ARTIST’S STATEMENT

Room in the rain is a painting of an artisanal miner’s mining site on a tailing dump of Petra Mines at Colville, Kimberley, Northern Cape. Heaps of sifted soil are covered with old and withered carpets or bedspreads. These coverings not only identify a miners’ site of work, but prevent sifted soil from being blown away by wind or dispersed by water when and if it rains. Artisanal miners are subjected to abject poverty and extreme arid conditions, but a miner’s site also becomes a room, a place of dwelling. In spite of the dire situation, there is a humanity amongst miners which counteracts stereotypical perceptions of 
zamas, and which opposes the wealth and opulence associated with hyper-capitalism and global mining companies. The painting deals with the contradictions in the diamond mining industry, for example, fortune-misfortune, aridity and plentitude and impoverished ideologies against the upholding of humanity through primordial knowledge systems.
The theme for the 2021 Faculty report is ‘Quality in Diversity’, suggesting that whatever we do as a Faculty of the Humanities, should at all times reflect a desire for academic and service excellence. In a Faculty that consists of 22 academic departments, 177 academic staff, 99 support staff and 8,383 undergraduate and 775 postgraduate students in 2021, we made this happen through one of our greatest strengths – our intellectual and disciplinary diversity, straddling language fields, the social sciences, the liberal arts subjects as well as the performing arts.

It therefore comes as no surprise that in our reporting, a learning and teaching focus tends to dominate. During 2021, the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) focus was established in the Faculty to inculcate a culture of research in teaching and learning. This involved not only academics but also curriculum advisors, so that they can appreciate their contribution to teaching and learning. The ‘Tracking Tshehetsa’ project, managed by Dr Rosaline Sebolao, was implemented across the Faculty to track progress of students ‘at risk’ during COVID-19; the project was effectively monitored with the support of the teaching and learning coordinator and academic facilitators. The Faculty started with online student indabas to create a platform for engagement between students and staff. Three academics (Ms Nontombi Velelo, Dr Rick de Villiers and Dr Marlie van Rooyen) were appointed into the Institutional SoTL fellowship programme for 2021. Four staff members participated in the first Academic Leadership Programme (Prof Chitja Twala, Dr Rosaline Sebolao, Dr Frelet de Villiers and Dr Divane Nzima). Graduate attributes were mapped against the outcomes of more than 90% of modules in the Faculty, and the participation of academics was outstanding. The Faculty, through the programme directors, participated in the institutional review and provided a faculty self-evaluation report that helped to make the review a success.

Decolonisation of the curriculum also gained traction during 2021. Three departments (Anthropology, the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies and Fine Arts) were awarded Mellon funding related to the project ‘Unsettling Paradigms: The Decolonial Turn in the Humanities Curriculum in South Africa’, hosted by the University of Pretoria. Another highlight included planning for the implementation of two compulsory interdisciplinary modules in the BSoSc programme, with a focus on Social Science in Africa and Social Science Research. What made this initiative unique is that the modules were a product of intense collaborative work across five departments (Criminology, Sociology, Political Studies and Governance, Anthropology and Psychology). Another distinguishing feature of these modules is their scale – servicing the largest programme in the Faculty of the Humanities, with close to 1,300 students anticipated to register for these modules in 2022.

The Faculty also actively promoted multilingualism through a number of initiatives, such as the reintroduction of isiZulu on the Bloemfontein Campus; the approval of compulsory conversational modules as part of the revised BA programme where a student may not take a conversational language in a language that they took as either a home or first additional language in Grade 12; and the introduction of Arabic.

Improving the quality and quantity of research performance has remained an ongoing goal of the Faculty, underpinned by an enabling research environment. The Faculty’s Centre for Gender and Africa Studies and Fine Arts research was awarded funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) to conduct research on ‘The Decolonial Turn in the Humanities Curriculum in South Africa’. This project, led by Professor Chitja Twala, involves collaboration with other institutions and aims to enhance the teaching and learning of humanities in South Africa. The Faculty’s Centre for Language and Communication Research was awarded funding from the NRF to conduct research on ‘Language and Communication in South Africa’. This project, led by Professor Rosaline Sebolao, involves collaboration with other institutions and aims to enhance the teaching and learning of language and communication in South Africa.

The Faculty’s Centre for Research on Social Policy and Development was awarded funding from the NRF to conduct research on ‘Social Policy and Development in South Africa’. This project, led by Professor Charné Vercueil, involves collaboration with other institutions and aims to enhance the teaching and learning of social policy and development in South Africa.
Creating an enabling environment for research entailed continued support to staff who were busy with their PhDs; three staff members graduated in 2021 and six in 2022. We also revised our Open Access and page fees processes for both staff and research fellows and continued to encourage interdisciplinary research around four crosscutting themes – Borders, Memory, Digital Humanities and Medical Humanities. The second round of funding (2021–2022) supported three projects (two in Digital Humanities and one in Memory).

A highlight in the area of engaged scholarship was the gradual expansion and consolidation of Academic Advisory Boards to promote departmental engagement with industry and community. By 2021, 13 out of 22 departments had functional advisory boards, all hoping for a time when engagements could take place face-to-face. One of the success stories is the Joint Arts Advisory Board, consisting of a multidisciplinary group from the performing arts sector and academia and representing the Departments of Drama and Theatre Arts, Fine Arts, Art History and Image Studies, Odeion School of Music as well as the UFS Galleries. Their recommendations generated several projects to enhance performing arts students’ entrepreneurial skills and marketability, among others.

In August 2021, inspired by the multi-campus management model, the Faculty was the first to establish a joint Faculty Board for the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses. This also entailed a creative re-thinking of how to effectively use our Faculty management structures. Apart from ensuring that representation on subcommittees was inclusive, the leadership of the eight departments who have a presence on Qwaqwa as well, offered their unwavering support for the adoption of a new and innovative PQM for the Humanities in Qwaqwa, thereby confirming that the departments are increasingly seeing themselves as one department.

Although we firmly believe that people matter more than process, we do need structures to make things happen. The Faculty functions with the aid of an extensive committee system where most of these committees are subcommittees of the Faculty Board.

That said, in this faculty overview, we also want to foreground the people who generally work behind the scenes – the support staff in the departments as well as the members of the Dean’s Office – who often act as interlocutors and translators of decisions and projects emanating from outside the Faculty. In order to honour these individuals, for the 2021 report we begin each departmental report with a picture of the Academic Head and the support staff in that department.

With this message, I want to use the opportunity to thank my Executive Team – Prof Twala (Vice-Dean), Dr McDonald (Assistant Dean), Dr Sebolao (Teaching Learning Manager) and Ms Coetsee (Faculty Manager) – as well as all members of the Faculty Management Committee (Academic Heads of Departments and Programme Directors) for their tireless pursuit of quality in diversity.

PROF HEIDI HUDSON

Heidi Hudson, the Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities, is a Professor of International Relations. Prof Hudson, who specialises in feminist security studies with a specific focus on Africa, obtained a B3-rating from the NRF and is an elected member of ASSAf. She serves on several editorial boards, including International Feminist Journal of Politics, Civil Wars, Revista Relaciones Internacionales, and Stichproben: Vienna Journal of African Studies. As a former Advisory Board member of the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council in New York, Prof Hudson regularly mentors APN fellows. She also serves as an Advisory Board member for the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence for Post-conflict Societies, hosted by the Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of the Addis Ababa University.

During her career she has been awarded several fellowships, from among others, the Oslo Peace Research Institute (PRIO), the Nordic Africa Institute, the University of Calgary, and Fulbright. In 2018, she was the Claude Ake Visiting Chair, hosted by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University and the Nordic Africa Institute.
In 2021, the Faculty of the Humanities at the Qwaqwa Campus continued to grapple with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though, with the lessons learned from 2020, staff – both academic and support – and students met the challenges with resilience and spirit. A small number of students in the Community Development programme and language courses returned to campus for face-to-face teaching while the vast majority of the Faculty’s students continued to learn and be assessed online. By early 2021, the Subject Heads and lecturers had gained valuable insights into remote, online teaching and learning, and were able to apply these lessons to their course and assessment designs. The lack of human interaction was certainly felt by both staff and students – especially in a Faculty dedicated to the human sciences – but this did not deter a collective effort to find innovative ways to interact.

Further, Faculty members continued to produce quality and impactful research and to engage with peers via online conferences, seminars and book launches. At the Qwaqwa Campus’s annual Research Awards, Dr Mabohlokoa Khanyetsi of the Department of African Languages won in the category of most promising researcher in the Faculty of the Humanities. Dr Tshepo Moloi of the Department of History scooped the prolific researcher award. That both scholars were also the Subject Heads of their respective academic departments is testament to the all-roundedness expected of academics in the twenty-first century university.

Amid a lingering pandemic, 2021 emerged as a year of transition, from the height of COVID-19 in 2020 to the prospect of a return to some form of ‘normality’ in 2022. Determined not to let a crisis go to waste, the Faculty of the Humanities actively sought opportunities for renewal and transformation, not only in teaching and learning, but also in management, governance, research development and engaged scholarship. An unexpected, but welcome, consequence of the shift to the online mode has been the greater integration of processes and governance structures in the Faculty. The 350kms that separate the UFS campuses in Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa have never seemed more insignificant.

One of the examples of this trend towards greater integration was the Faculty’s adoption of a combined, single Faculty Board, including Faculty members from across the campuses (previously, each campus had its own Faculty Board). Integration is also evident in other Faculty structures, such as the Examinations Board, and the committees for research and engaged scholarship. Much of the impetus for this initiative has stemmed from the UFS multi-campus model, which is an ongoing effort to create a seamless alignment across the campuses in the delivery of the University’s and Faculty’s strategic priorities and vision. In addition, the multi-campus model enables an institutional culture of co-creation and exchange between the campuses, while also promoting the distinctiveness of each campus.

In this vein, the Faculty of the Humanities at the Qwaqwa Campus was afforded opportunities to pursue research and curricula that are reflective of, and responsive to, its context in the eastern Free State. On the curricula front, the Faculty met several notable milestones in the renewal of its Programme Qualification Mix (PQM). These included institutional approval for a new Bachelor of Arts in Literatures & Languages – a unique qualification to the Qwaqwa
Campus. Important strides were also made in the expansion of postgraduate offerings, gaining approval for the introduction of Honours, Master’s and PhD studies in both Communication Science and History, and PhD studies in African Languages, from 2023. The Community Development programme will also be offering a Master’s and PGDip from 2024.

These developments bode well for the Faculty’s ongoing efforts to increase its postgraduate footprint in Qwaqwa.

I trust that the window into the Faculty of the Humanities at the UFS, and Qwaqwa Campus in particular, provided by this report will inspire confidence in the exciting work that is being done. The COVID-19 pandemic was a stark reminder of the integral value, and necessity, of the arts and human sciences in promoting resilience, inclusivity, and collaboration in response to difficult circumstances. We draw encouragement from this as we anticipate bright prospects.
The Faculty of the Humanities takes student matters and activities seriously. The establishment of the Faculty’s Student Council (FSC), coordinated by the Faculty’s Teaching and Learning Manager (TLM), was in line with the Constitution of the Institutional Student Representative Council (SRC) adopted by the University of the Free State (UFS) Council on 15 June 2018. It was established as one of the student governance structures in the Faculty. The FSC is instrumental in advising the management on students’ issues and encourages engagement platforms in the resolve on such matters. The Faculty’s approach is one of creating student-centric themed programmes aimed at always promoting social justice and social cohesion. With this approach, the Faculty prides itself with creating strong and cooperative working relationships with the student governance structures in the Faculty.

The Faculty of the Humanities takes pride in the variety of engaged scholarship activities presented by our different departments. These activities demonstrate the commitment we have towards the growth and development of our students, staff members and various social structures in our community. The Humanities is committed to the development of student-centric themed platforms in the context of education, with the goal to improve academic performance. Learners are expected to participate in their mother tongues, which – in this area – are Afrikaans, Sesotho, Tswana and Xhosa. Using local languages in more formal domains increases the prestige and status of these languages. It also supports the development and awareness of the importance of multilingualism. In addition, the contest agents learn to speak in public, to speak with confidence and to structure an opinion.

An example of this is the Annual Philippolis Multilingual Public Speaking Competition as part of the Multilingual Information Development Programme, initiated by the former Unite for Language Facilitation and Empowerment (ULFE) and the Engagement Scholarship Division at the UFS in 2013. The aim of this public speaking project is to emphasise the importance of mother tongues within the context of education, with the goal to improve academic performance. Learners are expected to participate in their mother tongues, which – in this area – are Afrikaans, Sesotho, Tswana and Xhosa. Using local languages in more formal domains increases the prestige and status of these languages. It also supports the development and awareness of the importance of multilingualism. In addition, the contest agents learn to speak in public, to speak with confidence and to structure an opinion.

In another example, the Social Work Student Association adopted the concept of ‘Ubuntu’ as their theme for 2021, resulting in them contributing to the upliftment of the Boikhuco Old Age Home. To achieve this goal, the Mapaseka Tlaletsi, the Portfolio Head for Community Engagement, launched a raffle competition for an UberEATS voucher to the value of R200. This initiative to raise funds was also in celebration of International Day of Older Persons. The RT 400 raised through the raffle competition was used to buy toiletries and fruit for Boikhuco Old Age Home residents, which were delivered on 6 October 2021. The support from the social work community at the UFS and other students has proven that, in the words of Helen Keller, “alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”.

In addition, the Faculty of the Humanities hosts monthly Gender Talks webinars to educate, empower and entertain community members on important related matters. These talks are presented by academics from different institutions and with various views on life. Amongst others, in 2021 the following topics were presented: ‘COVID-19 mitigation measures and the impact on ‘care’ at domestic levels’, by Ivo Ngade from Ghet University; ‘Feminist resonance: Gender-based violence, mourning, and traumatic recall in the work of Gabrielle Goliath’, by Helene Strauss from the UFS Department of English; Disrupting patriarchal colonial logics in higher education: Thinking with embodiment, relationality, care, and affect in teaching and research, by Tamara Shetler from the University of the Western Cape; and ‘Gender equality and accountability in South Africa’s higher education sphere’, by Sixolile Ngcobo from the Commission for Gender Equality.

Despite all the challenges experienced by the Faculty during the 2021 academic year, collectively we performed considerably well, delivering excellence and promoting diversity and maintaining consistent support to our students whilst involving them in Faculty activities.

**Message from the Vice-Dean**

**Prof Chitja Twala**

Chitja Twala is the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities and an Associate Professor in the Department of History. Prof Twala is one of the leading scholars on liberation and cultural history and has served as the Chairperson of the Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Authority, as well as Deputy Chairperson of the War Museum in Bloemfontein, among others. In 2021 he was appointed by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture as a member of the Indigenous Knowledge / Intangible Cultural Heritage National Authentication Panel. Prof Twala was part of the first group of the UFS Vice-Chancellor’s Prestige Scholarship Programme (PSP). His scholarship was enhanced by Visiting/Research Fellowships at Harvard University (USA), Kwame Nkrumah Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana (Accra) and the University of California, Los Angeles (USA).
The Faculty prides itself in the diversity of its programmes. Some academic programmes align with their home departments whereas the two cross-cutting and most well-known qualifications, the BA and the BSocSci programmes, straddle a number of disciplines and academic departments and are offered on both the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses. The other cross-cutting programme, the Higher Certificate in the Humanities, is offered at the South Campus as well as on satellite campuses such as Welkom, Bethlehem, Kvetlisong (in Phuthaditjhaba), Sasolburg and Oudtshoorn, but will begin to be phased out in 2023.

The last intake of students will take place in 2025. The programme in Community Development is offered on the Qwaqwa Campus only.

From the summary of highlights provided in this chapter it is evident that a programme is only as good as the team who manages it. Academic programme directors play an integral role in the development of relevant and high-quality qualifications that will meet the needs of employers. In 2021, these programme directors operated under difficult circumstances, yet succeeded in putting the interests of our students first, with excellent results in terms of output.

Cross-cutting Programmes

Bachelor of Arts

The year 2021 came with exciting changes to the BA Programme. In October 2021, two new Programme Directors were appointed. Dr Mathilda Smit is a lecturer in Afrikaans and Dutch Literature, specialising in performance poetry. Her research interests span across several disciplines within the Humanities and she is involved in various interdisciplinary, interorganisational decolonisation initiatives, such as the Unlaaering project. Trudie Strauss (who in the meantime completed her PhD in Mathematical Statistics) is a lecturer in German. Her research focuses on the statistical analyses of natural language and she is interested in Digital and Computational Humanities. With the appointment of the two new programme directors there is a new student-centred life-force in this Programme, and initiatives to tailor the programme to each student’s needs and strengths, planned for 2022.

Bachelor of Social Science

In 2021, the configuration of the BSocSci degree changed from a series of academic plans to one academic plan. The purpose was to enable BSocSci students to engage with disciplinary knowledge across a number of academic departments and adjust to university life before making a final decision regarding their major subjects. Students no longer choose two major subject areas at the beginning of their studies but are afforded an opportunity to engage with a variety of disciplines across the faculty.

To assist in developing well-rounded graduates, ready to enter the world of work or an area of postgraduate studies should they so choose, in 2021, two new compulsory social science modules were developed, namely Introduction to Social Science in Africa and Introduction to Social Science Research in Africa. The purpose of these modules is to provide a conscious and deliberate focus on social sciences and research in the African context. These modules are presented in the students’ second year of study to allow for more advanced engagement with social issues at senior levels of study. This process also entailed the mapping of all undergraduate research modules in the Faculty, providing an opportunity to identify areas of research that require more attention and provide students with the opportunity to bring their research knowledge on par, regardless of disciplinary specialisation. The graduate attributes developed by the six major subjects in this programme (Anthropology, Criminology, Industrial Psychology, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology) were mapped during 2020 and 2021. In order to stay responsive to the needs of our students, the Faculty and the community at large, the BSocSci programme is in the process of establishing an Academic Advisory Board, and constant self- and peer evaluation assists the BSocSci programme directors’ team to continuously deliver an engaging and effective programme that contributes to the academic goals of the UFS.

Higher Certificate in Humanities

The coordination of the Higher Certificate in Humanities on the South Campus was managed through the interaction between various stakeholders to ensure effectiveness and collaboration where possible. During 2021, quarterly meetings with Academic Heads of Departments whose modules are offered on South Campus were successfully held with the Deputy Director at South Campus, the Dean and the Teaching and Learning Manager. These meetings became a great platform for discussion of critical issues, such as student performance. Module Coordinators’ concerns and how we could improve the relationships between Departments and the South Campus. The latter aspect was enhanced by ensuring...
Psychology

Providing an online teaching and learning platform on the South Campus proved to be both a challenge and opportunity for the Department during 2021. The challenges experienced were mostly related to online assessments, technical issues, poor network and load-shedding which resulted in extra administration as assessments had to be reopened for many students with valid issues. Although these issues caused a great deal of frustration and anxiety for the students, they were dealt with effectively by a very competent coordinator, Ms Isna Kruger, and her experienced facilitators. The vast majority of the facilitators had been facilitating the higher certificate modules for several years and thus were quite familiar with the content, as well as the unique needs and challenges of the higher certificate students. This resulted in a relatively high pass rate amongst this group of students. Although Ms Kruger resigned from her post at the end of 2021, she was replaced by an equally competent colleague, Ms Eloise Venter.

Political Studies and Governance

During the course of 2021, the Department, through Ms Sam-Marie Rooi, Mr Pholla Mbalane and Mr Lumanyano Ngacyisa, lectured and facilitated their first-year modules as well as the Higher Certificate programme to 156 students. Several challenges were experienced related to the impact of COVID-19 as well as periodic electricity blackouts. In addition, the Department had no-one dedicated to coordinating the modules between the three campuses. Despite these challenges, staff demonstrated both resilience and ingenuity. WhatsApp groups were established, recorded lectures were made available online, the Academic Head of Department (AHD) held regular meetings with the colleagues mentioned above and online classes were periodically rescheduled to take into account the load-shedding schedule. As a result of these interventions the throughput rate for the modules presented was above 80%. The one glaring weakness and challenge for the Department remains the issue of a dedicated coordinator. A person has been appointed to take care of this extremely important coordination role in 2022.

Anthropology

The two Anthropology modules presented at the South Campus (ANTI 1514 and ANTH 1524), underwent a few changes in 2021. These changes were related to the Faculty curriculum mapping strategy and the content delivery of these modules. ANTI 1514 was aligned with the three-year curriculum mapping process, which allowed for greater consistency and clarity of the generic outcomes and student attributes as set outputs or measurements. Great effort and planning were vested into integrating the South Campus and Bloemfontein Campus in terms of formal and informal teaching opportunities via Blackboard, while allowing academic support to remain vested in the teaching methodology and practices espoused by the University Access Programme at the South Campus. Despite concerns that South Campus students might find such an experience overwhelming, they excelled. Whether it was during a class PowerPoint presentation, self-study or class participation, they managed to keep up – despite virtual delivery of content and academic support.

Given the constraints and possibilities inherent in the COVID-19 pandemic, the AHD decided to incorporate the South Campus into the mainstream lectures during the first semester. In this way all Anthropology students were given access to the same lecturers and material, with the necessary scaffolded academic support provided by the academic facilitators. Anthropological content was used to encourage engagement during the anthropology Blackboard collaborative sessions. South Campus students were thus included and became vested in the learning process, as seen through their active participation in class. This agile approach made students feel heard even though contact was limited to online platforms.

That said, it was an anxious start to the year due to registration challenges and online learning. Academic support sessions began in the middle of February using WhatsApp. The necessary time and access (inclusive of data, an appropriate device and stable connectivity) to transition easily, was lacking. Further concerns included inconsistent student attendance and lack of support and training for facilitators. Facilitators needed appropriate training in order to provide students with the resource-based academic support they needed to learn disciplinary content. An oft ignored complexity in the Learning and Teaching process, is students’ personal anxieties. Much more needs to be done at the level of the institution in terms of assisting students with their overall mental health.

In relation to our Learning Management System (LMS), it was the first year that students appeared to be at ease and comfortable in using Blackboard’s online functionalities, such as Collaborate and Dropbox/Turnitin. For the module ANTH 1524 the Department moved closer to achieving and utilising the practical component of the module, allowing practical mastery of market related skills and personal development as captured in portfolio format. Although this suggests progress and change, it is difficult to substantiate with evidence at this stage. It is also true that during these changes a few things were overlooked and will need to be revisited, such as the programme’s interdisciplinary focus and the application of such, as well as a revision to allow for better alignment with the academic literacy focus of the programme in general.
Sociology

The Department of Sociology noted that over the past years, and in particular in 2021, administrative and student engagement procedures stabilised. Several factors have contributed to this, including supportive Campus Management and a hands-on team of tutors. In addition, the foundations of engagement with their facilitators was strengthened by involving them in departmental activities, such as meetings and research engagements.

Communication Science

The Department of Communication Science offered the Interpersonal Communication and Applied Communication Science modules to three main groups – Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology. All modules were presented online, utilising Blackboard, WhatsApp and email as modes of delivery. They also adopted continuous assessment. The shift to 100% online learning was challenging for students who struggled with attendance, activity-based learning and submission of assignments. The main challenges were uneven data and network coverage, as well personal home situations that were not always ideal to remote learning. The challenges led the Department to resolve going back to a blended teaching methodology for 2022. Interestingly, despite the widely reported challenges of online learning, students performed better than in 2020. Facilitators reported that continuous assessment appeared a better fit for the students compared to formative and summative assessments. For instance, students now had multiple opportunities to improve their work and marks. Students also asked questions more freely.

Criminology

The module ‘An Introduction to the study field of Criminology and Contemporary Crime Issues’ was planned and developed for the South Campus, which not only strengthened disciplinary knowledge but also created vertical and horizontal articulation pathways for students and provided access to the mainstream Bachelor’s degree programmes in the Faculty of the Humanities and further opportunities to access the specialisation route in postgraduate studies. This process was well-supported by all colleagues directly involved, although not implemented due to a shift in institutional strategic objectives.

Specialist Programmes

Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Theatre Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Drama and Theatre Arts Honours

In 2021, a new specialisation module was developed for the Drama and Theatre Arts Honours course. ‘Approaches to Voice and Speech Training’ allows students to explore practical industry-related skills and intertwines with all the practical components of undergraduate training in the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts. Students are now prepared for a broader market, as students are not only prepared to train voice and speech in the field of Drama and Theatre Arts, but also in the corporate world. As part of the acting training for the first-year module, ‘Theatre-Making’ and ‘Shakespeare’ were introduced, creating a more diverse approach to acting training on a first-year level.

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts

One of the wonderful characteristics of visual art is to respond to one’s lived experiences and surroundings. With this in mind, during 2021, the Department of Fine Arts responded to and incorporated current conversations about the social, political and personal environments of their students. One goal was to expand students’ exposure to contemporary South African art, broadening their scope of visual art spaces and institutions. For this purpose, the Department arranged an excursion to Johannesburg and a visit to the JAVETT Art Centre at the University of Pretoria (UP), for the students. Here they engaged with Prof Willem Boshoff and his Word Woes exhibition, as well as UP visual art students and a student art exhibition. Along with upgrading the printmaking facilities over the last few years, the Department also re-introduced Stone Lithography printmaking to senior students. Stone Lithography is a rare skill to acquire, and the Department is in a very privileged position to own the sought-after Lithography stones. Such a skill sets their students apart and should positively impact student employability.

Bachelor of Arts in Governance and Political Transformation

The study of Governance and Political Transformation at undergraduate and postgraduate level is becoming more and more valuable since issues such as corruption, maladministration and poor governance (lack of accountability, responsibility and transparency) are constraining development and damaging the ethos of democratic values and principles. There is a growing interest in the BA
Governance and Political Transformation Programme. The value of the undergraduate degree does not only lie in the acquisition of relevant knowledge by means of the two majors (Political Science and Public Administration), but also in the Service Learning module which is a highlight for students in their third year of study. In this module students engage with communities and nongovernmental organisations to bring about improved governance practices. It is a practical module with a focus on the attainment of graduate attributes such as ethical behaviour and reasoning, critical thinking, good writing and oral presentation skills, problem solving and entrepreneurial skills.

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Organisational Communication

The Department of Communication Science presents two programmes, namely BA (Journalism) and BA (Integrated Organisational Communication). Both programmes were introduced in 2018. In 2021, these programmes had both run their first full three-year cycle, which allowed the Department to evaluate the quality of the implementation process and adapt where necessary. Both programmes have stable enrolment numbers and are popular first-choice programmes for students new to the higher education environment.

Bachelor of Arts in Language Practice

In multilingual South Africa, there is an ever-increasing need for trained and qualified language practitioners. These practitioners work in all spheres of society, including the economy, politics, medicine, law, journalism, social media, the pharmaceutical industry and other fields. Language practitioners are involved in, amongst others, translation, interpreting, editing and terminology work.

Language Practice students are taught about these practices, the policy context in which they occur and their influences on society and culture. The value of the undergraduate degree in Language Practice lies in the Language Practice major, compulsory training in English and Linguistics, as well as a major in one other language presented at the UFS. Furthermore, the development of a new third-year module in non-professional interpreting and translation, the first of its kind in Southern Africa, includes exposure to a developing field of research, as well as practical (interpreting and translation) exposure in the form of service learning.

In 2021, more than sixty bursaries were secured, sponsored by the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for students registered for language-practice and language-related degrees on both the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses. Furthermore, the Postgraduate Diploma implemented a new size and shape plan in line with its host department, the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice, to focus on quality rather than quantity in its undergraduate student numbers.

Bachelor of Arts in Music and Bachelor of Music

On a programme level, 2021 was an important year in terms of transforming the specialisation offerings of the BA Music and BMus qualifications presented by the Odeion School of Music (OSM). Following the OSM’s external review in 2019, academic staff engaged in numerous discussions to include suggestions from the review panel and implement transformational changes to the curricula. During 2021, the changes to the specialisation options in the degree programmes were approved, to be included in the yearbook of 2022. This restructuring process moved away from a student only specialising in a single discipline, allowing for two academic specialisations and thus increasing employability options. While retaining previous specialisation options, the restructuring included options for African Music Studies and Arts Management. The African Music Studies option was made possible through the appointment of an African Music Specialist, Dr Joseph Kunnuji, in 2021, who developed the curricula for this speciality option.

Bachelor of Community Development

The Community Development programme, offered only on the Qwaqwa Campus, currently has four streams of students, from first- to fourth year with, a total enrolment of 202 students. 2021 saw the graduation of its second cohort of students. At postgraduate level, an application has been made for a PG Dip
and Master’s in CommDev. The PQM clearance letter has been received from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and we are awaiting a SAQA ID to commence these important postgraduate offerings. One of the most important milestones was the approval of the extension of site and merger with the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (CGAS). This will not only amplify scholarship in the areas of Africa Studies, Community Development and Gender Studies, but also expand the postgraduate footprint in the Faculty of the Humanities on the Qwaqwa Campus.

The Programme has begun to explore digital literacies with the inclusion of e-portfolios and the use of social media platforms as pedagogical sites. This will not only enhance engagement with student practitioners and reinforce graduate attributes but will also prepare our practitioners for a transformed community development context. The Programme also witnessed an in-depth reflection of the curriculum as academics began to intensely engage with what they taught, which has resulted in a shift in some modules as emphasis moves more towards the teaching and learning of skills, including conflict management skills, supervision management and digital skills.

Bachelor of Social Work

The year 2021 was marked by intense planning and development of a revised curriculum based on the new standards for Social Work education, first introduced by the Council on Higher Education in 2016. It culminated in the introduction of the new curriculum in 2022. A process of consultation with various stakeholders informed the content of the new curriculum, which was decolonised to ensure that the training focuses on South African issues using decolonised theories and social work methods. Another vital element of the training is a stronger emphasis on field instruction and the personal development of students. This is also in line with the standard that focuses on the development and consolidation of the professional identity of the social worker. Over the next few years, the Department will continue to evaluate and improve the content and make changes to ensure that all the standards are met, the training of social work students is personalised and speaks of high-quality training that will meet the diverse needs of the South African community.

Africa Studies Programmes

A major highlight for 2021 in the Africa Studies programme, and in particular its MPhil (by dissertation) and PhD programmes, was a phenomenal increase in the pass rate, notwithstanding the challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The BA Hons programme pass rate also compared favourably. In 2021, 16 students completed their degrees. What is significant, is that 11 of these students completed research degrees, notably the MPhil (Africa Studies) by dissertation and the PhD, with innovative and highly diverse research topics such as ‘The inner workings and logics of intersectionality: An analysis of gendered (in)securety in Rwanda’ (MPhil) by Shannon Arnold (Supervisor: Prof H Hudson), ‘Caregiving – A feminist perspective on the lived experiences of caregivers in Harare’ by Saru Mahomva (Supervisors: Prof IM Bredenkamp, Dr N Lake), ‘The security-development nexus in post-conflict Africa: A decolonial critique’ by Tebobo Molete (Supervisor: Prof H Hudson), ‘Interethnic conflict and the role of traditional leaders in the Truth and Reconciliation Programme in North Kivu, DRC’ by Emmanuel Tembo (Supervisors: Dr M Mulumeordehwa, Dr S Cawood) and ‘Democratisation and state-building in Lusophone African states: The cases of Cape Verde and Mozambique’ by Nobre Canhanga (Supervisors: Dr J Steyn-Kotzé, Dr S Cawood). These students hail from multiple African countries beyond South Africa, notably the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, attesting to the diverse student body in the Programme for Africa Studies.

Gender Studies Programmes

Gender, diversity and organisation is a specific field in Gender Studies that has become popular and is relevant within any organisation, especially Higher Education. It is in the light of these market needs that the Gender Studies programme prioritises offerings such as Gender and Law, Gender and Sexuality, Gender and the Environment, as well as Gender and Citizenship. Increased focus on accepting and ensuring equal treatment of LGBTQ+ persons in the workplace, for instance, has received much deserved recognition in research which is now receiving overdue attention in the corporate sector and marketplace.

Students are a rule exposed to these diverse issues when they enrol in the Programme for Gender Studies. However, due to the global pandemic and the interruption of classes, students faced enormous challenges in 2020 to complete their studies. In 2021, the overall performance of postgraduate students in the Programme for Gender Studies significantly improved as a result of concerted efforts to provide additional academic student support, such as bringing in external expertise for the BA Hons (Gender Studies) 2021 cohort. This approach paid dividends with a substantial increase in the pass rate to 90% in 2021.Out of ten registered students, nine completed their degree in 2021. The overall increase in pass rate from 2020 to 2021 can be attributed to the fact that in 2021 classes returned, although in a virtual format. The overall completion rate in the Gender Studies Programme increased from one graduate in 2020 to 13 in 2021.

Student research topics were incredibly diverse in 2021. Leandra Joubert completed her MA (Gender Studies) with distinction and produced an excellent mini-dissertation exploring the challenges experienced by lesbian couples in the adoption process in South Africa. Other research topics included a reflection on the agency of immigrant women; a study on gender-based violence and rape culture in Maseru, Lesotho; exploring ‘corrective rape’ and the precariousness of black lesbian lives in South Africa; an analysis of rape culture on university campuses; as well as a deep dive into the ‘blesser/blessee’ phenomenon from feminist perspectives. The Gender Studies programme also makes room for presentations on gender research topics by inviting guest speakers. Topics that were addressed in 2021 included issues around LGBTQ+ lives and transgender awareness, the important role of digitalisation and equality in Africa, gender-based violence, and institutional inequalities, to name a few.
In this section we want to recognise those staff, research fellows and students who excelled during 2021 in all three areas of our core academic business, namely research, learning and teaching as well as engaged scholarship. In 2021, Faculty awards were introduced in eight categories. For the first round we made awards in four of these, as will be reported below. The main reason for the institutionalisation of these awards is to provide academics with opportunities for recognition of their learning, teaching and research excellence to promote continuous professional development. While the awards focus on academic achievements, we are also conscious of the tremendous work being done by our support staff.

Research and creative research

Dr Martin Rossouw of the Department of Art History and Image Studies was selected for the 2022-2024 cohort of the University of the Free State’s Future Generation Professoriate Programme (FGPP). He also won the Faculty award in the category of ‘Early career research’.

In the Centre for Health Systems Research & Development, Prof Gladys Kigozi excelled by being selected for the second phase of the Future Professoriate Programme.

Dr Rick de Villers (Department of English) was also selected as a member of both the Future Professoriate Programme.

Prof Rodwell Makombe, from the same department, was awarded the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholarship, which he will take up from August to December 2022. Rodwell also received the UFS Book Prize for 2021 with his book titled Cultural Texts of Resistance in Zimbabwe – Music, Memes, and Media.

Two staff members from the Humanities on the Qwaqwa campus who excelled in research are Dr Tshepo Moloi (Department of History) who received the Most Prolific Researcher award in the Faculty of the Humanities, Qwaqwa Campus, as well as Dr Grey Magaiza who was the first recipient of the Faculty award for ‘Innovation through interdisciplinary research’.

When it comes to creative outputs, Dr Marthinus Conradie, a senior lecturer in the Department of English, won third place for his short story Contaminated, in the Science Fiction and Fantasy South Africa (SFFSA) NOVA 2021 Short Story Competition.

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz (Department of Fine Arts) was the recipient of the prestigious Absa L’Atelier award (Group A). She now takes on the title of Absa L’Atelier Ambassador 2021.

The OSM Camerata received the second prize in the final round of the National Ensemble Competition, in the Open category.

Prof Bert Olivier, Research Fellow and Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Philosophy, was granted ‘Honorary Rosalind Membership of London Journals Press’, membership for the 2021 quarter, based on recognition of his internationally published research.

Dr Matteo Grilli of the International Studies Group obtained a P-rating from the NRF.

Dr Rebecca Swartz of the International Studies Group obtained a Y1 NRF rating.

Dr Matt Graham of the International Studies Group obtained a C2 NRF rating.

Prof Cynthia Miller-Naude of the Department of Hebrew obtained a B1 NRF rating (re-evaluation).

Prof Theo Neethling (Political Studies and Governance), Prof Pieter Duvenage (Philosophy research fellow), Prof Bert Olivier (Philosophy research fellow) and Prof Albert Weideman (English research fellow) also successfully re-applied for NRF rating (re-evaluation).
Learning and Teaching

Dr Rick de Villers of the Department of English was selected as one of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning fellows. At the Learning and Teaching conference in October 2021, Dr De Villiers won the award in the category ‘Innovative Methods in Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching’, and the award for the best Bloemfontein conference paper, for his presentation on ‘Close reading at a distance: Making remote learning intimate and intensive’. He also won the Faculty award in the category ‘Teaching methods and assessment’.

Mr Dion van Niekerk of the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts received the Faculty award for his work in the category ‘Curriculum development, transformation and renewal’.

Dr Mariza Brooks received the UFS Learning and Teaching Award: Khotatsa Project.

Dr Marlie van Rooyen, Department of Linguistics and Language Practice, was selected as Learning and Teaching fellow.

Ms Nontombi Velelo, Department of Sociology, was selected as Learning and Teaching fellow. She was also the second place winner with Cebelihle Sokhela at the UFS Learning and Teaching Awards in the category ‘Innovative Methods in Student Engagement and Learning’, and was also recognised for Research in Learning and Teaching (Beginner).

Dr Alison Stander, Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French, received the second place in the UFS Learning and Teaching Award for Innovative Methods in Assessment Made Practical and Innovative Methods in Technology Enhanced Learning & Teaching.

