



Faculty of
The Humanities

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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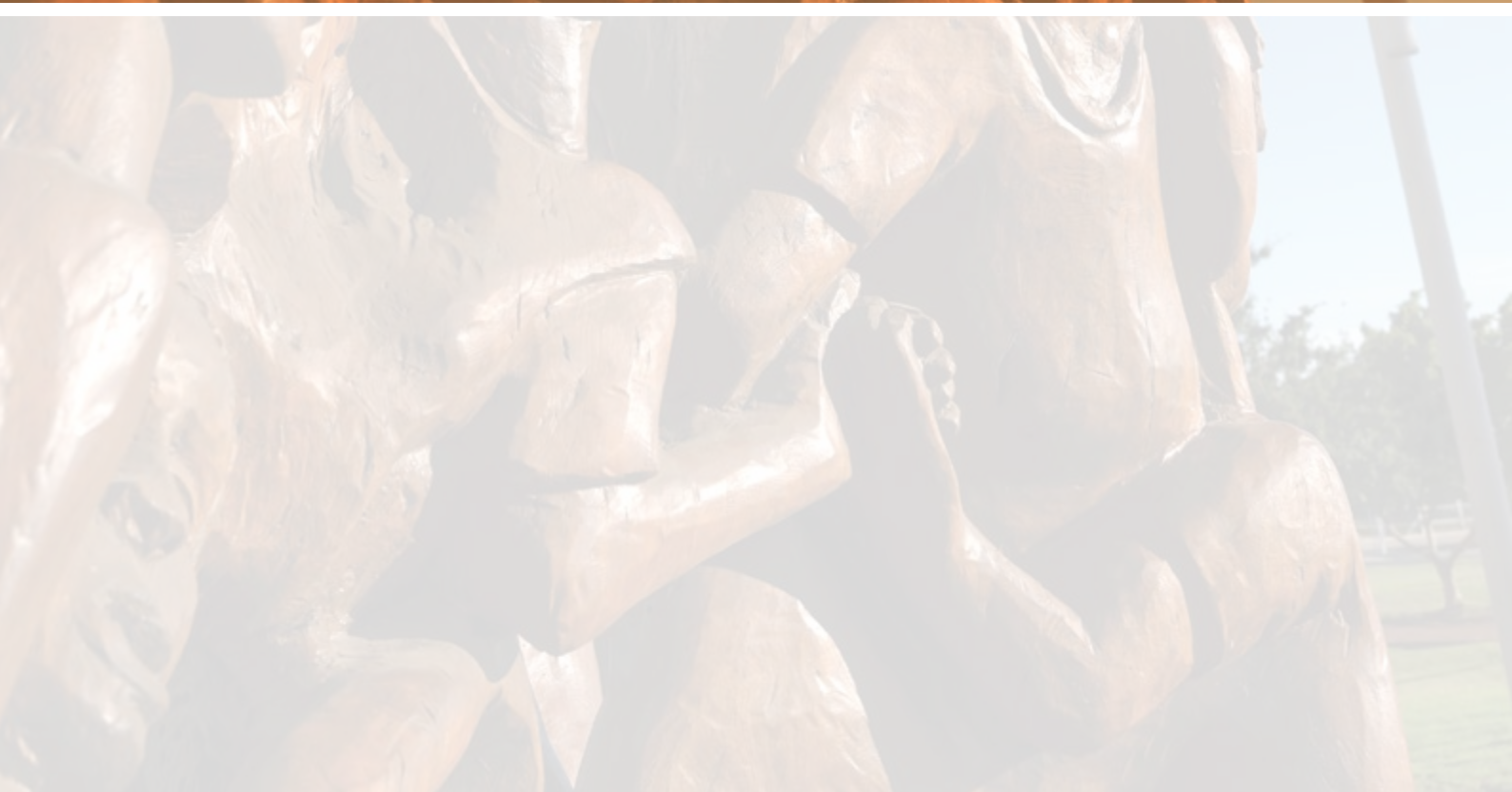


UFS
THE HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

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The Humanities

Annual Report 2024



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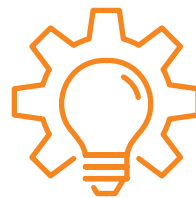
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of 2024



Teaching and
Learning



Research
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Engaged
Scholarship



Deliverables

**Staying
focused
in 2024**

Reflections from the Dean of the Faculty of The Humanities

Prof Mogomme A. Masoga



We are back to another season of reporting as a Faculty! The year 2024 is yet another year where we, as a Faculty, have made tremendous and significant strides in many domains, ranging from research, teaching and learning to engaged scholarship. I am grateful and proud that the Faculty continues to showcase dedication to the field of the Humanities. This report is a reflection of active endeavours among engaged scholars to find solutions to the global challenges society faces and be involved in research and community activities to contribute to the sustainability and advancements of the Humanities.

Notably, the activities in 2024 within the Faculty have brought to the fore that we must remain mindful of the fact that the higher education space is changing rapidly, with global trends impacting the very essence of this particular space. We are seeing a shift in how technology influences the world and dictates how the world should behave, which is, of course, unavoidable. As academics, we must, therefore, reframe and rework traditional educational models and practices to remain current with global trends and align with the future needs of students, as well as staff and the communities we work with.

Thus, understandably, artificial intelligence (AI) has become the centre of conversation, especially regarding how it can be harnessed in the current higher education space, where it has come to settle within teaching and learning practices, as well as research. Ethically and responsibly incorporating AI and other digital technologies into teaching and learning practices ensures that students and staff stay current in an ever-evolving world. However, it requires implementing targeted policies that ensure digital transformation reflects a more inclusive and diverse representation of global discourse, fostering a more equitable exchange of ideas and contributing to the preservation and growth of diverse cultures in our digital era.

Particularly, AI has created increased awareness of issues of quality assurance, necessitating academics to reimagine and rethink their teaching and learning methods. Also, AI's rapid evolvement and continuous presence in research practices have resulted in scholars questioning the originality of data, but it has also transformed and positively contributed to aspects such as data analysis and identifying themes and trends within research. Whether positive or negative, technology has assumed a very central role in the higher education environment, and we must continue to encourage, stimulate and support computational research and development.

In addition to the impact of technology on the field of the Humanities, linguistic imperialism and gender disparity remain challenges within higher education spaces. We should take them into account in our teaching and learning practices, and perhaps attempt to use language, for example, in such a way as to steer us in sharing knowledge, shaping worldviews, and promoting inclusivity, focusing on acknowledging students' languages within the education setting, subsequently encouraging them to actively participate in academic dialogues. Also, if our teaching methods and practices reflect gender-responsiveness and inclusivity, perhaps students would be more motivated to learn, think independently and contribute to academic discourse. In addition, our teaching and learning practices must enhance ecological integrity, social equity, and economic prosperity for present and future generations.

Another aspect within higher education that requires rethinking and reimagining is internationalisation in light of ongoing global wars and conflicts. Some of these global conflicts have unsettled and deeply affected marginalised communities, especially women and children. As Humanities scholars, we endeavour to build harmonious relationships between and within societies, advocating for mutually respectful and reciprocal partnerships, both locally and globally. However, the complexity and extensiveness of the current global challenges create uncertainty regarding the future of higher education. Despite this, universities remain central to shaping community engagement, promoting collaboration across borders, and comprehensively addressing human needs. Thus, universities, and in particular, we, as Humanities scholars, should continue to advocate and champion prosperity, peace, and partnership to drive meaningful economic and social advancement for all humankind.

This is especially important since the whole idea of community has shifted due to emerging peri-urban spaces that have come into the debate. Migrations and borders are not only critical topics but critical challenges, as they have actually reformulated the idea of what community is, making it an elusive concept. Former settled communities are now unsettled communities due to people moving as a result of social, political and economic challenges experienced globally, continentally and regionally. We need to be mindful of such challenges and display patience, empathy, and cultural competence while addressing the unique challenges created by the emergence of peri-urban spaces, seeking solutions for an inclusive and just global society.

However, seeking solutions to society's challenges requires funding, which remains a significant challenge for higher education institutions. Importantly, it is not only about exploring how universities fund research practices, but more importantly, how we fund our students. A decade ago, South Africa witnessed the rise of the 'Fallist' movements of both #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall, with students mobilised to confront the injustices they experienced. To this day, students continue to feel the increased strain of academic adjustment, financial challenges, and social pressures, reflecting the microcosmic challenges of inequalities that we face on a daily basis, subsequently perpetuating the larger, global systemic inequalities.

It is thus imperative to acknowledge such inequalities, deliberate on how we can make an impactful contribution to overturning such inequalities, and deeply think about the future of higher education spaces going forward. This should not be an option, but a mandatory, obligatory pursuit, showcasing vigilance, action, and unity, underscored by the commitment to fair financial access and inclusion.



In addition, the time has come to seriously rethink the Humanities, more specifically, the future of the discipline. Rethinking the Humanities is all about what it means to study this discipline and what it means to teach in the Humanities. Here, public humanities come to the fore, which requires dialogue among diverse audiences. We need to include our communities and greater society when reimagining the field of the Humanities to ensure we address the needs of those we serve, subsequently showcasing commitment to a more knowledgeable and engaged staff and student cohort, as well as the broader society. Transdisciplinary research is important in this regard, as it creates a platform for thinking about what is critical in taking this process forward. Without dialogue and collaborations with other disciplines, the Humanities risk not successfully contributing to global societal change and transformation. I am, however, positive about such endeavours, given what colleagues have already done. At the same time, I am also excited to see what other contributions our colleagues can bring to both their teaching and learning practices and research activities.

Furthermore, I am excited about the new conversations that are taking place at the University of the Free State (UFS) in terms of rethinking its business practices and reimagining itself, given the array of challenges higher education faces. Although this is a daunting task, I feel privileged to be part of this process, as the UFS prides itself in remaining reputable, relevant and responsible by being *stewards of good governance who are accountable, responsible, and dutiful in our actions*' (www.ufs.ac.za). More importantly, I look forward to an enriching experience as we continue on this UFS rethinking-resaping-reimagining journey together, a journey to create '*... circumstances that are not only conducive to high-quality teaching, learning, and scholarship, but doing this in ways that emphasise the well-being and happiness of the University community*' (www.ufs.ac.za).

This report, which we present for 2024, is a testimony of efforts by dedicated colleagues in our Faculty's different departments and centres committed to driving academic excellence and scholarly success. Their commitment is seen in the increasing number of NRF-rated researchers in our Faculty, their contributions to research articles and book chapters, as well as the significant international connections and collaborations they have established. I commend you for your efforts and know you will continue to grow our Faculty's research ratings, collaborations and local and global impact, which requires ongoing collaboration among colleagues and different faculties.

I challenge you to explore innovative and impactful options within our disciplines, whilst recognising the communities our Faculty has forged relationships with. This will draw us closer to engaged scholarship, where the impact and influence of our intellectual and academic experiences are evident. Through these communities, we can say that our Faculty is alive!

In this report, we also pay tribute to our students, both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Thank you for trusting us with your academic career. We are proud of all who have graduated and who still need to graduate ... keep making an impact in society!

Furthermore, this report is a celebration of the commitment, dedication, and intellectual and academic fellowship of the Faculty of the Humanities! We value the support of UFS management in contributing to the achievements set out in this report, and we look forward to an ever-increasing relationship that will foster and open up new opportunities for academic success and research excellence.



Reflections from the Assistant Dean (Qwaqwa Campus)

A portrait of Prof Jared McDonald, a man with short brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. The background of the portrait is a blurred image of a university building with orange-tinted windows.

Prof Jared McDonald

The year 2024 was a landmark one for the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of the Free State's Qwaqwa Campus. As Assistant Dean, I am proud to reflect on a year defined by academic achievement, deepened community engagement, and exciting steps towards greater postgraduate growth and internationalisation. The Faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, research, engaged scholarship, and multilingual innovation continues to yield measurable and inspiring outcomes.

At the heart of the Faculty's mission is a sustained dedication to the transformative power of teaching and learning. Throughout 2024, our academic departments have worked collectively to provide intellectually rich, inclusive, and student-centred learning experiences. Special emphasis has been placed on curriculum renewal with several lecturers participating in the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Curriculum Renewal Programme. Other ongoing initiatives include the incorporation of blended learning and creative assessment strategies.

Notably, the Faculty has intensified its focus on growing its postgraduate footprint. Through efforts to improve supervision capacity and structured writing support workshops, we have witnessed an increase in postgraduate enrolments across departments. This growth is vital for advancing our scholarly agenda and nurturing the next generation of socially engaged Humanities scholars. A major highlight this year was the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies enrolling its first cohort in a new Postgraduate Diploma in Community Development. This programme addresses urgent societal needs and equips students with the theoretical and practical tools to drive grassroots transformation in marginalised communities.

In 2024, the Faculty of the Humanities on the Qwaqwa Campus reached a significant research milestone by recording its highest-ever total number of accredited research outputs in a single calendar year.

This achievement reflects a clear upward trajectory in scholarly productivity and reaffirms the calibre of our academic staff. Particularly noteworthy were the contributions of Dr Jared McDonald and Dr Victor Gwande from the Department of History. Both scholars were awarded National Research Foundation (NRF) ratings for their sustained research impact. Their accomplishments were also celebrated in the Faculty's first-ever joint book launch event on the Qwaqwa Campus in April 2024, which drew together postgraduate students, colleagues, and members of the broader UFS community.

The Faculty continues to place high value on its role as a public intellectual partner in the region. Staff and students have been active in various community-engaged initiatives, from oral history projects and language revitalisation efforts to public dialogue series and school outreach. One of the most impactful partnerships has been between the Department of African Languages and the Academy for Multilingualism. Together, they are making tremendous strides in enhancing the scientific and academic vocabulary of Sesotho, enabling the language to flourish as a medium of instruction and research.

This initiative not only strengthens linguistic diversity and epistemic justice but also ensures that Sesotho-speaking students and communities are meaningfully included in academic discourse.

The Faculty also made significant progress in advancing internationalisation. A growing number of staff members have established active research collaborations with scholars across Africa and globally, contributing to special journal issues, edited volumes, and international conferences. Notably, the Department of Sociology has established close ties with Freiburg University of Education in Germany. In addition to facilitating virtual exchanges and workshops as well as postgraduate supervision, the Memorandum of Understanding enables one Master's student per annum to visit Freiburg University of Education for a period of four months.

In November 2024, the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies co-hosted an international conference in partnership with the Department of Sociology under the theme "Global Crises and Population Shocks in Africa: In Search of Decolonial Recoveries in the Face of Rising Insecurity, Pandemics, Climate Shocks and Emergencies, and Financial Subordination." The conference provided a dynamic intellectual space to explore sustainable policy responses and recovery strategies aligned with the principles of decolonisation and a reimagined role for Africa in an increasingly unstable global order. As we look to strengthen our presence on the international stage, we remain mindful that internationalisation must be inclusive, reciprocal, and grounded in the knowledge traditions of the Global South. The Faculty's location in Qwaqwa is not a limitation but a unique vantage point from which we can speak meaningfully to challenges and questions of global significance.

A special word of appreciation must go to our dedicated support staff, who provide the administrative backbone of the Faculty. From managing registration processes and coordinating Open Days to facilitating academic advising workshops, their professionalism and commitment ensure the smooth functioning of our academic enterprise. Their often-unsung contributions are essential to the success of our students and staff alike.

The Faculty of the Humanities at the Qwaqwa Campus enters the next academic year with renewed energy and a growing sense of purpose. Our record-breaking research output, expanding postgraduate enrolments, and commitment to community partnerships reflect a Faculty on the move. We remain determined to build a future in which the Humanities continue to play a vital role in shaping society, championing equity, and nurturing critical, creative, and compassionate thinkers.

Faculty deliverables 2024

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
Goal 1: To improve our academic excellence, reputation, and impact					
1.1 Placing increased emphasis on research that advances societal and knowledge impact	1.1.1 Share of total income that is directed to research	Operational budget allocation for research (including postgraduate bursaries, salaries, & strategically appropriable funds), earmarked government grants for research, & total NRF & research contract income, as a share of total income.	15% (Increase from 14,8%)	Conduct interventions to promote research undertaking	Eligible postgraduate students were identified and offered bursaries through the Centre for Graduate Support.
	1.1.2 Three-year citation rate in selected SDGs	Citations per publication, or number of citations UFS publications receives on average, calculated over 3 years, only in SciVal/SCOPUS research areas of SDG 2: Zero Hunger, 3: Good Health and Well-being, 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 13: Climate Action, 15: Life on Land, and 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.	17 (Increase from 15)	Implement initiatives to promote research undertakings in research areas of relevant SDGs	Relevant SDGs for research undertaken in the Faculty were identified and communicated in line with the institutional SDGs.
	1.1.3 UFS research reputation among published academics worldwide	Reputation of UFS as perceived by published scholars around the world, per Times Higher Education (THE) DataPoints Reputation Dashboard : Over 100,000 survey respondents from 2,500 institutions 'vote' for their top 10 universities = number of votes institution receives from respondents.	14 (Increase from 12)	Conduct workshops in association with improving the reputation of UFS.	The Faculty successfully supported staff members working on their PhDs through the National Institute of Humanities and Social Science (NIHSS) Regional Mentorship Programme. Some Faculty staff members are involved in the NRF review/evaluation processes.
1.2 Ensuring the quantity, quality, and diversity of academic staff with a renowned global reputation	1.2.1 International research leaders as a share of permanent academic staff	Share of permanently appointed instruction/research staff who are leading international and internationally acclaimed researchers and prestigious awardees (i.e., those rated A, B and P by the NRF).	4,5% (Increase from 4%)	Implement research-related initiatives to support the development of instruction/research staff towards NRF-rating.	Workshops were conducted for NRF-rated and prospective applicants for NRF-rating. A writing retreat was conducted to develop researchers' writing for publication. Through WoRiTH, staff members attended a conference at the University of Zululand. Quarterly Faculty research meetings were held to ensure the committee fulfils and supports staff research needs.
	1.2.2 Number of academic staff who authored an accredited publication output as a share of permanent academic staff	Number of instruction/research staff who authored an accredited publication output, including all types of DHET-accredited publication outputs, irrespective of the number of output units generated by the author, as a share of permanently appointed instruction/research staff.	55% (Increase from 48%)	Develop a Faculty research strategy to guide instruction/research staff on publication processes.	Although there is no documented strategy, research development needs were identified through staff engagement and an intervention initiated.

