted effort to diversify, unify and broaden its offerings. We have completed the application process to register a broader M's and D's. We await the approval of this application.

There are several factors that can account for the high success rates in LanCSAL. Firstly, LanCSAL staff go out of their way to provide supportive and engaging learning environments. Staff in LanCSAL have demonstrated their constant prioritisation of tasks, staying organised, and allocating sufficient time for studying, to allow students to efficiently manage their workload and achieve better results. LanCSAL makes full use of the continuous assessment model, which allows for regular feedback and evaluation, enabling students to track their progress throughout a course. This not only helps them identify areas of improvement, but also keeps them motivated and engaged in their learning endeavours. Additionally, continuous assessment encourages active participation in class, as students are constantly assessed on their understanding of the material, thereby promoting a deeper level of comprehension and knowledge retention.

In 2023, LanCSAL initiated several pedagogic initiatives and continued to develop many established ones. One of the latter initiatives is the *Applied Linguistics- Externships*. During June and July 2023, the third-year Language Practice students completed a series of short externships which equipped them with the necessary hands-on experiences to better reflect on their future career goals and interests. Students had the opportunity to experience the world of work in a variety of different language offices, including the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Absa, the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR), the Centre for Text Technology (CTeXT) and UJ's Multilingual Language Services Office (MLSO).



On Tuesday 7 November, the Applied Linguistics Unit of LanCSAL celebrated with their students the success of this year's function. Students received certificates of participation and attendance from five partner organisations this year: ABSA, SADiLaR (the South African Digital Languages Resources Centre), the GPL (Gauteng Provincial Legislature), CTeXT (Centre for Text Technology) and our own MLSO (UJ's Multilingual Language Services Office). Representatives from four partner organisations handed out certificates to an excited group of third-year Language Practice and Linguistics students.



Prof Tracey McCormick is using comic strips as a tool to communicate complex ideas and concepts in a more accessible and digestible format. Tracey combines visual elements with concise dialogue or captions. She uses comic strips to simplify complex concepts and to facilitate creativity and storytelling, as well as to enhance comprehension and retention of information.

LanCSAL has shown much growth this year in terms of its use of computer-assisted translation tools. The Applied Linguistics lecturers continued their arrangement with RWS to secure free access to Trados (an expensive industry-leading computer-assisted translation tool) for their language practice students, as well as securing a substantial discount for graduates when they enter industry. Moreover, these students also had the opportunity to learn to use a second computer-assisted translation tool, Autshumato (which is free, opensource and tailored to our South African languages), as well as complete a one-day externship with its developers – the Centre for Text Technology (CTeT). Laurinda van Tonder presented a full-day workshop at the *Digital Humanities Association of Southern Africa (DHASA)* conference, which was held at Nelson Mandela University in November, 2023. The workshop helped attendees master the computer-assisted translation tool, Autshumato.

Several modules in Applied Communication Skills have transitioned from the use of traditional essay formats to using more technologically inclined types. This includes the use of visual essays and multi-media presentations, which incorporate various compelling visual elements such as images, graphs, and charts to engage and captivate readers.

LanCSAL has initiated another teaching initiative, which involves collaboration with another university. Early in the second semester of 2023, Prof Eleanor Cornelius conducted two guest lectures over two days for journalism students at the North-West University (Potchefstroom campus).

LanCSAL's Short Learning Programme development gained momentum in 2023. Three Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) were registered in 2023, namely *Communication Skills for 21st Century Professionals*, *Modern Greek* and *French for Beginners*. LanCSAL is in the process of developing and registering two news SLPs for Classical Cultures: These are (SLP) 1: The Ancient Greek World and (SLP) 2: The Ancient Roman World. Both programmes have been approved by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, and the Programme Working Group. The proposals have been reviewed by the Dean's Committee/Faculty Board and are now awaiting the final approval from SENEX/Senate.

In the future, LanCSAL plans to keep introducing new teaching initiatives, utilising technology extensively and achieving high module success rates.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

Several postgraduate studies were conducted on 4IR, including the following working titles: (1) "An Investigation into the Impact of Translation Technologies on the Roles of Human Translators in the Financial Services Industry in South Africa"; (2) "The Treatment of Lexical Ambiguity by Human Translators and Machine Translation Systems"; (3) "West African Pidgin English in Online Discourse: Exploring Perceptions of Speaker Orthographic Choices in Writing WAPE Varieties"; and (4) "Integrating ICTs into the Development of Pre-service Secondary School Teachers: The Case of Teacher Training Colleges in Zimbabwe". (6) "Application of Artificial Intelligence in teaching Modern Greek as a second / foreign language"

Prof Marné Pienaar was involved in an exciting project with The Educated Zebra Foundation" in April and May of 2023. She travelled with The Educated Zebra team through Zambia and South Africa with the aim of delivering more donations of refurbished iPads and books, which are very valued supplies. Prof Pienaar helped the foundation to achieve their goal by facilitating the training of caregivers in the area.

Another new pedagogic initiative that the Applied Linguistics' lecturers have launched is their first set of contributors to WIPO Pearl. Five LPR3 students' work was deemed ACCEPTABLE 'A' and this puts UJ not only on the WIPO map, but their work will be accessible to the world as well. LanCSAL is extremely proud of the contributions of the following students: Zulu - Nomndeni Simelane, Zulu - Andani Tshidzumba, Afrikaans - Lourika Vorster, Afrikaans - Makgabo Sekwaila and Afrikaans - Karabo Rankapole.

Prof Liz Gunner started a new pedagogic initiative on Language, that the members call 'Languages and the City'. Their aim is to explore ideas for working with the African languages spoken in the city of Johannesburg and using some form of A1 to facilitate linguistic mobility and interaction in this city. A new programme which focuses on Afrikaans First Additional Language and the use of social media has also taken off as well. Tiranda Adams kick-started this programme by posting an assignment on TikTok. LanCSal facilitated a visit of the Afrikaans drama students to Aardklop. There, students experienced live performances of *Mirakel* (by awarded playwright Reza de Wet) and *Droomwerk* (debut work by awarded poet Pieter Odendaal).



Two of LanCSAL's interpreting Honours students, Sibahle Ngcamu and Kgothatso Mojela, showcased their simultaneous interpreting skills at the UJ Prizes for Creative Writing in isiZulu and *Sesotho sa Leboa* award ceremony. They held their own while working alongside experienced Zulu and Sepedi interpreters and their performance reflects their skill and dedication to their craft, as well as the quality of the training, they receive at UJ.

The UJ prizes for Afrikaans were awarded for the 23rd time since 2000. The event hosted the following acclaimed poets who served on the panel of adjudicators: Ronelda Kamfer and Ryan Pedro. The internationally acclaimed Antjie Krog was present to accept the 2023 UJ prize for Afrikaans, whilst UJ cum laude alumna Carien Smith, who is currently enrolled at the University of Sheffield for her doctorate, accepted the UJ debut prize via virtual presence. The multilingual digital journal LitNet published the speeches.


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On Women's Day, Prof Karen de Wet presented a programme of Afrikaans women's poetry to an enthusiastic audience as part of the National Afrikaans Literary Research Centre (NALN) half-century celebrations, in cooperation with the *Klinkklaar* ensemble and orchestra. Subsequently an interview with Prof Karen de Wet on the diversity of women voices in Afrikaans poetry was published in *Netwerk24*. A volume of accredited research on poet and writer Petra Müller that was edited by her and published in December 2022, is now, enjoying a second print run.

Prof Marne Pienaar was interviewed by the RSG radio programme *Taaldinge* on Sunday 23 July 2023. The interview was based on an article she had written that was published in *Lexikos*, entitled "Wat beteken B(b)oer in 2022".

INTERNATIONALISATION

Prof Eleanor Cornelius delivered a keynote address at the Africa International Translation Conference 2023 (AITCO 2023) that was held from 10 - 11 February 2023 in Mombasa, Kenya. AITCO 2023 is hosted by The East Africa Interpreters and Translators Association (EAITA), which brings together language professionals in the East Africa region. During April, Prof Eleanor Cornelius visited two countries. The first was The Netherlands, where she participated in the PCST 2023 conference. This is the bi-annual Public Communication of Science and Technology

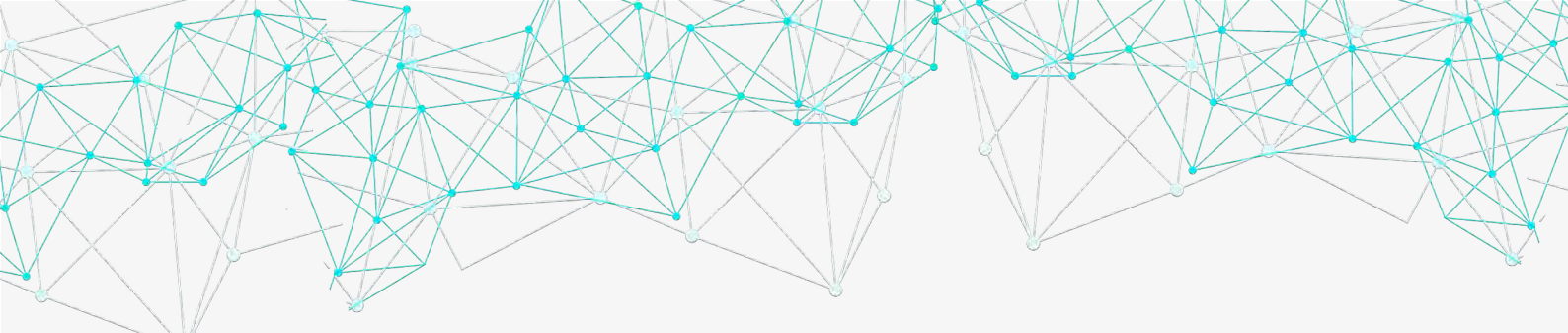
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conference, which was held in Rotterdam this year. She presented a four-hour long pre-conference workshop under the title “A plain language approach to science communication”. From there, Prof Eleanor Cornelius travelled to Barcelona, Spain, for a meeting with the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) (picture 4), followed by a full Council meeting. Eleanor worked with a task team mostly consisting of members from the EAITA on specific regulations, and the adoption of these regulations means that within the next month or two elections for the management structure of the FIT Africa RC can take place.

In 2023 several staff members contributed to the broadening of LanCSAL's global footprint. Prof Liz Gunner presented a paper at the University of Siegen working in the Cooperative Research Group (CRG) on Popular Song. Lethabo Molopyane attended an international conference hosted by VID Specialized University in Norway from 4 - 19 June. The theme of the conference was Migration, Religion, and Intercultural Relations. Prof Llewellyn Howes presented a paper entitled “The Implicature of Expulsion: ἐκβάλλω in the Septuagint's Translation of the Pentateuch”. He also attended the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (“Society of New Testament Studies”) conference in Vienna, Austria, during 25-28 July, where he presented a paper. The Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas is the most prestigious New Testament society in the world, only accepting scholars who have been nominated by other members and who have already published two books in the field of New Testament Studies. Dr Jubilee Chickasha presented a paper at the European Conference on Language Learning (ECLL2023) held at the University College London & SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom from Thursday, 13 July -17 July 2023. I resented a paper at the International Conference on Arts, Education and Social Science (ICAES) in Paris, France between 12 and 13 July 2023. In September, Fatima Darsot travelled to Dublin, Ireland and attended the SEFI Conference, the European Society for Engineering Education's an annual conference, hosted by the Technological University Dublin. On 28 July 2023, Llewellyn Howes travelled to Vienna to present a paper at the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS) General Meeting, hosted by the University of Vienna, Austria. On the 23rd of September Dr George Mavunga presented a paper online at a comprehensive South African university at the 4th Barcelona Conference on Education. On 18 November 2023, Prof Howes presented a paper during the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Annual Meeting (Q Program Unit), in San Antonio, Texas (USA). Lethabo Molopyane presented a paper on 7 November at a research seminar group from VID Specialized University in Norway, where scholars from across the world presented, shared ideas and collaborated. Lethabo also received a travel award to attend and participate in the SBL annual conference, which was held in San Antonio, Texas from 17 - 23 November 2023.

Three staff members of LanCSAL attended the South Africa Translators' Institute (SATI) conference: Prof. Marné Pienaar, Prof Eleanor Cornelius and Ms Laurinda van Tonder. The President of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) opened the conference. Attendees came from South Africa, Mozambique, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, eSwatini, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Austria, Ireland, the UK, Australia and the USA. At the occasion of the Fourth Triennial SATI conference that was held in Stellenbosch towards the end of Sept 2023, entitled Language Practice in Adversarial Times, the African Regional Centre (FIT Africa) of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) was officially inaugurated. The conference coincided with International Translation Day, annually celebrated on 30 September. Five of the six members of the Executive Committee (EC) of FIT (International Federation of Translators) travelled to Stellenbosch for four main reasons: To hold the annual physical meeting of the EC in South Africa, to attend the launch of the FIT Africa Regional Centre, to celebrate with the South African Translators Institute (SATI) International Translation Day (ITD), an official United Day of celebration under the auspices of FIT, and to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the existence of FIT.

Several staff members attended international conferences hosted in South Africa. Lethabo Molopyane attended the NTSSA Conference hosted by the University of Northwest from 26 - 29 June. She also attended the international SBL conference hosted by the University of Pretoria from 3 - 7 July 2023. Dr George Mavunga presented a paper at the 8th Annual South African National Resource Centre for the First Year Experience Conference (SANREC FYE), which was held at the East London International Convention Centre on 19 May 2023. During the New Testament Society of Southern Africa (NTSSA) Annual Conference, hosted by North-West University, Prof Howes delivered a paper. He also continued in his role as chair of the *Neotestamentica* Editorial Board, spearheading discussions and meetings related to the operation and future plans of this journal. Melanie Ah Soon presented a paper at the 10th International Conference on Language and Literacy Education from 15 – 16 September 2023 at the Wits School of Education (WSoE). Prof Karen de Wet attended a two-day conference of the SAAWK in Pretoria on developments and challenges in AI and the impact on humanities and literature.



On 26 September Prof Marne Pienaar presented a paper at the South African Translators' Institute's Conference on Nathan Trantraal's translation of *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds into Kaaps as Lang Pad Onnetoe. Prof Pienaar also attended the launch of FIT Africa. Dr Tiyiselani Ndukwani attended the international conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (Alasa), from 26-29 September 2023 in Boksburg, Gauteng. Dr Martine Diepenbroek (PDRF) successfully conducted a seminar entitled '*All is fair in love and war: cryptography and steganography in Greco-Roman warfare and love letters*'. The event took place on 16 August from 1-2 PM online. The seminar enjoyed a total attendance of 26, with 7 of the attendees being international.

The Digital Humanities Ignite Conference (23-25 August 2023) was attended by five members of the LanCSAL team: Dr Cindy Ramhurry, Dr Jubilee Chikasha, Prof Eleanor Cornelius, Fatima Darsot and Laurinda van Tonder. The LanCSAL representatives presented enlightening talks on the topics of *Resources and opportunities for learning and teaching digital and computational skills*. Prof Eleanor Cornelius showcased examples of humanities/ social sciences research projects with computational/digital elements. Laurinda van Tonder presented a 4-hour workshop at the DH Ignite event, entitled "Using Computational Tools for Translating Texts" (Autshumato).

STAFF AWARDS

Prof Eleanor Cornelius has been appointed by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture (Mr Kodwa) to serve as a member of the brand new South African Language Practitioners Council, in terms of the SA Language Practitioners Act (Act 8 of 2014). Even though the Act was promulgated 10 years ago, there had been delays in setting up this council. This is the very first council. Prof Tracey McCormick was awarded a fellowship to the *Higher Education Academy* in the UK. The awarding of this fellowships demonstrates her commitment to best practice in learning and teaching in higher education and is international recognition of her commitment to a level of professionalism that is aligned with the UK Professional Standards Framework.

The Applied Linguistics staff were awarded the bid to host the 2024 Southern African Linguistics & Applied Linguistics Society (SALALS) conference. The event will take place during June and July in 2024.

Prof Karen de Wet was appointed as Chief editor for the series on Afrikaans authors who have been awarded the national Hertzog prize, and subsequently participated in an episode of Samespraak, an international collaboration of literary scholars of Dutch and Afrikaans. At the end of October, Prof Karen de Wet attended the Opperman memorial lecture at the University of Stellenbosch, where her doctoral study on Opperman was quoted as being groundbreaking research in the work of Opperman as pivotal figure in Afrikaans literature. On Friday 27 October, Dr Martine Diepenbroek received a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Excellent Award.

There has been a lot of support from HoDs for up-and-coming academic staff in the last five years or so, as can be seen in the number of staff members who have been promoted and who have submitted PhDs during this period. Prof Rockie Sibanda was promoted to Director of the Multilingual Language Services Office (MLSO) and Dr Runash Ramhurry was promoted to Senior Lecturer, in 2023. Two new members of staff were appointed to LanCSAL: Dr. Peter Olaba and Dr Sana Jeeva. Laurinda van Tonder has been appointed on a permanent basis.

LOOKING FORWARD

My term as HoD continues in 2024. I will continue the tradition that was started this year of further breaking down silos, diversifying and unifying the LanCSAL team.



MULTILINGUAL LANGUAGE SERVICES OFFICE

Prof Rockie Sibanda: Head of Department: Multilingual Language Services Office

All public universities in South Africa are legally required to have a division/unit that takes responsibility for the promotion and implementation of functional multilingualism. The Language Unit was established in 2008, under the leadership of Dr Mpho Monareng. After Dr Monareng's resignation in 2015, various acting heads were appointed between July 2015 and March 2023. These included the then Registrar's deputy, Dr Basil Rhodes, for the remainder of 2015, and Prof Ronél Johl in 2016. In 2016, the Language Unit moved from the Registrar's Portfolio to the Faculty of Humanities and was renamed the Multilingual Language Services Office (MLSO). From 2017 until the end of February 2020, Ms

Roashaine Pather served as acting head, while Prof Marné Pienaar was appointed in March 2020 and returned to the Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Applied Linguistics (LanCSAL) in 2022, after which Ms Corné Johl was appointed as acting head. In June 2023, Prof Rockie Sibanda was appointed as the new HOD. In their respective capacities, these individuals each made valuable contributions to the evolution of the MLSO. Through their efforts, a division/unit has been established to promote and implement functional multilingualism, and awareness of the MLSO's services is evident throughout UJ.

STAFF

In addition to being the Afrikaans language specialist, Ms Corné Johl was appointed as the deputy HOD in June 2023 when Prof Rockie Sibanda was appointed as HOD. Mr Moroamofo Leshilo, Ms Nomusa Sibiya and Ms Esmé Grobler continued as full-time staff members in the MLSO.

Concerns

In previous reports, concerns were raised regarding the staffing of the MLSO in 2023, despite the office being fully staffed at the time:

- Ms Esmé Grobler is due to retire in 2024 and a suitable replacement is to be appointed.
- The demand for English editing and translation has increased to the point where the MLSO must buy in assistance for our English language specialist, Ms Esmé Grobler. In 2022, Ms Grobler edited 4 535 867 (4.5 million) words (or 20,000 words per day) and translated 8 183 words. In 2023, she edited an average of the same amount. To put this in perspective, most language specialists can edit 12,000 words per day.

OPERATIONS – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Translation and editing service

As part of its continued service to the UJ community, the MLSO provides language-related services for official UJ documents. The services include proofreading, editing, and language advice in the four languages of the University, as well as translations between English, Afrikaans, Sesotho sa Leboa, and isiZulu. Documents include academic records, transcripts, advertising, branding, marketing, reports and annual reports, brochures, case studies, surveys, circulars, emails, letters and memos, examination and test assessments and memos, graduation materials, invitations, learning guides and curricula, minutes, newsletters, policies, terminology and terminology reference guides, and website information. There is an increased uptake for translation into both the African languages, as well as for English editing.

Administration of UJ prizes and memorial lectures

The MLSO is responsible for the administration of the:

- UJ Prizes for Afrikaans
- UJ Prizes for English
- UJ Prizes for isiZulu
- UJ Prizes for Sesotho sa Leboa

- UJ Prize for Translation
- NP van Wyk Louw and EB van Wyk Memorial Lectures

UJ Prize for Translation

Henrietta Rose-Innes was announced the winner of the Prize for Translation (R50 000) for her translation of *Die biblioteek aan die einde van die wêreld* into the English *A Library to Flee*.

UJ Prizes for Afrikaans

The UJ Prizes for Afrikaans were awarded for the 22nd time on 15 September 2023. Antjie Krog was the main winner for her anthology of poems, *Plunder*, and Carien Smith received the debut prize for her anthology of poems, *Bot*. Owing to increased marketing, we received a record number of entries.

UJ Prizes for African Languages (Sesotho sa Leboa and isiZulu)

In 2023, the UJ Prizes for isiZulu and Sesotho sa Leboa and the UJ Prize for Translation were awarded for the third time. The UJ Prizes for African Languages (UJ Prizes for Sesotho sa Leboa and UJ Prizes for isiZulu) were awarded at a joint ceremony on 5 October 2023.

The main prize for Sesotho sa Leboa was won by Moses Seletisha for his work *Eto la Mofaladi*. NC Pebane won the debut prize for Lerato la Lepheko. The main prize for isiZulu was won by Ndabayakhe William Zulu for *Emzileni KaShaka*.

In each instance, the main prize has a monetary value of R70 000, and the debut prize is worth R35 000. The entries received for Sesotho sa Leboa were as follows: Main Prize – 14 entries; Debut Prize – 5 entries. Although the quantity of the entries received was relatively low, the overall quality of entries received for both prizes was impressive.

The various awards received much media attention, ranging from local and national newspapers to social media and radio stations.

UJ Prizes for English

The UJ Prize for English remains with the Department of English, but the MLSO assists with some administrative tasks, i.e. the appointment and payment of adjudicators.

Memorial Lectures

In 2023, the biennial Commemorative Lectures for EB van Wyk (a highly acclaimed expert in Sesotho sa Leboa and editor-in-chief of the *Northern-Sotho Dictionary*) and NP van Wyk Louw (world-renowned Afrikaans author and poet) were not held due to budget constraints.