Engaged Scholarship

Prof Chitja Twala, Vice Dean, was appointed by the National Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture to be a member of the Indigenous Knowledge / Intangible Cultural Heritage National Authentication Panel.

Student achievements

One of the 2021 Psychology Honours groups who worked with a self-compassion podcast for teachers at the Lettie Foucché School (formerly therapeutic horse riding), received the Engaged Scholarship prize at the Faculty Academic Prize-giving ceremony.

Karla van Reenen received the George Roux floating trophy and cash prize for the most outstanding intern at UNIBS during 2021.

One of the OSM chamber ensembles, Trio Con Brio, won the first prize in the Open category (20 years and older) of the National Ensemble Competition, hosted by the South African Society of Music Teachers, Pretoria branch.

At the National Youth Music Competition hosted by the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Cape Town from 6 to 11 December 2021, Kagiso Ramosa won the Michael Masote Prize for the most promising woodwind candidate. Karlin Kock won the Michael Masote Prize for the most promising pianist.

At the Faculty Awards event, Dr Jared McDonald, Dr Rosaline Sebolao and Prof Chitja Twala
Overview of 2021

The 2021 academic year was a relatively good year for the Department of African Languages. The COVID-19 pandemic brought its own negatives, but, on the other hand, provided much-needed opportunities, with most of the academic staff being able to present online papers without travelling and accommodation expenses. As a result, there was a sharp increase in paper presentations at conferences and national colloquia. However, research projects that required fieldwork activities were stifled by COVID-19 regulations and travel restrictions. Postgraduate students had challenges in terms of access to campuses and, most importantly, access to the University library; as a result only two MA students graduated in 2021. There was also a slight increase in publication of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. All departmental achievements and performances which are outlined in this report, acknowledge the efforts and support given by support staff, the departmental secretary, Mrs Hannetjie du Toit, the Faculty support staff and Faculty management.

Learning and Teaching

Departmental approach to decolonisation of the curriculum

The Department of African Languages views the call for the decolonisation of the curriculum as a noble idea, particularly in relation to the creation of an African identity in the curriculum, the visibility of the African voice, a return to humanism and the integration and recognition of indigenous African epistemologies. We advocate for the deconstruction of the assumption that Western and European epistemologies are superior to the indigenous African epistemologies. However, we disagree with an approach that seeks to pit the two epistemologies in a war-like engagement and the call for the complete dismantling and abolishment of Western epistemologies. Rather, as Le Grange (2016), suggests in his article ‘Decolonising the university curriculum (South African Journal of Higher Education 30[2]: 1-12), we believe that the decolonisation of the curriculum should decentre the Western epistemologies towards a culturally inclusive curriculum.

The curriculum should enable the production of graduates who possess critical skills which are of local and global relevance. In line with the above assertion, the Department adopts Damtrew Tefera’s call from his chapter ‘From “dumb” decolonization to “smart” internationalization: A requisite transition’, in Intelligent Internationalization: The shape of things to come (edited by Kara A Godwin and Hans de Wit and published by Brill, 2019), to move away from ‘dumb’ decolonisation to ‘smart’ internationalisation through the articulation of discourses that strategically place the African continent at the centre of global socio-political and economic context. He further indicates that this can be done through epistemological plurality, the adoption and promotion of multilingualism for teaching and learning, including assessments, the promotion of African scholarship through the adoption of home-grown theories and paradigms, the promotion of multilingual African pedagogies (such as translanguaging and ubuntu pedagogy), infusion of indigenous knowledge systems into our curriculum and collaborations with local, regional and international universities. This can be achieved through, for example, guest lectures and student cultural exchange programmes. In the light of this, the Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kibabii University from Kenya with the intention to provide joint supervision for postgraduate students, establish staff and postgraduate student exchange programmes, create an external examination database and host research capacity events, virtual workshops and seminars.

Short Learning Programmes

The Department offers the Sesotho Short Learning Programme which consists of three progressive levels, namely basic conversational Sesotho, intermediate conversational Sesotho and advanced conversational Sesotho. In 2021, 24 UFS staff members attended the basic conversational course, which, for the first time, was subsidised by the UFS Academy for Multilingualism.

External Examiners

Several of our academics served as external examiners during 2021 – Dr EN Malete for an MA in African Languages at the University of Johannesburg, Dr AS Motsei for an MA in African Languages at the University of Cape Town, an MA in African Languages and Literature at the National University of Lesotho, and an MA in the School of African Languages and Social Sciences at the University of Limpopo. Dr H Ndebele served as an external examiner for two students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.
Research Projects

Dr Elias Malete (principal researcher), together with two co-researchers, Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga (Centre for Gender and Africa Studies [CGAS]) and Dr Lucia Meko (Department of Human Nutrition) were awarded an Interdisciplinary Research Grant of R150 000 by the UFS Directorate for Research Development. The title of the research is ‘Re-humanizing the medical profession: a case for accessible vocabularies for maternal, infectious and non-communicable diseases and child malnutrition in South Africa’. This is an interdisciplinary research project that makes a case for developing indigenous vocabularies for maternal, infectious and non-communicable diseases and child malnutrition within the medical/health profession.

Dr Matthias Brenzinger and Dr Sheena Shah continued with the ‘Multimedia digital corpus of siPhûthî project’, which received additional funding of R200 000 from the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLAR) to conduct training workshops for the Lesotho trainees.

Dr Makutoane (principal researcher), from the Department of Hebrew, and Dr Motsei (co-researcher), from the Department of African Languages, were awarded R50 000 for a research project using linguistics and typological grammar to explore the typological features of Biblical Hebrew and Sesotho to determine precisely how they are similar and how they are different. It will be incorporated into the digital humanities project involving a complete revision and updating of the classical grammar of Biblical Hebrew written 20 years ago by Walktke and O’Connor (1990).

Research Outputs

Research Projects

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Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Conference Papers/Posters


Malete, E.N. 2021. The Role of African Languages in the Practice of Multilingualism at the University of the Free State. Paper delivered at University of Free
Engaged Scholarship

The Department, through Dr Elias Malete, and in collaboration with the UFS Academy for Multilingualism and UFS Marketing and Communication, actively participated in the Kovsies Multilingual Mokete (festival), a prestigious UFS initiative to promote multilingualism, by organising and facilitating topic of the discussion was based on the Mokete theme – ‘Hearing you hearing me’. The panel discussion, facilitated by Dr Malete, included Prof Angelique van Niekerk (Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French), Dr Hloniphane Ndebele (Department of African Languages), and Prof Nhlanhla Maake, a retired professor from the University of the Witwatersrand. Mr Mthobisi Busane also played a critical role in the Multilingual Mokete, as the translator and editor for IsiZulu student essays for the iCAN project.

Dr Malete had a newsletter article published on ‘Language is a key instrument in humanizing science’, which appeared in the Universities South Africa (USAf) Online Newsletter, on 5 October (https://www.usaf.ac.za/how-language-can-humanise-science).

Dr Anastacia Motsei reviewed three articles and Dr Mabohlokoa Khanyetsi reviewed ten articles and one book chapter for the NIHSS project hosted by the University of Cape Town. Dr Hloniphani Ndebele reviewed two articles for Cogent Education and Indilinga: African Journal of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, as well grant applications for the National Research Foundation (NRF).

Mr Mthobisi Busane
Dr Mabohlokoa Khanyetsi
Mr Mahlomola Paulus Makamele
Ms Dieketseng Elisa Phakisi

National and International Collaboration

Under Dr Malete’s leadership, collaboration was established between the Department of African Languages and the Department of African Languages at Kibabii University in Kenya. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Vice-Chancellors of the two institutions. The intention is to work together by sharing expertise as well as staff and student exchange programmes.

Postgraduate Students

In 2021 a total of 14 postgraduate students were registered in the Department – seven at Honours level, four at Master’s level and three for the PhD. Despite the challenges of studying under COVID-19 constraints, we are proud of our candidates who completed their MA in African Languages.
Under the supervision of Dr EN Malete, Mr Mahlemola Paulus Makhalemele completed his MA study on ‘The analysis and interpretation of humour in JJ Moloa’s literary works’.

Ms Dieketseng Elisa Phakisi completed her MA dissertation on ‘Sesotho printed media advertising: analysis and interpretation of persuasive messages in Sesotho printed media advertising’. Her supervisor was Dr AS Motsei.

Mr Tseko Isaac Mosia completed his MA degree in 2021; the title of his dissertation was ‘Patriarchal expressions in modern selected Sesotho novels: A Feminist Approach’ supervised by Mr BD Letlala and co–supervised by Dr EN Malete.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Dr EN Malete

Academic Staff

Permanent

Mr MS Busane           Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr MMT Khanyetsi       Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Mr BD Letlala           Lecturer
Mr MF Makhele          Junior Lecturer
Dr EN Malete            Senior Lecturer
Ms MS Mensele          Junior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr AS Motsei           Lecturer
Dr H Ndebele           Senior Lecturer
Mr S Ndebele          Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)

Contract

Ms MT Motloung          Junior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Mr MA Nhlapo            Junior Lecturer

Support Staff

Ms JCH du Toit          Senior Assistant Officer
Ms NV Moloi            Assistant Officer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Ms A Tsholeta          Contract Administrative Assistant
Overview of 2021

By its very definition the domain of foreign language teaching acknowledges the diversity of languages and cultures – an aspect that is utilised in both the teaching and the research conducted in all three sections of the Department. Through the sensitivity towards the language and cultural worlds of others, introspection with regard to the own and the familiar context, is encouraged. Within this landscape two focus areas define the work in the Department:

- Foreign language acquisition and Language technology
  - The French section continued with a national project aimed at decolonising the French curriculum. The project started in 2020 and continued in 2021, under the leadership of Dr Albertus Barkhuizen. Publication of an open source course book for French language acquisition is foreseen by the end of 2022. A new Honours module on language technology focusing on the languages in the Department was approved in 2021, and is a first for the UFS.

- Programme in Creative Writing
  - The programme in Creative Writing, offered at postgraduate level, is a flagship of the Department. The programme is supervised by two colleagues and published authors, Prof Henning Pieterse and Dr Francois Smith. The literary awards and reviews of the publications by lecturers and students in the MA programme, is indicative of the quality of the programme.

Many of the existing activities in the Department, such as film evenings (French, German and Dutch), public lectures, German Olympiad, etc., could not continue in their usual format during the past two years due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, other opportunities have been exploited, such as Prof Cilliers van den Berg presenting three papers at international conferences on online platforms.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr Francois Smith was promoted to Senior Lecturer at the end of 2021. His recent two book publications, Kleinest ramp denkbaar (2020) and Die Getuienis (2021), contributed to his standing as creative writer and supervisor for the MA in creative writing, offered by him and Prof Henning Pieterse.

At a book launch in 2021, two books from the departmental stable featured – Francois Smith’s book, Die Getuienis (Tafelberg publishers) and Robert Schall’s literary translation from German, titled Wat ek van klippe weet (Naledi publishers) – received many positive reviews in the media.

Three colleagues completed their doctoral studies in 2021, namely Albertus Barkhuizen, Alison Stander and Trudie Strauss. Dr Albertus Barkhuizen (French section) obtained his degree in February 2021 with the title: ‘Les bénéfices de l’enseignement des techniques de base de perfectionnement de langue à des apprenants (faux) débutants de FLE dans un contexte non-francophone’ (‘Benefits of Teaching Basic Language Perfecting Techniques to (faux) Beginners of FLE in a non-Francophone Context’).

Dr Alison Stander (Afrikaans and Dutch section) obtained her degree in December 2021. Her study focused on online learning and Afrikaans, with the title ‘n Voorgestelde onderrigmodel vir die aanleer van Afrikaans as vreemde taal in ‘n aanlyn omgewing.

Dr Trudie Strauss (German section) completed her study on ‘Investigating the power law behaviour of word frequency distributions across languages’, at the end of 2021, and the degree will be awarded at a graduation scheduled for April 2022.

At the end of 2021, Dr Trudie Strauss and Dr Tildie Smit were appointed as the programme directors for the Bachelor of Arts programme in the Faculty. These appointments exemplify the commitment of the Department to the teaching and learning structures within the Faculty.

Dr Albertus Barkhuizen was appointed as vice-chair for the Scientific Committee representing Humanities on the General Human Research Ethics Committee (GHREC).

Learning and Teaching

In the French and German sections, all lectures of the modules with lower student numbers and all postgraduate modules were presented face to face in 2021. In this way we endeavoured to adhere to the best quality in (foreign) language teaching and creative writing, that can only be achieved by meeting students in a seminar context.

The restructuring of the German section over the past two years has enabled students to easily progress from the German beginners’ course to a third-year level outcome (based on the module credits).

As always, the focus is on critical thinking with regard to German, French and Afrikaans and Dutch literary studies – thereby contextualising history and fiction with reference to the South African context, giving ample opportunity to think about issues such as coming to terms with history and collective historical traumas and legacies.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent worldwide lockdown brought with it a myriad of challenges for foreign language teachers. Many of the modules in the three sections of the Department were redesigned in 2020 and 2021 to keep students engaged in an asynchronous classroom setting, particularly with regard to communicative skills and intercultural understanding.

Together with lecturers in German at the North-West University (NWU) and the University of Zimbabwe, an informal project was launched which enabled students learning German to communicate with each other. In this project, a virtual classroom was introduced in which German students in South Africa could interact with German students from other countries, and in which the only medium of communication was the German language that they were in the process of learning. Students were given different assignments each week and were able to upload their work to a collaborative platform which other students could read and make comment. Students also performed group assignments in groups consisting of students from different cities/countries, and through this were able to learn about the process of learning German in other countries.

The Honours module in Language and Technology which was approved on a faculty level in 2021, will be presented by Dr Alison Stander. Her MA and PhD in this field and her teaching experience in foreign language acquisition and language technology have prepared her for this venture. This module and the fairly new Honours module in Review writing are aimed at supporting the employability of our students.

Foreign language acquisition is a focus area of all three sections in the Department and this explains the presentation of short learning programmes and the modules known as ‘conversational modules’ in Afrikaans, Dutch, German and French. Students do not need any prior knowledge to enrol for these modules in the Department. Foreign language acquisition does not only enhance employability, but it also supports social cohesion among students and within the UFS.

Several Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) in support of the multilingual drive of the UFS and which contribute valuable third stream income, are offered within the Department. These include:

- ‘Apprendre le français donne des ailes!’ within the French section.
- ‘Learn to speak Dutch’ in the Afrikaans and Dutch section.

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- ‘Learn to speak Dutch’ in the Afrikaans and Dutch section.

Dr Albertus Barkhuizen acted as examiner for the internationally accredited French language proficiency examinations in 2021 and Prof Van Niekerk acted as examiner for the internationally accredited Dutch Language proficiency examinations in 2021 at the UFS.

In the second semester of 2021, Dr Barkhuizen was invited as a guest lecturer at the University of Cape Town (UCT) for the module on ‘Teacher training curriculum design’, which forms part of their structured MA programme for teaching French as a foreign language.
Research Projects

The ongoing curriculum development project for French as a foreign language is hosted by Dr Barkhuizen in the French section, with collaborators from invited participants from UCT, NWU, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). The project, “Decolonizing the French language curriculum”, is funded by the office of the UFS Vice-Rector Academic.

Research Outputs

**Articles**


**Books**


**Creative Outputs**


**Conference Papers/Posters**


Ellis, C. 2021. The use of “oom” and “tannie” as an (im)polite form of address between Afrikaans speakers in South Africa. Paper delivered at INAR6 (International Network of Address Research), Bergamo, Italy (online), 23-25 June 2021.


**Engaged Scholarship**

Prof Angelique van Niekerk and colleagues from other departments, such as Dr Elias Maleta (Department of African Languages), participated in the panel discussion on multilingualism which formed part of the Kovsie Multilingual Mokete in September 2021, held the first time at the Qwaqwa Campus. She also participated in the panel discussion on ‘Naming practice in Literature’ at the Free State Arts Festival (held online) in September 2021. Prof Nico Luwes and Prof Hennie van Coller were part of the panel.

Prof Cilliers van den Berg was the editor-in-chief of Volume 49 of the Acta Germanica, published in 2021. This is the yearbook of the Association for German Studies in Southern Africa (SAGV). Editorial work involves national and international collaboration regarding the contributions selected for the journal. Contributions to the 2021 volume included work of researchers from Zimbabwe, India and Europe.

National and International Collaboration

The Department is proud of its international research associates, who produced a number of research outputs during 2021. In particular, this was evidenced through the German section’s collaboration with Prof Stuart Taberner of Leeds University (UK), and the French section’s collaboration with Prof Karen Ferreira-Meyers of the University of Eswatini. The Afrikaans and Dutch section’s collaboration with Prof Jerzy Koch of Poland was bolstered by his visit to the UFS in October 2021. The names of all national and international research associates are included on the departmental website.

In 2019, the Department was the second department within the Faculty of the Humanities to appoint an advisory board. The Advisory Board members in 2021 were Adv Henriëtte Murray, (senior advocate), Mr Gert Coetzee, (Editor Volksblad), Ms Mariska van der Merwe (Afrikaans teacher at Fichardtpark School, in Bloemfontein) and Ms Liesel Meintjes (former manager of SUN MeDIA).

Due to COVID-19, only one Advisory Board meeting was held in 2021. As part of the proceedings, senior students and members of the Department were invited to attend a session on ‘Boeke vandag’ (Books today) offered by Dr Riana Barnard, previous publisher of Literature at Tafelberg Publishers and a business analyst. The talk focused on the digital era and the changing needs of readers/consumers.

A second presentation was by Charles Smith, news editor of Media24, who spoke on the subject of ‘Demokratisering van die mediakanale’ (Democratization of news channels), focusing on freedom of speech, fake news and investigative journalism.

The development of an SLP for Dutch for South Africans received academic acknowledgement from the Dutch Language Union at the end of 2021, when it was presented on the Union’s home page. Prof Angelique van Niekerk (UFS) was the project leader, with collaborators Prof Nerina Bosman (University of Pretoria) and Prof Lieve de Wachter (KU Leuven, Belgium).

Other Activities

A book project on the history of the Department was launched in 2021, with the support and co-authorship of the language historian Prof JC (Jaap) Steyn, who was both a research fellow and a former colleague. The Department of Afrikaans and Dutch is the oldest department of its kind in South Africa and the first professor in Afrikaans, DF Malherbe, was appointed at the UFS in 1918. Prof JC Steyn sadly passed away on 6 September 2021. The project will be finalised by the rest of the editorial team.

During 2021 Prof Jaap Steyn made a scholarship available for undergraduate students within the discipline of Afrikaans and Dutch. The funds were transferred to an investment account and the first students will be able to apply for funding by the end of 2022. The bursary fund, ‘Tuiste in eie taal’, is being administered by the UFS in collaboration with the Department and the Faculty of the Humanities.

A former head of the department of German (German functioned as a stand-alone department until 1998), Prof Klaus von Delft, passed away in August 2021. The tributes to him and Prof Steyn received from academic circles across South Africa and abroad were indicative of the legacy and contribution of these exceptional colleagues.

Prof Naomi Morgan added a number of literary translations to her list of creative outputs, as a practical illustration of some of the core concepts of the French Honours course.

Although COVID-restrictions curtailed many of the theatre productions for which they were intended, ’n Klein Wonderwerk (the Afrikaans translation of Paul Gallico’s The Small Miracle) was hosted by the Aardklop Opwip, and the Free State Arts Festival hosted Madame Pylinska en die geheim van Chopin (the Afrikaans translation of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt’s Madame Pylinska et le secret de Chopin).

2021 also saw the publication of French translation of Francois Smith’s award-winning novel, Kamphoer, as Fille & soldats.

Since 2015 the Department has offered a speaker series with about 10 public lectures scheduled per year. In October 2021, Prof Jerzy Koch of Poland – one of the first appointed research fellows of the Department – visited South Africa and presented a lecture to our senior students and staff on the Bloemfontein Campus (also streamed) on his research on Dutch literature history and his first volume of poetry, published in 2020.

The Department has three separate film clubs for French, German and Dutch. Members of staff, the public and our students are invited to attend these evenings in order to improve their cultural knowledge within the respective languages, as well as their language acquisition skills. The departmental film clubs usually screen 10 movies per year, but could not continue as usual in 2021.

The Department made a special effort to attract the attention of future language students with the (tongue-in-cheek) poster aimed at creating awareness and academic advice via a QR code that provides direct contact with the Department and access to the departmental website.

Presenters at the Advisory Board session in May 2021, Riana Barnard and Charles Smith

Prof Klaus von Delft

Marketing poster 2021, distributed on many different platforms
Postgraduate Students

Three students in the MA programme for creative writing excelled in 2021.

The literary translation of a selection of poems (from German) with the title Wat ek van klippe weet, by Robert Schall was very well received by critics.

Lynthia Julius, a first-year student in the MA in Creative Writing, was awarded the Jaap Steyn Bursary for creative writing in Afrikaans at the end of 2021. The bursary, made available by the Hiemstra Trust, is awarded to the student who made the best progress in the first year of the programme and a student who will continue to the second year of the structured MA in Creative Writing.

Lynthia's volume of poetry, Uit die kroes, which was published in 2020, received many positive reviews on various platforms.

Anton Roodt won the Jan Rabie-Rapport prize in 2021 for his debut novel Weerlose Meganika, published in 2020, which formed part of his MA in Creative Writing. The Department has access to the bursary for at least five years.

The collegiality and work ethic in the Department and amongst our support staff, is something we cherish dearly.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department:
Prof A van Niekerk

Afrikaans and Dutch Section:
Academic Staff
Permanent
Ms C Ellis Lecturer
Dr M Human-Nel Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof HJ Pieterse Professor

Support Staff
Ms I Mostert Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff
Prof K Ferreira-Meyers Research Fellow

German Section:
Academic Staff
Permanent
Ms S Strauss Lecturer
Prof NPC van den Berg Associate Professor
Support Staff
Ms L Botha Assistant Officer
Affiliated Staff
Prof S Tabener Research Fellow

Support Staff
Ms I Mostert Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff
Prof J Koch Research Fellow
Ms M Lambrechts Research Fellow
Dr CP Naude Research Fellow
Mr A Roodt Research Fellow
Ms M Pretorius Research Fellow
Prof JC Steyn (until September 2021) Research Fellow

French Section:
Academic Staff
Permanent
Dr A Barkhuizen Lecturer
Prof N Morgan Professor
Support Staff
Ms I Mostert Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff
Prof K Ferreira-Meyers Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

2021, the second year of COVID-19 and its many lockdowns, confirmed the dedication of staff and students to completing the year strongly. Reliant on predominantly virtual teaching and learning, colleagues guided undergraduate and postgraduate students through the various twists and turns of intellectual inquiry in a psycho-emotionally taxing year.

The uncertain context confirmed the need to create decolonial intellectual spaces that foregrounded staff and student wellbeing as part of our curricular offerings. Students were supported academically through compassionate and contextual responses to their academic work and their particular circumstances. Students were stretched intellectually through critical and direct engagement with global and local social problematics, inclusive of South African higher education and the sector’s response to teaching and learning during COVID-19.

Staff members continued to be actively involved in research activities, inclusive of completing doctoral fieldwork, drafting doctoral chapters, drafting ethnographic texts, publishing articles, delivering conference presentations and contributing to external research webinars. Our research activities demonstrate the Department’s commitment to increasing our research profile nationally and internationally.

A decolonial mindset frames our teaching and research praxis. By way of introducing students to decolonial thinking and analysis Prof Owen, Mr Serekoeane and Ms Masenya, in particular, crafted courses in undergraduate and Honours years that interrogated the taken-for-granted nature of ontological and epistemological suppositions in Anthropology and cognate disciplines.

The Department was also actively involved in engagement activities during 2021. These included contributing to the Faculty’s Research Webinar Series, public lectures and blogs, as well as contributing news articles / opinion pieces in the news media. In addition, several staff members also contributed to departmental and faculty administrative and leadership activities.

We also welcomed a new office administrator, Mr Gomotso Moticoe, into the Department. He responded to the challenge of working with new colleagues and coming to terms with a new department with aplomb. We are lucky to have him with us in the Department.

In short, the words commitment, flexibility and resilience came to mind when describing 2021 in the Anthropology Department.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Prof Joy Owen was an Invited Panelist at the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) Webinar on ‘Refugees and Anthropology’, held on 30 September 2021. Her standing in transnational African migration was further recognised when she was requested to review a journal as an ASSAf Independent Peer Reviewer in February 2021. Prof Owen’s appointment as Regional Editor (Africa) of Teaching Anthropology, a journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, confirms her growing stature as a pedagogue.

Prof Theodore Petrus was appointed as a Regional Mentor for the Free State, UNISA and Northwest Corridor regions of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Doctoral Mentorship Programme for 2020/2021.

Student Achievements

Ingrid Keamogetswe Juries (PhD candidate) and Mamokoena Mokoena (Master’s student) co-authored and co-presented a paper with Prof Joy Owen, titled ‘Bordering on complexity? African migrants’ narratives of boundary creation and dissolution’, for the annual Oxford Migration Studies Society conference, held online in May 2021.

Learning and Teaching

Prof Joy Owen was deeply involved in the reorientation of the first-year first semester module on ‘The study of humanity’ (ANT11514), to an entirely virtual offering, with synchronous and asynchronous lectures. As noted in the introduction to the study guide, “Focused on initiating you into critical questioning, critical thinking, and critical reflection this unit encourages deep reflection on your humanity, and the humanity of ‘others’. Our learning experiences and encounters are person-centred, and built on a foundation of mutuality”.

Prof Owen’s critical engaged pedagogy centres students’ learning and unlearning in her construction of the curriculum, as she decolonises the top-down approach of normative, hierarchical teaching in the academy. With the use of Anthropological insights that underscore the power of representative voices, she introduces first-year students to a critique of Anthropology as practised in South Africa and elsewhere. Through a critique of the discipline’s history as situated in colonial, apartheid and capitalist whiteness, Prof Owen encourages students to become critical of the discipline, without negating the value of its insights, and the considered way in which Anthropology can be used in the contemporary moment to harass easy assumptions about humanity at large. Reflection and reflexivity are thus central to the teaching of the course, as students are encouraged to maintain weekly reflective journals. In this way, from the start of the undergraduate degree in Anthropology, students become writers who are aware of their herstories, and the varied ways in which our enculturation impact our interactions with ‘others’.
Prof Owen sets high standards for students in Anthropology from the outset. Her critical pedagogy does not, however, take place in a vacuum as her ethic of care, further embodied by the Anthropology first-year team on the Bloemfontein and South Campuses, supports intellectual learning through a response to the emotional needs of students. The second year of COVID-19 was no less harrowing than 2020, and the need for responsive and immediate emotional assistance was apparent.

In 2021 Prof Owen and Mr Motsaathebe Serekoane reworked and refreshed the fourth term Honours’ module on ‘Postcolonial Identity/ies’ (ANTS6844). Prof Owen’s teaching is underscored by the need to support students’ independent critical thinking, and encourage them to think beyond the texts that they have read during their undergraduate curriculum. As the ‘norm’. Students’ narratives were included, creating multi-vocality, and the assessments were designed strategically to encourage students to reflect on their interpretation and translation of symbols and symbolism in the everyday. Students were pushed to question how they were socialised and phenomena they considered as the ‘norm’. Students’ thinking was thus expanded as they critically engaged and questioned their ‘one-sided narrative’, while making room for other narratives. The module was a ‘difficult and uncomfortable’ journey of unlearning and relearning as students came to terms with the many ways in which humans, themselves included, create and attach meaning to symbols.

Ms Masenya inherited the ANTS 2724 (the symbolic resources of culture) module in 2021. Her teaching philosophy is rooted in the discourse of decoloniality with a particular focus on expanding the curriculum to include multiple voices, critically engaging the materials provided considering the complexity of past and present lived experiences and acknowledging students as co-creators of knowledge in and outside the classroom. Guided by these pedagogic principles Ms Masenya restructured the module guide by reducing the number of themes covered to ensure an in-depth consideration of the material. Reading materials beyond the South African context were included, creating multi-vocality, and the assessments were designed strategically to encourage students to reflect on their interpretation and translation of symbols and symbolism in the everyday. Students were pushed to question how they were socialised and phenomena they considered as the ‘norm’. Students’ thinking was thus expanded as they critically engaged and questioned their ‘one-sided narrative’, while making room for other narratives. The module was a ‘difficult and uncomfortable’ journey of unlearning and relearning as students came to terms with the many ways in which humans, themselves included, create and attach meaning to symbols.

Across the Department virtual teaching through Blackboard was supported through the continuation of WhatsApp tutorials. These tutorials provided students with the opportunity to speak and engage in ways that are not always possible in face to face classrooms. During COVID-19 it has become apparent that students are responsive to a more hybrid experience of learning, realising the opportunities that come from working in ‘real time’ in a medium that is not data exhaustive, and that allows them ease of scrolling access to a transcript of a ‘live session’. Academic facilitators, Ms Strauss (Bloemfontein Campus), Ms Blomerus and Ms Juries (South Campus), were particularly instrumental to the successful employment of WhatsApp as a teaching aid.

Short Learning Programmes

Prof Theodore Petrus is leading the development of a multi-disciplinary Short Learning Programme (SLP) on gang subcultures in South Africa. In collaboration with the Departments of Criminology at the University of the Free State (UFS), Unisa and the University of Cape Town’s (UCT) Institute for Criminology, Prof Petrus will lead, co-ordinate and facilitate the SLP once approved.

Research Projects

Prof Theodore Petrus is project leader for the NIHSS-funded project ‘The Impact of Covid-19 Lockdowns on Safety and Security in Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha)’. He leads the Social and Community Cluster of the project. The funding received for the project amounts to R500 000.

Dr Christian Williams worked on preparing a book titled Faith and Exile, a biography of Salatiel Allonga, a former Namibian exile and Lutheran pastor who participated in the struggle to liberate Namibia from apartheid South African rule. The project is funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. In 2021 he received six months of fellowship to support research and writing of the book.

Dr Shirley du Plooy is involved in a Digital and Medical Humanities Collaboration titled ‘Soft but significant’, which harnesses Humanities and Social Sciences in paving the way to create Oncology Data Lakes. Dr Du Plooy is working with several colleagues from The Humanities, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures and Health Sciences on this important exploratory study. The project aims to provide insights into the knowledge, experiences and perceptions of data lakes for the single use case of oncology in the Free State. Of particular interest will be matters relating to data literacy as well as how bureaucracy and ideology serve to impinge or promote data sharing for improvement of health outcomes.

Research Outputs

**Articles**


In March 2021, Dr Williams was interviewed for the New Books Network about his previous book on SWAPO’s exile camps (https://newbooksnetwork.com/national-liberation-in-postcolonial-southern-africa/).

Dr Shirley du Plooy was instrumental in conceptualising and implementing the Faculty’s Research and Research Ethics Webinar Series. The seminar series consisted of nine themed 90-minute sessions. The intention was to draw from expertise within the Faculty. In so doing, a panel and discussant tackled conversations to highlight and offer solutions to research and research ethics dilemmas or aspects directed at research capacity building for colleagues and postgraduate students. The relative success of the series has led to a second series in 2022.

Mr Joe Serekoane was appointed as a member of the editorial committees for the South African Journal of Cultural History (2021 to 2024) and Africa Institute Cultural History Postgraduate Students

The following PhD candidates were registered in the Department in 2021 and will continue their studies in 2022:

- Janie Swanepoel – ‘In the land of the jackals: The emergence of postcolonial ecologies in Southern Namibia’ (Supervisor: Prof Robert J. Gordon).
- Keamogetswe Ingrid Juries – ‘Blurred lines? The experiences of African higher educational transmigrant students in Bloemfontein, South Africa’ (Supervisor: Prof Joy Owen).
- Nombulelo Shange – ‘Table Mountain Doctors: Revitalising African indigenous knowledge, a struggle for land, cultural rights and acceptance’ (Supervisor: Prof Mpilo Pearl Sithole).

National and International Collaboration

As a Humboldt Research Fellow, Dr Christian Williams has been based in, and collaborated with, colleagues in the Anthropology Department at the University of Freiburg in Germany and has done research in Germany, Switzerland and Finland. He has also participated on international academic advisory boards for the H-Net Cross Network Project ‘Refugees in African History, the Journal of Southern African Studies, and Anthropology Southern Africa.'
### Staff (2021)

**Academic Head of Department:**
Prof J Owen

#### Academic Staff

**Permanent**
- **Ms L Blomerus**
- **Dr S du Plooy**
- **Dr P Esterhuyse**
- **Ms KL Juries**
- **Ms DV Masenya**
- **Prof J Owen**
- **Prof T Petrus**
- **Mr MJ Serekoane**
- **Dr C Williams**
- **Ms A Strauss**

- **Academic Facilitator**
- **Senior Lecturer**
- **Senior Lecture and Programme Director (BSocSci)**
- **Academic Facilitator**
- **Lecturer**
- **Associate Professor**
- **Associate Professor**
- **Senior Lecturer**
- **Academic Facilitator**

**Contract**
- **Ms C Matjila**

- **Lecturer (Units)**

#### Support Staff

- **Mr GR Moticoe**

- **Senior Assistant Officer**

#### Affiliated Staff

- **Dr C Dube**
- **Prof R Gordon**
- **Dr J Kurzwelly**
- **Ms L Philip**
- **Dr M Siluonde**

- **Postdoctoral fellow**
- **Research Fellow**
- **Research Fellow**
- **Research Fellow**
- **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Overview of 2021

After a period of lockdown, isolation and institutional introspection, 2021 marked a year of renewed optimism and outward growth for our Department. Fresh investment in academic citizenship and engaged scholarship was at the top of our list of priorities, and we soon began to reap the rewards. Our Department now boasts a significantly enlarged presence on advisory and editorial boards, with representation on the advisory board of the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery and the Oliewenhuis Art Museum, locally, and the editorial boards of the Short Film Studies journal and Contemporary Cinema book series, internationally. A related highlight was the Department’s growing initiative and involvement in guest-editing themed journal issues. And, on top of that, the past year heralded the first single-authored book publication in our Department, which lays a foundation for similar research projects in the near future.

As part of our outward growth, the Department has deepened its longstanding commitment to interdisciplinary work, as demonstrated by our teaching and research collaborations with departments as diverse as Fine Arts, Drama and Theatre Studies, Geography, Geology and Practical Theology. Part of our efforts in this regard was to establish ‘Translations’ as a new interdisciplinary theme in the Faculty of the Humanities, a move that enabled the funding of interdepartmental projects devoted to relations, interactions and creative translations between various arts and media. A particular highlight in our work on the theme of ‘Translations’ last year was the completion of Adelheid von Maltitz’s lauded PhD project ‘Site, Materiality and Ritual’ – a project deeply invested in the notion of ‘translations’, and for which our Department had the pleasure of providing theoretical supervision.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Ms Louiza Combrinck completed her BA Honours with specialisation in Art History and Visual Culture Studies, with distinction, to complement the four-year Honours-equivalent BA Fine Arts that she obtained the year before.

After two successful years in the Emerging Scholar Accelerator Programme (ESAP) ending in 2021, Dr Martin Rossouw was selected for the 2022-2024 cohort of the University of the Free State’s Future Generation Professoriate Programme (FGPP). The programme serves to support and help develop emerging scholars for their roles as future professors and academic leaders of our institution.

Student Achievements

Mpendulo Myeni, a Master’s student in our Film and Visual Media programme in 2021, was the director and co-producer of the 29-minute short film, Leshano (‘The Lie’), which is showing on the streaming service Showmax. This Sesotho film was produced locally between Bloemfontein and Botshabelo, and offered a range of Free State-based artists the opportunity for creative collaboration.

Learning and Teaching

Interdisciplinary pedagogic interventions are woven into the DNA of our Department. Over and above our daily interdisciplinary teaching and supervision with the Department of Fine Arts, our Department has recently established an interdisciplinary Honours programme in Film and Visual Media with the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts, and an inter-faculty module on Liturgy, Spirituality, and Film Studies with the Department of Practical Theology.

Building on these precedents, in 2021 we started discussions with the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice regarding the development of potential Master’s and PhD programmes in Intermedia Translation. In this multi-departmental project we see a unique role for us to carve out a space for the interdisciplinary study of creative translations between the arts – and in this way also help foster more collaboration between arts departments at our institution.
The integration of diverse disciplinary knowledge is increasingly important to our Department and it is our vision to continue building strength and reputation in interdisciplinary research. A significant recent step in this regard was the success of Dr Adelheid von Maltitz, a colleague in the Department of Fine Arts, who in 2021 completed her PhD in Fine Arts, under the theoretical supervision of Prof Suzanne Human from our Department.

Dr Von Maltitz was the Group A winner of the 2021 Absa L’Atelier art competition. Group A of this highly prestigious prize includes contestants from Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. This wonderful recognition of Dr Von Maltitz’s artistic research is a testament to the close-knit interdisciplinary methodology that we have refined with the Department of Fine Arts over a number of years.

In addition, Prof Suzanne Human was a recipient, with Dr Adelheid von Maltitz, of R50 000 from the Faculty’s Interdisciplinary Research Fund for a joint research project on ‘Borders and Boundaries in South Africa: Relations Among Land Art, Trauma and Translation’. The project integrates hands-on practice-led research with a philosophical and historical investigation of art and funerary practices, to open up wider possibilities for artistic exploitation of land art about land issues in South Africa.