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
	1.2.3 Co-publication: Scholarly output with international collaborators as a share of total scholarly output	Scholarly output (number of publications) with international co-authors as a share of total scholarly output at UFS.	47% (Increase from 45,5%)	SoTL seminar was held on 18 July 2024 at Clarens, the theme of the seminar was Towards The Humanities' Learning and Teaching Hub. The Centre for Gender and Africa Studies hosted a Colloquium from 27-29 August 2024 under the theme: Decolonising knowledge production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts: Reflecting on a decade of Charter for Humanities and Social Sciences in South African Higher Education. A book and a Special Issue from the conference are forthcoming. The Sociology Department and CGAS hosted an international conference on the Qwaqwa Campus on 21 and 22 November 2024. The conference's theme was "Africa in the Age of Global Crisis – Wars, Pandemics, Climate Emergencies, and Financial Subordination: The Search for Decolonial Responses and Sustainable Recoveries". Workshop on Publishing Journeys: Progress and Pitfalls held on 19 November 2024. Reflective Session for Women Researchers in the Humanities (WoRiTH) held on 4 December 2024.	
1.3 Ensure that our academic offerings and practices produce desirable and successful graduates	1.3.1 External stakeholder perceptions of the desirability of UFS graduates	Share of external stakeholder survey respondents (excluding current UFS staff and students) who would recommend UFS as a producer of desirable graduates, and/or agree that the UFS' academic offerings and practices produce desirable graduates, and/or that UFS graduates are preferred employees.	52% (Increase from 50%)	Deliver initiatives to promote the desirability of UFS graduates	Strong collaborations with Career Services to promote graduate employability. Most departments have advisory boards and regularly meet to discuss issues related to graduates' employability. The University has an MoU with PACOFS, and the Faculty is working closely to engage departments and students. The Faculty hosted an AI Colloquium on 26 September 2025, engaging students, staff and industry on work readiness with AI. Undergraduate students were engaged in community projects such as school library establishment, a Spelling Bee competition, and a career exhibition. They actively took part in displaying their attained graduate attributes. Faculty student leadership also actively participated in Faculty leadership structures to enhance their leadership skills.

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
	1.3.2 Postgraduate enrolments as a share of total enrolments	Doctoral, Master's, Honours, and other postgraduate enrolments, as a share of total enrolments.	16% (Maintain at 16%)	Develop research activities to support and attract postgraduate students	Our Honours students actively participated in the Library and Information Services Honours and undergraduate research seminar (LISHURS) held on 5 April 2024 to promote their research skills. The 3-Minute Thesis competition took place for M&D students

Goal 2: To promote an environment of agility, flexibility and responsiveness based on trust and accountability

2.1 Ensure the policies, systems, processes, and practices are appropriate, effective, and efficient	2.1.1 Staff experience of the effectiveness of policies, systems, processes and practices	Share of staff survey respondents who are satisfied with 17 processes* that have been identified by the UFS as key to realising Vision 130	43% (Increase from 41%)	Conduct initiatives to improve staff experience of the effectiveness of policies, systems, processes and practices.	The Faculty Management Committee and Faculty Board were used as platforms to discuss areas of improvement in relation to policies and procedures. For example, risk management was identified as one of the areas for improvement, and therefore, it was discussed during the Faculty Management Committee meeting to create a common understanding amongst Faculty leadership.
2.2 Ensure appropriate academic structures as well as management and leadership capacity	2.2.1 Share of academic Department heads who are associate or full professors	Academic Department heads who are associate or full professors as a share of all academic Department heads.	55,2% (Increase from 55%)	Conduct interventions to support the development of senior/ leadership academic staff.	The Faculty, HR and CTL held regular staff development initiatives. - The Humanities Excellence Awards - Institutional Learning and Teaching Awards - Academic Leadership Programme - Staff coaching and mentorship programme
	2.2.2 Share of academic departments with less than 10 permanent academic staff members	Academic departments with nine or fewer permanent instruction/research staff as a share of all academic departments.	Decrease from 57% (61% is possibly human error)	Produce a discussion document on the Faculty's future departmental viability.	Conversations relating to departmental viability were initiated with relevant stakeholders, which will be further explored in 2025.
2.3 Leverage the use of digital technologies, business intelligence, and analytics to enable evidence-based decision-making	2.3.1 Share of UFS management staff who access business intelligence platforms	Management staff who sign in to UFS PowerHEDA Dashboards as a share of all management staff, where management staff include staff appointed in junior, middle, senior and top management job categories, as well as those appointed as academic management.	30% (Increase from 29%)	Conduct initiatives to encourage management staff's sign-in to UFS PowerHEDA.	PowerHEDA training was provided to the Academic Head of Departments and Programme Directors to enable them to access business intelligence platforms. This will be further strengthened in 2025.

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
Goal 3: To advance a transformational institutional culture that demonstrates the values of the UFS					
3.1 Creating a vibrant space for, and acceptance of, constructive and critical engagement	3.1.1 Staff experience of engagement	Share of staff survey respondents who agree with 12 statements measuring engagement in the workplace.	62% (Increase from 60%)	Establish a platform to improve staff experience of engagement.	Lecturer staff meetings, which are held twice a year Support staff meetings Faculty Board Meeting Faculty Management Committee Meeting Support Staff Forum held a Support Staff Survey
	3.1.2 Undergraduate student experience of advanced student-lecturer engagement	Share of undergraduate student survey respondents who report that they have often engaged in advanced forms of student-lecturer engagement during the current academic year, including: talked about their career plans with a lecturer; worked with a staff member on activities other than academic work; discussed module/subject topics, ideas, or concepts with a lecturer outside of class; and discussed their academic performance with a lecturer.	25% (Increase from 23%)	Establish an intervention to improve undergraduate students' experience of advanced student-lecturer engagement.	Module evaluations were conducted at the end of each semester, and reports shared with the relevant lecturers for their understanding of students' needs in relation to their modules.
3.2 Become an institution of choice for exceptional students, academics, and support staff	3.2.1 External and internal stakeholder perceptions of the UFS reputation as an institution of choice	Share of internal and external stakeholder survey respondents who would recommend the UFS as a leading (top-tier) university of choice, and/or agree that the UFS is an institution of choice for employees and students.	61% (Increase from 60%)	Establish an intervention to improve stakeholder perceptions of the UFS reputation.	Active engagement by the Advisory Board indicated a positive perception of the Faculty. The increase in the number of prospective students during the Open Day speaks to the visibility, exposure and impact of the Faculty, and ultimately the UFS. The increase in the number of departments that participated in community engagement initiatives enhanced our visibility and societal impact. The collaboration of the Faculty with the UFS Office of Engaged Scholarship and the Free State Department of the Premier elevated the reputation of the Faculty. The Faculty participated in the University's marketing through the recording of the Voices of Vision130 series, which focused on one of our Engaged Scholarship projects.

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
	3.2.2 Share of first-time entering undergraduate students with admission point score (APS) of 35 and above	Share of first year (i.e., first-time entering undergraduate) students with an admission point score of 35 and above.	22,5% (Increase from 19%)	Implement initiatives to recruit high-performing students from schools in the country.	Through our marketing division, students were recruited through Open Day, targeted school visits both within and outside the province.
	3.2.3 Share of transfer Master's and doctoral enrolments who transferred from top South African universities	Master's and doctoral students who enrol at UFS as transfers from a top South African university, including the top 5 universities in Times Higher Education World University Rankings, as a share of all Master's and doctoral students who enrol as transfers to UFS from other universities.	9,3% (Increase from 8,6%)	Implement initiatives to recruit Master's and doctoral students from top South African universities.	In July 2024, a Postgraduate event was held with UFS student recruitment in Paarl, where students from the Universities of Cape Town, Western Cape and Stellenbosch attended. The Chancellor, Prof Bonang Mohale, also graced the event with his presence.
3.3 Become a home for staff and students from diverse backgrounds	3.3.1 Student satisfaction with being on campus	Share of student survey respondents who report being satisfied with feeling safe on campus, feeling at home on campus, and with student-staff relations, race relations, and gender relations on campus.	55,5% (Increase from 55%)	Establish an intervention to improve students' experience with being on campus.	Faculty Orientation and welcoming session have been successfully used to welcome and encourage active participation in Faculty initiatives. Through the Faculty Student Council (FSC), students participated in the AI Colloquium, where they were part of a panel discussion.
	3.3.2 Share of new academic staff members leaving the UFS within the first three years of appointment	Share of instruction/research staff members who were newly appointed in permanent positions and who left the UFS within three years of appointment due to resignations, retirements and retrenchments.	10% (Decrease from 11%)	Implement a strategy to improve staff experience at the University.	Planned interventions were initiated to welcome and retain new staff members in the Faculty.
3.4 Improvement in the equity profile of academic leadership	3.4.1 Share of professoriate who are female	The percentage of female professoriate who are appointed in permanent positions.	35% (Increase from 34%)	Determine a strategy to develop senior academics who are female	WoRiTH has been key in creating a platform for female academics to grow. NGAP and Qhubeka, TAU, are programmes to promote academics, more specifically, females.

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
	3.4.2 Share of professoriate who are black	'Black' includes African, Coloured and Indian staff members, irrespective of nationality (including associate professors).	29% (Increase from 25%)	Determine a strategy to improve the share of Black senior academics.	The Hum Excellence Awards is a platform to encourage Black academics to participate in the programme for their growth and recognition. The Mellon Foundation was instrumental in promoting some Black academics and offering them space to grow and develop. Some of our Black female academics participated in the institutional SoTL fellowship programme.

Goal 4: To promote stewardship and the prioritisation of institutional resources for strategic intent

4.1 Ensure the efficiency of the non-academic support structures and systems	4.1.1 Staff experience of efficiency of administrative support structures and systems	Share of staff survey respondents satisfied with the 27 listed UFS support services.	47% (Increase from 46%)	Establish an intervention to improve staff experience of the efficiency of administrative support structures and systems.	Support Staff Forum conducted a Support Staff Survey to determine the experiences of staff members. A survey was conducted to determine the needs of staff members working on their PhDs.
	4.1.2 Share of key administrative processes that are digitalised	Share of 17 processes identified as critical to the realisation of Vision 130 that are 100% digitalised.	29% (Increase from 24%)	Develop a plan to digitalise the relevant Faculty administration process.	For the first time, the Faculty planned to implement online registration and staff members were trained to conduct this process. All the departments that received funding from the Digitisation Fund continued to successfully use the resources in learning and teaching, as well as for administrative purposes.
4.2 Ensure the principles of investment to enable academic excellence, with particular emphasis on research and postgraduate activity	4.2.1 Postgraduate student satisfaction with services and support provided by the UFS	Share of postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate student survey respondents who are satisfied with 17 relevant support services provided to students by the UFS.	56% (Increase from 54%)	Establish an intervention to improve postgraduate students' experience with support services.	Started to plan interventions on the process for approvals of research proposals for Master's and PhD students.
4.3 Increase our research and innovation competitiveness	4.3.1 Research income as a share of total income	Income from research output block grant, earmarked grants for research, and contracts for research and clinical research activities, as a share of the total income of the Group.	17% (Increase from 15%)	Conduct an initiative to encourage an increase in research income.	Workshops were conducted for NRF-rated applicants as well as prospective applicants for the NRF rating. A writing retreat was conducted to develop researchers' writing for publication.

Strategic objective	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Technical Descriptor	UFS 2024 Target	Faculty Activities	Progress
4.4 Ensure the efficiency of academic programmes, offerings, and academic support systems	4.4.1 Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) viability	Share of viable PQM plans, as measured through the UFS PQM Viability Index.	87% (Increase from 85%)	Produce a discussion document on the Faculty's future PQM viability	Discussion with DIRAP was held on PQM in relation to the Humanities. Individual discussions were also held with specific departments regarding their planned PQM.
	4.4.2 Student satisfaction with academic support services	Share of student survey respondents who report being satisfied with the listed UFS academic support services.	56% (Increase from 54%)	Establish an intervention to improve student experience with academic support services.	Ran an A_STEP tutorial survey in collaboration with CTL on students' experiences in tutorial classes. Conducted training of tutors for FYSP, Social Science modules, and A_STEP in collaboration with CTL. Through the appeals processes, referrals have been made for students to access institutional support services.



Highlights from the Dean's Office

Appointment of the Vice-Deans

The Faculty appointed two (2) Vice-Deans, namely Prof Nompumelelo Zondi for Research and Postgraduate Studies, and Prof Marlice Rabe for Teaching and Learning.



Vice-Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies: Prof Nompumelelo Zondi

Prof Zondi assumed her role on 1 March 2024 after serving as the Head of Department of African Languages at the University of Pretoria. She is a full Professor specialising in African Languages. Her motivation for considering this role was to share the knowledge she acquired as part of the [Fulbright South African Research Scholar Programme](#). While she considers research central to Vision 130, she feels students deserve to be nurtured to further contribute to the university's impactful research, and she does so through mentoring of postgraduate students within the university and nationally.



Vice-Dean: Teaching and Learning: Prof Marlice Rabe

Prof Rabe was appointed on 1 April 2024. She brings a wealth of experience and a vision for advancing pedagogical excellence within the academic community. She previously served as Head of the Sociology Department at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). Her academic journey allows her to navigate her new portfolio's responsibilities, drawing from her extensive experience in undergraduate and postgraduate education.

Recognition of staff

Dr Rosaline Sebolao was nominated for the 2024 HERS-SA Academy Awards under the category Women in Academic Administration. The criteria for these awards included recognition for a female leader who has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills over a minimum period of five (5) years in the higher education sector, specifically in academic administration. Nominees were evaluated based on their innovative interventions and practices that enhance institutional performance, evidence of peer mentoring, and community engagement activities such as school visits, mentoring, and after-school projects for underprivileged students. Dr Sebolao was then recognised as one of the top five finalists at the awards ceremony hosted by HERS-SA Academy from 25-29 August 2024, as captured in the picture below. Following this recognition, the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) also recognised her at the University's awards in October 2024.



Dr Rosaline Sebolao (second from the left) with other finalists.

HUM Excellence Awards

The year 2024 marked the third year that the Faculty hosted these awards, and a continuous improvement has been observed. Reflecting on the first awards in 2022, only males were awarded (five White males and one Black male). In 2023, female academics were encouraged to participate in the awards and to date, the Faculty has awarded seven female academics as follows:

- 2023: Two Black, two White females and one White male
- 2024: Two Black females, one White female and three Black males

Congratulations to the following colleagues for their outstanding work and contribution to excellence in the Faculty:

1. Dr Merlene Esau: Department of Social Work (Category: Engaged Scholarship)
2. Dr Frelet de Villiers: Odeion School of Music (Category: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning)
3. Dr Nombulelo Shange: Department of Sociology (Category: Early Career Research)
4. Dr Ashwill Phillips: Department of Criminology (Category: Early Career Research)
5. Dr Absolum Nkosi: Odeion School of Music (Category: Curriculum Development, Transformation and Renewal)
6. Dr Victor Gwande: Department of History (Category: Research with International Impact)

It is evident that the excellence awards have the potential to contribute towards the transformation of the Faculty.

The following colleagues obtained their qualifications

1. Avela Ntsongelwa: Master of Arts in Communication Science: University of the Free State
2. Israel Mawoyo: Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education: University of the Free State
3. Mojalefa Buti: Master of Business Administration: University of the Free State

Teaching and Learning Support

First-Year Success Programme (FYSP)

First-Year Orientation

The 2024 Faculty of the Humanities First-Year Orientation Day held on 10 February 2024 was one to remember as hundreds of first-year students from Bloemfontein and South campuses filled the Kopanong Auditorium, where they were welcomed by the deanery, student leaders, and academic and support staff members. This was an auspicious event as students were introduced to what the Faculty has to offer. The event kicked off with students being treated to a prerecorded welcome message

from the Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities, Prof Masoga. In his welcome message, Prof Masoga congratulated the students for succeeding in their matric examinations and for choosing the University of the Free State and the Faculty of the Humanities as their university and faculty of choice, respectively.

He also highlighted what a qualification in the Humanities could achieve in a wounded world. His profound message cemented the value of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in a world that he geared to esteem other disciplines at the expense of others. In keeping with the message of the Dean, Academic Heads of Departments (AoHDs) or their representatives provided valuable insight into their specific subjects, highlighting the career choices students could pursue upon completing their studies. The orientation session served as a platform for introducing students to various support services that are at their disposal.



First-Year Orientation Day: Kopanong Auditorium

Academic Success Tutorial and Excellence Programme (A_STEP)

In 2024, A_STEP continued to grow within the Faculty with two new modules joining in the first and second semesters. The growing number of modules in A_STEP shows both the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Faculty's commitment to student success. For modules in the programme, students' pass rate continues to increase year by year, showing a positive relationship between tutorial attendance and average pass rate. Of the many successes in the programme, we are especially proud of all our students, who have shown commitment to their studies, some of whom have become tutors themselves in the programme. A special mention to our History tutor, Bongumenzi (Menzi) Thwala, who walked away with Best A_STEP Tutor in the Faculty of the Humanities, and second overall Best tutor in A_STEP at the Annual Tutor Awards, held by the Centre for Teaching and Learning in October 2024.



Bongumenzi Thwala, Best A_STEP Tutor in the Faculty of the Humanities, and Dineo Tlali

Students engagement

In September 2024, the Faculty of the Humanities welcomed the Faculty Student Council (FSC), chaired by third-year BSocSc student, Kingsley Alagbaoso.

Student Council: Faculty of the Humanities



Alagbaoso Kingsley
Chairperson



Gumedede Banele
Deputy Chairperson



Lekgoathi Eric
Deputy Chairperson



Mabitla Pontsho
Chairperson



Masendi Violet
Deputy Chairperson

In 2024, the FSC collaborated with the Faculty on several projects. The projects included an Exam Preparation Workshop, which aimed to address academic challenges faced by students. These challenges included study techniques, time management, and understanding exam rules and procedures. Supported by the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Faculty, the speakers included Academic Advisor Monique Schoeman and Curriculum Advisor Thandeka Deeuw. Another initiative worthy of mention is that the Vice-Dean of Teaching and Learning, Prof Marlize Rabe, invited the FSC to speak on Generative AI use in the classroom. The year ended with an Entrepreneurship Day, where the FSC supported the Faculty with logistics and event coordination.

Engaged scholarship

- The Faculty was involved in and supported departments in various impactful engaged scholarship projects. These included the following:
- Literacy projects, such as a Spelling Bee led by the Department of Communication Science, and research conducted on Grade 4 learners at Kagisano Combined School in the Ikgomotseng community.
- Establishment and launch of the school library between May and June 2024 in collaboration with the Library and Information Services.
- Puppet show by the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts for preschool children in the Ikgomotseng community.

