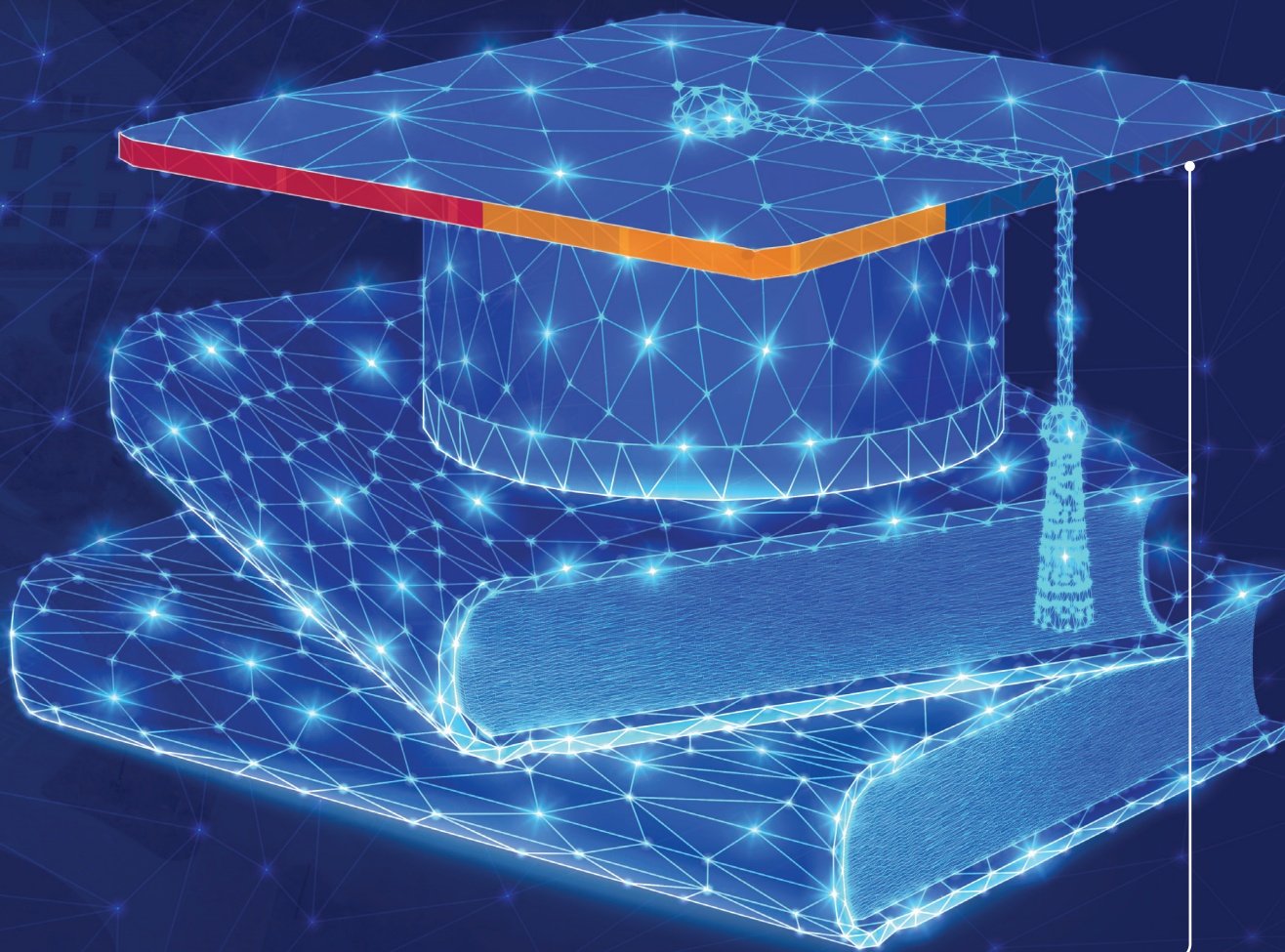


GRADUATION CEREMONY

BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS

THURSDAY | 11 DECEMBER 2025 | 14:00



Faculties of The Humanities, Law, and Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Higher certificates, advanced diplomas, bachelor's degrees, postgraduate diplomas, bachelor honours degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

PROGRAMME

11 DECEMBER 2025 | 14:00
BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGREGATION

OFFICIAL WELCOME

MUSICAL ITEM

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF SOUTH AFRICA

DISSOLUTION OF THE CONGREGATION

PLEASE NOTE

List of candidates receiving degrees, diplomas, and certificates:

Degrees, diplomas, and certificates of candidates who are unable to attend the graduation ceremony will be conferred in absentia.

An* next to a name indicates that the degree, diploma, or certificate is awarded with distinction.

By attending the graduation ceremony, you agree that the UFS may use photographs taken by the official photographer in which you appear for marketing purposes.

By attending the graduation ceremony, you agree that the UFS may use video footage taken by the official videographer in which you appear for marketing purposes.



NATIONAL ANTHEM OF SOUTH AFRICA

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika

Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.
Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika -
South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,
Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.

In order to maintain the dignity of the ceremony, you are requested to take note of the following:

- Please stand as the procession enters the hall
- Do not move around during the ceremony in order to take photos
- Please refrain from unacceptable actions such as whistling
- Please put your cellphone on silent so as not to disturb the proceedings
- We strive to conduct the ceremonies in a dignified manner
- Please do not leave the hall before the graduation proceedings have been concluded
- Family and friends who are unable to attend may watch the full graduation ceremonies through our livestream link at <https://livestream.ufs.ac.za>

ABOUT THE UFS



BLOEMFONTEIN, QWAQWA, AND SOUTH CAMPUSES

The University of the Free State (UFS) has a proud history as one of the oldest institutions of higher education in South Africa. It opened its doors in Bloemfontein in 1904 as the Grey University College with six students in The Humanities. Today it is a multi-campus institution with two diverse campuses in Bloemfontein and one in Qwaqwa in the scenic Eastern Free State, accommodating more than 39 000 students in its seven faculties (Economic and Management Sciences, Education, Health Sciences, The Humanities, Law, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Theology and Religion), with a significant number of international students and associates, and an ever-widening scope of active involvement in and contribution to its surrounding communities.

For more than 120 years, the University of the Free State has been delivering quality graduates who have made their mark in various sectors. What distinguishes the university is its holistic student support initiatives that enable it to achieve some of the highest success rates in the country.

Preparing students who are in high demand in the global job market remains a top priority. A strong network of established industry partners and close collaboration with the public and private sectors, as well as a continuing commitment to transformation and curriculum

renewal all converge to produce graduates who are ready to make an impact.

The UFS' research efforts are driven by dedicated scholars, some of whom are international leaders in their fields, with industry and social impact and real-world application.

Through the principle of engaged scholarship, the university responds to societal needs by applying its scholarly and professional expertise with an intentional public purpose and benefit.

The University of the Free State is an institution fully committed to offering students and staff an exceptional university experience. Its work is anchored in the values of excellence, impact, accountability, care, social justice, and sustainability.

The UFS aspires to be an innovative, research-led, student-centred, and regionally engaged university that contributes meaningfully to responsible societal futures.

It is committed to cultivating thoughtful leaders and pioneering knowledge, guided by its North Star – shaping *responsible societal futures* for its surrounding communities and beyond.

Inspiring excellence, transforming lives through quality, impact, and care.

UFS Honorary Awards | UFS Honorary Doctorates

1950	GLP Moerdyk – DLitt (h.c.)		A Polson – DPhilMed (h.c.)
1951	NC Havenga – LLD (h.c.)		J du P Scholtz – DPhil (h.c.)
1952	Thos Blok – DEd (h.c.)	1986	S Grové – DMus (h.c.)
	SHS Rubidge – DSc (h.c.)		FP Retief – DMed (h.c.)
1955	CR Swart – LLD (h.c.)		JA Stegmann – DCom (h.c.)
	CA v Niekerk – LLD (h.c.)	1987	WA Joubert – LLD (h.c.)
1958	CPB Brink – LLD (h.c.)		B Kok – DPhil (h.c.)
	CF Visser – DEd (h.c.)		WP Venter – DCom (h.c.)
1959	DB Bosman – DLitt (h.c.)	1988	JJN Cloete – DAdmin (h.c.)
	SP le Roux – DScAgric (h.c.)		FC Fensham – DLitt (h.c.)
	DF Malherbe – DLitt (h.c.)		JW vd Riet – DPhil (h.c.)
	GH v Rooyen – MA (h.c.)	1989	BJ Meyer – DSc (h.c.)
1960	SPE Boshoff – DLitt (h.c.)		N van Uden – PhD (h.c.)
1961	T Boydell – DPhil (h.c.)	1990	MG Corbett – LLD (h.c.)
1962	ES Botes – DEd (h.c.)		JS Rabie – DLitt (h.c.)
	PE Rousseau – DSc (h.c.)	1991	SS Brand – DCom (h.c.)
1963	EH Louw – LLD (h.c.)		JWL de Villiers – DSc (h.c.)
	EN Roberts – DSc (h.c.)		GT Fagan – DArch (h.c.)
	JGF (Kaalkop) vd Merwe – DCom (h.c.)		JH Hofmeyer – PhD (h.c.)
	HF Verwoerd – DLitt et Phil (h.c.)		E v Heerden – DLitt (h.c.)
1966	PSZ Coetzee – DPhilTh (h.c.)	1992	JP Louw – DLitt (h.c.)
	PJ du Toit – DSc (h.c.)		H Olivier – DSc (h.c.)
	MS Louw – DCom (h.c.)	1993	JD Anderson – DMed (h.c.)
1967	SM Naudé – DSc (h.c.)		RR Arndt – DSc (h.c.)
	LC Steyn – LLD (h.c.)		SJ Naudé – LLD (h.c.)
	BJ Vorster – LLD (h.c.)	1994	JJ Human – DPhil (h.c.)
1968	SJ Naudé – DCom (h.c.)		JA Myburgh – DMed (h.c.)
1969	CW (Nellie) Swart – DPhil (h.c.)		JP vd Walt – DSc (h.c.)
	AJJ Wessels – DCom (h.c.)	1995	WA Landman – DEd (h.c.)
1970	GS Nienaber – DLitt (h.c.)		WL Mouton – DPhil (h.c.)
	HO Mönnig – DSc (h.c.)	1996	WDO Marasas – DSc (h.c.)
1971	N Diederichs – DCom (h.c.)		NE Wiehahn – LLD (h.c.)
	RS Verster – DPhil (h.c.)	1997	AP Brink – DLitt (h.c.)
1972	LW Hiemstra – DPhil (h.c.)		B Hurwitz – DPhil (h.c.)
	PJ Meyer – DPhil (h.c.)	1998	FC Müller – DMed (h.c.)
1975	PJ Nienaber – DLitt (h.c.)	1999	FM Claerhout – DPhil (h.c.)
	De la H de Villiers – DScAgric (h.c.)		JJF Hefer – LLD (h.c.)
	GJ Stander – DSc (h.c.)		S Nigam – DSc (h.c.)
1976	AJA Roux – DSc (h.c.)		WL Nkuhlu – DCom (h.c.)
1978	SP Botha – DSc (h.c.)		MA Ramphela – DPhil (h.c.)
	EM van Zinderen Bakker – DSc (h.c.)		HJO van Heerden – LLD (h.c.)
	HB Thom – DEd (h.c.)		FJ van der Merwe – PhD (h.c.)
1979	FCL Bosman – DPhil (h.c.)	2000	MH Daling – DCom (h.c.)
	G Cronjé – DSocSc (h.c.)		TN Liversedge – PhD (h.c.)
	CJF Human – DCom (h.c.)		I Mahomed – LLD (h.c.)
1980	G Boonzaier – DPhil (h.c.)	2001	BP Gilbertson – DCom (h.c.)
1981	PW Botha – DPhil (h.c.)		NR Mandela – LLD (h.c.)
	B Human – DCom (h.c.)		EC Taglauer – DSc (h.c.)
	SG Shuttleworth – DSc (h.c.)	2002	BH Meyer – PhD (h.c.)
1982	BLS Franklin – DPhil (h.c.)		BAK Rider – LLD (h.c.)
	GvN Viljoen – DEd (h.c.)		CF Slabber – PhD (h.c.)
1983	L Luyt – DCom (h.c.)		JM Stetar – DEd (h.c.)
	SF Zaaiman – DPhil (h.c.)	2003	EWA de Corte – DEd (h.c.)
1984	HS Steyn – DSc (h.c.)		HA Serebro – DPhil (h.c.)
	FR Tomlinson – DScAgric (h.c.)		AG Sykes – DSc (h.c.)
	JH vd Berg – DMed (h.c.)	2004	S Badat – DPhil (h.c.)
1985	L Alberts – DSc (h.c.)		R Bringle – DPhil (h.c.)
	GG Cillie – DPhil (h.c.)		J de Wet – DMus (h.c.)
	SPD le Roux – DLitt (h.c.)		CF Fauconnier – DSc (h.c.)

	GJ Gerwel – DPhil (h.c.) WD Jonker – DTh (h.c.) A Krog – DLitt (h.c.) K Mokhele – DPhil (h.c.) CJC Nel (Posthumous) – PhD h.c.) L Quayle – DMus (h.c.) T (Karel) Schoeman – DLitt (h.c.) YK Seedat – DMed (h.c.) MK Seely – DSc (h.c.) C Seerveld – DPhil (h.c.) F van Z Slabbert – DPhil (h.c.) JC Steyn – DLitt (h.c.) PA Verhoef – DTh (h.c.) L van den Heever – LLD (h.c.) HA Wessels – LLD (h.c.)		M Nussbaum – DLitt (h.c.) OW Prozesky – MD (h.c.) FDJ Brand – LLD (h.c.)
2005	A du P Heyns – DMed (h.c.) JJF Durand – DPhil (h.c.) JA Groenewald – DSc (h.c.) WH Neuser – DTh (h.c.) M Ramos – PhD (h.c.) SJ Terreblanche – DCom (h.c.)		2013 ZKG Mda – DLitt (h.c.) 2014 ML Blum – PhD (h.c.) L Mulvey – DLitt (h.c.)
2006	T Moss – PhD (h.c.) PV Cox – PhD (h.c.)		2015 L Brahimi – DPhil (h.c.) JM Samuel – DEd (h.c.) MA Oduyoye – DTh (h.c.) JD Sacks – DEcon (h.c.)
2007	BJ (Bannie) Britz – DArch (h.c.) KPD Maphalla – PhD (h.c.)		2016 RJ Khoza – DEcon (h.c.) TA Manuel – DEcon (h.c.) M du Preez – PhD (h.c.) J Samoff – DPhil (h.c.) F Haffajee – PhD (h.c.)
2008	D Ferreira – DSc (h.c.)		2017 PH Holloway – DSc (h.c.) M Botha – LLD (h.c.)
2009	JC Loock – PhD (h.c.) LTC Harms – LLD (h.c.)		2019 BL Fanaroff – DSc (h.c.) J Mofokeng wa Makhetha – DLitt (h.c.) MB Molemela – LLD (h.c.)
2010	P Gordhan – PhD (h.c.) BBS Ngubane – PhD (h.c.) AH Strydom – PhD (h.c.) M Jones – PhD (h.c.)		2021 ZM Yacoob – LLD (h.c.) SM Pityana – DPhil (h.c.) RJ van Niekerk – DLitt (h.c.)
2011	D Tutu – DTh (h.c.) P Fourie – DLitt (h.c.) OG Winfrey – DEd (h.c.) RWM Frater – PhD (h.c.) A Sawyer – DEd (h.c.)		2022 WK Byanyima – PhD (h.c.) DM Davis – LLD (h.c.) DE Moseneke – LLD (h.c.) AL Sachs – LLD (h.c.) MJ Wingfield – DSc (h.c.)
2012	RJ Goldstone – LLD (h.c.) ER v Heerden – DLitt (h.c.)		2023 M Musk – DDiet (h.c.) A Ekwamu – DSc (h.c.) D Pepler – DSc (h.c.) PCJ Vale – PhD (h.c.)
			2024 Salim Abdool Karim – PhD (h.c.) Thabo Cecil Makgoba – PhD (h.c.) Murray Leibbrandt – PhD (h.c.) Bineta Diop – PhD (h.c.) 2025 RMM Zondo – LLD (h.c.) T Falola – LLD (h.c.) J Siwani – PhD (h.c.)

Shields of Honour, Council and Chancellor's Medals

1994	Prof FO Müller (Shield of Honour) RE Schoombie (Shield of Honour)	2008	Ludo Helsen (Shield of Honour)
1995	Prof FO Müller (Chancellor's Medal) RE Schoombie (Chancellor's Medal)	2009	Prof JU Grobbelaar (Council Medal)
1996	Prof S Mittman (Shield of Honour)	2010	Mrs AM Dippenaar (Chancellor's Medal)
1997	Prof M Jansens (Shield of Honour)	2014	Dr H Verster (Chancellor's Medal)
1998	Prof CJC Nel (Chancellor's Medal) Prof C Swanepoel (Chancellor's Medal)	2014	Mr JL Pretorius (Chancellor's Medal)
1999	WJ (Hansie) Cronje (Shield of Honour) Prof David Justice (Shield of Honour)	2016	Mr AD Osler (Chancellor's Medal) Ms M van der Merwe (Chancellor's Medal)
2000	Prof P Rosseel (Shield of Honour) Prof MJ Viljoen (Chancellor's Medal)	2017	Ms JS Isaacs (Chancellor's Medal)
2001	Prof PC Potgieter (Chancellor's Medal)	2019	Mr JF de Villiers (Chancellor's Medal) Ms EM Oosthuizen (Council Medal)
2002	T Moss (Shield of Honour) Prof CD Roode (Chancellor's Medal)	2022	Dr N Pearce (Chancellor's Medal)
2003	Prof HC Janse van Rensburg (Council Medal) Prof SA Petersen (Shield of Honour)	2023	Mr N Janse van Rensburg (Council Medal) Prof MG Lötter (Chancellor's Medal) Prof SC Brown (Council Medal)

MESSAGE FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL: UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Welcome to the graduation ceremony of the University of the Free State (UFS).