Dr Martin Rossouw was the co-recipient of a 2021 UFS inter-faculty grant of R140 000 for the two-year project ‘Digital Landscapes: Using Immersive Technologies to Capture South Africa’s Geosites for Research, Preservation and Education’. The multidisciplinary project team includes Elizabeth Rudolph (Department of Geography) as Principal Investigator, Martin Clark (Department of Geology), Jay le Roux (Department of Geography) and Falko Buschke (Centre for Environmental Management). The project is devoted to the documentation, visual reconstruction and digital conservation of significant geosites in South Africa.

In partnership with Prof Julian Hanich from the University of Groningen, Dr Rossouw has been finalising What Film is Good For: On the Ethics of Spectatorship, an edited volume which will feature over 30 essays from top international film studies’ scholars from across the globe. The volume, under contract with the University of California Press, is currently in the final stages of production and is due for publication in March 2023. The project was enabled by a successful joint application to the Nicolaas Mulerius Foundation for a grant of €4 000.

Research Projects

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Research Outputs

Articles


Rossouw, M.P. 2021. Watchmen, From Co-Mix to Remix. Literature/Film Quarterly 49(4) Online.

Books


Conference Papers/Posters


Rossouw, M.P. 2021. Film Spectatorship as Spiritual Exercise: On Transformational Ethics of Film. Invited lecture delivered at the Institute for the Advancement of Theology in Southern Africa, University of the Free State, South Africa. 4 August 2021.
Engaged Scholarship

In 2021, the Department was delighted to consolidate and expand its presence on relevant advisory and editorial boards – both locally and abroad.

In terms of the work of our art historians, Prof Suzanne Human has continued her tenure as chair of the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery advisory board, which plays a key role in all visual arts-related processes and initiatives at the University of the Free State. In addition, Mr Josef van Wyk accepted an invitation to join the advisory board of Oliewenhuis, the national art museum in Bloemfontein.

In the context of film and visual media, Dr Rossouw was appointed in August 2021 as the new series editor of Brill’s Contemporary Cinema – a book series that addresses screen productions since the turn of the millennium – with a new-look editorial board that features a number of prominent film studies’ scholars from the UK, Canada and the USA. From November 2021, Dr Rossouw became an invited editorial board member of Short Film Studies, currently the sole international journal dedicated to the study of the historical importance and increasing contemporary prominence of short films.

Dr Rossouw was the guest editor of a special issue of Literature/Film Quarterly – the longest-standing international journal of adaptation studies. The issue, ‘Watchmen: From Co-Mix to Remix’, published in October 2021, is dedicated to a range of questions raised by Damon Lindelof’s 2019 HBO television ‘remix’ adaptation of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons’ iconic Watchmen comics. The issue features essay contributions from Joshua Wille (independent scholar), Eduardo Navas (Pennsylvania State University), Aaron Taylor (University of Lethbridge), Andrew Hoberek (University of Missouri) and Sheila J Nayar (University of Utah).

On 17 July 2021, Dr Rossouw was an invited discussant, alongside Dr Chris Broodryk from the University of Pretoria, on the national radio broadcaster Radio Sonder Grense (Naweekaktueel) on the topic of the 2021 Emmy Award nominees. The panel, titled ‘Lyric Videos’, featured contributions from Carol Vernallis, Virginia Kuhn, Laura McLaren and Elsie Walker, all leading scholars in audiovisual aesthetics. Dr Rossouw’s own contribution, titled ‘The Lyric Video as Moving Concrete Poetry, Or: The Pleasures of Eye-Tennis with Tay-Tay’, briefly looked at the use of expressive space in the official lyric video for Taylor Swift’s ‘exile’.

Likewise, Ms Johanet Kriel-de Klerk continued with her PhD studies as part of the same joint-PhD initiative. Her supervisor at the University of Groningen is Prof Annie van den Oever and her co-supervisors at the UFS are Prof Suzanne Human and Prof Helene Strauss.

In terms of our growing network of collaborators, we were delighted to appoint Dr Nikita Mathias as a new Research Fellow in our Department. A 2018 graduate of Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, in collaboration with the University of Oslo (summa cum laude), Dr Mathias currently works as a senior concept developer and researcher at the renowned MUNCH (Munchmuseet) in Oslo, an art museum dedicated to the legacy of the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. Dr Mathias’ interdisciplinary research profile fits perfectly with the current research and pedagogical agendas of our Department, and we look forward to a productive collaboration with him.

National and International Collaboration

Mr Josef van Wyk was formally enrolled in the Graduate School of the Humanities, University of Groningen, as part of our steadily growing joint-PhD agreement and collaboration with the Dutch institution. His expert team of co-supervisors is, at the University of Groningen, Prof Annie van den Oever, Prof Nicholas Baer and Prof Julian Hanich, and at the UFS, Prof Suzanne Human.

Prof Annie van den Oever has continued her consultation and collaboration in her capacity as Extraordinary Professor in our Department. Prof Van den Oever is Associate Professor of Film and Head of the Film Archive and Media Archaeology Lab at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, research associate at the Institut ACTE, Cinéma et Audiovisuelle, Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne, founding editor of the Amsterdam University Press academic book series The Key Debates, founding editor of Necsus: European Journal of Media Studies, editorial board member of Image and Text and advisor to the Dalkey Archive Press.

Dr Francis Halsall has continued his formal affiliation as Research Fellow of the Department. He is Co-Director of the Masters Programme on Art in the Contemporary, at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland.

Dr Katja Gencic has also furthered her work as Postdoctoral Fellow under the banner of our Department. Affiliated also with L’École Supérieure d’Art et Design Le Havre-Rouen (ESADHaR), she has developed a research programme titled Imaginaires vagabonds et cadres politiques: Artistes sud-africains à la Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris, which focuses on the South African artists who in the past years have been selected to work in residency at the Cité internationale des Arts de Paris.
Paris. The following publications were produced by Dr Gentric in her capacity as Postdoctoral Fellow during 2021:


**Postgraduate Students**

In 2021, five students were registered in the Film and Visual Media Honours full-time programme and two in the Film Master’s. One Honours student and one PhD student were registered for Art History and Image Studies.

The Department guided to successful completion the research supervision for one Honours in Art History and Visual Culture Studies degree (with distinction) and five Honours in Film and Visual Media degrees (two with distinction).

Rudiker Janse van Rensburg – co-supervised by Dr Martin Rossouw and Ms Johanet Kriel-de Klerk – was awarded the MA in Film and Visual Media with distinction. The MA is the first produced in our still young postgraduate programme for Film and Visual Media and undoubtedly the first of many more to come.

As reported earlier, the PhD in Fine Arts was awarded to Adelheid von Maltitz, who was supervised by Prof Suzanne Human.

In addition, in 2021 the Department provided research supervision for a group of six fourth-year students who successfully completed the Honours-equivalent BA Fine Arts.

**Staff (2021)**

**Academic Head of Department:**
Dr MP Rossouw

**Academic Staff**

- **Permanent**
  - Prof ES Human: Associate Professor
  - Ms JA Kriel-De Klerk: Lecturer
  - Dr MP Rossouw: Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Film and Visual Media Programme
  - Mr J van Wyk: Junior Lecturer

- **Contract**
  - Ms L Combrinck: Junior Lecturer (Units)

**Support Staff**

- Ms A de Gouveia: Senior Assistant Officer

**Affiliated Staff**

- Dr F Halsall: Research Fellow
- Dr N Mathias: Research Fellow
- Prof A van den Oever: Extraordinary Professor

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**Centre for Gender and Africa Studies**

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The Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (CGAS) achieved numerous milestones in 2021 in terms of learning and teaching, scholarship of engagement, and its strategic trajectory. Indeed, the challenges of the preceding year forced us to think innovatively in our approach across all domains. In the CGAS, we have learnt that doing things differently as demanded by our immediate context does not preclude quality, but may actually enhance it.

We successfully adapted to online teaching modalities, which created stability in our programmes and led to the highest number of qualifications obtained ever in a single academic year in the CGAS. In both our BA Honours programmes (Africa Studies and Gender Studies), additional developmental measures were put in place to provide more intensive support towards the completion of their Honours Research Reports. These measures proved highly successful and contributed to the highest completion rate of Honours students in the CGAS since its inception in 2007.

In terms of engaged scholarship, we successfully adapted to new virtual frontiers in the delivery of our flagship events. For the Africa Day Memorial Lecture, we were honoured to host world-renowned decolonial scholars, Prof Walter Mignolo, as the speaker, with Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni as discussant. We hosted Prof Gabriele Griffin, a leading gender scholar in the field globally, for the Biennial Gendered Worlds Lecture. For Heritage Day, we collaborated with numerous Arts departments from the Faculty of the Humanities and external artists on a film project, which was quite different from any of our previous Heritage Day events.

One of the most significant milestones of 2021 was the approval of the proposed structural extension of the CGAS to the Qwaqwa Campus, with implementation from 2022, with its own dedicated staff and academic home of the Community Development Programme.

Dr Nadine Lake’s hard work in and commitment to the Gender Studies Programme in terms of learning and teaching and engaged scholarship, was rewarded when she was promoted to Senior Lecturer from January 2021. In March 2021, Dr Lake was invited by Prof Amanda Gouws, renowned Political Scientist and Gender Scholar, to present a SARChI Chair in Politics Lecture hosted by Stellenbosch University, titled ‘“Corrective rape” and black lesbian sexualities in South Africa: Negotiating the tensions between ‘blackwashing’ and ‘pinkwashing’ homophobia’. The lecture was based on a chapter published in 2021 in the Routledge International Handbook of Social Work and Sexualities, for which Dr Lake was invited to submit a chapter.

In 2021, she also served as Board Member of the South African Association for Gender Studies (SAAGS) with notable gender scholars such as Prof Deirdre Byrne, Prof Amanda Gouws, Prof Pumla Gqola, Prof Zethu Matebeni, Prof Desiree Lewis and Prof Deevia Bhana. Dr Lake was also awarded an EU mobility and training grant to be taken up at the University of Pompeu Febra, Barcelona, in 2022.

Dr Munyadarizh Mushonga was invited to be the keynote speaker in a number of academic dialogues on decoloniality for departments and divisions at the UFS – the Centre for Development Support on 10 November 2021, the Division of Student Affairs on 25 November 2021 – and other institutions, notably the Faculty of Humanities at the National University of Lesotho on 6 December 2021, at which the title of his keynote address was ‘The resilient epistemic empire and imperatives for decolonization’. He was also the keynote speaker for an online memorial lecture organised by the Moshoeshoe I Institute of Peace and Leadership (MIPL) in collaboration with the National University of Lesotho on 24 March 2021, with a lecture titled ‘In living memory of Moshoeshoe I: The decolonial philosopher-king of love, peace, co-existence and pluriversal humanism’ (https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/news-archive/campus-news/2021/april/honouring-moshoeshoe-i-s-decolonial-philosophy).

Our two Extraordinary Professors also delivered notable keynote addresses in 2021. Prof Henning Melber delivered the keynote address, titled ‘Dissecting the economic and social impact of genocide on descendants of the victims of genocide’, at the webinar organised by the Ideas Foundation in Windhoek on 15 September. Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni was a prolific international keynote speaker in 2021 delivering 25 keynote addresses at international conferences and top international institutions, such as the University of Zurich, the University of California in Los Angeles, Dartmouth College, the University of Tubingen, and the London School of Economics, to name a few. As keynote speaker, he traversed
Learning and Teaching

After intensive deliberations towards the end of 2020 and successive waves of the COVID-19 pandemic still in full swing at the time, the CGAS took the considered decision to transition to full-time online teaching for the 2021 academic year to mitigate the unpredictability of the situation and to bring much needed stability to the academic programmes within the CGAS. This involved the replacement of physical contact sessions with online contact sessions on the Blackboard Collaborate platform. In order to provide much-needed academic enrichment and expose students to diverse viewpoints, guest lectures were also included in online contact session programmes – including presentations by transgender activist and speaker, Jessica Lynn, in the Programme for Gender Studies, and Prof Jesmael Mataga, Visiting Professor, in the Programme for Gender Studies, and Prof Jesmael Mataga, Visiting Professor, in the Programme for Gender Studies, respectively.

Prior to registration for 2021, all students were informed of the decision to move to full-time online teaching so that they could choose whether they were comfortable to study under these conditions. Even though offering online classes for the first time in the history of our programmes required learning new systems and modalities for learning and teaching, in retrospect, this decision proved to be the correct one as it brought stability in our programmes as students and staff knew what to expect. The increase in pass rates from 2020 to 2021 reflects the positive outcome of this enhanced stability.

In order to increase the historically low pass rates in the modules representing Honours Research Reports in our BAHons programmes (Africa Studies and Gender Studies), the respective Programme Directors, in consultation with the Director, put in place remedial mechanisms to enhance the pass rates by appointing additional external expertise to help supervise students more intensively, as well as providing additional academic writing training during online contact sessions. Effectively, in both the BAHons Africa and Gender Studies programmes, this module is now dealt with in a similar way to conventional taught modules, with strict deadlines and class facilitation to assist students with time management in terms of the development of the proposal and obtaining ethical clearance in time for them to write and submit the research report by 30 November, so that the final marks can be captured before the end of the academic year. This approach was highly successful in the 2021 academic year with substantial improvements in pass rates – in the BAHons (Gender Studies), the pass rate for this module improved by 81.7% in 2021, while in the BAHons (Africa Studies) the pass rate improved by 48.25%.

Enhanced stability in our teaching modalities was also buttressed by a flexible student-centred approach to formative assessment in support of learning. In order to accommodate students, deadline dates were more flexible (within reason) and resubmissions allowed (after receiving feedback from lecturers) in cases where students performed sub-optimally in assignments. A differentiated approach was also followed in terms of year-end assessment where the Programme Directorate for the Programme for Africa Studies reinstated year-end sit-down exams for the modules in the BAHons (Africa Studies), while the Gender Studies Programme Directorate elected to proceed with exam equivalent assessments (EEAs) in assignment format. This differentiation was largely due to the fact that there were international students in the Gender Studies Programme who would not have been able to participate in sit-down examinations due to travel restrictions and the potentially inhibitive costs.

Short Learning Programmes

CGAS had its first short learning programme (SLP) accredited in late 2016. The course, ‘Conflict Competency Development’ (ASCC 1502S) addresses the need for a less formal, competency-based but non-credit bearing course for relevant role-players in the developmental environment. The purpose of the SLP is to enable attendees in the management of conflict through conflict awareness and a range of conflict management skills that will equip them to proactively and reactively address various permutations of conflict in the developmental environment, ultimately leading to conflict competency. The course has been offered in the past to members of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and senior directors of the Free State Provincial Government. The COVID-19 pandemic brought an end to all face-to-face training interventions, with no courses offered in 2020 and 2021. A start was made with the development of an online version of the course, but more planning and budgeting needs to be done in order to offer a premium product to the market. This will be a priority for 2022.
Research Projects

Dr Stephanie Cawood collaborated with Prof Jonathan Fisher, from the University of Birmingham, on fieldwork for the Newton Advanced Fellowship funded by the British Academy and Newton Fund on the theme ‘Memorialising struggle: Dynamics of memory, space and power in post-liberation Africa’. The data collection phase concluded in 2019 and in 2021 Dr Cawood and Prof Fisher were engaged in preparing their findings for publication. Total funding amounted to approximately R1 100 000.

Dr Cawood also collaborated on an interdisciplinary research project, titled ‘Testing the waters: The application of the Rapid Integrity Appraisal (RIA) model to Mohokare informal heritage sites’, with Dr Tascha Vos from the Centre for Environmental Management at the UFS. Data collection took place from 2018 to 2019 and the co-researchers are in the process of preparing their findings for dissemination, with one article already in publication. Funding was obtained from the Vice-Rector: Research and Internationalisation (R100 000).

In 2020, data saturation was reached in the southern Free State partner communities and the IKSDC extended its operations to eastern Free State communities. In the first quarter of 2021, the IKSDC focused mostly on data quality, cleaning and synchronisation into the NIKMAS Server. The process took place between to month of April and June. We successfully synced the Free State data to NIKMAS Central on 1 June 2021, which comprised 68 IK holders, 453 claims, 341 African Traditional Medicine harvests and nine food harvests. This was a breakthrough for the project because the Free State IKSDC became one of the first provincial IKSDCs to sync its data to the central NRS to be launched in 2022.

The aim of the IKSDC is to document indigenous knowledge in Free State communities as part of the National Recordal System (NRS), which will both safeguard and protect indigenous knowledge under South African law. The vision of the NRS is to be the leading indigenous knowledge systems database for the recording, storing, management, maintenance, dissemination and protection of indigenous knowledge (IK) for communal socio-economic development in South Africa. This is supported by the National Indigenous Knowledge Management System (NIKMAS), which comprises a semantic digital repository to protect and preserve IK through an advanced semantic search engine.

From the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2021, the IKSDC began to focus on Bethlehem as the new community for documentation of IK. The move required consultations between the IKSDC and local community leaders. Present during the gathering were two community leaders and about 15 community members. The proposal was well received, leading to the recruitment of two data recorders, Ms Nomsa Makoseng and Ms Sindisive Mlangeni. The recorders were then given training on the use of the NIKMAS. After establishing the community steering committee and appointing data recorders, a community engagement workshop took place in Bethlehem to introduce the NRS project, the steering committee and the data recorders to community members. This community outreach was well-received and documentation is in full swing in this community. To date, the funding for this project has exceeded R3 million.

Dr Nadine Lake has been involved in the ongoing project, ‘Gender Mainstreaming: Developing competencies in Higher Education for Gender Equality, Peace-Building and Gender Sensitive Research’, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) since 2018. This project was awarded 8 million Swedish Krona (approximately 12,5 million ZAR) and is a collaborative project involving three participating collaborators – Prof Gabriele Griffin (Uppsala University, Sweden), the University of Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique) and the University of the Free State (South Africa).
Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga was the principal investigator for the Mellon-funded project, ‘The Humanities and the decolonial challenge: A comparative study of the University of the Free State, University of the Western Cape, and Sol Plaatje University’. This was part of the supra-institutional Mellon Foundation grant, ‘Unsettling Paradigms: The Decolonal Turn in the Humanities Curriculum at Universities in South Africa’, coordinated from the University of Pretoria. Internal UFS collaborators on this project included Dr Brian Sibanda (Centre for Teaching and Learning) and Dr Stephanie Cawood (CGAS), while external collaborators included Prof Jesmael Mataga (Sol Plaatje University) and Dr Blanche Nyingome Assam (University of the Western Cape). Total funding included R120 000 plus an additional R25 000 for video production.

Dr Mushonga is also the principal investigator on the collaborative project, titled ‘The Border, the “Bantustans” and the Rainbow Nation: A contradictory mix of discreteness and continuity in the oral histories of transnational communities in the borderlands of Lesotho/South Africa and the Joe Gqabi District (Eastern Cape)’. Internal collaborators include Prof Chitja Twala (Vice-Dean: Humanities and Department of History) and Dr Grey Magaiza (CGAS, Qwaqwa Campus) and the external collaborator is Dr John Aerni-Flessner (Michigan State University). This project received seed funding from the Faculty of the Humanities for interdisciplinary research (R50 000) and project funding by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) (R493 005).

Dr Mushonga is also involved in the UFS interdisciplinary project titled ‘Re-humanizing the Medical Profession: A case for Accessible Vocabularies for Maternal and Child Health, Infectious and Non-communicable Diseases in South Africa’ with principal investigator, Dr Elias Malete (Department of African Languages) and Dr L Meko (Faculty of Health Sciences). Total funding received from the Vice-Rector: Research and Innovation amounts to R120 000 plus an additional R25 000.

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Books


Conference Papers/Posters


Lake, N.C. 2021. ‘Corrective Rape’ and Black Lesbian Sexualities in South Africa: Negotiating the Tensions between ‘Blackwashing’ and ‘Pinkwashing’ Homophobia. Paper delivered at SARChI Chair in Politics Lecture, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. 23 March 2021.


Mushonga, M. 2021. The Resilient Epistemic Empire and Imperatives for Decolonization. Keynote Address delivered at Faculty of the Humanities, National University of Lesotho, Lesotho. 6 December 2021.


Ndlovu-Gatsheni, S.J. 2021. Courageous Conversations Series. Invited by Professor Malinda Smith (ProvoState University of Calgary) to Dialogue with Professor Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez of University of Alberta in Canada on the theme Decolonization: Rethinking the Coloniality of Power, Knowledge, and Being, University Calgary, Canada. 21 October 2021.


London School of Economics, United Kingdom. 28 March 2021.


Ndlovu-Gatsheni, S.J. 2021. From Coloniality of Knowledge to Decolonial Thought. Keynote Address delivered at the Online Symposium: Situating Postcolonial Thought and Interweaving Approaches, University of Bayreuth, Germany. 7 May 2021.

Ndlovu-Gatsheni, S.J. 2021. Global Coloniality of Power and Collaborative Knowledge Production. Invited Presentation on the theme “Conversations on Theorising from the South with a focus on Decolonizing Collaborations” organised by Humboldt University and Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, Germany. 15 October 2021.


Ndlovu-Gatsheni, S.J. 2021. The Decolonial Turn(s) in African Studies: Reflections on Shifting Relationalities and Modalities of Power. Opening Plenary Lecture delivered at the Knowledge Lab Colloquium, University of Bayreuth, Germany. 15 April 2021.


Ndlovu-Gatsheni, S.J. 2021. The Imperative of Decolonizing Global Development. Keynote Address delivered at the Zurich Critical Development Workshop, University of Zurich, Switzerland. 8 December 2021.


In societies) and Dr Sean Maliehe (‘The 21st Century Scholar and the Calamity of the UCTs African Studies Collection’).

Stephanie Cawood) collaborated with colleagues from the Odeion School of Music, notably Dr Ao Sonkanise ka Nkosi with the support of Dr Jan Beukes, Dr Frelet de Villiers, the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts with performances by Oliver Bongà and Jani Marais (with the support of Prof Anthea van Jaarsveld, Thys Heydenrych), the UFS Art Gallery notably Angela De Jesus and various external artists on a commemorative film project to produce the film Ke Nako/sikhathi/it’s Time (https://youtu.be/pRnr0OFKxfM). To coincide with the release of the film, Dr Cawood wrote the accompanying piece ‘Artistic in Africa Day: Using Storytelling to Remember and Reflect’ for the UFS website.

A number of our collaborative projects also involved community engagement, namely the IKSDC which works closely with partner communities, the SIDA project (Dr Lake) with the University of Eduardo Mondlane as primary community where the goal of the project was to establish the MA in Gender and Development at UEM, and to teach and supervise postgraduate students in this programme. Dr Lake played a central role in the development of the MA Gender and Development curriculum, taking part in numerous workshops teaching the courses on Feminist Research Methodologies (August 2021) and International Equality Policies (October and November 2021). Ultimately, she is making an immense contribution to the expansion of Gender Studies on the African continent and in the SADC region.

The Campus Infrastructure for Peace (CIP) project, advised and coordinated by Mr Willem Ellis, is funded through the Institutional Transformation Plan (ITP) and again gathered some steam after the lockdown of 2020. The project aims to create an Infrastructure for Peace (I4P) on the campuses of the UFS through the operationalisation of a conflict competency training programme. The programme entails capacitating institutionally identified students in conflict resolution techniques, enabling them to utilise such skills and methodologies when called upon during situations of tension and conflict on in residences and on campus. The skills and capacities include conflict analysis, facilitation and mediation, which are all underpinned by conflict transformation as a theoretical basis. The main focus of the project was on the training of residence committees (RCs). Due to ongoing reluctance to gather for formal training, only six RCs were trained at physical meetings during 2021, with two RCs attending the courses virtually. An exciting development was the first-time training of the Student Representative Council (SRC) of the Bloemfontein Campus during the second semester. This was well received and will be repeated in 2022 as part of the induction of the newly elected SRC.

The project was further strengthened to include the training of a group of students who form part of the Faculty of Law’s Human Rights Ambassadors project. The students act as a monitoring group for human rights abuses in residences and coordinate their activities with the RCs. Ten students were trained virtually over a period of weeks and this training will continue for a new cadre of students in 2022.

Dr Nadine Lake serves on the board of the South African Association of Gender Studies (SAAGS) and participated in the SAAGS Seminar Series, ‘Gender and the Ethics of Care’, arranged in lieu of an annual physical conference. She also organised and chaired the Gender Talks Seminar Series hosted by the Faculty of the Humanities and CGAS. The 2021 programme included the following speakers and topics:

- Prof Helene Strauss: Feminist Resonance: Gender-based violence, mourning and traumatic recall in the work of Gabrielle Goliath (11 March).
- Prof Hussein Solomon: Women Confronting Patriarchy in the MENA Region (23 April).
- Dr Dionne van Reenen: Disrupting Patriarchal Colonial Logics in Higher Education: Thinking with Embodiment, Relationality, Care and Affect in Teaching and Research (18 August).
- Dr Dianne van Reenen: Where is the Virgin?: Race and Erotic Performance in Commercial Hip Hop Videos (10 September).
- Sixolile Ngcobo: Gender Equality and Accountability in South Africa’s Higher Education Sphere (8 October).
- Dr Tapiwa Madimu: Gendered Exclusions: Zama–Zama’s and Illegal Mining (5 November).

In order to expose our students to diverse ideas and voices, the Programmes for Africa and Gender Studies routinely include guest lectures during contact sessions. In 2021, given our virtual learning and teaching modality, this meant incorporating webinars instead of in-person guest lectures. The Programme for Africa Studies hosted a webinar by visiting Professor, Prof Jesmael Mataga (Sol Plaatjie University) on the topic ‘Museum Passes and their Decolonial Futures in Africa’ on 13 September 2021. The Gender Talks webinar of Prof Glen Segell (13 May) was included in the May contact session programme.
CGAS staff also participated in webinars and online presentations in 2021. On 9 June, Dr Stephanie Cawood participated in a webinar by Prof Mehita Iqani titled ‘Aspirational Strategies, Luxury Achievements? Marketing and Empowered Feminine Consumption in Africa’.

Dr Mushonga participated in academic dialogues on decolonisation at various UFS departments and sections, inter alia, the Centre for Development Support (CDS) in Faculty of Economic and Management Science (10 November), and the Division of Student Affairs (25 November). He also participated in an academic dialogue on decolonisation at the Faculty of the Humanities at the National University of Lesotho on 6 December. He was appointed to the portfolio of Research and Development of the Oral History Association of South Africa (OHASA) in October 2021.

Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Extraordinary Professor in the CGAS, also engaged with international civil society organisations and higher education institutions on topics related to decolonisation and decoloniality, including:

- An invited presentation delivered at Christian Aid UK (23 April) on ‘The Implications of Decolonization for Development and Humanitarianism in Africa’.
- Invited guest for dialogue with Dr Adriaan van Klinken (Leeds University) at the Africa Group of World Universities Network Workshop: The Application of Existing and Production and Use of New Knowledge, at the University of Cape Town (7 July), on the subject ‘My Work on Decoloniality/Decolonization’.
- An invited presentation on ‘Introducing the Concept of Decolonization/Decoloniality to Development and Humanitarian Work in Africa’ to the Christian Aid UK Board of Trustees Meeting (18 October).

CGAS Advisory Board

The CGAS Advisory Board serves a strategic function rather than an operational one and their impact at strategic level has been immense. For instance, the Advisory Board was integral in the decision to reposition the Centre as the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, and they pointed out the need for Extraordinary Professors in the Centre with a gender focus, and especially women. Based on their recommendation, we are trying to address this through new nominations. Ultimately, they provide a sounding board for the strategic trajectory of the Centre, valuable mentorship and advice. The composition of the CGAS Advisory Board is:

- Prof Corli Witthuhn (Vice–Rector: Research and Innovation [Chair])
- Prof Heidi Hudson (Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities)
- Dr Stephanie Cawood (Director of CGAS)
- Dr Cornelius Hagenmeier (Director of the UFS Office for International Affairs)
- Prof Francis Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town)
- Prof Deirdre Byrne (Unisa)
- Prof Gilbert Khadiagala (University of the Witwatersrand)
- Ms Vincent Khetha (Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation)
- Ms Sixolile Ngcobo (Gender Practitioner, Commission for Gender Equality)

In spite of constraints on especially international travel, CGAS staff managed to maintain national and international collaborations. Dr Stephanie Cawood’s collaboration with Prof Jonathan Fisher from the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham as part of the Newton Advanced Fellowship, continued as they proceeded with co-authoring publications. Her collaboration as co-guest editor with Prof Peter Olapegba (University of Ibadan, Nigeria) on the Acta Academica Special Edition on Xenophobia in Africa continued, with the intended publication date in 2022. By December 2021, selected articles were all under review.
Dr Nadine Lake’s participation in the SIDA project involved international collaboration with colleagues from Uppsala University (Sweden) and Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique). Dr Lake attended the SIDA project annual planning and annual review meetings throughout 2021.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga continued his international research collaboration with Dr John Aerni-Flessner from Michigan State University and UFS colleagues, Prof Chiuta Tvala and Dr Grey Magaiza, on the project ‘The Border, the “Bantustans” and the Rainbow nation’, funded by the Faculty of the Humanities and the NIHSS, as well as the Mellon funded project, ‘The Humanities and the Decolonial Challenge’ in collaboration with Prof Jesmael Mataga (Sol Plaatje University), Dr Blanche Nyingome (University of Western Cape), Dr Brian Sibanda (UFS) and Dr Stephanie Cawood (UFS).

Our Extraordinary Professors, Prof Henning Melber and Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni, have extensive international networks as demonstrated by their involvement in international committees and editorial and advisory boards. Prof Henning Melber is the President of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) with the secretariat in Bonn, Germany. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Europahaus Burgenland/Akademie Pannonien, in Eisenstadt, Austria, and the International Advisory Committee for the Joint SDG Research Initiative by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research – Science for Global Development (NOW-WOTRO). He is a Senior Policy Advisor, Global Policy Forum Europe and member of the Advisory Board of the Development and Peace Foundation/Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (SEP) – both based in Bonn Germany. He is the Editor-in-chief of Acta Academica (UFS journal), and Advisory Board Member of the following international journals: the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, Strategic Review for Southern Africa, Journal of Namibian Studies, Stichproben: Vienna Journal of African Studies, WeltTrends: Das aussenpolitische Journal, afričke e orienti, Peripherie – Zeitschrift für Politik und Ökonomie in der Dritten Welt, and Matatu: Journal for African Culture and Society.


In 2021, a total of 74 students were enrolled with CGAS for postgraduate programmes – BAHons (Africa Studies), BAHons (Gender Studies), MPhil (Africa Studies) by dissertation, Structured MA (Gender Studies) and PhD.

Of the 33 PhD candidates enrolled in the PhD with specialisation in African Studies, six were from the International Studies Group (ISG) under the leadership of Prof Ian Phimister and supervised outside the CGAS. The remaining 27 students were all supervised from within the CGAS.

Student performance improved greatly in the 2021 academic year with 24 students completing their studies in the Centre. Nine students completed the
Four candidates enrolled for the PhD with specialisation in Africa Studies within the CGAS successfully completed their studies in 2021:

Canhanga, Nobre De Jesus Varela
Thesis: Democratisation and state-building in Lusophone African states: The case of Cape Verde and Mozambique
Supervisor: Dr J Steyn-Kotzé
Co-supervisor: Dr S Cawood

Mahomva, Sarudzai Chipo Mutsa
Thesis: Caregiving – a feminist perspective on the lived experiences of caregivers in Harare
Supervisor: Prof IM Bredenkamp
Co-supervisor: Dr N Lake

Molete, Nathan Teboho
Thesis: The security-development nexus in post-conflict Africa: A decolonial critique with reference to Sierra Leone
Supervisor: Prof H Hudson

Tembo, Emmanuel Tavulyanyandanda
Thesis: Interethnic conflict and the role of traditional leaders in the Truth and Reconciliation Programme in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo
Supervisor: Dr M Mulumeoderhwa
Co-supervisor: Dr S Cawood

Four candidates affiliated with the ISG, completed the PhD (with specialisation in Africa Studies):

Ashipala, Saima Nakuti
Thesis: International diplomacy and big business in Namibia: The case of the Rössing Uranium Mine
Supervisors: Prof J Phimister and Dr D Money
Co-supervisors: Dr H Munene and Dr S Quinn

Glover, Michael John (joint PhD with University of Leiden)
Supervisors: Prof J Phimister (UFS) and Prof J Gewald (Leiden University)
Co-supervisors: Dr R Swartz, Dr R Amaral and Dr H Wels

Achipala, Saima Nakuti
Thesis: International diplomacy and big business in Namibia: The case of the Rössing Uranium Mine
Supervisors: Prof J Phimister and Dr D Money
Co-supervisors: Dr H Munene and Dr S Quinn

Dr M Alubafi
Research Fellow (Cameroon)
Prof LL Atanga
Research Fellow (Cameroon)
Prof N Bohler-Muller
Research Fellow (South Africa)
Dr S Basu
Research Fellow (India)
Dr M Chibwana
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe/Lesotho)
Mr W Ellis
Research Fellow (South Africa) and SLP Coordinator
Prof J Fisher
Research Fellow (UK)
Prof P Jackson
Research Fellow (UK)
Dr T Kamuti
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe)
Ms TT Kraalshoek
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (until 31 August 2021)
Prof P Limb
Research Fellow (UK)
Ms LL Loff
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (until 31 September 2021)
Ms NC Makoseng
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (from 1 September 2021)
Dr S Maliehe
Research Fellow (Lesotho)
Prof Jesmael Mataga
Visiting Professor (Zimbabwe/South Africa)
Prof P Limb
Research Fellow (UK)
Ms W Mwatwara
IKSDC Coordinator
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe)
Ms S Maliehe
Research Fellow (Lesotho)
Dr W Mwatwara
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (from 1 September 2021)
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe)
Prof SJ Ndlovu-Gatsheki
Extraordinary Professor (Germany/Zimbabwe)
Ms NS Nkalitshane
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (until 31 August 2021)
IKSDC Coordinator
Research Fellow (Nigeria)
Mr M Nxumalo
Research Fellow (Nigeria)
Dr R Ogunnubi
Research Fellow (Nigeria)
Dr S Onwuegbuchulam
Research Fellow (Belgium/South Africa)
Prof E Sienaert
Research Fellow (USA)
Dr J Steyn-Kotzé
Research Fellow (Lesotho)
Prof RA Themnér
Research Fellow (Sweden)
Dr R Williams
Research Fellow (USA)

Dr Cawood (left) and Dr Mushonga (right) with successful PhD candidates, Nobre Canhanga and Saru Mahomva
Photo: Stephen Collett

Staff (2021)

Director:
Dr S Cawood

Academic Staff
Permanent
Dr S Cawood
Senior Lecturer
Dr N Lake
Senior Lecturer & Programme Director: Gender Studies
Dr M Mushonga
Senior Lecturer & Programme Director: Africa Studies

Support Staff
Ms A Bradfield
Senior Assistant Officer (Programme Coordinator)
Ms P Khate
Senior Assistant Officer (Office Administrator from 1 December 2021)
Ms SZ Salman
Senior Assistant Officer (Office Administrator until 31 October 2021)

Affiliated Staff

Four candidates enrolled for the PhD with specialisation in Africa Studies within the CGAS successfully completed their studies in 2021:

Canhanga, Nobre De Jesus Varela
Thesis: Democratisation and state-building in Lusophone African states: The case of Cape Verde and Mozambique
Supervisor: Dr J Steyn-Kotzé
Co-supervisor: Dr S Cawood

Mahomva, Sarudzai Chipo Mutsa
Thesis: Caregiving – a feminist perspective on the lived experiences of caregivers in Harare
Supervisor: Prof IM Bredenkamp
Co-supervisor: Dr N Lake

Molete, Nathan Teboho
Thesis: The security-development nexus in post-conflict Africa: A decolonial critique with reference to Sierra Leone
Supervisor: Prof H Hudson

Tembo, Emmanuel Tavulyanyandanda
Thesis: Interethnic conflict and the role of traditional leaders in the Truth and Reconciliation Programme in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo
Supervisor: Dr M Mulumeoderhwa
Co-supervisor: Dr S Cawood

Three candidates affiliated with the ISG, completed the PhD (with specialisation in Africa Studies):

Ashipala, Saima Nakuti
Thesis: International diplomacy and big business in Namibia: The case of the Rössing Uranium Mine
Supervisors: Prof J Phimister and Dr D Money
Co-supervisors: Dr H Munene and Dr S Quinn

Glover, Michael John (joint PhD with University of Leiden)
Supervisors: Prof J Phimister (UFS) and Prof J Gewald (Leiden University)
Co-supervisors: Dr R Swartz, Dr R Amaral and Dr H Wels

Dr M Alubafi
Research Fellow (Cameroon)
Prof LL Atanga
Research Fellow (Cameroon)
Prof N Bohler-Muller
Research Fellow (South Africa)
Dr S Basu
Research Fellow (India)
Dr M Chibwana
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe/Lesotho)
Mr W Ellis
Research Fellow (South Africa) and SLP Coordinator
Prof J Fisher
Research Fellow (UK)
Prof P Jackson
Research Fellow (UK)
Dr T Kamuti
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe)
Ms TT Kraalshoek
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (until 31 August 2021)
Prof P Limb
Research Fellow (UK)
Ms LL Loff
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (until 31 September 2021)
Ms NC Makoseng
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (from 1 September 2021)
Dr S Maliehe
Research Fellow (Lesotho)
Prof Jesmael Mataga
Visiting Professor (Zimbabwe/South Africa)
Prof P Limb
Research Fellow (UK)
Ms W Mwatwara
IKSDC Coordinator
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe)
Ms S Maliehe
Research Fellow (Lesotho)
Dr W Mwatwara
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (from 1 September 2021)
Research Fellow (Zimbabwe)
Prof SJ Ndlovu-Gatsheki
Extraordinary Professor (Germany/Zimbabwe)
Ms NS Nkalitshane
IKSDC – IK Data Recorder (until 31 August 2021)
IKSDC Coordinator
Research Fellow (Nigeria)
Mr M Nxumalo
Research Fellow (Nigeria)
Dr R Ogunnubi
Research Fellow (Nigeria)
Dr S Onwuegbuchulam
Research Fellow (Belgium/South Africa)
Prof E Sienaert
Research Fellow (USA)
Dr J Steyn-Kotzé
Research Fellow (Lesotho)
Prof RA Themnér
Research Fellow (Sweden)
Dr R Williams
Research Fellow (USA)
Overview of 2021

COVID-19 continued to dominate our research at the Centre for Health Systems Research & Development (CHSR&D). We investigated the effects of the pandemic on post-traumatic stress and the coping strategies of nurses, vaccine literacy and vaccination uptake of adult South Africans, as well as the impact of the pandemic on the health and well-being of vulnerable families. The latter project is undertaken in collaboration with the UFS Department of Internal Medicine at 3 Military Hospital, presented on ‘Society exposed by a pandemic’. 