Furthermore, the Faculty hosted a workshop on engaged scholarship on 18 November 2024, where all engaged departments shared their practices. In this workshop, one of our Advisory board members for the Arts, Themba Dlamini, was requested to reflect on the work done by the Faculty and make some contributions to improve and enhance the impact of our engaged scholarship.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Inaugural seminar on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

The Faculty demonstrated some progress/growth in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project by hosting their inaugural seminar on 18 July 2024 at Clarens in the Eastern Free State. Approximately 40 staff members attended. The following departments were represented:

- African Languages
- Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French
- Communication Science
- Community Development
- English
- Sociology
- History
- Political Studies and Governance
- Psychology
- Odeion School of Music
- Dean's Office

Highlights from the seminar

The keynote speaker, Prof Motinyane, presented on a challenging topic, “Empowering Arts and Humanities Education through Artificial Intelligence: Innovations and Impact”, highlighting the benefits of AI in education and how lecturers can use it to speed up the decolonisation agenda, as well as guide students to use it appropriately to ensure both students and lecturers can benefit. She also shared insights on various collaborative projects she was working on, relating to exploring strategies for including AI in education, which tend to focus on languages such as Isixosa, Isizulu, Sepedi, and Swahili. She emphasised that AI is not always reliable, especially in language learning. Thus, researchers need

to invest their knowledge and expertise to innovate and use their indigenous leadership to ensure AI becomes beneficial to all. Of significance, she indicated that AI offers opportunities for higher education.



Prof Motinyane presenting on “Empowering Arts and Humanities Education Through Artificial Intelligence: Innovations and Impact”

Presentations from staff linked very well with that of Prof Motinyane. They covered areas such as the use of AI in the language classroom and a hybrid model of learning, which aligned well with the University’s intentions to digitalise teaching and learning, and, more importantly, to start researching such areas to improve student learning. Other topics covered the most critical teaching and learning areas, eliciting interesting and relevant discussions. Colleagues engaged in discussions about curriculum decolonisation, pedagogy, assessment, students’ evaluation, and tutorials.

Two students, one from Bloemfontein and one from Qwaqwa, shared how their engagement as students shaped them into graduates or future graduates. The purpose of involving students was to continuously make them part of creating knowledge and building their capacity as future leaders. The presentations will be converted into publishable articles to help staff be fully involved in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.



Faculty of the Humanities: Academics from the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campus

Library and Information Services Honours and Undergraduate Research Seminar (LISHURS)



The Faculty participated in the second LISHURS event, an annual competition organised by the Library and Information Services. The event, held on 5 April 2024, saw a substantial number of papers submitted by our students, ultimately securing the Faculty the top position and earning them a floating trophy for the second time.

African Languages

Academic Head of Department

Dr EN Maletse

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Overview of 2024

The Department of African Languages offers two languages (Sesotho and isiZulu) at both campuses. On the Bloemfontein Campus, Sesotho is offered in four categories, namely Sesotho Home Language, Sesotho First Additional Language, and Sesotho Conversational for professional students (student teachers), as well as a Sesotho Short Learning Programme for UFS staff and external clients. At the Qwaqwa Campus, both Sesotho and isiZulu are offered as Home Languages and Conversational Languages for professional students. The Department also offers language courses that provide basic language skills fundamental to careers in language practice, such as translation, text editing, and creative writing. These courses also serve as fundamental courses for student teachers and other community-based professionals. They provide linguistic and literary theories for all students who want to be researchers in African Languages.

In terms of teaching and learning, active scholarship, research output, and conference participation, the 2024 academic year proved to be a tremendous success. With 3912 students enrolled overall across both campuses, student enrolment was good. Research outputs have increased because of the contributions of research fellows and, more significantly, internal staff members. The Department had 11 BA Honours students and seven MA graduates who successfully graduated. The Engaged Scholarship has generated much interest among staff members, particularly those who helped translate and develop African language terminologies in the Multilingual Academy.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr EN Malete was invited as the Keynote Speaker in celebration of Africa Day for two separate occasions. Firstly, the Faculty of Theology at the University of the Free State invited him to present a talk on 24 May 2024. The topic was *Envisioning Borderless Africa*. Secondly, he was invited by the Eastern Cape Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture in Aliwal North on 21 May 2024 to present on the topic *The Rise of Africa: Re-imagining our own identity*.

Dr Hloniphani Ndebele visited the Institute of Natural Language Processing, University of Stuttgart, in Germany, from 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025 as part of the international engagement component of the DHET Future Professors Fellowship Programme, which also funded this engagement and research opportunity. He delivered a seminar presentation at the Institute, titled *Decolonial representations of multilingualism and multi-literacies in the SA higher education sector: Opportunities for NLP research*.

Dr Ndebele was also invited to deliver a keynote presentation at the International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) held from 9–12 July 2024. The title of his presentation was *African languages, academic literacies, and epistemological access: Challenges and opportunities*. ALASA is one of the biggest language associations in South Africa, bringing together scholars from around the world.

Regarding promotions, Dr Simphiwe Ndebele at the Qwaqwa Campus was promoted from junior lecturer to lecturer after obtaining his PhD degree in December 2023.

Student Achievements

A considerable number of postgraduate students graduated in 2024.

Dr EN Malete

Honours

- **Mokhasi Difedile:** Syntactic analysis and interpretation of selected Sesotho religious hymns
- **Mabolloane Palesa:** The semantic interpretation of selected Sesotho motion verbs
- **Diale NP:** The Syntactic and Thematic Analysis of Selected Poems of MP Thinane
- **Bookholane Thabang:** The Dilemma of Sesotho Translated Terms in Sesotho Selected Psalms
- **Moreothibang Osekeng:** Evaluative Language in Selected Sesotho Praise Poems

Master's

- **Mochoboroane M:** The morpho-syntactic and Semantic analysis of Sesotho Locomotive verbs
- **Rantja QL:** Evaluative Language in JJ Moiloa's attitudinal positioning as reflected in his humorous writings
- **Selemela Lerato:** Evaluative Language in KPD Maphalla's prose with reference to his collection of short stories in 'Mohlomong Hosane

Dr BD Letlala

Honours

- **Lesige M:** Analysis of Characterisation in Sesotho Text, Tahleho
- **Mokoena M:** The Portrayal of Motherhood in Sesotho Novel, Mpho ya ka by LS Mokoena



M Mochoboroane

- **Mbatha RL:** The Impact of Setting on Female Characters: A Critical Analysis of Letshaba's Lejwe la kgopiso
- **Hashatsi L:** Analysis of Aspects of Culture in Sesotho Drama Text, Haeso Mafotholeng by CJ Teleki

Master's

- **Mokone P:** The Portrayal of Mythical Characters in Sesotho Literary Texts: Chaka and Senkatana (Co-supervisor: Dr EN Maletle)
- **Makamane JR:** A Critical Analysis of Politeness Strategies in Selected Sesotho Drama Literary Texts: Madiba ho psha a maholo and Tahleho (Co-supervisor: Dr EN Maletle)



JR Makamane-Mbhele



Master's and Honours 2024 graduates with their supervisors.
(Bloemfontein Campus)

Dr H Ndebele

Honours

- **Tabello Maile:** Challenges Associated with the Underutilisation of African Languages in the Basic Education Sector
- **Mpumelelo Xolani Madela:** An Evaluation of Strategies for the Development of African Languages in South African Higher Education

MS Mensele

Honours

- **Motleleng-Moeng, NM:** REFLECTIONS OF AUTONOMY AND BASOTHO FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN MAAKE'S SESOTHO LITERARY TEXT 'MALEFANE'
- **Mofokeng, MG:** COLONIALITY AND BASOTHO'S EXPERIENCES IN TELEKI'S NOVEL MOTSEKUWA



MF Makhele

Fifteen participants registered for Basic Conversational Sesotho, and they all passed the programme and were awarded certificates. Eight participants registered for Intermediate Conversational Sesotho, the SLP, and six passed the programme. Their certificates will be awarded in March 2024.

Teaching

The Department considers the curriculum a route map consisting of a set of developmental blocks in terms of knowledge acquisition, packed in a way that fulfils individual, institutional, and national objectives and goals. The aim is to have a well-rounded and responsible citizen, equipped with good social and African values. Supervision of postgraduate students forms part and parcel of teaching and learning. The Department has experienced an increase in the supervision of postgraduate students. This was due to the increasing number of academic staff with PhD qualifications.

The African Languages Department maintains that the process of decolonisation should consider the curriculum that enables the production of graduates who possess critical skills of local and global relevance. In line with the above assertion, we adopt Teferra (2019), who calls for a move away from “dump” decolonisation to “smart” internationalisation through the articulation of discourses that strategically place the African continent at the centre of the global socio-political and economic context. In our first-year Introduction to Linguistics module, we not only draw perspectives from the well-known colonial linguists such as Doke and Meinhof, among others, but we also draw from the perspectives of African linguists such as Canonici and Mathonsi, who have contributed a lot, particularly about isiZulu morphology. Students are exposed to these different perspectives to allow them to critically engage with knowledge.

In our third-year module on the ‘Historical development of isiZulu/ Sesotho, we advance the argument of language as a resource to change students’ negative perceptions about African languages. We introduce the available language technologies for the different African languages and exemplify their use; for example, translation tools such as Google Translate, online dictionaries, UKZN terminology bank, and some corpus analysis tools such as Antcock and Voyant tool as well as Slack.

The Department held a digitisation workshop, presented by Marissa Griesel from SADiLAR, in September 2024. The workshop was presented in two sessions: The first was a virtual workshop (First Steps to Linguistic Annotation), and the second was a face-to-face workshop at the University of the Free State. Both our undergraduate and postgraduate students attended it.



Research Outputs (Accredited)

Journal Articles/Book Chapters

Dr H Ndebele

Ngubane, N., Ntombela, B. & Ndebele, H. (Eds.) 2024. *Implementing and Promoting Multilingualism: Speaking through different tongues in South African Higher Education Spaces*. Durban: UKZN Press.

Busane, S. M. & Ndebele, H. 2024. Udaba Lwezilimi Zomdabu Njengezilimi Zemfundo Ephakeme eNingizimu Afrika. In Ngubane, B. Ntombela & H. Ndebele, *Implementing and Promoting: Speaking through different tongues in South African Higher Education spaces*. Durban: UKZN Press, pp. 46–71.

Ndebele, H. 2024. Ambivalence among second-year students at a South African university about writing academically in an African language. *African Perspectives of Research in Teaching and Learning*, 8(2):1–11.

Ndebele, H. 2024. Strategically positioning African languages in the development of students' academic literacies. *South African Journal of African Languages*, 44 (3): 214–222.

Naidoo, S., Ndebele, H., Shabalala, S. C. & Kercival, C. 2024. LOTE in Academic Journals: A Scoping Review of Selected African Databases. *International Journal of Multilingualism*. DOI: 10.1080/14790718.2024.2369172.

Dr M Khanyetsi and M Mensele

Khanyetsi, M. & Mensele, M. 2024. The Quest for Biodiversity Preservation and Conservation in Lesotho: The Basotho Folklore and Literary Contribution. *Southern African Journal for Folklore Studies*, pp.22

Prof E Ndlovu (Research Fellow)

Ndlovu, E. & Bowa, M. A. 2024 A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Zimbabwean Education Amendment Act, 2019. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. 9(1&2), 8 – 40.

Ndlovu, E. 2024. The right to an interpreter in the Zimbabwean healthcare system: An appraisal. *South African Journal of African Languages*, 44(1): 77 – 86.

Dr DB Letlala

Letlala, B.D. & Zulu, N.S. (2024). An Analysis of Gender-based Violence in the Sesotho Novel, Mamello. In Zulu, N.S. & Mkhize, T., eds. *African Literature Beyond the Western Gaze*. Pietermaritzburg: UKZN Press. pp. 181–191.

Chapters in edited volumes

Chapters

Dr EN Maletse

Maletse E.N. 2024. Syntactic Analysis and Interpretation of JJ Moiloa's Poetic Text: *Psycholinguistic Approach*. *African Literature: Beyond the Western Gaze*. UKZN Press. [pp 85 – 100].

MS Mensele and Dr AS Motsei

Anastacia Motsei & Mary Mensele: Paballo le polokeho ya thuto ya dilotho mehleng ya theknoloji dikolong tsa motheo le tsa mokgahlelo o mahareng, NIHSS-(UCT) & AFRICAN SUN MeDIA Publications.

Anastacia Motsei & Mary Mensele: Manollo le tshekatsheko ya tshwantshiso ya buka ya Nkutha, Sefi (2008), NIHSS-(UCT) & AFRICAN SUN MeDIA Publications. (Corrections submitted, March 2024)

Prof E Ndlovu (Research Fellow)

Ndlovu, E. & Mashiri, P. 2024. Sign Language in the Zimbabwean Media: A Proposal for Multilingual Broadcasting, in Kondowe, W., Kamanga, C.M.M. & Madula, P. (eds.). *Multilingualism in Southern Africa: Issues and Perspectives*. Routledge: New York. 163 – 180.

Ndlovu, E. 2024. Language Planning and Policy in Zimbabwe: Past and Present, in Lisanza, E. & Muaka, L. (eds.). *Palgrave Handbook of Language Policies in Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. 595 – 623.

Books

Dr S Shah

Sixth Generation contact German in South Africa: The case of Kroondal German.

Creative Outputs

Dr MMT Khanyetsi

Contribution to a book: Seho se Ilile: Drama-Khom'a khameloa meutloeng (published)

Conference Papers/Posters

Dr H Ndebele

Ndebele, H. 2024. *Decolonial representations of multilingualism and multi-literacies in the SA higher education sector: Opportunities for NLP Research Collaboration*. Seminar Presentation at the Institute for Natural Language Processing (IMS), Stuttgart University, Germany, 13 November 2024.

Ndebele, H. 2024. African languages, academic literacies, and epistemological access: Challenges and opportunities. Keynote Presentation at the 2024 International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, Durban, University of KwaZulu-Natal, 9-12 July 2024.

Faculty Seminar

MS Mensele

Attended and presented a paper titled *Dikamano ho ya ka Matla ka hare ho Neanotaba ya Basotho: Bohlokwa ba ditshomo tsa Basotho*. [Power Relations in Folklore: The Relevance of Basotho folktales]. Humanities Research Day, Qwaqwa Senate Hall, 21 August 2024.

Prof E Ndlovu (Research Fellow)

July 2024: The Right to Information in Zimbabwe: Policy, Practice and Implications. Paper presented at the 25th International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA). Coastlands Hotels and Resort, Durban, South Africa, 9-12 July 2024.

July 2024: The Right to Information in South Africa: Policy, Practice and Implications. Paper presented at the 25th International Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa (ALASA). Coastlands Hotels and Resort, Durban, South Africa, 9-12 July 2024.

July 2024: Implementation Progress of the Provisions of the African Union Language Plan of Action in Zimbabwe: A Lexicographer's Perspective. Paper presented at the 28th International Conference of the African Association for Lexicography (AFRILEX). University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 1-4 July 2024.

Dr EN Maletse

2024: ALASA 25th Biennial International Conference, Re-imagining the Role of African Languages for Social Justice and Transformation in the Digital Age, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Coastland Hotel, Durban, 9-12 July 2024.

2024: SAFOS National Conference, Oral Literature and Histories and the Advent of Artificial Intelligence, Quo Vadis? University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 4 September 2024.

Engaged Scholarship

As indicated above, the Engaged Scholarship has generated much interest among staff members, particularly those who helped translate and develop African language terminologies in the Academy for Multilingualism.

Dr MMT Khanyetsi: Developed Sesotho Research Terminology, Social Work Sesotho Terminology, and translated 16 abstracts from English to Sesotho (Academy for Multilingualism).

Dr AS Motsei and MS Mensele: Participated in the continuation of Sesotho terminology development for Mathematics, Sesotho terminology development for Social Work, and Sesotho terminology

development for Agriculture at the Academy of Multilingualism, Bloemfontein Campus. MS Mensele continued to participate in the Sesotho terminology development for Research and Sesotho terminology development for psychology modules: PSIH2724; PSDE1624; PSIN1624, and PSHT3724 at the Academy for Multilingualism, Bloemfontein Campus.

National and International Collaboration



Dr H Ndebele

International Research Visit:

Dr Hloniphani Ndebele, Department of African Languages

Dr Hloniphani Ndebele undertook a research visit at the Institute of Natural Language Processing, University of Stuttgart, in Germany, from 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2025 as part of the international engagement component of the DHET Future Professor Professors Fellowship Programme. Dr Ndebele was hosted by the Director of the institute, Prof Sabastian Pado, an internationally respected scholar in the field of Natural Language Processing. The main objective of the visit was to build research capacity and establish research collaboration in language digitalisation, which is a component of his language management research. Dr Ndebele attended a course on “Methods in Natural Language Processing,” which formally familiarised him with the theory and practice of Natural Language Processing. He also presented a seminar paper at the institute and was involved in the institute’s weekly seminars and research working groups.

The research visit opened opportunities for collaboration with researchers from different parts of the world, in most cases, from the discipline of Natural Language Processing. Dr Ndebele also gained much exposure to the German academic culture and postgraduate student mentoring and supervision.



Staff (2024)

Bloemfontein Campus

Dr EN Maletse (AHD)	Senior Lecturer / Academic Head of Department
Dr AS Motsei	Lecturer
BD Letlala	Lecturer
MF Makhele	Junior Lecturer
MA Nhlapo	Contract (Junior lecturer)
Dr H Ndebele	Senior Lecturer
JCH du Toit	Senior Admin Assistant
RJ Makamane	Contract (Admin Assistant)

Qwaqwa Campus

MS Mensele	Junior Lecturer
Dr MMT Khanyetsi	Lecturer
MS Busane	Lecturer
NV Moloi	Assistant Officer
MT Motlounq	Contract (Junior Lecturer)
Dr S Ndebele	Lecturer
P Monyana	Junior Lecturer

Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French

Academic Head of Department Dr Francois Smith

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Overview of 2024

The past year has been one of sustained academic achievement despite staffing changes and a reduction in support personnel. It was also marked by meaningful collaboration with colleagues from other universities, allowing us to strategically restructure our courses and expand our teaching capacity. Amid a rapidly evolving educational and cultural landscape, the Department remained committed to excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. With a strong focus on equipping students with essential language and communication skills for a connected global society, the Department also deepened its relationships with industry partners and international collaborators. This report highlights key developments, academic and extracurricular achievements, staff milestones, and initiatives that have shaped the Department's progress throughout 2024.