Today is indeed a special day. Few occasions hold as much significance as your graduation, both for you and for those who have supported you along the way. Many of you have had to overcome numerous challenges during your journey to get to where you are today. Many of you are the first in your families to reach this significant milestone. You have earned this moment, and you should be extremely proud of your achievement.

Graduands, you have had the honour of studying at a reputable, caring institution with a history spanning more than 120 years. Always acknowledge and recognise the significance of your achievements as you transition from being a University of the Free State (UFS) student to a UFS graduate. I invite you to stay connected to your alma mater as proud alumni.

Although the mission of our university has always been to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to make a difference in your field of study, we are also mindful that values are just as important for you to make a difference in your community. The University of the Free State places great emphasis on ensuring that students have an outstanding university experience. In our pursuit of excellence, we are proud that our environment is conducive to intellectual and personal growth. As such, our values of excellence, innovation and impact, accountability, care, social justice, and sustainability are embedded in all activities across the institution.

As you step into the world beyond the University of the Free State, remember that your education is a powerful tool. I urge you to use this tool to pursue our university's quest of creating responsible societal futures – using your knowledge and skills to shape a more humane, more just, and more equitable world for future generations. Use it to create positive change, to question the status quo, and to pursue your passions with determination. The future may seem uncertain, but it is filled with possibilities waiting for your unique talents and contributions. As you embark on your next adventure, carry with you the lessons you have learned and the courage to forge your own path.

Celebrate your success, cherish the memories, and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. The world is yours to explore, and we cannot wait to see all the incredible things you will do and accomplish.

Congratulations to all our Kowsie graduands. May you have continued success in all your endeavours!

Best wishes

PROF HESTER C. KLOPPER

**VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE**



Welkom by die gradeplegtigheid van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV).

Vandag is voorwaar 'n spesiale dag. Min geleenthede hou soveel betekenis in as 'n mens se gradeplegtigheid, sowel vir julle as vir diegene wat julle langs die pad ondersteun het. Baie van julle moes talle uitdagings te bowe kom tydens julle reis om te kom waar julle vandag is. Baie van julle is die eerste in julle gesinne om hierdie belangrike mylpaal te bereik. Julle het hierdie oomblik verdien en julle kan baie trots wees op julle prestasies.

Graduandi, julle het die eer gehad om aan 'n gerespekteerde, sorgsame instelling te studeer met 'n geskiedenis wat oor meer as 120 jaar strek. Erken en herken altyd die betekenis van julle prestasies waar julle nou beweeg van studente van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) na UV-gegraduateerdes. Ek nooi julle uit om as trotse alumni by julle alma mater betrokke te bly.

Alhoewel die missie van ons universiteit nog altyd was om julle toe te rus met die kennis en vaardighede wat nodig is om 'n verskil in julle studielevelde te maak, is ons ook bedag daarop dat waardes net so belangrik is vir julle om 'n verskil in julle gemeenskappe te maak. Die Universiteit van die Vrystaat lê groot klem daarop om te verseker dat studente 'n uitnemende universiteitservaring het. In ons strewe na uitnemendheid is ons trots daarop dat ons omgewing bevorderlik is vir intellektuele en persoonlike groei.

As sodanig is ons waardes van uitnemendheid, innovasie en impak, aanspreeklikheid, omgee, sosiale geregtigheid en volhoubaarheid ingebed in alle aktiwiteite oor die instelling heen.

Waar julle die wêreld buite die Universiteit van die Vrystaat betree, onthou dat opvoeding 'n kragtige hulpmiddel is. Ek moedig julle aan om hierdie hulpmiddel te gebruik om ons universiteit se strewe na die totstandkoming van verantwoordelike maatskaplike toekoms te streef – deur julle kennis en vaardighede te gebruik om 'n meer menslike, meer regverdige en meer billike wêreld vir toekomstige geslagte daar te stel. Gebruik dit om positiewe verandering teweeg te bring, om die status quo te bevraagteken en om julle passies met vasberadenheid na te streef. Die toekoms lyk dalk onseker, maar dit is gevul met moontlikhede wat wag vir julle unieke talente en bydraes. Waar julle nou die volgende avontuur aanpak, neem die lesse saam wat julle geleer het, asook die moed om julle eie weg te baan.

Vier julle sukses, koester die herinneringe en omhels die geleenthede wat voorlê. Die wêreld lê oop voor julle om te verken, en ons kan nie wag om al die ongelooflike dinge te sien wat julle sal doen en bereik nie.

Baie geluk aan al ons Kowsie-graduandi. Mag julle volgehoue sukses in al julle ondernemings hê!

Beste wense

PROF HESTER C. KLOPPER

**WISEKANSELIER EN PRINSIPAAL
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT**

Re a le amohela moketeng ona wa dikgau le dikapeso tsa Yunivesithi ya Freistata (UFS).

Letsatsi la kajeno efela e le le ikgethileng. Ke diketsahalo tse mmalwa tse nang le bohlokwa jwaloka mokete wa hao wa dikapeso, molemong wa hao esita le bao ba nnileng ba o tshehetsa nakong ena yohle. Ba bangata ba lona ba ile ba lokela ho hlola diphephetso tse ngata nakong ya leeto lena ho tla fihla moo le leng teng kajeno. Ba bangata ba lona le ba pele malapeng a bolona ho fihlella mokolokotwane ona wa bohlokwa. Le sebeditse ka thata ho fihla nakong ena, mme le lokela ho ba motlotlo ka phihlello ena ya lona.

Lona boradikgau, le bile le tlotla ya ho ithuta yunivesithing e nang le dilemo tse 121. Kamehla le amohela le ho ananela bohlokwa ba diphihlello tsa lona ha le fetola maemo a ho ba baithuti ba Yunivesithi ya Freistata (UFS) mme jwale le se le ba boradikgau ba UFS. Ke le kopa ho dula le ikamahanya le mohlodi ona wa lona wa dikgau tsa thuto, le le boradikgau ba motlotlo.

Le hoja sepheo sa yunivesithi ya rona e nnile ya ba ho le hlomella ka tsebo le ka boitsebelo ba mesebetsi e hlokehang bakeng sa ho etsa diphetoho mafapheng a dithuto tsa lona, re ntse re tseba hore makgabane a molemo ho wena ho etsa diphetoho setjhabeng sa heno. Yunivesithi ya Freistata e hatella haholo ho etsa bonnete ba hore baithuti ba na le boiphihlelo bo hlwahlwa ka yunivesithi. Mabapi le kgothaletso ya rona ya boipabolo bo hlwahlwa, re motlotlo hore tikoloho ya rona e tshehetsa kgolo ya kelello le mahlale esita le ntshetsopele ya botho. Ka tsela e jwalo, makgabane a rona a boipabolo bo hlwahlwa, boitshimollelo, sekgahla, boikarabello, tlhokomelo, toka ya setjhaba, le tshwarello, di kenyeleditswe mesebetsing yohle ya institjushene kapa setsha sena sa thuto.

Ha e le mona le kena lefatsheng le ka nqane ho meedi ya Yunivesithi ya Freistata, hopolang hore thuto ke sesebediswa se matla. Ke le kopa hore le e sebedise ho sibolla diphetoho tse molemo, ho nahanisisa ka hohle ka maemo a bophelo a hona jwale, esita le ho ntshetsa pele ditabatabelo tsa lona ka boikemisetso. Bokamoso bo ka bonahala bo sa kgolwehe, empa bo tletse maemo a kgonahalo a emetseng dineo tsa lona tse ikgethileng esita le tsona diabo tsa lona. Ha le tswela pele ka sepheo sa lona se latelang bophelong, hlomellang ka dithuto tseo le ithutileng tsona le tshepo ya ho ipetlela tsela ho ya pele.

Ketekang katleho ya lona, thabelang mehopolo ya mahopotsane, mme le amohela menyetla e tlang. Lefatshe lena ke la lona hore le le sibolle, mme re ke ke ra emisa ho tadima ka tebello dintho tse makatsang tseo le tla di etsa le hona ho di fihlella.

Ditakaletso tsa mahlohonolo ho baithuti ba rona ba Kowsie ba amohetseng dikgau. E se eka le ka ba le katleho e tswelapeng pele mererong yohle ya lona ya boiteko!

Madume

MOPROFESA HESTER C. KLOPPER

**MOTLATSI WA MOTJHANSELA LE MOOKAMED
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA**

OFFICE-BEARERS



Prof BF Mohale
Professor of Practice (JBS)
CHANCELLOR



Prof HC Klopper
PhD (UJ)
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND
PRINCIPAL



Mr D Noko
HND Mechanical
Engineering (UJ)
CHAIR OF COUNCIL



Prof A Rhoda
PhD (UWC)
DEPUTY
VICE-CHANCELLOR:
ACADEMIC



Prof V Reddy
PhD (UKZN)
DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR:
RESEARCH, INNOVATION
AND POSTGRADUATE
STUDIES



Dr M Qhobela
PhD (KSU)
DEPUTY VICE-
CHANCELLOR:
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES,
INTERNATIONAL AND
INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS



Mr NN Ntsababa
MPA (NMU)
REGISTRAR



Prof P Ngobeni
DTech (TUT)
CAMPUS PRINCIPAL:
QWAQWA CAMPUS



Dr TS Hlasho
PhD (UniZulu)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
STUDENT AFFAIRS,
SPORT, ARTS AND
CULTURE



Prof Y Rodny-Gumede
PhD (UoL)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
ADVANCEMENT



Esona Radebe
ISRC: PRESIDENT
GENERAL

DEANS



Prof P Burger
PhD (UFS)

DEAN:
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



Prof LC Jita
PhD (MSU)

DEAN:
EDUCATION



Prof GJ van Zyl
PhD (UFS)

DEAN:
HEALTH SCIENCES



Prof MA Masoga
PhD (UFS)

DEAN:
THE HUMANITIES



Prof SD Kamga
LLD (UP)

DEAN:
LAW



Prof P Oberholster
PhD (UP)

DEAN:
NATURAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



Prof JS Klaasen
DTh (US)

DEAN:
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

DEAN |

PROF MA MASOGA

DOCTORAL DEGREES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN AFRICA STUDIES

FISSEHA, Mehari

Mehari Fisseha is a social scientist who specialises in international law and diplomacy, among other things. He has a great passion for academia and is enthusiastic about achieving his vision as a world class scholar in peace and conflict, refugee law, migration law, responsibility to protect, development studies (land grabbing) and governance – pushing the limits of innovative scholarship and promoting impactful teaching in higher education. His proudest achievements are his manifold postgraduate degrees in sociology, law, government, public policy, criminal justice, governance, peacebuilding, migration, social work, social policy and international relations.

With his thesis titled: **THE AFRICAN UNION'S RIGHT TO INTERVENTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF SOUTH SUDAN**, the candidate investigated the implications for state sovereignty and human rights protection during humanitarian military interventions using the principle of responsibility to protect (R2P) by the AU, with South Sudan as a case study. Military intervention under the guise of R2P posits that all nations and peoples are responsible for protecting those not protected by their own nations. South Sudan exemplified the need for humanitarian protection for its people after the killings between the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups following the independence of South Sudan in 2011. The candidate uses Ubuntu to argue that R2P was inadequately implemented, showcasing that the lack of financial resources and political will among African leaders, including power planning, are key factors militating against the AU's implementation of R2P principles.

Supervisor: Prof MA Masoga

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

BUSANE, Mthobisi Sydney

Mthobisi Sydney Busane was born on 18 April 1993 in Ndwedwe (Bhamshela), KwaZulu-Natal. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Culture and Heritage Tourism and isiZulu from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2014, followed by a Bachelor of Arts Honours in isiZulu Studies and a Master's degree in isiZulu Studies in 2019. He joined the University of the Free State in 2020 as a lecturer. His research interests are in the fields of language policy and planning and isiZulu literature. Mthobisi is a member of the Free State Provincial Language Board and the KwaZulu-Natal National Language Unit.

With his thesis titled: **MANAGING ISIZULU AND SESOTHO AS LANGUAGES OF THE ACADEMY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE: A LANGUAGE MANAGEMENT APPROACH**, the candidate makes a valuable contribution to the field of language policy and planning. His research applies the language management theory (LMT) to understand the socio-political dynamics that affect language development and language policy



implementation and proffers a context-based framework that outlines management strategies at both the macro and micro levels. His study investigates strategies of embedding African languages in academic disciplinary epistemologies and discourses. Furthermore, it examines the socio-political dynamics associated with developing isiZulu and Sesotho as teaching, learning and research languages at the University of the Free State. The study demonstrates that LMT is an important framework for the scholarly understanding of how people use and interact with language and for examining ideologies and inequalities by stakeholders of language policy and planning.

Supervisor: Dr H Ndebele

Co-Supervisor: Prof NS Zulu

MONYAKANE, Mathai Calextina

Mathai Calextina Monyakane was born on 16 August 1987 in Maseru, Lesotho. She completed her COSC credential at St Rose High School in 2006. Her academic journey reflects a strong commitment to education and language studies. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies from the National University of Lesotho in 2013, followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) from the University of the Free State in 2014. She continued her studies at the University of the Free State, obtaining an Honours degree in Sesotho in 2015 and a Master of Arts in African Languages in 2019. She currently holds a lecturing position in Sesotho at North-West University.

With her thesis titled: **THE APPLICATION OF APPRAISAL THEORY IN SELECTED SESOTHO NOVELS: AN ANALYSIS OF SESOTHO TEXT PLOT**, the candidate makes a valuable contribution to African Literary Studies. Her research applies appraisal theory to explore attitudinal elements that shape the plot structure of Sesotho novels. She examines how these elements reflect the thematic concerns of authors during specific literary developmental periods. The study demonstrates that appraisal theory, focused on negotiating attitudes within texts, can be effectively used to analyse literary plot structures. Mathai identifies a meaningful correlation between evaluative language and narrative progression: the rising action aligns with the element of affect (emotional tension and conflict), the climax corresponds to judgement (social sanction and esteem), and the falling action reflects appreciation (positive evaluation). This analytical framework offers a nuanced method for interpreting thematic content in Sesotho literature.

Supervisor: Dr EN Malete

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN CRIMINOLOGY

POPHAIM, Jean-Paul

Jean-Paul Pophaim was born on 25 November 1992 in Kimberley, Northern Cape. He completed his schooling at Northern Cape High, where he matriculated in 2010. He completed all his tertiary qualifications at the University of the Free State. He was awarded a Bachelor of Social Science degree in 2015, a Bachelor of Social Science Honours in Criminology (cum laude) in 2016, and a Master of Social Science in Criminology (cum laude) in 2019. He is currently employed as a lecturer in the Department of Criminology at the University of the Free State.

With his thesis titled: **AN ANALYSIS AND REFRAMING OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICIES IN RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS: TOWARDS AN EVIDENCE-BASED VICTIM INCLUSIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK**, the candidate advances victimological scholarship by examining the multifaceted contexts in which homelessness exists and responses to the phenomenon. Grounded in a pragmatic paradigm and guided by a mixed-methods



FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

approach, the study employed document analysis of six local policies, a survey involving 150 people experiencing homelessness, and 38 stakeholder interviews. The research demonstrates that people experiencing homelessness face persistent precarity and are also, but even more so, harmed by inadequate responses. To address this, the study proposes an evidence-based policy framework to reframe responses as inclusive and person-centred. Through its rigorous and compassionate scholarship, the thesis itself is a source of hope – for research, policy and those too often rendered voiceless by systems designed to manage rather than support them.

Supervisor: Prof F Steyn

Co-Supervisor: Dr M Cronjé

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

BOFELO, Kiewit Mphutlane Abraham

Kiewit Mphutlane Abraham Bofelo was born on 29 January 1968 in Viljoensdrift near Sasolburg. He matriculated at Nkgopoleng High School in 1992. He holds a BA Honours in Political Science and an MA in Governance and Political Transformation from the University of the Free State. His career spans roles as executive administrator at the African Muslim Youth Congress (2003–2010), lecturer at the Workers College of South Africa (2012–2018), and currently a learning and development specialist at the Public Servants Association of South Africa.

With his thesis titled: **THEORIZING PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate makes an original contribution by introducing a systems theory framework for understanding presidential leadership in South Africa and advancing the concept of strategic collegiality. The conceptual advances are significant and open avenues for scholarly debate and practical application in the study of executive governance. With this contribution, he attempts to deepen our understanding of South Africa's political history and political system in general, and its presidential system in particular. The study has specifically expanded the conceptual, thematic, and theoretical premises of presidential leadership in South Africa's governance and political dynamics. It has also developed an integrative approach to interrogating and engaging the theories and models of presidential leadership. This is an innovative and valuable contribution to knowledge, addressing a long-standing gap in the literature where most studies have been descriptive or leadership-style orientated rather than theoretically generative.

Supervisor: Dr T Coetzee

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN HEBREW

BAUCOM, Brian Phillip

Brian Phillip Baucom was born on 12 March 1984 in Charlotte, North Carolina, United States. He graduated from Piedmont High School in 2002 and went on to study Biological Sciences at North Carolina State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2006. In 2013, he earned a Master of Divinity degree as well as a Master of Arts in Old Testament from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Thereafter, he attended Trinity Western University where he worked on Dead Sea Scrolls as part of an assistantship. He earned his Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Trinity Western University in 2018.

With his thesis titled: **HEXAPLARIC READINGS OF THE FIRST PALESTINIAN CATENA OF PSALMS 1–26 IN THE LIGHT OF EDITORIAL THEORY**, the candidate contributes to the study of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and



its early translations and revisions into Greek. By analysing the First Palestinian Catena (an exegetical commentary of early church leaders), the candidate identifies an early primary source of revisional readings of the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament) within the exegetical extracts of various authors within the catena. By analysing the context of the revisional readings of the Greek Old Testament, the study shows the importance of employing complexity theory and editorial theory to discern how the discovered readings may have been impacted by the exegetical context in which they were cited. This study has been recommended for publication in the series *De Septuaginta Investigationes* published by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in Germany.