In particular, the findings from our vaccine literacy project were well-received and we managed to share this not only on academic platforms but also in local and national media. We also had the opportunity to encourage the learners to adhere to COVID-19 prevention methods, including wearing masks, social distancing and sanitising.

During 2021, the CHSR&D launched a series of lunchtime discussions on key health systems issues, such as ‘Investing in the health workforce for Universal Health Coverage: South Africa’s 2030 Human Resources for Health Strategy’, which was presented by Prof Letitia Rispel, who holds a South African DSI/NRF Research Chair (SARChI), ‘Research on the Health Workforce for Equity and Quality’ and is a Professor of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. In another discussion, Dr Cloete Jansen van Vuuren, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine at 3 Military Hospital, presented on ‘Society exposed by a pandemic’.

Research Projects

The CHSR&D was involved in four main projects in 2021:

**Post-traumatic stress and coping strategies of nurses during COVID-19**

The principal investigator of the project, which is funded by the CHSR&D, is Prof Michelle Engelbrecht, with CHSR&D team members Dr Gladys Kigozi and Prof Christo Heunis.

Prior to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the South African healthcare system was already under severe strain due to, amongst others, a lack of human resources, poor governance and management and an unequal distribution of resources among provinces and between the public and private healthcare sectors. At the centre of these challenges are nurses – the backbone of the healthcare system and the first point of call for most patients in the country. This research investigated post-traumatic stress and coping strategies of nurses during the second wave of COVID-19 in the country. A structured self-administered questionnaire captured the biographic characteristics, perceived risk factors for COVID-19 and views on infection control of 286 nurses. More than four in every ten nurses screened positive for higher levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Self-reported risk for contracting COVID-19 mainly centred on being a health worker and patients’ non-adherence to infection prevention guidelines. Unpreparedness to manage COVID-19 patients, poorer health and avoidant coping were associated with PTSD. Emotional, psychological and debriefing intervention sessions that focus on positive coping strategies to actively address stress, are recommended.

**Short Learning Programmes**

An application to offer a short learning programme (SLP) on how to write a Health Systems Research Proposal, was approved by the Academic Committee of Senate on 18 August 2021. The purpose of the SLP is to capacitate students, researchers, healthcare workers and health managers to develop a proposal to conduct a health systems research project. The SLP will commence in 2023, and will be delivered through virtual presentations, class discussions and one-on-one interaction between presenters and participants.

**Achievements**

**Staff Achievements**

Gladys Kigozi was selected for the second phase of the Future Professoriate Programme, and was promoted to Associate Professor.

**Learning and Teaching**

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COVID–19 vaccine literacy

Given the lower COVID–19 vaccine uptake in South Africa, compared to other countries, and the positive association between vaccine literacy and vaccine uptake, this research (led by Prof Engelbrecht and including Dr Kigozi and Prof Heunis), aimed to assess people’s abilities to collect and understand information about vaccinations in order to make an informed choice when deciding to vaccinate. During September 2021, a cross-sectional, anonymous online survey was conducted among the adult population in South Africa. The survey was widely advertised on social media and via the Moya Application, with a total of 10 466 respondents. The main factors associated with limited vaccine literacy included lower levels of education, lower socio-economic groups and not being vaccinated against COVID–19. The project was funded by the CHSR&D.

Health and well-being of vulnerable families during COVID–19: A socio-ecological perspective

The multidisciplinary research team for this project comprised Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (Principal Investigator, CHSR&D), Dr Gladys Kigozi and Prof Christo Heunis (both from CHSR&D), Dr Merlene Esau (from the UFS Department of Social Work), Dr Alice Ncube (DMTEC) and Prof Marianne Reid from the UFS School of Nursing. The project was funded through a UFS Interdisciplinary Grant (R150 000).

Families have been confronted with a number of challenges since the outbreak of the COVID–19 pandemic, including lockdown measures and all the consequences thereof (i.e. loss of income and/or jobs, loss of community and freedom of movement, disruptions in education and difficulties associated with online learning). Families who are most vulnerable are particularly at risk during the pandemic; therefore this study aims to understand the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the health and well-being of vulnerable families. We collaborated with four NGOs operating in the Bloemfontein, Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu areas to identify 300 families who were willing to participate in the study. Interviews were conducted with mothers and fathers on individual as well as family health and well-being (e.g. socio-economic information; health and access to care; knowledge of and perceptions about COVID–19; fear; stigma; individual distress; family stress; family quality of life; and family coping and resilience).

Experiences of drug-susceptible tuberculosis patients with symptoms of depression and anxiety: A cohort study of new patients in the Free State

Dr Gladys Kigozi was the Principal Investigator for the project, supported by team members from CHSR&D (Prof Michelle Engelbrecht and Prof Christo Heunis), and with co-investigator Dr Raymond Tweheyo, from Makerere University, Uganda, and in collaboration with Dr AndrÉ Janse van Rensburg (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Dr Perpetual Chikobvu (Free State Department of Health).

This project focuses on HIV co-infected TB patients and seeks to explore their unique experiences of depression and anxiety, based on the socio-ecological and health systems thinking models. Some aspects of this study are being replicated in Uganda. Despite disruptions due to COVID–19 lockdowns, data gathering progressed well and included the collection of clinical data at primary health care clinics, as well as interviews with TB patients.

Research Outputs

Articles


Conference Papers/Posters


Engaged Scholarship

We shared the findings from our COVID-19 Vaccine Literacy project on the radio stations Islam International and Channel Africa, as well as on the eNCA morning show, local newspapers (i.e. Bloemfontein Courant and Bloemnoun) and on Network 24. In addition, the CHSR&D donated 500 cloth masks to a previously disadvantaged primary school in Botshabelo. This donation also related to the vaccine study, as the CHSR&D pledged to donate 100 masks for every 1,000 completed questionnaires, to a maximum of 500 masks. This took place at an official ceremony at the primary school, where we also encouraged children to wear masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Prof Michelle Engelbrecht served as associate editor for the African Journal of AIDS Research, and Dr Gladys Kigozi served as a reviewer for the National Research Foundation (NRF) and for the South African Medical Research Council.

Prof Christo Heunis served as a member of the National Health Research Committee, as vice-chairperson of the Free State Provincial Health Research Committee and chairperson of the Board of Mosamaria NGO AIDS Ministry. He also served as member of the organising team and co-facilitator of the Translating Research to Policy and Guidelines Workshop, Free State Department of Health, on 19 November 2021.

National and International Collaboration

In 2021 strong collaboration was developed with the United Nations University’s Global Mountain Safeguard Research Programme (GLOMOS) and the UFS Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DMTEC). Prof Jörg Szarzynski (GLOMOS, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security [UNU-EHS]), Prof Heunis (CHSR&D) and Dr Alice Ncube (DMTEC) conducted preparatory research on the vulnerabilities of people from mountainous regions – including the Maloti-Drakensberg (South Africa/Lesotho) – focusing on the health-related vulnerabilities of public sector-dependent and migrant populations during pandemics. Prof Heunis and Dr Ncube were subsequently invited to co-author a chapter of a GLOMOS book, COVID-19 and Sustainability Governance in Mountains. Co-authors from Eurac Research, Erbil Polytechnic University (kRI) and Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales (IAEN), focus on vulnerable peoples in the Italian Alps, the Kurdistan Zagros Mountains, and the Ecuadorian Andes, respectively.

In terms of ongoing collaboration with the Department of Health, Michelle Engelbrecht, Gladys Kigozi and Christo Heunis participated in the Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on 4 November 2021, presenting or co-presenting the findings and recommendations of seven research projects. Subsequently, the CHSR&D researchers also participated and are still participating in the Free State Department of Health’s ongoing ‘Translation of Research to Policy and Practice’ initiative.

Prof Heunis served as vice-chair of the Provincial Health Research Committee (PHRC) and member of the National Health Research Committee (NHRC) (Health Research Translation Sub-committee). He was appointed as the chair of the Board of Mosamaria Non-profit AIDS Ministry in Bloemfontein.

The CHSR&D launched a series of lunchtime online webinars focusing on key health systems issues. During 2021, the following webinars were held:

- Society exposed by a pandemic (Dr Cloete Jansen van Vuuren, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine at 3 Military Hospital).
- Dilemmas regarding maternal MDR/RR-TB and breastfeeding: protecting the mother and baby (Dr Marian Loveday, South African Medical Research Council).
- Using systems thinking tools to analyse complex health systems: A case study of maternal health service provision in OR Tambo District, Eastern Cape (Dr Martina Lembani, University of the Western Cape).

Donating masks at Rekopane Primary School, Botshabelo, from the left, Alfi Moolman (UFS Directorate for Community Engagement), Sonja Venter-Botes (Bloemshelter), Tina Moleko (Rekopane Primary School) and Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D)
Postgraduate Students

Ernest Peresu completed a PhD in Development Studies, with the thesis title ‘Community based MDR-TB management in the Shiselweni region of Swaziland: assessment of task-shifting to community treatment supporters’. His supervisors were Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D, UFS), Prof Diana De Graeve (Department of Economics, University of Antwerp) and Prof Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D, UFS).

Staff (2021)

Director:
Prof M Engelbrecht

Academic Staff
Permanent
Prof M Engelbrecht  Associate Professor
Prof C Heunis  Senior Researcher
Dr G Kigozi  Senior Researcher

Support Staff
Ms B Jacobs  Senior Officer
Ms B Smit  Officer

Affiliated Staff
Dr André Janse van Rensburg  Research Fellow
Dr Marian Loveday  Research Fellow
Dr Asta Rau  Research Fellow
Prof Francois Steyn  Research Fellow
Dr Raymond Tweheyo  Research Fellow
Prof Edwin Wouters  Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

2021 brought with it a far better teaching, learning and researching environment compared to the previous year. As a Department, we were better prepared for online learning and virtual meetings than in 2020, when the national state of disaster and lockdowns were sprung on us. There was continual readjustment to make things work and modules turned to continuous assessment. An appreciable level of well-being for staff in this work-from-home period was maintained and all permanent staff had, by the end of 2021, been supported with specific needs, most of which centred on equipment needs (particularly laptops). The staff remained motivated, adaptable and committed, and there was no noticeable drop-off in throughput, standard of teaching and pass rates. We also had the privilege to be joined by a new member of staff, Ms Duduzile Dlamini, to teach journalism, which further strengthened our staff complement. Nevertheless, the year was still challenging because we are all at our best operating in the conditions of a residential university. No amount of adaptability and resilience could compensate for the lack of human contact and interaction. It thus came as an immense relief when the University leadership announced plans to move back to face-to-face learning.

On balance, 2021 was a fairly successful year for the Department of Communication Science. There is a sense of quiet optimism in the Department, including a renewed focus on strategic outcomes, such as increased outputs, postgraduate supervision and internationalisation. Areas that need continual attention include the internationalisation profile of the Department and ensuring an equitable spread of research outputs, as currently, many of the research outputs are produced by our research associates.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Diana Breshears was promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor.

Student Achievements

Communication Science students were seconded to departments in the Faculty of Humanities as marketing and communication assistants – a task which they did so well that in 2022, a total of ten departments have requested the continuation of the programme.

Ms Nonsindiso Qwabe, a Communication Science MA student, received a R90 000 grant from the UFS-QQ Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC), an National Research Foundation (NRF) programme under the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU), as part of Prof Breshears’ ongoing ARU project on Qwaqwa Families.

Prof Nyasha Mboti delivered a Public Lecture at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, on October 14, 2021, titled ‘There are people here who by all normal standards should be dead: An Introduction to Apartheid Studies’. Prof Mboti also delivered a Keynote Address at the Mangaung Municipality on the topic of Digital Transformation.

Mr Clement Selepe attended his maiden academic conference, the HELTASA National Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP) Colloquium, where he presented a paper on teaching research in an access module.
Learning and Teaching

In the Communication Research module, Prof Breshears innovatively utilised continuous assessment and peer evaluation. Students formulated a research proposal in three incremental steps, before bringing it all together in the form of an online poster session where they evaluated each other’s proposals.

Prof Mboti taught Health and Development Communication using simulations in group settings whereby students practised how to detect and address fake news online. The students simulated their own imaginary pandemic on Twitter in order to see how bots and fake news can be made, how fake news travels, who makes it travel, how fact-checking happens and how fake news and bots can be combatted.

In the Communication Theory module, Prof Mboti utilised the online debate platform (www.kialo.edu) to teach and assess using structured online debates. The idea is for students to learn to develop both sides of the argument and engage with each other’s viewpoints while adhering to the topic and rubrics. Students were organised into groups to defend or refute a particular claim, view, position or proposition, and to provide clear reasons defending and refuting a particular view or position. Class readings were used to support arguments. The topic focused on communication policy, specifically ‘ethical artificial intelligence’. A variety of guest lecturers were invited to teach on the

Honours Communication Theory module, namely Dr Motsumi Motsamai, University of Fort Hare, on ‘African ethics and African personhood: Some key questions and issues’, Kulwano Chaba, SALGA, on ‘Digital transformation: Key questions and issues in a South African context’, Rutendo Ngara, UFS, on ‘Ubuntu, Sankofa and ethical AI: A quantum perspective’, and Prof Colin Chasi, on ‘Thoughts on Ubuntu’. The guest lecturers strengthened pedagogical outcomes.

Dr Dalme Mulder acted as external moderator of all postgraduate exit level modules presented in the Department of Communication Science at the North-West University (NWU), while Prof Mboti acted as external examiner for several South African universities and two international universities.

Research Projects

Dr Mthobeli Ngcongo was the recipient of the NRF Black Academics Advance ment Programme grant (R340 000), for his project on the communication of identity in interpersonal contexts, relational dialectics, impressions’ management within intimate relationships, as well as communication about such relationships in a mediated context.

Prof Diana Breshears continued with her project on Qwaqwa families, under the umbrella of the ARU.

Prof Mboti continued his pioneering work in the new, interdisciplinary global field of study known as apartheid studies (AS), giving public lectures on the topic and completing manuscripts for four books that outline this emerging area. Apartheid studies utilises the notion of apartheid as a theoretical framework and paradigm. The first book in the four-volume Apartheid Studies series will be launched in July 2022, with publication of the other three volumes spread over the first half of 2023 (volume II), second half of 2023 (volume III) and first half of 2024 (volume IV).

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Conference Papers/Posters


Engaged Scholarship
Ms Margaret Linstrom writes for Get It magazine – a local monthly community magazine. She is also mentoring and coaching the staff of Courant (a local community newspaper) and mentoring and advising an upcoming editor at the same newspaper.

Ms Elbie Lombard continued in her role as a member of Center for Cinema and Media Studies (CIMS), at Ghent University.

Prof Nyasha Mboti delivered a Keynote Address at the Mangaung Municipality on the topic of Digital Transformation. Prof Mboti sits on several journal editorial boards, including the International Journal of Cultural Studies (IUCS), Journal of African Cinemas (JAC) and Communication: South African Journal for Communication Theory & Research. He peer reviewed for five different accredited local and international journals in 2021. He is also the Executive Editor of Communication: South African Journal for Communication Theory & Research.

Prof Diana Breshears is an active member of the National Communication Association and the National Adoption Coalition of South Africa. She also peer reviewed for Children & Society, Journal of Family Communication and Journal of Family Issues.

Prof Ian Glenn, a Research Fellow in the Department, wrote an opinion piece, ‘Journalism, the Coming of Television, and the New South Africa’, that appeared in African Journalism Studies (42(2): 114-116).

National and International Collaboration
Prof Ian Glenn travelled to Paris in November 2021 to carry out collaborative research with Prof Laura Davis of the History Department at the University of California at Irvine, on the archives of the French mapmaker, Lafitte de Brassier, who collaborated with Colonel Robert Gordon to produce some important maps of Cape Town.

Ms Elbie Lombard is the current Deputy Ambassador for the Ghent University’s chapter in South Africa. She is also the current Deputy President for the Ghent University Alumni Chapter South Africa, responsible for the continuous liaison with Ghent University and Ghent University Alumni in South Africa.

Prof Nyasha Mboti is part of the Global Fandom Series with Prof Henry Jenkins of the University of Southern California (USC), Annenberg, Jenkins is the internationally acclaimed pioneer of fandom studies. Prof Mboti also sits on the Steering Committee for MediArXiv, a scholar-led digital archive for media, film and communication studies, hosted by the Center for Open Science. Prof Mboti also participated in the GLOBE Leadership Study (South Africa and Norway) conducted by Prof Nathalie Hyde-Clark of the Oslo Metropolitan University. The new study builds on the GLOBE findings from 2004 and 2014 (https://www.globeproject.com/study_2004_2007) and consists of interviews with twelve academic leaders from Norway and South Africa, focusing exclusively on university leadership, which was an under-researched area in the original study.

Prof Mboti and Prof Thomas Tufte (a Department of Communication Science Extraordinary Professor and Research Associate) and three other collaborators submitted an application in October 2021 to the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at Loughborough University, London, for funding to organise a series of roundtable and public events and ‘unconference’ within the theme of (In)Equalities (a theme that will last through the full academic year 2022/2023, starting in October 2022). The funding application, if successful, will see Prof Mboti travel to the UK in 2022 and 2023, engage in the roundtables, give two lectures, participate in discussions about research collaborations and meet Loughborough PhD students, among other activities.

Ms Margaret Linstrom
### Staff (2021)

**Academic Head of Department:** Prof N Mboti

#### Academic Staff

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<tr>
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<td>Prof N Mboti</td>
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<td>Permanent</td>
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<td>Associate Professor</td>
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#### Contract

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#### Support Staff

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<td>Ms KI Marumo</td>
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCE STAFF

Back row, from the left, Dr Willemien Marais, Prof. Nyasha Mboti, Mrs Rentia Engelbrecht, Mrs Margaret Linstrom, Ms Boitumelo Litabe, Mrs Lucrezea de Lange, Mr Clement Selepe, Ms Phumeza Madiwa and Ms Tumi Mampane

Front row, from the left, Mrs Katlego Marumo, Ms Duduzile Dlamini, Ms Millicent Mavimbela, Mrs Lesego Radebe-Nkosi and Ms Avela Ntsongelwa

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DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

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Overview of 2021

Crime and victimisation do not constitute random events but present with major challenges and concerns to issues of inequality and inclusivity. Our work shows that not only do marginalised groups suffer the greatest burden of victimisation in a heteronormative society, but are also the least to benefit from the services and programmes made available to the general population. After a successful external review of all our offerings, we continued to engage in our research, learning and teaching, scholarly engagement and internationalisation activities regarding the discriminatory nature and impact of criminal justice policies and practices, in order to improve outcomes relating to structural, institutional and systemic bias in society and to advance judicial pluralism within our transitional justice context. Much more work is required on binary constructions of difference and exclusion, which is also of relevance to the sustained development of our society and region, the economy and ecology. Intersecting inequalities and social and economic exclusion highlight the importance of context and remains as such an imperative of our decolonising agenda to shape theory development, empirical inquiry, policy and practice.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

In demonstrating the high quality of the research conducted for MA studies in the Department, Mr. Jean-Paul Pophaim published two articles of his MA dissertation on the phenomenon of the homeless and presented his research findings at an international victimology conference in India and at a local conference.

Prof Peacock had the honour of presenting an inaugural address during the opening ceremony of the Centre for Criminology, Criminal Justice and Victimology at the Rajiv Ghandi National Law University in India. He also presented four keynote addresses at international interdisciplinary conferences to encourage international agenda-setting and audience participation in different parts of the world, such as in Asia (Indonesia and India) and on the African continent (Botswana and Kenya). On the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, Prof Peacock, as the president of the World Society of Victimology, made an intervention, together with Victim Support Europe and the Justice Section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to move forward with victim centered approaches and to engage in our research, learning and teaching.

The Honours cohort, in particular, had a successful 2021, with a 100% pass rate. The following students were the top performing students across the different levels in 2021:

- Best first-year student: D Mosolodi
- Best second-year student: C Boonzaaier
- Best third-year student: E Mohr
- Best postgraduate student: P Diale

The Honours cohort, in particular, had a successful 2021, with a 100% pass rate.

Student Achievements

The following students were the top performing students across the different levels in 2021:

- Best first-year student: D Mosolodi
- Best second-year student: C Boonzaaier
- Best third-year student: E Mohr
- Best postgraduate student: P Diale

The Honours cohort, in particular, had a successful 2021, with a 100% pass rate.

Learning and Teaching

Dr Matthew Cronje acted as a key contributor in the development of the new BsocSci compulsory modules (SCSI2612 and SCSR2622). The modules are aimed at fostering a collective identity for the Social Science degree and to re-assert the importance and relevance of the Social Sciences in the African context, by examining the nature and contribution of Social Sciences within the broader world of science in general, and by critically examining the epistemic roots of social scientific knowledge in particular.
Continuous development of all modules is in alignment with the latest developments in the field and refers to critical indigenous and decolonial perspectives, also with due cognisance to the globalised nature of crime and victimisation.

Ongoing support provided to students was related to the online continuous assessment model of our offerings to accommodate the changing learning and teaching environment, in order to enhance the student experience of learning and teaching.

Research Projects

Ms Kelebogile Olivier is in the final stages of her MA research on the role and function of the forensic criminologist, whilst Ms Lindie Coetzee is working on her dissertation on the topic of previous incarceration of women and stigma.

Dr Cronje has been exploring a proposal for a collaborative research project with the Department of Correctional Services on the topic of recidivism.

The research interests of Mr Phillips and Mr Pophaim refer respectively to identity, symbolism and initiation rituals in youth gang subcultures and male-to-male sexual violence in places of detention.

Prof Peacock conducted a critical appraisal of the successful implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the nexus between crime, victimisation, justice and sustainable development, on account of the gravest threat to humanity, namely climate change and environmental degradation, a functional imperative for research, policy and practice.

Research Outputs

Articles


Conference Papers/Posters


Engaged Scholarship

Both Ms Olivier and Ms Coetzee served on the executive committee of the newly founded UFS Women’s Forum (UFSWF) as secretary and marketing for the Bloemfontein Campus, respectively. The Forum seeks to create a platform of advocacy and activism that encourages the differences amongst UFS women, while addressing the intersectional challenges faced professionally and in various social spaces. The UFSWF believes that much more needs to be done by institutions to address mental health, especially during the pandemic and in this regard Ms Olivier co-authored an article published in the Mail and Guardian on 31 October 2021.

As a result of the network she has established with NICO, a welfare organisation, Ms Olivier was also invited to participate as a panelist at a faith-based SOS favour conference (Western Cape Edition) in a discussion around social and restorative justice (3 to 6 December 2021). Ms Olivier also serves as a governing board member of Kids Care Trust, which works to transform the lives of children living and working on the street.

Ms Coetzee served as a member of the Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation (CESE) Africa, which includes multi- and interdisciplinary role-players on the African continent, including policy workers, researchers, community leaders, and advocates addressing child sexual abuse, gender-based violence, sex trafficking and more.

Prof Peacock is a board member of Just Detention International, a health and human rights organisation that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention (Los Angeles, South Africa and broader African continent).

Mr Phillips is an Assistant Editor on the editorial board for the journal Acta Criminologica: The African Journal of Criminology and Victimology and acted as moderator of one of a five-part Colloquium Series on ‘Transformation and Creating an Inclusive Criminology’, hosted by the Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA). Mr Phillips, Ms Coetzee and Mr Pophaim reviewed manuscripts for the journal.

Dr Cronje served on the NRF Postgraduate Scholarship Review Committee.

In terms of international agenda setting, Prof Peacock played a leadership role as president of the World Society of Victimology in the hosting of the forthcoming 17th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology ‘Victimisation in a digital world: responding to and connecting with victims’, to be held in Donostia/San Sebastián (Basque Country, Spain) in 2022. He also served on the UN Liaison Committee of the World Society of Victimology, and participated in the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and related inter-regional meetings.

Ms Coetzee served as an editorial board member of the international Journal of Victimology and Victim Justice, the Journal of Ethnicity and Criminal Justice, and Temida, a Serbian journal of victimology, gender and human rights.
National and International Collaboration

The internationalisation of our teaching and learning, provided for scientific education interventions, cross-cultural communication, innovation and international benchmarking, together with engagement with high-level government officials, policy makers, scientists, practitioners and students across the globe, to ultimately ensure best practices to advance inclusive and equitable quality education by adding global, intercultural, or international elements into the content of the curriculum.

In this regard, Prof Peacock played a leading role as a course director of the 17th Asian postgraduate programme on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice, hosted by OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India. Prof Peacock is also a founding member of the Latin American Victimology postgraduate course and serves as a faculty resource member of the Inter University Centre of Dubrovnik (Croatia) Annual International postgraduate course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice. He also serves as a course director of the Bangladesh postgraduate course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice of the Bangladesh Society of Criminology and Victimology, Department of Criminology and Police Science (CPS), Mawlanha Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU), Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka and the World Society of Victimology. Prof Peacock is a participant in the Research Line on Political Crimes, Human Rights and Human Security, hosted by the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) with activities beneficial to the specialisation areas of Transitional Justice and Victimology in particular, and with reference to doctoral studies and appraisals conducted within transitional contexts worldwide.

As an invited scholar, Prof Peacock presented online guest lectures at universities in Germany, India and Spain – in Germany on the topic of the ‘Victimology of State Crime on the course Criminology, Victimology and Criminal Law’ at The Hochschule Niederheim, University of Applied Sciences (29 March to 1 April 2021); in India on the topic of ‘Street Children: Symptom-bearers of Prejudice, Discrimination and Conflict’ at the 17th Asian Postgraduate programme on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice at OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, (2 July 2021); and in Spain at the University of the Basque Country, San Sebastian on the topic of ‘Resilience in the context of transitional justice: critical reflections from South Africa/ La resiliencia en el contexto de la justicia transicional: reflexiones críticas desde Sudáfrica’ on the international course Victimología, resiliencia y crecimiento posttraumático: Miradas desde la justicia social y el pensamiento crítico / Victimology, resilience and post-traumatic growth: Social justice and critical thought perspectives (15 to 16 July 2021).

Postgraduate Students

In 2021, six Honours, five Master’s and two PhD students were registered with the Department of Criminology.

The research projects of the Honours cohort demonstrated actuality and relevance with reference to critical analyses of contemporary issues less researched in the field, such as intimate partner abuse in same-sex relationships, recidivism among youth in conflict of the law, youth care intervention programmes and post-release criminogenic risk factors, as well as, amongst others, an exploration of the phenomenon of male-on-male rape in South African correctional centers.

Dr Cronje acted as supervisor of a study of limited scope by NW Mokheti, on good governance and state crime, exploring allegations of corruption pertaining to the Vrede Dairy Farm Project, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree MA in Governance and Political Transformation at the UFS.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof R Peacock

Academic Staff

Permanent
Ms L Coetzee  Junior Lecturer
Dr M Cronje  Lecturer and Programme Director
Ms KP Olivier  Junior Lecturer
Prof R Peacock  Professor
Mr AR Phillips  Lecturer
Mr JP Pophaim  Lecturer

Contract
Ms AM Giddy  Lecturer (Units)
Ms C Steenkamp  Lecturer (Units)

Support Staff
Ms M Wouda  Administrative Officer

Affiliated Staff
Prof JJ Sarkin  Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

Against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-pandemic and its challenges, 2021 was a truly successful year for the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts. The COVID-19 pandemic is still testing us in terms of presenting practical work as part of our departmental offering, but while constantly rethinking the existing curriculum, we are actively working on decolonising drama at the University of the Free State (UFS). The industry’s needs and the academic institution’s requirements are constantly evolving and changing, while in dynamic interaction. These uncertain times taught us to display thoughtfulness and sensitivity to new trends while keeping our students’ employability in mind. The results of these endeavours are to be seen in our staff and students’ involvement within the industry. Furthermore, we are successfully working towards a more focused practice-led, performance-based research model for the Department. The pressure of a new approach to re-curriculating and restructuring the Department, where academia and practice beneficially interact, confirms a well-organised, competitive and relevant department within the fluctuating boundaries of a new reality.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Drama lecturer, Chris Vorster, was invited by the Film & TV (live broadcasting) Department at the University of Pittsburgh in the USA, to present practical sessions on multi-camera (studio) directing and acting.

Student Achievements

Second-year drama student, Dinga Mpiti, starred in a national movie commissioned by MultiChoice that aired on Mzansi Magic Channel in October 2021. An all-Free State-made film, Molamu explores the indigenous wisdom found in the Basotho’s stick-fighting. It is a coming-of-age story of a suburban teenager who finds himself running in a maze of confusion and grief, following the passing of his father. The film carries a crucial message of heritage, culture and responsible manhood, and was shot in Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa.

Learning and Teaching

Annebelle Smit presents a master class in the Honours curriculum about Decolonisation. The focus falls on neo-colonialism, decolonisation, syncretism,
Research Projects

In 2021, Anthea van Jaarsveld, continued with her project 'Die Argivering van die Afrikaanse Film' in collaboration with Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands. The project is funded with an amount of R50 000.

DeBeer Cloete received funds (£8 140) from Die Stigting Studiefonds vir Suid-Afrikaanse Studente (SSF) for a six-month PhD exchange to Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, from September 2021 to February 2022.

Research Outputs

Chapters in Edited Volumes


Creative Outputs


Engaged Scholarship

Opus

A theatre performance at the 2021 Heritage Day celebrations, in collaboration with the Centre for Gender and African Studies (CGAS), Opus is a riveting devised theatre production that pivots around the subject matter of heritage, be it at individual or at cultural level. In celebration of the national Heritage Day, Jani Marais and Oliver Sikhuthali Bonga were approached by the CGAS to contribute to a body of work that would be virtually streamed for the community of the University. Opus developed from a poetic approach to theatre arts, not ignoring narrative value, but rather delving into the dimensions of theatrical forms. Derived from the influence of the Creative Interdisciplinary Practice Laboratory of 2021, Oliver and Jani meticulously indulged into the process of experimental theatre and micro-practice in the creation of Opus. The production focuses on heritage within the diverse population of South Africa – bringing it to the surface, considering the historic accounts and diversity of the country’s cultural practices. The performers submerge into their own cultural backgrounds and investigate the value of heritage within their individual cultures and in the entire South African cultural large scope.

Vrystaat Arts Festival, NATi and PIAD

Creative Practices Lab

Sikhuthuli Oliver Bonga, Jani Marais and Walter Strydom were among 13 artists selected to participate in the inaugural Creative Practices Laboratory (CPL) – an initiative of the Vrystaat Arts Festival in collaboration with the Nasionale Afrikaanse Teater-inisiatief (NATi) and the Programme for Innovation in Artform Development (PIAD). The CPL is an artist residency and laboratory for early and mid-career artists and creative practitioners exploring new performance practices. Over ten days, artists from all over South Africa specialising in various artistic disciplines – including fine arts, performance, design and photography – collaboratively explored emerging multi-disciplinary art practices. CPL was facilitated by a collection of nationally renowned artists working in dance, sculpture, physical performance and performance art, and included Department of Drama movement lecturer, Obakeng Kgwasi. Insights, skills and work flowing from this creative exchange are currently being applied in student training, artistic explorations and specific art works, to be presented on national platforms.

as well as Africanising a play. Throughout the planning and construction of modules we try to incorporate a different approach to presenting classes that are based on a linear European timeline, by presenting history modules thematically instead of chronologically. Constant questions that must be kept in mind are:

- What is my relationship to the lands and local territories I live and work on? What degree of reciprocity is there?
- How can I begin to acknowledge and build reciprocal relationships with indigenous peoples where I live and work?
- How is my work or institution complicit in colonial structures and how might we interrupt and reimagine those structures?

Short Learning Programmes

No formal short learning programmes are offered by the Department. However, in March 2021 junior lecturer Rondo Mpiti presented a three-day short course in basic acting skills and theatre concepts to children from the Bloemfontein community in Bloemfontein. The 20 children were preparing for acting in a short film by former film student, Mbugiselo Nqodi. The film, Blow it, was filmed in Phase 6 location and the director of photography was award-winning filmmaker and film and visual images Master’s student, Mpendulo Troy Myeni, also a former graduate from our Department. The short film is due for release in 2022.


Moulage Medical Simulations
Lecturer DeBeer Cloete and learning facilitator Barend Kriel collaborate with the UFS Faculty of Health Sciences (Department of Surgery) and the National Department of Health in medical simulations (moulage). Cloete and his team of drama students specialising in theatre make-up, conducted numerous sessions at Pelonomi Academic Hospital in 2021.

National and International Collaboration
Helane is an interactive multi-disciplinary installation/short-film/performance experience that was invited to form part of the UFS Fine Arts Interface Exhibition. A digital exhibition took place in October 2021, and a live, in-person installation of the exhibition is scheduled for July 2022. The work was created through a cross-disciplinary creative exchange between Sikhuthuli Oliver Bonga and Walter Strydom, in collaboration with Siphumeze Khundayi (a performance artist from Johannesburg) and Noncedo Charmaine Mathibela Gxekwa (a photographer from Cape Town) and flowed from explorations during the Vrystaat Arts Festival, NATi and PIAD Creative Practices Lab 2021.

National and International Collaboration
Collaborations with the STAND Foundation (Sustaining Theatre and Dance Foundation), as well as the Theatre and Dance Alliance, were established on numerous platforms when award-winning playwright, Mike van Graan, visited the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts from 3 to 5 November 2021. His play, Elusive Spring, was performed for the first time and he welcomed the opportunity to attend the show directed by Jani Marais and Adriaan de Ridder. The third-year and Honours students in Arts Management courses look at management skills, sourcing and stewarding funding, positioning creative creations as commercial products with socio-economic value, etc. Every year we aim to invite several industry specialists to augment the programme with informal discussions/presentations on topics ranging from arts and law, talent agents, producing and marketing, and even accounting matters. As an award-winning South African dramatist, theatre director, cultural consultant and activist, Van Graan brought valuable insight into drama and theatre management in South Africa.

Zabesuthu Rondo Mpiti acted as production manager for the short film, Amanzi, written and directed by former drama graduate Mpendulo Troy Myeni. The film was funded by the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF). This project demonstrated the connection that academic staff have with the industry and heightened the credibility of educators as also relevant in the industry.

Postgraduate Students
In 2021 eight Honours, six Master’s and one PhD student were registered in the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts.

At Honours level, seven students graduated, five with distinction (Danyke de Beer, Retha van Rhijn, Jean-Pierre Louis Paquot, Sherilise Badenhorst and Hanro Cloete). Two MA students graduated – Marijda Kamper and Hester Strydom (with distinction).
Pieter Geoffrey Taljaard graduated with his PhD in 2021. The title of his thesis was ‘Gerben Kamper’s life work and contribution to the South African theatre: 1972 – 2016’. Prof Nico J Luwes was his supervisor.

Other Activities

Walter Strydom participated in a number of training courses during 2021. He was selected to participate in the year-long Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (KKNK) / NATi Studio Directing Course, under the tutelage of renowned South African actor, director, designer and translator, Marthinus Basson. He also participated in the two special training short courses offered as part of the STAND Foundation’s artist training initiative. The courses were ‘Understanding the funding and partnership landscape’, presented by Ismail Mahomed (former National Arts Festival Artistic Director, and CEO of the Market Theatre, currently Director for the Centre for Creative Arts at the University of KwaZulu-Natal), and ‘The South African Theatre Festival Circuit: How to navigate this system successfully’, presented by Cornelia Faasen (CEO of NATi), with guest facilitators, Hugo Theart (KKNK Artistic Director), Saartjie Botha (Woordfees Artistic Director), and multi-award-winning playwright, actor, and producer, Ashraf Johaardien.