Short courses

A collaboration between the MLSO and the Department of African Languages resulted in the development of two SLPs, which were offered in the first semester of 2023. In each of the two SLPs, the goal is to gain basic proficiency in Sesotho sa Leboa and isiZulu.

International Mother Language Day

In celebrating the annual International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2023, the MLSO in liaison with the Transformation Division and the Department of African Languages, engaged in a hybrid seminar to showcase the rich history of South African languages.

The Indigenous Language Imbizo

The Indigenous Language Imbizo in 2023 was postponed in 2023. It will take place as part of First Thursdays at Keyes Art Mile, on 6 June 2024. It is hoped that the Indigenous Language Tech Prize will be launched, provided the R50,000 prize is secured. The prize will be presented by Pendoring and UJ at the function.

Website

The MLSO's website has been updated to reflect its operations.

Institutional support

The MLSO offers institutional support to assist the Registrar with issues about UJ's new Language Policy and editing the UJ Annual Report for submission to DHET. The head of the MLSO is also ex officio a member of the Institutional Forum, as well as of UJ's Transformation Committee. To enhance institutional multilingualism at UJ, the MLSO hopes to work with various departments and faculties to expand its activities in key areas.

LOOKING AHEAD

As part of the University's multilingual effort, the MLSO has repositioned itself over the past three years and has assisted UJ in promoting its role as a multilingual institution. The marketing value of the prizes, commemorative lectures, and the Indigenous Language Imbizo cannot be underestimated and contributes to managing the University's national and global reputation.

The MLSO is seeing a consistent and growing workflow. The current energy, however, should be maintained. The MLSO's efforts can be further improved in a few ways, for example:

- On our website, we archive all previous events and lectures.
- Ensure staff empowerment through further improvement of qualifications. (Ms Johl is registered for a PhD, and Ms Sibiyi is registered for an MA. Ms Tara Kok will be enrolling for secretarial courses). After being unsuccessful at registering for an MA with UJ, Mr Leshilo intends to register with TUT.
- It is time to start succession planning for two staff members who are nearing retirement, namely English and isiZulu specialists.
- Additional appointments (especially in English) should be considered.
- Make sure there is more media coverage for the Sesotho sa Leboa and isiZulu prizes.



PHILOSOPHY

Dr Chad Harris: Head of Department

UJ's Philosophy Department takes pride in providing a contemporary and context-appropriate philosophical education for our students. Our undergraduate and postgraduate offerings are delivered by a team of experts from the analytic, continental and African traditions. We are committed to providing our students with a philosophical home in which to engage with world-class scholars and our large and vibrant cohort of existing postgraduate students from around the country, our region and the globe. We are proud of the notable diversity of students, staff and styles, our devotion to quality teaching, and our substantial research impact. We are actively engaged in building a community of practice—committed to, and unified by, doing philosophy.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

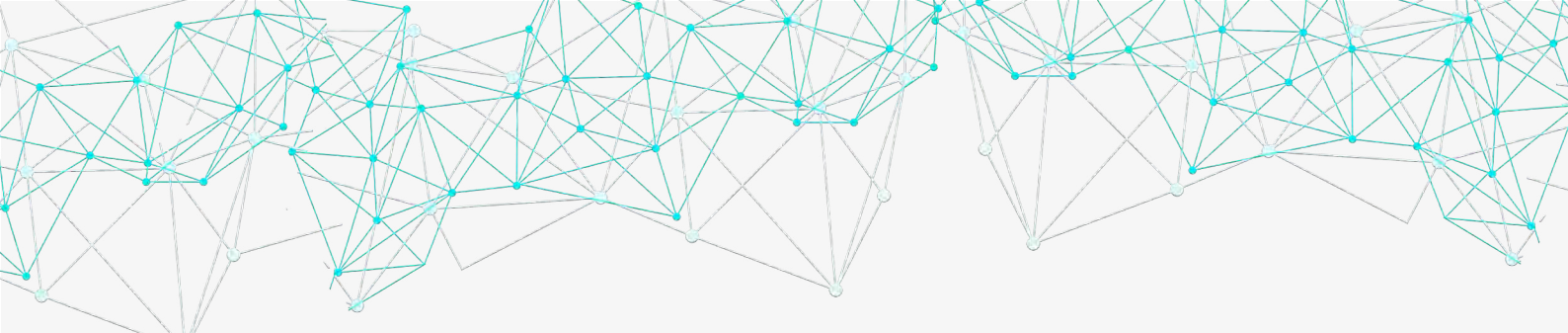
UJ Philosophy successfully hosted the 2023 Annual Philosophical Society of Southern Africa (PSSA) Conference, the first PSSA conference post the COVID-19 lock down with over 65 speakers. The conference was held in January at UJ's School of Tourism and Hospitality, Bunting Road Campus.

NOTABLE STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Prof Ben Smart and **Prof Catherine Botha** were awarded a Teaching and Innovation Award to develop two workshops on the use of ChatGPT in tertiary education. Prof Smart's segment has been filmed and Prof Botha's segment will be filmed in December 2023.

Prof Catherine Botha was an invited speaker at a UJ CAT workshop on mentoring for teaching. She presented her experience in collaboration with her amazing mentees Sarah Setlalo and Edmund Ugar. Their workshop was entitled "Mentoring Temporary and Assistant Lecturers: Enriching the Teaching and Learning Experience."

Prof Catherine Botha was a top 5 finalist in the HERS-SA 2023 awards in the category "Women in Humanities and Social Sciences" and attended the gala awards evening in Cape Town.



Prof Catherine Botha is a member of the UJ Advance HE Pilot committee and awaits the outcome of her application for the AdvanceHE Fellow award.

Prof Catherine Botha was selected to visit Bartın University in Türkiye on an Erasmus + Teaching Mobility award, where she taught a number of guest lectures and engaged with students and members of staff at Bartın. This agreement will result in further collaboration between the two departments, with staff and student exchanges on the cards for 2024.

Prof Catherine Botha was an invited speaker at a number of events, including invited panelist at the AI Symposium in Southern Africa (IJCAI), hosted by the ND Technology Ethics Centre - University of Notre Dame in December 2023; the Dutch Association of Aesthetics conference in June/July 2023, where a panel was devoted to discussion of her book on African Somaesthetics; and a UNESCO sponsored half-day workshop around AI Ethics in Africa, where she presented a paper entitled "AI Ethics in or for Africa: Questioning the indigenous principle perspective".

Dimpho Maponya obtained her PhD in October 2023 and awaits her graduation in 2024. Her PhD thesis is titled: How Should We Decolonise? A Pragmatist African Feminist Standpoint Proposal.

Dimpho Maponya was invited by the Centre for Leadership Ethics in Africa (CLEA) to give a talk at the 11th Annual Wild Coast Symposium on Recognition held at Cintsá on 4 November 2023. Her talk was titled: Advancing the Recognition of Women in African Philosophy. While at Cintsá, she also attended a workshop on Critical Reasoning for Digital Media Literacy.

Devon Bailey obtained and graduated with her PhD in May 2023. Her PhD thesis is titled: "The Black South African Female Dancer: Analysing Somaesthetic and Sarkaesthetic Approaches to Identity Politics."

Devon Bailey was invited to respond to a paper at the "Making Space for Lucy" conference at Mississippi State University in March 2023. She shared segments of her PhD research on black female ballet dancers in South Africa, as well as black female dancers in contemporary media.

Prof Benjamin Smart launched The Centre for Philosophy of Epidemiology, Medicine and Public Health – a research centre co-hosted with Durham University, UK.

Prof Benjamin Smart hosted 10 students from Redlands University for a week-long educational trip, securing the necessary funding from the USA.


Prof Benjamin Smart was appointed secretary of The Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable – a large international group of philosophers of medicine. Prof Benjamin Smart was awarded a C1 NRF rating.

NOTABLE POSTGRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

Edmund Terem Ugar, a first-year doctoral student working under the supervision of Prof Catherine Botha (with Prof Alex Broadbent of Durham university as co-supervisor) has had 16 chapters or journal papers accepted or published in 2023. He is the 2023 recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship at UJ; the Humanities Dean's Special Fund Scholarship for Doctoral Study and the UJ Merit Bursary. He was the invited keynote speaker, invited speaker or speaker at 9 conferences and workshops in 2023. In addition, he was an invited guest lecturer at the Institute of Intelligent Systems at the UJ on Ethical Issues in Artificial Intelligence: Structural Bias; a Temporary Lecturer at UJ Philosophy where he presented a module on the Ethics of Social Technologies; as well as a special guest lecturer for a lecture at the University of Pretoria, also on AI ethics. In addition, he won a prestigious Research Fellowship to spend three months at the Digital Medical Ethics Network, University of Tübingen and Potsdam, Germany in 2023. He is also a research fellow at the Centre for Philosophy of Epidemiology, Medicine, and Public Health-UJ, South Africa and Durham University, United Kingdom, and is heading a project on African Agency in Medical Artificial Intelligence. In addition, he appeared on television speaking on Artificial Intelligence in Africa. NewzRoom Afrika. June 2023. Available at: <https://youtu.be/OpT2BbX-omE>

Finally, Edmund is also the General-Secretary of the Congress of Nigerian Students at UJ and the postgraduate students' representative at UJ Philosophy.

Sarah Setlaelo, a doctoral student who worked under the supervision of Prof Catherine Botha, completed her PhD in record time, and obtained glowing reports from her international examiners. As a result of her brilliant thesis, she was asked to be the editor of a special issue of the *South African Journal of Philosophy* devoted to the work of Magobo Percy More that will appear in 2024, and she hosted a workshop bringing together national and



international speakers on More's work in November 2023. Sarah has cultivated a profile as a public intellectual by writing on platforms such as the *Mail and Guardian*, *City Press* and *Huffington Post*. One of her opinion pieces was included in the course materials of the Harvard Graduate School of Education in a course presented by Howard Gardner, who is famous for his theory of multiple intelligences. She has also recently submitted a manuscript of a philosophical novel on ethical theories to Jacana Media, for their consideration. Two of her opinion articles based on feminist philosophy were published in the *Mail and Guardian* (11 August 2023) and *City Press* (13 August 2023). In the second term of 2023, she was a third-year Temporary Lecturer in the UJ Philosophy Department and the course she taught was titled: Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and 20th Century Second-Wave Feminism. She has two forthcoming book chapters and one forthcoming journal article, all accepted in 2023. In May 2023, she presented a talk to the Department of Philosophy students (third-years and postgraduates) on "What work can I do with my Philosophy degree?" and presented a paper titled "Black Women's Hair Consciousness and the Politics of Being" at the Philosophical Society of South Africa (PSSA) Conference in January 2023.

Amara Esther Chimakonam (née Ani) graduated with a PhD this year, and shortly thereafter obtained a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Phenomenology in South Africa at the University of Fort Hare. Her doctoral supervisors were Dr Asheel Singh and Dr Chad Harris.

Master's student **Franklyn Echeweodor**, supervised by Prof Catherine Botha (and co-supervised by Prof Ben Smart), and winner of the best UJ Philosophy Honours student award for 2022, won a Global Excellence Scholarship (GES) for the Master's category, and had his abstract accepted for the 2024 PSSA conference at the University of Stellenbosch.

Boitumelo Motlathledi awaits the results of her Master's dissertation that was completed under the supervision of Prof Catherine Botha. She won a UJ VC's Metaverse Bursary to be able to fund her studies. She presented her work at the UJ PG & PDRF Annual Conference in 2023. The paper that she presented at the Philosophy of Digital Images conference, held at the University of Liverpool in 2022 is now under consideration for publication.

Cameron Chessman, working under the supervision of Prof Catherine Botha, is the top Honours student of 2023, obtaining a record result of 88% for his research essay. He has submitted his original and thought-provoking essay on Hegel and Nietzsche to a journal for consideration.

Working under the supervision of Prof Catherine Botha, **Paschal Ukpaka** completed his MA with distinction in 2023. He won a UJ VC's Metaverse Bursary to be able to fund his studies. He published a paper entitled "Does Logic Decolonisation involve having a Relativistic approach to Logical Principle? A Philosophical Case for Logic Decolonisation", presented a paper at an international Philosophy in Technology Workshop and currently has two academic papers, as well as an op-ed under review.

RESEARCH CENTRES

Prof Rafael Winkler and **Prof Catherine Botha** organised the 10th anniversary conference of the Centre for Phenomenology in South Africa that took place on 11-13 November 2023. The conference was on the theme of "Performance". They were assisted by a group of postgraduate students, including doctoral student **Monalisa Dladla**, who is working on the philosophy of Martin Heidegger and his conception of power. The conference experience included performances by the UJ Choir and members of the UJ Arts from the cast of "1001 Nights", directed by UJ's Jade Bowers, as well as a visit to the Inside Out art gallery to experience the work of artist Roger Ballen. A special issue of a journal will be published in 2024/5 containing the very best papers presented at the conference.

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The department of Philosophy hosted a number of exciting talks on various interesting themes in Philosophy in 2023. Some of the talks are as follows:

- Wednesday 2 August 2023 at APK Library (Es'kia Mphahlele Room, Level 1) at 11:20am: Professor David Spurrett titled "The Extended Cuckoo".
- Thursday 17 August 2023 at APK Library (Nadine Gordimer Auditorium, Level 5) at 15:30pm: Professor Alex Broadbent titled "The Biggest Science You Never Heard Of".

- Wednesday 23 August 2023 at the Humanities Common Room, APK (C-Ring 319) at 11:20am: Dr Pieter Streicher titled: "Covid-19 Modelling Accuracy during the Pandemic".
- Wednesday 13 September 2023 at the Humanities Common Room, APK (C-Ring 319) at 11:20am: Mr Edmund Ugar titled: "Challenges and Prospects of Deploying AI and Machine Learning for Clinical Diagnosis in African Healthcare".

ANTON LEMBEDE ESSAY PRIZE

The Anton Lembede Essay Prize welcomed the submissions of four entrants this year judged by Professor Nancy Jecker. The winner of the 2023 Lembede Essay Prize received an all-expenses paid trip to present their paper at the annual PSSA taking place at Stellenbosch University in January of 2024. This year, the first prize was awarded to Master's student Emmanuel Oboh for his paper titled: "The Role of Feminist Environmental Ethics in Curbing Gender-Based-Violence."

STAFFING CHANGES

We are incredibly proud to welcome Dr Tony Shabangu who joins us as a lecturer. Dr Shabangu is a great example of UJ Philosophy growing its own timber: he did his BA, Hons, MA and PhD with us, and now returns to become our resident expert in African Ethics.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

Some of the exciting developments for our Department in the new year include:

Due to their outstanding academic performance, Franklyn Echeweodor, Anthony Isong and Emmanuel Oboh were selected as the three Master's students from UJ Philosophy who will travel to Bartın University in Türkiye in 2024 as part of the Erasmus+ Teaching Exchange agreement. UJ Philosophy will host two members of staff from Bartın Philosophy as part of the exchange.

Prof Tapiwa Chagonda of the Centre for Data Ethics and Prof Catherine Botha successfully spearheaded the creation of a new short learning programme on the Ethics of LLMs. This programme will be launched in 2024.

UJ and Durham University will host the Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable conference in 2024. The Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable conference has historically been a bi-annual in-person conference, and one of the largest (if not the largest) assembly of academics in the field.



POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Prof. Bhaso Ndzendze : Head of Department and Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR)

RESEARCH

Knowledge production is at the core of our raison d'être. This year we have continued to be research-active, with several publications in the form of books, chapters and journal articles. Several of our colleagues published books on Africa's international relations, artificial intelligence and international relations theories, infrastructure development, and decolonisation.

There has also been a marked diversity when we look at who publishes; in this regard, the output of our PhD and MA students is growing. Among our prolific students this year have been Ken Chapotera, Dare Idowu, Agathe Fonkam, Lebohang Makekeng, Zimkhitha Manyana, Johannes Sekgololo, and Bosele Tladi. The work touches on various aspects of trade, infrastructure and technology – in line with the mandate of our 4IR and Digital Policy Research Unit (4DPRU), with which most of them are affiliated. Our postdoctoral research fellows also continue to perform very strongly.



Some books published by staff members in the Department.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The teaching and learning programme of the Department of Politics and International Relations continued to thrive in 2023. The year saw emphasis on inculcating research, analytical, scientific writing and subject-matter expertise. Several courses saw success rates at 90% and above, demonstrating the hard work and dedication of both our teaching staff (including tutors) and students:

- Politics 1A | Politics 1B | Politics 2C | Politics 2D | Politics 3D

The year was also characterised by an emphasis on exposure to practitioners, many of whom served as guest lecturers in our classrooms. These include Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi SC's lecture to Politics 2A (Public Policy) students, Advocate Andre Stemmer, Tanusha Naidoo, and Jaymion Hendricks of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, who delivered a three-part guest lecture to our International Law in International Relations students, as well as Professors Laura Herta and Adrian Corpadean of Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania.

The students were also put in the practitioner's seats when 280 of them participated in the Model African Union Summit, which we hosted in partnership with the African Union-Southern Africa Regional Office (AU-SARO), the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) in April.

The year also saw outbound local and international travels by our students. Among the institutions visited were the United Nations Development Programme and Statistics South Africa in July, where the Deputy President of the country unveiled a new report on human capacity development; the University of Mpumalanga for the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) three-day biennial conference; and the University of Pretoria and the High Commission of Sri Lanka in early November, where discussions centered on post-conflict reconstruction and changing global order. Two of our students also traveled to the University of Namibia (UNAM) for a three-day conference in its School of Military Science (SoMS) under the theme of 'Security, Resource Control and Democracy.'



300 undergraduate student participants and volunteers after their successful model AU summit that took place between 17 and 20 April 2023



Politics and International Relations students outside the Supreme Court of Namibia, as part of their conference participation at the University of Namibia (27-30 November 2023).

The year has also seen many well-deserved graduations at the MA and PhD levels. We congratulate all the graduates and supervisors on their accomplishments. 2023 also saw the completion of the first ever IsiZulu written Honours research essay, completed by Miss Philisiwe Mpondo.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In the country's political and global landscapes, 2023 has been an eventful year: with developments in the BRICS, the passing of influential figures, including Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and all roads leading to the 2024 general elections. Our staff have been providing perspective on platforms such as the SABC, CNN, The Conversation, and newspapers such as News24, the *Mail and Guardian*, the *Sunday Times* and many others.



Dr Bongani Ngqulunga providing commentary in the eNCA documentary 'Remembering Mangosuthu Buthelezi' aired on 9 September 2023. One of countless instances of Politics and International Relations staff appearing in national and global media to provide insights.

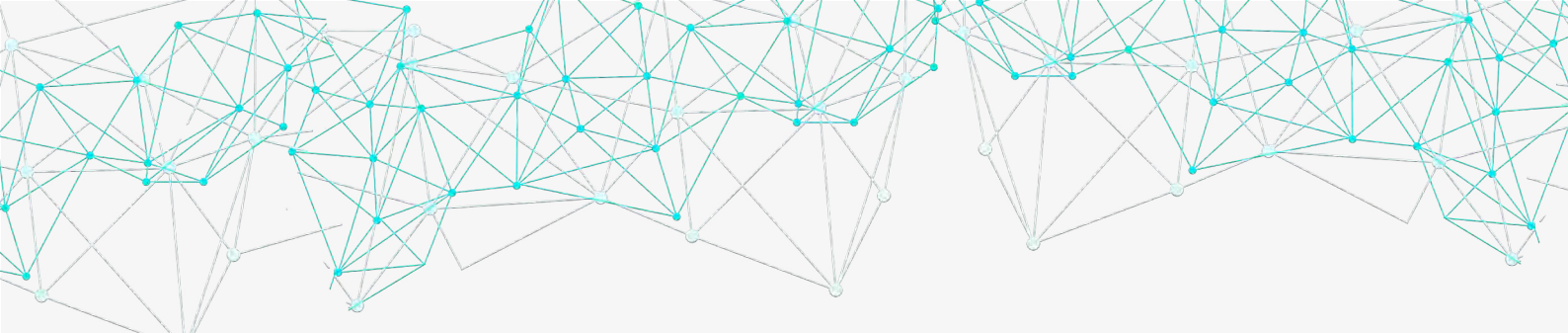
CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



Ambassador Brigety and Professor Mpedi following the US-South Africa Relations Seminar held in the Sanlam Auditorium.

In addition to participating in countless seminars at other universities, we organised our own to provide platform discussions on important issues. In 2023, the department hosted some four major conferences and seminars. Among these were the Anti-Nuclear Activism (5 April 2023), the Life and Legacy of Jan Christiaan Smuts (6-7 June 2023), the United States-South Africa Relations Seminar (20 September 2023), and the Technology and Society in Africa Conference on 19-20 October 2023.

The Department also hosted a book discussion, *Capture in the Court* on 26 October, headlined by author Dan Mafora of CASAC (Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution). Mafora highlighted some aspects of his book, including the history of the African National Congress' relationship with constitutionalism, the emergence of populism rallying against the Constitution, and excessive litigation in South African politics. During the Q&A session, the audience, each of whom received a complimentary copy of the Constitution,



engaged Mafora with a range of questions and concerns. They delved deeper into his reasoning for the proposed constitutional amendment and discussed the potential for intensified populism and scapegoating of the Constitution in 2024, marking thirty years of democracy, particularly in the context of socio-economic transformation challenges.

The audience also raised questions about the power of the Public Protector's office and explored the possibility of amending the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to eliminate politicians among the commissioners. They sought assurance that the president wouldn't exploit his appointment power to influence judges seeking promotion. Funding's role in promoting democracy, the place of indigenous knowledge in the court system, and the causes of friction between lawmakers and the courts, where parliamentary supremacy was sometimes advocated, were also subjects of discussion. Comparisons were made between the politicisation of the JSC in South Africa and the United States, with a particular focus on whether there exists a genuine separation of powers in South Africa's current constitution. Lastly, the audience pondered whether the prospect of amending the constitution should be taken more seriously, given the potential unintended consequences it could have for other sections of the constitution.