At the end of the year, Prof Naomi Morgan retired from the UFS. Throughout her career at the UFS, French students benefited from her immense passion and knowledge in the field of French literature. As a result of her retirement, the French section will undergo exciting strategic planning in 2025.

The Department also bid farewell to two valued support staff members during the year. Isabel Mosterd (French) and Marelize Pretorius (Afrikaans) resigned to pursue new opportunities elsewhere. Their departure marks the beginning of a period in which the Department must maintain its high standards with fewer resources.

Achievements

Prof Angelique van Niekerk was promoted to full professor from 1 January 2024. She also participated in a webinar organised by the IVN (*Internationale vereniging voor Neerlandistiek*) on 31 October 2024 on the theme of Dutch Language Acquisition Across the Globe.



Invitation to Webinar in October 2024 in which Angelique van Niekerk participated.

Prof Henning Pieterse served as the convenor of the adjudication panel for the Helgaard Steyn Prize—the most lucrative literary award in South Africa, valued at R700 000. Over 100 books were submitted for consideration, with the prize ultimately awarded to Antjie Krog for her poetry collection, *Plunder*.

In January and July, Dr Albertus Barkhuizen was commissioned by the French Ministry of Education to train examiners for DEFL international language proficiency examinations. The training cohorts included examiners from South Africa, France, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Eswatini.

Dr Barkhuizen was also invited to teach two workshops at the Francophonie Summer University in Nice, France, from 1 to 13 July 2024. The first workshop focused on the use of subtitle creation as a creative language learning project to promote interculturality in the French foreign language classroom. The second workshop was a language course taught to French teachers from Uzbekistan to improve their French language skills and equip them with tools for continuous further learning. As part of the initiative, Dr Barkhuizen gave a guest lecture on using translanguaging in the foreign language classroom.

The French Section and the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts collaborated to bring the first Afrikaans translation and production of Samuel Beckett's *En attendant Godot* (Waiting for Godot) to the Free State Arts Festival in July 2024. *Ons wag vir Godot* garnered five prizes during the Vryskitter Awards ceremony: Best Director (Dion van Niekerk), Best Ensemble, Best Production, and Best Supporting Actor

(Peter Taljaard), while the translation by Prof Naòmi Morgan, published by Naledi in 2024, was the best-selling book during the Literature Festival.

Prof Morgan also produced another of her translations from the French source text, *Madame Pylinska en die geheim van Chopin* by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, featuring veteran actor Chris van Niekerk and international pianist Amit Yahav during the same festival.

In August, Dr Barkhuizen organised the biannual Association for French Studies in Southern Africa conference on the Bloemfontein Campus. The conference saw a group of scholars coming from Africa and Europe. The conference was preceded by a one-day student colloquium during which postgraduate students from South African universities presented their work. The AFSSA and the French Embassy funded the conference. For the first time ever, the Naval Hill Planetarium produced a screening in French as part of the gala event of this conference. The year 2024 also marked the final testing and writing phase of the French learner's textbook *Décollage – Méthode de français pour débutants*. In December, Dr Barkhuizen led the writing team in recording the final versions of the accompanying audio files, ahead of the textbook's scheduled release in January 2025. The recordings took place at the South African College of Music (UCT) in Cape Town, where a team of international collaborators generously volunteered their voices for the project.

Dr Barkhuizen successfully completed the SoTL fellowship upon the submission of an article as deliverable and was selected to be part of the ESAP programme in 2025.

Student Achievements

The German Section's Hanno Strauss and Jessica Onderstall have each received a prestigious DAAD scholarship to attend the 2024 Hochschulwinterkurs in Germany. Hanno attended the course in Leipzig, and Jessica completed hers in Freiburg.

During the selection process for 2025, two more students have been awarded this scholarship: Marita Oosthuizen and Lize Botha. Marita will attend the course in Freiburg, while Lize, who also serves as the administrative assistant of the German Section, will complete hers in Leipzig. They are two of only eight students from South Africa selected for this opportunity.

Eight students passed the Dutch language competency exam (CnaVT) written at the UFS in 2024. The students were tested on three competency levels (acknowledged within CEFR). Interested people can contact the Department in February annually to be enrolled for the international exam for Dutch, CNaVT.

Teaching

Postgraduate students and lecturers of the Department attended the (blended and online) two-day workshop presented by Dr Katja Tereshko of the Huygens Institute, Amsterdam, in September 2024 for lecturers and postgraduate students across South Africa. The topics of the workshops were as follows:

- *Literature and engagement* (presented in English)
- *Taalcompetentie Nederlands en internationale raamwerk, ERK* (presented in Dutch)

Dr Tereshko also delivered a public lecture on 5 September 2024 as part of the yearly departmental public lecture series. Senior students, staff, and the public are invited to the public



Prof Angelique van Niekerk and Dr Katja Tereshko of the Huygens Institute, Amsterdam

lectures and book discussions, and people can contact the departmental secretary, Petronella Bango, to be included in our email address list.

The French Section organised the annual immersion weekend field trip to Morija, Lesotho, taking place in September. During this weekend, students interact in French around various cultural activities in an environment where they are only exposed to the French language and culture. The field trip also includes teaching interpretations of Lesotho history.

Short Learning Programmes

The Department offers credit-bearing and competency-based Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) for Afrikaans, Dutch, and French as foreign languages.

These SLPs are aimed at staff, international students, and the private sector. A group of staff members from Deloitte South Africa attended the blended learning SLP for Dutch in the second semester of 2024. Karen Combrinck is the department's SLP administrator, and people can contact her regarding enrolment.



Students who obtained their certificates in the SLP Afrikaans as Foreign Language in May 2024, pictured with the facilitators, Dr Alison Stander and Ida Meiring



Students who obtained their certificates in the SLP for Afrikaans as Foreign Language in November 2024 with Ida Meiring and Dr Alison Stander

Research Projects

The Head of the German Section, Prof Cilliers van den Berg, has continued to strengthen international scholarly ties through his role as editor of *Acta Germanica*, a position that has fostered ongoing engagement with colleagues abroad.

Furthermore, the German Section continues to build community partnerships through an inspiring project initiated by Dr Trudie Strauss and her third-year students in collaboration with Motheo College. As part of this initiative, students teach basic German to artisan learners in preparation for potential internships in Germany. We are excited that this project will continue in 2025.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Dr Joanita Erasmus-Alt

UFS-051104: Journal Article: "Musikale betekenis en metafore van liminaliteit in die liedkuns van Coenie de Villiers" in *LitNet Akademies*, 21(1), 2024, <https://doi.org/10.56273/1995-5928/2024/j21n1b11>

Dr Marian Human-Nel

UFS-051118: Journal Article: "Radikaal versus beskeie: Die vroegste vrouestemme teen patriargie in die Suid-Afrikaanse literatuursisteem" in *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*, 61(1), 2024 <https://doi.org/10.17159/tl.v61i1.16087>

UFS-051107: Journal Article: "Om te verstaan: dís wat h verhalende teks vir die gewone mens kan doen" in *Stilet* 36(1), 2024 <https://doi.org/10.59507/stilet.2024.36.1.2>

Dr Alison Stander

UFS-051120: Journal Article: "Evaluering van die aanlyn vreemdetaalkursusse Gesellig Afrikaans 1 en 2 aan die hand van die voorgestelde aanlynonderrigmodel vir die aanleer van Afrikaans as vreemde taal" *LitNet Akademies (Opvoedkunde)* 2024 <https://doi.org/10.56273/1995-5928/2024/j21n2g5>

Dr Carla Ellis

UFS- 051393: Journal Article: "Unlocking the Power of Oom and Tannie: How Forms of Address Shape Perception and Respect in Afrikaans" in *MDPI Languages* 9(34) <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/languages>, <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages9110340>.

Prof Cilliers van den Berg

UFS-051827: Journal Article: "Oor nostalgie (en retro-estetika): Ikonografie in film" in *LitNet Akademies* 21(1). <https://doi.org/10.56273/1995-5928/2024/j21n1b6>.

UFS-051826: Journal Article: "Oor nostalgie (en retro-estetika): Die ikonografie van *Beyond the Black Rainbow* en *Ready Player One*" in *LitNet Akademies* 21(1). <https://doi.org/10.56273/1995-5928/2024/j21n1b7>

Prof Henning Pieterse and Corné Richter

UFS-051824: Journal Article: " 'n Morfologies-sistematiese analise van die komposisiestruktuur in "vier pogings in linguistiese sinaps-opsporing" in Mede-wete (2014) deur Antjie Krog. *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe*, 64(4), 2024 <https://doi.org/10.17159/2224-7912/2024/v64n4a7>

Dr FAH Smith

UFS-051903: Journal Article: "Antjie Krog se geheime kode aan Johann de Lange" *Stilet* 36(1) 2024, <https://doi.org/10.59507/stilet.2024.36.1.4>

Dr Mathilda Smit

UFS-052344: Redakteursnota: Spesiale Ontlaering-uitgawe van *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe* 64(4), 2024, <https://doi.org/10.17159/2224-7912/2024/v64n4a11>

UFS-052337: Lynthia Julius: Onderhoud Ontlaering 2021, *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe*, 64(4), 2024 <https://doi.org/10.17159/2224-7912/2024/v64n4a14>

UFS-052341: Pieter Odendaal: Onderhoud Ontlaering 2021, *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe* 64(4), 2024 <https://doi.org/10.17159/2224-7912/2024/v64n4a15>

UFS-052333: Resensie: Die lewe is 'n asem lank: Gedigte oor verlies en vertroosting, *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde* 61(2), 2024 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17159/tl.v61i2.19929>

Chapters in edited volumes

Prof Angelique van Niekerk

UFS-053019: Chapter "Pragmatiek" in *Kontemporêre Afrikaanse Taalkunde* 3, edited by Carstens, WAM, Bosman, N and Breed, A. Van Schaik Publishers, 2025.

Creative Outputs

Prof Naomi Morgan:

UFS-053242: Translation. *Ons wag vir Godot*. (*En attendant Godot* by Samuel Beckett © 1952 by Les Editions de Minuit) Published by Naledi 2024 www.naledi.co.za

UFS-053249: *Madame Pylinska en die Geheim van Chopin*. Theatre production at the Free State Arts Festival, 2024.

Engaged Scholarship

During the July holidays, the Department presented the Poort workshop for young writers. Thirteen pupils who were top achievers in the Poort writing competition presented by the SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns attended the workshop. The presenters of the workshop were Lynthia Julius and Annerle Barnard.



Participants in the Poort workshop for young writers in July 2024 at the UFS

The Department hosts two Advisory Board sessions each year for all senior students. The Advisory Board comprises distinguished professionals from language-related industries such as media, education, publishing, and the legal field. Its primary aim is to enhance students' employability by maintaining strong connections with the demands of the world beyond academia.

The current Advisory Board (term: January 2022–2024) includes Nèlleke de Jager of NB Publishers; Ivor Price, journalist and managing editor of the online publication *Food for Mzansi*; and Mariska van der Merwe, a teacher at Oranje Girls' High School. In June 2024, they visited the Department to lead a half-day workshop for staff and senior students. The workshop provided valuable insights into recent

developments in the media and publishing industries, and the panel members presented practical sessions to prepare students for the professional world.



National and International Collaboration

The collaboration between the French Section and Political Science is in its second year, focusing on the Maghreb countries and, more specifically, in 2024, on Tunisia. Students were introduced to Bourguibism, the Arab Spring, Tunisian extremism, and France and Tunisia's shared history, culture, and literature. Whether their future career path is in the diplomatic corps, academia, or commerce, an international foundation has been laid. Prof Morgan travelled to Tunisia to prepare the contents of this module.

The French Section is, by nature, international and intercultural, based on the contents of the literature and culture modules on French or Francophone authors. Our students and any other interested parties have a standing invitation to the monthly French film club with English subtitles. It is the most active club dedicated to French and Francophone films in the country.

Dr Albertus Bakhuizen was invited to teach two workshops at the Francophonie Summer University in Nice, France, from 1 to 13 July 2024.

The first workshop focused on the use of subtitle creation as a creative language learning project to promote interculturality in the French foreign language classroom. The second workshop was a language course taught to French teachers from Uzbekistan to improve their French language skills and equip them with tools for continuous further learning. As part of the initiative, Dr Barkhuizen gave a guest lecture on using translanguaging in the foreign language classroom.

The Afrikaans Section's internationalisation drive centres mainly on its links with Dutch. Dr Mathilda Smit delivered a paper at the SAVN (Suider Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Neerlandistiek) conference in Windhoek, Namibia, in July 2024. The paper was titled *Dis mooi man, Jan van Riebeeck rap nou saam die Khoisan – Rap as transnasionale podium-fenomeen? 'n Ondersoek na die wisselwerking tussen Suid-Afrika en die Lae lande, deur te kyk na die gevallestudie van Jack Parow en De Kraaien*.

Prof Angelique van Niekerk hosted Dr Katja Tereshko, a Dutch guest lecturer who taught in our Department for six weeks in August and September. This project was financially supported by the Dutch Language Union in collaboration with the SAVN (Society for Dutch in Southern Africa).



Students who attended the lectures presented by Dr Katja Tereshko in August 2024 as part of the module AFNK 2724: Nederlands en die Nederlande.

Two staff members participated in the visiting lecturer programme with the University of Leiden in 2024. Prof Henning Pieterse presented the first six weeks (January–March) and Prof Angelique van Niekerk the last six weeks of the module Zuid-Afrikaanse Taalkunde: Afrikaans: Verleden en heden vanuit taalkundig perspektief.

Prof Pieterse presented a course in Historical Linguistics, focusing on developing Dutch and Afrikaans. Prof Van Niekerk lectured on applied Afrikaans linguistics.



Dutch students attending a course in Afrikaans linguistics in Leiden, the Netherlands (April 2024).

Postgraduate Students

The Department is very proud of the success of its Master's course in creative writing. Prof Henning Pieterse and Dr Francois Smith, every year, co-supervise an average of four manuscripts with the aim of getting them published by a mainstream publisher.

This year, three manuscripts were published:

- *Kinderlê* (volume of poetry) by Lynthia Julius (Kwêla Publishers)
- *Afdraai na Annabel* (novel) by Rencia van Blerk (Turksvy Publishers)
- *Op die kantlyn* (short stories) by Marnus Kok (Naledi Publishers)

The Department is equally proud of its research fellows and their research output. In 2024, the fellows were as follows:

Prof Hennie van Coller, Prof Jerzy Koch, Prof L.A. Barnes, Dr Joanita Erasmus-Alt, Dr Charl-Pierre Naudé, Dr Rudi Venter, Dr Annette de Wet, Mr. Anton Roodt, Corrie Geldenhuys, and Marietjie Lambrechts, Prof Karen Ferreira-Meyers (French), and Prof Stuart Taberner (German).

Other Activities

On average, ten lectures per year are offered as part of the Department's public lecture series. These lectures, to which the public is invited, are followed by an open discussion. Students in the Department are also invited to attend these lectures, and third-year students are required to write two reflective essays per semester based on their attendance of these lectures.

The Department is also actively involved in the local book culture, talking at book clubs and participating in and leading discussion panels and author interviews at arts festivals such as the Free State Arts Festival in Bloemfontein and the Vrye Weekblad Boekefees in Clarens.

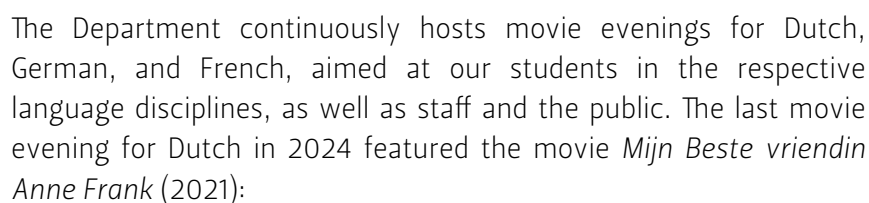
The University's oldest memorial lecture, and still one of its most prestigious, is the bi-annual DF Malherbe Gedenklesing. This year's lecture was delivered by internationally acclaimed author Deon Meyer, who is not only an alumnus of the Department but also began his career working in the University's Public Relations division. A large audience attended the event to hear his engaging account of his journey as a writer of genre fiction, a literary form long overlooked by the traditional academic gatekeepers of "good taste."



The German Section of the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French was honoured to host Prof Stuart Taberner, Professor of German at Leeds University and research fellow of the German Section, for a short research visit and lecture. Prof Taberner spoke about *The Cambridge History of Holocaust Literature*, a landmark volume co-edited with Erin McGlothlin and due for publication in 2026. This important work offers a rethinking of Holocaust Literature through the lens of circulation and interconnectedness across temporal, geographical, linguistic, and political boundaries. During the talk, Prof Taberner highlighted the theoretical challenges of writing a history of Holocaust Literature and shared the conceptual foundations of the volume. He also introduced several innovations of the project, including chapters on the Holocaust in Africa and a focus on the politics of translation, publishing, and reception.



The writer shared insights and experiences with an audience of approximately 30 attendees consisting of members of the public, staff, and senior students on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus.



The Department has launched an initiative to digitise the complete Leroux Archive (the archive on the renowned writer Etienne Leroux) as part of the literary archive of the Department in 2022. This project was completed in June 2023 and officially handed over to the UFS Library's digitisation branch, where it will be made available online to researchers. Dr Burgert Senekal and Gerda Stroebeel were involved with this initiative.

One of the Department's most meaningful activities in 2024 was a strategic planning session held at the end of the year, in response to growing demands on a potentially shrinking staff complement. To gain fresh perspectives, we invited two external academics: Prof Willie Burger, Head of the Department of Afrikaans at the University of Pretoria, and Dr Nina Brink, lecturer at the School of Languages at North-West University. Their outsider viewpoints provided valuable insights into our departmental activities, course offerings, curricula, and overall operational efficiency. The session proved to be highly constructive, leading, among other outcomes, to restructuring our graduate programmes to better optimise our teaching capacity and available research time.