Adriaan de Ridder and Walter Strydom successfully completed the ‘Conversational Sesotho Short Course Training’ presented by the UFS Department of African Languages, which is aimed at equipping non-Sesotho speakers with basic communication skills in Sesotho.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof A van Jaarsveld

Academic Staff

Permanent

- Mr D Cloete
- Mr T Heydenrych
- Mr O Kgwasi
- Ms R Mpiti
- Ms A Smit
- Mr D van Niekerk
- Mr C Vorster
  
  Lecturer
  Lecturer
  Junior Lecturer
  Junior Lecturer
  Lecturer
  Lecturer

Contract

- Mr O Bonga
- Mr A de Ridder
- Mr B Kriel
- Ms J Marais
- Mr J-P Paquot
- Mr W Strydom
  
  Teaching Assistant
  Teaching Assistant
  Teaching Assistant
  Junior Lecturer
  Teaching Assistant
  Lecturer

Support Staff

- Mr N Beukes
- Ms K Combrinck
- Mr L Dampies
- Mr B Hewetson
- Ms M Kamper
- Mr S Mabaso
- Mr P Maphatlatlatsa
  
  Décor Builder
  Departmental Secretary
  Academic Assistant
  Technical Manager
  Theatre Manager
  Messenger
  Décor Builder
Overview of 2021

The Department’s report highlights the various quality research outputs produced by both members of staff and students, successful teaching and hosting of departmental activities throughout the year, and some individual recipients of awards and involvement in various academic citizenship activities. Internationally and locally published research outputs, including the monographs of Dr Rick de Villiers and Prof Rodwell Makombe, mark the level of quality research produced by members of the Department, who also participated in a range of academic citizenship activities, such as the hosting of the Speaker Series with participation by local and international presenters and writers and renowned academics. The quality achievements in the Department and their diverse nature also encompasses the pool of national and international Master’s and Doctoral students who graduated and produced research reports that focused on wide areas, including English literature and culture, South African literature, Kenyan literature and culture, discourse analysis and the new media and associated cultures. Finally, the year’s teaching and learning unfolded well, with novel ways of teaching and assessing students being introduced, including video recordings and the use of online methods, with the hosting of the Speaker Series with participation by local and international presenters and writers and renowned academics. The quality achievements in the Department and their diverse nature also encompasses the pool of national and international Master’s and Doctoral students who graduated and produced research reports that focused on wide areas, including English literature and culture, South African literature, Kenyan literature and culture, discourse analysis and the new media and associated cultures. Finally, the year’s teaching and learning unfolded well, with novel ways of teaching and assessing students being introduced, including video recordings and the use of online methods, such as Perusal. In addition, the valuable role of the Departmental staff in conjunction with the vibrant team of Learning Facilitators, is exemplified in Dr Mariza Brooks receiving the Khothatsa award and receiving the award for the best Bloemfontein conference paper, for his presentation on ‘Close reading at a distance: Making remote learning intimate and intensive’.

Dr Mariza Brooks received the UFS Learning and Teaching Award: Khothatsa Project (October 2021)

Dr Mariza Brooks was placed third in the Science Fiction and Fantasy South Africa (SFFSA) NOVA 2021 Short Story Competition, for his short story, Contaminated.

Prof Rodwell Makombe

Dr Marthinus Conradie

Dr Marthinus Conradie was placed third in the Science Fiction and Fantasy South Africa (SFFSA) NOVA 2021 Short Story Competition, for his short story, Contaminated.

Prof Rodwell Makombe

Dr Rick de Villiers

Prof Helene Strauss obtained a publication grant from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program, in May 2021 (C$ 8 000). The funding was awarded for her book Wayward Feeling: Audio-Visual Culture and Aesthetic Activism in Post-Rainbow South Africa. She was also invited to join the Editorial Board of the international journal, Cultural Studies.

Ms Hanta Henning published her first collection of poetry, a bilingual debut titled spraakterapie / speech therapy. This collection deals with the issues of familial trauma, rejection, fat phobia and mental illness. It was published by Poetree Publications under the editorship of Flow Wellington.

Hanta Henning

Dr Rick de Villiers

Staff Achievements

In addition to publishing his first book (Eliot and Beckett’s Low Modernism: Humility and Humiliation), Dr Rick de Villiers was selected as a member of both the Future Professoriate Fellowship and the Learning and Teaching Fellowship. At the Learning and Teaching Conference in October 2021, Dr De Villiers won the award in the category ‘Innovative Methods in Technology Enhancement Learning and Teaching’ and the award for the best Bloemfontein conference paper, for his presentation on ‘Close reading at a distance: Making remote learning intimate and intensive’. Dr Mariza Brooks received the UFS Learning and Teaching Award: Khothatsa Project (October 2021)

Dr Mariza Brooks

Dr Mariza Brooks won the 2021 UFS Book Prize for his book Cultural Texts of Resistance in Zimbabwe – Music, Memes, and Media. He was also awarded the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholarship, which he will take up from August to December 2022.
Learning and Teaching

In the Honours programme presented by the Department of English, Dr Susan Brokensha presented two new modules ‘An Introduction to Applied Linguistic Theory in the English Language Classroom’ (ENGA6814) and ‘Applied Linguistics from Global South Perspective’ (ENGA6824). The latter is a particularly important module as it interrogates how applied linguistics scholars and/or English language teachers may expand their epistemological repertoires to take perspectives from the Global South into account. The module challenges students to answer questions such as: Is it possible to decolonise applied linguistics? Does applied linguistics have a place in the multilingual classroom? Is English a ‘killer language’? The content of the module is thus in line with an important strategic goal of the UFS – to renew and transform the curriculum.

In her teaching of various modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, decolonising the curriculum is of the utmost importance for Dr Mariza Brooks. She strives to situate the histories and knowledge that do not originate from the West in the context of imperialism and colonialism and power, to ultimately consider why these works/ideas have been marginalised and decentered. She also pays particular attention to the extent to which cultural references, historical facts and authors are presented as Western, male and European. Her goal is to foster critical thinking and deep reflection on the power of representation in the way that textbooks present materials to students, and she creates study material that offers students views from the previously silenced and oppressed, as well as views from Africa, that celebrate this continent’s rich culture and heritage.

Dr Oliver Nyambi taught an international course – introduction to English literacy and cultural studies – at Bayreuth University, Germany, in the winter semester of 2021. Prof Helene Strauss continued her work as part of the international ‘Reworlding Research Collective’ working towards curricular and pedagogical renewal accountable to the human and planetary vulnerabilities of a post-COVID world. The collective includes the UFS, Brock University, McMaster University, Concordia University, McMaster University, University of Alberta and Stellenbosch University.

One of the aims of the collective is to develop pedagogical practices and curricular innovations that animate reparative feminist, anti-racist and decolonial pathways for “living, dying, being, and feeling otherwise” amid the worsening climate crisis.

During 2021, Prof Strauss also redesigned two third-year seminars, taking into account lessons learned from the transition to Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT) in 2020. She also engaged in close collaboration with the UFS Write Site for targeted intervention in third-year writing.

Dr Nonhlanhla Dlamini was appointed as an external examiner at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) for the period 2021 to 2024.

Research Projects

As principal investigator alongside Prof Eduan Kotze and Dr Burgert Senekal (from the Department of Computer Science and Informatics), Dr Brokensha completed a research project titled ‘Investigating machine learning for document classification in an archival context with specific reference to the National Afrikaans Literary Museum and Research Centre (NALIC)’. This project was made possible through a 2021 Faculty of Humanities’ Interdisciplinary Research Grant.

Dr Brokensha also completed an off-shoot project associated with the above project, titled ‘The potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for decolonising education in South Africa through the development of indigenous languages’, for which she was the co-author.

Together with Prof Katinka de Wet (principal investigator – Department of Sociology) and Dr Shirley du Plooy (Department of Anthropology), Dr Brokensha was awarded a 2021 Faculty of Humanities’ Interdisciplinary Research Grant for a digital and medical humanities project, ‘“Soft but significant”: harnessing Humanities and Social Sciences in paving the way to create Oncology Data Lakes’.

Prof Helene Strauss is one of the core team members of a collaborative international research initiative titled ‘Reckoning, Repairing, ReWorlding’. The project includes ongoing monthly symposia and a planned Special Issue of the international journal Studies in Social Justice. Participants are drawn from international and local universities including Concordia University, Brock University, McMaster University, the University of Alberta and Stellenbosch University.

Prof Strauss has also been invited to participate in a collaborative project on ‘Feminism, Memory, Activism: Forging Transnational Solidarities’, headed by Sandra Young, from the University of Cape Town, and Rosanne Kennedy, from the Australian National University. In addition, she has been conducting ongoing research towards a book titled ‘Striking Rocks: From Extraction to Feminist Regeneration’, as well as an edited book on the literary and cultural politics of mining.

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Books


Creative Outputs


Conference Papers/Posters


Dlamini, N. 2021. What if there were no Queer Ancestors: Queerying Sexual Binaries in Embez’ Freshwater?’. Paper delivered at the Queer Temporalities in Literature, Cinema, and Video Games International Conference, Universidad de Marica, Spain. 2-4 December 2021.


Engaged Scholarship


Prof Irirkidzayi Manase guest-edited with Prof Cheryl Stobie (UKZN) volume 33 of Current Writing, dedicated to the memory of Michael Wessels. He also co-edited, with Thabisani Ndlou, The ‘Pandemic Literatures’ Special Issue, to be published by the Journal of Literary Studies in 2022. He also conducted reviews of the applications for the Africa Humanities 2021 postdoctoral fellowship, book chapter manuscripts for Cultures of Change in Zimbabwe, books published by Routledge, journal article manuscripts for journal of Black Studies, Nordic Journal of African Studies, Auto/Biographies Studies, Imbizo and Scrutiny 2.

Prof Helene Strauss regularly serves as external examiner and moderator; reviewer of grant and ratings applications, manuscripts and journal articles; external programme reviewer; and external assessor for promotions applications. In 2021 these activities included serving as the external examiner...
National and International Collaboration

Dr Marthinus Conradie conducted innovative research by collaborating with knowledgeable peers, including a colleague at the UFS as well as an expert from the Waikato Institute of Technology in New Zealand.

Dr Oliver Nyambi served his final year as a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, based at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies, Bayreuth University, Germany.

Prof Helene Strauss is the elected Vice-Chair of the global Association for Cultural Studies (ACS) (2020–2026). In this capacity, she has been part of the core organising team of the newly-formed ACS Virtual Lecture Series and has been coordinating the Conference and ACS Institute Committee, with upcoming events planned in Taiwan, Lisbon and Vancouver. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Free State Centre for Human Rights and on the Editorial Boards of the journals ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature, English in Africa, Journal of Literary Studies and Cultural Studies.

Postgraduate Students

Forty-three (43) postgraduate students were registered in the Department of English in 2021 – 12 for Honours, 15 for Master’s and 16 for their PhD.

Six Honours students graduated in 2021, of whom Dominique Le Breton de la Vieuville, Anche Louw and Rene Louw graduated with distinctions. An additional nine students completed their Honours studies in 2021, and will graduate in 2022.

Sharne Botha (with distinction), Tammy Fray, Terrence Gonorashe, Loice Saruzi Nzombe and Adri Smit graduated with their MA qualification in 2021, and a further three students (Tamia Tina Dicks, Peter Moopi and Motsusi Nare) completed their studies, and will graduate during the 2022 graduation ceremonies.

Three PhD candidates graduated in 2021:

Matsika, Tsidi dzi


Supervisor: Dr O Nyambi
Co-Supervisor: Dr M Conradie

Ndago, Abenea


Supervisor: Prof I Manase
Co-Supervisor: Prof R Makombe

Sinyonde, Bright

Thesis: Negative Spaces and Black Holes: Imagining Race (Blackness) in Post-2000 South African Urban Narrative

Supervisor: Dr K Ngara
Co-Supervisor: Dr O Nyambi

Daudi Rotich and Sara Mukungurutse completed their PhD studies in 2021 and will graduate in 2022.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof I Manase

Academic Staff

Permanent

Dr P Aghoghovwia Senior Lecturer
Dr S Brokensha Senior Lecturer
Dr M Brooks Senior Lecturer
Dr M Conradie Senior Lecturer
Dr R de Villiers Lecturer
Dr N Dlamini Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof I Manase Associate Professor (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof R Makombe Associate Professor
Ms H Henning Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof R Makombe Lecturer
Prof I Manase Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Ms N Motahtane Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Ms N Ndou Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr K Ngara Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr O Nyambi Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof H Strauss Professor
Mr B Thela Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)

Support Staff

Ms S Khojane Senior Assistant Officer
Ms K McGuire Officer
Ms P Molahlehi Officer (Qwaqwa Campus)
C O N T A C T  D E T A I L S
Academic Head of Department:
Dr Adelheid von Maltitz
T: +27 (0)51 401 2660
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Overview of 2021
The Department of Fine Arts extensively expanded its facilities and programmes during 2021, in addition to enjoying its staff and students receiving prestigious art awards and participating in local, national and international exhibitions. The Department now includes a physical exhibition and project space, dedicated mostly to student, staff and alumni exhibitions. The new boardroom, computer lab, office and studio spaces facilitate the academic project. Furthermore, the Printmaking studio has been renovated and Lithography has been reintroduced into the programme. As a Department we have continued to develop some of our strongest projects, namely the ‘Richmond Land Art Project’, which was partially funded in 2021 by the Mellon Foundation. This project was documented and showcased. The ‘Artist Speaking About Art’ speaker series was also continued during the year, with Prof Jeremy Wafer, artist and academic from the University of the Witwatersrand. An ‘Art Excursion Programme’ was launched, with funding from the Vice-Rector Academic, Dr Engela van Staden, allowing the students in the Department to attend the walkabout of Prof Willem Boshoff’s retrospective exhibition, ‘Word Woes’, at the JAVETT Art Centre at the University of Pretoria. The Department was awarded funds from the Qhubeka Development Programme, through which the Department’s academic staff will be further enriched and diversified. Lastly, the second ever Doctorate in Fine Arts at the UFS was obtained by the Head of Department, Adelheid von Maltitz. In addition, she is the third Fine Arts Department alumnus to win the prestigious international Absa l’Atelier art competition.

Achievements

Staff Achievements
Lyrene Kühn-Botma, who received her MA Fine Arts degree (cum laude) at the February 2021 graduation, was the first MA in Fine Arts to receive the prestigious Dean’s Medal. This award is given to the student who received the best results in respect of a Master’s degree in the Faculty of the Humanities during the year.

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz was the recipient of the prestigious Absa L’Atelier award (Group A). She now takes on the title of Absa L’Atelier Ambassador 2021. Part of the prize is the opportunity of having a collaborative exhibition at the end of 2022, as well as a solo exhibition within the next five years at the Absa Gallery in Johannesburg. These exhibitions will travel both nationally and internationally. In 2021 Dr Von Maltitz graduated with a PhD in Fine Arts.

Student Achievements
Jorien Krapöhl, a BA Fine Arts fourth-year student, was selected as a finalist in the 2021 Sasol New Signatures Art Competition held at the Pretoria Art Museum (view the virtual gallery and the online catalogue).

Eight BA Fine Arts students were selected for the Phatshoane Henney New Breed Art Competition; these were Lily Brink, Andrea Chounyane, Sibenoxolo Foji, Megan Johns, Sethu Menye, Courtney Parsons, Siobhan Swart and Rebecca Webster.

Selected artworks of the first to third-year students from 2019 and 2020 were exhibited in the Annual Graduate Exhibition 2021 titled ‘Liminality’ held at the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, at the UFS. Artworks from 2019 were included as there was no show in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

W: https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/departments-and-divisions/fine-arts-home
Fourth-year students exhibited in ‘graduates’; the Annual Final Year Student Exhibition of the Department of Fine Arts, held in Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery.

It is noteworthy to mention that Pauline Gütter, an alumnus of the Department of Fine Arts, held a successful solo exhibition at the University of Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Learning and Teaching

With the renovation of the printmaking facilities, Lyrene Kühn-Botma successfully re-integrated Stone Lithography into the Fine Arts programme. It is wonderful to see the invaluable limestones, which are used for this process, back in action after having been on the shelf, so to speak, for the past 15 years.

The new computer lab upgrades have contributed to the Department’s new-media projects, as well as drawing and painting modules in general.

The valuable funding received from the Mellon Foundation meant that we could continue to present and expand upon one of our strongest initiatives, the ‘Richmond Land Art Project’, which is currently the only project of its kind across Fine Arts departments in South Africa. The project addresses decolonisation and social as well as ecological issues.

Jaco Spies was appointed for the next three years as the External Examiner for the BA Fine Arts Programme of the University of Pretoria School of the Arts.

Research Projects

Fine Arts staff participated widely in exhibitions locally, nationally and internationally during 2021.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans, Lyrene Kühn-Botma and Dr Adelheid von Maltitz were selected as finalists in the Sasol New Signatures Top 100 Art Competition at the Pretoria Art Museum and for the Phathoane Henney New Breed Art Competition at Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans and Lyrene Kühn-Botma also participated in the ongoing group exhibition, ‘Interface’, as part of the main programme of the Free State Arts Festival. This unique exhibition sought to examine the character of the digital and the problems surrounding the experience of exhibiting digitally, a particularly useful solution to exhibit artworks during the coronavirus pandemic as galleries and museums went into lockdown. The online component will be complemented by a physical exhibition in 2022.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans was invited to the ‘Are you game?’ Group Exhibition at Oliewenhuis Art Museum (2021-2022) in Bloemfontein, for her GIF-based artwork, A friend of a friend, concerning “viral” in the pandemic (viruses and media that may ‘go viral’, such as fake news).

Prof Willem Boshoff held an extensive retrospective solo exhibition, titled ‘Word Woes’, in the prestigious JAVETT Art Centre at the University of Pretoria. This exhibition showcased works from five decades of artmaking. He also exhibited three new works, titled Ash, Elm and Oak, in the exhibition ‘You Don’t Say’ at the Department of Fine Arts, University of Pretoria.

Prof Boshoff was invited by Dr Anette Reckert, the curator of the Staedtische (municipal) Gallerie Delmenhorst in Germany, to participate in the exhibition ‘Lerner und lehren von sprachen in der Kunst’ (‘Meeting in language’). The exhibition opened on 10 October 2021.

Prof Janine Allen-Spies exhibited in two international online exhibitions – ‘Translation home’, and ‘What’s the Story?’. Both exhibitions form part of the Budapest Diary gallery’s exhibition series. She also exhibited in two national exhibitions, the ‘Turbine Art Fair’ at Edg2020 Gallery and ‘New Modernism’, Online Exhibition, Edg2020 Gallery – both curated by Prof Elfriede Dreyer.

Jaco Spies’ artwork titled Distribution #2791 was chosen to be part of the UFS permanent collection and is exhibited in the Senate Hall on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Research Outputs

Creative Outputs and Exhibited Works *

Brink, L. Transient. Artwork exhibited at Making and Interpreting Art in 2021, SARChI Chair in South African Art and Visual Culture, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, University of Johannesburg, South Africa (Virtual). 31 May–1 June 2021.

Allen-Spies, J. Of gloves and a selfie-stick.

Du Plessis, J. Five works selected. Of gloves and a selfie-stick, Corona, Who killed the dog with a rubber bullet?, Breathe, & Vapour. C. Mixed media painting & performative photography. For the exhibition ‘New Modernism’, Edg2020 Gallery & The Turbine Art Fair, Curated by Elfriede Dreyer.


Von Maltitz, A. C. Cleansing / Entombing. Site specific earth from Poland & Germany, cremated bone ash, ash, nail clippings, breast milk, hair lint, resin & plexiglass. SASOL New Signatures Finalist Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum. 11 November 2021-9 January 2022.


* Not yet accredited

Conference Papers/Posters


Engaged Scholarship

Lyrene Kühn-Botma joined the all-female printmaking collective, ‘The Printing Girls’ and participated in several exhibitions, including one at the Art Room in Parkhurst, Johannesburg, as well as the SA Print Gallery in Cape Town. She also participated in a closed print exchange with members of the collective.

Allen-Spies, du Plessis-Kleyhans, Kühn-Botma, Spies, Tau and Von Maltitz are all members of the Free State Art Collective.

Bontle Tau was invited to be a member of the Advisory Board for Olievenhuis Art Museum.

Postgraduate Students

In 2021, six students were registered for the BA Fine Arts 4th year (NQF8), three for the Master’s and one for the PhD.

Lyrene Kühn-Botma received her Master of Art in Fine Arts degree with distinction.

Adelheid von Maltitz received her PhD, becoming only the second student at the UFS Department of Fine Arts to do so. The title of her thesis was ‘Art, Place, Death: The transformative power of dynamic thresholds’, supervised by Prof ES Human and co-supervised by Prof J Allen-Spies.

Bontle Tau and Leon Witthuhn, both MA Fine Arts students,
presented papers at the University of Johannesburg conference ‘Making and Interpreting Art’. Ms Tau also curated the online exhibition ‘Translating Home’, which showed in Latitudes Online.

Leon Witthuhn participated in the ‘Making and interpreting art in 2021 Exhibition’ with his work titled ‘Naturselbstdruck einer Taube’ (‘Nature print of a dove’).

Leon Witthuhn, Naturselbstdruck einer Taube’ (‘Nature print of a dove’), 2021, Stone Lithograph on Fabriano, 47 x 35 cm Edition of 4 (Reference used with permission from the artist)

Mr Witthuhn was also a finalist for the Phatshoane Henney New Breed Art Competition at Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein with his digital photograph, titled Uncertain Destiny and he was selected as one of 100 finalists in the 2021 Sasol New Signatures Art Competition at the Pretoria Art Museum with his digital installation, titled Digital Mirror.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department:
Dr A von Maltitz

Academic Staff
Permanent
Prof J Allen-Spies
Ms J du Plessis-Kleynhans
Ms L Kühn-Botma
Mr J Spies
Dr A von Maltitz
Associate Professor
Junior Lecturer
Lecturer
Lecturer
Senior Lecturer

Contract
Dina Grobler
Waldo Human
Junior Lecturer
Technical Support

Support Staff
Mr P Morata
Ms T Sarluis-Meyer
Technical Assistant
Administrative Officer

Affiliated Staff
Prof W Boshoff
Extraordinary Professor

Leon Witthuhn, Uncertain Destiny, 2021, Photograph, 34.5 x 41.5 cm (Reference used with permission from the artist)
Overview of 2021

The Department of Hebrew is responsible for research and teaching of Hebrew language and culture within the broader context of the Near East. We are committed to moving the field of Hebrew to an understanding of, and appreciation for, the theory, methodology and insights of modern linguistics alongside traditional Semitic philology. We are also committed to the internationalisation of our field, especially throughout Africa. To that end, we are bringing the study of Hebrew to Africa through innovative pedagogical methods that take into account the differing linguistic backgrounds and cultural contexts of African students. We are especially interested in empowering Bible translators on the African continent to gain the competency to translate the Bible from the source texts. We also want to promote an understanding of the shared roots of Judaism and Christianity, especially for students who do not have an understanding of the richness of Jewish culture or history. In our endeavours, we are further committed to the principles of excellence in research and teaching, equity, openness, internationalisation (especially in Africa).

In addition to postgraduate qualifications in Hebrew, we are responsible for the postgraduate programmes in Bible Translation that are housed in the Faculty of Theology, namely, the MA Bible Translation, MA Bible Translation Management and the PhD Bible Translation. We focus on the history, theory and practice of Bible translation within the context of religious translation (including research on orality, biblical performance criticism, paratexts/metatexts and key cultural terms). Our research involves both modern Bible translation and the earliest ancient translations into Samaritan Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, Syriac and Latin.

In 2021, the Department promoted quality in teaching through innovative new modules that build upon and expand the Department’s commitment to bringing Africa into our field. Our research continued to have international impact in the African continent and beyond. Our commitment to engaging both the general public and our disciplines was furthered as well. These are our stories.

Student Achievements

One current student and one former student were recognised as innovative teachers of Biblical Hebrew in the prestigious international journal Hebrew Higher Education. In 2021, an article surveyed various initiatives using electronic means for the teaching of Biblical Hebrew.

Bethany Case, a BA Honours student, was recognised for her ‘Aleph with Beth’ YouTube channel, which she created in order to teach Biblical Hebrew (https://www.youtube.com/c/alephwithbeth). Three international research fellows received NRF-ratings during 2021. Dr Tania Notarius (Israel) received a B2-rating, and Prof John Cook (USA) and Prof Robert Holmstedt (Canada) received C-ratings from the NRF. They join the B-rated NRF scholars in the Department, Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Prof Jacobus Naudé, and C-rated international research fellow, Dr Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole, from Kenya.

Staff Achievements

Jonas Sello Thinane has served as our Department Administrator for almost seven years. His work involves overseeing the administration of the three intertwined areas of our Department, namely: Hebrew, Bible Translation and Arabic. Jonas Thinane began working for our Department during his first year as a Theology student, Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé was teaching first-year Hebrew and noticed how diligent and committed he was to his studies. She immediately asked him if he would be interested in working as a student assistant for the Department. Back then, he collected library materials and scanned them for our PhD students around the world. When the position of Department Administrator became vacant, he applied for the position and was appointed shortly thereafter. At the time, he was the first African male to hold such a position at the University, where white women dominated administration. The Hebrew Department has accompanied and supported him throughout his academic career, from his junior degrees (BTh and MA Theology) to his PhD in Theology for almost seven years. His time, he was the first African male to hold such a position at the University, where white women dominated administration. The Hebrew Department has accompanied and supported him throughout his academic career, from his junior degrees (BTh and MA Theology) to his PhD in Theology.

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This lively and informative resource has more than 69,000 subscribers and is grammatically accurate in its representation of Biblical Hebrew. The journal Hebrew Higher Education praised her free, online resource that provides excellent and high-quality videos for learning Hebrew. Bethany completed her BA Honours Hebrew study in 2021 and will graduate in 2022 with distinction, the Dean’s Medal in the Humanities and the Senate medal.

Dr Jesse Scheumann, an alumnus who completed his PhD with specialisation in Hebrew in 2020, has taught Biblical Hebrew for four years at Sattler College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. His curriculum creatively engages all faculties of language – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Dr Scheumann leads with a communicative approach, spending at least 90% of class time in spoken Hebrew with games, activities and stories, while maintaining the best of a grammar-translation approach, repackageing the traditional material to give students an inductive experience. Students spend most of their homework with illustrated resources and sixty-four videos that total eleven hours of spoken Biblical Hebrew. By the end of year one, students can read a set of sixteen graded Hebrew stories and the entire book of Jonah. He is also the author of According to Their Kinds: A Hebrew Picture Dictionary (with audio) for helping students to associate Hebrew vocabulary with visual representations. Hebrew Higher Education selected this innovative approach to vocabulary learning as an important electronic resource for students.

Learning and Teaching

Connecting Africa to the Ancient Near East

In the humanities in general, scholars have responded to pressing cultural and social concerns of multiculturalism, diversity and pluralism through initiatives to redress previous academic hierarchical mentalities and structures of working in disciplinary silos. In 2021, the Hebrew Department embarked on a new initiative in teaching ancient Near East culture modules as an extension of the departmental strategy to introduce students to the ancient cultural and social world of the Ancient Near East, which includes parts of Africa. The first two modules, which were taught in 2021, were ‘Peoples, Power and Culture in the Ancient Near East’, taught by Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé, and ‘Memory, Writing and the Construction of Knowledge in the Ancient Near East’, taught by PhD student Ms Ronel Kellner.

Teaching Arabic Language and Culture

Arabic is a language of 422 million speakers worldwide and a prominent language within Africa. Arabic is also the religious language of Islam, the second most populous world religion with 1.5 billion Muslims globally and 3 million Muslims in South Africa. It is one of six official languages of the United Nation as well as the official language of 22 countries around the world.

The modules are organised to construe the ancient Near East as broadly as possible to include the African context. Our aim is for students to make connections between the ancient Near East and Africa as well as our own South African social and cultural experiences. To facilitate this vision, the teaching material is structured around geographical regions that include Mesopotamia, The Levant (modern Syria, Israel, Palestine, Jordan), Anatolia (modern Turkey), the Iranian Highlands, Egypt, Cush (Northern Sudan and Ethiopia), North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Moreover, the teaching material is organised according to relevant themes applicable not only to the ancient world but also for the times in which we live. Themes in the full set of modules include ‘Peoples, power and culture in the ancient Near East’, ‘Memory, writing and the construction of knowledge in the ancient Near East’, ‘Identity, ethnicity, gender and class in the ancient Near East’, ‘Sacred space, sacred texts, sacred times and religious practice in the ancient Near East’, ‘Women and religion in the ancient Near East’, ‘Ecology and technology in the ancient Near East’ and ‘Legacies of ancient Near Eastern religions in the African context’. Students are guided in thinking critically about relevant and complex issues that confront societies and cultures, informed by a broader context of the ancient Near East and Africa.

One of the aims, for example, of the module ‘Memory, writing and the construction of knowledge in the ancient Near East’, is to challenge students to reflect on habits of wrong thinking which have been inherited from a colonial past concerning orality and literacy. An urgent question facing scholars that is helpful to redress the presupposed hierarchical binary distinction between literate and oral cultures, is: “How do we retain, value and celebrate the oral tradition in light of a modern and post-modern society?” To answer this question, students are introduced to cultures in the ancient Near East and Africa to provide a helpful model to examine the complex interplay between oral and written communication strategies. Students are encouraged to think in new ways about the oral-written interface and to reflect on the broader social, economic, political and religious contexts in which the oral tradition and writing functioned in the ancient Near East and Africa, to construct knowledge of cultural experience. This understanding can then assist students to challenge previous stereotypes and misconceptions about orality and literacy in Africa and in the South African context.
In order to develop the importance of the Arabic language among South Africans and to connect them to the Arab/Muslim world, Arabic as a conversational language elective and as a major or minor in the Humanities, was instituted in 2021. The students who enrolled in the Arabic course learn how to speak, write and read the Arabic language from the beginning up to intermediate levels.

Arabic is being taught by Dr Asadullah Karimov, who has been involved in learning and teaching the Arabic language for the past thirty years.

Decolonising the teaching of Biblical Hebrew

We see decolonisation in the teaching of Biblical Hebrew in the following ways. First and most importantly, we are involved in teaching the grammatical, lexical and discourse features of the language in ways that link directly with the home languages of the students. We firmly believe that students should not have to ‘go to Europe’ to first understand English or a western language in order to understand Hebrew. Instead, using the theory of linguistic typology, we directly link the grammatical features of Hebrew (itself a non-western language) with those of the students’ home language. We are also actively producing materials specifically for Sesotho-speaking students who are learning Hebrew (e.g. glossaries of vocabulary items and grammatical descriptions linking Hebrew and Sesotho).

To further this goal, Dr Tshokolo Makutoane is collaborating with the Department of African Languages on an interdisciplinary project which focuses on answering the question “How can African students who are not mother-tongue speakers of English, understand Hebrew without making English a point of departure?” The approach in unlocking this question is the linguistic typological one -- comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences between certain grammatical features and concepts in both Hebrew and Sesotho. The conclusion one could draw is that the students who are non-speakers of English can understand and master the contents of Hebrew if they can recognise the similarities and differences between Hebrew and their prospective languages, like Sesotho and other indigenous languages. In this way the decolonisation of the curriculum, which should start from the hearts of the students and lecturers, will be a reality. This research project is funded through an interdisciplinary grant (see below). An article on the research, ‘The case of Biblical Hebrew and Sesotho Verbal systems’ has been submitted to Journal for Applied Linguistics and Language Research (ISI Journal).

Short Learning Programmes

The Hebrew Department does not have any specific short learning programmes. Instead, we use our ‘extended’ first-year Hebrew modules (HEBR1504 first semester and HEBR1604 first semester) extended over a year, to allow occasional students to begin their study of Hebrew. Of particular importance is the enrolment in these Hebrew modules for ‘occasional studies’ by Sesotho pastors who did not previously have the opportunity for formal university training in Hebrew.

Research Projects

Dr Tshokolo Makutoane, from the Department of Hebrew, and Dr A Motsei, from the Department of African Languages, received an Interdisciplinary research grant to the value of R50 000, for their project ‘Linguistic Typology – Hebrew and Sesotho’. The project will facilitate and establish interdisciplinarity between Biblical Hebrew and Sesotho when recognising and bringing to the surface the existence of similarities and differences of specific linguistic features of both languages through the language typology approach. In 2021, they presented their research at a national conference.

Prof Jacobs Naudé and Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé have a long-term project on religious translation. In 2021, they submitted a chapter on ‘Meaning-making Processes in Religious Translation Involving Sacred Space’ to a Bloomsbury volume, Translation beyond Translation Studies. They also conducted research on censorship and religious translation, submitting an invited chapter to the Handbook on Censorship and Translation (Routledge). They also engaged in a history of English Bible translation, one article by Prof Naudé was published in 2021, and three articles are in progress for 2022. Prof Naudé also published a book chapter on the translation of oral religious texts in non-monotheistic religions in the Handbook of Translation Studies. The project is funded from the authors’ research incentives.

In another long-term project, Prof Miller-Naudé and Prof Naudé are researching the application of linguistic theory to pre-Modern Hebrew. In 2021, they submitted a chapter to an international book to be published by Brill on a generative linguistic analysis of pas (‘all, every’) in the Septuagint as well as a paper titled ‘Unity and Diversity in Qumran Hebrew: Evidence from Quantification’ for an international volume published by Brill. They also submitted an article to an accredited journal on the linguistic features of Biblical Hebrew acrostic poems titled ‘The Intersection of Syntax and Poetry in the First Hebrew Acrostic Poem of Lamentations’, as part of an investigation of the degree to which prose and poetry differ linguistically in Biblical Hebrew. The project is funded from the authors’ research incentives.

Prof Miller-Naudé and Prof Leoma G Gilley (SIL International) are collaborating on a research project on the linguistic description of Shilluk, a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in South Sudan. This research examines the typologically unusual features of the morphology and syntax of a previously undocumented African language. In 2021 they presented a paper at the 15th Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium at the University of Edinburgh. This project is funded by the authors.
Conference Papers/Posters


Engaged Scholarship

Dr Kevin Chau served as a member of the steering committee for the Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium, an affiliate of Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, USA, and as co-chair for the Biblical Hebrew Poetry section of the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, USA. In addition, he was the Secretary of the Southern African Association for Near Eastern Studies. He also taught a series of adult education classes on the Book of Psalms, titled ‘Sing Your Praise to the LORD’ (Geneva Campus Church, Madison, Wisconsin (USA) and preached on ‘Blessings and Broken Brothers’ (Gateway Community Church, Middleton WI, USA) and ‘Psalm 1: Reconnecting with God through Scripture’ (Asian American Intervarsity Christian Fellowship (University of Wisconsin-Madison chapter).

Dr Tshokolo Makutoane was a member of the redactional committee of the Sesotho Bible Translation project for the Bible Society of South Africa, and a member of curatorium for the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa. He attended the Oral Bible Translation Consultation in Africa from 11 to 13 October. He is piloting the use of oral Bible translations for Biblical Performance Criticism within the Sesotho community as a means to engage Scripture through oral performance. In addition, Dr Makutoane was a member of executive committee of Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies.

Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé was co-chair of the steering committee of the Biblical Hebrew Language and Linguistics programme unit of the International Society of Biblical Literature, and co-editor of the series Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic, published by Pennsylvania State University. She was also a member of the editorial boards of the Bible Translator and the Journal of North-West Semitic Languages.

Prof Jacobus Naudé served as translation consultants for the Dinka Cam Bible translation project in South Sudan. In 2021, they worked on checking the translation of the second half of the New Testament – Acts through Revelation. This completes the verse-by-verse checking of the entire Dinka Cam Bible, which will be published in 2023. They also served on the scientific committee of a special issue of the journal Paralleles, related to Bible translation.

Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Prof Jacobus Naudé made two presentations to the Global Translation Advisers of the United Bible Societies, titled ‘Complexity thinking and Bible translation: Censorship and (re)translation’ and ‘Complexity thinking and Bible translation: Translating sacred space beyond Translation Studies’ (webinar). He served as co-editor of the series Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic, published by Pennsylvania State University Press. Prof Naudé was a member of the editorial boards of a number of journals – Handbook of Translation Studies, The Bible Translator, Folia Orientalia and Journal of North-West Semitic Languages – and on the advisory boards for the Handbook of Terminology, Journal of Translation Studies in Africa and for the USA National Association of Professors of Hebrew. In addition, he was a member of the Regional Board of the Central Region of the Bible Society of South Africa.
A research partnership has been developed between the Department of Hebrew and the Department of African Languages, undertaking interdisciplinary research on, inter alia, Linguistic Typology to compare the verbal systems of Biblical Hebrew and Sesotho. This research will be utilised in teaching Biblical Hebrew to students whose home language is Sesotho.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Palm Beach Atlantic University (USA) for student and staff exchange and also with SIL International concerning the MA Bible Translation Management.

National and International Collaboration

Postgraduate Students

In 2021, four students were enrolled in the Department of Hebrew for BA Honours, while at Master’s level, nine were enrolled for the MA in Hebrew (by research) and seven for the structured MA in Bible Translation. Seven students were registered for the PhD in Hebrew and eight for the PhD in Bible Translation.

Three BA Honours students completed their studies and will graduate in 2022, namely Bethany Case (with distinction, Dean’s Medal Humanities, and Senate Medal), Silvia Linington (with distinction) and Ntaliolite Dlamini.

Two MA Hebrew (research) students completed their studies in 2021:

- Elizabeth Mburu completed her dissertation on ‘Bridging the Alterity Gap in African Bible Translation through a Complexity Thinking Approach to Hermeneutics and Intersemiotics’, under the supervision of Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. She will graduate in 2022 with the Dean’s Medal in the Faculty of Theology.

Two MA Bible Translation students completed their studies in 2021:

- Rev Tshidiso Moletsane completed his dissertation titled ‘A Socio-Historical Frame Analysis of an Oral Bible Translation Project among the San Xung (Ju’Hoansi) in the Omahke Region, Namibia’ under the supervision of Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Prof JA Naudé. He will graduate in 2022 with distinction and begin his PhD in Bible translation.

- Jonathon Kehrer completed his dissertation titled ‘Variation in object marking of Biblical Hebrew verbs: A preliminary syntactic analysis’, supervised by Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé. He will graduate in 2022 with distinction and the Dean’s Medal in the Humanities.