LOOKING FORWARD

No doubt 2024 will be an important political year, with South Africa and about half of the rest of the world going to the polls. Through these and other developments, staff members of the Department of Politics and International Relations will be providing analysis rooted in the insight that only political science can provide. Our research will continue to inform our teaching practices, and the enrichment of our students will remain our guiding light. We look forward to hosting and participating in global conferences and publishing groundbreaking work.



PSYCHOLOGY

Prof Jacqueline Moodley, HoD: Head of Department

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

The Department of Psychology is home to 27 academic staff, of which four (Prof Kevin Durrheim, Prof Zelda Knight, Prof Jacqueline Moodley and Prof Neo Morojele) are NRF-Rated Researchers.

We welcomed four new staff members to the Department in 2023:

- Dr Neo Pule as Senior Lecturer;
- Dr Curwyn Mapaling as Senior Lecturer;
- Dr Sharon Sibanda as Lecturer; and
- Mrs Ofhani Netshisaulu as nGAP Lecturer.

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS



Book Release

The Training and Practice of Psychotherapy in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Case Studies, Controversies and Contemplations

This book's focus is on the training and practice of psychotherapy in post-Apartheid South Africa. The authors are South African, of which four are affiliated with UJ Psychology (Prof Zelda Knight, Dr Kgamadi Kometsi, Dr Tshepo Tlali and Ms Bene Otto). These colleagues are trained in the art of psychotherapy, working with diverse populations. With their unique histories and experiences, the text highlights vast amounts of indigenous knowledge pertinent to the profession of psychotherapy.

This book is about new ideas and innovative thoughts on psychotherapy. It begins with a chapter on the current training of psychologists in psychotherapy, the critical issues in training such as selection processes,

as well as the identification of a gap in training leading to the suggestion for the inclusion of transpersonal psychotherapy. In the next chapter, an exploration is achieved in the shifts from the analytical couch to the virtual screen. Psychoanalytic psychotherapy has always presumed the presence of the therapist and the patient in a consultation room that is uniquely set for the psychoanalytic endeavour. This chapter aims to trace the journey of psychoanalytic setting from Freud's reclining couch, through the post-Freudian setting requirements, and finally to the modern smart gadgets, to which the pandemic forced the provisioning of psychoanalytic treatment specifically in South Africa. In the following chapter, focus is on the efficacy of somatic experiencing as a treatment model for adult survivors of child maltreatment. In this regard, a proposal is made for the consideration for teaching 'body-based trauma therapies', as opposed to those that focus only on the mind and leave the body out, to trainee psychologists.

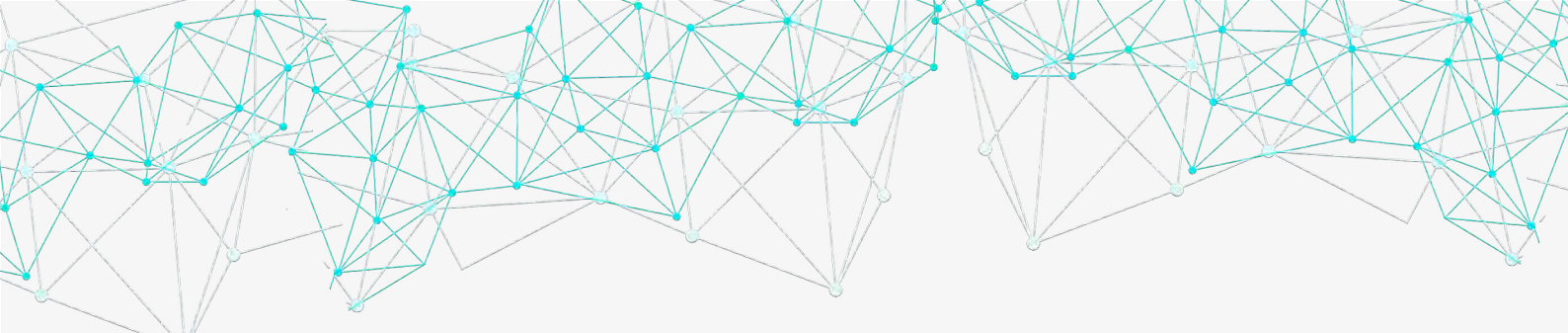
The book also has a chapter on child therapy or 'Theraplay' - a dyadic attachment-focused psychotherapeutic approach. Based on semi-structured interviews with six Theraplay-trained South African psychologists, this chapter explores these therapists' perceptions regarding the implementation of Theraplay in South Africa. The book further details a 'process-based therapy' and its potential in accommodating a diverse post-apartheid South Africa. A novel meta-framework for understanding evidence-based psychotherapy, process-based therapy (PBT), offers guidance on how to use the science of psychotherapy in a way that is tailored to the unique individual, their context, and their goals for therapy. The chapter includes case studies to show this kind of process and therapy. In the final chapter, the concepts and perspectives on grief and grief theory are examined. Death and grief theory often results in misconceptions and misinformation that leads to the disenfranchising of the experience of loss. Despite the number of individuals affected by grief, the training that psychologists receive in post-apartheid South Africa is minimal across universities. Discussion is offered to address this disconnect through highlighting grief theory from current thanatological literature.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society

The 48th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society (KBS), Johannesburg, from 5-9 June 2023, was hosted by the Department of Psychology in conjunction with the School of Economics and the Fundraising and Development Office at UJ. The Local Organising Committee comprised UJ staff, Prof Neo Morojele (Chair), Dr Nokulunga Shabalala, Ms Emma Dart, Ms Yolanda Marumfela, and Ms Vinah Adonis (Department of Psychology); Dr Naiefa Rashied (School of Economics); Ms Lebohang Mokhomatha (Fundraising and Development); and Ms Nonhlakanipho Mbuku (Budget and Project Management). Non-UJ members included Dr Kim Bloomfield (Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, Denmark) and Dr Sebenzile Nkosi (South African Medical Research Council - SAMRC). The conference was sponsored by the Johannesburg Convention Bureau, SA National Convention Bureau, Movendi International, and the UJ Departments of Psychology and School of Economics, and attended by 136 delegates from 28 countries and 26 Department of Psychology students.



The conference was opened by the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof Kammila Naidoo, whose address highlighted social and structural roots of alcohol consumption in South Africa for the international audience. She was joined by Prof Jacqueline Moodley, Head of Department of Psychology, UJ; Professor Petra Meier, President of the Kettil Bruun Society, and Professor at the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences, University of Glasgow; and Mr Thandubuhle Mgudlwa, City of Johannesburg.

With a focus on Southern African research, the opening plenary papers included an overview of alcohol research by the SAMRC over the past 50 years, and alcohol industry strategies and tactics in Botswana during COVID-19. The themes of the next four plenary sessions were: brief interventions, alcohol issues for young adults, novel methods in alcohol epidemiology and implementation of global alcohol policy initiatives. Delegates also presented and discussed papers in parallel sessions on topics inclusive of drinking patterns, alcohol consumption by women and mothers; measurement and methodological issues, alcohol consequences, including violence and HIV, drinking guidelines, treatment issues and policy and regulatory issues.

Workshops were held on research dissemination to policy/decision makers; partnership building among researchers; prevention research and policy development in low- and middle-income countries; and international collaborative studies on gender, culture and alcohol's harm to others.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic staff have been recognised on various platforms for their expertise:

- **Prof Brendon Barnes**
 - ~ Organised a hybrid symposium on community, psychology and climate justice. The symposium was funded by the University of Cincinnati and the University of Johannesburg (UJ), and 121 delegates from around the world registered for the symposium. Two edited books will be published from it.
 - ~ Was elected chairperson of the Climate, Environment and Psychology Division of the Psychology Society of South Africa. He was also a discussant at the 18th Annual Peace, Safety and Human Rights Memorial Lecture.
- **Dr Sipho Dlamini's book**, *Beyond the Pretty White Affair: Training Africa-centering psychologists for the Future*, is in press and set for release in early 2024. The book will be published by Unisa Press.
- **Prof Kevin Durrheim** signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Johannesburg Methods Lab and East African Scientific Research Network.
- **Dr Sumayya Ebrahim** co-hosted an International Webinar on G(end)er the Crisis with the University of Mauritius and Nelson Mandela University.
- **Prof Itumeleng Khumalo**, through a University Research Committee-funded research project, is collaborating with Dr Richard Appiah of the University of Ghana. Their research project is cross-country and seeks to qualitatively describe and then quantitatively operationalise Religiosity and Spirituality indicators from an African Traditional Religion perspective.
- **Prof Zelda Knight**, based on her professional expertise in the field of psychoanalytic psychotherapy, was invited as a Virtual Visiting Professor by the Department of Psychology, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, to give a series of online lectures to senior psychology students on this topic. The course was well attended by students and led to some lively discussions.
- **Dr Ursula Lau** was invited as a guest speaker to the 2nd International Colloquium on Decolonisation and Psychoanalysis by the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil. The networks forged during this academic exchange, initiated new directions to formalise global perspectives on decolonial psychoanalysis to think about possibilities in research and training.
- **Dr Curwyn Mapaling**
 - ~ Attended a British Academy Writing Workshop on *Publishing Qualitative and Visual Mental Health Research* at the University of Ghana.
 - ~ Delivered a keynote entitled, "*It's not cool to be an engineer with feelings*": *Diverse staff and student perceptions of academic resilience* at the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Teaching and Learning Symposium, at the University of Pretoria.
 - ~ Presented a paper at the 22nd European Conference on e-Learning and the South African Society of Engineering Education 2023 Conference.

- **Prof Jacqueline Moodley**

- ~ Attained a Y-Rating from the National Research Foundation
- ~ Was promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.
- ~ Accepted an invitation to serve as Associate Editor of the *South African Journal of Psychology*.

- **Dr Prevan Moodley** received a Faculty award for Best Postgraduate Teacher.

- **Prof Neo Morojele**

- ~ Was invited to the 4th World Health Organization Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours in Geneva, Switzerland (June 2023).
- ~ Presented at the 15th Annual Workshop on Advanced Clinical Care – AIDS in Durban (October 2023).
- ~ Presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Addiction Journal Editors in Denver, Colorado (September, 2023) and participated in the Second Meeting of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use (STAG-MNS) in Geneva, Switzerland (April 2023).
- ~ Continues to serve in her positions as Vice-President of ISAJE and the KBS during 2023, and committee members of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Institute for Mental Health Policy Research (IMHPR) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

- **Dr Neo Pule**

- ~ Is a visiting fellow at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and is part of the UCLan Decolonisation working group.
- ~ Is the lead guest editor for the 2024 *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa* special issue entitled “*Advancing the scholarship of integration for impactful, sustainable and holistic student success*”, which seeks to integrate scholarship of academia and student support and development to achieve impactful, sustainable and holistic student success.
- ~ Serves as a Director of the Centre for Social Dreaming, which is an international body keen on social dreaming research and practice.
- ~ Was awarded the British Council Newton Researcher Links Travel Grant in 2021/22 and was invited to participate as a panel member on the Newton Fund British Council South Africa: Meeting Sustainable Development Goals through Science and Innovation Partnerships event this year.

- **Dr Nokulunga Shabalala** was awarded the Fulbright South African Research Scholarship 2023 – 2024. She was hosted by the African Global Mental Health Institute at Boston University Medical School/Boston Medical Center from July – December 2023.

- **Dr Sibulelo Qhogwana** was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

- **Dr Curwyn Mapaling, Ms Thando Maseti and Mrs Ofhani Netshisaulu** presented a paper at the South African Humanities Deans Association’s 2nd Biennial National Conference, which was co-hosted by the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Academics have also been engaged at various global conferences and workshops to present their own work and expand on collaborative initiatives.

Staff Member	Country	Event
Prof Brendon Barnes	USA England	Webinar on climate and environmental psychology to students and staff at York St. John University – cohosted by University of Cincinnati.
	Switzerland	Hosted Professor Markus Hackenfort from the Zurich University of Applied Sciences for part of his sabbatical. Prof. Hackenfort conducted a comparative study on environmental risk perceptions between Switzerland and South Africa. The visit strengthened research and staff mobility between the two institutions’ psychology departments as part of an existing MoU.

Dr Sipho Dlamini	USA	A day-long gathering to discuss empirical directions for decolonial and Africa-centering psychology.
Prof Kevin Durrheim	England	Prospects for Social Psychology Artificial Intelligence applications. University of Lancaster Psychology Departmental seminar.
	Poland	Language versus interaction networks of social media: The polarising potential of echo chambers. 19th General Meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology, Krakow.
	Ireland	Keynote: Culture of racism in psychological science. Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology Regional Conference, University of Limerick.
	Netherlands	Language versus interaction networks of social media: The polarising potential of echo chambers, Utrecht University.
Dr Sumayya Ebrahim	Turkiye	World Association of Sexual Health
	Palestine	International Staff Straining Week (Birzeit University).
Dr Curwyn Mapaling	Kenya	East and South African-German Centre of Excellence for Educational Research Methodologies and Management Conference 2023: "The Future of Education Research in African Contexts".
	Ghana	Advancing Critical University Studies Across Africa Conference: "Charging towards critical canons of knowledge production in the African university"
	Canada	8th International Positive Psychology Association World Congress on Positive Psychology.
Prof Jacqueline Moodley	Netherlands	International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Annual Conference.
Prof Neo Morojele	Tanzania	Four-day workshop with research collaborators from the Mwansa Intervention Trials Unit (Tanzania) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK), to work on an ongoing project on treatment coverage and treatment seeking for men with substance use disorders in South Africa.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



As part of the MA Clinical and Counselling Training Programmes, students provided psychological services at hospitals in Johannesburg, namely, Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and Helen Joseph Hospital.

The Clinical Psychology students engaged in a yearlong community intervention with the patients living with HIV at Temba Lethu Clinic. This community intervention is part of their training in group therapeutic approaches. The focus of the intervention was to facilitate psychosocial aspects of living with the illness to motivate adherence to antiretroviral drugs. The facilitating teams this year were able to stimulate dialogue as with the two patient groups, the adult and adolescents, to generate ways of strengthening the units' social support system. The intervention gains this year involved contributing to practical changes in the hospital to address the stigma around the discourse of adherence. This has resulted in significant system changes to how the groups are promoted in the hospital setting by doctors and nurses. The outcomes of the intervention are being taken up in a collaborative planning with the coordinating doctors for uptake in 2024.

The MA Counselling Psychology students, as part of their module on community psychology, were also placed at two organisations within the greater Johannesburg area. Students worked with an underprivileged school, as well as an orphanage for vulnerable children.

The Psychology Student Forum, which is voluntarily run by psychology students, also assisted at Helen Joseph Hospital to celebrate Mandela Day.

CHALLENGES

Our biggest challenge remains finding a balance between heavy administration and teaching loads, and the desire to conduct research. We continue to have high staff-student ratios, as well as high tutor-student ratios. Despite this, we continue to strive to do our best to meet our teaching, research and training goals.



RELIGION STUDIES

Prof Elina Hankela: Associate Professor, Head of Department

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

2023 was an exciting year for the Department of Religion Studies at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Our small but energetic team worked, among other things, on developing a departmental supervision model, familiarising ourselves with the relationship between 4IR and religion, working on our research in different ways, and building connections with colleagues and institutions elsewhere in South Africa and overseas. The above are the highlights that this annual report focuses on to give the reader a feeling of what is going on with religion at UJ.

RESEARCH

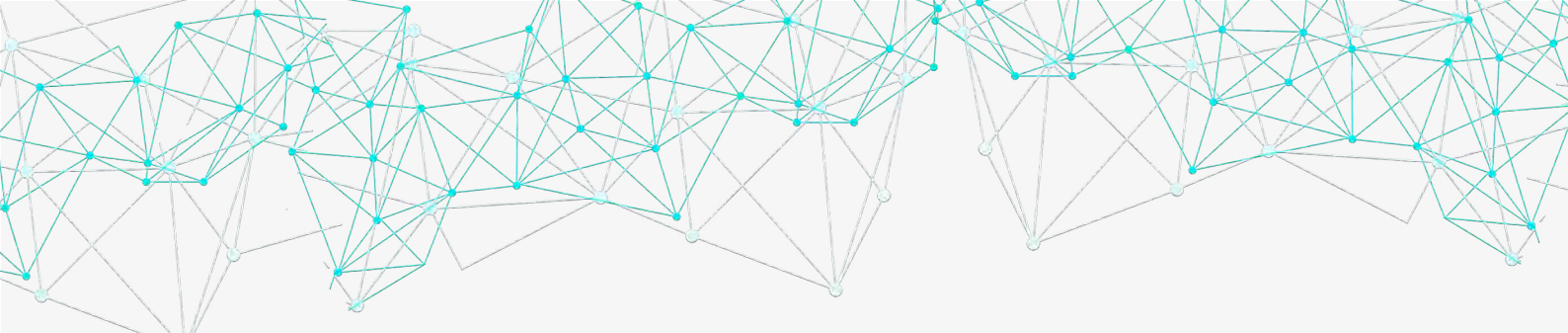
The Department has continued to work on consolidating the two focus areas for research that were previously identified: African ethnographic theologies and Muslim intellectual writing in Africa. With regards to the first focus area, we had a reading group in the second semester that focused on making sense of ethnographic theology, allowing those students and staff whose own work is not in this niche to also begin to engage with the discourse.

Prof Elina Hankela, together with a team of three colleagues from UJ, the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Pretoria, received a three-year research grant from the National Research Foundation for a project focusing on the continuing relevance of liberation theologies in South Africa. This project is geared towards making sense of liberation theologies at work in local Christian faith communities. The team – that also includes Dr Clementine Nishimwe from our Department – has, among other things, started fieldwork and organised a methodology workshop that a number of our postgraduate students also attended.

Lastly, in May we organised our first Research Open Day that we hope will become an annual event. Attended by staff, students and the public, both in person and online, the event provided people with a window into the kind of research that is done in the Department. The event followed a conference format: Honours, MA and PhD students, as well as one of our lecturers, presented their work and responded to questions and comments from the audience. Perhaps just as important as the event itself, was the journey of mentoring the students to do their best as they prepared to present their work.

POSTGRADUATE COHORT SUPERVISION

We launched a new cohort approach to postgraduate supervision at the beginning of this year. Throughout the year, our first-year MA students have been gathering with supervisors for morning-long seminars in the departmental seminar room to journey through different stages of their research projects. The first semester focused on proposal writing and thinking through what each student's project wants to achieve. Narrowing down and finetuning the research questions took their time, but in June eight MA students submitted their proposals to the Departmental Higher Degrees Committee, and in October the only new doctoral student – who later in the year joined this cohort – submitted her well-thought-through proposal. As a Department, we are proud of the quality of work produced by the students, something that has made us even more committed to developing the

A decorative graphic at the top of the page consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a molecular structure or a digital network, in shades of teal and grey.

cohort approach going forward. Next year we will have both a second-year cohort with the current group and a first-year cohort with the newcomers. While we started the cohort with only the MA students this year, as of next year, doctoral students will also be part of the cohort from the beginning of the year.

Lungile Ngubane is one of the MA students and works on a project titled *Belonging and Africa Initiated Christianity in a South African University: University Experiences of Black Undergraduate Students from the Nazareth Baptist Church*. She has the following to say about the cohort approach: "The cohort supervision provided a platform where every student received genuine feedback from their team members and supervisor/s. The collective feedback was valuable, as it encompassed perspectives of multiple thinkers. This set up offered me access to seasoned scholars, accountability partners, solutions to research challenges and it gave me a sense of belonging where I felt seen and heard." (please add the photo of Ngubane next to this text)

This year's MA cohort included students who came to Religion Studies without having done undergraduate studies in religion studies or theology, some via our Honours programme and one student slotted directly into the MA programme. The way in which they have been able to engage with religion while drawing on their previous studies, for example in sociology, has shown us that interdisciplinary work and allowing for movement for students between Humanities disciplines is indeed beneficial. We believe that religion adds a critical dimension to the toolkit of these students when they enter the workplace, building on the knowledge and skills they got from other disciplines.

Looking ahead, our supervisors will be attending some of the UJ Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) on supervision to help them think more critically and deeply about supervision. One of us completed one such SLP in 2021, and her supervision has benefitted from the space for growth and conversations the programme offered.

NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE BA HONOURS IN RELIGION

Thirteen Honours students submitted their research essays in October and completed their studies. This was the first cohort of Honours students who benefitted from a cohort approach to supervision, similar to the MA students cohort, implemented in the beginning of the year. The Honours students worked in three different groups with a supervisor assigned to each group. While we will work on finetuning this approach next year, as supervisors we enjoyed having the students not only learn from and with us but also with each other. All students presented a proposal in May, with two critical readers from among the staff commenting on their presentations and proposals. The proposal seminar for Honours is a new development in the Department and in many ways seemed to benefit the students.

Behind the scenes, we have also started developing the Honours programme as a whole, with the intention of offering students more opportunities of studying both Islam and Christianity in one module. While we will also continue to offer modules that focus on one religion alone, moving into the future, we find it important to create more space for students coming from different religious backgrounds – or non-religious backgrounds – to learn in the same classroom and benefit from exchanging ideas and challenging one another to think in novel ways. Many of our students come from either the Muslim or the Christian community, but we also have students who come to Religion Studies from other Humanities disciplines without necessarily having religious convictions of their own. The renewed programme will be aimed at providing a space to grow in a nurturing academic environment for all these different students. We are working towards the renewed programme being launched in 2025.

Student perspectives onto their BA Honours journey in 2023:



"My Honours year at UJ was intense, bringing both challenges and rewards, creating an experience that was transformative. The Department of Religion Studies impressed me with their personalised approach, demonstrating a sincere commitment to supporting their students, a quality I haven't encountered elsewhere. Throughout my research paper, I benefited from incredibly supportive supervision, and being able to explore a topic that personally fascinated me, was something entirely new to me. This positive experience has fuelled my excitement for exploring my research topic further during my Master's, erasing any fears I may have had about the research process. I highly recommend the Department of Religion Studies to anyone passionate about the discipline; it truly offers a wonderful academic journey." – **Razia Bey**



"Attending the BA Honours in Religion programme at UJ has been an enriching experience. The curriculum offered a comprehensive understanding of various religious topics, cultural and philosophical aspects. Engaging lectures, discussions and research assignments have broadened my perspectives on religious practices and their significance in society. The Religion Studies Department has been supportive and has contributed immensely to my academic growth and passion for the subject." –

Thabo Mohoto (Honours class with Thabo in the middle)

LEARNING ABOUT 4IR AND RELIGION

The Department took small collective steps towards making sense of the interconnections between 4IR and religion, with 4IR being a key emphasis in the UJ environment. In the first semester, staff and students gathered for four reading group sessions to read different recent contributions that speak to religion in the context of 4IR. In the second semester, Prof Maria Frahm-Arp delivered a Humanities Distinguished 4IR Lecture, titled *Changing Pentecostals in 4IR: The Intersection of Faith, Economic Failure and Technologies in South Africa*, and hosted by the Department.