Staff (2024)

Dr Francois (F.A.H.) Smith Head of the Department

Prof Angelique (A.) van Niekerk

Prof Henning (H.J.) Pieterse

Dr Mathilda (M.) Smit

Dr Alison (A.G.) Stander

Dr Carla (C.) Ellis

Dr Marian (M.J.) Human-Nel Qwaqwa Campus

French Section:

Prof Naðmi (N.) Morgan

Dr Albertus (A.d.P.) Barkhuizen

German Section:

Prof Cilliers (J.P.C.) van den Berg

Dr Trudie (T.) Strauss

Contract staff:

Willem-Carel Brink German beginner's course

Corné Richter Project assistant

Karen Combrinck SLP co-ordinator for Afrikaans and Dutch

Support staff:

Ida Meiring

Petronella Bango

Marelize Pretorius

Lize Botha German

Anthropology

Academic Head of Department

Prof Joy Owen

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Overview of 2024

The Department of Anthropology's 2024 annual report reflects a year marked by academic innovation, collaborative growth, and a deepened commitment to critical, socially engaged scholarship. Under the leadership of Prof Owen, the Department continued to position itself as a space of intellectual vibrancy and transformation, anchored in decolonial praxis, rigorous research, and community relevance.

This year, the Department saw the strengthening of its Honours programme, thanks to the groundwork laid in 2023 and the skilful coordination of Dr Masenya, who simultaneously celebrated the completion of her interdisciplinary PhD. Staff members contributed extensively to national and international scholarly conversations through high-impact publications, keynote addresses, and conference presentations, while students excelled, most notably, part of the ANTU3725 cohort, who secured first prize at the 2023 LISHURS seminar.

Our commitment to innovative pedagogy is led by Prof Owen, who expanded her understanding of decolonial praxis by attending an online workshop on liberatory and decolonial methods; our continued investment in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teaching is supported by our various engaged scholarship initiatives. The Department also made strides in building international partnerships, including the emerging collaboration with Makerere University on Heritage Studies and Archival Ethnography, initiated by the Dean of Humanities at Makerere University, Uganda.

Public engagement remained a cornerstone of our work—from media interviews and public writings to community excursions to Winnie Mandela House, which brought together students and heritage stakeholders in a rich conversation on memory and space.

This report captures the breadth and depth of our 2024 journey, a year in which we not only taught and researched but also listened, collaborated, and reimaged what knowledge can do in and beyond the University.

Achievements

Ms Mokoena participated in the October 2024 curriculum renewal workshop hosted by CTL and was awarded a certificate of completion.

Dr Dimakatso Veronica Masenya was awarded her interdisciplinary PhD in Anthropology and Sociology in the UFS's December graduations.



Dr du Plooy, Dr Masenya, Prof Owen, Prof de Wet (supervisor) (from left to right)

Student Achievements

The following ANTU3725 student group was awarded First Prize for their assignment in the 2023 Library and Information Services Honours and Undergraduate Research Seminar (LISHURS): Thandekile Kunene, Mbali Shabalala, Maria Smith, Eze Ketse and Nqobile Shangase.

Teaching

Prof Owen continues to guide the Department's teaching praxis, furthering her knowledge of decolonial teaching methods, as she attended an online workshop entitled *Liberatory Methods: Investigating and Generating non-capitalist/anti-colonial social power* from March to May 2024. During this first semester, Prof Owen also reworked and revamped the first-year first semester module. She aligned the module with the historical context of the discipline in South Africa and globally, intentionally creating a link between canonical texts and research sites in the discipline and contemporary research and theorisation in and of these specific research sites. Encouraged to debate contemporary issues critically and contextually, and to interrogate conceptual and disciplinary terrain, first-year students were captivated by the realisation that Anthropology is not merely about culture, but about understanding the various and multiplex ways in which humans create and derive meaning from their experiences as individuals and as collectivities.

In 2024, Prof Owen's initiation of a more structured Honours programme in 2023, with input from senior colleagues, led to a reorientation and reorganisation of how the Honours programme was managed. Dr Masenya, who graduated with her PhD in Sociology and Anthropology during the December 2024 graduations, coordinated the year with verve and aplomb as she kept both supervisors and supervisees in check. Her dedication and commitment to student well-being supported the teaching and research schedules of the Honours' students and their individual supervisors.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Owen, J., Juries, I. and Mokoena, M., 2024. Beyond migration categories: Amity, conviviality and mutuality in South Africa. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 59(7): 2154–2169

Allman, M., Song, H., Venta, A., Serekoane, M., Pienaar, M., Lenka, M., Marais, K., Cloete, J., Marais, L., & Sharp, C. 2024. In Their Own Words: Linguistic Analysis of Interviews with Sesotho Mothers on Their Child's First Thousand Days. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*. 19(2): 273–287

Van der Merwe, A., Serekoane, M. and du Plooy, S. 2024. Situating pluralism in biomedical healthcare practices: Lessons from the ethnomedical approach. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in the South*, 8(2): 49–65

Williams, C. A. 2024 "Liberation Movement Camps in Southern Africa." In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Oxford University Press, 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.1216>

Williams, C. A. 2024. "On South(ern) Africa's Revolutionary Families." *Safundi*, Roundtable on Paul Landau, *Spear: Mandela and the Revolutionaries* 25, nos. 3–4 (2024): online. DOI: 10.1080/17533171.2024.2412377

Chapters in edited volumes

Williams, C. A. 2024. "SWAPO's 1976 Crisis and Nordic Transnational Solidarities: The Ailongas' Detainee Letters." In Leila Koivunen and Raita Merivirta, eds. *Colonial Aspects of Finnish-Namibian Relations (1870–1990)*. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21435/sfh.28>

Conference Papers/Posters

Owen, J. 2024. Presented a paper titled "I am my mother's daughter" at the WAU Conference entitled "*Reimagining Anthropological Knowledge, Perspectives, Practices and Power*", Misty Hills, Johannesburg, South Africa, 11–15 November 2024

Owen, J. 2024. Presented a paper titled "The Culture isn't ready": Narrating emergent realities in an African university", presented at ACUSAfrica conference entitled "*Leveraging Critical University Studies towards the Practical Pursuit of an Afrocentric University*", Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 16–19 October 2024

Owen, J and Mokoena, M. 2024. "*What's in a name? African resistance to Western categorisation: Reconfigurations in Africa and African Studies*". University of Bayreuth, 30 September to 2 October 2024

Serekoane, M. 2024. Situating interdisciplinarity in the third-year learning experience. HELTASA, co-hosted by the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda, 26–29 November 2024. Conference theme: "Under the Baobab Tree," fostering holistic, innovative approaches for inclusiveness, equity, and sustainability

Williams, C. A. "Archiving, Memory, and Methods from the Global South," Makerere University, Kampala, World Anthropological Union, Panel on "Anthropology and Archives," Misty Hills, Johannesburg

Williams, C. A. Presented "National Liberation and Archival Ethnography: Working with the Ailonga Collection" at "Archiving, Memory, and Methods from the Global South," Makerere University, Kampala and at the World Anthropological Union, Misty Hills, Johannesburg

Williams, C. A. Presented "Faith and Liberation in Tanzania: An Historical Ethnography of Salatiel Ailonga's Bible" at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois and at the Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference, University of Johannesburg

Williams, C. A. 2024. Presented "Becoming Christian and Namibian in South West Africa: The Early Life of Salatiel Ailonga, 1932–63" at "Reimagining Contemporary Africa: Circulations of Objects, Knowledges, and Spiritual Practices," University of the Western Cape, Department of Anthropology and at "Histories of Childhood and Youth in Southern Africa," University of the Free State, Department of History

Engaged Scholarship

Du Plooy, S

Academic Journal Club 2024/2025 member, Provincial Health Research Committee (PHRC), Department of Health, Free State Province. A group of academics from various disciplines interested in and working in/on health, as well as health practitioners, meet once a quarter to do a deep reading of a selected journal article. The purpose is capacity building and exposure to a range of academic research.

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) Adjudication Panel for scholarship applications (Master's, doctoral, postdoctoral, and sabbatical), expert in Humanities and Social Sciences, April-May 2024.

World Heritage Convention *Desk Review* 2024. The *Desk Review* is a deep analysis of the dossier (extensive paper document) that an applicant nation submits when seeking a site of theirs to be awarded World Heritage status. It is a confidential process. Despite the confidentiality of the process, it can be confirmed that the site is in Southern Africa.

SABC News 2024-07-28 Thousands of pilgrims embark on a spiritual revival pilgrimage in Clocolan, Free State, <https://youtu.be/YyHYnB86LpU?si=IFeEgoAqMobfWDIb>. Imboni Dr uZwi-Lezwe Radebe from the Revelation Spiritual Home referenced my thesis to substantiate their annual pilgrimage, showcasing my work reaches beyond academia.

Owen, J

SAFM Radio panel interview for Talking Point on 'The impact of racism in the workplace', 18 March 2024

Review of potential Routledge monograph entitled "*Chilli, Cress and Cosmopolitanism: The moral geographies of a "refugees welcome" community garden in Germany*", June 2024

Serekoane, M

"It's time to embrace stories of the past three decades" (SowetanLIVE, September 19, 2024)

"Your untold story can contribute to broadening our heritage narrative" (News24, September 22, 2024)



National and International Collaboration

In October 2024, Prof Williams was approached as one of several South African delegates participating in a conference on “Archive, Memory, and Method” at Makerere University in Uganda by the Dean of Makerere’s Humanities Faculty as a potential collaborator for future work on the conference theme. Since then, colleagues at Makerere’s History Department, UFS’s Anthropology Department, and I have begun to develop a framework for joint Honours/MA teaching in “Heritage Studies and Archival Ethnography.” In 2025, we expect to develop a curriculum in conversation with one another and to create opportunities for UFS and Makerere postgraduate students to begin interacting online.

Postgraduate Students

In 2024, we offered 10 students from various regional HEIs a spot in our Honours programme. Six students accepted the offer and completed successfully. Our external examiner was impressed by our students’ demonstrated research acumen, sensitivity, and ability to create and maintain ethically grounded relationships with their research participants. We had 13 students enrolled for Master’s and six for PhD studies.

These students’ diverse research interests include death and mourning, Zimbabwean migration to South Africa, African spirituality, motherhood in the academy, and gender-based violence. We also celebrated one Master’s and one PhD graduate in our December 2024 graduations.

Other Activities

Winnie Mandela House excursion

The Provincial Department of Sports, Arts, Culture, and Recreation (DSACR) invited the Department to participate in a community conversation and heritage site excursion. Ms Mokoena, one of our academic facilitators, facilitated the conversation with a heritage coordinator from DSACR. The excursion included a total of 20 students, including Anthropology third-years, Honours, and Master’s candidates. The excursion took place on 20 March 2024, centred around Freedom Day and Remembering Winnie Mandela as one of South Africa’s freedom fighters.

The excursion included sightseeing in Winnie Mandela Town, formerly known as Brandfort, and a conversation about heritage and ways to preserve it. Students engaged in a dialogue with members of DSACR from different directorates about the renovations around the Winnie Mandela House, which has been turned into a heritage site.



Ms Mokoena (fourth from the left) and Anthropology students

Staff (2024)

Prof J Owen

Academic Head of Department

Academic Staff

Dr S du Plooy

Senior Lecturer

DV Masenya

Qhubeka Lecturer

Prof J Owen

Associate Professor

Prof T Petrus

Associate Professor

MJ Serekoane

Lecturer (Programme Director: BSocSci)

Prof C Williams

Associate Professor

L Blomerus

Academic Facilitator

KI Juries

Academic Facilitator

M Mokoena

Academic Facilitator

Support Staff

GR Moticoe

Office Administrator

Affiliated Staff

Dr O Bialostocka

Research Fellow

Prof R Gordon

Research Fellow

Dr A Hartnack

Research Fellow

Prof R Kössler

Research Fellow

Dr J Kurzwelly

Research Fellow

Dr M Siluonde

Research Fellow

Dr F Tombindo

Research Fellow

Art History and Image Studies

Academic Head of Department

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Overview of 2024

Two key themes of growth defined the story of the Department of Art History and Image Studies in 2024: a growing commitment to innovation in teaching and our growing international visibility in research.

We further expanded what we like to think of as our teaching and learning 'ecology' through several new undergraduate initiatives: new work-preparatory assessments, critical engagements with artificial intelligence, and the piloting of a Learning Facilitator system. With these interventions, we aim to respond proactively to emerging societal challenges while consolidating core (life) skills inherent to our discipline.

At the same time, the department's research continued to garner more international recognition. Our researchers published in leading journals, participated in high-profile conferences, and received a first major international award for a departmental book publication. Such developments affirm our growing stature in global debates on image and art.

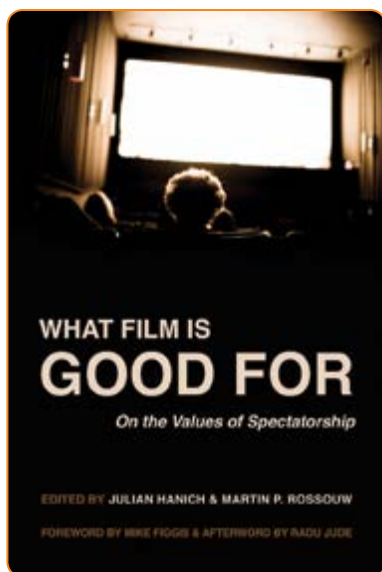
Throughout these developments, our commitment to engaged scholarship remained firmly intact. We contributed to editorial boards, public dialogues, and advisory panels, while long-standing collaborations – such as that with our Extraordinary Professor from the University of Groningen, Annie van den Oever – continued to enhance our teaching and research alike. These efforts bespeak a department steadily growing in impact and ambition.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Prof Martin Rossouw was promoted to Associate Professor and completed the final year of the University of the Free State's Transformation of the Professoriate Programme (2022–2024). He was awarded second place in the category 'Exceptional Young Achievers Award: Research' at the inaugural UFS Exceptional Academic Achievers Awards on 17 October 2024.

Prof Rossouw was also the co-recipient of the Popular Culture Association (PCA) international award for 'Best Edited Collection in Popular and American Culture' for *What Film Is Good For: On the Values of Spectatorship* (University of California Press, 2023), co-edited with Prof Julian Hanich (University of Groningen). The award was presented at the annual PCA conference in Chicago on 29 March 2024.



*Prof Martin Rossouw, co-recipient of the PCA international award for *What Film Is Good For: On the Values of Spectatorship* (University of California Press, 2023).*

Prof Suzanne Human was accepted and presented a paper at the prestigious 18th Annual Society for Ricoeur Studies Conference, hosted from 24–27 October 2024 at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her paper, titled "Historical 'Recapitulation' and the 'Metaphorical Twist': Figuring the Sacred and South African Depictions of the Land", was the only presentation by an art historian or visual arts scholar at this international conference.



Student Achievements

In recognition of his outstanding fourth-year academic achievements the year before, Sibenoxolo Foji was the well-earned recipient of the department's annual Jan Teurlinckx Prize for the best undergraduate student in Art History and Image Studies at the Faculty of The Humanities' annual academic prize-giving ceremony on 15 April 2024.



Sibenoxolo Foji (left) being awarded the prize for best undergraduate student in Art History and Image Studies by Prof Martin Rossouw (right).

Teaching

In 2024, we have established several strategic teaching and curricular interventions to support student learning and thus enhance our graduates' attractiveness in the creative industries and beyond.

In our fourth year, we developed additional assessment modes that relate more directly to professional practices of contemporary artists. In the theory module HKWS4808, we drew on the tradition of artists' books and reflective journals to implement a new *Commonplace Book* continuous assessment project, one that encourages ongoing critical engagement and personal reflection. In the research-based module HKGK4808, our assessment innovations included the new *Artist's Atlas* project – developed by Josef van Wyk – as well as a new studio-visit oral assessment component. These aim to strengthen the integration of theoretical inquiry with studio practice and to reflect the hybrid engagements typical of working artists. In partnership with the UFS's Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), tailor-made Writing Workshops were also introduced to help students sharpen their critical reading and writing skills to support their final-year research projects.

As a further undergraduate teaching and learning intervention, the department piloted the use of Learning Facilitators in 2024 to support undergraduate academic development. The initiative aims to strengthen students' critical reading and writing skills so that we can expand our future postgraduate pipeline. Two facilitators were appointed: Ambrocia Keyser (MA Art History), supporting second-year

modules, and Beate Jordaan (Honours Art History), supporting third-year modules. Both bring prior tutoring experience and a strong familiarity with the departmental curriculum.



Ms. Ambrocia Keyser (left) and Ms. Beate Jordaan (right) were appointed as the department's new undergraduate learning facilitators in 2024.

For our first-year students, we sought to further foreground critical experiential engagements both inside and outside the classroom. In May 2024, students visited Oliewenhuis Art Museum, where Yolanda de Kock, Education Officer and specialist in Art Education, led a guided tour of the museum's grounds and exhibitions. The tour introduced students to the museum's history, collection, and broader museological discourses around public access, the privatisation of the art sector, and the democratisation of art spaces. Many students were first-time visitors to the museum and expressed a keen interest in returning.



First-year Art History and Image Studies students during a guided tour at Oliewenhuis Art Museum in May 2024.

Critical and experiential exposure to the recent boom in 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI) was also prioritised in our first-year curriculum. As developed by Louiza Combrinck, first-year tutorials included a three-part assessment sequence on the use of AI as a tool in learning art history. Students generated an AI-assisted art history timeline, created a 'metapicture' using an image generator, and students answered critical-reflective questions regarding an AI-generated art history essay. The aim is to develop foundational technical fluency with AI tools while promoting critical awareness of their strengths and limitations, especially in relation to questions of authorship, accuracy, and academic integrity within the discipline.

Research Projects

Prof Suzanne Human is developing a book project that sets Paul Ricoeur's philosophy in a novel dialogue with image theory and visual art, specifically South African art. As part of this research, she presented a paper at the prestigious 18th Annual Society for Ricoeur Studies Conference, held at the University of Chicago Divinity School from 24–27 October 2024. Her paper, titled "Historical 'Recapitulation' and the 'Metaphorical Twist': Figuring the Sacred and South African Depictions of the Land", engaged with the conference theme, *Imagination and Metaphor: Paul Ricoeur at Chicago, 50th Anniversary*. Notably, her paper was the only contribution from an art historian or visual arts scholar at the conference. A related article is forthcoming and will serve as an early indication of what to expect from the broader book project.



Prof Suzanne Human, whose current research explores the philosophy of Paul Ricoeur, image theory, and South African visual art.

In June 2024, Prof Human produced an article with the UFS-based artist Prof Adelheid von Maltitz, titled "Adelheid Frackiewicz: Landart, Mourning, and Translation", in the IBSS and Scopus-accredited journal *Critical Arts*. The article (released in pre-print) emerges from an ongoing dialogue between Human and von Maltitz, focusing on the role of translation in the land art of South African artist ('Adelheid Frackiewicz' is a pseudonym adopted by von Maltitz to reflect her Polish heritage).