Two students graduated with their PhD qualifications in 2021:

- Sophia L Pitcher graduated with the PhD in Hebrew. Her thesis ‘Towards the Development of an Intonation Based Prosodic Model for the Masoretic Cantillation Accents of Tiberian Hebrew’ was supervised by Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Prof JA Naudé. She was appointed as a research fellow in the Department.

- Tobias Houston graduated with the PhD in Bible Translation. His thesis was titled ‘Designing a Bible Translation for Ciyawo Speakers in Mozambique’ and his promoters were Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Prof JA Naudé. He was also appointed as a research fellow in the Department.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof CL Miller-Naudé

Academic Staff

Permanent

- Prof CL Miller-Naudé
- Prof JA Naudé

Contract

- Dr KD Chau
- Dr A Karimov
- Rev R Janse van Rensburg
- Ms R Kellner
- Rev M Mahlangu
- Rev M Nortier
- Ms A Wiese
- Ms L Visser

Support Staff

- Dr J Thinane

Affiliated Staff

- Dr U Bergström
- Prof JA Cook
- Dr Lj de Regt
- Dr A Evans
- Prof AD Forbes
- Dr EJ Grosser
- Prof RD Holmstedt
- Dr T Houston
- Prof JM Hutton
- Dr M Joubert
- Dr J Loba-Mkole
- Dr J Maluleke
- Dr DT Mangum
- Dr S Miller
- Prof C Nord
- Dr TM Notarius
- Dr M Nyirenda
- Dr T Ouattara
- Dr M Park
- Dr TM Notarius
- Dr M Nyirenda
- Dr T Ouattara
- Dr GJ Park
- Dr S Pitcher
- Dr CW Retief
- Dr J Scheumann
- Dr WL Widder
- Dr DJ Wilson

The permanent staff of the Department of Hebrew, back, from the left, Prof Jacobs Naudé and Dr Tshokolo Makutoane; front, from the left, Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Dr Jonas Thinane
Overview of 2021

The Department of History continued with the standards that were set in the previous year in terms of teaching, research outputs and engaged scholarship. With regard to teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, we continued to be attentive to the needs of our diverse student body, including students with disabilities and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

In 2021, two senior academic staff members left the Department. Prof Neil Roos resigned in June to join the University of Fort Hare as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Prof André Wessels, previously an Academic Head of the Department, continued his work as Associate Head of the Department and the University of the Free State (UFS) for 34 years.

At the same time, two staff members joined the Department, improving our equity target and gender diversity. Miss Pulane Xaba transferred from the Department of Classics to assume the position of Senior Assistant Officer in January. In September, Dr Rebecca Swartz, an NRF Y1-rated scholar, joined the Department as Senior Lecturer.

We pride ourselves in the intellectual diversity of the Department. In 2021, the research portfolios of staff members covered different temporal periods – stretching from the 18th to the 20th century – as well as divergent aspects of history. These diverse research areas covered South Africa, southern and central Africa and beyond. The research niches of the staff members included military history, transitional justice processes, oral history, history of the liberation struggles in South Africa, transnational histories of South Africa’s decolonisation, history of sport, British imperialism in 19th century southern Africa and beyond, whiteness in South Africa and aspects of medical history in southern Africa. The quality of accredited research is reflected in the outputs that were produced last year. Twenty-two outputs, including journal articles, book chapters and books, were published locally and internationally by permanent staff members and research fellows of the Department.

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Achievements

Staff Achievements

Chitja Twala was promoted to Associate Professor with effect from 1 January 2021. He was appointed by the National Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture to be a member of the Indigenous Knowledge / Intangible Cultural Heritage National Authentication Panel.

Dr Wouter de Wet (Qwaqwa Campus) graduated with a PhD in December 2021. This means that all academic staff in the Department of History are holders of a PhD.

Lazlo Passemiers was selected into the UFS Emerging Scholars Accelerator Programme (ESAP).

Tshepo Moloi (Qwaqwa Campus) received the Most Prolific Researcher award in the Faculty of Humanities, Qwaqwa Campus. He was also appointed as the Editor of New Contree and to the editorial board of Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies. Tshepo Moloi, together with Arianna Lissoni, Noor Niefetagodien (History Workshop, University of the Witwatersrand) and Anne Heffernan (Durham University), received a £20 000 grant to organise the ‘Decolonizing Academic Publication Workshop’.

Clement Masakure was appointed co-editor of Historia, the journal of the Historical Association of South Africa, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Historical Association of South Africa (2021-2023).

André Wessels continued his work as Associate Editor for Southern Africa for the International Journal of Military History and Historiography and Rebecca Swartz was the Book Reviews Editor for History of Education (UK). Jared McDonald (Qwaqwa Campus) was appointed to the editorial advisory board of the Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa.

Student Achievements

Yonwaba Matshobotiyana won the Historical Association of South Africa (HASA) Johan Bergh Historia Award, which is awarded to deserving third-year students in History at participating universities.

Johan van Zyl received the ‘Protea Boekhuisprys vir die beste Geskiedenis-proefskrif in Afrikaans’ from the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.

Learning and Teaching

Dr Lazo Passemiers, Dr Clement Masakure and Dr Marietjie Oelofse organised a departmental workshop for postgraduate students, focusing on scientific review and ethics committee research proposal submissions.

Some members of the Department were appointed as external examiners – Dr Lazo Passemiers for an Honours dissertation at the University of Pretoria, Dr Clement Masakure for an MA dissertation at the University of Pretoria and senior undergraduate students at Sol Plaatje University, Dr Rebecca Swartz for a PhD thesis at Unisa and Dr Marietjie Oelofse for two MA Dissertations and one PhD Thesis at the University of Pretoria. Dr Tshepo Moloi was invited by the Department of History at the University of Johannesburg to act as its Honours external examiner for the next three years.

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Research Projects

Prof Chitja Twala was invited to be part of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG) Digitizing Dissent Project. The project is housed by the CSPG in California (USA) and aims at digitising approximately 1000 anti-apartheid posters.

Dr Marietjie Oelofse worked on a project titled ‘Silent and silenced: Factors prohibiting women from having a voice after experiencing human rights violations.’

Dr Lazlo Passemiers conducted archival research at the UFS’ Archives for Contemporary Affairs and the National and Military

Archives in Pretoria for his research project ‘Uhuru Hoppers: Decolonisation and White Flight in Southern Africa, 1960–1994’. He also conducted studies on Manelisi Ndbongo’s contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle and the external support networks of the Comité Revolucionario de Moçambique (COREMO).

Dr Clement Masakure conducted research on Zimbabwe’s government hospitals at the time of COVID-19. This formed part of the project ‘COVID-19 and the State in Africa’, which was funded by the African Studies Centre at Rhodes University.

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Several members of the Department were involved in various forms of community engagement and public scholarship in 2021.

Dr Lazlo Passemiess assisted the Ndibongo family with collecting information about former Pan-Africanist Congress member Manelisi Ndibongo’s contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle. He also acted as a reviewer for journal Third World Quarterly.

Dr Tshepo Moloi was invited to act as a convenor at the Annual National Doctoral Conference for The Humanities and Social Sciences (NHSS), from 2 to 4 November. In addition, Dr Moloi was invited by the American Historical Review (AHR) to review Franziska Ruee-di’s book The Vaal Uprising of 1984 and the Struggle for Freedom in South Africa.


Dr Clement Masakure reviewed a book proposal for Manchester University Press. He also gave a talk on his book African nurses and everyday work in twentieth century Zimbabwe, on 5 February 2021 on The Conversation with Anotida Chikumbu (Book Series) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_wpZiu_Ic) hosted by University of Massachusetts, Amherst, United States of America. In addition, he gave a talk titled ‘Dr Kenneth Kaunda as a great friend of Southern Africa’s liberation struggle’, at an event hosted by the African National Congress Youth League University of the Free State Branch on 29 June 2021. Its aim was to reflect on the life and times of President Kenneth Kaunda.

Dr Rebecca Swartz and Dr Masakure were mentors for the ‘Promoting Zambian and Southern African Research Output: Publishing, Mentoring and Grant Writing Workshop’. Due to COVID-19, the main workshop was turned into a series of online workshops that were held in the second semester of 2021.

Besides writing opinion pieces, Prof Twala also gave talks and commentaries on various fora. On 10 May 2021, he was a discussant during the book launch of Rebone Tau’s *The rise and fall of the ANC Youth League* (https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/news-archive/campus-news/2021/may/book-chronicles-ancyl-s-fall-from-prominence). Furthermore, on 19 August he gave a commentary on SAFm News on demystifying the historical culture of political violence in South Africa and on 20 August he was part of a discussion group on eNCA on the ‘The History of Brandfort and Winnie Mandela’s banishment house’.

Prof André Wessels reviewed a book manuscript for a South African publisher, and another book manuscript for a publisher in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, Prof Wessels reviewed four books: two of the book reviews were published in LitNet, and the other two in the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography*.

**Postgraduate Students**

In 2021, twenty-one postgraduate students were registered in the Department of History.

Three students completed their Honours degree. These were Lucas Dan Matlala, Juliet Bukeka Mdlalana (*cum laude*) and Louis Edian Venter (*cum laude*).

Two students completed their MA degrees, namely Werner Bouwer and Keanan Christine Jafta (*cum laude*).

**Wouter Jacobus de Wet** graduated with his PhD. The title of his thesis was ‘n Geskiedenis van die Suid-Afrikaanse Rugbyraad (SARR): Ontstaan, ontwikkeling en vroeë bedrywighede, 1889 – 1956’. His supervisor was Prof A Grundlingh, with Prof A Wessels as co-supervisor.

**Mokoditlaa Eliakim Moemi** completed his PhD on ‘Whites and the Liberation Struggle in the Orange Free State and Transvaal, 1953-1994’. His supervisor was Prof C Twala.

**National and International Collaboration**

In October 2021, Prof John Arni-Flessner joined the Department as Visiting Associate Professor. A Fulbright Fellow, Prof Arni-Flessner is Associate Professor of African History at the Residential College in Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University, United States of America.

During 2021, collaboration on different levels between the Department of History (UFS) and the National Museum (NM) and the War Museum in Bloemfontein continued with regard to oral history research, as well as involvement in external moderation and supervision.

**Other Activities**

Dr Passemiers, Dr Oelofse, Dr Masakure and Dr Moli served on the Local Organising Committee of the 2021 Oral History Conference. The conference, which was hosted by the Free State Provincial Archives, took place in November 2021 in Clarens.

The *Southern Journal for Contemporary History* in conjunction with the Department of History hosted seminars on African history, with presenters and participants from South Africa, the region and beyond the continent. Thirteen scholars presented their work.

On 19 June, Prof Twala gave a commentary on Kenneth Kaunda’s political legacy on Lesedi Stereo (*Mathumisa Programme*), and on 17 July he gave a talk on the history of social violence and the response of the ANC.

On 5 August, Prof Twala delivered a talk on *The Conversation with David A Chikwaza*, on the programme *Africa in Perspective*. The theme of the discussion was ‘The South African crises: A critical analysis of the politics of the ANC post-colonial South Africa, the arrest of Jacob Zuma and the subsequent unrests’ (https://youtu.be/PueZXKHur4). Furthermore, on 19 August he gave a commentary on SAFm News on demystifying the historical culture of political violence in South Africa and on 20 August he was part of a discussion group on eNCA on the ‘The History of Brandfort and Winnie Mandela’s banishment house’.

**Kenneth Kaunda, former president of Zambia**

**Lilysleaf Farm**

**Prof John Arni-Flessner, Visiting Associate Professor**

**Dr Wouter de Wet**
### Staff (2021)

**Academic Head of Department:**
Dr C Masakure

#### Academic Staff

**Permanent**
- Dr WJ de Wet: Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Dr C Masakure: Senior Lecturer
- Dr J McDonald: Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Dr TC Moloi: Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Dr MM Oelofse: Senior Lecturer
- Dr LCP Passemiers: Senior Lecturer
- Prof ND Roos: Professor
- Dr R Swartz: Senior Lecturer
- Prof C Twala: Associate Professor
- Prof A Wessels: Senior Professor

**Support Staff**
- Ms P Xaba: Senior Assistant Officer

**Affiliated Staff**
- Prof JC Arnie-Flessner: Research Fellow
- Mr AB Blake: Research Fellow
- Dr SM Botes: Research Fellow
- Ms IS Bredenkamp: Research Fellow
- Prof NL Clark: Research Fellow
- Ms GCJ Coetzee: Research Fellow
- Ms JA Coetzee: Research Fellow
- Dr JH de Bruin: Research Fellow
- Dr HJ du Bruyn: Research Fellow
- Dr VR Heunis: Research Fellow
- Dr GF Houston: Research Fellow
- Dr EK Makombe: Research Fellow
- Dr PP Molosiwa: Research Fellow
- Dr A Pinwinkler: Research Fellow
- Prof AWG Raath: Research Fellow
- Dr H Snyders: Research Fellow
- Dr J Stemmet: Research Fellow
- Dr GM Swiegers: Research Fellow
- Dr JHR van Zyl: Research Fellow
- Prof W Worger: Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

Overall, the PhD students and Postdoctoral Fellows in the International Studies Group (ISG) enjoyed a most successful year. Their achievements, underpinned in many instances by external funding, displayed consistent engagement with (virtual) international seminars and conferences, as well as with journals and book publishers of the highest international ranking.

Achievements

Three researchers affiliated with the ISG received new NRF-ratings in 2021 – Dr Matt Graham (C2-rating), Dr Matteo Grilli (P-rating) and Dr Rebecca Swartz (Y1-rating).

Prof Ian Phimister was invited to join the editorial advisory board of *Global Nineteenth Century Studies*.

Research Projects

Dr Jennifer Chansa was engaged in a book project, ‘State, Mining Companies and Communities: A History of Environmental Pollution and Regulation in the Zambian Copperbelts (1964 to 2020)’. Funding for the book project includes her African Humanities Program (AHP) Fellowship research/write-up funding of US$20 000.

Dr Daimon was also involved in online sessions and a workshop on publishing, mentoring and grant writing, held Lusaka, Zambia, in May 2021, as part of the initiative ‘Promoting Zambian and Southern African Research Output’.

Dr Anusa Daimon continued researching the Malawian diaspora and was awarded an African Peacebuilding Network (APN) 2021 Individual Research Fellowship, worth R215 000. On 16 April 2021, Dr Daimon served as a panellist at the launch in Harare of the report by Amnesty International Zimbabwe, with the title ‘We are like “Stray Animals”: Thousands living on the Margins due to Statelessness in Zimbabwe’.

Dr Innocent Dan-de was involved in a project on ‘Cooking, the crisis and cuisines: household economies and politics in Harare’s high-density suburbs, 1997-2020.’ This project is funded by the *Journal of Southern African Studies*’ Colin Murray Postdoctoral Research Award, won at the end of 2020. This funding enabled him to prepare for a much larger food history project and to win an AHP Postdoctoral Award (US$20 000) for a project titled ‘Harare’s Informal Foodscapes: Class, Identity and Culture in Zimbabwe, c. 1980-2020’.

Dr Anusa Daimon

With funding from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Award (R93 000), Dr Hlengiwe Dlamini continued her project on ‘The Queen Mother of Eswatini - The Making and Functioning of Constitutional Dyarchy’. Dr Dlamini was also involved in co-organising a conference on ‘Making, unmaking and remaking of Africa’s independence and post-independence constitutions. This was held virtually in the ISG from 21 to 23 October 2021.

Dr Chris Fevre continued to research the historical development of global anti-apartheid activism, focusing on the British context. In collaboration with Dr Matthew Graham, from the University of Dundee, UK, he successfully applied for a British Academy Small Research Grant (£9 900) for the continuation of this work.

Dr Victor Gwande received a Gerda Henkel Foundation Grant of €20 000 to undertake research on ‘Democracy as a Practice and Vision in the South African Labour Movement’, as part of the project ‘Southern African Democracy and the Utopia of a Rainbow Nation’.

Dr Hyden Munene was awarded postdoctoral research and write-up funding from the African Humanities Program / American Council of Learned Societies (AHP/ACLS) worth US$20 000. The funding is for his book titled *Copper King in Central Africa: Corporate Organization, Labour Relations and Profitability of Zambia’s Rhokana Corporation*. This was published online in November 2021, to be released in January 2022 by Rowman and Littlefield International Publishers.

Dr Unaludo Sechele, who is researching women and labour migration in Botswana, was selected for the
Dr Geraldine Sibanda obtained two external grants. The first, from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Zimbabwe (US$20 000), is for research towards her monograph whose tentative title is Zimbabwe’s Elite Pacts: Economic Planning, State Finance and Odious Debt, and the second was from Rhodes University’s Centre for Africa Studies towards a book chapter titled, ‘Gatekeepers of International Finance, the State and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Zimbabwe and South Africa’ (R50 000). Since 2020, Geraldine has been a Coordinator of the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) Africa Working Group. The YSI is the early career arm of the New York University Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET) whose aim is to foster debate around economic thinking and economic development on a global scale. In 2021, she coordinated an eight-part webinar series on informal dog breeding businesses in Harare’s high-density suburbs, Zimbabwe, 1990–2019. Critical African Studies 19(3): 321–337.


Chapters in Edited Volumes


During the August 2021 general election in Zambia, Dr Hyden Munene served as one of a number of accredited election monitors. He subsequently published a newspaper article based on his observations, titled ‘Role that observers, monitors played during the August 2021 election’, in the Zambia Daily Mail on 25 October 2021.

In addition, from September to November 2021, Dr Koorts presented a weekly series on South African History on the radio programme Mens in Konteks on RSG, and from November 2021 was also the presenter of a weekly series on African History on the RSG programme Mites oor Afrika.

During 2021, joint seminars, workshops and research projects were held and undertaken with the Universities of Dundee, Kent, Nottingham, Leiden, Bologna, Zambia, Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Botswana.

**National and International Collaboration**

**Engaged Scholarship**

Dr Lindie Koorts published a regular column for Beeld, which is reprinted in its sister dailies, Die Burger and Volksblad, as well as on the Netwerk24 platform. The column aims at drawing links between past and present and comments on current affairs through a historical lens.

In 2021 four students were registered with the International Studies group and will continue in 2022, and a further four completed their PhD studies and graduated:

**Bron, Eleanor**

**Thesis:** With divided mind and unsure steps: South Africa from referendum to republic, August 1960 – May 1961

**Supervisor:** Prof IR Phimister

**Co-supervisors:** Dr D Patrick and Dr C van Zyl-Hermann

**Glover, Michael** (jointly with Leiden University)

**Thesis:** Cattle and colonialism: an animal-centred history of southern Africa, 1652–1980s

**Supervisor:** Prof IR Phimister

**Co-supervisor:** Prof JB Gewald and Dr R Swartz

**Koke, Honest**

**Thesis:** A History of Southern Rhodesia’s Fiscal System: The Political Economy of Revenue Collection and Expenditure, 1890–1953

**Supervisor:** Prof IR Phimister

**Co-supervisors:** Prof T Nyamunda, Dr L Nkomo and Dr V Gwande
Sibanda, Geraldine
Supervisor: Prof IR Phimister
Co-supervisor: Prof T Nyamunda and Dr S Ncube

Staff 2021
Head: Prof IR Phimister

Academic Staff
Permanent
Prof IR Phimister Senior Research Professor

Support Staff
Ms I le Roux Senior Officer
Ms T Gwena Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff
Dr P Bekins Research Fellow
Dr G Bishi Research Fellow
Dr T Chambwe Research Fellow
Dr A Cohen Research Fellow
Prof A Evans Research Fellow
Dr L Evans Research Fellow
Dr S Frank Research Fellow
Dr F Gerits Research Fellow
Dr N Ginsburg Research Fellow
Dr M Graham Research Fellow
Dr M Hannaford Research Fellow
Dr J Hogan Research Fellow
Dr L Koorts Research Fellow
Dr J Kufandirori Research Fellow
Dr K Law Research Fellow
Prof G Macola Research Fellow
Dr G Mazarire Research Fellow
Dr D Money Research Fellow
Dr C Muller Research Fellow
Prof V Narain Research Fellow
Dr N Ndumeya Research Fellow
Prof A Pallotti Research Fellow
Prof B Raftopolous Research Fellow
Prof V Sasson Research Fellow
Dr A Stevenson Research Fellow
Prof A Sutton Research Fellow
Dr A Tembo Research Fellow
Dr D van Zyl-Hermann Research Fellow
Prof J Zimmerer Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

In a sense, 2021 was even more difficult than 2020 because staff now knew what lay ahead and what the effects of the pandemic would ask of them. In learning and teaching, in particular, staff were tested in their resilience and adaptability. Staff therefore need to be saluted for sticking to their task under extremely difficult circumstances.

As the report shows, 2021 has been a good research year for both sections of the Department. Seeing the Linguistics section strengthening their research footprint is particularly satisfying.

In South Africa, the future is uncertain for various reasons, and it will probably continue to tax our energy and resilience. This report therefore aims to celebrate achievements and convey positive energy while all the while reminding staff to look after themselves in these uncertain times.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr Marlie van Rooyen was promoted to Senior Lecturer and was also appointed as the Programme Director for Language Practice. Dr Van Rooyen was awarded a 2021–2023 Teaching and Learning Fellowship by the UFS Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Student Achievements

Novotorzhina Olesya graduated with the BA Language Practice with distinction.

Learning and Teaching

Postgraduate students in the Department are required to present their work to their peers twice a year. The philosophy behind this practice is that learning is co-constructed through communication and that postgraduate students should learn the skill of interacting with other scholars in a scholarly way.

Research Projects

Dr Kristina Riedel, as principal investigator, received an open call grant from the South African Centre for Language Resources (SADiLaR) for language documentation/digitisation for the project ‘Corpora of spoken language for Sotho, Setswana and Sepedi’ (R498 148). Her co-investigator is Dr Hannah Gibson from the University of Essex. As part of this grant, Dr Riedel hosted the Seshegopuo Training Workshop 1 (a training workshop for language documentation for SADiLaR-funded project) on 7 and 8 November 2021.

Kristina Riedel is also involved in other international collaborative projects. She is a principal investigator for the ‘Microvariation in Bantu languages of South Africa: Building theories from typology data’ project (2021-2027), with project leader Prof Seunghun Lee (International Christian University) and collaborators in Japan and South Africa. This six-year project investigates the inter- and intra-language variation in Bantu languages. The project aims to document the rich array of typological data and inform linguistic theories in a meaningful way.

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The specific goals of the project are:

- To document inter- and intra-language variations at the interface between the prosody and sentence structures.
- To document narratives for the discourse and dialect-level-variations.
- To collect archive-quality materials based on data obtained.
- To update existing theories or propose theories based on a new set of data.

and typological comparison through previously established experimental design paradigms. The project takes a radically new approach to understanding how languages vary by applying methodology established by previous work rolled out across language groups (rather than within). The research is conducted with research partners from the former Yugoslavia and South Africa. Ms Hlumela Mkabile is also part of this project.

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Edited Volume


Conference Papers/Posters


Marais, K. 2021. Semiotic work and the emergence of culture: Some ideas. Paper delivered at the Seminar on Cultural Transfer, Leibniz Institute and Centre for the Study of Global Dynamics, Leibniz, Germany. 5 March 2021.


Engaged Scholarship

Prof Kobus Marais served as an editorial board member for the following:

- Benjamins Translation Library
- Biosemiotics
- Interdisciplinary Research in Translation
- Linguistics Antwerp
- Nida Centre for Advanced Research on Translation
- Routledge Series on Translation Textbooks
- Target
- Translation Studies

He also served as vice-president of the Association for Translation Studies in Africa and is the editor of the Journal for Translation Studies in Africa.

Dr Marlie van Rooyen served on the committee for Website and Marketing of the Association for Translation Studies in Africa, and was sub-editor for New Voices and the Journal for Translation Studies in Africa. She is also an accredited interpreting member of the South African Translators’ Institute (SATI) and member of the Association of Translation Studies in Africa (ATSA).

In August 2021, Dr Van Rooyen received a special invitation to present a seminar as part of the North-West University Faculty of Humanities Indigenous Language Media in Africa 2021 Seminar Series: The (in)visibility of translation in community radio news in South Africa.

Dr Kristina Riedel was associate editor for the Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (SALALS). She is also an executive committee member and linguistics convenor for SALALS.

Ms Mkabile is also a linguistics convenor for SALALS. Xany Jansen van Vuuren is an accredited interpreting member of the South African Translators’ Institute and member of SALALS and ATSA. Outside of academia, she engages in ecocriticism (a sub-discipline of her research) on a creative level through photography. She was part of a fund-raising initiative for Friends of Franklin, a local conservation group, by being the opening speaker at an art exhibition to raise funds for the acquisition of a new giraffe for Naval Hill. She also exhibited her ecocritical photographs at an art exhibition in December.

Postgraduate Students

During 2021, 17 Honours students, 10 MA students and 9 PhD students were registered with the Department.

Twelve Honours students graduated – Lana Buys with distinction. In addition, Danilda Else obtained her MA and Mokhoelle Aaron Hala-hala obtained his PhD for his thesis titled ‘The sociolinguistics of Lesotho English in the Kingdom of Lesotho’. This study was supervised by Prof Kobus Marais and co-supervised by Prof Susanne Mühleisen.

Xany Jansen van Vuuren also completed a PhD with the title ‘Non-professional interpreters in animal welfare: Towards an ecosemiotic understanding of interaction’ and will graduate in 2022. She was supervised by Prof Kobus Marais and co-supervised by Dr Carmen Delgado Luchner and Prof Joao Queiroz.

The Department tries to assist PhD students to present their work outside of the Department in order to build networks and also be exposed to alternative paradigms of thinking.

National and International Collaboration

As reported above, Dr Kristina Riedel works with Dr Hannah Gibson from the University of Essex, United Kingdom, on the SADiLaR-funded project ‘Corpora of spoken language for Sesotho, Setswana and Sepedi’. Dr Riedel and Dr Gibson also co-hosted an online workshop titled ‘Towards a decolonial linguistics’ as part of the 8th International Conferences on Bantu Languages (Bantu 8), on 4 June 2021.

Dr Riedel is a principal investigator for a six-year international project investigating the inter- and intra-language variation in Bantu languages in collaboration with researchers in Japan and South Africa – the University of Venda and the UFS. She is also involved in an international collaborative project Agreement Mismatches in Experimental Syntax: from Slavic to Bantu’, working with a large team of researchers from South Africa (Rhodes University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal), the USA, Bosnia, Croatia, Austria, Slovenia and Serbia.

From 26 to 28 August 2021, Prof Kobus Marais hosted an international online conference on ‘The complexity of social-cultural emergence: Biosemiotics, semiotics and translation studies’, organised with Reine Meylaerts and Maude Gonne from Belgium.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof K Marais

Academic Staff

Permanent

Ms X Jansen van Vuuren
Prof K Marais
Ms H Mkabile
Mr M Molefe
Dr K Riedel
Dr M van Rooyen

Lecturer
Lecturer
Lecturer
Senior Lecturer
Senior Lecturer and Programme Director: Language Practice

Support Staff

Ms P Moliko
Senior Assistant Officer

Programme Director:

Dr M van Rooyen

Senior Lecturer and

Dr K Riedel

Lecturer
Overview of 2021

In the aftermath of the shock waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff, students and affiliated staff of the Odeion School of Music (OSM) slowly but surely began finding their feet again. Hybrid conferences and performances with audience members keeping their social distance, characterised the year 2021. Despite the challenges, or perhaps because of them, the OSM produced a plethora of academic and creative outputs – four articles in accredited journals, three chapters in international publications, two presentations at international online conferences and seven concerts in collaboration with other professional performers.

We are proud of the new outreach initiative by our brass lecturer, Mr George Foster, at the Bloemfontein Life Change Centre Music School. This door opened opportunities not only for staff and students to give back to the community, but also for the children at the centre to experience the joy of ‘musicing’. Regarding international collaboration, Dr Frelêt de Villiers is part of a global research group involving researchers from seven different countries exploring the impact of the COVID pandemic on seamless learning experiences. The brass and woodwind students had the privilege of working with the international tubist, Gianmario Strappati, and The Free State Youth Wind Ensemble made a recording with the United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass band. Our lecturers are also involved in various national and international initiatives, such as the African Chair of the International Clarinet Association and international artist for Buffet Crampon (Dr Danré Strydom) and Vice-president of the South African Society of Music Teachers in the Free State (Dr Anneke Lamont).

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr Anchen Froneman and Dr Danré Strydom were promoted to Senior Lecturer positions after being at the university for five and seven years, respectively.

Student Achievements

Two of the OSM vocal students, Duminsani Rini and Mongezi Mosoaka, competed in the final round of the 2021 Human Naudé Music Scholarship Competition. Mr Rini was awarded the bursary prize of R100 000, which will be paid for further studies abroad or within South Africa. They are both under the tutelage of Mr Albertus Engelbrecht.

Karlin Kock took part in the National Atterbury Piano Competition from 18 to 22 October 2021, in which she progressed to the semi-finals. In December 2021, she participated in the National Youth Music Competition and won a prize for being one of the three most promising pianists who did not advance to the semi-final round.

Waldo Jones, an organ student of Dr Jan Beukes, won second place in the Unisa Grade 8 Music Scholarship Competition and the prize for the best performance of a Romantic work (Johanna van der Spuy Prize). Jana Smit (student of Ms Jeanne-Louise Moolman) won the Du Toit van Tonder Music Scholarship for the best
string player. Students are invited to be part of this prestigious competition, and only the cream of the crop – those who achieved more than 85% in their final examination – are invited.

The OSM Camerata, under the artistic direction of Marius Coetsee, received the second prize in the final round of the National Ensemble Competition, in the Open category. Elsabé Raath was the principal conductor. The gala concert took place on 22 September in Pretoria. They played works by Sibelius, Van Dijk, Schostakovich and Vivaldi.

Four OSM students were selected to participate in the National Youth Music Competition hosted by the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Cape Town from 6 to 11 December 2021. Kagiso Ramosa won the Michael Masote Prize for the most promising woodwind candidate, and Karlin Kock won the Michael Masote Prize for the most promising pianist. The woodwind and brass staff of the OSM initiated a programme to extend the current curriculum offered to students, to include light music. This was done by establishing an online jazz course with the well-known saxophonist, Daniel Shout. The classes incorporated the students’ understanding of classical music theory as a basis for the jazz course. Students were guided on how to construct a basic improvisation solo, jazz scales and bass lines. When restrictions were eased in October 2021, Mr Shout was able to visit the OSM and present a workshop to the students.

Learning and Teaching

The brass students of the OSM were invited to attend an interactive sectional rehearsal with the low brass section of the Free State Symphony Orchestra on 25 November 2021. Experiences like these are invaluable to the education of our students, especially those who strive to become performers. After the sectional rehearsal, during which the lower brass players worked on fine-tuning passages from Tchaikovsky’s 5th Symphony, they had the opportunity to attend the full rehearsal with the Free State Symphony Orchestra, and witnessed a professional orchestral rehearsal led by renowned conductor Bernard Gueller.

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Research Projects

Dr Frelé de Villiers is currently collaborating in an interdisciplinary project with the UFS Department of Neurology in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The objective of the study is to investigate if there are any functional changes in the brain after using the HALO Sport for six months and to explore if there are any improvements in the students’ performance and motor skills. EEG tests and Functional MRI scans will be utilised in the research. Funding of R150 000 was received from the UFS Directorate of Research.

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Conference Papers/Posters


Lamont, A. 2021. The Deer’s Cry by Arvo Pärt - an introduction to the composer’s use of the Lorica by St Patrick with specific focus on the deer as the sacred lover in the Song of Songs.


Creative Outputs

The unique combination of mezzo-soprano, clarinet and piano (in this case presented by Ms Minette du Toit-Pearce, Dr Danré Strydom and Mr Cezarre Strydom), is often described by classical connoisseurs as one of the definitive experiences of chamber music. The concert title consisted of a programme of the ensemble’s most celebrated repertoire, complemented by new arrangements of various lieder. The performance took place at Old Nectar (Stellenbosch) on 23 April 2021.

Dr Danré Strydom was the soloist with the Free State Symphony Orchestra. She performed the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major K. 622 in the Sand du Plessis Theatre on 23 October 2021.

A few staff members served as principal players in the Free State Symphony Orchestra’s final concert of the year at the Sand du Plessis Theatre on 23 October 2021.

The programme included the Beethoven Triple Concerto and Tchaikovsky’s 6th Symphony, ‘Pathétique’.

On 6 November 2021, the OSM showcased the brass instrumental area at the Anglican Cathedral Concert. The programme included the student-run BRAX Quintet and Tchaikovsky’s 6th Symphony, ‘Pathétique’.

Dr Danré Strydom (Clarinet), Dr Anneke Lamont (Piano), Prof Anmari van der Westhuizen (Cello) and Ms Ilne Fourie (storyteller) presented a production called Natural elements. The audience could relive the world of 2021 as it was defined by its most basic elements: water, wind, earth, space and fire. This classical trio of renowned musicians brought to life the most notable elemental happenings of the year with expert narrator Ilne Fourie. The diverse repertoire included works by Bach, Vivaldi, Debussy and Da Falla.

Mr Léon Snyman designed the sound for the production of ‘n Klein wonderwerk (by Paul Gallico, translated and directed by Prof Naòmi Morgan) with Chris van Niekerk. It is a live dramatic reading of the translated text with sound effects and recorded music cued into the performance. It was performed in October 2021 at the Aardklop Opwip Fees and the Chapel, Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria.

Another live reading based on the same principle was performed at Vrystaat Klank en Klassik (VVK), held in Bloemfontein at the Odeion Theatre in November 2021. Madame Pylinska en die geheim van Chopin (by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt) was directed and translated by Prof Naòmi Morgan. Mr Léon Snyman was responsible for the sound and set design. Mr Chris van Niekerk (narrator) and Mr Eugene Joubert (piano) were also part of the production.

Mr Léon Snyman also created a multi-speaker audio installation with digital voices and electronics (LV/\xi) at the VVK. The work celebrates the diversity and cultural richness of humanity through the medium
Engaged Scholarship

The South African Church Organ Society (SACOS) Free State, in collaboration with the OSM and the OSM Liesbeth Schlumberger Organ Chair, presented a diverse programme on 28 August 2021 at the Langenhoven Dutch Reformed Church. Dr Jan Beukes curated a concert programme performed by himself, Dr Anneke Lamont, Ms Luzanne Eigelaar, Ms Kayme du Preez and Mr Waldo Jones. The Odeion Choir, under the artistic leadership of Mr Lance Human, both students of the OSM. The project thus also fulfils another vital purpose – to provide a platform for pillars of the community to further their studies and receive on-the-job training.

In 2021, the project welcomed the opportunity to become a platform for the OSM modules in Music Education. These classes formed part of the music education modules presented by Ms Angelique Nkosi (degree studies) and Dr Sonkanise Nkosi (diploma studies).

Dr Anneke Lamont is the vice-president of the South African Society of Organists, Dr Jan Beukes is the chair of the Free State Symphony Orchestra. She is also the African Chair of the International Clarinet Association and an international artist for Buffet Crampon.

National and International Collaboration

Dr Frelét de Villiers is part of a global research group representing seven countries, researching aspects of the application of seamless learning. They are preparing a book publication, Analysing the impact of post-Covid seamless learning experiences.

On 27 March 2021, the brass and woodwind students of the OSM were part of an online international collaborative initiative with international tuba soloist, Gianmario Strappati. This event was a first of its kind and reflective of how “the show must go on” during a time when live music was not allowed due to the COVID pandemic.

The New Pathways programme is a hybrid model that resulted from COVID-19 restrictions, which combines online and in-person formats whereby participants can complete the LIMS certification programme. Following a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Pretoria and LIMS, the first southern African cohort of participants taught on the African continent will complete the programme in 2023.

Dr Anchen Froneman forms part of the South African Faculty of the New Pathways programme presented by the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies (LIMS) in Brooklyn, New York. The New Pathways programme is a hybrid model that resulted from COVID-19 restrictions, which combines online and in-person formats whereby participants can complete the LIMS certification programme. Following a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Pretoria and LIMS, the first southern African cohort of participants taught on the African continent will complete the programme in 2023.

A class presented by a facilitator as part of the New Pathways Programme

From the left, Mr Marius Coetzee, Ms Ema Rademan, Dr Anneke Lamont and Dr Jan Beukes

The organ as an ideal interlocutor in dialogue with God (Dr Anneke Lamont)

Organ technique (Dr Jan Beukes)

A significant community engagement initiative of the OSM is the Bloemfontein Life Change Centre (BLCC) Music School. The project provides music tuition in the form of theory and brass instrument tuition to the community of Heidedal. The activities of the school also align with the mission of the Bloemfontein Life Change Centre, which aims to be a provider of hope in a troubled world, alleviate poverty and uplift the community.

Mr George Foster is the project coordinator and is assisted by a parents’ committee and two student teachers, Kgomoto Modise and Tursney Human, both students of the OSM. The project thus also fulfils another vital purpose – to provide a platform for pillars of the community to further their studies and receive on-the-job training.

In 2021, the project welcomed the opportunity to become a platform for the OSM modules in Music Education. These classes formed part of the music education modules presented by Ms Angelique Nkosi (degree studies) and Dr Sonkanise Nkosi (diploma studies).

Dr Anneke Lamont is the vice-president of the South African Society of Organists, Dr Jan Beukes is the chair of the Free State Symphony Orchestra. She is also the African Chair of the International Clarinet Association and an international artist for Buffet Crampon.
recorded accompaniment. After that, the students were coached and given well-received advice on enhancing their performances.