Supervisors: Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN PHILOSOPHY

SMIT, Marc Adrian

Marc Adrian Smit was born in Durban on 9 April 1990. He received his secondary education in Pietermaritzburg, where he matriculated at St Charles College in 2007. He obtained a BSc in 2015 and an MA in Philosophy in 2018 at the University of the Free State.

With his thesis titled: **CULTIVATING THE PUBLIC: AN ARENDTIAN CRITIQUE OF THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**, the candidate contributes to political philosophy and the philosophy of education. With this contribution, he attempts to consider the role of higher education institutions in preparing students for public life through a framework situated at the intersection of Hannah Arendt's political phenomenology and Socratic virtue ethics. The work examines the political and socio-economic roles of education and how these relate to contemporary South Africa.

Supervisor: Prof B Olivier

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN SOCIOLOGY

MAHLABA, Siphелеle Nadia

Siphелеle Nadia Mahlaba was born on 24 September 1991 in Nhlanguano, Shiselweni District, Eswatini. She matriculated in 2010 at Cefups Academy Private College in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga. In 2014, she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Industrial Sociology from the University of Zululand. She joined the University of Zululand Research Office as a research assistant in 2015 while simultaneously pursuing her Honours degree in Sociology, which she completed in the same year. She obtained her Master's degree in Sociology in 2017 and is currently a junior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Free State.

With her thesis titled: **MARRIED WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON THE CULTURAL PRACTICE OF KUTEKA: NARRATIVES OF GENDER VIOLENCE AND AGENCY IN CUSTOMARY MARRIAGES IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on gender, culture, and power relations in customary marriages. Using a qualitative approach, Mahlaba gathered narratives from 20 women who had undergone Kuteka practice and had been married for more than five years. The study highlights the complex correlation of cultural traditions and agency, revealing how women navigate their roles and assert their voices in the context of Kuteka. While many participants reported experiences of gender violence, they also shared narratives of resilience and empowerment, reflecting their agential ability and capacity to challenge dominant cultural norms and understandings. The study demonstrates that the experiences of married women significantly influence the dynamics of power and gender relations in customary marriages.



FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

Supervisors: Prof ES Mayeza

Co-Supervisor: Prof SZ Matebesi

MATHAE, Bongani Lawrence

Bongani Lawrence Mathae was born on 6 February 1970 in Bloemfontein, Free State, South Africa. He matriculated at Popano Senior Secondary School in Botshabelo in 1992. In 2005, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the Free State, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Governance and Political Transformation in 2006. He obtained a Master's degree in Governance and Political Transformation in 2012 from the same institution. His career as a public servant began in 1995, and he advanced through various capacities to become the Speaker of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, a position he has held since.

With his thesis titled: **A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS OF COMMUNITY GRIEVANCES IN A METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY IN CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to understanding and managing citizen grievance redress systems. The study integrates data from a survey of 1,200 residents and 24 councillors of a metropolitan municipality. Grounded in complex systems theory and path dependency, the research highlights the critical role of feedback loops and the interconnectedness of community grievances and protests. This systemic perspective advances early warning frameworks by emphasising how historical patterns of unresolved grievances and evolving interactions shape community tension. The study not only enriches academic discourse but also provides practical tools for municipal governance to anticipate and address social unrest proactively, while calling for a shift in perspective to recognise community complaints and grievances as a valuable source of information, providing a holistic view of societal concerns within municipalities.

Supervisor: Prof SZ Matebesi

MASTER'S DEGREES

MASTER OF ARTS IN DRAMA AND THEATRE ARTS

DE BEER, Danyke

Dissertation Title: 'N
INTERDISSIPLINÊRE
TAKSONOMIE VAN
VOKOLOGIESE TEGNIEKE
VIR DIE HANTERING VAN
SPRAAKKLANKAFWYSKINGS
BY UITVOERENDE
KUNSTENAARS

Supervisor: Dr A Smit

Co-Supervisor: Prof A van
Jaarsveld

DOUBELL, Daniëlle*

Dissertation Title: STAGING
AFRIKAANS FEMALE IDENTITY:
POSTMODERN NARRATOLOGY
IN SOUTH AFRICAN THEATRE

Supervisor: Mr DC Cloete

Co-Supervisor: Dr A Smit

KRUGER, Daniel Jacobus

Dissertation Title: TALES FROM
THE ABYSS: UNEARTHING
JACO BOUWER'S SOUTH
AFRICAN HORROR ARTISTRY

Supervisor: Mr DC Cloete

Co-Supervisor: Dr A Smit

MASTER OF ARTS IN GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

LEKALAKE, Lofentse Kathy

MANYARA, Beauty*

FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES



RAMONAHENG, Seithati Mosa
Portia

TEISE, Jade Lucien Alexander

MASTER OF ARTS WITH SPECIALISATION IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

MAKHELE, Mojalefa France

Dissertation Title:
MOTIVATION AND ATTITUDE
IN LEARNING THE SESOTHO
CONVERSATIONAL COURSES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE FREE STATE: STRIDES
TOWARDS MULTILINGUALISM
AND MULTICULTURALISM

Supervisor: Dr H Ndebele

Co-Supervisor: Dr MA Nhlapo

MASTER OF ARTS WITH SPECIALISATION IN CLASSICAL STUDIES

SMIT, Anisja

Dissertation Title: MUSIC
EDUCATION IN EARLY GREECE

Supervisor: Prof L Cilliers

Co-Supervisor: Dr JC Meyer

MASTER OF ARTS WITH SPECIALISATION IN ENGLISH

MEINTJES, Ananke

Dissertation Title: AN
ANIMATE EARTH: READING

THE VITALITY OF PLACE IN
POSTCOLONIAL NARRATIVES
OF DISPLACEMENT

Supervisor: Prof HJ Strauss

Co-Supervisor: Prof AR de
Villiers

MASTER OF ARTS WITH SPECIALISATION IN HISTORY

MOKHOANTLE, Dimpho
Boitumelo*

Dissertation Title: WOMEN
AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE:
ASSESSING AND COMPARING
THE PARTICIPATION AND
IMPACT OF WOMEN WITHIN
THE TRUTH COMMISSIONS
OF SOUTH AFRICA, SIERRA
LEONE, AND LIBERIA

Supervisor: Dr MM Oelofse

MASTER OF ARTS WITH SPECIALISATION IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

RAPHULU, Ndivhuho

Dissertation Title: EXPLORING
ECOLOGICAL AND
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
AND CLEAN PRODUCTION
AT PHUTHADJHABA ECO-
INDUSTRIAL PARK (EIP)

Supervisor: Prof TW Okello

Co-Supervisor: Dr G Magaiza

MASTER OF HEALTH SYSTEMS STUDIES

LESHABA, Palesa*

Dissertation Title: EXPLORING
ACCESS TO POSTPARTUM
MENTAL HEALTHCARE AT A
PERI-URBAN COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTRE: A SOCIAL-
ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Supervisor: Prof NG Kigozi-Male

Co-Supervisor: Dr N Mulu

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN AFRICA STUDIES

BUCHANAN-CLARKE, Stephen
Graeme*

Dissertation Title: THE ROLE
OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL
GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS
IN CONFLICT ONSET AND
MITIGATION IN MOZAMBIQUE
AND TANZANIA

Supervisor: Prof H Solomon

MTHEMBU, Letty Dolly

Dissertation Title: STUDENT
SUPPORT MECHANISMS IN
PURSUIT OF THE ADOPTION OF
EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES
IN OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING
ENVIRONMENTS: A CASE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF FREE
STATE

Supervisor: Dr M Leshoele



FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

LABUSCAGNE, Wilhelmien

MARAIS, Charné

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

BRAMLEY, Kiara

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE WITH SPECIALISATION IN CRIMINOLOGY

MATHAHA, Tholoana Elizabeth*

Dissertation Title: AUTOPSIES
IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:
UTILITY AND PERSONAL
EXPERIENCES OF
INVESTIGATORS

Supervisor: Dr M Cronje

Co-Supervisor: Dr JP Pophaim

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE WITH SPECIALISATION IN SOCIOLOGY

DABULA, Lukhanyo

Dissertation Title:
PERCEPTIONS OF MALE
STUDENTS ON GENDERBASED
VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT
MALES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Dr K Moyo

Co-Supervisor: Dr D Nzima

DLAMINI, Jessica

Dissertation Title: EXPLORING
THE INTERSECTION
BETWEEN WATER,
ELECTRICITY AND QUALITY
HEALTHCARE ACCESS: THE
CASE OF QWAQWA

Supervisor: Dr K Moyo

Co-Supervisor: Dr D Nzima

DIPLOMAS

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BUTHELEZI, Samukelisiwe Fikile

CELE, Silindumusa Zamandosi
Gugulethu

CELE, Zakithi Wendy*

CHILI, Lethukuthula Terrence

DLAMINI, Pretty Mbali Biyela

DLIWAYO, Zingisa Florence*

DUBE, Ntombizodumo Zilungile
Christine

DUBE, Phiwakonke Swelihle

GAMA, Ntombikhona Alice*

GUMEDE, Sibongile Bongile

GUMEDE, Siboniso Laurens*

GWALA, Siyabonga Goodman*

HLONGWANE, Nokukhanya
Nompumelelo

JOSIAH, Modisaotsile Solomon

KHABA, Zamalotshwa Happiness

KHANYI, Liesbeth Celiwe*

KHANYILE, Nokuzola Portia

KHUMALO, Thulisile Thembelinle

MAMBA, Sindile Olga

MASILELA, Sizakele

MAZIBUKO, Noble Siphumelele

MBATHA, Nkosingiphile Khethiwe*

MBATHA, S'Bongile Grace

MCHUNU, Zamokuhle Justice

MDLULI, Sakhile Douglas

MEMELA, Khanyisile Ignatia*

MGOJO, Lungiswa Florence
Nkemeleng

MHLONGO, Nokulunga Patricia

MKHABELA, Nomusa Zamekile

MKHIZE, Ntokozo Harris

MKHONZA, Thea Gugulethu

MKHWANAZI, Lindelwa
Emmanuella

MNGOMEZULU, Christian Moses

MPUNGOSE, Lungisani
Thulasizwe

MSIMANGO, Phumzile Happiness

MTHETHWA, Immaculate
Sindisiwe*

MTHETHWA, Zanele Mayvis

NDLOVU, Patience Nomathemba*

FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES



NGCOBO, Mduduzi Sphamandla
Brilliant*

NGCOBO, Philisiwe Priscilla

NKOSI, Nokukhanya Nancy

NKOSI, Nombuso*

NKWANYANA, Sibonelo Beaufort*

NQUNQA, Chuma*

NZAMA, Mthokozisi Msawenkosi*

PHERANE, Lebohang Vincent*

PHOSWA, Percyval Thamsanqa*

RAMOKONE, Keitumetse
Maureen

SEBATE, Keatlaetse Cynthia

SETLALE, Sello*

SETONA, Makholoane Emily*

THENGWA, Zukiswa*

THOOE, Humanyane Mary

TSEPO, Thembekile Cornelius

TSOAI, Mothupi Joseph

VILAKAZI, Bongwiwe Primrose

ZIQUBU, Agrineth Sizile

ZULU, Sethabile Ntombivelile

ZULU, Thembelihle Cynthia*

ZUMA, Nompumelelo Glenrose

ZUNGU, Simangele Ntombizodwa

ZWANE, Mxolisi Jabulane France*

HONOURS DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS

DAKA, Silindokuhle

MOFOKENG, Dieketseng
Tryphinah

BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS IN MUSIC

STRYDOM, Wessel Marthinus
Louwrens*

BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY HONOURS

KOBRAN, Candice Christabelle

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ARRIES, Cothin-Jade Vittoni Kelly

BUTHELEZI, Lindokuhle

DLAMINI, Luyanda Blessing

FOTO, Happy

FUTHWA, Masello Giveness

GAGA, Vuyiswa

KHANYE, Makgetse Anna

KUBHEKA, Sipehelele

LEFUMA, Katleho Ntala

MABELE, Nkosinozwelo Silindile

MADONDO, Ntombifuthi

MAKGOU, Yvodia Dimakatso

MAKHUSHE, Fikile Popi

MARUMOAGAE, Katlego Innocent

MASOKOANE, Maipato
Clementine

MATJELE, Dinono

MATLALA, Keneilwe Cleire

MBATHA, Thandeka Xoliswa

MCOYANA, Sesethu Viola

MGUBASI, Mhlaliyethu

MKHIZE, Ntokozo Velenkosini

MMUSI, Lorato Quinette

MMUSI, Phenyo Thatayaone

MNGEZANA, Someleze

MOFOKENG, Mpereko Olga

MOHLABULA, Thembisile Agnes

MOKOENA, Masontaha Anna

MOLOI, Lehasa Justice

MORE, Kamogelo

MOSENOGI, Olerato Remofilwe

MOTSOENENG, Maureen
Malesedi

MPHATSOE, Siyabonga

MTHIYANE, Kwanele Busani

NOGWABA, Zonke

NTEYI, Thembani Liyema

NXUMALO, Bongwiwe
Ntombikayise

PHEKO, Winky

POULTEN, Nomcebo Londeka

REDGARD, Limeque Elmaine

SCHNOOR, Kaden Chloé



FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

SEGOLODI, Tshiamelo Segolodi

SENTENI, Siyamthanda

SHEZI, Aletha Nomusa

TAU, Rethabile Vinolia

VISSER, Henlo

XABA, Khethekile Nozipho

XOKIYANA, Tulisile

XOSEKA, Samkelisiwe

ZIKALALA, Wandile Qabunga

ZUMA, Zevile Siphiosihle

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

MARTIN, Hayley Kristen

MASHIFANE, Tumiso

MATHIKGE, Mmuso Oratile

MATSI, Makwena Sharon

MEI, Khanyisa Minqweno

MOKHELE, Palesa Kamohelo

MOLOANTOA, Bokang

NZELANI, Asithandile

SAM, Prudence

SEEKANE, Kgauhelo Jessica

SIBANDA, Lesedi Justin

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTEGRATED ORGANISATIONAL COMMUNICATION

MACHECHEOANE, Lesedi

MASIMULA, Lindumuzi Simiso

MONTSHO, Kekeletso Mabel

NGIDI, Nokwazi

THAISI, Tshepang Frank

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM

KGOSINKOE, Koketso Precious

MAHAPELA, Kgalalelo

OOSTHUIZEN, Janike

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LANGUAGE PRACTICE

NTHOLENG, Mamello

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

NAUDE, Willem Johannes

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

ALAGBAOSO, Kingsley Chidi

ARENDS, Vincent Jayde

BAIKEDI, Tshepo

BIYELA, Londiwe Sindisiwe

BOLE, Motshodiemang Julia

CHIRUNDU, Ardionah Tafadzwa

DEBELE, Yamkela

DIKGALE, Malehu Francina

DINGISO, Ntando

DLOKOVA, Asiphile Deedee

DYABUZA, Iviwe

GAAJE, Majuta Esther

GUMEDE, Cebelihle

GUMEDE, Christy Akhona

GXUMISA, Lilita Michelle

HLAHATSI, Boitumelo Pricila

JONAS, Simamkele

JUMART, Alviriza

KHAOTSANE, Reabetswe

KILANI, Asalinto

LEHLEHLA, Naledi

LESHOMO, Karabelo Karabo

LOURENS, Lizemari

MABUZA, Phethile

MAHLATSI, Mpho Seipati Portia

MAKEBA, Avuyile

MAKHAZA, Luyanda Mandisa

MALAZA, Unathi Thando
Nondumiso

MANYIKE, Chantel

MAQUBU, Abongile Lwazi

MATHENJWA, Sandisile

MEBUZA, Mbali Angel

METSING, Keaoleboga

FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES



MGOLOZELI, Kamvalethu
 MHLAFU, Nomathemba Doris
 MKHWANA, Jwalane Prudence
 MMAMPYE, Innocentia Mashego
 MNTUNGWA, Londeka
 MODUNGWA, Gofaone Hope
 MOFOKENG, Nthabiseng Gloria
 MOFOKENG, Victoria Mpho
 MOHLALA, Neo Desree
 MOJAPELO, Phenyio
 MOKGETHWA, Koketso
 MOKHOTSOA, Maleshwane
 MOKOAQO, Nobuhle Angel
 MOKOENA, Mathato Alina
 MOKOQO, Mpho Julia
 MOLAKENG, Toka
 Tlhohonolofatso
 MOLELEKI, Lerato Precious
 Nolubabalo
 MOLISALIFE, Tsebo Karabo
 MOLOKO, Keoagile Pheletso
 MONYANE, Masabata Paballo
 MORAKA, Olebogeng Amogelang
 MORAKE, Sophie
 MOROBE, Bonolo Pulane
 MOSENYEHI, Zandile
 MOSIMANE, Colleen Olebogeng
 MOTAUNG, Dimakatso Eunice
 MOTAUNG, Nthateng Penelope
 MOTSEKI, Tshepo Alfa

MOTSHABI, Lerato
 MOTSITSI, Pheello
 MQOTSHWA, Nomabovani
 MTHEMBU, Ntombifuthi
 MTHOMBENI, Refilwe Sipiwe
 MUDAU, Mutama Mudadzi
 MUDAU, Phathutshedzo Blessings
 NDLULI, Silindile Fikelephi
 NGOBENI, Vutivi
 NGUBANE, Nomvelo
 NGWENYA, Ntandose Antonette
 NGXUMZA, Nasiphi
 NHLAPO, Yoliswa Olga
 NKABINDE, Phumelele
 NKOMO, Lindokuhle
 NKOSI, Siphosethu Nhlakanipho
 NONYANE, Kagiso
 NOQHAKUVA, Afikile
 NOTSOLO, Litha
 NTLOKO, Asemahle
 NYEMBE, Nqobile Sindiswa
 Amanda
 NYENZANE, Sindiswa
 PENXA, Asanele
 PHAKEDI, Gomotsang Esther
 PHOOFOLO, Lieketseng Julia
 RAHOLANE, Sello Shaun
 RANUGA, Yongama
 RAPHOLO, Muvhulawa Hope

RASEGATLA, Tsholofelo
 SEGALO, Lerato
 SEKWENA, Keneilwe
 SHEZI, Sphindile
 SONOPO, Thuli Elisa
 TEELE, Reitumetse Reamogetse
 TSOEU, Khumo Bonolo
 WOOKEY, Qailah Azra
 XALABILE, Thembu
 ZEALAND, Nicole Allison

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

DUMELA, Anele

DIPLOMAS

ADVANCE DIPLOMA IN OPERA STUDIES

TAU, Karabo Masentle

CERTIFICATES

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN HUMANITIES

FARMER, Jaden Edwill
 FUDUMELE, Nondumiso
 GAMA, Thobelani



FACULTY OF THE HUMANITIES

HLELA, Buhle Princess
KHAHLELI, Palesa None
KHOZA, Mxolisi Khayelihle
KHUMALO, Andiswa Ayanda
LEBEPE, Tshegofatso Olive
LETHETSA, Lerato Portia
MABITLE, Palesa
MAKHOBABA, Lindiwe Julia
MAKIBI, Qhawe
MAKOFANE, Lefa
MASEMOLA, Thandeka Lydia
MAZIBUKO, Zanele Rethabile
MBOVANE, Tshepo
MDLADLA, Noluthando Thandeka
METHULA, Andile Annitha
MHLONGO, Mandisa
NGUBANE, Andile Suleiman
NTLAMBA, Yonela
NTSEBESHE, Thanda Justice
QAKOSHE, Nontsikelelo
SOTHOZAMA, Yonela
THAELE, Nkotseng Omphile
TJATJI, Rebotile Ngwanahlakudi



DEAN |

PROF S KAMGA

DOCTORAL DEGREES

DOCTOR OF LAWS WITH SPECIALISATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS

NKEM, Megha

Megha Nkem was born on 3 October 1984 in Bamenda in the northwestern region of Cameroon. She received her secondary education in Bamenda, where she matriculated at Progressive Comprehensive High School in 2004. She graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree in 2008 from the University of Buea, after which she moved to South Africa and obtained a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in 2015 from the University of Johannesburg. She began her career as a legal assistant in Bamenda and has since progressed in the legal field; she is currently a legal advisor and human rights researcher.