INTERNATIONALISATION

One of our lecturers, Dr Clementine Nishimwe spent a few months in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki in Finland, funded by the *Africa Early Career Mobility Programme* through the University of Helsinki. Among other things, Nishimwe joined the *Africa Research Forum for Social Sciences and Humanities* at the University of Helsinki (Afristadi) and got connected to different scholars. She gave a number of talks during her stay and started working on various research papers, many of these co-authored with her host/PI or other scholars she met in Helsinki. Nishimwe's host/PI, Prof Auli Vähäkangas, will be coming to Johannesburg in February to visit our Department, speak to our postgraduate students and continue working on joint research with Nishimwe. While in Helsinki, Nishimwe also had the opportunity to deliver a paper at the *International and Ecumenical Conference on Racial Justice* in Freiburg, Germany, and gave a lecture at The Polin Institute at the Royal Åbo Akademi in Turku, Finland. As a Department we are grateful for the opportunity our colleague had to grow through her visit and look forward to continuing learning from her and the experiences she had while away.

Another lecturer, Dr Shahid Mathee travelled to Granada, Spain, in June to teach at the *Granada Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies* Summer School. The programme explored the consequences of placing Muslims, Islam and the Islamicate within the context of "modern/colonial capitalist/patriarchal western-centric/Christian-centric world-system" that began to emerge after the fall of Granada and Columbus's voyage in search of riches in Asia. This recontextualisation does not only invite a re-telling of contemporary developments in the fields of politics, spirituality, theology, gender, racism, ethics and economics, but also raises questions about adequacies of disciplinary categories deployed in that re-telling.

We also had the pleasure and privilege of hosting international visitors at UJ. Prof Auli Vähäkangas from the University of Helsinki and Prof Mika Vähäkangas from Åbo Akademi both gave public lectures when they visited us in March. Jumane Qunnaisse, a lecturer in TV and Radio Journalism at Birzeit University, Occupied Palestine, visited the Department as part of her broader visit to UJ in May. Dr Almila Acka from Humboldt University, Germany, spoke to us at UJ about her research in August.



LOOKING AHEAD

As a Department, we are looking towards a busy year in 2024. Perhaps most importantly, we are excited to welcome a new colleague into the Department in early 2024 – please keep an eye on our website for more information on this. We also look forward to consolidating the cohort supervision approach implemented this year at both the MA and doctoral levels, and at the Honours level. Moreover, a lot of effort in 2024 will be going into developing our Honours programme for us to be able to launch the renewed Honours programme in 2025. Additionally, we will be working on further formalising our ‘recognition of prior learning’ process; through this route the Department has for years accepted students without a required academic background – but with suitable other prior learning – into the Honours programme. Last but not least, we also plan to turn conversations that we have had in the Department and with external people this year about a departmental community engagement project into a concrete reality in the course of the new year.

Please pop into our newly painted department in 2024 for a conversation or visit our updated website:
<https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/humanities/departments-2/religion-studie>



SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Prof. Shahana Rasool: Head of Department

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Department of Social Work and Community Development (SWCD) invites you to share in our various achievements in 2023. Despite a turbulent start to the year, in which we struggled to get administrative support, we successfully ran our three undergraduate degrees, three coursework programmes, and the Master's by research and doctoral programmes. We have an amazing team of social workers who run both theory courses and work-integrated learning (WIL) programmes, which we refer to as the internship. This incredible team exhibits commitment, dedication, and excellence in the face of adversity and multiple systemic challenges.



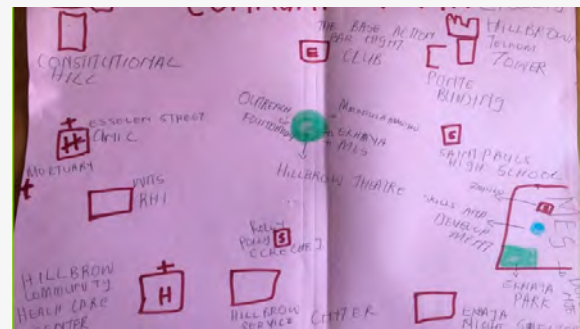
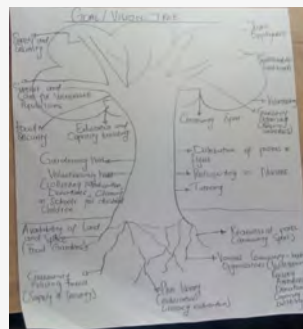
Social work staff (academics and admin) as well as German visitors

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING (WIL) OR INTERNSHIPS

Our WIL programme is extensive and central to the social work and community development programmes at the undergraduate levels, as well as the Clinical and community development programmes at the Master's level. In 2023 we had 348 Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students doing internships in 117 organisations. We had 84 students placed in 19 institutions in the Community development and leadership programme. In the Master's community development programme, we placed six students in six organisation and in the Master's Clinical programme, we had eight students in eight organisations. Overall, we had 446 students placed in 150 institutions, providing voluntary service to communities. Our students practice various methods of social work and community development depending on the year level. In total, they provided individual counselling to approximately 356 individuals, ran 90 educational or psycho-social groups, and were involved with approximately 228 community work projects. In total, SWCD students provided approximately 69 808 hours of community service at undergraduate levels. These internships, especially the community work projects that are run by students, impact on numerous SDGs, including – SDG1 -no poverty; SDG2- zero hunger; SDG3- good health and well-being; SDG 4- quality education; SDG 5- gender equality; SDG 8- decent work and economic growth; SDG 10- reduced inequalities; SDG 16 – peace & justice; SDG 17-partnership for the goals. Some of these projects were showcased by our fourth-year students in the foyer of APK on 17 August 2023 (see pictures below).



Pictures of students' work and projects in the WIL programme



We have two placement liaison officers who are managed by Ms. Mashigo. These colleagues are critical to sourcing and evaluating placements, as well as for supporting internship co-ordinators while managing relationships with our partners and troubleshooting issues in the field.



Ms. Mashigo with our placement liaison officers and administrative team (secretary and student assistant).



PRESENTATION OR ORGANISATION AT CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

In total, staff collectively presented at or co-organised 23 events. This year many staff members (Ms. Latakomo, Dr. Nadesan, Prof. Rasool, Dr. Maphosa, Prof. Sobantu, and Dr. Zimba) attended the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) conference in Durban. Dr. Nadesan was on the LOC for the ASASWEI International Conference and Prof. Rasool and Dr. Zimba attended the meeting for all Heads of Departments in the country.

Dr. Maphosa presented at the 22nd Annual Africa Conference in TEXAS, USA. Dr. Bond presented a paper at South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (SACENDU) 53rd symposium. Ms. Mashigo presented at the postgraduate student exchange symposium hosted by DST/NRF Interim SARCHI Chair and CSDA (collaboration between Germany and Africa). She was also the MC at the Community Engagement Women's Day event. She also mentored 32 UJ female students on courageous leadership over six sessions between July and September 2023.

We had numerous engagements on world social work day. One was hosted by Dr. Nadesan, with various international partners. Dr. Ditlhake was a panel member in a seminar on world social work day that was held in conjunction with DBSH (German Association of Social Workers), on the consequences of Global Climate Crises on the Global South and the Challenge for International Social Work. Dr. Ditlhake also gave an online public lecture for Human Rights week to the members of Erfurt University, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, Germany.

Dr. Nadesan presented at a seminar at IOWA on Substance Abuse/Alcohol, was the keynote speaker at the AA South Africa Annual Conference, presented at the Sub-Saharan AA Conference (SSASM) and was keynote speakers at a seminar at Ganpat University (Gujarat State, India) on Social Work in SA. She also presented a paper at Hong Kong Polytechnic University (in person) on Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training.

Prof. Van Breda presented three academic papers and launched a book at EUSARF. Prof Rasool presented at the African Studies conference in Oxford, UK; University of Edinburgh, UK. Prof. Rasool was chair of the 6th International Conference on Gender and Sexuality.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

One of the biggest events that we hosted as a Department was a colloquium on: "Understanding Neurodiversity and its Impact on Learning and Development" & "Dealing with Sexual Abuse."



This colloquium was held in conjunction with Community Engagement, the Faculty of Education, and the Department of Strategic Communication. Various NGOs, CBOs, NPOs, as well as representatives from the Department of Social Development and the Department of Basic Education, were present.

This colloquium aimed to strengthen our relationship with partners who provide internship (WIL) opportunities to social work students, and to provide them with up-to-date research and knowledge. We had 150 delegates who attended the event and we received positive feedback about the opportunities to engage and strengthen our collaboration. We obtained Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for the social workers who attended the event.



Every year, at the beginning of the year, we run training for our 42 clinical supervisors and 12 facilitators in our programme for each year group in which we have a WIL programme.

WORKSHOP WITH SUPERVISORS AND PARTNERS WHO HOST WIL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWCD STUDENTS

Dr. Zimba applied to the University Research Committee and Faculty Research Committee for funding for a writing retreat, which was successful. In November, 14 academic staff members attended the writing retreat. This was a much-needed reprieve from teaching. It was also a wonderful opportunity to connect as a team and focus on our research.



Staff members sharing their milestones for the day at the writing retreat.

At the beginning of the year, Prof. Rasool co-hosted the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) board meeting with Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha. As a pre-workshop to the IASSW board meeting, a capacity-building workshop was organised by UJ and NMU, in which scholars from various parts of Africa were invited to participate and present. UJ funded a scholar each from Ethiopia, Ghana, and Burundi to attend the event and present in person. Someone from North Africa, Libya was also invited, but although they were unable to present in person due to visa issues, they did however present online. This was a crucial step in strengthening the African voice in social work education.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Our international partnerships are expanding and extensive. We have partners around the globe including Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America – although all of these partnerships have not all resulted in signed MOU's.

Prof. Sobantu visited Kyambogo University in Uganda and has facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them, in preparation for joint research.

Dr. Nadesan has MOUs with Rajagiri College for Social Sciences (Kalmasery, Kerala, India and BCM College for Social Work (Kottayam, Kerala, India). She is exploring further MOUs in India with Ganpat University (Gujarat State, Northern India) and Sree Sankarayacharya University of Sanskrit (SSUS), Kalady, Kerala).

Ms. De Beer works closely with Dr Anselm Adodo from Nigeria: Pax Herbal Clinic and Research Laboratories; Africa Centre for Integral Research and Development, with whom we are exploring a MOU.

Prof Adrian van Breda is the Chair of the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care (INTRAC), comprising 375 members from 48 countries. In September 2023, he chaired the Steering Group meeting of INTRAC, which is equivalent to a board, which was attended by 46 representatives from 25 countries. He also chaired the Global Meeting of INTRAC on the following day, attended by over 100 researchers from 33 countries.



INTRAC Steering Group, chaired by Prof Adrian van Breda

Prof. Van Breda was selected to be a visiting professor for four months at the Appalachian State University in North Carolina, USA. During his time there, Adrian co-taught courses and ran numerous workshops with students on topics including race, culture, white privilege, male privilege, inequality, youth unemployment, housing, public transport, resilience, and black consciousness. Prof. Van Breda has set up three research partnerships for bi-national research on resilience, care-leavers who are fathers, and antiracist social work education. Prof Adrian van Breda is the co-leader of the Africa Network of Care-leaving Researchers (ANCR)). ANCR is a network of African scholars working on the subject of leaving care (that is, the transition from foster and residential care into young adulthood). Adrian co-chairs this group with Prof Kwabena Frimpong-Manso from the University of Ghana.

Prof. Shahana Rasool is Vice-President of the African Association of Schools of Social Work and represents Africa on the board of the International Association of Schools of Social Work. Prof. Rasool has set up a partnership and signed an MOU with Evangelische Hochschule in Ludwigsburg (EHL) in Germany, which is a multi-lateral partnership with a university in India, Philippines, Belgium, Poland, and Uganda. This partnership has funded one staff member and two students to go to Germany for an annual assembly in June 2023, and another student studied in Germany for a semester. The staff member who was selected to for the annual assembly in June 2023 with two master's students, was Dr. Ziboneleimba. He has been instrumental with other staff in

the selection of students to visit Germany. Dr. Zimba, Prof. Van Breda, and Prof. Rasool, have taught numerous classes to the German students from EHL. As part of the well-funded partnership with EHL, two colleagues from EHL visited UJ in October 2023. Prof. Melinda Madew gave lectures in various courses in the undergraduate programme. In addition, a public lecture was presented by Heike Stammer on Biographical Research Workshop using the Timeline Approach.

Prof. Rasool has an MOU with VIVES University of Applied Sciences in Belgium. In addition to the two colleagues who visited UJ from EHL, Prof Rasool hosted two professors from the USA. The first is Prof. Sunday Fakunmoju from Westfield State University's Department of Social Work, in Massachusetts, and Trina Shanks, who is Associate Professor, at the University of Michigan, USA. Prof. Rasool also hosted Prof. Diana J Fox, who is the Interim University Director at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the Regional Headquarters of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, on leave as Professor of Anthropology at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, USA.



Prof. Madew and Prof. Stammer from EHL, Germany & Workshop run by Prof. Stammer at UJ

Inbound and Outbound Students

We have had a total of 414 inbound students and 229 outbound students. Prof. Rasool taught a class on decoloniality and another class on violence against women to 17 Belgium students at Vives on two different occasions. Ms De Beer invited 10 postgraduate students & Faculty members from Nigeria to attend the CDL Honours WIL oral project presentations, and 25 UJ students participated in the WIL presentations from Nigerian students.

As part of world social work day with Hope University, Burundi, and SACAP, Dr Nadesan had 171 inbound students and 27 outbound students.

Dr. Zimba taught a class on African Spirituality and social work competence to 79 students at EHL in Germany. As part of the TIIPP project with EHL, one undergraduate student got the opportunity to spend a semester studying in Germany. Two Master's students had the opportunity to visit EHL in Germany for a national assembly with students from Uganda, India, Poland, the Philippines and Belgium.

Annual assembly in Germany was attended by two Master's students with Dr. Zimba & Prof. Rasool.

Prof Adrian van Breda ran a workshop on "Writing a great introduction" for an article, chapter, or thesis, in partnership with the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa, the Africa Network of Care-leaving Researchers, and the International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care, with participants from around the globe, including 54 outgoing UJ students and staff, 30 inbound students from other countries, and 49 participants from other South African universities. He ran this workshop again at the Appalachian State University, USA.

Prof. Rasool organised two international lectures for the 60 fourth- year students in the social policy course of the joint Master's programme with the University of West Indies. Two of the speakers were from the Caribbean – one on feminist social policy and another on social security. Prof. Rasool also gave a lecture to 30 German students in EHL on decoloniality and a presentation to 30 students on violence against women.



Fourth-year social work students who will be graduating.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We are very proud to share that Dr. Zimba was awarded an NRF Y2 Rating and Prof. Van Breda was awarded an NRF B2 Rating. Dr. Maphosa was promoted to Senior Lecturer and Prof. Sobantu was promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Mmusi was awarded the Faculty Teaching & Learning Award at NWU in February 2023. Dr. Nadesan was awarded the Recognition of Social Service Award from BCM College for Social Sciences and received Academic Recognition from the Shree Sankarayacharaya University of Sanskrit. Prof. Rasool was awarded the Faculty of Humanities Teaching and Learning Award for innovation in October 2023. In 2023 Prof. Rasool was awarded the Decoloniality Award from the Africa Social Work and Development Network (ASWNet). Ms De Beer assisted two Master's by Research students to get GES 4IR Research funding. Dr Nadesan did three AA Media interviews. Dr Bond did a podcast for Ubusha Bami. She was also elected by the Midvaal Provincial Municipality as academic representative of the Midvaal Local Economic Development Forum, where she provided exposure to training on various critical issues.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2023 SWCD has had a major impact on strengthening local, regional and international partnerships, with our vibrant team. We organised a colloquium locally, which was well attended by over 120 delegates that addressed key challenges students are facing during their WIL programmes. Our extensive network with scholars across the world provides our students with exposure to leading thinkers in the field of social work internationally and provides academics with opportunities to engage across borders to provide an African and decolonial perspective to various social issues encountered globally. Our work through the voluntary contributions of students and through academic partnerships provides theoretical and practical approaches to addressing the various SDGs. Our WIL programme is a core element of the contribution of SWCD to changing society and improving the impact universities can have on development in our communities. We hope to expand on our work next year, through various publications that are in the pipeline and to engage further with our various partners and research associates, to make a sustained impact on international decolonial social work education.



SOCIOLOGY

Prof Tsoaedi Malehoko, HoD: Head of the Department

The UJ Department of Sociology is one of the largest departments in the Faculty, comprising of 18 staff members. It is currently ranked number 1 Sociology department in South Africa and in the top 150 Sociology departments in the world, according to the 2022 Shanghai Global Rankings. This is a position the Department has held in the last five years. The strength of the Department is in the diverse expertise of academics in the Department and the wide research areas in the Department. Our areas of teaching, research and supervision are informed by our commitment to the broader national goals on transformation in the higher education sector and inclusion of marginalised groups in knowledge production. The principles of social justice and equality are central in our teaching and learning.

The Department teaches and produces research in a wide range of areas, including:

- Decolonisation and the politics of knowledge production in higher education; postcolonial and decolonial dialogues on sociology
- Social identity (class, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, intersectionality);
- Sociology of work, labour studies, and organisations;
- Political sociology, citizenship, biopolitics, and social protection
- Family, health, urban studies, development, and migration studies
- Clinical sociology, group dynamics, and whistleblowing
- Sexuality and gender studies

RESEARCH

The Department of Sociology is committed to disseminating its research and knowledge to a wider audience through a variety of publications. Department members have published numerous articles in prestigious peer-reviewed journals, showcasing their expertise and contributing to the advancement of sociological knowledge. These articles cover a wide range of topics, including labor relations, social justice, and public policy.

Department members are actively engaged in public discourse by writing op-eds in various media outlets. Their op-eds provide informed commentary on current social issues, stimulating public debate and shaping the understanding of critical social phenomena. We are especially proud of our Master's students who have had their opinion pieces published in various media outlets. These publications demonstrate the students' ability to apply their sociological knowledge to real-world issues and contribute to public discourse.

Two important books have been published this year. Prof Malehoko Tshoaedi published the co-edited book, *Labour Disrupted: Reflections on the future of work in South Africa* (by Wits Press), and Prof. Luke Sinwell has published *The Participation Paradox: Between Bottom-Up and Top-Down Development in South Africa* (UJ Press and McGill-Queen's University Press).

STAFF AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The Department is proud of the outstanding achievements of staff members and students in the past year. We are particularly proud of the appointment of Prof Pragna Rugunanan to Vice-Dean Research, Prof Malehoko Tshoaedi to Head of Department (HOD), Prof Tapiwa Chagonda to Deputy HOD; and the promotions of, David du Toit to Associate Professor, and Siphelo Ngcwangu to Associate Professor. These achievements underscore the Department's commitment to growth and development in the Department and the Faculty at large.

The Department's research excellence is reflected in the numerous awards and recognitions received by its staff. Prof Tina Uys received the Outstanding Scholarly Book Award in Clinical Sociology for her book *Whistleblowing and the Sociological Imagination*. At this year's XX ISA World Congress of Sociology 2023-2027 Prof Uys received a Lifetime Achievement Award and was elected President of RC46 Clinical Sociology. Prof Luke Sinwell was recognised by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Universities of South Africa (USAF) Research and Social Justice as a finalist for best mid-career researcher.



Whistleblowing Canada Research Society
presents a webinar on...

ACHIEVING SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WHISTLEBLOWERS: Protection & Support

Presented by:



Tina Uys, PhD
Professor of Sociology,
University of Johannesburg

&



Ugljesa Radulovic, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher,
University of Johannesburg

What you will learn:

- The experiences of South African state capture whistleblowers
- How the inadequate provisions for protecting whistleblowers in South African legislation could be addressed
- The role of civil society organisations in providing support to whistleblowers

24 May 2023 | **12pm EDT**

REGISTER AT
www.whistleblowingcanada.com

The Department boasts of notable grant awards: Prof Ingrid Palmry was awarded a R5 million National Institute for Health research grant, the Centre for Sociological Research and Practice (CSRP) was awarded R35 000.00 from the Teaching and Learning Innovation funds, as well as R1 million funding secured towards a documentary on labour tenants.

In addition to its outstanding academic achievements, the Department boasts of initiating a number of Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) which include:

- SLP on conflict transformation led by Prof Ingrid Palmry.
- Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice by Prof Patrick Bond
- Prof Luke Sinwell and Prof Farieda Nazier collaborated on an SLP titled “Marikana’s Memory: The Brush is Mightier than the Bullet”.
- Prof Tapiwa Chagonda developed and presented several SLPs on topics related to artificial intelligence (AI) ethics, including: The Ethics of Large Language Models; Research Ethics Across Disciplines; AI Ethics & the Financial Services Sector.

These SLPs and events demonstrate the Department’s commitment to public engagement and lifelong learning, providing valuable opportunities for professionals and the general public to gain knowledge and engage with leading sociologists on critical issues facing society today.

Doctoral candidates have participated and co-created the newly initiated annual PhD conference aimed at building academic networks between PhD candidates and facilitating progress at various stages of their research projects.



We are proud of our Master’s students, Gregory Koole and Lemeese Steyn, who were awarded opportunities to represent UJ at the United Nations Centre in Bangkok. Several of our Master’s students have, as part of Prof Patrick Bond’s intervention to create more public intellectuals, been published in op-ed editorials such as *SowetanLive*, *Mail & Guardian* and *Cape Times*.