Prof Martin Rossouw is a co-recipient of a South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) research grant of ZAR 215,000 for the three-year project *The Marion Island Hut Book Project* (2024–2026). The project is led by Elizabeth M. Rudolph (UFS, Department of Geography) in collaboration with Marike Stander (UFS), Anne Treasure (Stellenbosch University), Charne Lavery (University of Pretoria), and Ria Olivier (Stellenbosch University). The team co-authored a poster titled *Sub-Antarctic Island Chronicles: From Huts to Bytes*, which was presented by Rudolph at the 11th Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Open Science Conference in Pucón, Chile, from 19–23 August 2024.

Prof Rossouw also served as guest editor for a forthcoming special issue of *Critical Arts*, which addresses the conceptual triad of translation, interdisciplinarity, and the arts. The issue was inspired by an international translation theory conference co-hosted by the Department of Art History and Image Studies and the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice in December 2022. The edition is currently in preparation and is expected to be published by May 2025.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Rossouw, M.P. 2024. "Reflexive Wonderings: Prospects and Parameters of a Heideggerian Approach to Film as Philosophy." *Film-Philosophy* 28(1): 47–61. <https://doi.org/10.3366/film.2024.0254>

Coëgnarts, M. 2024. "The Interaction of Color in Film." *Projections* 18(3): 67–89. <https://doi.org/10.3167/proj.2024.180304>

Weys, D. 2024. "On Instinctive Filmmaking in *Will My Parents Come to See Me*: A Conversation with Filmmaker Mo Harawe." *Short Film Studies* 14(1): 7–18. https://doi.org/10.1386/sfs_00106_7

Chapters in edited volumes

Rossouw, M.P. 2024. "Rear Window: Intermedialities of Peeping in the Plural." In: Robson, M. & Robinson, L. (eds.), *One Shot Hitchcock: A Contemporary Approach to the Screen*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 141–161. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197682876.003.0009>

Book reviews

Rossouw, M.P. 2024. "Biopolitical Ethics in *Global Cinema* by Seung-hoon Jeong." *Film Quarterly* 78(2): 87–88. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1525/fq.2024.78.2.87>

Conference Papers/Posters

Human, S. 2024. "Historical "Recapitulation" and the "Metaphorical Twist": Figuring the Sacred and South African Depictions of the Land. Paper presented at the 18th Annual Society for Ricoeur Studies Conference, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL, USA, 24–27 October 2024.

Stander, M.H., Rudolph, E.M., Treasure, A.M., Lavery, C., Olivier, R. & **Rossouw, M.P.** 2024. *Sub-Antarctic Island Chronicles: From Huts to Bytes*. Poster presented at the 11th Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Open Science Conference, Pucón, Chile, 19–23 August 2024. (Co-authored poster presented in person by E.M. Rudolph.)

Engaged Scholarship

In 2024, Prof Martin Rossouw was invited to serve on several advisory and adjudication panels, both locally and abroad. He was a member of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Adjudication Panel for scholarship applications in the field of Performing and Creative Arts (May 2024). Regarding academic publishing, he participated as an invited author and editor in a virtual Advisory Focus Group meeting hosted by De Gruyter Brill (15 August 2024) to offer feedback on the publisher's newly revised mission & vision and corporate branding.

Prof Rossouw also took part in public film culture initiatives and engagements. He served as a virtual jury member for the Film7Days project in Kazan, Tatarstan, an international competition held from 30 August to 5 September 2024, during which ten BRICS-country teams produced short fiction films within a seven-day timeframe. Earlier in the year, on 6 July 2024, he took part in the public panel *Ligte, Kamera, Lees: Nuwe Boeke oor Film* at the Vrystaat Arts Festival, where his co-edited book *What Film is Good For* was one of three titles discussed in dialogue with fellow film scholars Chris Broodryk (University of Pretoria) and Chris Vorster (UFS).

In terms of ongoing advisory roles, Prof Suzanne Human continued to serve as Chair of the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery advisory board, playing a leading role in guiding visual arts programming at the University of the Free State.

Similarly, Josef van Wyk remained an active member of the Oliewenhuis Art Museum advisory board and the Commission for the Visual Arts of the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns* (SAAWK).

Van Wyk furthermore opened the departmental student exhibition *console.log("exhibit")*; which was on show in the Johannes Stegmann Gallery from 8 May to 7 June 2024. The exhibition showcased work by first- to third-year Fine Arts students.



Josef van Wyk, member of the Olievenhuis Art Museum and SAAWK advisory boards, who also opened the 2024 student exhibition 'console.log("exhibit");' at the Johannes Stegmann Gallery in May 2024.

Editorial work continued to be a significant aspect of our engaged scholarship. Prof Rossouw remained series editor of Brill's *Contemporary Cinema*, an international academic book series devoted to developments in screen culture since the turn of the millennium. He also continued his role as editorial board member of *Short Film Studies*, currently the only international journal dedicated to research on short films. Additionally, as mentioned above, Prof Rossouw is guest-editing a special issue of *Critical Arts* on the themes of translation, interdisciplinarity, and the arts, forthcoming in May 2025.

National and International Collaboration

Prof Annie van den Oever continued her collaboration with the department in her capacity as Extraordinary Professor. She visited the University of the Free State from 16 to 21 February 2024 during which time she delivered guest lectures, engaged in postgraduate supervision, and met with key institutional stakeholders. Prof Van den Oever is Associate Professor of Film in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), and a research associate at the Institut ACTE, Cinéma et Audiovisuelle, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She is the founding editor of the *Key Debates* academic book series (Amsterdam University Press), founding editor of *NECSUS: European Journal of Media Studies*, serves on the editorial board of *Image & Text*, and is an advisor to Dalkey Archive Press.

Other Activities

In July 2024, Prof Martin Rossouw was nominated by the Dean of the Faculty of The Humanities to participate in the University of the Free State's year-long Academic Leadership Programme (ALP), which runs from July 2024 to June 2025. The programme is designed to support the development of senior academic staff by fostering strategic thinking, leadership capacity, and collaboration within the higher education sector.

Staff (2024)

Academic Staff

Prof Martin P Rossouw	Academic Head of Department
Prof E. Suzanne Human	Associate Professor
Josef van Wyk	Lecturer
Johanet Kriel-De Klerk	Lecturer (Units)
Louiza Combrinck	Junior Lecturer (Units)
Beate Jordaan	Learning Facilitator (Units)
Ambrocia Keyser	Learning Facilitator (Units)

Support Staff

Amanda de Gouveia	Senior Assistant Officer (5/8)
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Affiliated Staff

Prof Annie van den Oever	Extraordinary Professor
Dr Nikita Mathias	Research Fellow
Dr Maarten Coëgnarts	Research Fellow
Dian Weys	Research Fellow



Gender and Africa Studies

Academic Head of Department

Prof Stephanie Cawood

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Overview of 2024

For the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (CGAS), 2024 was a productive year with the highest number of students enrolled in programmes across the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses since its inception, more engaged scholarship activities than ever before, and achieving a record number of verified research outputs with academic staff, extraordinary professors, and research fellows all contributing. The 2023 research outputs (23.56) nearly doubled for the 2024 cycle, with a total count of 42.57 (23.2261 for articles and 19.3445 for book and conference contributions). We are particularly proud that up to nine academic staff members (full-time and ad hoc) in the CGAS made contributions in this regard, and that in many cases, Centre staff published in collaboration with each other or with other affiliated staff. One of the flagship events on the official UFS calendar is the Africa Day Memorial Lecture, which is organised and hosted annually by the CGAS. Since our inception, we have brought some of the most well-known Africanist intellectuals and decolonial scholars to the UFS (Spivak, Mazrui, Mbembe, Mamdani, Ngugi, Zeleza, Nyamnjoh, Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Mignolo, etc.) and covered a range of contemporary issues. From 2022, after the CGAS extended our operations to the Qwaqwa Campus, we decided to alternate major commemorative events hosted by the CGAS between the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses in the spirit of social cohesion. In May 2024, the Africa Day Memorial lecture hosted on the Qwaqwa Campus, organised by the CGASQQ, was the first-ever memorial lecture hosted on the Qwaqwa Campus by the UFS. The event was a major success with the local community and members of the royal households from the Free State and the Eastern Cape present. This event also coincided with the launch of the book, *Migration, Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities* (editors: Mushonga, Aerni-Flessner, Twala and Magaiza) that formally concluded the NIHSS Borderlands Project

(PI: Mushonga). The year also ended on a high note when the UFS conferred an honorary doctorate in Africa Studies on Her Excellency, Madame Bineta Diop, special envoy to the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Women, Peace and Security.



CGAS staff photo taken on the Qwaqwa Campus at the Africa Day Memorial Lecture

Achievements

The CGAS as a collective attained several laudable achievements in 2024. During the December 2024 graduation ceremonies, Her Excellency, Madame Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, was awarded an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Philosophy in Africa Studies *honoris causa*, from the UFS for her pivotal work championing women's leadership in peacebuilding and conflict resolution across the African continent. She was also instrumental in adopting the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa and the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa, and in 2011 was named one of *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People.



Graduation of Her Excellency, Madame Diop, with her companions and Prof Heidi Hudson from the CGAS

Staff Achievements

Prof Stephanie Cawood (Director: CGAS) was promoted from senior lecturer to associate professor from 1 January 2024. She was also reappointed for a second term as Director/Academic Head of the Department of the CGAS from 1 June 2024 until 31 May 2029. After concluding her first full term as Director, Prof Cawood became eligible and applied for research leave from 1 June to 30 November 2024. Dr Grey Magaiza was appointed as Acting Director during her absence.

Dr Grey Magaiza (Deputy Director: CGASQQ) received the Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers award by the NRF, valued at R850 000, for a period of three years. In addition, Dr Magaiza applied for and received a grant worth \$25 000 to host Prof Jesse Lutabingwa on the Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Programme, which took place at the Centre for Gender and African Studies, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus, from 1 June 2024 to 22 August 2024.

Prof Heidi Hudson was awarded a book contract with Bristol University Press to publish her monograph titled *A posthuman feminist peace: Gender, relationality and the more-than-human in African peacebuilding and security*, slated for completion in 2025.

Prof Hussein Solomon initiated and was instrumental in the development of memoranda of understanding with numerous international institutions, including Charles University (Czech Republic), the Independent University of Banja Luka (Bosnia Herzegovina), Riara University (Kenya), and Miranda House at Delhi University (India), significantly expanding the international footprint of the CGAS and the UFS as well.

During 2024, Prof Gupta participated in several influential international conferences, disseminating insights and contributing towards global scholarly engagements in visual culture, memory, and post-pandemic imaginaries. She was invited as keynote speaker for a symposium on the *Pan Asian Heritage of St Francis Xavier: Between Memory and Contemporary Appropriations*, held in Goa, India, from 12–15 December 2024. Prof Gupta's keynote address was titled *Navigating Space, Time, and Meaning with Francis Xavier*. The presentation was sponsored by ISAC (Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics) and Michel Chambon, University of Singapore. Furthermore, Prof Gupta was honoured with an academic invitation to the University College Cork, Ireland. On 9 September 2024, Prof Gupta engaged with the Faculty on her ongoing research projects in South Africa on “*Joburg's pools in a time of South African infrastructure*, Mauritius “*Re (imaging) the Dodo bird in a time of the Anthropocene*”, and in Zanzibar, *Experiments in the Dark: Visualising Capital Art Studio* (book project). Dr Kylie Thomas, a senior researcher at Radical Humanities Laboratory, sponsored the engagement.

Dr Juliet Kamwendo, Programme Director for the Programme for Gender Studies in the CGAS, was invited to participate in the regional workshop on establishing AFR100 Technical Assistance Platform (TAP) for FLR Monitoring, Registries and Gender Mainstreaming in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 25–29 March 2024.

Dr Moorosi Leshoele was appointed as the Programme Director for the Programme for Africa Studies in the CGAS from 1 December 2024. He also successfully supervised his first doctoral student to completion during the 2024 academic year.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga was invited to participate in the prestigious 2024 Granada Critical Muslim Studies Summer School from 6–10 June 2024.

Support staff members, Portia Gailele (Administrative Officer), Rose Nthoroane (Administrative Officer, Qwaqwa Campus) and Ankia Bradfield (Programme Coordinator), attended the Empowered Administrators Conference (EAC) at Zimbali, Durban, from 19–20 September, where they all obtained

a certificate of completion/full attendance. The EAC aimed to provide our support staff with innovative solutions and new strategies to make them bolder and more resilient as office professionals.



Support staff attending the Empowered Administrators Conference in Durban

Student Achievements

During the April 2024 graduations, the CGAS graduated 45 students across its numerous programmes: Bachelor in Community Development (QQ) with 35 graduates, the BAHons with specialisation in Gender Studies with four graduates, the structured MA with specialisation in Gender Studies with five graduates and one graduate in the MPhil with specialisation in Africa Studies by dissertation.



CGAS staff and some students during the April graduation on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Sanele Jabulani Hlongwane obtained the Bachelor of Community Development with distinction during the April graduation ceremony on the Qwaqwa Campus. During the April prize-giving ceremony on the Bloemfontein Campus for the Faculty of the Humanities, Refloehape Sesinyi received the prize for the

Best Student in the Bachelor of Arts Honours with specialisation in Gender Studies. During the subsequent graduation ceremonies, she also obtained her degree with distinction.



Refloehape Sesinye received the prize for the Best Student in the BAHons (Gender Studies) from Gender Studies Programme Director, Dr Juliet Kamwendo, at the Faculty of the Humanities prize-giving in April

Teaching

The CGASQQ offered the PGDip in Community Development for the very first time in 2024 as part of its niche academic offering on the Qwaqwa Campus and enrolled an impressive 89 students as part of its pioneer cohort, the majority of whom were bursary holders. The PhD programme in the CGAS, with more than 30 registered students, remains one of the flagship programmes in the Centre, with wide-ranging innovative, interdisciplinary doctoral research topics. It is also one of the largest doctoral programmes in the Faculty of the Humanities.

For the 2024 academic year, the CGAS enrolled a record number of 362 students across all programmes and qualifications:

- Bachelor in Community Development (Qwaqwa): 201
- PGDip in Community Development (Qwaqwa): 89
- BAHons with specialisation in Africa Studies (Bloemfontein): 5
- MPhil with specialisation in Africa Studies by dissertation (Bloemfontein): 10
- MPhil with specialisation in Africa Studies by article option (Bloemfontein): 2
- BAHons with specialisation in Gender Studies (Bloemfontein): 12
- Structured MA with specialisation in Gender Studies (Bloemfontein): 12
- PhD with specialisation in Africa Studies: 31 (including 7 students from the International Studies Group under the auspices of Prof Ian Phimister)

During the July 2024 Gender Studies contact sessions, Prof Pamila Gupta presented two postgraduate teaching seminars for Honours and Master's students. These seminars were dedicated to research proposal writing. Prof Gupta also commenced supervision of a new MA student (CGAS and Drama, UFS), on the topic *Re-imagining the African Body*.

During 2024, Prof Solomon contributed to several teaching initiatives across various academic institutions, both locally and internationally. His engagement included lectures on the following:

- Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation presented to postgraduate students in the Department of History and Political Science at Nelson Mandela University
- Patriarchy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to students in the Programme for Gender Studies (BAHons, MA) in the CGAS at the UFS
- The challenges confronting multilateral diplomacy for students at Manav Rachna University in Faridabad, India
- India Relations with Africa to students at Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi
- Africa's international relations presented to students at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi
- Issues of war and peace and conflict resolution in Africa to MA students at Riara University, Nairobi, Kenya
- Terrorism to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of North Georgia

In 2024, Dr Mushonga, the incumbent Programme Director for the Programme for Africa Studies, was part of the CGAS rearticulation of the Honours Programme in Africa Studies to embed decoloniality and gender within Africa Studies. Two new modules were introduced: *ASHW6806: Africa studies and the decolonial world*, and *ASHA6806: Gender and Africa*. Existing modules were also recalibrated for better alignment to current trends and needs.

As the future Programme Director for the Programme for Africa Studies, Dr Moorosi Leshoele, contributed to the restructuring of the BAHons with specialisation in Africa Studies. The [rearticulation](#) served as an important pedagogic intervention, with full implementation expected in 2025.

After the online learning modalities of 2021/2022, the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (Bloemfontein Campus) implemented a blended approach for BAHons and MA qualifications in 2023 and replicated this model in 2024. This meant returning to 75% face-to-face and 25% online facilitation. Thus, students attended blocked contact sessions three times per year for one week at a time (February, May, July), while the final contact session took place online using the Blackboard Collaboration platform (September). The PGDip in Community Development is a fully online programme with classes every fortnight, while the Bachelor in Community Development is fully face-to-face.

Short Learning Programmes offered

Willem Ellis, Research Fellow and SLP Coordinator in the CGAS, facilitated and supported several short learning programmes. The following reflects on short learning programmes offered in 2024:

Campus Infrastructures for Peace (CI4P)

The ITP-derived project, 'Campus Conflict Infrastructures for Peace' (CI4P), was again offered to the Human Rights Ambassador Programme of the Faculty of Law. This entailed conflict competency training for students, mostly in residences, aimed at strengthening conflict management capacity among students in residences specifically and on campus in general. Thirty-five students were trained on the Bloemfontein and South campuses, and nine students on the Qwaqwa Campus.

Conflict Competency (ASCC1502S)

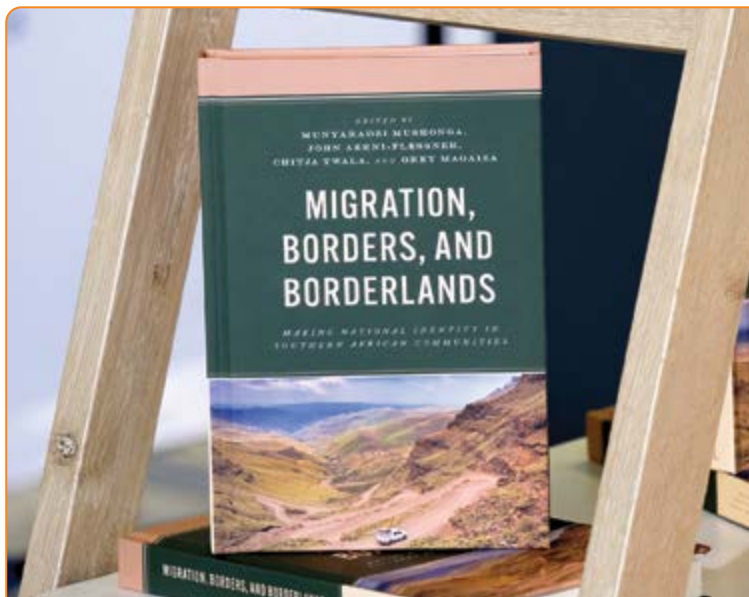
The conflict competency course was offered to the senior security management staff of the Central University of Technology during a four-day training course in July 2024. The security managers were trained in general conflict dynamics, conflict handling styles, conflict analysis, conflict management, and mediation skills. All training was formally assessed, and ten CUT security managers were duly certified upon successful completion of the course.