With her thesis titled: **EXPLORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AGENDA 2063: KEY TO ACHIEVING "THE AFRICA WE WANT"**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on children's rights and African development. She argues that the aspirations of Agenda 2063 can only be realised if children's rights, as enshrined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and related instruments, are fully implemented. Using a doctrinal, comparative and case study approach, Megha analysed international, regional and national frameworks to assess whether states are meeting their commitments and whether children are enjoying these rights in practice. It is accordingly emphasised that securing children's rights unlocks their potential, enabling them to participate meaningfully in Africa's development process. By demonstrating that children are central to achieving "the Africa We Want", the candidate underscores that their protection and empowerment are indispensable for the continent's progress towards 2063.

Supervisors: Prof CC Ngang and Dr A de Man

DOCTOR OF LAWS WITH SPECIALISATION IN MERCANTILE LAW

MODISE, Matshidiso Alfred

Matshidiso Alfred Modise was born on 12 September 1977 in Thaba Nchu, Free State. He completed his matric in 1995 at Kgorathuto High School. He obtained a B.luris in 1999, an LLB in 2002, and an LLM specialising in International Economic Law in 2021 at the University of the Free State. He worked at the Office of the Public Protector from 2005 to 2009, after which he joined the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management in 2009. He is currently working for the South African State Security Agency as a senior analyst.

With his thesis titled: **A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE LEGAL EFFECT OF DISBANDING THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TRIBUNAL**, the candidate contributes to the understanding of the legal effects of the disbanding of the Southern African Development Community Tribunal, focusing on the infringement



FACULTY OF LAW

upon human rights, democratic values and the rule of law by the Government of Zimbabwe when the domestic courts denied white farmers legal recourse against the expropriation of their farms without compensation. The thesis proposes pertinent lessons that South Africa and Namibia can learn from the Zimbabwean land reform debacle to ensure that the rule of law prevails in the land reform process. In finality, the thesis offers panoramic recommendations on the need to re-establish the Southern African Development Community Tribunal to ensure that there is effective protection of human rights and that the rule of law and other democratic tenets are upheld within the region.

Supervisors: Prof E Snyman-Van Deventer and Dr SM Makore

RAHMAN, Md Mahbubur

Md Mahbubur Rahman was born on 1 March 1966 in Loshkor, Paikgacha, Khulna, Bangladesh. He obtained a Secondary School Certificate in 1982 and a Higher Secondary Certificate in 1984 under the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Jessore. He obtained an LLB (Honours) in 1988 and an LLM in 1989 from the University of Rajshahi. He earned a Diploma in Human Rights and Legal Aid in 1994, a Higher Diploma in International and Comparative Law of Human Rights in 1995, and a Research Diploma in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1996. He was admitted to the Bar Council in 1994 and the Supreme Court in 1996.

With his thesis titled: **RISKS IN PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO JAPANESE INVESTMENTS**, the candidate makes a notable contribution to international investment law and mercantile law. He examines the risks faced by foreign investors, especially Japanese ones, when investing in developing countries in Asia and Africa. The study identifies political instability, unstable policy environments, poor infrastructure, and complex tax systems as key challenges affecting investment outcomes. The thesis explores how these risks impact both investors and host countries. It underscores the dual nature of foreign investment: not only offering capital, technology transfer, and economic growth but also creating vulnerabilities that investors might exploit. The research recommends risk management strategies and policy reforms to improve the investment climate and encourage sustainable partnerships between investors and developing nations.

Supervisor: Prof E Snyman-Van Deventer

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN MERCANTILE LAW

RABOLINYANE, Christopher Tefo

Christopher Tefo Rabolinyane was born in 1985 in Mafeteng, Lesotho. He received his education from St John's Anglican Primary School and matriculated at Bereng High School in 2002. Thereafter, he graduated with an LLB degree from the National University of Lesotho in 2010, after which he obtained an LLM degree in Labour Law in 2015 and another LLM degree in International Economic Law in 2019 from the University of the Free State. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Lesotho. At present, he is the Risk and Compliance Manager for Public Private Partnership in Lesotho's Ministry of Finance.

With his thesis titled: **PROJECT FINANCE AND EXTERNAL DEBT IN LESOTHO AND THE SADC REGION: ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS OR MAJOR SETBACK TO LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**, the candidate examines the use of project finance and external debt to finance infrastructural development in Lesotho and the SADC region. The



thesis critically examines the dual-edged nature of project financing, demonstrating its potential to drive economic progress while exposing long-term financial risks. It argues that excessive reliance on external debt for infrastructure development in Lesotho and SADC has led to financial distress and undermined sustainable growth. Conversely, project finance through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) presents a viable alternative, which balances fiscal responsibility with infrastructure expansion. Key barriers to the PPP implementation, including regulatory gaps, legal constraints, and limited expertise are also critically assessed. The study contributes to legal scholarship which enables the use of financing mechanisms other than sovereign debt for infrastructural development, such as pension funds, to finance infrastructure and the adoption of a robust legal framework to support sustainable project finance across the SADC region.

Supervisors: Prof E Snyman-Van Deventer and Dr Mota Makore

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS

MOSELI, Khothalang

Khothalang Moseli, born on 9 August 1991 in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, is a distinguished doctoral candidate with a strong academic foundation in social work and human rights. He matriculated at Malcomess Senior Secondary School in 2013 and earned a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of South Africa in 2018. Demonstrating exceptional academic prowess, he completed an interdisciplinary Master's in Human Rights in record time by 2020. Further specialising, Khothalang undertook advanced human rights courses at the University of Pretoria in 2020 and 2021, focusing on the right to development in Africa and the judicial enforcement of socio-economic rights in Africa. His academic journey highlights a profound commitment to social justice and human rights advocacy.

With his thesis titled: **ANALYSING THE LEGALITY OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate examines the legality of the right to development in South Africa. He investigates the historical and theoretical foundations of this right, tracing its origins in international human rights law and its incorporation into South Africa's national legal system. The candidate provides a comprehensive analysis of constitutional provisions, statutes, and relevant case law to evaluate how the right to development is defined and enforced within the country. Furthermore, the thesis considers the socio-economic challenges faced by marginalised communities and their impact on the realisation of this right. Using a socio-legal approach, it explores the relationship between legal, political and social factors that influence the right's practical application. The findings highlight the complex legal status of the right to development in South Africa. The thesis concludes by emphasising the need for stronger legal recognition and effective implementation strategies to ensure equitable development opportunities for all citizens, particularly the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.

Supervisor: Prof CC Ngang

MUGANYI, Tanaka

Tanaka Muganyi was born on 12 November 1983 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He matriculated at Berejena Secondary School and Bulawayo Adventist High School, where he was a senior prefect and head boy respectively. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws Honours degree from the University of Zimbabwe in 2008, and with a Master of Laws in Advanced Constitutional and Human Rights Law from Midlands State University in 2017. He is the founding partner of Tanaka Law Chambers, a board member of the Law Society of Zimbabwe, and an adjunct lecturer at the National



FACULTY OF LAW

University of Technology, where he teaches master's students in international commercial transactions. In 2020, he was appointed Commissioner of the Zimbabwe Media Commission.

With his thesis titled: **CULTURE AS A BARRIER TO THE REALISATION OF SEXUAL MINORITY RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE**, the candidate contributes to the relevant contemporary issues related to the rights of sexual minorities who continue to face abuse, discrimination and exclusion in all spheres of life. The Zimbabwean system is completely silent on sexual minority rights despite the constitutional non-discrimination clause and international human rights instruments that call for the protection of such rights. Using desktop study and combined research methods, Muganyi analysed and highlighted how Zimbabwe's cultural and traditional values are a barrier to the full realisation of sexual minority rights and how the existing laws regarding homosexuality are wrongly constructed, which calls for change. This study explored culture as a barrier to the realisation of sexual minority rights in Zimbabwe with hopes to promote and pave the way for the progressive realisation of such rights.

Supervisor: Prof G Kamga

Co-Supervisor: Dr C Westman

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN MEDICAL LAW

OSABUTEY, Udia Silas

Udia Silas Osabutey was born on 15 September 1978 in Accra, Ghana. He graduated from the Tema Methodist Secondary School in 1997 and later attained a Bachelor of Arts degree (Second Class Upper Division) from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, in 2007. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree at the University of Ghana in 2009 and a Qualifying Certificate in Law (QCL) from the Ghana School of Law, Accra, in 2011. He was called to the Ghana Bar the same year. He also obtained a Master of Arts degree from the University of Cape Coast in 2014. His passion for teaching began at the University of Cape Coast, where he served as a teaching assistant and later as a senior research assistant from 2005 to 2007. Even though he is currently in legal practice, he hopes to transition into full-time university teaching upon graduating with a PhD from the University of the Free State.

With his thesis titled: **A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT REGIMES OF ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on the regulatory, ethical and enforcement frameworks surrounding organ donation and transplantation in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on South Africa and Ghana, to address organ shortages and transplant waiting lists. The comparative analysis includes a historical overview and the importance of these frameworks, an evaluation of their effectiveness and shortcomings in enhancing organ donation rates to address organ shortages and eliminate transplant waiting lists in these countries in particular, and sub-Saharan Africa in general, and how they may be improved by drawing insightful lessons from the United States, United Kingdom, and Australian regulatory, ethical and enforcement regimes.

Supervisor: Dr L Prinsen



MASTER'S DEGREES

MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

DWEKU, Nomthandazo
Nonhlanhla Nozipho

PALA, Susan Thandiwe

MASTER OF LAWS

TSOAELI, Moretloane Valentine

MASTER OF LAWS WITH SPECIALISATION IN LABOUR LAW

DAUSAB, Immanuel Wynand

MASTER OF LAWS WITH SPECIALISATION IN LAW OF BUSINESS ENTITIES

MATHEBULA, Mpina Abednego

MASTER OF LAWS WITH SPECIALISATION IN MERCANTILE LAW

MALULEKE, Promise Andile

Dissertation Title:
EMPOWERING SOUTH AFRICAN
WOMEN LEGISLATIVELY:
AN ANALYSIS OF GENDER
EQUALITY PROGRESS IN

SOUTH AFRICA FROM 1994 -
2024

Supervisor: Prof GE Kamdem
Kamga

DIPLOMAS

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FINANCIAL PLANNING

KITI, Dimpho Jacoline Sweetness

LA GRANGE, Hannelie

VAN NIEKERK, Johanna Aletta

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LABOUR LAW

DIERGAARDT, Viola Joline

LEKITLANE, Baleni Johannes

MANDYULANA, Bandise
Siphosakhe

MASHELE, Sibongile Chistina

MODISE, Nyakallo

MOLAPO, Mantoetse Brigitta

TLOUBATLA, Pertunia Raesetsa

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

BACHELOR OF LAWS

APPOLES, Michaela Lethia

BAHETANE, Palesa Mary

BENTLEY, Lameeze Kaylin

DLAMINI, Nompumalanga

GHANDHI, Faribanu

HELEPI, Sechaba Perseverance

KACHARA, Takudzwa Richard

KALAKU, Neo Aubrey

KHIBA, Karabo

MABENA, Philela

MACHETHE, Ntlogeleng

MADONDO, Sbhonginkosi
Simangalisa

MAGANGANE, Minenhle

MAHLARE, Tidimalo Collen

MAKHASANE, Palesa Glory

MAKHATHINI, Asanda Snikelo

MALATJI, Mokgadi Tiny

MALELE, Letlhogonolo Nicole

MANYAMA, Dimpho Gift

MANYATHI, Sithembiso

MASHA, Innocent

MASHEGO, Vision

MASHILE, Ayanda

MATHIBELI, Mbale Esmeralda

MATLOHA, Unamaanda Vanessa

MKHWANAZI, Ayanda Nonjabulo

MOAGA, Lerato

MOETI, Dimakatso Palesa

MOGAJANE, Maketa Revelation

MOGAKANE, Mahlatse Hope

MOLABA, Marena Raisibe



FACULTY OF **LAW**

MOLEME, Kutlo

MOLOI, Dimakatso Paulina

MOLOTO, Mokhari Uria

MOTALE, Tebokgo Collins

MSOLWA, Thobile Priscilla

MULONDO, Nthabiseng

MXAXA, Unam Portia

NDLELA, Somila Qawekazi

NDLOVU, Rhulani

NESANE, Lufuno

NETSHITUNGULU, Humbulani
Emmah

NOBUYA, Kamva

NTIDI, Tumelo Calven

NTLANGANE, Lindiwe Lebogang

NUKERI, Rirhandzu Chantel

NYAWO, Nondumiso Melame

PAUL, Nathan Rewynne

PHOFI, Nthabiseng

PIJOOS, Reese Shatonia

SEATE, Resego Selebogo Letlotlo

SEBEELA, Oarabetse Tumisang

SEEMA, Solomon Malebatja

SEGOANA, Megan Tshegofatso

SENOKOANE, Boipelo Popi

SHOKANE, Kgotsang Mamoriti

SIBILOANE, Tlhohonolofatso
Lesedi

TAMELA, Simthembile

TEMBO, Siyolo Nompumelelo

TIYO, Uviwe

VAN DER WALT, Istwahn
Johannes

VAN SCHALKWYK, Kevin



DEAN |

PROF PJ OBERHOLSTER

DOCTORAL DEGREES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ARCHITECTURE WITH SPECIALISATION IN DESIGN

BITZER, Martha Magdalena

Martha Magdalena Bitzer (née Kapp) matriculated from Parys High School in 1986 and completed her Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of the Free State in 1991. She started lecturing part-time at the University of the Free State's Department of Architecture in 1992 and became a junior lecturer in 1995. After earning her Master of Architecture (Research) degree in 1998, Martie practised as an architect in Johannesburg while teaching part-time at the Universities of Pretoria and Johannesburg. Appointed as senior lecturer at the University of Johannesburg in 2003, she returned to the University of the Free State in 2007, where her teaching career flourished, combining academic mentorship with creative exploration through making.

With her thesis titled: **ECDYSIS: SHEDDING SKIN AS PERFORMATIVE AGENT IN THE NEGOTIATION OF NEW TRANSITIONS FOR ARCHITECTURE**, this study examines the expansion of the building skin during the initial ideation phase of design to extend and enhance teaching practice in the architectural design and presentation studio. It employs the theme of skin as a conceptual framework, positioning it as both a metaphor for design exploration and a medium for personal expression.

The study aims to advance innovative approaches to teaching and design by integrating artistic practice with pedagogical strategies. Ecdysis, the skin's intelligent growth mechanism, underpins the thesis, which examines skin both as a physical and metaphorical construct. The thesis employs ecdysis as a performative agent and driver as it embodies the transformative potential of shedding to inspire innovative thinking and adaptive design.

Supervisor: Prof J Nobe

Co-supervisor: Prof J Allen-Spies

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MAJORING IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

MTSHALI, Kholeka Thembeka

Born on 10 May 1996 in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, Kholeka Mtshali's academic journey is a testament to dedication and perseverance. After matriculating at Ferrum High School in 2014, she pursued all her tertiary studies at the University of the Free State, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in 2019, an Honours degree in 2020, and a Master of Science degree in 2022, all in Geography. In May 2025, she proudly completed her PhD in Environmental Geography. Kholeka began her academic career in 2020 as an academic facilitator on the Qwaqwa Campus and is now a lecturer in human geography on the Bloemfontein Campus.