We closed off the year with a prize-giving lunch, where we recognised the achievements and contributions of our top-performing third- year students, postgraduate students, and PhD graduates for the year.



DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVES

The Department has two notable international partnerships underway, spearheaded by Prof Ingrid Palmay. This includes a project funded by the National Institute for Health Research on the design of mental health interventions for migrants. This is a collaboration between Essex University in the UK, Tata Institute for Social Science (India), Wits University, Africa University (Zimbabwe), and UJ. Furthermore, Prof Palmay has participated in the evaluation of a Graca Machel Trust-funded evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming within accelerated learning programmes for children who are not attending school in Tanzania.

We hosted a number of exciting seminars this year on a variety of themes, including the impact of 4IR on society, BRICS, and the ethics of AI. The Department is particularly proud of the collaborations undertaken with colleagues in various departments, research centres, and chairs, as well as various organisations such as UNESCO and Wits University. The long-standing seminar series ran for another successful year, offering seminars under the themes of digital migration, decolonisation, and health matters.] In addition, Prof. Malehoko Tshoedi and Nthabiseng Motsemme participated in a panel discussion titled “26 years of the invention of women making African sense of Western gender discourses”, which was a celebration of Prof. Oyewumi’s seminal book, held at Unisa. The panel discussion included the internationally renowned African feminist scholar, Prof Oyeronke Oyewumi, Prof Babalwa Magoqwana, Prof Zodwa Radebe, Prof. Edith Phaswana, and Prof. Zethu Cakata. Further activities in the department included presentations by Prof Tina Uys and Dr Ugi Radulovic (Post Doctoral fellow) who presented a webinar titled “Achieving Social Justice for South African Whistleblowers: Protection and Support” for the Whistleblowing Canada Research Society. Staff and students presented papers at the International Sociological Association XX ISA World Congress of Sociology hosted in Melbourne, Australia, as well as the annual South African Sociological Association conference.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

The Department of Sociology is actively engaged in public discourse, sharing their research and insights with a wide audience through various media platforms.

Prof David du Toit has been a guest on SAFM and CapeTalk, discussing his research on the experiences of male domestic workers. His research has also been featured in The Conversation, shedding light on this often-overlooked demographic.

Prof Patrick Bond is a prolific public intellectual, regularly appearing in national and international broadcast and print media. He writes monthly columns for several international online media platforms and provides expert analysis to organisations like the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Centre for Natural Resource Governance, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, and South Durban Community Environmental Alliance. Prof Bond’s work is instrumental in bridging the gap between academic research and public understanding of critical issues like political economy and political ecology.

Prof Tapiwa Chagonda, an expert on Zimbabwe’s political landscape, has been interviewed by both Newzroom Afrika and Radio 702 to discuss the country’s recent elections. His insights provide valuable context to the political and social dynamics of Zimbabwe.

Ragi Bashonga was featured on the TimesLive / Ochre Media podcast ‘Touchgrass’ to discuss feminism and its role in contemporary society. Prof Luke Sinwell spoke about the CSRP’s research on the ongoing energy crisis on Pheli Fm; and Dr Trevor Ngwane was interviewed on NewzroomAfrika and ENCA to analyse the impact of Godongwana’s budget on the ANC and the Soweto electricity crisis.

The Department’s active media presence demonstrates its dedication to making sociological knowledge accessible to a broader audience. Through engaging and insightful commentary, the Department is contributing to informed public discourse and shaping the understanding of critical social issues in South Africa and beyond.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Prof Elizabeth Lubinga, HOD: Head of Department

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The year 2023 has been successful for the Department of Strategic Communication at various levels. Teaching and learning form the core of Departmental operations as is the case for the entire University. This year enabled us to settle into “normality” after the pandemic and its effects. The Department noted that the effects of the pandemic continue to subtly affect students. Nonetheless, the year 2023 ended with numerous other achievements embodied in the inaugural strategic communication hybrid conference, research, community and public engagement, internationalisation, visiting academics, staff and student achievements, global and national reputation, and academic citizenship among others, whose highlights are discussed below.

2023 KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND PERFORMANCE

Strategic Communication Inaugural Conference and others

The year 2023 was momentous for the Department that co-hosted with Lund University Sweden, a successful inaugural hybrid international conference at the School of Hospitality and Tourism, Bunting Road Campus on 28 and 29 September. The theme of the conference was Reflect, Re-think and Re-Imagine: A decade of Strategic Communication.



The conference was long overdue for a number of reasons. Firstly, the Department of Strategic Communication at UJ is only one of fewer than five established Departments in Africa and thus it potentially can play a crucial role in spearheading the growth of the discipline on the continent. Secondly, the conference opened a window into possibilities for value co-creation between international and national academia, industry and other key stakeholders providing an opportunity to break down silos. Thus, the conference

created synergy between experiential, propositional and practical knowledge through amalgamating theory, research, study and practice of Strategic Communication, as well as mapping out a way forward for the discipline. Specifically, conference attendees consisted of both national and international academics and practitioners. International presenters hailed from Sweden, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Lithuania, with national academics from Northwest University, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Industry practitioners from major organisations in South Africa, such as Sappi, Sibanye Stilwaters, DevCom and South Africa’s leading advertising as well as PR agencies, DNA Brand Architects, Magna Carta and Razor PR provided crucial industry insights. UJ students from Diploma to PhD level and staff provided insider perspectives on the occasion, but most importantly organised the conference that created a foundation for future strategic communication conferences and crucial networking for the discipline. A fundamental benefit of the conference, in line with the theme, was that even though it was meant to celebrate a decade of Strategic Communication, it enabled all the participants to consider a new theoretical paradigm shift for the discipline, emanating from a thought-provoking keynote address by Prof H Nothhaft from Lund University and the respondent Prof N Overton de Klerk (Emeritus Professor UJ). In addition, the conference enabled attendees to re-think interactions within and between academia and industry to create viable partnerships.



A number of positive comments accrued from the inaugural Strategic Communication Conference.



In contribution to UJs Strategic Objective five of National and Global Reputation Management, staff members organised and facilitated a number of national and international webinars as well as seminars, in addition to attending seven international conferences.

International Conferences

On 8 March 2023, Dr Karabo Sitto-Kaunda, Prof. Rene Benecke and Prof. Corne Davis were part of a Shared Value Initiative Pan-African hybrid-webinar. On 25 October, Dr Caroline Azionya and Prof Rene Benecke presented at the virtual Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communication Management. Dr Clarissa Muir presented at the Africa Communications Summit: Communications as a Game Changer in the Sustainability Agenda of Africa, held on 24 November 2023 organised by the World Communications Forum Association.

Virtual Conferences/Presentation



**National
Conferences**

NIHSS and the South African Dean's Association
(SAHUDA) Conference 25-27 October

RESEARCH

The Department initiated and engaged in several research projects including the following:

Prof P Moodley & Prof R Benecke	Future of PR - Delphi study linked to the International Public Relations Association (involving 40 countries):
Prof C Meintjes, Prof M Pritchard & Mr R Mabada	Using open and artificial pedagogy to teach academic literacy as a game for Strategic Communication students
Prof C Davis	Gender-Based Violence
Prof E Lubinga	Using Fotonovelas as Health Communication Strategies for teenage pregnancy among AGYW
Dr R Hattingh	A Rhizomatic Approach to Strategic Communication
Dr C Azionya	Value Creation in Strategic Communication among Millennials
Dr C Muir	Corporate Sustainability and Making Meaning of Organisational Purpose among SA organisations

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Department of Strategic Communication completed a successful year of teaching and learning in 2023 with a success rate of over 93% for most of the modules for its Diploma and Degree qualifications at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This percentage translates into an 8% increase from 85% achieved in 2022. This is due largely to a lot of effort invested in teaching and learning by all the teaching members of staff, as well as support provided to the students, thanks in part to the tutorial programme. The synergy between the two enabled the Department to improve teaching and learning.

With regards to the projects building teaching and learning, Prof C Meintjes, Prof M Pritchard & Mr R Mabada developed an App on academic literacy, as part of a project on using open and artificial pedagogy as a tool for teaching for Strategic Communication students, which was completed and will go live in 2024. The project will inform future academic literacy among students, which is important, given that many of our students' hail from disadvantaged backgrounds, with some of them interacting with information and communication technologies for the first time.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Collaborations - Pan-African collaborations were formed with institutions from Kenya and Namibia. Other international collaborations were fostered with the School of Communication and Reputation at Score India under the auspices of Prof R Benecke and Dr N Levy.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Staff members in the Department made a number of achievements.

Faculty of Humanities Awards

Under Faculty awards, Prof Mandla Radebe was awarded Faculty of Humanities Researcher of the Year. In addition, Prof Maritha Pritchard and Prof Corne Meintjes achieved the status of Fellow (FHEA) in recognition of attainment against the UK Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Learning Support in higher education.

Academic Journal

Dr Anna Oksiutycz-Munyawiri presided over a successful *Communicare* journal.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Prof Corne Davis gave her inaugural TEDex address under the umbrella of UJ. She participated in a number of radio and television broadcasts.

Two of Dr Roela Hattingh's 2 short stories were read on the programme Kortom on RSG, with "Boomplantdag" on 17 October and "Rieme" on 31 October 2023.

Staff Qualifications

In terms of academic achievements, Drs Caroline Azionya, Roela Hattingh and Clarissa Muir completed their doctorates, making it three completed doctorates among staff members in the Department in 2023.

Student Achievements

Student Community Engagement – Under the mentorship of Prof Mandla Radebe, the Honours students engaged in various change projects. Under the guidance of Dr C Muir, A Strategic Communication third-year group came second in the ESG Africa Competition and won R15,000 on 5 October 2023.



Student Awards – The third-year Diploma in Public Relations and Communication Management students won a gold assegai awarded by the Direct Marketing Association of South Africa under the mentorship of Dr C Azionya (in photo) on 9 November 2023.

And in addition, third-year students under the mentorship of Ms S Morapeli became finalists in the New Generations awards for their project Kid's Haven.



On 9 November 2023, Honours students won a silver award in the Pendoring Awards under the guidance of Prof M Radebe.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

National Teaching - Dr N Levy gave six workshops on marketing to over 100 Netcare Hospital staff.

On 26 October 2023, Dr Clarissa Muir facilitated three podcast sessions and interviews for the 5th Environmental Research Symposium by the Gauteng Province, as well as UJ PEETS. One of the podcast sessions involved storytelling by two waste reclaimers.

LOOKING AHEAD

The year 2024, will prioritise the improvement of teaching and learning for the Advanced Diploma in Public Relations and Communication Management, among other milestones. A staggered approach to reviewing our curricula and teaching of the Diploma will include the involvement of industry players. Other matters regarding throughput of postgraduate students at M & D levels, as well as Departmental research will form part of the Departmental agenda.

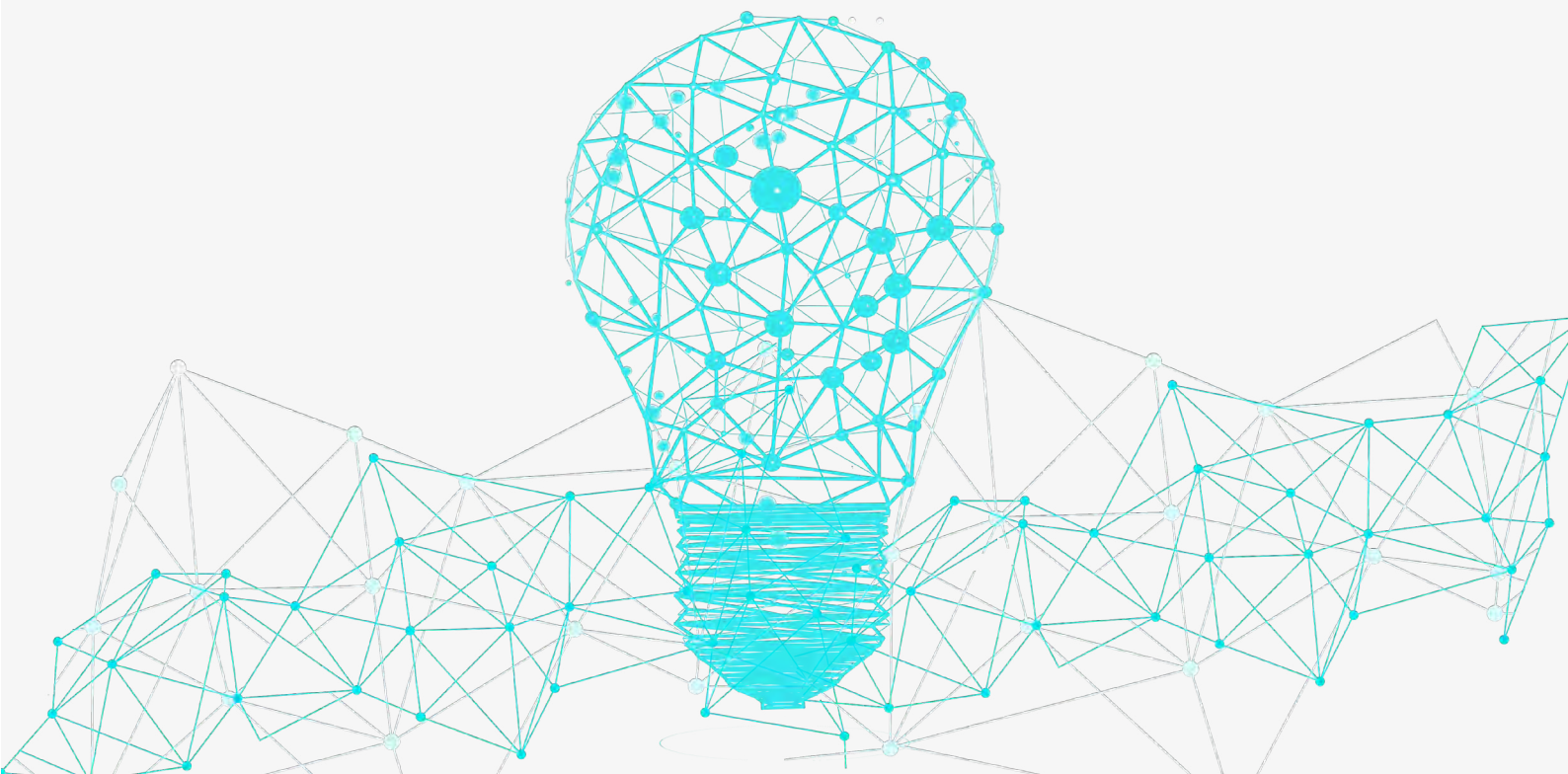


RESEARCH CENTRES

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR EPISTEMOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (ACEPS)	73
CENTRE FOR MEDIA, DATA AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION (CDDC)	75
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (CSC)	78
CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CSDA)	81
CENTRE FOR SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICE (CSRП)	84
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE, GENDER, AND CLASS (RGC)	88

SARCHI CHAIRS & INSTITUTES

PALAEO-RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PRI)	91
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AFRICAN CENTRE FOR EPISTEMOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (ACEPS)

2023 AT A GLANCE

Team: 6 Academics | 11 postgrads | 1 Postdoc | 60 research associates

Visiting researchers: 3 Professors & 5 Postdocs/PhDs

Collaborations: 17

Publications: 29 articles/chapters & 3 books

4IR Initiatives: 1

Postgrads: 11

Talks: 27—including invited, keynotes, interviews

Grants: R 2, 300, 000

Grant applications: 4

Conferences organised: 8

Weekly: Research, Reading & Writings Retreats

2023 KEY PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS



Background

Prof Veli Mitova: ACEPS Director

ACEPS was established in 2018 with the aim of capitalising on UJ Philosophy's unique concentration of expertise in epistemology and philosophy of science, as well as to cultivate young African talent in these areas. The aim is to continue to earn our African name by putting to work these traditionally Eurocentric fields in our African context. As a result, we have acquired a growing reputation for our research on epistemic decolonisation and injustice, and their links to 4IR and AI.

Where ACEPS wants to be

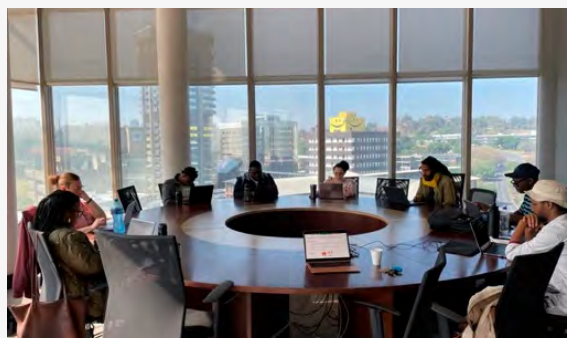
ACEPS became an independent centre in July 2022, giving it the space to concentrate on growing grant funding and international collaborations. We hope to add 4 PDRFs in 2024 to our 11 postgraduates, to ensure a unit of sufficient depth and international excellence. ACEPS will actively involve academics from the UJ Philosophy and other UJ Departments to strengthen and broaden UJ offerings.

ACEPS postgraduates had fun in 2023

ACEPS postgraduates enjoyed the full benefits of weekly writing retreats, research groups, seminar series, presenting at ACEPS conferences, and funding to present overseas. Not to mention a steady stream of international visitors!



Our team at the Hague in collaboration with TILT



Our team at home, writing

ACEPS postgraduates worked hard in 2023

We are especially proud that four of our PhDs submitted in 2023!



Dimpho

Abe

Caitlin

Akanimo

Grant funding for 2023

- NIHSS: *Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South*: R 1 000 000
- Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs: Epistemic Reparations 3-year project with Jennifer Lackey (Northwestern): R 600 000.
- GES funding for the *Epistemology of 4IR* project: R 170 000
- John Templeton Foundation renewal grant for *Geography of Philosophy* project: R 360 000
- Bielefeld funded Visiting Research Fellowship—2 months: R 160 000
- URC: *Decolonising Experimental Philosophy*: R 110 000

Consolidated our position in Africa

ACEPS is in the business of decolonising knowledge and markets itself by making its mark! In 2023, we ran five international conferences, all on topics related to decolonising knowledge and epistemic injustice. ACEPS also hosted a book launch for Prof Serote's biography, *Mme Ruth Mompati: a life of courage and service*

Our researchers got noticed

- 6 one-week funded visits to: Norway, Australia, Holland, Tanzania, Canada, Germany.
- 1 two-week NIHSS grant visit to India.
- 1 two-month visiting research fellowship to Germany.
- 1 two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at University of Quebec–Montreal.

8 SA and International Conferences/Workshops organised by ACEPS

- Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Conference
- TILT–ACEPS Global Data Justice Workshop
- Epistemic Injustice and Epistemic Decolonisation Workshop
- Epistemic Injustice and Datatech
- Lund–ACEPS Work in Progress Workshop
- Epistemic Blame and Epistemic Reparations Workshop
- Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South Workshop
- *Mme Ruth Mompati, a life of courage and service* - book launch

4 Ongoing collaboration negotiations

- Great Zimbabwe University
- University Dar es Salaam
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Erasmus Mundus MA programme application — partner with Glasgow University



2024 Looking Good

In the bag

- *Thinking from Everywhen: Between Philosophy and Indigenous Knowledges*: 6-week RSSS visiting research fellowship to Australian National University (ANU).
- 'Decolonising Philosophy' invited talk as part of a book launch colloquium – “*Andean and Amazonian Epistemologies. Indigenous Concepts of Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom*” @ Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.
- 7 overseas-funded in-coming PhD, PDRF & Professor visitors to ACEPS.
- 4 ACEPS workshops/conferences in the process of being organised.
- 5 talks by ACEPS members at Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Conference, Stellenbosch.

18 Continuing Collaborations

- 2 Australia: Australian National University; University of Melbourne
- 1 Brazil: PUCR
- 2 Canada: University of Brandon, University of Quebec - Montreal
- 1 China: Zhejiang University
- 3 EU: University of Vienna, University of Tilburg, University of Bielefeld
- 1 Peru: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- 1 South Africa: UJ Heteronormativity in Higher Educational Institutions, NIHSS
- 2 Switzerland: University of Zürich, University of Basel
- 2 UK: University of Kent, Liverpool
- 3 USA: Northwestern University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rutgers

CENTRE FOR DATA AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION (CDDC)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In its inaugural year, the Centre for Data and Digital Communication (CDDC) achieved significant success. Navigating through challenges posed by limited financial resources and human capital, the Centre showcased resilience and innovation in organising a series of high-profile events that gained positive attention and acclaim.

While these accomplishments stand as a testament to the Centre's relevance and future potential, it is essential to acknowledge that certain planned activities, notably fundraising initiatives, faced challenges in execution. Despite having received requests from potential funders urging the submission of funding proposals, capacity limitations hindered the full realisation of these initiatives.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, it is evident that the Centre's impact and potential are substantial. Moving forward, strategic measures to address capacity constraints and enhance organisational capabilities will be crucial. By doing so, CDDC can further harness its success and continue making meaningful contributions to the field in the years to come, and achieve its vision of being an internationally recognised Centre of excellence and innovation, using as its platform Johannesburg, South Africa's economic hub, to resolve and understand media and communication challenges in the context of a thoroughgoing digital transformation.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2023:

Seminars and webinars

As a key objective, the Centre aimed to collaborate with industry e.g., Google, Facebook etc., to host seminars and webinars to share research insights. In light of this objective, the following seminars and webinars were organised:

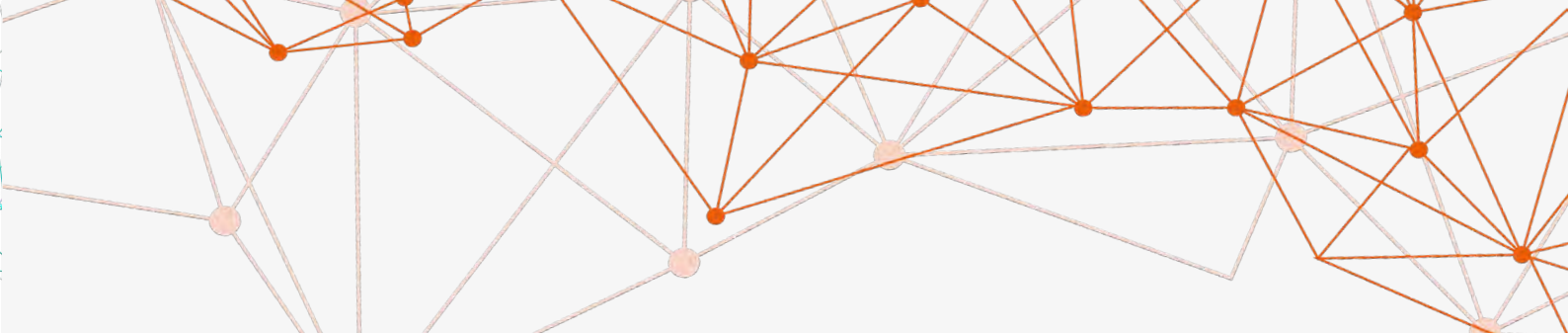
1. Social Media for Government Summit #SocialMedia4GovSummit (30 June 2023)

This was a successful hybrid event held at Bunting Road Campus, attended by over 100 people in person. Among the media present was Newsroom Afrika, which crossed live from the event.