Douglas Scott received his PhD for his thesis ‘A radical constructivist application of Zipf’s law to music as a semiotic theory of cognition’. His supervisors were Dr Matildie Wium and Dr E Huovinen.

George Foster completed his studies in 2021, and will graduate with the PhD in 2022.

The OSM, in collaboration with the North-West University (NWU) School of Music and the NWU Musical Arts in South Africa: Resources and Applications (MASARA) Research Entity, hosted a postgraduate webinar in November 2021. It was the first opportunity to share their thoughts and visions about current research projects. Master’s and Doctoral students presented their research and lively conversations followed most of the presentations.

Postgraduate Students

Eighteen (18) postgraduate students were registered with the OSM in 2021 – three Honours, nine MA and six PhD candidates.

Two students graduated at Honours level – Nadia Smith graduating with distinction. An additional Honours student completed his studies in 2021, and will graduate in 2022.

Five MA students completed their studies in 2021 and will graduate in 2022. They are Chesney Palmer, Eranee de Beer (with distinction), Angelique Novella, Magdaleine Carstens (with distinction) and Constanze Steyn (with distinction).

Two PhD candidates graduated in 2021. Irma Davel received her PhD, for her thesis ‘The unifying effect of music in a community - a case study of the Lady Grey Passion Play’, supervised by Dr Frelet de Villiers and Prof Roelf Beukes (posthumously).

Students performing for the masterclass

The Free State Youth Wind Ensemble (FSYWE), an ensemble administered by the OSM, was invited to participate in a collaborative online video recording with the United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass band. The audio and visual recording sessions took place in October in the Naval Hill Planetarium. The project was led by Mr George Foster and Dr Danré Strydom, while the OSM Technology Lecturers, Mr Léon Snyman and Mr John Smit, captured the audio and video.

Staff (2021)

Artistic and Operational Head of Department: Dr Jan Beukes

Academic Head of Department: Dr Frelet de Villiers

Academic Staff

Permanent

Dr J Beukes Senior Lecturer
Dr F de Villiers Senior Lecturer
Mr A Engelbrecht Lecturer
Mr G Foster Lecturer
Dr A Fromeman Senior Lecturer
Dr J Kunnuji Senior Lecturer
Dr A Lamont Senior Lecturer
Dr A Nkosi Senior Lecturer
Mr L Phillip Lecturer
Dr D Strydom Senior Lecturer
Prof M Viljoen Associate Professor
Dr M Wium Senior Lecturer

Contract

Ms M Barlow Junior Lecturer
Ms L Eigelaar Lecturer
Mr J Holloway Lecturer
Ms M Horn Lecturer
Mr T Kemane Lecturer
Mr H Lategan Lecturer
Ms L Lötter Lecturer
Ms L Manuela Lecturer
Ms L-A Mathews Lecturer
Mr P Moolman Lecturer
Ms A Novella Junior Lecturer
Ms G Pretorius Lecturer
Mr J Smith Lecturer
Mr W Stander Lecturer
Dr S Strauss Lecturer

Support Staff

Mr M Coetzee Senior Officer
Ms E Kotze Officer
Ms N Pretorius Officer
Mr L Snyman Officer
Ms S Vermeulen Officer
Overview of 2021

This was yet another ground-breaking year for the Department of Philosophy and Classics. I mention just a few highlights.

As of 1 January 2021, Classics, incorporating ancient Greek as well as Latin, was merged with the Philosophy Department to establish the new Department of Philosophy and Classics, further cementing the unique character of the Department in the South African university sector.

The Classics curriculum was restructured and aligned with the continuous assessment model, which had been developed with great success over some years in the Philosophy section.

The Department achieved an undergraduate pass rate of more than 80%. All Philosophy Honours students passed, of whom two were possibly with distinction, and two of the four planning to continue with an MA in the Department.

On the research front, the Department produced more than 39 research publishing units.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Prof Johann Rossouw was the keynote speaker at the Colloquium on Violence & Religion, Desiring Machines: Robots, Mimesis, and Violence in the Age of AI, held at Purdue University, Indiana, USA, on 10 July 2021. He was also the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the House of Beautiful Business, Gordon Institute of Business Science (GBS), Johannesburg, on 15 October 2021.

Prof Bert Oliver was granted ‘Honorary Rosalind Membership of London Journals Press’, membership ID=YZ04303 for the 2021 quarter, based on recognition of his internationally published research.

Research Projects

Prof Johann Rossouw worked on finalising a monograph on the late novels of Karel Schoeman, situated between tradition and modernity.

Prof Johann Beukes continued his research as a Resident Associate of the Center for the History of Philosophy and Science, based in the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen, in the Netherlands.

Dr Dennis Masaka was involved in preparing a book proposal on ‘The idea of knowledge in Africa’.

Prof Bert Olivier was involved in a number of research projects, including:

- Understanding extant society and culture through the arts;
- Understanding the subject in relation to the hegemony of neoliberalism;
- Understanding the (post)modern subject, culture and society;
- Understanding the role of technology in hegemonic practices (received funding in 2019 from an American benefactor to promote and support work on this project (+US$35 000); and
- Articulating the subject along the lines of Deleuze and Guattari’s notion(s) of assemblage and the rhizome.

Learning and Teaching

After the large restructuring of the Philosophy curriculum (2019-2020), work was started on rebuilding the newly merged Classics section of the Department. A major revision of the Classics curriculum was completed, and the continuous assessment model that the Philosophy section had developed over many years with great success, was introduced in the Classics section as well. The Classics tutorial programme was also revised and prepared for implementation on second- and third-year levels. The first year of the newly developed modules in basic Greek and Latin (CLLG) was successfully introduced.

Mr Charles Villet undertook research on four projects, out of which several articles were produced. These were ‘A postcolonial theory of recognition: Reading Honneth’s mutual recognition through Fanon’s lens’; ‘A phenomenology of racism: Hegelian recognition and the structure of alienated consciousness’; ‘The voyeur society: Revisiting Thomas Mathiesen’s viewer society after Trump and COVID-19’; and ‘Foucauldian enlightenment: Self-critique and the death of man in the Anthropocene’.

Dr Kristof Vanhoutte worked on finalising a pamphlet (a provocation) under the name of ‘There is no such thing as “Continental” Philosophy’. The thesis is currently being tested in a series of seminars that he is presenting at the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking. He is also finalising his research and writing his conclusive work on the afterlife. This volume is planned to be published in the series Reframing Continental Philosophy of Religion (edited by Prof Steven Shakespeare and Dr Duane Williams and hosted by Rowman and Littlefield).

**Research Outputs**

**Articles**


**Engaged Scholarship**

Prof Johann Rossouw continued publishing a monthly column in Rapport newspaper and published a number of pieces on LitNet at their invitation.

Prof Dolf Britz continued his membership of various societies – Berliner Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Missionswissenschaft, Gesellschaft für die Geschichte des reformierten Protestantismus, Historisch Dokumentatiecentrum voor het Nederlands Protestantisme (1800–Heden) and the International Reformed Theological Institute. Prof Britz also participated in the project ‘Christian religion in the VOC world (1596–1700)’, which is seated in the Centre for Dutch Reformation History, in the Theological University Kampen, the Netherlands.

Books


Conference Papers/Posters


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- ‘The case for ivermectin’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 18 January: https://thoughtleader.co.za/bertolivier/2021/01/18/the-case-for-ivermectin/
- ‘Sir David Attenborough pulls no punches’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 1 February: https://thoughtleader.co.za/bertolivier/2021/02/01/sir-david-attenborough-pulls-no-punches/
- ‘Will that which we call ijhayi by any other name sound as sweet?’ Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 2 March: https://thoughtleader.co.za/will-that-which-we-called-ijhayi-by-any-other-name-sound-as-sweet/
- ‘Governments know most people obey – especially in a state of disaster’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 29 March: https://thoughtleader.co.za/governments-know-most-people-obey-especially-in-a-state-of-disaster/
- ‘The passive nihilism of the present age’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 10 April: https://thoughtleader.co.za/the-passive-nihilism-of-the-present-age/
- ‘Science fiction’s warning against vaccine passports’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 30 April: https://thoughtleader.co.za/science-fictions-warning-against-vaccine-passports/
- ‘They call it a pandemic. It isn’t.’ Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 8 May: https://thoughtleader.co.za/they-call-it-a-pandemic-it-isnt/
- ‘Is the push for the vaccine a push too far?’ Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 31 May: https://thoughtleader.co.za/is-the-push-for-the-vaccine-a-push-too-far/
- ‘Don’t ever be too certain of who you are’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 10 June: https://thoughtleader.co.za/dont-ever-be-too-certain-of-who-you-are/

- The need to be autonomous in a world of heteronomy. Posted on personal website, Sapere aude, 28 June: https://bertzza.wixsite.com/web SITE/post/the-need-to-be-autonomous-in-a-world-of-heteronomy/
- Growing the resistance. Posted on personal website, Sapere aude, 2 July: https://bertzza.wixsite.com/web SITE/post/growing-the-resistance/
- New evidence of massive manipulation every day... Posted on personal website, Sapere aude, 5 July: https://bertzza.wixsite.com/web SITE/post/new-evidence-of-massive-manipulation-every-day/
- Wake up, or else... Posted on personal website, Sapere aude, 9 November: https://bertzza. wixsite.com/web SITE/post/wake-up-or-else

**Chapters in Edited Volumes**


**Books**


**Conference Papers/Posters**


**Dr Mark Amirasakis and Dr Helen-Mary Coward were involved in the formation of the inter-university Philosophy of Technology Reading Group, in which they are both active participants.**

Prof Pieter Duvenage was a regular contributor to programmes on RSG, such as Spektrum and Kommentaar. He was also the director of two civil society organisation – Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuureenverjinigke (FÄK), and Vryheidstigting. Prof Duvenage is a regular participant, by invitation, in the annual Critical Theory Conference (Prague).

Prof Bert Olivier continued publishing in the Thought Leader column in the ‘Mail & Guardian’. Since 2007 he has contributed 551 bi-weekly editorials. In 2021 he posted the following on the site:

- ‘Humanity in the future’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 5 January: https://thoughtleader.co.za/bertolivier/2021/01/05/humanity-in-the-future/

- ‘Don’t ever be too certain of who you are’. Posted on the Mail & Guardian’s Thought Leader site, 10 June: https://thoughtleader.co.za/dont-ever-be-too-certain-of-who-you-are/
Prof Olivier delivered two guest lectures to students at Nelson Mandela University (NMU):

- ‘What is Philosophy, and why is it important for doctoral studies?’ ‘Thoughts on how not to govern, and sure ways of destroying an ethos’ – Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale (1985) and Orwell’s 1984 (1949). Guest lecture to SFV324/ SF324 students at NMU (7 September).
- ‘How to write research papers on Foucault’s work’. Research workshop presented, by invitation, to Philosophy Honours students at NMU (14 October).

Prof Olivier also presented an online seminar to staff and postgraduate students at the University of Pretoria, on 22 October, on ‘Understanding Foucault for Education’, and was invited to present a series of five, two-hour online seminars to Doctoral students for Education’, and was invited to present a series of five, two-hour online seminars to Doctoral students at the University of Pretoria. This text will be published next year.

In 2021, there were nine Doctoral candidates and six PhD candidates and one MA student. Prof Pieter Duvenage led two PhD candidates and Prof Bert Olivier supervised two PhD candidates and a Masters’ student. Prof Lis Lange is the supervisor for one PhD candidate.

Dr Kristof Vanhoutte wrote a book chapter together with Prof Christo Lombard from the University of Pretoria. This text will be published next year.

In Philosophy, Prof Johann Rossouw supervised four PhD candidates and one MA student. Prof Pieter Duvenage led two PhD candidates and Prof Bert Olivier supervised two PhD candidates and a Masters’ student. Prof Lis Lange is the supervisor for one PhD candidate.

Mr Lindani Gobingca was awarded an MA in Philosophy with distinction and Ms Carli Rautenbach was awarded an MA in Classical Languages with distinction.

Three PhD (Philosophy) candidates completed their studies and graduated in 2021:

Dr Nathné Denis

Thesis: Marabi and Poststructuralism(s): An Inquiry into the Possibility of Forging a Rapprochement Between Aspects of Poststructuralist Thinking and Marabi in its Context (1920’s–1930’s).

Supervisor: Prof G (Bert) Olivier

Naudé, Charl-Pierre

Thesis: Rede en mite: Blumenberg se rasioneel vir die historiese ontvouing van narratiewe en denke

Supervisor: Prof PNJ Duvenage

Vunza, Mbay


Supervisor: Prof PNJ Duvenage

The other registered postgraduate students aim to complete their studies within the prescribed time frame, as set out in the rule book of the Faculty of the Humanities.

National and International Collaboration

Prof Johann Rossouw hosted Dutch scholar and biographer of Karel Schoeman, Ria Winters, in early July for research on the project.

Prof Johann Beukes is a Resident Associate of the Center for the History of Philosophy and Science, at Radboud University Nijmegen, in the Netherlands. He is also a member, which includes continued research, of a number of international societies – Foucault Cirkel Nederland/België, Nederlandse Onderzoekschool Wijsbegeerte (OZSW) and Société Internationale pour l’Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale (SIERM).

In addition, he published a guest article on 24 August with Sarah Iles Johnston (22 November).


**Staff (2021)**

*Academic Head of Department: Prof JH Rossouw*

### Academic Staff

**Permanent**
- Dr MJ Amiradakis: Lecturer (Philosophy)
- Dr H Cawood: Lecturer (Philosophy)
- Mr L Gobingca: Lecturer (Philosophy)
- Dr M Moyo: Lecturer (Classics)
- Dr JC Meyer: Lecturer (Classics)

**Contract**
- Mr E Pistorius: Lecturer (Greek and Latin, Units)
- Ms A Smit: Junior Lecturer (Classics, Units)
- Mr MA Smit: Lecturer (Philosophy, Units)

### Support Staff

- Ms AFM Stander: Officer

### Affiliated Staff

- Dr H Alt: Research Associate
- Prof CJ Beukes: Research Associate
- Prof RM Britz: Research Associate
- Prof Louise Cilliers: Research Associate
- Prof PNJ Duvenage: Research Associate
- Prof Barbara Goff: Research Associate
- Prof John Hilton: Research Associate
- Dr D Masaka: Research Associate
- Prof C Olivier: Research Associate
- Prof AWG Raath: Research Associate
- Dr KKP Vanhoutte: Research Associate
- Dr C Villet: Research Associate
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Overview of 2021

This has been a momentous year for the Department in many respects. In late 2020, the Department formally merged with the Programme on Governance and Political Transformation, capably run by its Programme Director, Dr Tania Coetzee. Dr Coetzee has become the Deputy Academic Head of Department.

Despite large numbers of undergraduate students, the Department has been able to produce high-level research, initiate a variety of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with international partners, host and co-host a number of webinars, restructure modules to reflect the concerns of the Global South, initiate two Short Learning Programmes and remain active in various community initiatives, as well as advising policy makers. There has also been a notable emphasis on our postgraduate cohort, with webinars between our MA students and MA students from the University of Haifa, which resulted in published conference proceedings.

In addition, given our MoU with Niger Delta University, we co-hosted a postgraduate workshop between their and our MA and PhD students. This webinar was also co-hosted with the International Association of Political Science Studies (Africa Chapter).

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Mamokhosi Choane, a Lecturer in the Department, was awarded her PhD in December 2021 for her thesis titled ‘Enhancing risk management skills at a municipality using adult education approach’.

Mr Lumanyano Ngcayisa was the second runner-up in the 3-Minute Thesis Competition (Institutional) hosted by the UFS.

Learning and Teaching

In an effort to decolonise the curriculum, a deep dive was undertaken to ensure that modules were less Eurocentric and reflected African authors, African challenges and African perspectives. POLS 3724, which focuses on political theory, now does not only cover classic Western theorists, such as John Locke, or more contemporary ones, such as Hannah Arendt and John Rawls, but also examines important African thinkers pertaining to the African Renaissance and African personhood, as well as ubuntu. In addition, various Indian and Chinese thinkers are discussed. At first-year level, modules were reoriented to make them less state-centric and also focused on important themes, such as climate change and gender.

A new Short Learning Programme (SLP) was introduced focusing on Early Warning and Conflict Resolution. Developed for the African Union, this SLP is specifically designed to alert members of the AU before a conflict is about to erupt and what measures need to be undertaken in order to de-escalate conflict dynamics in a particular country.


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Books

Conference Papers/Posters
relevance of Sociology in Society, Life and Academia in the 21st century, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. 27–30 June 2021.


Segell, G. 2021. Exporting religion from the Middle East: Importing ideology and terror into Africa. Paper delivered at the International Conference – New Frontiers of Terrorism in Africa. Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute for African Studies, Centre for Sociological and Political Sciences Studies), University of the Free State (Department of Political Studies and Governance) & University of Haifa. 17 March 2021.


Segell, G. 2021. Discussant: Concluding Remarks, COIL Project and UFS-Haifa MoU, University of the Free State (Department of Political Studies and Governance) and University of Haifa, International online-conference “Graduate Research Colloquium,” 21 January 2021


Solomon, H. 2021. Does South Africa have a Future?, keynote address delivered to the University of the Third Age, Bloemfontein, South Africa. 22 April 2021.


Solomon, H. 2021. Patriarchy in the Middle East. Paper delivered to the Gender Talks Series, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Free State, South Africa. 23 April 2021.

Solomon, H. 2021. Philosophy of Science: Time to get Real. Paper delivered to the Faculty of Humanities Research Seminar Series, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. 9 June 2021.


Solomon, H. 2021. The changing status of Women in the MENA region. Invited talk delivered to the Department of International Relations and International Relations Society, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. 19 April 2021.


Engaged Scholarship

The Service Learning module (GOVE3724) was presented online during the second semester of 2021 (July to November). There were 107 students who participated, the majority of whom did not reside in Bloemfontein but were spread over the nine provinces in South Africa. The first part of the module focused on the theory of service learning and the second part involved practical engagement with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The students embarked on the practical engagement from the week of 30 August till the end of the semester, during which they focused on identifying of the NGOs in their communities and establishing a working relationship with them. The main aim was for the students to apply and use their knowledge of governance to work with the NGOs on the challenges which they (the NGOs) might have experienced and to strengthen the governance principles in collaboration with the NGOs in their own organisations.

The positive attitude, endurance and effort that the students put into the module, was impressive. They never gave up and kept on trying until they succeeded with their activities and tasks.

Some of our staff are members of a variety of academic associations:

- Dr Anneli Botha serves on the Advisory Board of Perspectives on Terrorism as part of the Terrorism Research Initiative at Leiden University.
- Dr Eben Coetzee is a member of the International Studies Association (ISA), Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns and the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS).
- Dr Tania Coetzee is a member of SAAPS and a Panel Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).
- Dr Ina Gouws is a member of SAAPS.
- Dr Alta Grobbelaar is a member of SAAPS and the International Political Science Association (IPSA).
- Dr Bianca Naude is a member of ISA, SAAPS, ISA, IPSA, International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) and Association for Political Theory (APT).
- Mr Lummyano Ngacyisa is a member of SAAPS and the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS).
- Prof Theodor Neethling is a member of SAAPS.
- Prof Glen Segall is a member of a number of academic societies/associations, including the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), IPSA, ISA, British International Studies Association (BISA), Political Studies Association (PSA), Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) – CSIS Washington, Literati Club, London Press Club, Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, European-Atlantic Group and the Global Studies Association.
- Prof Hussein Solomon is a member of ASSAf, ECPR, IPSA and SAAPS.

In addition to their involvement in academic associations, members of the Department were very active in engaging and contributing to the academic and broader community in other ways.


Dr Botha worked with the United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Dr Eben Coetzee organised a webinar on ‘A nuclear-armed Iran: Issues, Threats and Possibilities’ on 7 October.

Dr Gouws made herself available for media engagements as an expert in South African politics. Most engagements were about the 2021 local government elections, the African National Congress (ANC) and Ace Magashule, issues in the Free State, as well as general political events as they occurred. The engagements were for television, radio (both national and international) and newspapers (both national and international). She also once again participated in the UFS Thought Leader series.

Dr Grobbelaar was involved in a number of interviews with Pretoria FM, on topics such as the ANC and Cosatu relations, Zuma and the Top 6, South African universities and Ace Magashule’s promises, analysis of local elections in the Western Cape, and Zuma and the Constitutional Court. Dr Grobbelaar also served as a consultant to Oranje Meisieskool debating teams. This included helping the teams prepare for various competitions from 2015 to 2021. In addition she served as an adjudicator and consultant to their
junior and senior debating teams in the preliminary rounds in 2021.

Prof Neethling held numerous interviews with Netwerk24 journalists on current political affairs, including several front-page commentaries and quotes in newspapers such as Beeld, Die Burger and Volksblad. He served as a consultant for Rhula Intelligent Solutions (Gauteng) on political risk in northern Mozambique. He also published a number of popular articles such as:

- ‘South Africa’s political risk profile has gone up a few notches: but it’s not yet a failed state’ in The Conversation, 14 December 2021.

Prof Neethling delivered a talk on ‘Political risk in South Africa’, to the Future Leaders Programme of the Free State Democratic Alliance, on 3 September, and was part of a Netwerk24 panel discussion on 22 September, with the political analysts Theo Venter and Dr Oscar van Heerden as fellow panellists. The topic of discussion was ‘Hoekom jy moet stem op 1 November’ (‘Why you should vote on 1 November’).

Mr Lumanyano Ngcayisa published a number of newspaper articles related to current political affairs on News24, on including topics such as ‘Lessons for South African companies working in authoritarian states’, ‘Can South Africa overcome its economic woes and a failed education system?’, ‘The impact of debt on South Africa’s sovereignty’, and ‘Lockdown for some, human trafficking for others’.

He served as the Editorial Assistant for Politikon, an international journal for political science published by the International Association of Political Science Students. He was also a facilitator for the Academy of Multilingualism, lecturing political science in isizulu as part of the de-colonisation and indigenous languages programmes of the UFS.

Prof Segell was the Panel Chair for the Session on ‘The Cone of Africa: Challenges of Counterterrorism?’ as part of the international conference ‘New Frontiers of Terrorism in Africa’, hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute for African Studies, Centre for Sociological and Political Sciences Studies), the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance, and the University of Haifa, on 17 March. He was also a discussant who provided the concluding remarks at the International online Graduate Research Colloquium, on 21 January. The colloquium was hosted by the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Project, the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance, and the University of Haifa. This forms part of the MoU between the two universities. In addition, he was invited to present a lecture to the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESIA) National Defense University / US Africa Command (AFRICOM) on 11 May. The title of his lecture was ‘President Joe Biden and Counter-Terrorism in Africa’.

In addition, Prof Segell was the conference organiser for the international conference ‘Shipping Security: Maritime Aspects off Africa’ (18 February), co-hosted The Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), University of Stellenbosch, the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance, and the University of Haifa, and the international conference on ‘New Frontier of Terrorism in Africa (17 March), co-hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences (Institute for African Studies, Centre for Sociological and Political Sciences Studies), the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance, and the University of Haifa.

Prof Solomon moderated the Human Security Panel at the International Virtual Conference on Counter-Terrorism, Technology and Development in Africa, co-hosted by Obuda University, Hungary, and Stellenbosch University on 22 September 2021.

Until April 2021, Prof Solomon chaired the Philosophy and Political Science Rating Committee of the National Research Foundation (NRF). He is a Captain in the South African Airforce Reserves and in this capacity he has been advising the Department of Defence on various issues pertaining to terrorism on the African continent. He also gave numerous interviews for both the local and international media in addition, he is a member of the international advisory boards of the Middle East Institute, India as well as the Research Institute for European and American Studies in Athens, Greece. He serves on the editorial boards of Politieke, Afrika Insight, Afro-European Journal, African Security, Contemporary Review of the Middle East, Alternatives, Journal of Administrative Sciences, Afro-Arab Social and Economic Review, Journal of African Union Studies, Politikon, African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Scientific Journals International. He is Editor of Insight on Africa, Special Advisor to the Editor of Globalizations, Associate Editor of Southern African Peace and Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), at Stellenbosch University and the Department of Political Science at Niger Delta University, and a Senior Research Associate for Research on Islam and Muslims in Africa (RIMA), Israel. He is Visiting Professor at the Department of Political Science, Military Academy, Stellenbosch University, the Department of History and Political Science, Nelson Mandela University, the Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University, Japan and Extraordinary Professor in the School of Government, North-West University.
The Department hosted and co-hosted a number of events in 2021:

- ‘Land Reform in South Africa’, hosted by the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance and the South African Institute of Race Relations (11 February 2021).
- ‘Shipping Security: Maritime Aspects of Africa’ (UFS, SIGLA and the University of Stellenbosch (18 February 2021).
- ‘New Frontiers of Terrorism in Africa’ (International Conference: Via ZOOM), hosted by the Institute for African Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences), UFS and the University of Haifa, Israel (17 March 2021).
- Book launch of Rebone Tau’s the Rise and Fall of the ANC Youth League. The focus was on the ANC Youth League, chaired by Helen Zille, Chairperson of the DA’s Federal Council on her book Stay Woke. Go Broke: Why South Africa’s won’t survive America’s Culture Wars, hosted by the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance.
- Discussion by Helen Zille, Chairperson of the DA’s Federal Council on her book Stay Woke. Go Broke: Why South Africa’s won’t survive America’s Culture Wars, hosted by the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance.
- ‘After the Riots: Community Policing in Advancing Peace and Security’, hosted by the UFS Department of Political Studies and Governance and the Rosa Luxembourg Stiftung (19 August 2021).

Another webinar, focusing on ‘Africa on the Precipice: Taking stock of leadership, development and climate change’, was co-hosted by the Department, the Africa Chapter of the International Association of Political Science Students and Nger Delta University.

We also co-hosted with Palgrave Macmillan the virtual book launch of Directions in International Terrorism, edited by Hussein Solomon.

### Postgraduate Students

In 2021, the number of postgraduate students registered in the Department was as follows:

- Honours in Politics  -  6
- Masters in Politics  -  12
- PhD in Politics  -  5
- PG Dip in Governance and Political Transformation  -  36
- MA in Governance and Political Transformation (new)  -  18
- MA in Governance and Political Transformation (continuing)  -  32
- PhD with specialisation Governance and Political Transformation  -  6

Jana de Kluiver graduated with an Honours in Politics, with distinction. Nine students graduated with the MA in Governance and Political Transformation in December 2021, namely:

- Bofo, KMA
- Faku, CS
- Mogatusi, PA
- Ntjanyana, TD
- Phakathi, SH

Three candidates graduated with the PhD with specialisation in Governance and Political Transformation:

- GM Pholo for his thesis titled ‘Accountability within the Governance of Intergovernmental Relations in South Africa’, supervised by Dr Tania Coetzee.
- KD Knowles, supervised by Dr Ina Gouws, for his thesis ‘An analysis of emerging coalitions at the local level in South Africa with special focus on Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Bay.
- GL Phokontsi, for the thesis ‘A governance perspective on policies and practice combating youth unemployment in South Africa, supervised by Dr Tania Coetzee.

A further 12 students completed their MA studies in 2021 and will graduate in 2022:

- Emeni Tientcheu, NP
- Fortune, NT
- Marumo, HJ
- Mjenzu, GF
- Mmoiemang, KM
- Moalusi, ML
- Mohai, Dl
- Mokoena, E
- Moleyan, LR
- Ntseenge, B
- Pitso, PK
- Tlake, TR

Security Studies, and a member of the international editorial and advisory board of the London Security Policy Study.

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Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof H Solomon

Academic Staff

Permanent

Dr A Botha Senior Lecturer
Dr M Choane Lecturer
Dr E Coetzee Senior Lecturer
Dr T Coetzee Senior Lecturer, Deputy Academic Head of Department and Programme Director for Governance and Political Transformation
Dr I Gouws Senior Lecturer
Dr A Grobbelaar Lecturer
Dr B Naude Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof T Neethling Professor
Mr L Ngcayisa Facilitator (South Campus)
Ms SMJ Rooi Facilitator (South Campus)
Mr MP Samkezi Facilitator (South Campus)
Dr A Schoeman Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof H Solomon Senior Professor

Support Staff

Ms C de Lange Officer (Governance & Political Transformation)
Ms J Potgieter Officer (Governance & Political Transformation)
Ms M Preller Senior Administrator

Affiliated Staff

Prof G Segell Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

The year 2021 proved to be quite a productive year for the Department. We commenced with a three-year plan to increase the number of Honours students at the Bloemfontein Campus from 50 to 80, with the selection of 15 additional students for 2022. Furthermore, the process of phasing in an Honours programme at the Qwaqwa Campus was also started. Approval to phase in a Master’s programme by research was received from the University’s Academic Committee. During October 2021, Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) clearance was granted for the programme and it is currently serving at the Council on Higher Education. The approval of this programme will contribute immensely to the improvement of the Department’s research capacity in the years to come. In terms of publications and postgraduate outputs, the Department performed well, remaining active in research activities with several accredited journal articles, book chapters and continued participation in national and international research collaborations. Departmental staff members and research fellows produced a total 22.74 research units. One staff member published a book, while two others contributed to chapters in books. On postgraduate level, we also succeeded in the graduation of 27 Honours, 14 Master’s and 3 Doctoral students.

The popularity of our discipline is reflected in the substantial growth in the number of undergraduate students during 2021. While the average full-time equivalent (FTE) per senior lecturer equivalent (SLE) for the Faculty is 37.7, that of the Department is almost 60 per SLE. A notable achievement in our learning and teaching was the team effort and creativity of the Department to accommodate all 4 400 undergraduate students on the online learning platform of the UFS.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Prof Paul Fouché was invited to act as a co-guest editor for Europe’s Journal of Psychology (Special edition, volume 17[3]). He also acted as special co-guest editor for a book by Palgrave Macmillan, titled Psychobiographical illustrations of meaning and identity in sociocultural contexts, as well as a new book by Springer, Beyond weird: psychobiography in times of transcultural and transdisciplinary perspectives (with publication planned for the end of 2022). The production of this book involved collaboration with colleagues from Nelson Mandela University, University of Johannesburg and Fordham University in New York.

Student Achievements

Esmarie Cronjé received the Dean’s Medal for the best results in respect of a three-year Bachelor’s degree in the Faculty of Humanities. Her major subjects were Communication and Psychology.

Delmarie Cilliers won the departmental prize for the best third-year student in Psychology in 2021.

One of the 2021 Psychology Honours groups who worked with a self-compassion podcast for teachers at the Lettie Fouche School (formerly therapeutic horse riding), will be awarded the Engaged Scholarship prize at the Faculty awards ceremony in April 2022.

Research Projects

Dr Florence Tadi is involved in a research project, together with Prof C Sharp, from the University of Houston, and Prof Jennifer Brown, from the University of Cincinnati. The title of the project is ‘Cultural Consensus Modeling to identify culturally relevant risk factors for suicide among Sesotho Youth in South Africa’. An application for funding was made in 2021 and modifications to this funding application will be made in 2022.

Research Outputs

Articles


HIV epidemic, 1990–2019, for 2104 countries and
10.1177/00469580211025209. DOI:

Older Adults: A Qualitative Study Examined in
BMC cancer 15,716 patients from Tianjin, China.
X. & Zhang, C. 2021. Synchronous bone metastasis in
Guo, X., Ma, W., Wu, H., Xu, Y., Wang, D., Zhang, S.,

Participants’ Views on
Journal of Psychology in Africa,

Panelatti, A., Ponterotto, J.G. & Fouché, J.P.


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Books


National and International Collaboration

Prof Fouché collaborates with Prof Joseph Ponterotto, from Fordham, New York. He is also collaborating with psychobiographical researchers in Budapest, Hungary, and Athens, Greece, on a new book, titled Beyond Weird.

Postgraduate Students

In 2021, the Department enrolled 102 postgraduate students (Honours to Doctoral) in the various programmes offered:

- BPsych Honours: 43
- MPsych (Research): 24
- MSoSc Clinical: 6
- MSoSc Counselling: 6
- PhD in Psychology: 15
- DPsych (Child Psychology): 8

Twenty-seven (27) students obtained their Honours degrees in 2021, 11 of whom received their degree with distinction. In 2021, 11 of whom received their degree with distinction.

Fourteen (14) Master’s students obtained their degrees in 2021 – T Botha (with distinction), N Burger, D Fivaz, S Jansen, M Meyer, P Mokwala, S Monakedi, Z Ncayiyane, K Ndlovu, C Payne, K Pillay, M Utlou, K van Zyl and T Zwane.
The following Doctoral candidates graduated in 2021:

Basson, Monique
Thesis: Philip Kindred Dick: A psychobiography of the science fiction novelist
Supervisor: Prof JP Fouché
Co-supervisor: Dr P Naidoo

Makhele, Lerato
Thesis: The design, implementation and evaluation of an HIV counselling skills programme for lay counsellors
Supervisor: Dr ED du Plessis
Co-supervisors: Dr L Nel and Prof K Esterhuyse

Mbhele, Phindile
Thesis: Combat exposure as moderator between risk, protective factors and suicide ideation for South African Army Infantry soldiers
Supervisor: Dr AA George
Co-supervisor: Prof K Esterhuyse

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Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department:
Prof KGF Esterhuyse

Academic Staff
Permanent
Ms K de Villiers
Dr ED du Plessis
Prof KGF Esterhuyse
Prof JP Fouché
Dr J Jordaan
Dr AP Khanye
Prof IP Khumalo
Dr MJ Kometsi
Mrs ES Kruger
Dr P Naidoo
Prof L Naude
Dr C Nel
Dr L Nel
Dr NT Pule
Dr NF Tadi
Mr HW Taylor
Prof SP Walker

Support Staff
Mrs A Diesel
Mrs E du Plessis
Ms Y Francis
Mrs B Nel

Service Workers
Mr TJ Mhlathi
Ms KJ Mtshali

Affiliated Staff
Dr RG Cowden
Dr K Oppong-Asante
Prof K Peltzer

Karen de Villiers, Subject Head on the Qwaqwa Campus

DEPARTMENT OF
SOUTH AFRICAN
SIGN LANGUAGE AND
DEAF STUDIES
Overview of 2021

“Diversity represents a challenge and an opportunity for education,... because a society that learns to live with diversity is likely to achieve faster rates of economic growth and social development …”

(Smith, 2000)

Considering the preceding quotation, we should make it a priority as a tertiary institution to ensure quality education by embracing diversity in what we teach our students. This sets the Department of South African Sign Language (SASL) and Deaf Studies apart from other departments, because we teach students Sign Language for them to communicate with deaf people from all walks of life. Additionally, we are extremely proud of the three undergraduate students enrolled in our courses in 2021 and, for the first time, we have an MA student who was born deaf and is a native sign language user.

We embrace the concept of diversity in the content we teach by presenting our modules in a ‘hands-on’ manner. As such, we strive not only to provide excellent instruction, but also to prepare our students for all aspects of life, including their ability to work in a variety of settings. We restructured several of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes following the merger in 2019 of the former Unit of Language Facilitation and the former Department of Sign Language. Since then, we have seen an annual increase in the number of students interested in pursuing their studies in our Department. Beausetha Bruwer, our first PhD student, successfully completed her Doctoral studies in 2021 and will graduate in April 2022. Ms Bruwer, a Namibian citizen, conducted groundbreaking research and developed an early literacy programme for Deaf preschoolers in Namibia. Our Department is home to several other postgraduate students from neighboring African countries. This demonstrates our continued commitment to excellence and diversity.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr Chrismi Loth was appointed as Associate Editor of the South African Journal of African Languages.

Ms Jani de Lange, a Lecturer in the Department, registered for her PhD on ‘The standardisation of geographical names and signed place name planning in South Africa’; she has been granted study leave for the first semester of 2022.

Student Achievements

The following students received merit awards as the best student in each year group in 2021:

- First-year: Ms Sibussisiwe Mangeni
- Second-year: Ms Matalidiso Matabane
- Third-year: Ms Lydia Fouche
- Honours: Ms Patience Mohokare

Learning and Teaching

Our teaching and learning pedagogy is built on teaching SASL as a foreign language. This includes building caring pedagogies to scaffold content for students by using prior knowledge to help them understand new content, knowledge or information. Students give presentations in small groups in front of the class, hold small group discussions of relevant case studies, undertake group assignments and small scale community-outreach projects.

In our commitment to decolonise the curriculum and module content, we address crucial subjects such as racism, gender, sexual orientation, power and privilege. These issues are covered in Deaf Studies modules, as well as in Acquisition and Conversation seminars, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

In addition, the modules we offer are informed by multiple views and associated theories from both Africa and South Africa. As far as practicable, examples from the South African context are used to support relevant western or international theories. For example, the Deaf Studies modules link the global and South African contexts to better comprehend Deaf people globally and Deaf people in South Africa. Other theoretical sections rely heavily on South African colleagues’ publications and writings. Our undergraduate conversational modules have been produced in collaboration with all colleagues in the Department, so students are provided with fully decolonised content.

Students learn about the contributions of Africa and South Africa to worldwide Deaf education through case studies and projects in the modules. The Deaf Studies modules explicitly cover Deaf education and Deaf lives in Africa. Our Department includes examples in the SASL acquisition modules to show the contrasts between First- and Third World countries in terms of Deaf education and experiences. It is encouraging to see that South Africa is on par with, if not ahead of, other
international countries in terms of sign language status and use. Several students from Namibia and Zimbabwe have enrolled in our undergraduate and graduate programmes, demonstrating our leadership in Deaf education in Africa.