FACULTY OF **NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

With her thesis titled: **ASSESSING THE ROLE OF URBAN ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS: A CASE OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate makes a valuable contribution to the field of urban climate change adaptation. The study assessed the role of urban ecological infrastructure (UEI) in enhancing climate change adaptation in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality by analysing climate variability trends, evaluating stakeholder and policy-driven approaches, and quantifying the environmental and economic benefits provided by green UEIs using the i-Tree Canopy Model. Employing a mixed-methods approach within a pragmatic paradigm, her research integrated climate data, legislative/policy documents, and stakeholder insights to reveal the strengths and limitations of current adaptation strategies. Her findings underscore the importance of UEIs in advancing sustainable urban development while highlighting governance gaps which hinder climate resilience and effective policy implementation.

Supervisor: Dr AJ van der Walt

Co-Supervisor: Prof RA Matamanda

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MAJORING IN ZOOLOGY

KHESWA, Nozipho

Nozipho Kheswa was born on 23 October 1990 in Elandskop, Pietermaritzburg. She matriculated at Gobindlovu High School in Elandskop in 2008, where she served as head girl and as a member of the school governing body. She holds a BSc (Biological Sciences, 2013) and a BSc Honours (Entomology, 2014) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She subsequently obtained her MSc (Entomology) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2017. Her MSc research was conducted in collaboration with the South African Sugarcane Research Institute in Mt Edgecombe, Durban, and one of her thesis chapters received the award for Best Oral Presentation during the University of KwaZulu-Natal School of Life Sciences Postgraduate Research Day in 2016. She joined the University of the Free State as a support staff member in 2020.

With her thesis titled: **EVALUATING THE IMPACTS OF LOCAL DUMPING SITE POLLUTION ON ARTHROPODS AND A QUEST FOR NOVEL SOIL FUNGAL SPECIES WITH POTENTIAL PLASTIC BIOREMEDIATION CAPABILITIES IN THE EASTERN REGION OF THE FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to understanding how unmanaged dumping site pollution affects arthropod communities and soil ecosystems, while identifying fungal species capable of plastic bioremediation. This interdisciplinary study reveals that local dumping sites significantly alter arthropod abundance, diversity, and functional composition, indicating ecological disturbance and pollution stress. Using ecological and microbiological approaches, the research also isolates novel soil fungi with strong enzymatic potential to degrade synthetic plastics, highlighting their dual role in soil health and environmental recovery. By integrating ecotoxicology, biodiversity monitoring and applied microbiology, the study offers valuable insights for sustainable waste management and biotechnological innovation. These findings enhance knowledge on pollution ecology and contribute to developing nature-based solutions for plastic pollution mitigation in South Africa.

Supervisor: Dr N Dube

Co-Supervisor: Dr A Gokul



MNKANDLA, Sanele Michelle

Sanele Michelle Mnkandla was born on 6 May 1988 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. She received her secondary education in Bulawayo, where she matriculated at the Bulawayo Adventist High School in 2006. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Biochemistry (cum laude), from the University of Fort Hare in 2011. Additionally, Sanele received both her Honours and MSc in Biochemistry at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2012 and 2014 respectively. She has been working as a research fellow in the Department of Applied Biology and Biochemistry at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo since 2015.

With this thesis titled: **MYCOFILTRATION POTENTIAL IN THE REMOVAL OF ORGANIC AND INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS IN AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS AND WASTEWATER**, the candidate studies the ability of fungal mycelia to filter out pollutants from contaminated water. She demonstrates that mycofilters, cultured using mycelia from the oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), can remove up to 94% of certain metal ions and more than 90% of certain dyes. Importantly, she addresses key gaps in existing research by elucidating the biosorption mechanisms involved and establishing protocols to ascertain the saturation limits and structural integrity of the mycofilters after use. Her research also incorporates ecotoxicological assessments using freshwater snails (*Helisoma duryi*), showing that mycofiltration not only improves water quality but also reduces the toxic effects of contaminants on aquatic organisms. Finally, in a real-life scenario, she evaluates a local wastewater treatment plant, revealing that mycofiltration could enhance chemical removal where conventional treatment processes are failing.

Supervisor: Prof PV Otomo

Co-Supervisor: Prof N Basopo

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

LAKEW, Hermela Wondwossen

Hermela Wondwossen Lakew was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Her academic journey started in 2012 with a BA degree in Economics (with distinction) from Addis Ababa University, an MSc in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Free State in 2017, and an MSc in International Economics from Addis Ababa University in 2018. While she was a PhD candidate at the University of the Free State, she presented her research at the 12th South African System Dynamics Conference and the Alexander von Humboldt Conference in Germany in 2024, raising the international profile of her work. Part of her doctoral work has also been published in an Elsevier journal.

With her thesis titled: **MACROECONOMIC LINKAGES BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD SECURITY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES**, the candidate contributes to mainstream systems thinking and integrated modelling. She built and tested a dynamic hypothesis, which integrated a literature review with Computable General Equilibrium modelling, using the International Food Policy Research Institute's Rural Investment and Policy Analysis database, and system dynamics methods (causal-loop diagrams, stock-and-flow simulation). Key components included empirical parameterisation of system dynamics models of population and productivity pathways, and identification of system archetypes (limits to growth, fixes that fail, shifting the burden). Results showed that declining agricultural total-factor productivity undermined urban consumption and national resilience, while higher population baselines amplified resource scarcity and emissions. The work yields actionable, model-based policy recommendations on climate-resilient agriculture, cross-sector coordination, resource management, and data systems. The candidate published her findings in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and presented at national and international conferences.



FACULTY OF **NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

Supervisor: Prof YT Batha

Co-Supervisors: Prof A Ogundeji and Dr YS Nyam

LUBINDA, Mwala

Mwala Lubinda was born on 4 January 1982 in the Zambezi Flood Plains of Western Zambia. He matriculated at St John's Secondary School in 1999 as the best student in the Western Province, after which he obtained a BSc in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Zambia. With support from a SADC–EU scholarship, he completed a BSc Honours and MSc in Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State. His career spanned agribusiness and international development across Southern Africa before he joined the Namibia University of Science and Technology in 2016 as a lecturer in agricultural economics and agribusiness.

With his thesis titled: **MODELLING THE SYSTEMIC EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL SHOCKS: A NETWORK AND MARKOV CHAIN FORMALISM**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on the systemic impacts of agricultural shocks in economic systems. His research develops a novel framework that integrates network science and Markov chain modelling to analyse and model systemic risk. This framework provides valuable insights into how shocks originating in agriculture, or any other economic sector, propagate through the wider economy, potentially destabilising growth and resilience. Beyond advancing academic knowledge, the study offers a practical tool for policymakers in designing macro-prudential policies and strategies, which strengthen economic resilience against aggregate fluctuations caused by sector-specific disturbances. The candidate demonstrates how innovative quantitative methods illuminate the hidden interconnections in economies and support evidence-based responses to systemic vulnerabilities.

Supervisor: Prof YT Bahta

Co-Supervisor: Dr WALombard

MOHLOTSANE, Matohlang Pascalina

Matohlang Pascalina Mohlotsane was born on 24 April 1991 in Mapoteng, Berea District, Lesotho. She received her secondary education in Klerksdorp, North-West province, where she matriculated at Milner High School in 2009. She obtained a BSc in Agricultural Economics and Food Sciences in 2014, followed by a BSc Honours with specialisation in Agricultural Economics with distinction in 2016. In 2017, she obtained an MSc in Agriculture also from the University of the Free State. She started her career as a junior lecturer in October 2017 in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State. In 2019, she was promoted to lecturer – a position she still holds.

With her thesis titled: **DEVELOPING A SOCIAL WATER PRODUCTIVITY INDICATOR FOR WATER FOOTPRINT ASSESSMENT**, the candidate contributes to the underexplored social dimension of sustainable water use in agriculture. This work responds to critical knowledge and methodological gaps in the literature, particularly the absence of standardised social indicators and tools to assess the social impacts of water use. The study introduces a Social Water Productivity Indicator using a Social Accounting Matrix-based input-output model by disaggregating blue, green and grey water applied to the table grape industry in South Africa. The model quantifies direct, indirect and induced socio-economic effects at household and macro-economic levels. These findings offer evidence-based insights into inclusive, policy-relevant decision-making for societal impact. The candidate has published papers in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and has presented her findings at national and international conferences.



Supervisor: Prof H Jordaan

Co-Supervisor: Prof YT Bahta

MONTEIRO, Markus Arlindo

Markus Arlindo Monteiro was born on 10 January 1994 in Bloemfontein, South Africa, and grew up on a grain farm near the city. He matriculated at President Steyn High School in 2012 and completed his undergraduate degree in Agricultural Economics in 2017, his honours in 2018, and his master's in 2023, all at the University of the Free State. He started his career as a junior lecturer in July 2019 in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State. He was promoted to lecturer in 2023 – a position he still holds.

With his thesis titled: **ASSESSING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CHANGED WATER USE BEHAVIOUR IN SELECTED FOOD COMMODITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate developed an integrated framework to identify what drives irrigators' water use behaviour and assessed the social and economic implications of changes in these behaviours. The study focused on commercial maize irrigators in the Orange-Riet Irrigation Scheme, combining psychological, biophysical, and economic dimensions. Using the theory of planned behaviour, the research explored factors shaping farmers' intentions to adopt water-saving technologies. AquaCrop modelling simulated the impact on crop yields and water productivity, while a Social Accounting Matrix traced how changes at farm level rippled through the wider economy. The study provides a novel, practical tool for guiding sustainable water management and policy decisions. The candidate has published papers in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and presented his findings at national and international conferences.

Supervisors: Prof YT Bahta

Co-Supervisor: Prof H Jordaan

RAMIGO, Pfunzo

Pfunzo Ramigo was born on 25 June 1990 in the Rabali Village, Limpopo. He matriculated at the Almighty Combined School in 2007. He completed BSc (honours and undergraduate) degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Free State in 2013 and 2014 respectively, and a master's degree in Agricultural Economics from Stellenbosch University in 2016. He is currently employed by the National Department of Agriculture (DOA) as a marketing officer. He previously worked for the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) as a Researcher and Data Analyst from 2018 to 2023.

With his thesis titled: **THE EFFECT OF IRRIGATION AGRICULTURE ON THE ECONOMY OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to constructing the 2017 national South African Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) and the 2021 provincial SAM for the Limpopo province. The 2017 South African SAM indicated significant contributions from disaggregation of agricultural activities, labour, land and household accounts per region (provinces and districts). On the other hand, the 2021 Limpopo SAM indicated significant contributions from disaggregating agricultural activities according to crop production in the provinces. Crop production was further linked to water use sources. Only the maize industry was further disaggregated according to irrigation techniques such as drip, sprinkler, canal, and pivot irrigations. The study concluded that investing in irrigation agriculture and increasing the efficiency and sustainability of existing irrigation agriculture in Limpopo were significant and profitable.

Supervisor: Prof YT Bahta

Co-Supervisor: Prof H Jordaan



FACULTY OF **NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

VAN DEN BERG, Marcill

Marcill van den Berg was born on 6 July 1989 in Douglas, Northern Cape. She matriculated at Hoërskool Douglas in 2007 and later obtained a BSc Agric in 2012, an honours degree in 2013 with distinction, and a master's in 2015 with distinction from the University of the Free State, all majoring in Agricultural Economics. Her academic career commenced in 2013 as an assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics, where she advanced to a lecturer position. She left the University of the Free State in 2018 to become an entrepreneur in her hometown of Douglas.

With her thesis titled: **MODELLING THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE**, the candidate makes an original contribution to knowledge by developing a novel framework that integrates differential evolution with mathematical programming to solve a complex farm-level WEF nexus optimisation model. The model captures the multidimensional WEF nexus decision-making problem by integrating a daily irrigation crop growth simulation model with an energy management accounting module and a farm-level resource allocation and capital investment module to evaluate the impact of institutional changes to water charging methods and the adoption of grid-tied photovoltaic energy supply. Direct volumetric water metering and charging will incentivise more productive water use. Grid-tied photovoltaic energy systems offer a cost-effective means of overcoming prohibitively high energy storage costs. The results support a paradigm shift from conventional irrigation practices satisfying crop water requirements to deficit irrigation strategies that maximise profit, directly affecting future irrigation management decision support.

Supervisor: Prof B Grové

Co-Supervisors: Dr JH Barnard and Prof N Matthews

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

JAMMER, Brent Damian

Brent Damian Jammer was born on 7 August 1996 in Barkly West, South Africa. He matriculated at Vaal River High School in 2014 and completed his undergraduate degree in Agricultural Management in 2017, his honours in 2018, and his master's in 2020, all at the University of the Free State. He started his career as a research assistant in 2018 in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State. In 2020, he began working as a production manager at Wildeklawer Boerdery, overseeing the livestock enterprise. He was appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics in September 2022, where he has been working since.

With his thesis titled: **DEVELOPING A DECISION-SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR OPTIMAL CALF WEANING PRACTICES IN SOUTH AFRICAN BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION**, the candidate developed a validated decision-support framework to guide beef producers in determining the optimal weaning age of calves. Using a mixed-methods approach, a Best Fit Framework Synthesis integrated existing models into a new conceptual framework, which was validated through expert consensus via the Delphi technique. The framework was empirically applied on farms in the Vrede district, comparing early and conventional weaning practices. Linear modelling identified key drivers of weaning age, while a simulation model assessed the financial viability of early weaning.

The study delivers a novel, context-specific, and scientifically robust framework that supports evidence-based management and improved profitability in the beef sector. The candidate's research has resulted in publications in high-impact journals and presentations at national conferences, demonstrating both scholarly and practical impact.

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Supervisor: Dr WA Lombard

Co-Supervisor: Prof H Jordaan

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGROMETEOROLOGY

RAVULUMA, Muthianzhele

Muthianzhele Ravuluma was born on 25 June 1994 in the rural village of Vhuri-vhuri, Limpopo. He matriculated at Thengwe High School in 2012 and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, majoring in Agrometeorology, from the University of the Free State in 2017. He later completed his Master's degree in Agriculture at the same institution in 2021. Muthianzhele began his professional career as a junior researcher in 2024. His research focuses on the interaction between climate and crop water use. He has delivered several international presentations, contributing to the global dialogue on agrometeorology and climate-smart agriculture.

With his thesis titled: **CURRENT AND FUTURE WATER USE OF POMEGRANATE ORCHARDS IN THE WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to the understanding of the water use and climate adaptability of pomegranate orchards under semi-arid Mediterranean conditions in South Africa. Conducted in the Western Cape, the study used sap flow and micrometeorological methods to quantify transpiration and evapotranspiration in young and mature "Wonderful" orchards. By integrating field measurements with climate projections from CMIP6 datasets, the research assessed current and future water use under different climate scenarios. Findings revealed that orchard age and climate variability significantly influence water demand, with future increases expected under high-emission scenarios. Muthianzhele's work contributes to the development of efficient irrigation strategies and supports climate-smart pomegranate production for sustainable agriculture in South Africa. The study contributed two international conference presentations and three peer-reviewed journal papers. He also won a Young Minds award at a conference in New Zealand.

Supervisors: Dr PC Tharaga and Dr T Volschenk

Co-Supervisors: Dr S Walker and Dr S Dzikiti

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGRONOMY

MUTSAMBA-MAGWAZA, Eleanor Florence

Eleanor Florence Mutsamba-Magwaza was born in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe in Mutasa District on 26 June 1983. She completed her secondary Ordinary and Advanced Level in 2000 and 2002 respectively at Hartzell High School in Mutare. She obtained her BSc Honours degree in Agriculture (Soil Science) in 2006 and an Mphil in Agriculture in 2012 from the University of Zimbabwe. She started her career in 2012 as a research associate-agronomist at CIMMYT Zimbabwe, Department of Sustainable Agrofood Systems, and later served as a PhD intern from 2021 to 2024.

With her thesis titled: **CROP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR IMPROVED LIVESTOCK FEED AND FARM PRODUCTIVITY IN SMALLHOLDER FARMING SYSTEMS OF SEMI-ARID ZIMBABWE**, the candidate contributes to knowledge on practices that can improve farm productivity within Zimbabwe's smallholder mixed crop-livestock



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systems. Her study identified crop and livestock positive deviant (locally successful) practices across different farm types through surveys, which can be scaled to least efficiency farms in similar environments to improve productivity. Furthermore, based on experimental data, she attempts to inform farmers, technocrats and policymakers on when and where to implement practices such as cereal-legume intercropping and the production of biofortified maize varieties to improve the quantity and quality of food and feed. Her study shows that better-off farms and seasonal rainfall above 600 mm are required to produce sufficient food and feed from these cropping systems. Overall, her study offers area- and farm-type-specific practical solutions to the challenges of declining or stagnant crop and livestock productivity, thereby addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in smallholder farming systems.

Supervisors: Prof AC Franke and Dr E van der Watt

Co-Supervisors: Dr I Nyagumbo and Dr F Baudron

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN ANIMAL SCIENCE

NGAYO, Mawande

Mawande Ngayo was born on 20 May 1988 in Tsolo in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. He completed his secondary education in 2007 at St Cuthbert's Senior Secondary School in Tsolo and graduated with BSc (2012) and BSc Honours (2013) Animal Science degrees at the University of Fort Hare, followed by a Master of Science degree (2017) at the University of the Free State. He started his career at the Agricultural Research Council as a PDP trainee (2014), and he was a part-time lecturer as well (2016–2019). At present, he works for the Wagyu Society of South Africa.

With his thesis titled: **IMPROVING BEEF PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN THE COMMUNAL AND EMERGING SECTOR THROUGH TARGETED INTERVENTIONS**, the candidate contributes valuable insights to the field of sustainable beef production. The study adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) methodology to evaluate constraints and viable interventions for the smallholder beef sector. It revealed that the major constraints for smallholder farmers are lack of access to adequate farming land, poor infrastructure, socio-economic conditions, lack of government support, and mismanagement of natural resources. For natural resource management, a rotational grazing system and veld resting approach is recommended to ensure a period of uninterrupted plant development. To assess a viable beef production system, a simulation program model that was developed in Microsoft Excel was used with assumptions to calculate the gross income potential of a weaner calf and an ox production system for purebred and crossbred beef herds.