(<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/669/239735.html>)

(<https://twitter.com/Newzroom405/status/1674649404278554626>)

(<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=821842659592667>)



2. The Google Africa Internet Academy (11 – 12 September: Africa internet academy: artificial intelligence (AI) for policy makers). This is an annual Google-sponsored workshop that brings together selected policy makers (from Sub-Saharan Africa) to discuss the latest trends in technology policy and regulation.

(<https://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/16/241680.html>)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XEfp7L5yKE>)

(<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/jbs-hosts-google-africa-internet-academy-embracing-ais-transformative-role-with-responsibility/>)

(<https://news.uj.ac.za/uj-to-host-google-africa-internet-academy/>)

(<https://omny.fm/shows/safm-sunrise-1/the-university-of-johannesburg-to-host-google-afri>)

(<https://www.itweb.co.za/content/P3gQ2MGA4j4vnRD1>)

(Emerging imperatives for a robust artificial intelligence regulatory framework (iol.co.za))

3. Public Sector Communication in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: The Promise and Perils (5 September 2023). A hybrid panel discussion, moderated by *Dr Karabo Sitto-Kaunda*, *exploring the potential of AI in public sector communication, along with the challenges it presents*.

Panellists

- **Mr Tumelo Komape:** Digital Communication Specialist, City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality.
- **Mr Aslam Levy:** Digital Transformational Strategist, e-Government Department at Western Cape Provincial Government.
- **Mr Lorato Tshenkeng:** Chief Executive Officer, Decode Communications & PR Agency
- **Ms Tshegofatso Modubu:** Director: External Communications, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

Book launches

1. *Teaching and Learning with Digital Technologies in Higher Education Institutions in Africa: Case Studies from a Pandemic Context*

SPEAKERS

- Prof Admire Mare (UJ, South Africa)
- Dr Erisher Woyo (MMU, UK)
- Dr Elina Amadhila (UNN, Namibia)

RESPONDENTS

- Dr Peel
- Mr. Goodwin Kaisara
- Dr Gifty Adjei-Appiah
- Dr Hellen Venganai
- Dr Sisanda Nkoala
- Dr Trust Matsilele

2. *Converged Radio, Youth and Urbanity in Africa: Emerging trends and perspectives* (27 June 2023).

PUBLIC LECTURES / 4IR LECTURE

1. *Beyond National Boundaries: Internationalism in the Digital Age* (22 June 2023: 4IR).

The 4IR lecture on the relevance of internationalism in the globalising and digitising world. The lecture focussed on some of the recent developments, such as South Africa's stance on the war in Ukraine.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Prof Vijay Prashad - Executive-director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, Chief Editor of Left Word Books, and senior non-resident fellow at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China.



DISCUSSANT:

Ms Molly Dhlamini - SACP Central Committee Member and Assistant International Secretary.

Prof Siphamandla Zondi - Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Institute for Pan-African Thought & Conversation at the University of Johannesburg.

RESPONDENT:

Prof Admire Mare - Department of Communication and Media, University of Johannesburg and digital media scholar.

Media engagement

- IOL, 05 October. Emerging imperatives for a robust artificial intelligence regulatory framework (Radebe, M.J).
- SA stands to benefit economically from AI adoption, By Sibahle Malinga, ITWeb senior news journalist. Johannesburg, 15 Sept 2023.
- Google Africa Internet Academy to focus on AI for Africa, 7 Sep 2023 (Business Community).
- SAfm Sunrise, 11 September. The University of Johannesburg to host Google Africa Internet Academy (Radebe, M.J).
- Power Breakfast on Power FM with Thabiso Tema, 29 June. Reflecting on the forthcoming Social Media for Government Summit #SocialMedia4GovSummit (Radebe, M.J).

Reports

Coordinated the School's response to Online Intermediation Platforms Market Inquiry (The Competition Commission of South Africa): Request for Comments on Inquiry Terms of Reference (01 May 2023).

Postgraduate research seminar

1. 3 May 2023

Presenters

- **Lungile Tshuma** - Senior Post Doctoral Research Fellow: Department of Communication and Media Studies
Topic: Unsung 'Brain Trusts': Sub-Editors and Journalism Practices in the Digital Age
- **Samuel Olaniran** - Post Doctoral Research Fellow: Department of Communication and Media Studies
Topic: The social lives of a conspiracy: Situating the online dynamics of trust, mistrust and conspiracy in the Global South
- **Abdullahi Ali Hassan** - PhD student: Department of Communication and Media Studies
Topic: Transnational Dispute Resolution Through the Xeer Law and ICTs among the Somali Communities in Johannesburg South Africa and Nairobi Kenya
- **Lisa Bangajena** - MA student: Department of Communication and Media Studies
Topic: Media representations of childless women in polygamous marriages

2. 21 June 2023

Presenters:

- **Sinakhokonke Ncongwane** - MA student: Department of Communication and Media
Topic: Conceptual Research in Communication Studies
- **Trevor Hlungwani** - PhD student: Department of Strategic Communication
Topic: In Search of a New Public Sphere: The Manifestation of Socio-Political Movements in the Online Media
- **Bheki Ncube** - Postdoc: Department of Communication and Media
Topic: TikTok and the reconfiguration of journalism practice.

3. 25 July 2023:

Presenters:

- **Mbongeni Msimanga** - Postdoctoral student: (JIAS – Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study)
Topic: Contending with online and offline harassment: A study of Southern African female journalists' experiences.
- **Elmon Motloutsi** - PhD student: Department of Strategic Communication
Topic: Exploring Social Innovation through Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement in Local Government: An Analysis of the New District Development Model (NDDM)
- **Dimpho Mogano** – Master's student: Department of Strategic Communication
Topic: Stakeholder Engagement and the Digital Divide: The Rapid Transition to mHealth by the NDoH for Health-Oriented Purposes During Covid-19

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (CSC)

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

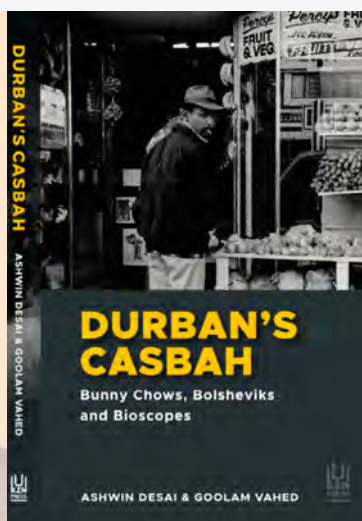
In 2023, the Chair saw a change in leadership with Prof. Kate Alexander leaving and Prof. Ashwin Desai assuming the position. Prof. Alexander's work in the SARCHI chair was renowned for its engagement with the aftermath of the Marikana massacre. As a researcher, scholar and activist, Prof Alexander authored or co-authored publications about this tragic event. She also sponsored research by other academics or students into Marikana. The widows, children and surviving comrades of the miners were also brought to campus for events commemorating the tragedy, but also pushing for accountability. Prof Alexander's commitment to her vision of social justice also involved the following special projects to which funds were devoted: (1,2,3).

Prof Desai has continued in this tradition, adding a focus on how sport indexes the class, race and ideological divides of our time, but also signals important social changes. The advent of large language models and AI computing in 2023 has also attracted attention. The Chair has explored – and produced preparatory work – for the roll-out of AI-driven tools focused on deepening public engagement with government in 2024.

STAFF

Besides Prof Desai, the Chair accounts for the work of two-postdoctoral fellows: Dr Kenny Chiwarawara and Dr Michael Kwet. The Chair is ably supported administratively by Ms Lorna Singh and Ms Carol Mbewu.

2023 KEY HIGHLIGHTS/PERFORMANCE



Prof Desai produced, with Goolam Vahed, a book titled, *Durban's Casbah: Bunny Chows, Bolsheviks and Bioscopes*, 2023. He authored the following journal and media articles:

- 'Beautiful Sorrow and the Tailend of a new innings', *Daily Maverick*.
- 'King Richards the Fourth? The Kingsmead Coronation that never came', *Daily Maverick*.
- 'More than victory or defeat - A Kingsmead cricket tale without beginning or end', *Daily Maverick*.
- 'Wounded attachments – a centenary of Test cricket at Kingsmead and the death of an unsung maestro', *Daily Maverick*.

- 'Geographies of racial capitalism: the 2021 July riots in South Africa', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 46:16, 3542-3561.

Prof Desai was also the recipient of the HSRC & USAF Established Researcher Award.

Dr. Kenny Chiwarawara authored the following work:

- 'Character and social organisation of community protests in South Africa'. *African Identities*. 'Violent protests in South Africa: understanding service delivery protests'. *Politikon*.
- 'Localised protests in South Africa: A rebellion or a fight for a relationship with the government?' *Politeia*.
- 'The Intersections of Past and Present Policies in Producing and Perpetuating Processes of Division in Cape Town'. In: Osman, A., Nagle, J., Tripathi, S. (eds) *The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities*. UEDC 2022. Advances in Science, Technology & Innovation. Springer, Cham

Dr. Chiwarawara also participated in numerous conferences and seminars, including:

- **South Africa: Durban: University of Zululand presentation.** Chair at the 2nd Anthropology & Development Studies Annual Conference, 24 - 25 August 2023 virtual conference, under the theme Decolonising Curriculum in the context of African Thought international conference.
- **South Africa: Durban: University of Zululand presentation.** Emelda Ndinteh and Kenny Chiwarawara. Unfinished business: The call for student movements to push for decolonising the university curricula in Africa. 2nd Anthropology & Development Studies Annual Conference, 24 - 25 August 2023 virtual conference, under the theme Decolonising Curriculum in the context of African Thought international conference.
- **Botswana: Gaborone.** MASA Hotel. SADC Youth Forum: Accelerating Regional Integration and Youth Participation in AfCFTA (25-27 July 2023).
- **South Africa: Durban. University of Zululand. "Shaming for progress:** The potency of shame protests. South African Sociological Association 2023 Conference. (5-7 July 2023).

In a notable piece of outreach and development:

- Dr. Chiwarawara co-presented a webinar at the University of Johannesburg on 'Capacity building emerging scholars' on 10 March 2023.
- Dr Michael Kwet was the sole editor of *The Cambridge Handbook of Race and Surveillance*, for Cambridge University Press, including writing two chapters, "The Golden Age of Racial Surveillance" and "Surveillance in South Africa: From Skin Branding to Digital Colonialism". His media articles included:
 - ~ 'Flying the KITE High against Digital Colonialism: FOSS in the Era of EdTech', *IT for Change*
 - ~ 'The Farce of Microsoft's Anti-Racism and the Capture of Academia', *Truthdig*
 - ~ 'Dawn of the Fediverse', *Truthdig*; and
 - ~ The 'Twitter Files' are a distraction, Al Jazeera

Dr. Kwet's forthcoming articles include:

- 'Big Tech antitrust: a critique from the Left'; and
- 'The Fourth Industrial Delusion'

Dr Kwet was an invited speaker at the following conferences:

- **Zambia:** Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age: Should Social Media Be Banned? Bloggers of Zambia, 22 September 2023.
- **South Africa:** Digital Colonialism, Degrowth and Tech Hegemony. AI Ethics in Africa, UNESCO & University of Johannesburg, 21 April 2023.

Seminars:

Over the course of 2023, the SARCHI Chair organised or sponsored (with the Centre for Social Change) a number of seminars, talks, and conferences. These included:

- Documentary Participation and Social Change: Methodologies and Critiques: presented by Dr. Shannon Walsh, 22 February 2023.

- The War in Ukraine and the Future of Brics, various speakers including Niall Reddy, Ronnie Kasrils, William Gumede, Ho-fung Hung, Ana Garcia, Trevor Ngwane, Patrick Bond, Boris Kagalisky and Kavita Krishnan.
- Booklaunch of *In My Life: Stories From Young Activists in SA: 2002 – 2022*.
- Confronting Obsolescence: AI and Humanities Degrees, by Heinrich Böhmke, 20 April 2023.
- Setting Free the Whistleblowers, presented by Prof Tina Uys, Dr Ugi Radulovic, Ms Cynthia Stimpel and Prof Ian Bron, 10 October 2023.
- BRICS from Below, a seminar held on 21 and 22 August 2023 led by Professor Patrick Bond.
- Water Colloquium: From Scarcity to Security, held on 23 and 24 October 2023, led by Rehad Desai and Prof Anthony Kaziboni.

2024: WILL YOU BE DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY?

In looking at the work of the Chair over time, it is apparent that ‘social change’ features heavily in all its activities. Our publishing history, seminars and events have been about this topic, mainly critiquing various social agents and forces as an impediment to a particular kind of social change we would like to see. This is a more egalitarian society, underscored by human rights. However, what the Chair has fared less well in pursuing, is social change as an outcome and not as the topic of our activities. Arguably, the Chair’s sponsorship or celebration of a protests against injustice and inequality may have brought betterment to those whose cause we championed. This is however notoriously difficult to measure. To more fully pursue change as an outcome, in 2024, we will attempt to harness the immense power of AI, to build tech tools that advance social change, equity or active citizenship. Our achievements here will serve as an experiment in the possibility of designing and developing artifacts that cause social change. The knowledge generated, including impediments faced, will serve the University’s overall research orientation well and perhaps make for a more effective use of funds.

Another change is to invest more heavily in inter-disciplinary work with other departments, engaging people with differing viewpoints. Hitherto, the Chair and the Centre for Social Change have collaborated very well on joint projects. It is however felt that the time has come to range more widely among other departments and even faculties in joint projects, and much attention will be given to building those networks. The Water Colloquium was greatly enriched by the presence of what might be called ‘government technocrats’. Their inputs were not only contested, but also served as a sobering reminder of realities and constraints often dismissed in the ivory towers of academia.

In 2024, the Chair will continue to invest in the development and empowerment of existing staff, including skills development (where appropriate) and guidance in publishing in credit bearing outlets.

Change management remains uppermost as a human resource imperative, ensuring that race, gender and disability are equity categories observed as far as possible in the work of the Chair. However, beyond these formal targets, change management is to be embraced in opening the work of the Chair to heterogeneous academic research interests, so that the notion of achieving social change is not restricted to an any particular ideological critique or understanding of social and economic forces. The proposition is that social change that benefits the working class is not solely or necessarily better achieved by fostering only activist-oriented research or work.

LOOKING AHEAD: NEW INITIATIVES/EVENTS/PROJECTS?

The Chair will expand its focus not only on social movements, but also on studying a technological advance that has already had a profound effect on society: the rise of AI.

It will foster critiques of this technology and the underlying social forces unleashed by it. At the same time, the Chair will build some of the tech itself to explore its potential to advance social justice (or be disillusioned in the process). Along this journey, we expect to learn new things about technology, power relations, and the capacity for systemic change in the world.

Including work of this nature does not interrupt the Chair’s historical and ongoing concern with social struggle. Activist research will continue to be supported and, in fact, cherished.

Given AI’s utility, a thorough look is a natural progression of the mission to study social change that impacts the working class and the poor. In this case, the research will be interdisciplinary, blending critique and creation. We will seek to not only understand the societal implications of AI, but also to harness its potential to instigate tangible change, offering a comprehensive study of technology’s role as both a threat and potential enabler of just societies.



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CSDA)

Prof Lauren Graham: Professor and Director

RESEARCH

The CSDA has been involved in a number of research projects in the past year, and we are profiling two below:

Nurturing Networks of Resilience: Youth Mental Health Project

The Youth Mental Health Project, funded by the NRF (National Research Foundation), focuses on assessing the prevalence of mental health challenges among a sample of youth. This study is an integral part of a broader global mental health survey and complements existing research on youth mental

health, risk, and resilience. The project aims to gather vital data to better understand the mental health landscape among young individuals. The results will be instrumental in designing multi-system interventions involving youth, parents, and teachers. By examining mental health issues, risk factors, and resilience in youth, the project seeks to contribute to more effective interventions and support mechanisms.

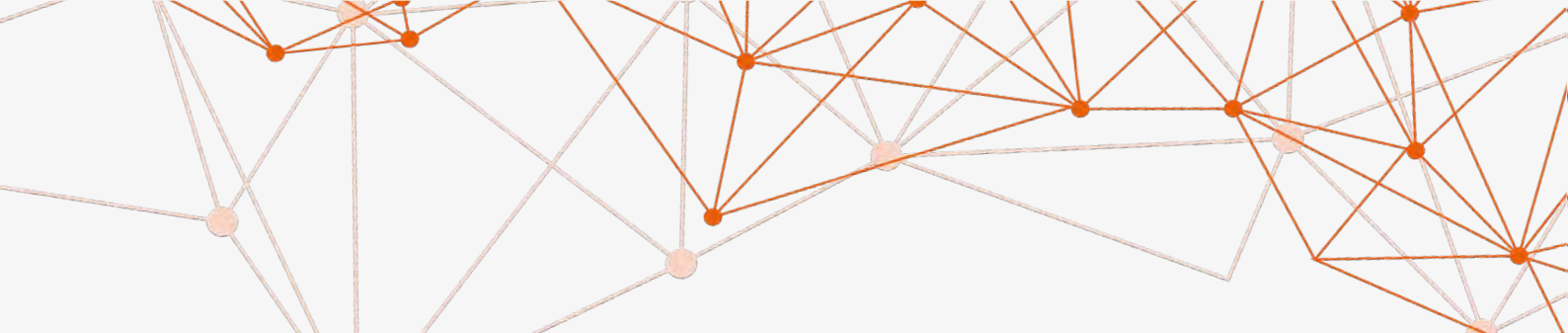
Understanding the effects of the SRD on informal traders

An important policy-related study, conducted in partnership with Women in the Informal Economy Globalising and Organising (WIEGO), has been on the role of the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant on informal traders. The SRD was rolled out to all people who were unemployed and not receiving any other form of state aid as a response to the Covid-related lockdowns and economic effects. This was the first time in South Africa's history that a grant was made widely available to working-age unemployed adults. Many of the beneficiaries were informal traders. As part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Package's work to evaluate the effects of the SRD, the CSDA and WIEGO were approached to understand how the grant had affected informal traders. The research was conducted in the Eastern and Western Cape and KZN and Gauteng with informal traders in the food sector. The findings demonstrate that although informal traders still lost a great deal of income over the period, the grant acted as a "buffer", allowing many to keep their businesses ticking over during that time. Informal traders also mentioned having new clients who otherwise would not have had the money to buy from them and who now could, given that they were receiving the SRD.

The research report was finalised this year and published on The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) website. It was authored by the CSDA's Sophie Plagerson, Senzelwe Mthembu, Thandi Simelane, Khuliso Matidza and Anita Mwanda, in partnership with Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). The study formed part of a larger initiative, supported by The Agence Française de Développement (AFD), to learn more about the economic impacts of the Presidential Employment Stimulus. This study, which formed part of a series of studies on the Employment Stimulus Package, was also presented at an Employment Stimulus Package Workshop held at the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit at UCT on 23 and 24 March.

CSDA researchers also presented the findings from the report at various seminars and conferences:

1. A research seminar hosted by the CSDA titled "Social and economic development effects of income transfers in South Africa: informal traders and the Social Relief of Distress Grant". Researchers presented the social and economic findings of this research, including informal worker perspectives on Covid-19, the nature of informal work, the importance of dignity and relationship work, and informal worker perspectives on the SRD and its future. The seminar garnered interest from various government departments such as SASSA, DSD national and provincial and the Department of Community Development, as well as NGOs such as Black Sash, who all contributed to an important discussion on the research and provided valuable feedback and recommendations.
2. The findings were presented to an audience of economists at the 2023 Biennial Economic Society of South Africa (ESSA) conference, which took place on 12 September at the CSIR Convention Centre in Pretoria. The work was presented at a special session organised by SALDRU on social protection.

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3. Lastly, the work was presented at the International Annual SASPEN Conference held from 25 – 26 October 2023, at the University of Mauritius, with delegates from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mauritius and South Africa, just to mention a few. The abstract presented was titled, *“Income Transfers and Local Economic Resilience during Times of Crisis in South Africa: The Social Relief of Distress Grant”* and was selected under the sub-theme, Social Protection for Non-Standard Workers.

The findings have been well-received and engaged with critically. The work remains relevant in the country during a time when the extension of the SRD grant is being reviewed, and a number of social protection debates continue to be had. It will be interesting to see how things develop and what the political will is to ensure that vulnerable groups are not left behind, especially as we near elections.

The findings were noted in the *President’s newsletter* and in two media articles on *TimesLive* and the *Daily Maverick*.

The CSDA, its research associates, Visiting and Honorary Professors, and students published widely in 2023. We are still capturing all publications but by the end of November, we had captured 48 journal articles, 1 edited volume, and 18 book chapters, resulting in a total number of 24.5 publication units.

Science engagement

The CSDA hosted the *International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) Africa* branches’ inaugural colloquium from 14-15 March. The colloquium focused on the theme “When Crises Collide: Social Development Responses to Intersecting Crises in Africa”. The colloquium was an intimate in-person gathering of eminent social development experts made up of 62 delegates from 12 African countries. The plenary session was titled *Reflections on the Field of Social Development in Africa: Key Successes & Ongoing Challenges* and featured Profs Abye Tasse Chief of Mission, Expertise France and Leila Patel, Distinguished Professor in Social Development Studies.