Decorum (PDSP1500S)

Although not the owner of the Decorum Short Learning programme, the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies assisted the Programme on Governance and Political Transformation with the project management of the (Parliamentary) Decorum short learning programme (PDSP1500S). In terms of the programme, 71 parliamentary officials from all ten legislatures in South Africa were trained in parliamentary decorum.

Research Projects

The NIHSS Borderlands Project (R493,005.49) under the leadership of principal investigator, Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga, culminated with the launch of the book (based on original empirical research) on 22 May 2024 during the Africa Day festivities held in Qwaqwa, Migration, *Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities*, edited by M. Mushonga, J. Aerni-Flessner, C. Twala, and G. Magaiza and published by Lexington Books in 2024 (312 p).



The launch of the book, Migration, Borders and Borderlands on 22 May 2024.



The book launch coincided with the Africa Day Memorial Lecture on 22 May 2024



Prof Zondi, Humanities Vice-Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies, handed copies of the 'Migration, Borders and Borderlands' book to members of Royal Houses from the Free State and Eastern Cape, where the research took place.



Dr Mushonga addressing the audience at the book launch.

During 2024, Dr Magaiza commenced a project on the Livelihood Transitions in the Former homelands of Qwaqwa and Transkei. The project is funded by the NRF Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers for three years, to the value of R850,000.00. Dr Magaiza also coordinated the *Democracy @30* project at the Qwaqwa research site in collaboration with the HSRC. The project sought to get local voices and reflections on the 30 years of democracy in South Africa.

The Free State Indigenous Knowledge Systems Documentation Centre (FS IKSDC), housed in the CGAS since 2013, entered its eleventh year of operations with Prof Stephanie Cawood as the project manager/ special advisor, Mike Nxumalo as the project coordinator, and Theso Mofokeng and Reabetswe Mokhaso, the IK data recorders working in the partner communities surrounding Clarens in the eastern Free State.

The IKSDC forms part of a national project initiated and funded by the Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI). This is a community engagement project to document, protect, and record indigenous knowledge related to medicinal plants and foodstuffs in a national recordal system called NIKMAS across all South African provinces for safekeeping under the 2019 IKS Act. From 16-17 April 2024, Prof Stephanie Cawood, the longest serving project manager since the inception of the national initiative, attended the Project Manager's Forum in Durban and also organised and delivered the first ever instalment in the newly created IKSDC Webinar Series with a presentation titled *Decolonising knowledge: IKS as epistemic emancipation* on 28 May 2024, moderated by Mike Nxumalo (FS IKSDC Coordinator). The total value of funding received to date to support the operations of the Free State IKSDC is approximately R7,250,000.00.

IKSDC WEBINAR SERIES

Decolonising knowledge:

IKS as epistemic emancipation

28 May 2024 | 12:30 – 14:00

RSVP: cawoods@ufs.ac.za

SPEAKER



Prof Stephanie Cawood
(FS IKSDC Project Manager)

MODERATOR

Mike Nxumalo
(FS IKSDC Coordinator)

TEAMS 

Click on this logo for the link

Speaker biography:
Prof Stephanie Cawood is the Director of and Associate Professor in the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State. She is interested in the interdisciplinary spaces between Africa and Gender Studies from a decolonial/postcolonial perspective with particular interest in matters of culture and heritage, rhetoric, the oral tradition, indigenous knowledge systems and memory, which are all entangled in complex ways. Her involvement in the ambitious initiative by the DSTI to document and safeguard IKS in a dedicated and specialised national recordal system has been longstanding and she has been project manager for the Free State IKSDC since 2013 when it was first established.

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BLOEMFONTEIN 9600

Prof Stephanie Cawood organised and presented the first instalment in the newly created IKSDC Webinar Series

In the first quarter of 2024, the CGAS through the initiative of principal investigator, Dr Harlan Cloete (Research Fellow in the CGAS since 2024) and with Prof Cawood as internal project manager, concluded two contract research projects funded by the LGSETA to the total value of R2,599,000.00, respectively on assessing human resource development implementation at local government level and an assessment of a skills audit on women in leadership and management positions in local government. In

the final quarter of 2024, a new LGSETA project was initiated by Dr Cloete with Dr Grey Magaiza as the internal project manager, with the value of R1,299,500, slated for continuation in 2025. The topic of this project is the role of workplace training systems in supporting the implementation of municipal staff regulations to assess municipal readiness. Total LGSETA funding for contract research to date is valued at R3,898,500.00.



Dr Harlan Cloete, Research Fellow in the CGAS, and principal investigator in the LGSETA projects

Research Outputs Accredited

(Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses combined)

Articles

Aerni-Flessner, J., and **Magaiza, G.** 2024. Basotho and the Bantustans: Long-Term Impacts of Historical Borders on Borderlands Communities in Qwaqwa and Lesotho, *South African Historical Journal*, 75(1-2) 111-129.

Alubafi, MF. 2024. COVID-19 and Sunday worship in the wake of the pandemic at Our Lady of Loreto, South Africa. *Theological Studies*, 80(1):1-6.

Alubafi, MF. 2024. Decolonising the Cultural Landscape: Preserving Historical Statues in Tshwane, South Africa. *African Studies*, 82 (3-4): 348-363.

Biljohn, M., and **Magaiza, G.** 2024. Reimagining local government service delivery through the quadruple helix. *South African journal of Science*, 120(11/12):1-3.

Dube, J. 2024. Analysing the Nexus between Innovation and Knowledge Sharing among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Promoting Development in BRICS Countries. *BRICS Journal of Economics*, 5(3): 163-178.

Fisher, JWW, Gadjanova, E. & Hitchen, J. 2024. WhatsApp and Political Communication in West Africa: Accounting for Differences in Parties' Organization and Message Discipline Online. *Party Politics*, 30(5): 934-948.

Foka, A. & **Griffin, G.** 2024. AI, Cultural Heritage, and Bias: Some Key Queries that Arise from the use of GenAi. *Heritage*, 7: 6125-6136.

Hudson, H. & **Madsen, DH.** 2024. The Politics of Space and Relationality: Localization and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Uganda. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 18(3): 346-366.

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Kamwendo, JC. 2024. Gendering the Decision-Making Positions in Higher Education: A Cross-Sectional Gender Audit in Three Selected Universities in Malawi. 6(1): 1-10.

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Chapters in edited volumes

Biekart, K., Camfield, L., Kothari, U. & **Melber, H.** 2024. Rethinking Development and Decolonising Development Studies. In: H. Melber, U. Kothari, L. Camfield, & K. Biekart (eds.). *Challenging Global Development*. EADI Global Development Series. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. 1-13.

Bohler-Muller, N. Pienaar, G., Davids, YD. & Hagg, G. 2024. The rights to environmental and human health and wellbeing: Just breaking? In: V. Reddy, N Bohler-Muller, Z. Mokomane & C. Soudien (eds.). *State of the Nation: Quality of Life and Wellbeing*. Cape Town: HSRC Press. 22-47.

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Gupta, P. 2024. Notes for a Visual Essay on the Experience of Art Deco in South Africa. In: H. Judin, A. Lissoni & AK. Hlongwane (eds.). *In Whose Place? Confronting Vestiges of Colonialism and Apartheid*. Auckland Park: Jacana. 211-230.

Griffin, G. 2024. 'Here today, gone tomorrow: The vicissitudes of funding in gendered higher education contexts: A view from Sweden'. In: S. Acker, O-H Ylijoki and MK McGinn (eds.). *The Social Production of Research: Perspectives on Funding and Gender*. Oxon: Routledge. 37-50.

Hart, TGB., Roberts, BJ., Pienaar, G., Davids, YD. **Bohler-Muller, N.** & Runciman, C. 2024. COVID-19 Triggers Growing Support for a Basic Income Grant in South Africa. In: S. Motala, T. Hart & S. Nganda (eds.). *Social Security Review Vol 2: Social Security in the time of COVID-19*. Pretoria: Department of Social Development. 164-186.

Isike, C. & **Amao, OB.** 2024. Political science for whom? Reflections on teaching and learning political science in selected African universities. In: L. Laakso & S. Zondi (eds.). *Political Science Discipline in Africa: Freedom, Relevance, Impact*. London: Bloomsbury. 83-101.

Kabelenga, I. & **Alubafi, MF.** 2024. Lived experiences of female social work and community development students at the University of Zambia (UNZA) about online education during the COVID-19 pandemic. In: S. Puiu & SO. Idowu (eds.). *Online Education during COVID-19 and Beyond: Opportunities, Challenges and Outlook*. Cham: Springer. 291-314.

Kamwendo, TA. & **Kamwendo, JC.** The Gendered impacts of Covid-19: The need to promote the right to human Genome editing in South Africa. In: TV. Warikandwa, K. Kariseb, SD. Kamga & DU. Zaire (eds.). *Constitutionalism and Sustainable Economic Development in Africa*. Johannesburg: LexisNexis. 129-140.

Kamuti, T. 2024. The state of wildlife tourism in the Southern African region: The case of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In: LS Stone & MT Stone (eds.). *Wildlife Tourism Dynamics in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues, Challenges and Prospects for Sustainable Development*. Cham: Springer. 73-86.

Melber, H. 2024. Solidarität mit Zimbabwe. In: H. Melber (ed.). *Solidarität mit Zimbabwe. 40 Jahre Zimbabwe Netzwerk: Geschichte, Analysen, Perspektiven*. Frankfurt: Brandes & Apsel. 10-24.

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Mushonga, M. & **Cawood, S.** 2024. 'You have to pay with your body': The precarity of subaltern Basotho migrant women within the Lesotho-South Africa border(land)s. In: M Mushonga, J. Aerni-Flessner, C Twala and G Magaiza (Eds.). *Migration, Borders and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities*. Lanham: Lexington Books. 225-252.

Onwuegbuchulam, SPC. 2024. What One Has Reason to Value: Language Transformation Agenda in Africa from the Capability Approach Perspective. In: I. Mhute & E. Mavengano (eds.). *Political Communication in Sub-Saharan Africa, Volume II: Governance and Language Policy*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. 39-54.

Reddy, V., **Bohler-Muller, N.**, Mokomane, Z. & Soudien, C. 2024. Quality of life and wellbeing: A good life? In: V. Reddy, N Bohler-Muller, Z. Mokomane & C. Soudien (eds.). *State of the Nation: Quality of Life and Wellbeing*. Cape Town: HSRC Press. 3-21.

Lewis, D., **Reddy, V.**, Moletsane, R. & Thuynsma, HA. 2024. Towards a New Palate: Thinking Through Food in South Africa. In: D. Lewis, V. Reddy, R. Moletsane & TA Thuynsma (eds.). *Thinking Through Food in South Africa: Identities, Embodiment and Representation*. Pretoria: ESI Press. 11–26.

Solomon, H. 2024. Confronting the Rise of Radicalisation and Terrorism in Africa. In: R. Beri (ed.). *India-Africa: Building Synergies in Peace, Security and Development*. New Delhi: Pentagon Press. 82–93.

Solomon, H. 2024. BRICS Plus and Climate Change. In: H. Solomon, S. Solomon & B. Gupta (eds.). *BRICS and Climate Change: Balancing National Interests, National Development Goals and Global Environmental Sustainability*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan. 165–182.

Solomon, H. & Solomon, S. 2024. BRICS and Climate Change: Balancing National Interests, National Development Goals and Environmental Sustainability. In: H. Solomon, S. Solomon & B. Gupta (eds.). *BRICS and Climate Change: Balancing National Interests, National Development Goals and Global Environmental Sustainability*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan. 233–242.

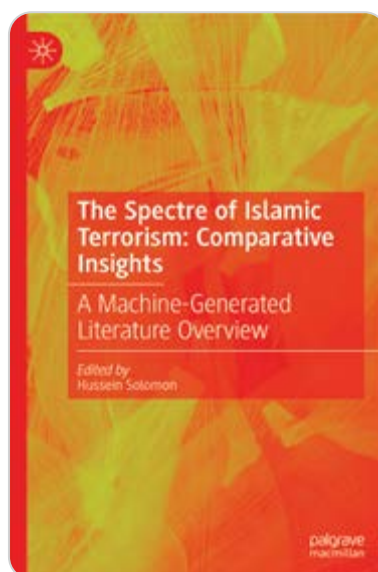
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Authored Books

Amao, OB. 2024. *The Foreign Policy and Intervention Behaviour of Africa's Middle Powers. An Analytic Eclecticism Approach*. London: Bloomsbury.

Melber, H. 2024. *The Long Shadow of German Colonialism. Amnesia, Denialism, and Revisionism*. London: Hurst.

Solomon, H (ed.). 2024. *The Spectre of Islamic Terrorism: Comparative Insights: A Machine-Generated Literature Overview*. Cham: Springer Macmillan.



Prof Hussein Solomon's experimental machine-generated book to test the potential uses and limits of AI in academic scholarship was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2024.

Conference Papers/Posters

Cawood, S., Magaiza, G. & Shepherd-Powell, J. 2024. Presented paper, “*Comparative Mountain Epistemes: Exploring the Appalachian and the Drakensberg Mountains*” at the 47th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference held in Cullowhee, hosted by Western Carolina University (North Caroline) on the theme, “Beloved Community: Pride in Identity, Culture and Geography”, 7–9 March 2024.

Chidarikire, M. & **Kamwendo, JC.** 2024. Analysing the social-economic implications of masculine gender-based violence within Zimbabwe. Paper presented at an International Interdisciplinary Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, 25–27 June 2024.

Dlamini, N. 2024. Presented paper titled “Gendered patterns of alcohol consumption among students in a rural South African college” at the American Association of Geographers conference held in Hawaii, April 2024.

Dube, J. 2024. Attended the International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference in December 2024 (UFS, Qwaqwa Campus).

Dube, J. 2024. Attended the Decolonising knowledge production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (HSSA) in August 2024 (UFS, Bloemfontein Campus).

Dube, J. 2024. Attended the International Security of Land Tenure Conference in May 2024 (UFS, Bloemfontein Campus).

Gupta, P. 2024. "Looking for, Listening to Crowds" in the Capital Art Studio Collection (Zanzibar)". Paper/presentation at the *Camera South Asia II* Conference. Columbia University, New York, USA. Sponsored by Rahaab Allana and Debashree Mukherjee. April 26, 2024.

Gupta, P. 2024. "Of Waves, Plates, and Boats: Portrait of a Goan Sea Artist" Paper/presentation. Arts of the Indian Ocean Conference. University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada. Sponsored by Sarah Fee and Zulfikar Hirji. May 2-4, 2024.

Gupta, P. 2024. Invited Keynote Speaker, 'Decolonising Knowledge Production' Colloquium. Sponsored by CGAS (UFS). Title: "Reflections on Portuguese Decolonisation in the Indian Ocean World," Bloemfontein, SA. August 27-29, 2024.

Gupta, P. 2024. "'The Good Life': Care and Dwelling in a Post-Pandemic World" Paper/Presentation. "Post-Pandemic Imaginaries: Space, Culture and Memory after Lockdown" Conference. University of Liverpool, Sponsored by Alyssa Grossman and Les Roberts. September 5-6, 2024.

Gupta, P. 2024. Keynote Speaker, "The Pan Asian Heritage of St. Francis Xavier: Between Memory and Contemporary Appropriations", Goa, India. Title: "Navigating Space, Time, and Meaning with Francis Xavier," Sponsored by ISAC (Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics). Goa, India, December 12-15, 2024.

Hudson, H. 2024. Invited to present a paper at the MASA (Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa) Conference on "Sustainable Regional Peacebuilding in Africa: Practices and Disconnects", 27-28 November 2023, University of Ghana, Accra ('Doing' Gender Relationally for Sustainable Peace: Conceptual Traps and Transformations).

Hudson, H. 2024. Presented a paper on "The Politics of Space and Relationality: Localisation and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Uganda" at the International Studies Association Conference, 3-6 April 2024, San Francisco.

Hudson, H. 2024. Invited to participate in a Roundtable on "What does it look like when we actually localise and decolonise peacebuilding (and stop simply talking about it)", International Studies Association Conference, 3-6 April 2024, San Francisco.



Prof Pamila Gupta delivering the keynote address at the conference on The Pan Asian Heritage of St. Francis Xavier in Goa, India, 12-15 December 2024.

Kamwendo JC. 2024. The bumpy road to gender equality, women empowerment, and girls' education in Malawi: Insights from Chichewa proverbs as wisdom of the people: Paper presented at the 3rd International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management. Nairobi, 4-6 October 2023.

Kamwendo, JC. 2024. Multifaceted Barriers faced by women academics in South African Higher education in the decolonising knowledge production: Experiences from Black women academics: 'Decolonising' knowledge production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (HSSA): Reflecting on a decade of the Charter for Humanities

and Social Sciences in South African Higher Education. The colloquium was held from 27 to 29 August 2024 on the Bloemfontein Campus, University of the Free State.

Kamwendo JC. 2024. “Un-masking decision-making positions in Higher Education in Malawi: A Post-colonial Gender Audit of three selected Universities” is accepted for Oral/Poster presentation in our International Conference on Recent Trends in Multi-Disciplinary Research (ICRTMDR-2024) on 17th & 18th November 2024 at Istanbul, Turkey.

Leshoele, M. 2024. Attended an international conference at UNISA from 1-3 April 2024 titled ‘Robert Mangaliso Sobuwe Centenary International Conference’.

Leshoele, M. 2024. Attended and presented a paper at a conference hosted by the East Africa Communication Association (EACA) at the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, themed “Africa and the global dialogue on media and communication”, 28-30 August.

Leshoele, M. 2024. Attended and presented at a conference in Maseru, Lesotho, organised and hosted by the National University of Lesotho and African Forum for the Development of Lesotho (AFDeL), paper titled “The Political History of Military-Induced Conflict and instability in Lesotho and Its Economic and Developmental Implications: Taking Stock 200 Years On”. This formed part of the Lesotho bicentennial celebrations, 1-3 October 2024.