Supervisors: Dr MD Fair and Prof FWC Nesor

Co-Supervisors: Prof MM Scholtz and Dr KJ Leeuw

SESHOKA, Mokgadi Magdelin

Mokgadi Magdelin Seshoka was born on 7 April 1991 in Limpopo province, Tzaneen, Ga-Modjadji. She matriculated at the Mandela Barloworld Agricultural High School in 2007 and attained a Diploma in Animal Production at the Tshwane University of Technology in 2010. She obtained her BTech degree in 2011 and her master's degree in 2015, also at the Tshwane University of Technology. Her professional career started as a candidate animal production scientist in 2016, and she was appointed as a professional animal production scientist in 2022 at the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform – a position she still holds today.



With her thesis titled: **THE EFFECT OF WEATHER PATTERNS AND BULL GENOTYPE ON THE FERTILITY OF THREE INDIGENOUS BEEF BREEDS IN WARMER CLIMATES**, the candidate contributes to the understanding of how climatic factors and genetic variation influence the reproductive efficiency of indigenous beef cattle in warmer regions. With this contribution, she attempts to enhance breeding strategies, improve livestock productivity and promote sustainable beef cattle farming in regions affected by climate change. The study serves as an indication of the value of intervention, especially in finding solutions to the challenges of maintaining cattle fertility and overall herd performance in increasingly warm climates, thereby ensuring food security and economic stability for livestock-dependent communities.

Supervisors: Prof FWC Naser and Dr SM Grobler

Co-Supervisor: Prof MM Scholtz

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN BIOCHEMISTRY

FOURIE, Corinne

Corinne Fourie was born on 30 September 1993 in Bloemfontein and matriculated at Eunice High School in 2011. She obtained her BSc degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry with distinction in 2014, during which she was awarded the prize for the best BSc student in Biochemistry. She obtained her BSc Honours in Biochemistry with distinction in 2015, again receiving the prize for best Biochemistry Honours student. She completed her MSc in Biochemistry with distinction in 2019 and her PhD in Biochemistry in 2025 at the University of the Free State. She is currently employed at Parexel as a Scientific Writer.

With her thesis titled: **MICROBIAL EXPRESSION AND ANALYSIS OF ROTAVIRUS VP6 AS A SUBUNIT VACCINE CANDIDATE**, the candidate explored recombinant protein production of the immunodominant Rotavirus capsid protein, VP6, in yeast and bacteria as a cost-effective, non-replicating vaccine candidate. She not only identified and addressed various technical challenges associated with microbial expression but also demonstrated the immunogenic potential of the microbially expressed protein. The study contributes broadly to virology, immunology, and synthetic biology by advancing knowledge of recombinant protein production and its application in scalable and sustainable next generation rotavirus vaccine development. Three manuscripts related to the PhD study are currently in preparation. During her PhD, the candidate also contributed to a review paper discussing antiviral therapies.

Supervisor: Prof HG O'Neill

Co-Supervisor: Prof J Albertyn

MATU, Andisiwe

Andisiwe Matu was born in Mthatha, Eastern Cape. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of the Free State in 2017, followed by an Honours degree in Biochemistry in 2018, and a Master's degree in Biochemistry (with distinction) in 2021 at the same institution. Her strong interest in environmental microbiology and biochemistry led her to commence her Doctor of Philosophy studies in 2021. She will graduate in 2025 with two peer-reviewed scientific publications, reflecting her dedication, perseverance and commitment to advancing scientific research and knowledge.



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With her thesis titled: **DEVELOPING A BACTERIAL CONSORTIUM FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MINING-CONTAMINATED WATER**, she advances environmental microbiology and biochemistry. Her research addresses pit lakes in South Africa's Mpumalanga Highveld, characterised by altered hydrochemistry, non-extreme acidic pH, elevated salinity, and high metal concentrations. Using a nature-based, bottom-up bioremediation approach with indigenous microbial consortia, she integrated hydrogeochemistry, 16S rRNA sequencing, and network analysis across seven pit lakes. The findings revealed that microbial community assembly is shaped by both deterministic and stochastic processes, with keystone taxa (*Caulobacter*, *Rhizobium*, *Blastopirellula*) sustaining positive interactions. Shotgun metagenomics identified pathways for carbon fixation, nitrogen cycling, and metal oxidation. Indigenous ureolytic bacteria, particularly *Rhizobium* enhanced by *Pseudomonas*, effectively removed Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} a microbially induced carbonate precipitation (MICP), demonstrating the promise of metagenomics-informed microbial design for sustainable mine-water remediation.

Supervisor: Prof JC Castillo Hernandez

Co-Supervisors: Prof AV Portal, Prof ED Cason and Prof KM Moganedi

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN CHEMISTRY

NAMBOOZE, Jennifer

Jennifer Nambooze was born on 5 August 1989 in Mengo, Kampala, Uganda. She completed her A Levels at St Joseph's Girls Secondary School, Nsambya, in 2008 and graduated with a BSc in Industrial Chemistry from Makerere University, Uganda, in 2013. She completed her MSc in Chemistry in 2020 at the University of the Free State. Her professional career commenced in 2013 and included working as a project chemist with the African Power Initiative Limited in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and as a senior quality analyst at National Medical Stores in Uganda, ensuring the quality and safety of pharmaceuticals in Uganda's healthcare system.

With her thesis titled: **ANTICANCER ACTIVITY OF THE CRUDE EXTRACTS AND ISOLATED COMPOUNDS FROM THREE MEDICINAL PLANTS NATIVE TO UGANDA: PRUNUS AFRICANA, ANNONA MURICATA AND ELAEODENDRON BUCHANANII**, the candidate makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge on Indigenous Knowledge Systems, particularly in the context of developing natural compound-derived anticancer therapies. Employing rigorous scientific methodology, she systematically characterised the anticancer and antioxidant activities of fractions and isolated compounds obtained from the three plant species. Several novel compounds were isolated from each plant, and *in vitro* assays demonstrated cytotoxic activity against breast and cervical cancer cell lines. These findings were further substantiated through molecular docking analyses. The study, therefore, not only validates the therapeutic potential of traditional anticancer treatments but also identifies new lead compounds for the development of innovative anticancer agents.

Supervisor: Dr SL Bonnet

Co-Supervisor: Prof A Wilhelm

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

BIKITSHA, Linda Elizabeth

Linda Elizabeth Bikitsha was born on 4 October 1990 in Queenstown, Eastern Cape and matriculated at Queenstown Girls' High School in 2008. She obtained a BSc in Quantity Surveying Studies in 2014 and an Honours degree in



Quantity Surveying in 2016 from the University of the Witwatersrand. She further pursued a Master's degree in Land and Property Development Management in 2020 and a PhD in Construction Management in 2024 from the University of the Free State. In 2019, she was appointed as the regional quantity surveyor at the South African National Parks and currently practices as a claims consultant at HKA Global (Pty) Ltd.

With her thesis titled: **STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR EFFICIENT PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**, the candidate contributes to risk management and strategic planning integration for public sector project implementation. Her work endeavours to mitigate prevalent risks during the planning and implementation of public sector projects by developing an integrated framework aligned with risk management processes to enhance implementation, knowledge, and change management in South Africa. The study employed a qualitative, interpretive phenomenological approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with risk, finance, and technical practitioners across three provinces (Mpumalanga, Gauteng, and Eastern Cape). It highlighted that risk prevalence due to overcommitment, funding uncertainty and poor planning indicates the value of this kind of intervention in overcoming the silo approach to risk management across implementing agents and stakeholders through an effective strategic risk management approach to successfully deliver projects.

Supervisor: Prof K Kajimo-Shakantu

Co-Supervisor: Dr C Amoah

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN CONSUMER SCIENCE

CHENENE, Mateboho Lucia

Mateboho Chenene, a native of Maseru, Lesotho, completed her secondary education at Holy Cross High School in 2001. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from the National University of Lesotho in 2009, followed by an Honours Degree in Home Economics from the University of the Free State in 2017. In 2020, she attained a Master of Science in Consumer Science from the same institution. Her professional journey began in 2010 with her appointment as area technical officer for nutrition. In 2012, she advanced to the role of district nutrition officer within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. A decade later, in 2022, she was promoted to principal lecturer at the Lesotho Agricultural College under the same Ministry. As of June 2025, she has been serving as the home economics manager, continuing her impactful work in advancing nutrition and food security in Lesotho.

With her thesis titled: **HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE IN LESOTHO: AN INVESTIGATION OF CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR, PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES**, the candidate advances academic scholarship by filling a data gap in Southern Africa, where there remains little empirical research on household food waste. This establishes a connection between food waste and the broader issues of food and nutrition security. The researcher contributes by assessing the household food waste in Lesotho by quantifying the amount of food waste generated and the types of food wasted most in households. Furthermore, she investigates the causes of household food waste in Lesotho by determining the primary factors contributing to food waste and exploring the perceptions, behaviours, knowledge, awareness and attitudes towards household food waste. However, the course of action for reducing household food waste in Lesotho is developed by identifying effective measures to reduce household food waste and investigating the factors that motivate individuals to avoid wasting food.

Supervisor: Dr J Vermaas

Co-Supervisors: Dr N Tinta and Dr N Cronjé



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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

IILONGA, Simon Mvula Nadhipite

Simon Iilonga was born on 17 January 1977 in Ondangwa, Namibia and matriculated at Onesi Secondary School in 1997. He obtained a Teaching Diploma in Social Science Education (2003) and an Advanced Diploma in Gender Studies (2006). He advanced his studies with a Master's in Gender Studies (2011) and a Master's in Disaster Risk Management (2014), both from the University of the Free State. Since 2016, he has been pursuing a PhD in Disaster Risk Management at the same university. Rising from teaching to senior public service, he now serves as deputy director in Namibia's Directorate of Refugee Management.

With his thesis titled: **DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NAMIBIA**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on disaster governance and resilience, with a focus on policy, institutional frameworks, and coordination mechanisms at multiple levels of governance. The study critically analyses Namibia's disaster risk management (DRM) structures to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps, and proposes measures for more effective implementation. Employing a qualitative approach within an interpretivist paradigm, the candidate engaged 143 diverse key respondents at various levels of responsibility. Findings revealed significant challenges in policy coherence, institutional capacity, and cross-sectoral coordination. The study proposes a comprehensive, evidence-based framework designed to enhance DRM implementation in Namibia, advancing both theoretical and practical understanding of how developing countries can better institutionalise disaster resilience.

Supervisor: Prof JA Belle

Co-Supervisor: Dr O Kunguma

LEFUTSO, David

David Lefutso was born on 22 August 1971 in Johannesburg and matriculated at St Enda's College in 1990. He earned a BCom from the University of the Witwatersrand (1993), an MBA from Rhodes University (2004), and an MPhil in Futures Studies from Stellenbosch University (2012). He began his career as an insurance broker in Stellenbosch in 1993. In 2010, he joined the Coega Development Corporation as senior project manager and is currently an executive manager at the company.

With his thesis titled: **PERCEPTIONS AND THE DEMAND FOR FLOOD RISK INSURANCE BY HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to theoretical knowledge by integrating behavioural economics and psychology with disaster risk management, while also offering practical insights for policy and market-based insurance solutions. With this contribution, he attempts to advance understanding of household decision-making regarding flood insurance, highlight barriers such as trust and affordability, and propose a context-adapted framework to improve uptake. The empirical results of this investigation serve as an indication of the value this type of intervention holds in finding a solution to the lack of effective, inclusive flood risk insurance for low-income households vulnerable to climate change and recurring disasters in South Africa.

Supervisor: Prof AA Ogundeji

Co-Supervisors: Prof G Danso-Abbeam and Dr YS Nyam



MAISIRI, Maureen Kudzai

Maureen Kudzai Maisiri matriculated at Thornhill High School in the Midlands province of Zimbabwe in 2008. In 2013, she completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and Nutrition at Midlands State University, graduating with first-class honours. She subsequently earned a Master of Science degree in Post-Harvest Science and Technology with merit from the Chinhoyi University of Technology in 2019.

With her thesis titled: **INVESTING IN RESILIENCE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN SOUTH AFRICA: LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**, the candidate contributes to knowledge on disaster risk reduction (DRR), food insecurity, and resilience. Through a mixed-methods approach, the study examined the complex relationship between DRR, food insecurity, and mental health among smallholder farmers in South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. Structural equation modelling (SEM) was used to establish connections between DRR, resilience, food insecurity, and the regulations implemented to curb the pandemic. Findings revealed that COVID-19 increased food insecurity, which negatively affected both nutrition and mental health. Moreover, disaster management regulations restricted farmers' ability to produce and distribute food, further deepening vulnerability. Despite these challenges, farmers developed valuable insights that can strengthen resilience. This knowledge is vital for improving disaster preparedness, safeguarding livelihoods, and ensuring sustainable food systems in future crises.

Supervisor: Prof N Ncube

VAN STRAATEN, Martha Maria

Martha Maria van Straaten was born on 29 September 1986 in Bloemfontein, Free State, where she completed her secondary education, graduating from Jim Fouché High School in 2004. Martha pursued higher education at the University of the Free State, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work with distinction in 2008. She furthered her studies at the same institution, obtaining a Master's degree in Social Work in 2012 (also with distinction), specialising in forensic assessments.

With her thesis titled: **DEVELOPING DISASTER SOCIAL WORK GUIDELINES TO BRIDGE POLICY-PRACTICE GAPS BASED ON THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN THE MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN, SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate makes a significant contribution to the fields of disaster risk management and social work. Through a mixed-methods investigation into the shortcomings of the social work response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Mangaung, she has developed essential Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Social Work Guidelines. These practical guidelines, designed for mental health and psychosocial support interventions, are tailored to the needs of communities and frontline responders during disasters and are relevant to both provincial and national contexts. Her work effectively bridges a critical policy-practice gap.

Supervisor: Prof A Ncube

Co-Supervisors: Prof JC Heunis and Prof J Szarzynski

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN ENTOMOLOGY

BOOYSEN, Ruan

Ruan Booysen was born on 25 August 1993 in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal. He received his secondary education in Newcastle, where he matriculated at the Ferrum High School in 2011. He obtained a Bachelor of Science



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degree in Zoology and Entomology in 2016, a BSc Honours degree in Entomology in 2017, a Master of Science in Entomology with distinction in 2020, and a PhD in Entomology in 2025 at the University of the Free State. In 2017, he was appointed as a laboratory assistant in the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the University of the Free State, and at present he continues to contribute to research while pursuing further professional growth in the field of Arachnology.

With his thesis titled: **REVISION AND MOLECULAR PHYLOGENY OF THE SPITTING SPIDERS (ARANEAE: SCYTODIDAE) OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**, the candidate used morphological and molecular analyses to revise the southern African fauna. Spiders examined included 33 type specimens from 27 species and several thousand *Scytodes* from local and international collections. This resulted in descriptions of 38 new species and redescriptions of 28 species. Additionally, *S. quinqua* is considered a synonym of *S. broomi*. Molecular analyses were unsuccessful in sequencing the COI region (4/45 isolates) but had better success with the 18S and H3 regions (35/45 and 38/45 isolates), which was insufficient for constructing a robust molecular phylogeny. However, 11 species groups were proposed using a similarity matrix based on Gower distances. Red List data for all species included in this study are provided. The candidate makes a major contribution to understanding the biodiversity and biogeography of these enigmatic spiders in a global context.

Supervisor: Prof CR Haddad

MAHLOBO, Thandeka

Thandeka Mahlobo was born on 1 July 1996 in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal. She completed her schooling at Thubelihle High School (2014), where her curiosity about the natural world first took root. She later pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences (2018), followed by a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Biological Sciences (2019), both from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Her passion for learning and dedication to her field led her to complete a Master of Science in Entomology (2022) at UKZN, funded by the National Research Foundation's Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology (CIB). During this time, she was invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society in recognition of her academic excellence.

With her thesis titled: **RESPONSE OF ARTHROPODS AND NEMATODES TO THE INVASIVE *GLEDITSIA TRIACANTHOS* L. (FABACEAE) AND COMPARATIVE PHYTOCHEMISTRY, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS BIOLOGICAL CONTROL IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to the understanding of how the invasive *Gleditsia triacanthos* alters soil properties, arthropod and nematode communities, and ecosystem functioning in South African grasslands. This species threatens biodiversity and ecosystem stability, highlighting the need for ecological data to inform management. The study showed that invasion increases soil nutrients and modifies community composition, favouring disturbance-tolerant taxa and simplifying food webs. By integrating phytochemical profiling, soil and biotic analyses, and the first thermal biology assessment of *Megabruchidius tonkineus*, the existing biocontrol agent, the research identified key ecological impacts and constraints to biological control. These findings provide a scientific foundation for improving control strategies and advancing invasive alien species management in South Africa.

Supervisor: Dr N Dube

Co-Supervisors: Prof GD Martin and Prof TC Munyai

MUKWEVHO, Ludzula

Ludzula Mukwevho was born on 1 June 1989 in Maungani village near Thohoyandou. He completed his high school education in 2006 at Dimani Agricultural High School and his Bachelor and Honours Degrees at the University of



Venda in 2010 and 2011 respectively. He later completed his Master's degree in Entomology with distinction from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg. Between 2013 and 2018, he worked as a junior researcher at the Agricultural Research Council. Since 2018, he has been working as a lecturer at the University of Mpumalanga.

With his thesis titled: **EFFECTS OF FIRE AND GRAZING ON THE DIVERSITY AND ASSEMBLAGES OF ARTHROPOD FUNCTIONAL GROUPS IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK**, the candidate investigated how the intensities of fire and grazing affect arthropod diversity in protected Afrotropical savannas in the Kruger National Park (KNP). Through various standard protocols for examining arthropod assemblages, he surveyed experimental burnt plots (EBPs) and grazed exclosures. Overall, his studies showed that Hymenoptera: Formicidae, dominated by the omnivores and predators, constituted a higher proportion of sampled arthropods compared to other focal groups. However, the abundance of arthropods decreased with the increasing intensity of fire and grazing in contrast to species richness, which tended to increase. Furthermore, the impact of prescribed fires superseded that of grazing in the KNP. In conclusion, fire and grazing management strategies in the KNP can enhance species richness. Park managers should pay attention to the sensitivities of key species to maintain critical ecosystem services.