This year the CSDA team engaged extensively with media to influence public debate on key social development issues. In total, the CSDA generated about R8.5 million in Advertising Value Equivalence for the University. This includes both solicited and unsolicited media engagements. Some of the highlights included Prof Leila Patel’s article published in *The Conversation* titled *47% of South Africans rely on social grants - study reveals how they use them to generate more income*. The article generated significant media interest, Prof Patel was interviewed on *702*, *SAFM*, and *NewzRoom Afrika*’s *The Pulse* with Stephen Grootes and Thembekile Mrototo. The story was also covered in *MoneyWeb*, Leila was also featured on the podcast *Kaya Biz with Gugulethu Mfuphi* and was interviewed on *Cape Talk* about the myths around how grant recipients spend their money.

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana presented *The Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement* on 1 November and announced that the Social Relief of Distress Grant has been extended for another year. Professor Lauren Graham, spoke to *eNCA* about this extension.

Prof Lauren Graham participated in the *Daily Maverick’s Live Journalism Webinar “Now Hiring: The role of SMME’s in Addressing the Youth Unemployment Crisis”* supported by Youth Capital. Lauren together with Ray Mahlaka, Business Maverick Journalist and Michael Jordaan, Co-founder and Chair of Bank Zero and Former CEO of First National Bank, discussed the integral role that SMMEs play in combating South Africa’s youth unemployment crisis.

Community Engagement through Research

The Communities of Practice (COP) for Child Wellbeing project and Basic Package of Support (BPS) project are research projects that deliver important community engagement outcomes, and they are having direct impacts in communities. In the COP project we are working with teachers, social workers and caregivers to identify children who are at risk of poor wellbeing and to design interventions to better support these children. Prof Leila Patel was interviewed on *eNCA* about the *Communities of Practice for Child Wellbeing* projects wave 3 report findings, with a particular focus on the reduction of child hunger and caregiver depression.

The BPS project places trained youth coaches in local communities to support young people to overcome barriers they face, as they seek to transition learning and earning. The CSDA partnered with the UJ videography department to produce a series of documentaries capturing the stories and experiences of young people who are participating in the project at our Orange Farm site. The videos were screened at a *special screening* in Orange Farm on 13 October 2023.

You can watch the overview video here and meet Mwanda and Zanele who are both part of the BPS programme.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **13 Master's students** graduated in 2023, two with distinction.
- **Three PhD students** also graduated.

News24 published an article written by CSDA Masters graduate Tunusha Naidoo, "Technology helped me 'see'", which documents the power of technology to enable people with disabilities to be more included in society. Tunusha was born visually impaired, and she writes that the use of technology has allowed her to be more socially, economically, and educationally included in society. She is now studying for her PhD at the CSDA.

Dr Lauren Stuart, a 2023 PhD graduate and former staff member/ researcher at the CSDA, also published an important piece in *News24* about the social value of work as experienced by public employment programme participants.

Tshegofatso Rametsetse, a former MPhil student and first Prof Tessa Hochfeld Memorial Bursary Fund recipient, published an article titled "*Understanding the perceived psychosocial impact of father absence on adult women*" in Volume 53, Issue 2 of the *South African Journal of Psychology* and is available [here](#).

VISITING ACADEMICS

Prof Lauren Graham has partnered with Dr Lesley Doyle from Glasgow University, and Dr Geng Wang from Tianjin University on the Precarious Work and Future Careers project, funded by the British Academy. The team, which was convened in 2020 at the height of Covid-19, met for the first time in-person this month. A webinar titled "*Young People's Transitions from Precarious Work in China and South Africa*" was hosted by the CSDA at the UJ Library on 18 July 2023, where the findings of the two case studies were presented.

The CSDA also hosted Prof Bingqin Li from the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and CSDA Research Associate at a webinar on *The Use of Digital Technology in Social Development*. Bingqin spoke about the social development context in a changing world and discussed the potential benefits of digital technology.

Prof Panos Vostanis, a CSDA research associate visited earlier this year. Together with Prof Sadiyya Haffeejee, they worked with youth and community organisations, integrating mental health training into existing services.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Prof Leila Patel, former SARChI Welfare and Social Development, was awarded a Distinguished Professorship by the University of Johannesburg (UJ). In this role, Leila will remain connected to the CSDA and the work of the Interim Chair – Prof Raniga, and she will also continue to lead our flagship Communities of Practice for Child Well-being study until its completion in 2024. Prof Patel also launched the co-edited volume (with Prof Sophie Plagerson and Dr Isaac Chinyoka) of the *Handbook on Social Protection and Social Development in The Global South* which is a compilation of insight and case studies on social protection and welfare mixes from the Global South.

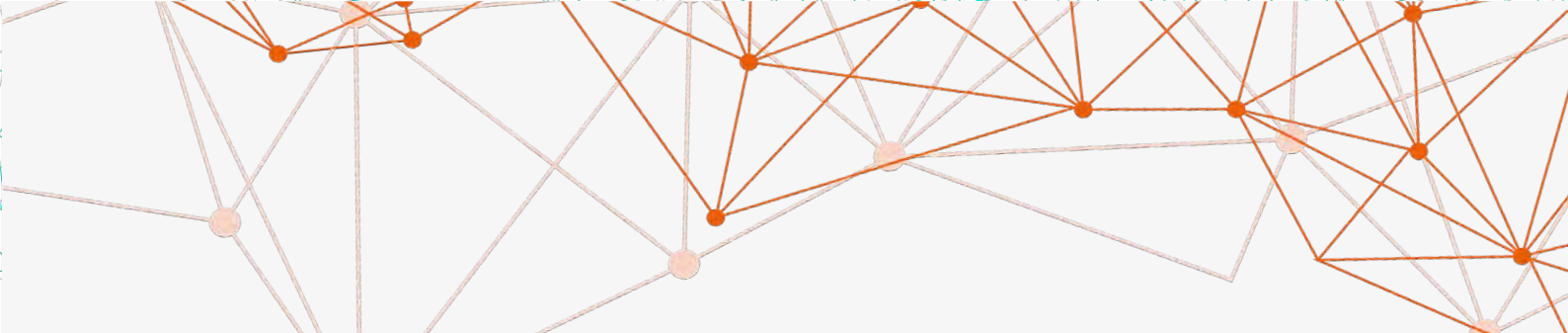
The CSDA was also honoured when the Communities of Practice Team, led by Prof Leila Patel, was recognised for its contribution to social justice. The team was named Runner Up in the Team award category of the prestigious *CEO Award from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Universities South Africa (USAf)*.

Distinguished Professor, Leila Patel delivered the Shanti Khinduka lecture at the ICSD (International Consortium for Social Development) 23rd Biennial Conference in August. At the conference, Prof Patel and Prof James Midgely (CSDA associate professor) were jointly awarded the Jim Billups International Social Development Leadership Award, which is awarded annually to honour a person/people who best exemplifies the values, commitments, and leadership in international social development, as characterised by the life and work of James Billups.

INTERNATIONALISATION

Prof Lauren Graham and Ms Viwe Dikoko continued their collaboration with colleagues at Tianjin University and Glasgow University on the Precarious Work and Future Careers project.

The CSDA has also worked closely with the Department of Public Law and colleagues at Southern Denmark University on a project – the *Just Society project* – focusing on welfare, the rule of law, and social justice. This collaboration also involved the development of a Short Learning Programme (SLP) on welfare and the rule of law. The SLP ran from July-November 2023.



The long-standing Master's exchange student partnership between the CSDA and Utrecht University (UU) in the Netherlands, is usually linked to an existing CSDA project and has yielded some of the most interesting Master's-level findings. In line with the CSDA's mission to build strategic international research partnerships, the students who participate in this exchange project are able to apply their research skills and knowledge in practice. This year, Fabienne Kannenberg joined the CSDA to work on her Master's studies, working on the Basic Package of Support programme.

Prof Flora Hadju from the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences gave an insightful talk to CSDA staff and students about cash transfers and rural development. Flora has conducted research over a two-decade period in rural Pondoland in the Eastern Cape on rural livelihoods, agriculture and social protection. About her time there, she has been interested to understand the material and social effects of the Child Support Grant over time.

2024: WILL YOU BE DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY?

In 2024 we will be investing in leadership and management training for four staff members, in an effort to improve our pipeline for succession planning. We will also be changing one of our thematic areas (currently called social and economic inclusion) to reflect a growing interest in social development and climate change. The thematic area will now be called social, economic and environmental justice.

LOOKING AHEAD: NEW INITIATIVES/EVENTS/PROJECTS?

The BPS project will be moving into an exciting new phase of scale up. We are working with the DG Murray Trust to foster several pathways to scaling up the programme now that we have been able to demonstrate the success of the programme. The CSDA will retain a role in intervention research to continue to analyse the longer-term impact of the programme, and to take the findings into policy discussions.

A growing area of research is on precarious workers. To this end we will be collaborating with the World Bank to conduct a study on the success factors for migrant and SA-national micro-entrepreneurs in three townships. The study will be used to inform the World Bank's strategy for engaging the South African government on how to support micro-entrepreneurs.



CENTRE FOR SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND PRACTICE (CSRP)

Dr Trevor Ngwane: Director: Centre for Sociological Research and Practice

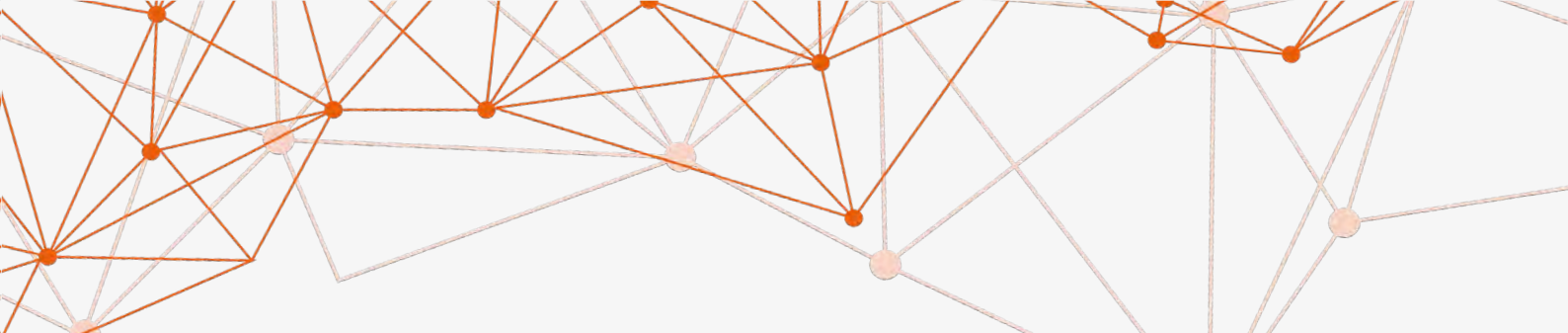
INTRODUCTION

The year 2023 was a challenging one for the CSRP because it lost members of its core team who left for greener pastures or assumed other duties at UJ. The lesson is that the Centre relies on the Director to derive value from building and working with networks, rather than building an institution in the old way. Nonetheless, there were notable achievements in research, teaching and learning, and community engagement. Unfortunately, the Centre inadvertently thrust the University and Faculty into controversy, sparked off by its research into

the sensitive topic of xenophobia and the rights of migrants in South Africa. Some important lessons were learnt. I am grateful for the constructive way the Dean and the Faculty handled the matter.

FUNDING

The CSRP raises funds for all its research projects and activities, except for the salary of the Director. The year 2023 was not a year of plenty, as several funding applications were not successful. Nonetheless, enough funds were acquired to carry out the main programmes of the Centre. The University of Kessel provided R150 000 from its Glocalpower Project, which was used to spearhead a new research programme into climate change at the CSRP. The work done developing community awareness and participation in the Joint Energy Transition Partnership, an international funding programme driven by governments, will hopefully open the door for further funding in 2024. The Centre is part of a consortium of international institutions applying for an 8-million-pound grant from the ESRC Centre for Green Finance and Just Transitions, - a decision will be made early in 2024. The



Centre will also apply for further funding from the Foundation for Human Rights to conduct Phase 2 of the Energy Racism Research Project, which this funder supported in 2022. Similarly, a funding application will be submitted to the UJ URC to support this research.

The NIHSS continued to fund the Sam Moyo Postdoctoral Fellowship programme, with two of the original five postdocs still attached to the CSRP. The NIHSS further provided R1-million for a film documentary on labour tenants, which is administered by the CSRP and part of its land reform programme. A new application for the extension of the Sam Moyo programme in 2024 to 2026 will be discussed with the NIHSS in the new year.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CSRP excelled in carrying out the 'practice' part of its name. The Centre's mandate is to find innovative ways of combining theory and practice, research and intervention. Public sociology expands the discipline's boundaries by engaging with non-academic audiences. UJ regards community engagement as a core academic function, which involves staff and students being aware of and assisting communities to address their needs. Societal impact is important in our work. For example, UJ has won international accolades because of its contribution to reducing poverty (Sustainable Development Goal number 1).

Participatory action research

The Centre is innovating with a research methodology that is arguably in line with community engagement, namely, participatory action research (PAR). The idea is to close the gap between researcher and researched, with the belief that this can help the research process to be aligned with societal needs. Through its work and documenting its experiences, the Centre has begun contributing to the development of the PAR research methodology in the social sciences.

Mainstream and social media interventions

Various platforms are used to facilitate contact and communication with the public. On behalf of the Centre, the Director honoured many invitations, granted interviews, wrote op-eds and engaged vigorously with the mainstream and social media on issues arising out of its research programme and those of general concern to the public (see Appendices for lists of interviews and op-eds). This work is supported by other staff members and students working at the Centre.

Civil society relations

Close relations have been built and diligently maintained with various communities, movements and organisations of civil society. This involves organising workshops and seminars and attending civil society activities (see Appendices for lists of organisations and activities attended). Climate change has increasingly become a major point of cooperation and collaboration between the Centre and civil society.

Interaction with state agencies and academic institutions

The Centre interacts with various state agencies, in addition to academic institutions. State officials invited the Centre to attend and contribute to various events, viewing the Centre as a source of knowledge and point of contact between the state and civil society. The South African Human Rights Commission invited the Director to speak at two events. He also spoke at a Human Sciences Research Council event on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and service delivery, attended by politicians, officials and researchers.

The Premier of the Gauteng Province requested the Centre to organise and prepare civil society and community-based movements to attend the Gauteng Energy Indaba. The preparation involved organising a pre-conference meeting between the movements and the Premier's Energy Technical Committee. Commitments were made at the Indaba for further cooperation.

The Centre's Director attended and spoke at several academic events, including at the University of Fort Hare, University of Pretoria, University of Zululand and Spelman College (Atlanta USA). He also attended various conferences, notably the 2023 Fall Research Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Atlanta USA) and the South African Sociological Association annual congress.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Centre contributes in various ways to the intellectual development of colleagues, including UJ staff members, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, interns and students. After working at the Centre for a year or so, some key colleagues, including postdoctoral fellows got better jobs at other institutions or got involved in other projects at UJ. These were losses to the Centre, but a contribution to academic scholarship and career development.

Four interns were active in the Centre's activities in 2023, including Sinqobile Akin, a DHET YES intern, who worked as an administrator. She will register for an MA degree in 2023 and wishes to continue at the Centre. One intern was an MA student and two were Honours students.

The Centre contributed its resources to organise the Department of Sociology's fourth term seminar series (a joint project with the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies). The CSRP interns helped organise the seminars with the theme was 'UJ Decolonisation Dialogues'. Highlights included attendance and input by victims of the 80 Albert Street fire disaster that killed 72 people, and an amazing discussion on decolonising social work, which was attended by about 100 people.

The Centre collaborated with the Department of Jewellery Design and Manufacture in the UJ Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, to organise a month-long art exhibition and conversations in commemoration of the Marikana massacre. A resident artist, Ayanda Mabulu, was appointed to curate his work with this theme in mind. Students and staff were invited to attend. The resident artist's idiosyncratic and overly provocative style raised some concerns. The HSRC and other funders provided support for this amazing effort at marrying art and social science.

Professor Immanuel Ness was a visiting professor at the Department of Sociology. The CSRP director has a long acquaintance with this scholar. The Centre facilitated community contacts for Ness, including in Thembelihle, where he is conducting research into migration, focusing on migrants from Malawi. The Centre is collaborating with him in research into the 80 Albert Street building fire. It is also exploring a research project with Ness into precarious workers in public institutions and state-owned entities.

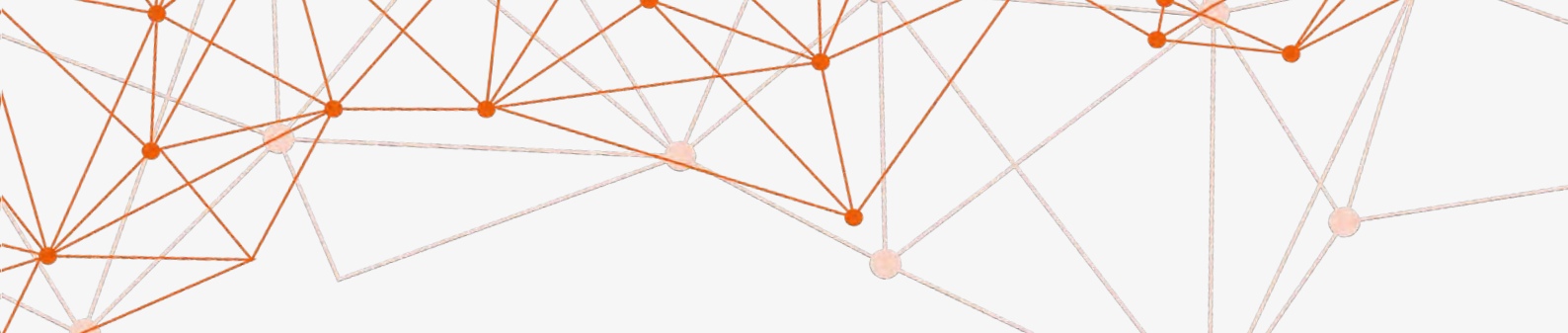
RESEARCH

The main research project in 2023 was the investigation of the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit under the Centre's migration and xenophobia research programme. The research was a response to the announcement by the government to scrap the permits of 178 000 Zimbabweans living in South Africa, thus disrupting their lives. Not applying for ethical clearance and a backlash from anti-immigrant groups mired this research project, which yielded interesting insights into the lives and views of Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa. The research employed elements of the participatory research methodology (PAR), including employing Zimbabwean researchers to run the project.

The Energy Racism research project continued in the form of research conducted in the Midway Industrial Park upon request by the Midway Business Forum. This research employs PAR methodology, including attending meetings between the authorities and the businesspeople whose businesses are going bankrupt due to loadshedding and poor service from Eskom. The focus of the research project is to find solutions.

The Centre is working with the Special Master of Labour Tenants, providing research and training to organisations of labour tenants fighting for land restitution. The CSRP provides ongoing research support for land claims and aids labour tenants in building capacity to take forward their struggle, including providing advice and participating in training workshops. The NIHSS-funded documentary into labour tenants is administered by the Centre, including providing research support.

A new research programme focusing on climate change emerged in 2023. Working with colleagues based at the University of Kassel, Germany, the Centre organised a workshop to kickstart a project based on the Just Energy Transition Partnership, an international project that provides funding for South Africa and other developing countries to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The Centre provides research and logistical support with the aim of increasing the participation of working-class organisations and grassroots environmental groups vis-à-vis big business and the state. Meetings were held with communities, some research conducted, and a community facilitator was appointed to get the project off the ground. This work will develop into a fully-fledged research project in 2024.



The film 'Our Resistance, Our History: Democratising Research in Thembelihle, South Africa' was produced and screenings organised in Thembelihle, an informal settlement near Lenasia, and at the Bioscope, a venue in town. The documentary is based on CSRP-inspired community engagement with the Thembelihle community and on the book 'The Participation Paradox' by Luke Sinwell, which tells the story of this community's struggle for housing and other services.

PUBLICATIONS

The Centre published two peer-reviewed journal articles based on its research into energy racism and a book chapter based on its work into migration and xenophobia. A strategy is being developed to publish even more by using the Director's intellectual and organisational networks. The postdoctoral cohort is part of this network and in 2023 at least five publications came from this group. It is worth noting that joint publications with authors not based at the CSRP reduces the number of DHET units earned, an issue that must be factored into the Centre's publishing strategy going forward.

One writing retreat was organised in 2023 for the benefit of postdoctoral fellows. It focused on helping with articles in preparation for publication and providing advice on which journals to submit to. The Centre is now left with two postdocs and in 2024 will provide greater support to help them publish.

The Director will focus on writing and publishing in the first quarter of 2024, including prioritising sole authored articles. Work will continue in collecting chapters for the CSRP book project that is focusing on the labour movement in Africa. The co-editors are Immanuel Ness, Luke Sinwell, Hibist Kassa and Trevor Ngwane.

INTERNATIONALISATION

The CSRP has a PhD candidate studying energy racism, and based at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. This relationship provides the basis for cooperation with this institution in 2024, especially as the candidate nears completion of her studies. The Centre's relationship with the Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies in Zimbabwe will be developed further, and joint funding proposals will be submitted for a book project and symposium.

During a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, the Director met members of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management who want to have an international conference in South Africa in 2024 on 'Remedies to Racial and Social Inequality', in which the CSRP would organise a strong UJ presence and invite representatives from civil society organisations.

NEW STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES IN 2024

The main lesson from 2023 is that the CSRP cannot operate in the old way of building a team of staff members and researchers employed by itself. It is important for the Director to leverage his reputation and networks, so that they contribute to taking forward the Centre's research, teaching and learning, publications and community engagement programmes.

Fundraising will be an important focus in 2024, with funding applications to be submitted as reflected in the funding section above. The new strategy is to collaborate with international and local organisations in joint funding applications. This will yield more money, while extending the CSRP's networks providing ground for further development of its programmes and funding opportunities.