We still have to improve some of our modules, such as SASL Linguistics. In 2021 we appointed a lecturer, Donovan Wright, who is an expert in SASL Linguistics, to start working on the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum. After the first round of reworking in 2021, this will be deployed during the second semester of 2022. The SASL Linguistics curriculum will be evaluated and updated to deliver a more decolonised content to our students. In addition, the Eudico Linguistic Annotator (ELAN) from the Max Planck institute of Psycholinguistics is used in the SASL Linguistics Honours module (SASP6808) as a tool for the linguistic annotation of SASL. It allows for linguistic annotation over time while synchronised with video, which is ideal for purely visual data. Students are given brief training in the basic functions of the software, including establishing tiers suited to their chosen area of investigation. Although any results reported are not representative or even necessarily valid, the aim is to give students practical experience in sign language transcription and annotation, allowing them to identify potential issues to be resolved and encourage them to make distinctions between different elements of what is often approached as holistic SASL data.

The Deaf Studies curriculum predominantly makes use of international resources to provide a theoretical foundation; however, South African research, examples and policies are incorporated into all four modules. All assignments focus on the development of SASL in terms of legislative documentation as well as the development and protection of the Deaf communities themselves.

**Short Learning Programmes**

The Department has helped develop numerous short courses to grow SASL expertise countrywide, including the UFS, which was the first university in South Africa to adopt SASL.

In 2021 there were two offerings of our Basic Short Learning Programme. In March the group consisted of seven people, and in August there were thirteen participants. The programme was presented online.

A curriculum for the Intermediary Short Learning Programme was developed. As the course will also be presented online, video material was also developed.

As several staff members of the UFS have requested SASL training, negotiations were started to secure funding for their training during 2022.

We also offered various workshops during the year. In February a Remote Interpreting Workshop was held, with 45 participants. In April we offered an online workshop for Intermediate, Senior and FET phase SASL teachers. There were 53 participants from various Deaf Schools.

**Research Projects**

**International Symposium on Place Names**

The Department hosted the 6th International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN) from 29 September to 1 October 2021. This series was initiated by the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment in 2011. The aim of the ISPN series is to advance research on place names, especially in Southern Africa, and now also with a special interest in signed place names, and to provide a platform for international collaboration. In a first for the ISPN, the event was hosted virtually, with support from ICT Services at UFS.

The theme of the 6th ISPN was ‘Standardisation and the wealth of place names – aspects of a delicate relationship’. Delegates from all five continents attended. Talks included presentations of research on place names as cultural heritage, the standardisation of place names, the phenomenon of multiple place names, as well as place names in signed languages. Two keynote addresses were included in the programme. The first, ‘Reconciling the safeguarding and the standardisation of geographical names’, was delivered by Pierre Jaillard (Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names [UNGEGN]), and the second, ‘Theorising multiple place names in southern Africa’, by Dr Tendai Mangena (Great Zimbabwe University). 2021 marked the first time the ISPN organised an accompanying workshop. The workshop, ‘Collecting and documenting informal and alternative place names’, was presented by Dr Gerhard Rampl, Chair of the Austrian Board of Geographical Names. The conference proceedings will be published in 2022 under the editorship of Dr Chrismi Loth. The next symposium is planned for 2023.

**Place Names App (OurPlaces)**

The Department is developing a mobile app of South African place names, called OurPlaces. The core team responsible for its development is comprised of Dr Chrismi Loth, Dr Gideon Kotzé and Jani de Lange, under guidance of Prof Annalene van Staden. The basis of the app is the *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names* (Peter Raper, Lucie Möller and Theodorus du Plessis [2014]). The Dictionary provides the etymologies (origins and changes) of local place names. These entries are provided in the app as English text. Place names in SASL will be included as short videos. The team secured an interdisciplinary grant from the Faculty of the Humanities to cover additional costs, and ICT Services are providing valuable support. The app will be launched in 2022.

The core team of the Place Names App project (Dr Chrismi Loth, Dr Gideon Kotzé and Jani de Lange) participated in several conferences in 2021 to engage on a scholarly level about this initiative. All these conferences were hosted virtually. They also linked into digital humanities by presenting a lightning talk, ‘Facilitating access to South African place names and signed place names through a mobile app’ at the Digital Humanities Association of Southern Africa Conference (DHASA2021), held from 29 November to 3 December.
with scholars in different fields allowed the team to think critically and more deeply about the project, and also garnered valuable feedback from experts. These papers will be followed by accredited publications.

Survey of South African Sign Language Place Names
During the development of the app, a lack of data on SASL place names was identified. In general, signed place names are an under-researched phenomenon worldwide. The Department therefore initiated the Survey of SASL Place Names. The core team is Dr. Chrismi Loth, Jani de Lange, Susan Lombaraard, and Emily Matabane, with guidance from Prof. Annalene van Staden. The team secured an institutional interdisciplinary grant to cover the costs of the pilot study, to be launched early in 2022. The team has also entered into a collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures at the UFS.

Taalbepaling vir Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal as unieke minderheidstaal
Prof Theo du Plessis is involved in a project on Taalbepaling vir Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal (SAGT) as unieke minderheidstaal (Language planning for South African Sign Language [SASL] as unique minority language). The project is supported by the PUK Kanselierstift (R20 000). During the development of the app, a lack of data on SASL place names was identified. In general, signed place names are an under-researched phenomenon worldwide. The Department therefore initiated the Survey of SASL Place Names. The core team is Dr. Chrismi Loth, Jani de Lange, Susan Lombaraard, and Emily Matabane, with guidance from Prof. Annalene van Staden. The team secured an institutional interdisciplinary grant to cover the costs of the pilot study, to be launched early in 2022. The team has also entered into a collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures at the UFS.

Linguistic Landscape Studies
Dr. Chrismi Loth continued her scholarship in Linguistic Landscape Studies (LLS) by participating in two conferences.

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Conference Papers/Posters

path in South Africa. Paper delivered at the SALALS Virtual Conference 2021, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. 20-23 September 2021.


Conference Proceedings


Engaged Scholarship

Annual Philippolis Multilingual Public Speaking Competition

In 2013 the Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment (now incorporated into the Department) and the Community Engagement division instituted the Annual Philippolis Multilingual Public Speaking Competition as part of the MIDP (Multilingual Information Development Programme), a project sponsored from 1999 to 2013 by the Province of Antwerp, Flanders (Belgium). The Afrikaanse Taal-en Kultuurvereniging (ATKV) as well as our Dean’s Office continues to support the project.


The 8th Annual Philippolis Multilingual Public Speaking Competition was held on 29 October 2021 in Philippolis, the little town where the project is housed. The aim of the competition is to advance the use of home languages within an educational setting. Learners speak in their home languages (Afrikaans, isiXhosa and Sesotho) and for the first time at this event, South African Sign Language (SASL) was also used.

Schools from the surrounding towns were invited to enter learners from Grades 6 to 9. Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, six schools participated – Bergmanshoogte Intermediary School, Philippolis Primary School, Springfontein Primary School and Springfontein Secondary School, and the Deaf community was represented by Bartimea School for the Deaf and Blind and Re Tlameleng Special School. Between the sessions, the audience was entertained by recitals by younger learners from Bergmanshoogte Intermediary.

The hearing community learned more about SASL from observing the Deaf learners using the language fully to communicate about their culture, and from witnessing the professional SASL interpreters at work.

As a celebration of languages as part of cultural heritage, the topics centred on folklore, idioms, cultural representatives, ceremonies, praise poets and ‘my country’. The multilingual adjudicating panel comprised of teachers from the participating schools as well as a main adjudicator from the ATKV.

Deaf Awareness Month and SIGNALS

In 2021, the Department decided to take an institutional approach to Deaf Awareness Month (DAM), which is celebrated in September. Because the COVID-pandemic limited face-to-face initiatives,
the majority of the activities were carried out online. Whenever possible and permitted by the University and external participants, face-to-face interaction was included.

SIGNALS is a departmental student organisation that promotes Deaf culture and SASL. Previously, during DAM, SIGNALS visited Bartimea School for the Deaf in Thaba Nchu, engaging in a variety of activities with the learners. Due to the pandemic, SIGNALS was unable to visit the school, and the initiative was therefore included in this year’s DAM campaign.

During DAM, staff from the Department and SIGNALS students visited schools in and around Bloemfontein – including Dr CF Visser, Monyatsi and Willem Postma primary schools. These visits were organised by Annemarie le Roux.

Although tiring at times, these were very successful community outreach activities in which the students and learners had a great deal of fun. Annemarie le Roux, Tshisi Dzivhani, Susan Lomaard, Jani de Lange, and Carla Joubert were among those involved.

Willem Postma does not have a hall, so a video recording was made, that was shown in class on September 23.

For DAM the Department offered an online workshop on 15 September for people who had lost their hearing. The workshop, attended by 45 participants, was presented by two hard of hearing speakers, Fanie du Toit and Alex Matishana. A number of questions were raised during the workshop, a clear indication of the importance of these types of events. The workshop, or something similar, is planned for 2022.

This year’s DAM campaign also included the creation of a website (https://www.ufs.ac.za/deaf-awareness), ongoing social media promotion and the publication of ‘SASL Stars’ – profiles of two staff members (Annemarie le Roux and Emily Matabane), and three UFS interpreters (Bernice Jacobs, Lerato Thamahane and Simone du Preez).

DAM2021 was also supported by some external marketing, including an article about Partner4life’s training in Bloemfontein (23 September 2021) and an opinion piece written by Prof Theo du Plessis, which was published in the Mail & Guardian on the same date.

Our Department’s communication efforts for the UFS Deaf Awareness Month Campaign won an International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Africa Award of Excellence in the Category for Communication Management, capping off a very successful Deaf Awareness Month. We would like to thank Rulanzen Martin and the rest of the UFS team for their tremendous help during DAM21.

Postgraduate Students

There has been a steady increase in the number of students registering in our Department, in particular in the Honours group, which has seen numbers doubling over the last three years. Thus, in 2021, we had 160 first-year students, 118 second-year students, 62 third-year students, 15 Honours students and 5 registered MA students.

Beausetha Bruwer completed her PhD studies in 2021 and will graduate in 2022. The title of her thesis was ‘The implementation of a bilingual-bicultural literacy intervention programme..."
for Deaf learners in Namibia, supervised by Prof Annalene van Staden and Prof Theo du Plessis. Beausetha was the first PhD student in the Department to successfully complete her Doctoral degree.

Staff 2021

Academic Head of Department:
Prof A van Staden

Academic Staff

Permanent
- Ms JC de Lange: Lecturer
- Ms T Dzivhani: Junior Lecturer
- Ms A le Roux: Lecturer
- Ms SC Lombaard: Associate Professor
- Prof A van Staden: Associate Professor
- Mr D Wright: Lecturer

Contract
- Mr K Cloete: Student Assistant, Emeritus Professor and Research Fellow
- Prof LT du Plessis: Research Fellow
- Dr G Kotze: Research Fellow
- Ms Joubert: Research Fellow
- Ms L Machinini: Research Fellow
- Ms T Magaya: Research Fellow
- Ms L Mokoena: Research Fellow
- Ms W Terblanche: Research Fellow

Support Staff
- Dr C Loth: Officer and Research Fellow
- Ms E Matabane: Teaching Assistant
- Mrs C Sinra: Officer

Affiliated Staff
- Dr L Antypenko-A’Beckett: Research Fellow
- Prof GP Barkhuizen: Research Fellow
- Prof L Barnes: Research Fellow
- Ms C Geldenhuys: Research Fellow
- Dr CI Goldfluss: Research Fellow
- Dr JH Green: Research Fellow
- Ms CMS Gruhn: Research Fellow
- Prof P Jordan: Research Fellow
- Dr G Kotze: Research Fellow
- Dr WM Lowie: Research Fellow
- Prof HJ Lubbe: Research Fellow
- Prof JC Moll: Research Fellow
- Dr LA Möller: Research Fellow
- Mrs J Myburgh-Smith: Research Fellow
- Dr E Ndlouv: Research Fellow
- Prof CC Pfukwa: Research Fellow
- Dr M Pretorius: Research Fellow
- Ms N Purcell: Research Fellow
- Prof PE Raper: Research Fellow
- Prof T Reagan: Research Fellow
- Dr M Schuster: Research Fellow
- Dr B Senekal: Research Fellow
- Dr M Stander: Research Fellow
- Dr E Tibategeza: Research Fellow
- Dr E Ndlouv: Research Fellow
- Dr AA van Rhyn: Research Fellow
- Mrs E Vorster: Research Fellow
Overview of 2021

The report presents an account of the achievements recorded in 2021. It looks at aspects of teaching and learning at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It also reflects on research outputs, engaged scholarship and international collaborations. The progress being made by the Department is greatly driven by the diverse nature of the staff complement, who come from diverse racial, ethnic and employment backgrounds, as well as a fair gender balance. The same diversity is displayed in our student body, which we embrace, as it informs our approach to teaching and learning.

The Department of Social Work is building a foundation to establish a culture of upward mobility through links with external partners. While this is bound to facilitate our staff members’ promotions, it will equally promote the Department’s visibility both within the institution and externally.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr Ncube is a co-editor of a book based on the papers presented at the colloquium on ‘The Wanton Violence of Protests in South Africa’, co-hosted by the Department of Social Work and the Zola Skweyiya African Social Policy Innovation, based at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Mr Carel van Wyk was appointed to the Editorial Board of The Qualitative Report. He was also invited to be one of the editors of The Qualitative Report, with several peer reviewers under his leadership.

Learning and Teaching

The Department of Social Work has revamped the Field Instruction component of the undergraduate programme. Field Instruction is the pedagogy of social work education. It has adopted a full scaffolding practicum model that was implemented from the first-year level, for the first time. This implementation coincides with the introduction of our revised Bachelor of Social Work curriculum. The change has seen a host of field instruction contract employees being brought to the fold to strengthen the pedagogy of the programme. These include a field instruction Placement Liaison Officer, Field Instruction Facilitators, Field Instructors and Agency Supervisors. Although the approach currently stretches the capacity of our departmental human resource, it is a worthwhile investment that will raise the quality of the programme to the level of the top-ranked schools of Social Work, both locally and internationally. The model will be rolled out for the first time at the beginning of 2022 at the first- and fourth-year levels, with the second-year introduced in 2023 and the third-year from 2024.

As a Department, we take pride in the service footprint in the community through our Field Instruction Programme / Work Integrated Learning. In 2021, a total of 2 008 case work sessions were conducted, reaching 4 835 service users. A total of 155 groups and 100 community projects were facilitated. This amounted to over 29 000 hours in contact time.

Despite 2021 being a difficult year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, over 99% of our final year undergraduate students completed their studies. This is a huge achievement given the unprecedented restrictions that came with the pandemic to quell the spread of the virus.

Short Learning Programmes

Our Department, in collaboration with the Department of Community Development and Dr Rosaline Sebolao, Deputy Director of Teaching and Learning, initiated discussions on the establishment of a short learning course on ‘Supervision of Social Service Practitioners’. This initiative is yet to be finalised.

Research Projects

Prof Roelf Reyneke is involved in a project to evaluate the Thari-Woman and Child Support programme in Botshabelo, Motheo district. A grant of R81 000 was received from the Adopt-a-School foundation, a subsidiary of the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation. A mixed-method research design is being used. The first phase of the research project has been completed (qualitative approach), and he is currently busy with the second phase of the research project, which consists of a quantitative approach. The project will continue beyond the current reporting period.
In September 2021, the Department of Social Work co-hosted a colloquium on ‘The Wanton Violence of Protests in South Africa’, together with the Zola Skweyiya African Social Policy Innovation (ZSASPI) from the University of Cape Town (UCT). Dr Mpmulelo Ncube was the programme facilitator, and the keynote speaker was the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu. The session presenters included eminent scholars from universities across South Africa. Prof Chitja Twala represented the Faculty of Humanities.

Dr Mpmulelo Ncube received an invitation in September 2021 to be part of a weekly one-hour radio session on SAFM (Late Night Conversations with Patricia Ntuli). The slot focuses on conversations pertaining to social issues that affect individuals, families and communities. Dr Ncube also published an article in City Press – ‘Is it social progression or retrogression (June 20 2021) https://www.news24.com/citypress/voices/mpmulelo-ncube-is-it-social-progression-or-retrogression–202010819’. Dr Ncube continued to serve as a reviewer for the Southern Africa Journal for Social Work and Social Development.


National and International Collaboration

The Department is participating in the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project (Part of the iKudu Project) with The Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. Our collaboration is under the stewardship of Prof Roelf Reyneke as the designated lecturer of the participating module – ‘Anti-discriminatory social work’.

We also have a collaboration with Fulda University in Germany. Although we had virtual meetings in 2021, the envisaged programmes could not materialise due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The programmes involve student and staff exchanges, research and teaching and learning.

In 2021, the Department established a relationship with the University of Salzburg in Austria. Programmes are yet to be implemented.

Postgraduate Students

In 2021 there were 20 MA by Research and 5 PhD students registered in the Department. One student, Merlene Christobelle Esau, graduated with her PhD (with Specialisation in Social Work). Her thesis was titled ‘A Community-Based Intervention Programme for Child-headed Households’, and her supervisor was Prof SB Ferreira.

We have initiated bi-weekly postgraduate seminars which are conducted by Dr Mpumelelo Ncube and Mr Carel van Wyk. These are intended to facilitate a quicker turnaround of students.

In 2021, Mr Van Wyk, as one of the Department’s PhD candidates, received a teaching relief grant to complete his studies. Although the grant was awarded in 2021, it was for the 2022 academic period.

Other Activities

Our Oath-taking event took place on 17 April 2021. This is an annual event at which our second-year students take the oath in preparation for their Field Practice, which begins at this level. The event was attended by the Registrar for the South African Council for Social Service Professions, Mrs Langi Malamba. It was also attended by both the Dean and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof Heidi Hudson and Prof Chitja Twala respectively.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Dr ME Ncube

Academic Staff

Permanent

- Ms A Abrahams
- Dr M Esau
- Ms C Gaitskill
- Ms K Gounder
- Dr ME Ncube
- Prof R Reyneke
- Mr C van Wyk

Contract

- Ms M Joubert
- Ms P Kock
- Ms F Letseka
- Ms R Malan
- Ms N Matolong
- Ms Z Nieuwenhuizen
- Ms E Smith
- Ms C Visser

Placement Liaison Officer

- Ms RN September

Field Instructor

- Dr S Adejoh
- Ms M Breytenbach
- Prof P Bülow
- Prof F Buttell
- Dr C Cannon
- Ms F Davin
- Prof R Ferreira
- Dr T Manomano

Field Instructor/Facilitator

- Ms M Joubert
- Ms P Kock
- Ms F Letseka
- Ms R Malan
- Ms N Matolong
- Ms Z Nieuwenhuizen
- Ms E Smith
- Ms C Visser

Support Staff

- Ms RN September – Senior Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff

- Dr S Adejoh – Research Fellow
- Ms M Breytenbach – Research Fellow
- Prof P Bülow – Research Fellow
- Prof F Buttell – Research Fellow
- Dr C Cannon – Research Fellow
- Ms F Davin – Research Fellow
- Prof R Ferreira – Research Fellow
- Dr T Manomano – Research Fellow

Staff members in the Department of Social Work, from the left, Dr Mpumelelo Ncube, Ms Kubeshni Gounder, Dr Merlene Esau, Ms Mariette Joubert, Ms Randy September and Mr Carel van Wyk.
Overview of 2021

Providing relevant and timely solutions to modern-day situations is one of the building blocks for empowering communities. Amidst the higher education sector’s challenges in general, UFS Sociology celebrated an even more strongly shared sense of purpose and direction between the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses in terms of staff and student integration. However, the year was also one of ongoing change. We bid farewell to one of our longest serving staff members, Prof André Pelser, as well as to Dr Emmanuel Mayeza and our Administrative Officer, Udene Jordan.

Overall, the events led by the Department this year demonstrate the strong commitment to enhancing both the academic and social enterprise. The Department of Sociology hosted a highly successful virtual conference of the South African Sociological Association, supported by leading national and international scholars. This year also saw the successful launch of the South African Sociology Network (SACN), which was initiated by the Department. The goal of SACN is to promote collaboration between sociology departments in southern Africa in terms of research, teaching and staff and student exchange. We have also made great strides in our outreach by launching a Speaker Series and our team’s ever-expanding engaged scholarship activities.

As we move forward to another year, UFS Sociology will continue to leverage its capabilities in strengthening South Africa’s sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to other social challenges of the 21st Century.

Research Projects

The Department’s staff members have been involved in several sociological research themes.

Prof Katinka de Wet obtained NRF funding (2021-2023) for a project titled ‘Community Health Workers: Foot Soldiers During Pandemic Times’. This project is done in collaboration with Prof Michelle Engelbrecht and Dr Gladys Kigozi, from the UFS Centre for Health Systems Research & Development (CHSR&D), Prof Edwin Wouters, from the University of Antwerp, and Dr Robert Twheoyo from Makerere University.

Prof Jan Coetzee’s research project – ‘The book and domination’ – is situated within The Narrative Study of Lives programme, focusing specifically on books as documents of life. In this regard the researcher creates ‘bookworks’ (artworks that feature books) that bring sculpted and found objects into a dialogue with old books to reflect on the broader social, cultural and historical structures and refrains of our times. The project follows the publication of The Book & The Skull in 2020 – an artist’s book in a limited and numbered edition – designed and printed by SUN MeDIA Publishers and hand-bound by George Wentzel, Cape Town.

Prof Sethulego Matebesi has been part of a network – Radical politics beyond or through representative institutions – funded by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. It brought together political and social theorists in Denmark and South Africa to strengthen the links between scholars who have only been informally connected, if at all. The purpose of the network’s activities is to generate

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Prof Katinka de Wet was appointed as the interim co-director of the Initiative for Digital Futures. In October 2021, the Initiative was formalised by creating the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures (ICDF). Fifty percent of Prof De Wet’s time is allocated to her work as co-director for the ICDF.

Learning and Teaching

Over the last few years, a major priority has been to improve our engagement with students at all levels. This year, we took advantage of the opportunities provided by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, by giving high priority to teaching and pedagogical development. However, this process also entailed adopting general teaching principles relating to goals concerning the products of learning and goals concerning the learning process. As a result, our engagement with our postgraduate students also improved significantly in terms of participation in our Reading Groups, Speaker Series and other related academic activities.
Prof Matebesi has also been part of the multidisciplinary research team, Mining and Society, focusing on mining in South Africa. This year, he was the lead researcher for two (Koffiefontein and Rustenburg) of seven case studies focusing on the social aspects of mine closure in South Africa. The NRF funds this three-year study.

Dr Emmanuel Mayeza’s research on ‘Coming out, relationships and sex: a study among LGBTQI youth in South Africa’ explores how some LGBTQI youth in a South African rural university campus construct and experience coming out, relationships and sex/uality. The research uses in-depth individual interviews with the sampled minority group of students to explore how they construct and negotiate their social identities within a largely conservative and heteronormative rural community. This study pays particular attention to the identified students’ processes and challenges of ‘coming out’ to their parents and to others, and/or reasons for remaining in the ‘closet’, their relationships dynamics and sex-related matters as part of their social lives, including their knowledge or experiences around sex education.

Dr Mayeza is involved in another project, titled ‘Stop the violence: Girls and boys in and around schools’, with Prof Deevia Bhana from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, as Principal Investigator, and other external collaborators. The project investigates gender violence in schools using qualitative and quantitative methods with boys and girls in a diverse sample of schools in KwaZulu-Natal. It draws from a multi-faceted approach to power that goes beyond girls as victims and boys as perpetrators of violence, although recognising the deeply gendered environment where girls are often victims.

Prof André Pelser, Dr Divane Nzima and Prof Sethulego Matebesi led the sociological part of the research project, ‘Distribution and incidence of insect pests and diseases of sorghum in South Africa’, funded by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the Sorghum Trust. The social dimension of this three-year project led by ARC-Grain Crops and the UFS Department of Plant Sciences (Plant Pathology) includes a survey of commercial and emerging sorghum producers focusing on the perception of insects, disease incidence and constraints to sorghum production.

Nombulelo Shange is in the final stages of her research on Table Mountain doctors. This exploratory research has observed and documented Sackcloth People’s healing practices and cultural identity. The study hopes to explore how Sackcloth People think and live their lives while focusing on their perceptions of healing. The objective is not to decide if these ideas are accurate or not true. The notion of truth is socially contrasted and based on the cultural subjectivity of the people who believe in that truth. The research will present what the Sackcloth People consider to be their truth regarding cultural identity and healing, revitalising African indigenous knowledge and their struggle for land, cultural rights, and acceptance.

Nontombi Velelo and Cebekhulu Sokhela’s research on emergency remote teaching aims to provide a critical reflection and analysis of how we re-imagined e-tutor support at the departmental level in one module and its consequences. The study pays attention to the perceptions of e-tutors and students as teaching and learning took place remotely. To improve teaching practices, they assessed the online tutorial system’s impact on student learning and e-tutors’ ability to facilitate e-tutorials. They also intend to evaluate the effect of student support interventions implemented amidst the COVID-19 crisis at the departmental level in a large class module with 500 students.

Ms Velelo is also in the final stages of her narrative inquiry into the lived experiences of Black African men about masculinity and fatherhood. Masculinity and fatherhood are not only indicated by an individual’s physical or psychological attributes but also by what is socially constructed as appropriate and desirable.

Research Outputs

Articles


Chapters in Edited Volumes


Matebesi, S. 2021. Yearning for basic municipal services: the trajectories of community protests in the Eastern Cape. In: Reflections from the margins:
Engaged Scholarship

Prof Posel has been an active member of the Advisory Board of the MS Merian-R Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies, ‘Metamorphoses of the Political’ Comparative Perspectives on the Long Twentieth Century, under the auspices of the Max Weber Stiftung India. She is also a member of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation Board, based in Cape Town.

Dr Phadi was elected as a council member of the South African Sociological Association.

The Department is actively involved in engaged scholarship and produced several media articles, opinion pieces, etc. including:

- Matebesi, S. 2021. This is a new progressive era for municipalities. (https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/this-is-a-new-progressive-era-for-municipalities-558e4821-b847-43b3-b3a3-6e8092ee6b9f).
- Matebesi, S. 2021. This is a new progressive era for municipalities. (https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/this-is-a-new-progressive-era-for-municipalities-558e4821-b847-43b3-b3a3-6e8092ee6b9f).
- Matebesi, S. 2021. This is a new progressive era for municipalities. (https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/this-is-a-new-progressive-era-for-municipalities-558e4821-b847-43b3-b3a3-6e8092ee6b9f).


Postgraduate Students

In 2021, the Department had eight students registered for the PhD and six at Master’s level.

Two Honours students (Itumeleng Kalane and Tshogofatso Nkatholang) completed their studies and will graduate in 2022. In addition, two of our Master’s students, Jano Coetzee and Laurie Nada, graduated in 2021.

Staff (2021)

Academic Head of Department: Prof SZ Matebesi

Academic Staff

Permanent

- Ms L Ackerman, Lecturer
- Prof K de Wet, Associate Professor
- Dr W Goodrick, Junior Lecturer
- Prof SZ Matebesi, Associate Professor
- Dr E Mayeza, Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Dr H Ndhlouvu, Senior Lecturer
- Mr KD Nena, Lecturer
- Dr D Nzima, Senior Lecturer and Subject Head (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Dr MM Phadi, Senior Lecturer
- Prof S Posel, Research Professor
- Ms NT Shange, Lecturer
- Ms NL Velelo, Lecturer and Programme Director BScSc

Support Staff

- Ms M Hoeane, Senior Assistant Officer
- Ms U Jordan, Assistant Officer
- Ms N Matsoso, Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff

- Prof JK Coetzee, Senior Assistant Officer (Bloemfontein Campus)
- Prof A Membretti, Assistant Officer (Bloemfontein Campus)
- Prof A Pelser, Assistant Officer (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Dr N Redelinghuys, Research Fellow
- Dr PL Tanyi, Research Fellow

National and International Collaboration

Prof Katinka de Wet was part of the Free State Department of Health’s COVID response team under the Risk Communication and Community Engagement group within the Department of Health. This collaboration also included an online survey to determine possible reasons for COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Health Care Workers. She was also part of a project (2021-2022) on developing regional innovation through the creation of clusters. The project is funded by Friedrich Schiller University in Jena (Germany), and several UFS staff are involved.

Prof Matebesi initiated the Southern African Sociology Network (SASN) of sociology departments of universities in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The primary goal of SASN – launched on 25 November 2021 – is to enhance collaboration between the universities regarding postgraduate supervision, student and staff exchange, cross-country research projects and the promotion of the discipline.
Overview of 2021

After the disruptions of 2020, the year 2021 was one of rebuilding and strengthening. Many of the rotation sites were back up and running in 2021 – UNIBS, St Andrew’s, St Michael’s and St Dominick’s schools, Student Counselling and Development (SCD) and Child Welfare. Clients whose files are stored at UNIBS (excluding SCD clients) increased by nearly 50% in comparison to 2020, highlighting UNIBS’ commitment to restoring service delivery where possible.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect service delivery at other rotations, in particular the Phelophepa Healthcare Train (which was converted into a mobile testing and vaccination facility), the Universitas Pain Clinic (which has yet to reopen after the pandemic), and Bloemfontein South High School, where services commenced at the start of 2021, but were sadly discontinued in July after several school closures due to COVID outbreaks and a shift in the school’s focus to ensure the completion of the academic year.

Despite these unprecedented circumstances and the significant effect experienced on the service delivery component of the tri-functional nature of UNIBS’ mandate, the core business pertaining to training, continued largely unabated. All interns and staff members continued to receive ongoing, essential training (via remote platforms at times) and research outputs continued where possible.

Prof Koen Luyckx (Research Fellow, from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven [KUL] Belgium) continues to be the most significant driver of research endeavours and publication outputs in the Unit. His involvement is recognised at numerous levels. Not only has he authored and co-authored 88 articles to date in highly rated peer-reviewed journals during his first tenure as research fellow in the Unit (2018 to 2021), but he has also played a very active role in the training of staff and interns and in the introduction and coordination of multinational research projects in the Unit.

In order to ensure that the Unit is able to return to pre-COVID service delivery capacity, a concerted effort was made to ensure that all internship positions for 2022 were filled. UNIBS received 22 applications from seven of the eight universities in South Africa that offer a Master’s degree in counselling psychology. The internships generally run from the beginning of January to the end of December each year, and serve to fulfil the internship requirement for registration as a counselling psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA. Since 2014, UNIBS is one of only two internship sites accredited by the HPCSA for the training of Counselling Psychologists in the Free State and Northern Cape. An internship exchange programme has been entered into with the KUL in Belgium. In 2021, Counselling Psychology intern positions were allocated to Karla van Reenen, Prianka Harichand and Cliné Payne.

In addition to their usual rotations, UNIBS interns are exposed to a weekly training programme which takes the form of didactic presentations, workshops, journal discussions and intern case presentations. The training programme is purposefully multi-disciplinary, with contributions from disciplines such as psychology, psychometry, social work, developmental paediatrics and law. The programme covers a wide range of subjects as required by the HPCSA guidelines for the training of intern counselling psychologists, such as:

- Psychological assessment of children, adolescents and adults.
- Counselling or psychotherapy of children, adolescents and adults.
- Psychoeducation or community and public health interventions or advocacy.
- Ethical and professional conduct.
- Other professional activities.

UNIBS annually offers a number of internships in counselling psychology. The internships generally run from the beginning of January to the end of December each year, and serve to fulfil the internship requirement for registration as a counselling psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA. Since 2014, UNIBS is one of only two internship sites accredited by the HPCSA for the training of Counselling Psychologists in the Free State and Northern Cape. An internship exchange programme has been entered into with the KUL in Belgium. In 2021, Counselling Psychology intern positions were allocated to Karla van Reenen, Prianka Harichand and Cliné Payne.

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- Ethical and professional conduct.
- Other professional activities.
Research Projects

UNIBS is part of a multinational research project, titled ‘Non-suicidal self-injury among adolescents and young adults’. The project is conducted by project leaders Prof Koen Luyckx (Belgium), Dr Amarendra Gandhi (India) and Prof Adelene Grobler (South Africa). The project started in 2019 and was scheduled to be completed by 2022 but has subsequently been suspended due to various COVID-19 restrictions hindering data collection. Given the temporary suspension of the project, the deadline will be extended accordingly. The project is funded by the KUL as the home institution for the research.

Most of the research in the Unit is conducted by Prof Luyckx, a Research Associate of UNIBS.

Research Outputs

Articles


Research Outputs


Engaged Scholarship

In 2021 UNIBS interns provided essential psychotherapeutic and assessment services to the following rotation sites on a weekly basis:

- Three local schools.
- Child Welfare.
- Student Counselling and Development.
- Walk-in clients at UNIBS.
- St Dominic’s College – annual rotation for subject-choice counselling.

These services are provided at either significantly reduced rates or free of charge.

All UNIBS Interns annually serve on the Transnet Phelophepa Health Care Trains as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the KUL. This is a globally recognised community project reflecting a highly successful partnership between the private sector, institutions of higher education and the community. UNIBS has served this project since 2007. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the train was converted to a COVID-19 vaccination and testing facility. No psychology interns were thus able to provide services on the train this year.

At the end of 2021, staff members at UNIBS conducted personality assessments for the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the UFS Faculty of Health Sciences and subsequently presented two workshops. The first workshop aimed to provide insight on personality dynamics within oneself and within groups, and the second aimed to foster improved teamwork and communication.

UNIBS opened the Autism Support Centre in 2020, where training, evaluations and interventions take place, including training in the Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale (ADOS), the gold standard instrument for autism diagnosis. The Centre is now used for ADOS evaluations by different professionals. This was followed by the first training in Africa for trainers in the Early Start Denver intervention model for autism, in collaboration with Prof Lauren Franz of Duke University, North Carolina. The Centre has been a hub for national and international collaboration, specifically with the World Health Organization (WHO) nurturing care initiative, as well as research projects done in collaboration with Prof Petrus de Vries’s laboratory, the Centre for Autism Research in Africa at the University of Cape Town and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. The focus on autism at UNIBS has enabled a developmental paediatrician, Dr DJ Griessel, to be selected as a senior country representative for autism at the International Society for Autism Research. Plans are in place to increase service delivery and research outputs through the Centre in 2022.

Over and above representatives from the Faculty of the Humanities, the UNIBS Advisory Board includes representatives from outside the Faculty and UFS. These include Dr J Nel (Practical Theology), Dr F Khanare (Psychology of Education), Dr L Bezuidenhout (Industrial Psychology), Mr Z Zweni (Dr Blok High School), Mr H Barlow (Barloworld Equipment – retired) and Dr ER Seane (UFS Student Counselling and Development – retired).

Prof Grobler attended weekly Continuing Professional Development (CPD) meetings established by the UFS Medical Faculty in order to ensure that HPCSA-accredited CPD training is available to health professionals. Prof Grobler also assists the North-West University on an annual basis with training on Integrated Therapeutic Approaches, as well as being an external examiner for the final oral examinations of the Counselling and Clinical Psychology Masters students at both the Potchefstroom and Mahikeng Campuses.

A collaboration initiated by UNIBS assisted the Central University of Technology (CUT) with training opportunities for their intern psychologists in 2021. This collaboration increased the exposure of UNIBS and CUT intern psychologists to diverse perspectives. Topics for the training sessions included legal documentation for psychologists, couples counselling and practice management.

UNIBS was instrumental in the establishment of a formal MoU between the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at KUL and the UFS Faculty of Humanities in 2016. This agreement facilitates the internship exchange programme which is implemented annually and ensures an international accreditation for the Unit as an internship site for interns in School Psychology at KUL. Due to travel restrictions imposed in 2021, no new Belgian intern was taken on for the 2021/2022 rotation.

UNIBS collaborated with the psychology student network platform ‘Cognition & Co’ in order to create awareness of the Counselling Psychology internship at UNIBS. A podcast interview between Ms Nicole Docherty (Counselling Psychologist at UNIBS) and Mr Dylan Benyon (Founder of ‘Cognition & Co’) highlighted the incredible training opportunities provided at UNIBS with a particular focus on the Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy training, which is hosted by the Albert Ellis Institute and attended annually by UNIBS interns, as well as the annual rotation on the Transnet Phelophepa Health Care Train.

National and International Collaboration

Prof Adelene Grobler

Nicole Docherty

The Autism Support Centre
Staff 2021

Academic Head of Department: Prof AA Grobler

Academic Staff

Permanent

Prof AA Grobler  Associate Professor
Ms I Kruger  Counselling Psychologist: Intern Supervision (from 1 October 2021)
Prof SP Walker  Professor (until February 2021)

Contract

Ms N Docherty  Counselling Psychologist: Intern Supervision (from 1 October 2021)
Ms YE Venter  Counselling Psychologist: Internship administration and training (1 March to 30 September 2021)

Support Staff

Ms S Heymans  Secretary
Ms J Laubscher  Officer
Ms I Redelinghuys  Psychometrist/Officer

Affiliated Staff

Ms P Harichand  Counselling Psychology Intern
Prof KGM Luyckx  Research Fellow
Ms C Payne  Counselling Psychology Intern
Ms K van Reenen  Counselling Psychology Intern
This report was prepared with the assistance of many people, whose contributions are gratefully acknowledged – in particular Academic Heads of Departments, Directors and Heads of Centres, Units and Groups.

Many thanks to all who supplied photographs and images. Permission was granted for the use of all individual photographs.