Supervisor: Dr F Chindawanyika

Co-Supervisor: Prof M Ndlovu

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY

RADEBE, Samkelo

Samkelo Radebe was born on 8 August 1994 in Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal. He received his secondary education in Hillcrest, where he matriculated at Hillcrest High School in 2012. He obtained a Bachelor of Social Science degree, majoring in Geography and Environmental Management, in 2015, a Bachelor of Social Science Honours in Environmental Management in 2019, and a Master of Science (Environmental Science) degree in 2023.

With his thesis titled: **NEAR-SURFACE GROUNDWATER PROSPECTIVITY IN THE MAIN KAROO BASIN, SOUTH AFRICA, DERIVED FROM REMOTE SENSING AND MACHINE LEARNING**, the candidate contributes to the fields of remote sensing, machine learning, and near-surface geohydrology. With this contribution, he develops non-invasive and cost-effective ways to prospect and assess the presence and recharge of near-surface groundwater aquifers in the Main Karoo Basin of South Africa. His results represent a critical step forward to remotely find, assess, and manage near-surface groundwater aquifers, important for the communities of the Main Karoo Basin and inhabitants of arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid regions globally.

Supervisor: Dr MD Clark

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

MOKOSE, Nonie Moliehi Malehloa May

Nonie Moliehi Malehloa May Mokose was born in Johannesburg, Gauteng, and raised in Maseru, Lesotho. She attended Maseru English Medium Preparatory School and attained a London GCE "O" Level certificate from Machabeng International High School. Thereafter, she enrolled for a Diploma in Nutrition (incomplete) at the University of Swaziland, Luyengo Campus. She transferred to Cornell University (Ithaca, New York), qualifying with a BSc in Nutrition. She later attained an MA in Rural Development from the University of Pretoria and has compiled



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with the requirements for a PhD at the University of the Free State. She has been professionally involved in various roles in the food and agricultural sectors, including management, leadership and governance within the South African private and public sectors.

With her thesis titled: **CLUSTERING OF DIET, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR AMONG URBAN TSHWANE ADOLESCENTS: CROSS-SECTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH ADIPOSITY**, the study examined how diet, physical activity (PA) and sedentary behaviours (SB) cluster among Grade 7 adolescents in urban Tshwane, South Africa, and how these clusters interact with adiposity. Using a cross-sectional design involving 164 learners from five public schools, the study measured BMI for age, waist-to-height ratio, dietary intake applying 24-hour dietary recalls to compute dietary diversity scores (DDS), food variety scores (FVS), and mean adequacy ratio (MAR), and it assessed PA and SB time using an adapted Physical Activity Questionnaire for Adolescents and the Adolescent Sedentary Activity Questionnaire. Data were subjected to K-means cluster analysis.

Key findings: Overweight or obesity prevalence was found to be 20.1%; central adiposity was 17.7%; compliance with World Health Organization PA recommendations for adolescents was 4.9%; mean DDS was 51%; MAR was 52%; and the average screen time exceeded 3.5 hours per day. These behaviour profiles varied in adiposity outcomes and have informed a proposed intervention framework.

Supervisor: Prof JW Swanepoel

Co-Supervisor: Prof W Oldewage-Theron

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN GENETICS

MALEPE, Gosiamo Boitumelo Benedict

Gosiamo Boitumelo Benedict Malepe was born on 3 July 1990 in Parys, Free State. He received his secondary education in Sasolburg, Free State, where he matriculated at the Technical High School Sasolburg in 2009. He obtained a BSc Genetics degree in 2012 and a BSc Honours in Behavioural Genetics in 2013 at the University of the Free State, an MSc degree in Microbiology (with specialisation in Mycology) at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China, in 2017, and a PhD in Genetics at the University of the Free State in 2025. He started his career as an agricultural advisor in Bloemfontein in 2017, and he was promoted to acting production scientist in the Research and Technology Development Services programme, under the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, in 2022.

With his thesis titled: **FUSARIUM SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH PECANS (CARYA ILLINOINENSIS) IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to the field of Genetics and Plant Pathology. His contribution attempts to characterise important disease challenges caused by *Fusarium* species on the commercial pecan tree crop (*Carya illinoensis*) and investigates possible management strategies to combat this group of plant pathogens. Identification of these fungi emphasises the unique situation South Africa is facing to combat pecan diseases in the southern tip of Africa. In addition, the evaluation of potential effective fungicides further provides insight on a path forward to combat *Fusarium* diseases threatening the pecan industry in South Africa. Information gained from this thesis forms a crucial part in shaping future research on determining the full impact this important group of fungal pathogens have on the health of pecan trees.

Supervisor: Prof M Gryzenhout

Co-Supervisor: Dr GJ Marais



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN GEOGRAPHY

NKONKI, Busisiwe

Busisiwe Nkonki was born on 26 November 1993 in eQonce in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. She matriculated at Breidbach Secondary School in 2011 and subsequently obtained her BA degree (2014), BSc Honours in Geographic Information Systems (2015), and MSc in Geography (2018) at Nelson Mandela University. She is currently completing her PhD in Geography at the University of the Free State, which will be conferred in December 2025. Her career commenced in 2015 when she started working as a tutor and assistant lecturer at Nelson Mandela University. She is currently a researcher for the Portfolio Committee for Human Settlements at the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature.

With her thesis titled: **ASSESSING CLIMATE VULNERABILITY FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: A CASE STUDY OF GREEN FARM, PORT ST JOHNS**, the candidate contributes to climate adaptation scholarship by integrating systems and environmental justice theories to address differentiated climate vulnerabilities in informal settlements within coastal contexts. Employing a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design, the study combines 30-year meteorological trend analysis with a household survey ($n = 221$), key informant interviews, and policy analysis to create a replicable assessment framework. The research presents empirical evidence demonstrating how the intersecting socio-economic variables of gender, age, education and income produce differentiated climate vulnerability among informal settlement dwellers. The candidate enhances existing climate adaptation typologies by proposing simultaneous implementation of incremental and transformative adaptation strategies rather than sequential approaches. The study demonstrates the value of justice-oriented solutions that address both immediate climate risks and structural drivers of vulnerability in marginalised communities.

Supervisor: Prof AR Matamanda

Co-Supervisors: Dr A van der Walt and Prof SA Adelabu

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN GEOHYDROLOGY

LUBBE, Rolene

Rolene Lubbe was born on 4 March 1995 in Jan Kempdorp, South Africa. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Geology Specialisation in 2017, followed by an Honours degree in Geohydrology with distinction in 2018, and a Master's degree in Geohydrology with distinction in 2019, all at the University of the Free State. While pursuing her doctoral degree in Geohydrology (2025), she gained experience in environmental consulting and worked as a research assistant at the Institute for Groundwater Studies. After completing her doctoral degree, she moved to Perth, Australia, to work as a Hydrogeological Specialist for Hydro Geochem Group.

With her thesis titled: **ENHANCING HYDROGEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISATION FROM CORE-DRILLED EXPLORATION WELLS: INTEGRATING WATER, ORGANIC CARBON, AND GAS DYNAMICS IN THE BUSHVELD IGNEOUS COMPLEX**, the candidate contributes to methodological advancements in acquiring hydrogeochemical data and provides significant insights into the hydrogeology of deep, fractured crystalline formations, such as the Bushveld Complex. With this contribution, she validates the use of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) as an effective tracer for quantifying drilling fluid contamination and examines geochemical and structural indicators to understand deep hydrothermal fluid migration pathways. The combined analytical findings of this



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research demonstrate the potential value of this approach in addressing the critical issue of hydrogeochemical data being overlooked due to contamination risks and in refining the conceptual model of deep fluid pathways, linking them to geothermal potential and the likely abiogenic origin of associated volatiles.

Supervisor: Dr AJ Allwright

Co-Supervisor: Dr SS de Lange

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN MICROBIOLOGY

NCUBE, Nokukhanya Hlengiwe

Nokukhanya Hlengiwe Ncube was born on 9 November 1979 in Melmoth, KwaZulu-Natal. She received her secondary education in Nongoma, where she matriculated at Mchitheki High School in 1997 and obtained her Honours degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2003. She began her science career at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), received a Studentship, and graduated with an MSc at the University of the Free State in 2014. In 2010, she was appointed as a research associate at Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP), where she eventually became a Research Scientist.

With her thesis titled: **DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPROVED VACCINE AGAINST CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS DISEASE**, the candidate makes a significant contribution to controlling this disease, caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* in South African goats and sheep. She conducted detailed molecular characterisation of field strains of the pathogen and assessed the efficacy of the current Onderstepoort Biological Products vaccine against these strains. Recognising that the existing vaccine is produced in media containing meat products, she successfully developed a meat-free medium and scaled it up for vaccine production. Three experimental batches were produced using the novel medium. In the final phase of her research, she evaluated the safety and efficacy of these batches in goats, demonstrating their potential for effective disease control. Her work provides an important foundation for improved vaccine production and represents a meaningful step towards reducing the impact of caseous lymphadenitis in livestock.

Supervisors: Prof RR Bragg and Dr C Boucher

Co-Supervisors: Dr MB Nthangeni and Dr F Ramagoma

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN PHYSICS

ABDALKREEM, Talal Mohammedal Hassan

Talal Mohammedal Hassan Abdalkreem was born on 27 March 1991 in Omdurman, Sudan. He matriculated at Shekho High School in 2009. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Physics with Honours in 2013, and his Master's degree in Physics in 2018, both from the Sudan University of Science and Technology. He started his career as a teaching assistant in the Physics Department of the Sudan University of Science and Technology in 2014 and became a part-time lecturer at the same university in 2018.

With his thesis titled: **PLASMONIC ENHANCEMENT OF UPCONVERSION PHOSPHORS USING METAL NANOPARTICLES**, the candidate contributes to luminescent materials which convert infrared radiation to visible



light. With this contribution, he developed a prototyping protocol for mixing oxide and fluoride-based upconverting materials with plasmonic gold and silver metal nanoparticles in solution and extracting phosphor powders, which emitted green or red light when excited by an infrared laser. This work allowed rapid assessment of their interaction for a wide variety of different concentrations and particle sizes, hence establishing constraints on the conditions under which enhancement occurs.

Supervisor: Prof RE Kroon

Co-Supervisor: Prof HC Swart

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN PLANT BREEDING

BOAKYE-BOATENG, Augustine

Augustine Boakye-Boateng was born in Ghana in 1986. He obtained a BSc Biological Science degree (2012) and MPhil Agronomy (Plant Breeding) in 2015 from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. He started his career at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture in Ghana as a research supervisor, after which he joined the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Crops Research Institute as a legume breeder. Augustine has contributed to the upscaling of breeding and adoption of especially cowpea and groundnut in Ghana. He is currently leading the breeding of indigenous leafy vegetables and other underutilised crops.

With his thesis titled: **GENETIC DIVERSITY, NUTRITIONAL QUALITY AND YIELD POTENTIAL OF AN INTERNATIONAL COWPEA GERMPLASM COLLECTION**, the candidate phenotyped and genotyped 400 cowpea germplasm accessions collected from Africa, North and South America, Asia, and Europe held in the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture Genebank in Nigeria. Significant levels of genetic variation were found for morphological and nutritional traits in multilocation and multiseason trials in Ghana and Nigeria. High concentrations of iron and zinc with relatively high bioavailability and high protein content were evident in the grains of numerous accessions. Molecular marker analysis clustered the accessions into three main clusters and 11 population groups which were not related to country or region of collection. Several of the important traits were highly heritable and should respond well to selection. Data from this study will be used for diversity conservation, and selection of high yielding, nutritious cowpea genotypes for breeding purposes.

Supervisor: Prof MT Labuschagne

Co-Supervisors: Dr A Maré and Dr A Jacoby

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN SOIL SCIENCE

MC LEAN, Cowan Chatwin

Cowan Chatwin Mc Lean was born on 10 February 1993 in Kuruman in the Northern Cape. He completed his secondary education in Kathu, matriculating at Kathu High School in 2011. He earned a BSc (Geography and Environmental Science) in 2016, BSc Honours (Soil Science) in 2017, Master of Agricultural Science majoring in Soil Science in 2021, and a PhD in Soil Science in 2025, all at the University of the Free State. He began his career as a research assistant and later worked as a soil scientist conducting field surveys, soil classification, sampling,



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and facilitation (2018–2022). In 2022, he was appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Soil, Crop, and Climate Sciences at the University of the Free State.

With his thesis titled: **DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK TO ASSESS SOIL QUALITY WITHIN SELECTED NATIONAL PARKS, SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to soil science and conservation scholarship by developing a Soil Quality Index (SQI) that integrates physical, chemical, biological, and vegetation indicators. This framework addresses soil degradation challenges in Mapungubwe National Park, Mokala National Park, and the northern Maloti-Drakensberg, where land use changes and natural disturbances undermine soil functioning and biodiversity. The study evaluates restoration practices within Integrated Management Plans, aligned with South African and international conservation legislation, and illustrates the SQI's value for monitoring ecosystem resilience and supporting restoration. Results identify key soil constraints, including sodicity, bulk density, and nutrient limitations, while demonstrating how vegetation composition reflects soil quality. This investigation highlights the SQI as a practical tool for sustainable land management, offering conservation authorities evidence-based guidance to improve restoration strategies and strengthen ecological resilience in protected areas.

Supervisor: Prof JJ van Tol

Co-Supervisors: Prof CC du Preez and Dr AC van Aardt

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

GRWAMBI, Bukelwa

Bukelwa Grwambi was born on 31 July 1979 at Nothenga location in King William's Town. She attended school at Nxawe Primary at eThembeni location and moved to Matsa High School where she matriculated in 1996. Bukelwa attended the University of Fort Hare and graduated with a Master of Agriculture in Agricultural Economics in 2005. She started her career as an agricultural advisor at the Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency in Umtata, and after one year she joined the Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture as an agricultural economist. During the same period, Bukelwa was seconded to the University of Fort Hare as an assistant lecturer and research assistant. In 2008, she joined the Western Cape Department of Agriculture as an assistant director, and she is still in their employ.

With her thesis titled: **SUSTAINABILITY OF INCOME GROWTH OF SMALLHOLDER PRODUCERS IN HIGH VALUE CHAINS: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate makes a significant contribution to sustainable agriculture by analysing the resources shared by strategic partners with smallholder producers integrated in high value chains in terms of their potential to confer a sustainable competitive advantage. Using hierarchical multiple-linear regression analysis, the findings show that the specific investments by strategic partners in smallholder farms present a negative but significant effect on the sustainability of smallholder deciduous fruit farming enterprises. This result shows that strategic partners invest resources in smallholder farming enterprises to primarily complement their own supply contracts and maintain their competitiveness in high value chains. Through these specific investments, smallholder farmers are only able to produce good quality fruit, which affords them market access. The study concludes that strategic partners do not contribute to the development of resources that have the potential to sustain the income growth of smallholder farming enterprises in high-value chains.

Supervisors: Prof VM Mmbengwa and Prof JW Swanepoel



KAU, Joseph Sello

Joseph Sello Kau was born in 1974 in the town of Hammanskraal and matriculated in 1993. He obtained his first four-year degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Pretoria in 1999 and a master's degree at the same university in 2011. He started his career at the Land Bank in 2000, where he worked as senior agricultural economist at the branch level. He is now working for the Agricultural Research Council as manager agricultural economist. He has presented more than 30 scientific conference papers, published eight manuscripts, co-supervised two MSc students, and delivered 10 radio interviews.

With his thesis titled: **DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FRAMEWORK FOR CITRUS RESOURCE-POOR FARMERS IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to the body of knowledge on sustainable development, articulating the research topic from a triple-bottom-line perspective of development, encompassing environmental, social and economic dimensions. Using a mixed-methods design, Kau sampled 401 resource-poor citrus farmers from six provinces in South Africa where citrus is produced. Using the Likert scale that had scoring criteria between 1 and 7, citrus farmers were probed on perceptions regarding important factors for farm-level economic viability and sustainability. The results in chapter eight, which is the chapter on development of the framework, indicated that the following constructs and pathways, Economics ($\beta = 0.109$; $p < 0.001$), Social ($\beta = 0.626$, $p < 0.001$), and Profit ($\beta = 0.676$, $p < 0.001$), were statistically significant in explaining farm-level sustainability.

Supervisor: Prof V M Mmbengwa

Co-Supervisor: Prof JW Swanepoel

MANYARARA, Mari Fungirayi

Mari Fungirayi Manyarara, born on 18 December 1976 in Mutare, Zimbabwe, matriculated at Hartzell High School in 1996 and earned a BSc in Agriculture and Natural Resources from Africa University in 2001. He later obtained a Master's in Strategic Management (2006) from Chinhoyi University and a Master's in Sustainable Agriculture (2018) from the University of the Free State. His humanitarian career began in 2003 as an extension officer in Zimbabwe, progressing to roles such as regional officer, food security and livelihoods manager, and agronomist. He has worked in countries including Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Somalia, and currently Kenya. Since 2023, he has focused on supporting vulnerable, conflict-affected communities by strengthening livelihoods and promoting sustainable agricultural resilience.

With his thesis titled: **ASSESSING CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION, VULNERABILITY, AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES OF RURAL FARMERS IN SEMI-ARID AREAS OF ZIMBABWE**, the candidate contributes insights into how rural farmers in Zimbabwe's semi-arid regions respond to climate risks. Using the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), the study identifies key drivers of adaptive behaviour, such as access to climate forecasts, education, and secure land tenure. The findings emphasise that adaptive capacity has a greater influence on vulnerability levels than either exposure or sensitivity. Access to climate forecasts improved the adoption of drought-resilient practices, though challenges remain in dissemination and farmers' trust. A key contribution of this work is the development of a schematic adaptation framework model that connects local perceptions to climate risk responses. This model offers practical guidance for policymakers, extension services and improvements in climate information systems. The study's evidence-based recommendations will advance climate adaptation across rural and semi-arid areas in sub-Saharan Africa.