The Centre will support colleagues and students to carry out the Centre's work, develop their careers and contribute to academic scholarship. An internship programme will be developed. Senior students and staff members will be assisted to grow through seminars and joint work.

The Centre will develop a short learning programme (SLP) to train and accredit community researchers who often work as 'research assistants', developing skills as interviewers, interpreters, transcribers and report writers, but never formally acknowledged. The SLP can fill gaps left by on-the-job training and experience. Funding for the SLP will be sought from the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP SETA).

The research programme of the Centre will be expanded to include climate change and the just energy transition. This work opens the possibility for a wide variety of topics, activities and interdisciplinary approaches and collaborations. It allows for the Centre's involvement in practical projects, such as researching and assisting in

the building of Small-Scale Embedded Generation of renewable energy, that can alleviate energy poverty and contribute to fighting climate change. This promises to be a challenging and exciting new orientation for the CSRP.

Thank you for your attention.

APPENDICES

List of publications by the CSRP 2023

- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e4494c86-b503-3147-aacc-1dca01381893>
- List of newspaper op-eds published by CSRP director <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:31497dc8-8920-3c34-a814-eb93d5610d1a>
- List of mainstream media interviews granted by CSRP director
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:9b9ce9ad-a866-32be-a76f-0c1f0329a764>
- List of events attended and activities participated in by the CSRP
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:fd02ff22-fe75-34ce-aaad-a04f81dd51af>
- List of civil organisations the CSRP frequently interacts with
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d73eb386-9909-3914-8b6f-2e14c253c7fc>



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF RACE, GENDER, AND CLASS (RGC)

Victoria J. Collis-Buthelezi : Associate Professor in English, and Director

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

It has been another exciting year for the Centre for the Study of Race, Gender & Class (RGC), which continues to nurture a dynamic, interdisciplinary programme and growing research community. 2023 marked the Centre's third year of activity under the directorship of Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi. In that time, RGC has developed a reputation, locally and internationally, for supporting critical and creative scholarship at the intersections of race, gender and class, and with an unapologetic emphasis on black, decolonial, feminist and queer projects of emancipation. Recognition of the Centre's work and urgent relevance is

evident in its capacity to attract leading scholars in the field, as well as funding grants and valuable transnational partnerships. We are excited to share key highlights and accomplishments for 2023, as well as areas of future growth we have identified and are working towards.

GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Over the course of the year, RGC attracted over R1 500 000 in funding. Significant to this was the awarding to the Centre of a National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Catalytic Research Programme grant, assigning R1 000 000 to research and development work for a dedicated Master's programme in Global Blackness Studies. The proposed postgraduate programme will be the first of its kind in South Africa, and through it, RGC hopes to develop a dynamic Global South platform and community for cutting-edge research on black histories, practices and political imaginaries. Planning towards the MA has already commenced and will be supported by further consultations and planning sessions with local and international scholars, creative practitioners and activists. In addition to the grant, further funding was raised through productive collaborations with the Centre for Experimental Ethnography (CEE), University of Pennsylvania, the Centre for Global Black Studies, University of Miami, and the newly launched Collaboratorium for Radical Aesthetics at Princeton University.



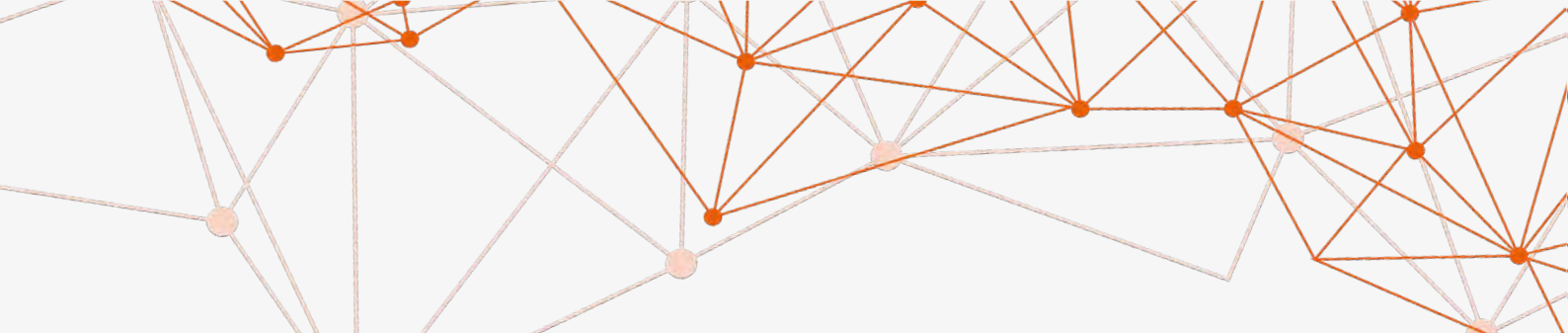
A DYNAMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Building community around research projects is at the heart of RGC's interdisciplinary events programme, which includes exhibitions, screenings, book launches and workshops, as well as public lectures, seminars and international exchanges. Kickstarting the 2023 programme was *Think from Black: A Lexicon*, a three-day programme funded by Columbia University and the Princeton Collaboratorium for Radical Aesthetics and convened by RGC, in collaboration with the Practicing Refusal Collective, an international black feminist forum of artists and scholars committed to dialogue around anti-black violence and black futurity. Seven members of the collective joined from France and the USA, gathering in Johannesburg with seventeen locally based artists, thinkers, writers and curators. Hosted by Pan-African residency space LAPA and the Library of Things we Forgot to Remember, a programme of intimate conversations and workshops allowed for meaningful exchange around the possibility of a more expansive conceptual vocabulary for black life, in all its multiplicity. Extending this productive interaction, a publication is currently in development and is scheduled for release in 2024 through Alchemy, an imprint of Knopf spearheaded by renowned poet and Practicing Refusal Collective member Dionne Brand.

June saw another exciting transnational collaboration, as RGC and the Centre for Experimental Ethnography at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) collaboratively presented *Sighting Black Girlhood* in Johannesburg. *Sighting Black Girlhood* is a transnational curriculum and exhibition project, circling between Kingston, Philadelphia and Johannesburg. At the core of the collaboration is an annual exhibition project and curated programme of conversations, studio visits, screenings, listening sessions and shared meals. Each year, a different global location grounds artistic reflections on black girl identities, experiences and possibilities. Over the course of a week, visiting artists and students from New Local Space (Kingston) and UPenn (Philadelphia) had the opportunity to interact with UJ students, as well as artists, writers and filmmakers in the Johannesburg, working at the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and youth. Together we explored the personal, psychic, spiritual and economic costs and benefits associated with black girls dreaming and performing their freedom. Building on the relationships and opportunities sparked through this institutional exchange, an exhibition at the Market Photo Workshop Gallery in Johannesburg is planned for 2024. Conceived by RGC curator Dani Bowler, and titled, *Reflections: on Black Girlhood*, the show aims to trouble, care-for, play-with and re-imagine black girlhood. Participating artists include Haneem Christian, Ruth Seopedi Motau, Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi, Motlhoki Nono and Lebohlang Tlhako.

In addition to these significant collaborative programmes, RGC hosted numerous book launches and seminars with local and international authors, as well as the transnational colloquium, *Race and Caste; Hierarchy and Universality*, which put leading scholars from India, the Caribbean, the United States and South Africa into productive dialogue, resulting in a special edition publication project on black and Dalit antiracist and anticaste struggles. The papers from this colloquium have been accepted to appear in a special issue of the Duke published journal *Critical Times*. Other highlights included the 17th annual Helen Joseph Memorial Lecture with UJ Chancellor and former Deputy President of South Africa, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and a public lecture with her Excellency Anielle Francisco da Silva, the Brazilian Minister for Racial Equality. Presented in partnership with the Faculty of Humanities and the UJ Transformation Unit, these high-profile events attracted a diverse audience, ranging from ambassadors, ministers and foundation representatives to UJ staff and students. As with all RGC programmes, video recordings of these public events were posted to the RGC YouTube channel, attracting hundreds of views from the Centre's broader Pan-African and black diasporic community.

For the last three years, RGC has held an interdisciplinary Global Blackness Summer School, which runs over November and into the first week of December. This programme of in-person and hybrid events is a calendar highlight for the Centre and has done much to foster a growing local and international interest in Global Blackness studies, which remains a central focal area for the Centre. This year's school was titled, *For Wholeness. Black being well*, with a focus on alternative practices of black wellbeing within a normative context of 'whiteness-as-wellness'. Over five weeks, participants were encouraged to think, feel, stretch, play, dance, dialogue, listen and delight their way into radical, creative and community-based practices of black being well. Sessions from this year's summer school included a 4-week series of self-care dance classes for mothers and caregivers facilitated by Dr Dee Marco of Mother.Lab; online sessions with leading black studies scholars, authors and practitioners Christina Sharpe (York University), Jovan Scott Lewis (UC Berkeley) and Dr Cathy-Mae Karelse (UK-based



systems change specialist); a masterclass on black queer spirituality, body-work and wellness practices with Dr Danai Mupotsa; a listening session with black Intellectual Praxes and RGC archivist Nombuso Mathibela; artist conversations, walkabouts and readings with Gabrielle Goliath, Maneo Mohale and Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi; and a special screening and installation by award-winning filmmaker Milisuthando Bongela.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

RGC is thrilled to announce the 2023 publication of *Ordinary Notes* by Prof. Christina Sharpe (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), a creative literary work that unfolds as creatively as it does intellectually – considering the work of a memorial, in tandem with intimate recollections that weave personal memory into its critical considerations. As part of this year's Global Blackness Summer School, Prof. Sharpe was joined in dialogue with New York-based sound healer, reiki practitioner, herbalist, writer and community care worker J Wortham, South African poet Maneo Mohale, and RGC curator Dani Bowler. A video of this extraordinary gathering is available on the RGC YouTube channel.

RGC is equally excited by the recent publication of Dr. Anäis Nony's new book, *Performative Images – a Philosophy of Video Art Technology in France* (Amsterdam University Press). Traversing the fields of visual culture, performance studies, digital studies, critical race theory, and feminist practices, the book explores how artists and activists working in video-based media enact critical shifts in social and psychic life. This timely publication will form part of an interdisciplinary, transnational programme on race, gender and the digital to be hosted by RGC in mid-2024 as a critical extension of UJ's strategic focus on 4IR. As the founder of The Write Technique, Dr Nony is also a leading writing coach and mentor, and has conducted a number of empowering, care-centric writing workshops in Johannesburg, hosted by RGC. A number of RGC Research Associates are also in the process of completing solo-authored book projects, and we look forward to announcing and celebrating these in 2024. Other research highlights include journal articles and chapters by Prof. Ronald Cummings, Prof. Christina Sharpe, Dr. Felix Mutunga and Prof. Victoria Collis-Buthelezi. We are also excited to welcome Danielle Bowler and Thuthuka Sibisi as PhD candidates, registered in the English Department and affiliated with RGC.

RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES

We like to think of ourselves as an intellectual start-up – a new space with a big vision and a growing, supportive research community. Over the last three years of active programming, we have accomplished much, and we are proud of the positive association we enjoy in local and international black, decolonial, feminist and queer studies communities. We still have much to learn, improve upon and expand as we seek to establish ourselves as a robust and dynamic intellectual home in the Global South, supporting much-needed scholarship on intellectual, creative, spiritual and everyday practices that refuse and reimagine a world shaped by white supremacy, heteropatriarchy and global capitalism.

Over the last year, RGC has actively strengthened its administrative capacity, identifying this as crucial to the Centre's success. Measurable improvements have been made already, aligning our activities and processes with University protocols, and for this we are indebted to Kutlwano Mokwena and the guidance of Dikeledi Seranyani. We look forward to further streamlining our operations over the course of next year, ensuring the Centre is suitably equipped to realise – and realise excellently – the many projects and opportunities that lie ahead. Another key area identified for improvement is the consistent, meticulous work of tracking, collating and successfully submitting subsidy-bearing research outputs. With the help of a dedicated research liaison, we look forward to strengthening our communications and research-related systems over the course of 2024, ensuring that UJ, RGC and its affiliated scholars benefit from the significant academic and creative research work being done through the Centre.

LOOKING AHEAD

RGC is excited to welcome a number of new Research Associates and Fellows to its research community! Announcements will be made in the early part of next year. 2024 will also mark the first iteration of the Centre's *Report on the State of Gender in South Africa*; a biannual convening of leading scholars, writers, artists and activists working at the intersections of race, gender and sexuality in South Africa. The project aims to develop an online resource, tracking critical interrogations of rape culture, femicide, queerphobia, transphobia and Afrophobia in South Africa, as well as radical, survivor-centric and life-affirming responses and resources. In

addition to other projects and programmes already mentioned, a significant new research initiative will be launched in collaboration with the Other Universals Consortium, a collective co-founded by RGC Director Prof. Victoria Collis-Buthelezi. Titled, *Lineages of Equality*, the programme will elaborate and reflect on the legacy of the First Universal Race Congress of 1911 and its leading lights from South Africa and South Asia. Outcomes of this transnational collaboration will include web-based educational tools, a portable exhibition (to be launched in Johannesburg), and an academic-creative book with contributions from participating researchers, as well as literary doyens and other special guests from South Africa and South Asia.

As we continue to grow and cultivate a space of intellectual hospitality and innovation in the Global South, we welcome the generative input of our broader community and the possibility of new creative partnerships. To learn more about RGC and its community, please visit www.racegenderclass.org and sign up to our newsletter, or connect with us directly via email (csrgc@racegenderclass.org) or Instagram (@[racegenderclass.uj](https://www.instagram.com/racegenderclass.uj))



SARCHI CHAIRS & INSTITUTE PALEO RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PRI)

Dr Dipuo Winnie Kgotleng: Director: Palaeo-Research Institute

RESEARCH

Our 2023 publications are on track to exceeding 2022 outputs. Thus far, we published at least 35 papers in ISI indexed journals (including publications by our Research Associates), four which are in journals with impact factors greater or equal to 4. The P-RI maintains publications in such high-impact journals every year, which we consider to be promising for a new research entity with a relatively small capital footprint at UJ.

Table 1. Research productivity per staff member.

2023 (Provide quantity of articles)				
Staff Member	Published	In Press	Accepted	In Review
Bradfield, J	5	0	0	3
Caruana, M	4 (two accredited)	2	1	2
Caruana, S	3	0	0	2
Kgotleng, D.W.	0	0	1	3
Lombard, M.	11 (2 in <i>Nature</i> journal)	5 (two accredited)		
Lotter, M	6	4	4	1
Total	28	11	6	11

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

We are developing UJ's capacity to offer small-scale, sustainable higher education training in the palaeo-sciences, by providing a student-centered learning environment for postgraduate research and selected undergraduate courses that aim to equal international standards in field-related education. Table 2 below demonstrates the P-RI's contribution to UJ's teaching requirements. We offered four undergraduate modules and a single postgraduate module through the Department of Anthropology. 2023 also marks the year during which the second doctorate in the Palaeo-Sciences was awarded at UJ to Dr Stephanie Caruana, supervised by Profs Lombard and Bradfield.

Table 2. Palaeosciences courses offered by P-RI staff through the Department of Anthropology.

Lecturer	Level: Course Code	Module
Bradfield, J.	PhD: ATL0129	Thesis
	Master's: ATLX01/02	Dissertation
	2 nd -Year: ATL2A & 2B	Big Theory & Methodology
Caruana, M	Honours: ATL8X02	Methods in Palaeo-sciences
	1 st -Year: ATL1A11/1AA1	Introduction to Human Origins and Evolution
Caruana, S	1 st -Year: ATL1A11/1AA1	Introduction to Human Origins and Evolution
	3 rd -Year: ATL 3A11/3AA3	Human Origins
	Honours: ATL8X02	Methods in Palaeo-sciences
		Drimolen Field School
Kgotleng, D.W.	Honours: ATL8X13	Project
	Honours: ATL8X02	Methods in Palaeo-sciences
	Master's: ATLX01/02	Dissertation
Lotter, M	3 rd -Year: ATL 3A11/3AA3	Human Origins
	Honours: ATL8X02	Methods in Palaeo-sciences

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Thus far our staff members have participated in six conferences and workshops.

- Kgotleng, D.W. A unique palaeoscience career trajectory. African Palaeoproteomics Workshop hosted by Human Evolution Research Institute (HERI) UCT, February 2023.
- We hosted an internal Palaeo-Research Symposium on 27 October 2023.
- Bradfield, J. Vanished technologies brought to light through the traceological analysis of worked osseous objects. 14th International Council of Archaeozoologists conference, Cairnes, Australia, 8-13 August.
- Lotter, M.G., Caruana, M.V. & Lombard, M. Pleistocene hominin occupation in the Magaliesberg: exploring lifeways through landscape adaptations and lithic production strategies. Biennial Meeting for the Society for Africanist Archaeologists. Rice University, Houston, Texas, June.
- Lombard, M. Bow hunting in the precuneus. Neuro-archaeology and Re-inventing the Wheel Workshop, Lyon, France, May 2023.
- Lotter, M.G., Caruana, M.V. & Lombard, M. Pleistocene hominin occupation in the Magaliesberg: Exploring lifeways through landscape adaptations and lithic production strategies. Society of Africanist Archaeologists Conference, Houston, USA, June 2023.
- Tylén, K., Qvist, A., Kjeldsen, R., Rojo, S., Heimann, K., Fay, N., Johannsen, N., Riede, F., Lombard, M. & Fusaroli, R. Reconstructing early human symbolic evolution using transmission experiments. Cognitive Science Society Conference. Sydney, Australia, July 2023.



Figure 1. Students presenting during the Palaeo-Research Symposium



Figure 2. Dr Kgotleng hosted students for a bring a girl to work day managed by Workers world.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Two staff members received NRF ratings this year:

- Y1 National Research Foundation research rating: awarded to MG Lotter.
- C2 National Research Foundation research rating: awarded to M Caruana

FUNDRAISING

By August 2023 our staff members had raised at least R315 778 in research grants, listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Internal and external funds raised.

2023			
Staff Member	Funder	Project Title	Amount
Bradfield, J	UJ URC	Replacement camera for the fluorescent microscope	R114 600
	ICAZ	Attendance at the 14th conference of the International Council of Archaeozoologists	R9 178
Caruana, M	NRF AOP	Investigating the Hunting Hypothesis at the Acheulian site of Wonderboom (Tshwane, SA)	R 60 000
Kgotleng, D.W.	UJ URC	Plio-pleistocene primate postcrania research in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa	R32 000
Lombard, M.	UJ	Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research (last year for funding for reward received in 2018)	R100 000
Total			R315 778

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

- P-RI Open day. In May 2023 the P-RI staff hosted an Open-day aimed at showcasing the research undertaken by the institute. This Open Day was well-attended by UJ Faculty of Humanities undergraduate students. As a result, there has been a significant uptake in honours applications in palaeosciences. The Open Day focussed on introducing students to the existing opportunities provided by the P-RI, as well as careers in palaeosciences and questions surrounding funding opportunities for extended postgraduate studies.
- Prof. Bradfield gave several radio and newspaper interviews to promote the publication of the discovery of the oldest medicine container in southern Africa. These included to SAfM, Cape Talk, Radio France Internationale, Nature Africa, Radius and several others.
- Drs Matthew Caruana and Matt Lotter, and Prof Marlize Lombard conducted excavations during July at the Stone Age site of Wonderboom in Tshwane. A team of student volunteers joined and were given training in palaeoscientific methods. In addition, the team also interacted with local community members and site visitors on a weekly basis, educating them about the importance of the archaeological site and the surrounding Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve.
- Dr Matthew Caruana donated funds to the Amanzi Town (Kariega, Eastern Cape) for purchasing school shoes for 10 under-privileged children in January, as well as to support Nelson Mandela day celebrations for the town in July.
- Dr Stephanie Caruana has done two school talks for primary school aged children on the importance of South Africa's fossil heritage and our shared human origins.
- Dr Stephanie Caruana hosted (at Drimolen and in the Fossil Hominin Vault, Wits University) a delegation of international science enthusiasts, in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and Popular Archaeology Magazine.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Southern African Field Archaeology (a.k.a. FIELD) in its revived format is a non-profit, open-access journal currently funded by the Palaeo-Research Institute, University of Johannesburg, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation. FIELD aims to communicate basic data, findings, syntheses and opinions about all aspects and periods of southern and/or sub-Saharan African archaeology, the palaeo-sciences, and heritage collections and management.

INSTITUTE-LINKED RESEARCH JOURNAL

The Palaeo-Research Institute manages and funds the journal of *Southern African Field Archaeology*, hosted by the UJ Library and on the UJ Press Online Journal System. This is a blind peer-reviewed, scientific, non-profit and open-access journal that publishes one online volume annually about all aspects and periods of southern and/or sub-Saharan African archaeology, the palaeo-sciences, and heritage collections and management, to professional archaeologists, heritage practitioners, students, governing authorities and the public. It is the first journal of its kind in southern Africa, and it serves all members of the sub-Saharan palaeo-science community, as well as all international scholars conducting research in this region. The journal is now in its second year of online publication and the current volume can be accessed here: Vol. 18 (2023).

STAFF DEVELOPMENT: ATTENDANCE OF TRAINING MODULES/COURSES

- Academy of Science South Africa (ASSAF) National New Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) Meeting: code of best practice in scholarly journal publishing, editing and peer review. Attended by: MG Lotter
- Academy of Science South Africa (ASSAF) National Scholarly New Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) Meeting: what new editors need to know about the implementation of the DHET Research Output Policy: Attended by MG Lotter

KEY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT (2023 AND BEYOND)

Expansion of the Institute's Research Collaborations on the African Continent

While the P-RI boasts a contingent of 26 research associates with collaborators from 18 countries, only 22% of these are from Africa. This presents a unique opportunity to expand our network in line with our pan-African vision for palaeo-science development. We acknowledge that the palaeo-sciences are not well-developed across the African continent. However, pockets of research activity, run by Africans, exist in several regions. This year (2023) our strategic objective was to increase this network to over 10 research collaborators in the next 5 years. This year we managed to add 2 collaborators from Zimbabwe and one French researcher who is based in Angola.