Supervisor: Dr WA Tesfahuney

Co-Supervisor: Prof J Swanepoel



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MKHWANAZI, Lindokuhle Vukani

Lindokuhle Vukani Mkhwanazi was born on 13 January 1988 around Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal. He matriculated at Nkodibe High School in 2004 and later obtained a BSc Agricultural Economics degree from the University of Zululand in 2008. In 2012, he obtained a Master of Arts in Community Work at the University of Zululand. In 2018, he obtained a Master's in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of the Free State. His career in agriculture and land reform started in 2009, and he ultimately became a strategic land acquisition director in the government department of Land Reform and Rural Development in 2023.

With his thesis titled: **FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SUCCESS AND FAILURES AMONG BENEFICIARIES OF LAND REFORM FARMS IN KWAZULU-NATAL**, the study contributes to the knowledge bank of land reform. With land reform being topical in political economies in many developing countries, the study provides an in-depth analysis of factors that should be considered in propelling the success of land reform with the 262 sampled farmers. Using principal components analysis, the study established six farmer typologies critical in designing strategic intervention support to land reform. Employing the linear odds and multinomial logistic regression models, the study argues that production input costs, extension service, training, household size, labour man-days, marketing costs, access to credit, and availability of markets are key drivers of the profitability of land reform farms. Furthermore, the farmer's level of education and payment period for produce respectively affect their business acumen and farm's liquidity position in meeting its operational costs.

Supervisor: Dr S Sharaunga

Co-Supervisor: Prof JW Swanepoel

NKPEEBO, Amos

Amos Nkpeebo holds an MSc in Integrated Watershed Management (2010–2012) from Kenyatta University, Kenya. The programme emphasised watershed policy, resource planning, research methods and renewable energy financing, with a thesis on photovoltaic solar energy in Kenya. In 2011, he earned a Certificate in Water and International Relations from Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany, focusing on ecological modernisation, transboundary freshwater conflicts and global development paradigms. He also holds a BSc in Development Planning (2005–2009) from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, with specialisation in development policy planning, project management and research methods.

With his thesis titled: **A STUDY ON BHUNGROO IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY: STORING, LIFTING AND ACCOUNTING FOR ALL DROPS OF WATER IN GHANA**, climate change is exerting profound hydro-climatic stress on the Volta Basin, with impacts such as droughts, flooding and agricultural land degradation surpassing local adaptive capacities. The Bhungroo Irrigation Technology (BIT), currently piloted in Ghana, offers potential for enhancing water availability, affordability and agro-ecological resilience, though its large-scale feasibility remains underexplored. This study applied a transdisciplinary framework to assess sustainable land use practices, livelihood strategies and ecological trade-offs under Integrated Bhungroo Irrigation Technology (IBIT) conditions. Findings reveal subsistence-dominated farming systems – with households combining irrigation, rain-fed agriculture and livestock rearing – and demonstrate positive contributions to environmental flow restoration and resilience. IBIT, integrating digital payment systems and drip irrigation, was found technologically viable, with strong compliance indices upstream and downstream. Significant socio-technical, environmental and cultural barriers remain. The study recommends participatory, socially innovative models that foster alliances between farmers, researchers and civil society to advance systemic agro-ecological adaptation.



Supervisors: Prof JW Swanepoel

Co-Supervisor: Prof SM Mavimbela

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

DE RIDDER, Thomas

Thomas de Ridder was born in Bethlehem in the Free State but matriculated at Frans du Toit High School next to the Kruger National Park. Thereafter, he completed an Honours in Geography and Biology at North-West University, followed by a Research Master's and now a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of the Free State. His 20-year academic and applied research career expanded from economic geography and spatial data science to include digital economics and the application of complexity and network theory to regional planning, e-commerce, FinTech, HealthTech, and bioinformatics.

With his thesis titled: **PERCEPTIONS OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE DIGITAL PLATFORM ECONOMY ON SPATIAL AGGLOMERATION IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**, the candidate explored the perceptions of entrepreneurs in Western Cape towns regarding the effect that the modern digital economy will have on traditional spatial economic development and its theoretical frameworks. He developed a comprehensive theoretical framework identifying fundamental economic forces behind spatial growth, and propositions regarding how they may be affected by the digital platform business model. Mounting threats due to digital platforms include increased economic leakages, the concentration of power, unproductive activities and land uses, and the disruption of micro-agglomeration forces. He proposes amendments to existing spatial development theories to account for the modern digital economy, plus a model of spatial development in the digital era that recognises the mobility of capital and includes growth policies tailored for areas with varying levels of amenity, income potential and urban density.

Supervisor: Prof V Nel

GILDENHUYS, Johannes Stephanus

Stephan Gildenhuys was born on 9 May 1986 in Pretoria and matriculated at the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool in 2004. He obtained a Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning in 2008 and a Master of Town and Regional Planning in 2011 from the University of Pretoria, a Master of Urban Design in 2018 from the University of the Witwatersrand, and a PhD in Spatial Planning in 2025 from the University of the Free State. He began his career at BC Gildenhuys & Associates in 2009 before joining Aurecon South Africa in 2012. Since 2019, he has served as director at BC Gildenhuys & Associates in Pretoria.

With his thesis titled: **EXPLORING A MULTI-CRITERIA SUITABILITY ANALYSIS AND QUANTIFICATION APPROACH TO SPATIAL PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate contributes to the field of spatial planning and urban morphology in post-apartheid South Africa. With this contribution, he attempts to critically evaluate the aims, objectives and shortcomings of post-1994 spatial planning policies and practices, while proposing an alternative framework grounded in morphological analysis and the urban transect. The empirical and conceptual results of this investigation serve as an indication of the value this type of intervention holds for the attempt to find a solution to South Africa's persistent challenges of spatial inequality, unsustainable urban form, and the gap between planning frameworks and implementation realities.



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Supervisor: Prof VJ Nel

Co-Supervisor: Dr G Bruyns

LEWIS, Martin Phillip

Martin Phillip Lewis was born in September 1963 in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. He matriculated from Hoërskool Langenhoven in Pretoria and obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Town and Regional Planning from the University of Pretoria. From central government, he moved to the Springs City Council in 1990, which became part of the City of Ekurhuleni. In 2005 he joined the University of Johannesburg (UJ) as senior lecturer and head of department. In 2010, he was appointed as the first CEO of the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) until December 2023. He is currently a professor of practice at the University of Johannesburg.

With his thesis titled: **TRANSFORMATION OF CURRICULA AND PEDAGOGY IN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA: TEACHING FOR DIVERSE STUDENT COHORTS TRANSCENDING CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND GENERATION**, the candidate contributes to scholarship on the development of an Urban and Regional Planning Pedagogy Suite comprising 25 pedagogies, methods and tools setting out advantages and aspects that lecturers and planning schools will have to consider as part of the potential risks to be addressed. Recommendations for the implementation of these pedagogies, methods and tools are provided to guide planning schools and lecturers in choosing the most appropriate approaches, or a combination thereof. The candidate further developed a "Planning Profession Transformation Timeline: 1994–2024", which identifies key events that impacted the need to transform the urban and regional planning profession. It further provides a visual representation of the responses to the transformation of the profession.

Supervisor: Prof VJ Nel

Co-Supervisor: Prof EJ Cilliers

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALISATION IN ZOOLOGY

KRUGER, Aneke Xandri

Aneke Xandri Kruger was born on 23 July 1997 in Hoedspruit, Limpopo, South Africa. She completed her secondary education at Hoërskool Eldoraigne, where she matriculated in 2015. She obtained a BSc degree in Zoology and Genetics in 2018, BSc Honours in Zoology in 2019 (receiving the ZEISS Prize and the Zoological Society of South Africa Award for best Honours student in Zoology), and MSc in Zoology with distinction in 2021, all at the University of the Free State. From 2018 to 2025 she served as laboratory assistant in the Department of Zoology and Entomology.

With her thesis titled: **DIVERSITY AND TAXONOMY OF COPEPODA IN SELECTED WATERBODIES IN SOUTH AFRICA**, the candidate makes a significant contribution to the taxonomy and biogeography of freshwater copepods in South Africa, where baseline data on this key animal group in critical habitats remain limited. Through extensive field sampling in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, the candidate applied an integrative approach, combining traditional morphological taxonomy with advanced imaging techniques, including scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The redescription of 11 known species and new distribution records represent important updates to the region's copepod diversity. This thesis effectively addresses key knowledge gaps and highlights the continued

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relevance of morphology-based taxonomy in under-studied areas. It lays a strong foundation for future research and will serve as a future reference for biodiversity assessments and ecological monitoring in South Africa freshwater ecosystems.

Supervisor: Dr C Jansen van Rensburg

Co-Supervisor: Prof LL van As

MASTER'S DEGREES

MASTER OF AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

LUNGWANA, Mamakie
Maleshwane

Dissertation Title: MAPPING SOUTH AFRICA'S FORAGE SEED VALUE CHAIN

Supervisors: Mr JS Kau and Prof YT Bahta

MASTER OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

DIKO, Onke

KHUMALO, Gabriella Sbusisiwe

LEBEKO, Lemohang

MAKOLOMAKOE, Thuto

NGWABE, Mpumelelo Mthembeni

OWOLABI, Victoria Olajumoke

TSALONG, Thabo

MASTER OF SCIENCE

FOURIE, Antonie Johannes

Dissertation Title:

MORPHOLOGY AND DIFFUSION OF Cu, Sn AND Zn ELECTRON BEAM EVAPORATED MULTILAYER THIN FILMS

Supervisors: Prof JJ Terblans

Co-supervisor: Prof HC Swart

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGROMETEOROLOGY

KGAPHOLA, Raesibe Lebogang*

Dissertation Title:

DETERMINATION OF WATER USE IN A POMEGRANATE ORCHARD USING EDDY COVARIANCE AND REMOTE SENSING

Supervisors: Dr PC Tharaga

Co-Supervisor: Dr AS Steyn

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALISATION IN AGRONOMY

SENEKAL, Retief

Dissertation Title: AGRONOMIC AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

OF TOPDRESSING NITROGEN ON MAIZE UNDER DRYLAND IN THE NORTH-EASTERN FREE STATE

Supervisors: Prof GM Ceronio

Co-Supervisor: Dr E Van Der Watt

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALISATION IN PLANT BREEDING

DA PAIXAO, Brandon Xavier

Dissertation Title: IMPACT OF BIOSTIMULANTS ON BIOMASS, YIELD, AND NUTRITIONAL POTENTIAL OF MAIZE AND VEGETABLE-TYPE SOYBEAN

Supervisors: Prof R van der Merwe

Co-Supervisor: Dr E Van Der Watt

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WITH SPECIALISATION IN SOIL SCIENCE

GCELU, Sibabalo

Dissertation Title: MECHANISMS OF SOIL AGGREGATE



FACULTY OF **NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

FORMATION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SLAKES AND THE WET-SIEVING METHOD

Supervisors: Prof E Kotze

Co-Supervisor: Dr PF Loke

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NANOSCIENCE

CHOEU, Gedro Malehudu

KHUMALO, Theo Thulani*

MOKONE, Lerato

RADEBE, Ponaki John*

MASTER OF SCIENCE MAJORING IN GEOGRAPHY

MABASO, Sinenhlanhla

Dissertation Title: SPATIO-TEMPORAL MAPPING OF A CITY EXPANSION USING LANDSAT, THE CASE OF THE UMHATHUZE MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisor: Dr PS Mahasa

MOKOENA, Rosy Angel

Dissertation Title: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF SMALLHOLDER FARMING IN STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY IN THE FACE OF COVID-19 IN THE EASTERN FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA

Supervisors: Dr PS Mahasa

Co-Supervisor: Mr SA Zondo

XULU, Avela Siphesihle

Dissertation Title: ASSESSING URBAN LAND AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PATTERNS USING NIGHTTIME LIGHTS FROM SPACEBORNE SENSORS

Supervisor: Dr K Mashiane

MASTER OF SCIENCE MAJORING IN PHYSICS

MORULANE, Katlego Lloyd*

Dissertation Title: FABRICATION OF n-p AND n-p-n STRUCTURES BASED ON INDIUM OXIDE MIXED WITH VARIOUS SEMICONDUCTOR METAL OXIDES FOR VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs) DETECTION AT LOW TEMPERATURES

Supervisors: Prof DE Motaung

Co-Supervisor: Prof HC Swart

MASTER OF SCIENCE MAJORING IN ZOOLOGY

MOSIA, Rasekuwane

Dissertation Title: COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT IN MEERKATS (*SURICATA SURICATA*): COORDINATION AND FITNESS CONSEQUENCES

Supervisor: Prof A le Roux

Co-Supervisors: Dr. L Johnson-Ulrich and Dr V Demartsev

MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH SPECIALISATION IN ASTROPHYSICS

MINNIE, Lurgasho Hristo*

Dissertation Title: THE SEARCH FOR HIGH ENERGY GAMMA-RAY EMISSION FROM TWO WHITE DWARF PULSAR CANDIDATES EUVE J0317-85.5 AND J1912-4410 USING FERMI-LAT DATA

Supervisors: Prof PJ Meintjes

Co-Supervisor: Dr JM Maritz

MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH SPECIALISATION IN BIOCHEMISTRY

MANAMELA, Ralethoko

Dissertation Title: CO-EXPRESSION OF ROTAVIRUS VP2 AND VP6 IN *OGATEA POLYMORPHA* AND *YARROWIA LIPOLYTICA*

Supervisors: Prof HG O'Neill

Co-Supervisor: Prof J Albertyn

MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH SPECIALISATION IN CHEMISTRY

MAKHATHINI, Bathabile Thina

Dissertation Title: STRATEGIES TOWARDS THE SYNTHESIS OF A STILBENE-RELATED



SUBSTITUTED-BUTENOLIDE
NATURAL PRODUCT

Supervisors: Dr C Marais

Co-Supervisor: Dr B
Bezuidenhout

MARUFU, Beverley Andile

Dissertation Title: TITANIUM
RECOVERY FROM TI-BEARING
MINERALS IN ORE DEPOSIT
AND MINE TAILINGS

Supervisors: Dr A Gomez-Arias

Co-Supervisor: Prof KG von
Eschwege

TSHABANG, Boingotlo Ephraim*

Dissertation Title: THE
RECOVERY OF GALLIUM AND
GERMANIUM FROM MINE
TAILINGS

Supervisor: Dr A Gomez-Arias

Co-Supervisor: Prof W Purcell

**MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH
SPECIALISATION IN CLIMATE
CHANGE**

MATLADI, Tshedza

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
WITH SPECIALISATION IN
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND
INFORMATICS**

MATABANE, Karabo*

Dissertation Title: FROM
KNOWLEDGE TO SKILL:
UNRAVELLING THE
METACOGNITIVE TAPESTRY OF
PROGRAMMATIC PROBLEM-
SOLVING

Supervisor: Prof E Nel

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
WITH SPECIALISATION IN
ENTOMOLOGY**

MAKAOTA, Keletso*

Dissertation Title: ECOLOGICAL
IMPACTS OF *CYLINDROPUNTIA
PALLIDA* (CACTACEAE),
HERBICIDAL MANAGEMENT,
AND EFFICACY OF *BACILLUS
AMYLOLIQUEFACIENS* AS
A BIOPESTICIDE IN SOUTH
AFRICA

Supervisor: Dr N Dube

Co-Supervisor: Dr TM
Mokotjomela

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
WITH SPECIALISATION IN
ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY**

MMHALENI, Wendy Ntshembo

Dissertation Title:
BIOGEOCHEMISTRY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND GOLD
TAILINGS DISPOSED IN
UNDERGROUND MINE VOIDS

Supervisor: Dr RN Hansen

**MASTER OF SCIENCE
WITH SPECIALISATION
IN ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

MARAKALALA, Malesele
Boitumelo

MOKODUWE, Kgomotso

Dissertation Title:
DETERMINING THE
PHYTOREMEDIATION
POTENTIAL OF SELECTED
WATER TYPES WITH
FLOATING WETLANDS
CONTAINING VETIVER GRASS
(*CHRYSOPOGON ZIZANIOIDES*)

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Co-Supervisor: Dr M Claassen
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SCIENCE**

VIKTOR, Jan Andries*

Dissertation Title: THE
RHEOLOGICAL AND
CHEMICAL CHANGES OF
MUCILAGE EXTRACTED FROM
REFRIGERATED CLADODES OF
OPUNTIA FICUS-INDICA AND
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VAN ASWEGEN, Petrus Stefanus
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Dissertation Title:
GROUNDWATER EXPLORATION
NEAR STEELPOORT IN THE
EASTERN LIMB OF THE
BUSHVELD COMPLEX: A
GEOPHYSICAL APPROACH

Supervisor: Prof FD Fourie

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KRUGER, Jacobus Arnoldus*

Dissertation Title:
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HEATWAVES AND COLDWAVES
VARIABILITY IN SOUTH
AFRICA'S NORTHERN CAPE
PROVINCE

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GROUNDWATER RESOURCE
IN KARST AQUIFERS: A CASE
STUDY OF THE QUATERNARY
CATCHMENTS C23D AND
C23E IN THE VAAL WATER
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MIXTURE CURE MODELS WITH
MISSING DATA AND UNEQUAL
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CHARACTERISATION
OF AVIBACTERIUM
PARAGALLINARUM AND THE

EXPLOITATION OF DIFFERENT
GENES TO DEVELOP A NOVEL
MOLECULAR TYPING SYSTEM

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SUPRAMOLECULAR SELF-
ASSOCIATING AMPHIPHILES
AGAINST RESISTANT
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OF 24C-STEROL
METHYLTRANSFERASES FROM
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Dissertation Title: ACTIVATION
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PROTEIN BY CRYPTOCOCCUS
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