Leshoele, M. 2024. In October 2024, Dr Leshoele attended and presented a paper at the Lesotho Bicentennial Conference hosted by the National University of Lesotho (NUL) in commemoration of King Moshoeshoe.



Dr Leshoele delivered a paper at a conference held at the University of Dar es Salaam, 28-30 August 2024

Magaiza, G. 2024. A Scientometric Analysis and Visualisation of Livelihood Research in Sub-Saharan Mountain Regions, Paper presented at the Academic Forum for Development of Lesotho (AFDeL) held 1-3 October 2024.

Magaiza, G. 2024. Presented at the Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Research Conference (9-10 October 2024): “Participatory Needs Identification For Community Development In The Afromontane: A Case Study Of Mountain Communities In The Eastern Free State Of South Africa”.

Magaiza, G. 2024. Community perceptions of universities’ roles in enhancing livelihoods in selected mountainous regions of the Free State, South Africa. Paper presented at the Advancing Critical University Studies across Africa (ACUSAfrica) Conference, Kampala, Uganda, from 16-19 October 2024.

Magaiza, G. 2024. Contextualising Curriculum to respond to Societal Impact presented at the Community Engagement Indaba at the UFS Bloemfontein Campus, 10-11 May 2024.

Magaiza, G. 2024. Ethico-cultural considerations in community-based participatory research. Lessons and insights for the Global South. Presented at the Community Engagement Conference at Rhodes University, 13-15 May 2024.

Mtengwane, G. 2024. Ubuntu: A Humanising Approach to Community Development and Engagement in South Africa. A Paper presented at the 2024 Rhodes University Community Engagement Conference, 14-16 May 2024.

Mushonga, M. & Human, Cl. 2024. “The politics of naming in South Africa: A case study of bird species”, paper presented at the “Decolonising Knowledge Production Colloquium”, UFS, 27-29 August 2024.

Mushonga, M. & Zungi, MN. 2024. "Public visibility and impact of indigenous knowledge (IK) research in South Africa: A bibliometrics analysis", paper presented at the *Decolonising Knowledge Production Colloquium*, UFS, 27–29 August 2024.

Mushonga, M. 2024. Invited to give a keynote address at the "Lesotho Bicentennial Conference under the theme: Celebrating 200 Years of Basotho Nation Building: Advancing Epistemic Diversity for Sustainable Development" co-hosted by the Academic Forum for Development of Lesotho (AFDEL), National University of Lesotho (NUL), Decolonial International Network (DIN), and the University of the Free State (UFS). Title of Talk: "Decoloniality: The sine qua non of African Education and Development", Avani Hotel, Maseru, Lesotho, 1–3 October 2024.

Mushonga, M. 2024. Gave a keynote address at the 21st National Oral History Conference, Ulundi Emakhosini Centre, KZN, under the theme, Forgotten Stories and Marginalised Experiences: Thirty Years Later. Title of talk: "Black/ African Oral His-stories and Her-stories Matter: Decolonial Meditations", 9 October 2024.

Mushonga, M. & Moruri, P. 2024. "Traversing and embracing multiple identities: Ulwaluko and the gay community among the Xhosa in Mthatha", paper presented at the 21st National Oral History Conference, Ulundi Emakhosini, KZN, under the theme Forgotten Stories and Marginalised Experiences: Thirty Years Later, 7–11 October 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "Tausch on Terrorism," paper delivered at the Online Book Launch of the book *Development, Globalisation, Global Values and Security: Essays in Honour of Arno Tausch* (Springer, 2023) edited by Glen Segell. Co-hosted by the Ezri Centre for Iran and Gulf Studies Research, University of Haifa, and the Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State, 11 January 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "Global Risks and the Limitations of Conflict Resolution," paper presented to the conference *The Security and Political Outlook of the World: How to De-Escalate and Manage Current Conflicts* hosted by the Centre for Security, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Nelson Mandela University, 4 March 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "Climate Change and Conflict: The African Dimension," paper presented to the conference *Climate Change and Its Impact on Security in Africa*, co-hosted by Global Action to Prevent War (New York) and the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 18 March 2024.

Solomon H. 2024. "BRICS, BRICS Plus and Climate Change," paper presented to the conference *India, Europe and the Global South: Asserting Identities and Social Change* hosted by the Department of Political Sciences, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, India, 3 May 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. Keynote Address: "External Diplomacy of Human Resource Development and Capacity Building," paper presented to the International Webinar on External Diplomacy of Human Resource Development and Capacity Building co-hosted by the Financial University, Russia, the African Studies Association of India, and the Centre for African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, 28 May 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "BRICS and Climate Change: Balancing National Interests and Global Environmental Sustainability" paper presented to the webinar *BRICS and Climate Change*, hosted by the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 26 September 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "Africa in the 21st Century: Going Beyond Western Narratives", keynote address to the conference *Africa in the 21st Century*, hosted by the Centre for Africa Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, 3 October 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "The Challenges of Diplomacy in a Conflict-Prone World," keynote paper presented to the conference *Diplomacy and Global Security on the Era of Conflicts* hosted by the Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad, India, 7 October 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "BRICS Plus and Climate Change: Searching for Consensus," paper presented to the Trends First Annual BRICS Think Tanks Summit hosted by TRENDS Research and Advisory (Dubai), Kazan, Russia, 23 October 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "The African Union and the Future of African Security," paper presented to the conference *Future Research and Expectations in Science, Knowledge and Aspirations*, co-hosted by the Independent University of Banja Luka, the Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State, Bosnia-Herzegovina, 7 November 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "The Rise of the Shithole States": Africa Going Beyond Coloniality and Decoloniality," paper presented to the International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference (IQIC 2024), University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus, 21 November 2024.

Solomon, H. 2024. "Unpacking the Challenges of South Africa's G-20 Presidency," (Keynote Speaker) paper presented to the Symposium on South African Presidency of the G-20 and its Challenges hosted by the Centre for African Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, 4 March 2025.

Conference Proceedings

Kamwendo, JC. 2024. The bumpy road to gender equality, women empowerment, and girls' education in Malawi: Insights from Chichewa proverbs as wisdom of the people. In: T. Kwanya & P. Matu (eds.). *Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Development, 3rd International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management*. Nairobi: The Technical University of Kenya, 542–551.

Non-accredited articles, occasional papers, book reviews, online texts and popular articles

Gupta, P. 2024. Black Skin, White Masks: Bharti Kher and Nandipha Mntambo. *Johannesburg Contemporary Art Foundation (JCAF) Journal*, "Interdisciplinary Knowledge from the South" (Theme of Female Identities in the Global South), 110–119, 2024.

Melber, H. 2024. Deutsch-namibischer Schlamassel, *Afrika Süd*, vol. 53, no. 1, January/February 2024, p. 1.

Melber, H. 2024. Abschied von Hage Geingob (1941–2024), *Afrika Süd*, vol. 53, no. 1, January/February 2024, p. 43 (also published in *Allgemeine Zeitung*, Windhoek, 22 February 2024).

Melber, H. 2024. Namibia after President Hage Geingob (1941–2024), *The Round Table*, vol. 113, no. 2, 2024, pp. 192–193.

Melber, H. & Thuynsma, H. Editorial, *Strategic Review for Southern Africa*, vol. 46, no. 1, 2024, pp. 7–9.

Melber, H. 2024. Solidarität mit dem Südlichen Afrika – Rückblick und Ausblick, *Afrika Süd*, vol. 53, no. 4, July/August 2024, pp. 37–38.

Melber, H. 2024. Gefährdete Erinnerung, *südlink*, no. 209, September 2024, pp. 14–15.

Melber, H. 2024. Kolonialismus Made in Germany, *Afrika Süd*, vol. 53, no. 5/6, September–December 2024, pp. 50–52.

Melber, H. 2024. Book review: Christiane Bürger/Sahra Rausch, *Der Prozess. Wie der deutsche Völkermord an den Ovaherero und Nama nicht vor Gericht kam*. Augsburg 2024, *Afrika Süd*, vol. 53, no. 3, May/June 2024, p. 43.

Melber, H. 2024. Book review: Gabriel Kuhn, *Indigener Widerstand in Zeiten des Klimawandels*. Sápmi: Grüner Kolonialismus im Norden Europas. Heidelberg 2024, *Libertäre Buchseiten*, October 2024, p. 2.

Melber, H. & Brunegård, G., Hammar, KG, and Simensen, H. 2024. Utred Sveriges svek mot Hammarskjöld. In: *Svenska Dagbladet*, Stockholm, SvD Debatt, 8 January 2024, <https://www.svd.se/a/152yJX/debattorer-utred-sveriges-svek-mot-hammarskjold>.

Melber, H. 2024. Namibia 2024: Promises or Delivery? *The Namibian*, Windhoek, 9 January 2024.

Melber, H. 2024. Namibia, Germany, and Israel: The Pitfalls of Selective Remorse and Trauma. *The Namibian*, Windhoek, 16 January 2024.

Melber, H. 2024. A Wider Lesson from Geingob's Rebuke of German Double Standards? *The Namibian*, Windhoek, 26 January 2024.

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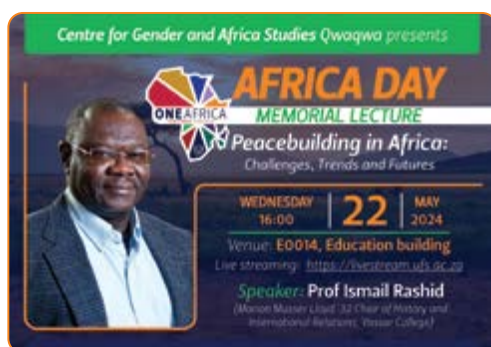
Engaged Scholarship

The CGAS is extraordinarily active in engaged scholarship, ranging from the organisation of official memorial lectures on behalf of the UFS, as well as organising academic conferences, webinars/seminars, hosting book launches and other commemorative events, including the individual engaged scholarship activities of individual staff, which include service to the institution and academia. In 2024, a record number of activities related to engaged scholarship were organised and hosted.

Africa Day Memorial Lecture

The 2024 Africa Day Memorial Lecture was hosted by the CGASQQ and held on the Qwaqwa Campus for the first time on 22 May 2024. This event made history as it was the first memorial lecture of the UFS to be hosted on the Qwaqwa Campus. The event was a great success, with approximately 150 guests attending, including representatives from numerous traditional royal houses.

Speaker:	Prof Ismail Rashid (Marion Musser Lloyd '32 Chair of History and International Relations, Vassar College)
Title of lecture:	Peacebuilding in Africa: Challenges, trends and futures.
Date:	22 May 2024 (Wednesday)
Moderator:	Dr Grey Magaiza (Deputy Director: CGASQQ)
Welcome:	Prof Nompumelelo Zondi (Vice-Dean for Research and Postgraduate Students: Humanities)
Introduction of speaker:	Prof Diana Breshears (Assistant Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities: Qwaqwa Campus)



Africa Day Memorial Lecture 2024



The main procession at the 2024 Africa Day Memorial Lecture before the event (from left to right: Prof Diana Breshears, Acting Assistant Dean; Prof Ismail Rashid, speaker; Dr Grey Magaiza, Deputy Director: CGASQQ and Prof Nompumelelo Zondi, Vice-Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies)



Prof Rashid was accompanied to South Africa by his wife, Anifatu



The 2024 Africa Day Memorial Lecture hosted by the CGASQQ was the first memorial lecture of the UFS to be held on the Qwaqwa Campus and was extremely well attended by the local university community.



CGAS leadership with Prof Ismail Rashid, the main procession for the Africa Day Memorial Lecture and members of the Royal Households from the Free State and Eastern Cape present.

Women's Month (August)

The CGAS organised a book launch to celebrate Women's Month and raise awareness of perimenopausal issues in higher education spaces. Book title: "The Perimenopausal Globetrotter" by Xoli Kamadlala. Venue: Kopsie Inn, August 23, 2024.



The CGAS organised a book launch to commemorate Women's Day, 9 August. Present are from left to right: Dr Grey Magaiza, Acting Director, Dr Juliet Kamwendo, Gender Studies Programme Director, Prof Nompumelelo Zondi, Vice-Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies, Xoli Kamadlala and Dr Nadine Lake, who initiated the idea.



Ankia Bradfield performing at the Women's Day event



Women's Day audience members sharing a humorous moment after the event.

Heritage Month (September)

The Heritage Month celebrations were held at the Qwaqwa Campus on 28 September 2024. A pop-up market of indigenous arts, crafts, and performances from the region was organised by CGAS Qwaqwa Campus. Under the title of “Heritage Entrepreneurship”, the Qwaqwa Campus hosted 23 artists and was supported by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.



Various performances during the Heritage Day pop-up market held on the Qwaqwa Campus on 28 September



Various stalls during the Heritage Day pop-up market held on the Qwaqwa Campus on 28 September.

Gender Talks Webinar/Seminar Series 2024

The Gender Talks seminar series continued to be coordinated by Dr Juliet Kamwendo, the Programme Director for the Gender Studies Programme. The Gender Talks Webinar series has been doing exceptionally well in highlighting topical issues in the gender domain.

- **23 February:** Prof Deidre Byrne – “Horses are just men extenders: Feminism in Barbie”
- **15 March:** Dr Robert Zuber – “Gender and peacekeeping: Atrocity and crime prevention”
- **26 April:** Dr Jessica Lyne and Debi Jackson – “A little about me” (Awareness talk on Transgender transition)
- **17 May:** Dr Tarminder Kaur – “Undoing Maradona: Subalterns of sport for development”
- **27 September:** Neo Motaung – “Embracing African Spirituality in university spaces: Exploring the gender connection”
- **31 October:** Prof Marlize Rabe – “The prisoner, the breadwinner, the man, the father”

Africa Dialogue Series 2024

The Africa Dialogue Series is a seminar/webinar series aimed at spotlighting a diverse range of African dynamics, issues, and publications. Prof Hussein Solomon initiated and coordinates this vibrant webinar series.

- **20 February:** Duduzane Zumba – “Reclaiming the South African Dream”
- **6 March:** Tony Leon, Makona Maja, Michael Atkins, Terence Corrigan, Philippe Burger – “Elections 2024: South Africa’s Changing Political Landscape”
- **18 March:** Robert Zuber, Bianca Naude, Hussein Solomon, Arslan Chikhaoui, Francis Onditi, Jude Cocodia, Tanyi Christian, Sanet Solomon, Kobus Marais, Isabel Bosman, Mahlakeng Khosi Mahlakeng – “Climate Change and its Impact on African Security”
- **17 April:** Sheldon Gellar and Mutasim A. Ali – “South African Foreign Policy and the Politics of Genocide in Gaza and Sudan”
- **5 June:** Philippe Burger, Eeben Barlow, Sanet Solomon, Terence Corrigan, Marius Roodt – SA Election Aftermath: Economic, Security and Political Considerations”
- **8 August:** Lindy Heinecken, Thomas Mandrup, Moses Khanyile, Evert Jordaan, Kobus Marais – “Fixing the South African National Defence Force”
- **26 September:** Marina da Silva, Jana de Kluiver, Shilip Ghosh, Bashabi Gupta, Milu Jose, Sergey Kostelyanets, Bianca Naude, Muddassir Quamar, Sanet Solomon, Hussein Solomon – “BRICS and Climate Change”
- **17 October:** General Eeben Barlow, Edward Mienie, Captain (SAN) GW Plint, Chale Seretse, Thys van den Bergh, Joe van der Walt – “Fixing South Africa’s Intelligence Services”

Academic Conferences hosted in 2024

- Both the CGASBfn and CGASQQ were involved in hosting numerous academic conferences in 2024 in both online and in-person formats.
- From 27–28 February 2024, the CGAS co-hosted an international webinar conference on “Africa’s Global Engagement: Opportunities and Challenges” via Zoom with the Centre for African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), and the African Studies Association of India (India). This event was jointly spearheaded by Prof Hussein Solomon from the CGAS (UFS) and Prof Ajay Dubey from the JNU (India).
- Under the banner of the Africa Dialogue Series, the CGAS, in partnership with a UN-based transnational network of civil society, academic, and diplomatic partners, Global Action to

Prevent (War), also hosted an in-person international conference on 18 March 2024 on the Bloemfontein Campus of the UFS titled, “Climate Change and its Impact on Africa’s Security”. From the CGAS, Prof Hussein Solomon, and from GAPW, Dr Robert Zuber (Director) spearheaded the steering committee.

- The CGAS hosted a colloquium on behalf of the Faculty of the Humanities on the theme, “‘Decolonising’ knowledge production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (HSSA): Reflecting on a decade of the Charter for Humanities and Social Sciences in South African Higher Education (seed funding from the Mellon Foundation facilitated through the Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities) from 27–29 August 2024 on the UFS Bloemfontein Campus. Keynote speakers: Prof Francis Nyamnjoh, Prof Peter Vale, Prof Pamila Gupta, Prof Henning Melber, and Prof Helene Strauss. One of the key aims of the colloquium was to reflect on how far HSSA domains have come since the Charter was promulgated to create a more equitable knowledge production system, especially given the decolonisation debates since 2015. Crucially, the best papers from the colloquium are slated to appear in a special journal issue in due course.



Delegates at the colloquium on decolonising knowledge production in the HSSA hosted by the CGAS, 27–29 August 2024.

- The CGAS, through Prof Hussein Solomon, partnered with the Independent University of Banja Luka (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and the Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia) to host a fully online interdisciplinary conference themed, “FRESKA: Future Research and Expectations in Science, Knowledge and Aspirations” on 7 November 2024. Key panel themes included “Africa, the continent of the future”, “society, economics and ecology”, and “technology, biotechnology and informatics”.
- The UFS Qwaqwa Campus hosted the International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference (IQIC2024) from 20 to 21 November 2024. The conference was co-organised by the Department of Sociology, the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (CGAS), and the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security team. This critical event brought together a diverse group of policymakers, civil society, diplomats, students, scholars, researchers, donors, and financial institutions to address the complex challenges facing Africa in the 21st Century. Themed “Africa in the Age of Global Crisis – Wars, Pandemics, Climate Emergencies, and Financial Subordination: The Search for Decolonial Responses and Sustainable Recoveries”, the

conference delved into the multifaceted impact of climate change, digital colonialism, pandemics, wars, and debt distress.



Group photo of delegates at the IQIC2024 conference held in Qwaqwa from 20–21 November 2024 .

Individual Staff Presentations/Participation

CGAS staff participated in a wide range of engaged scholarship activities, including workshops, online and in-person presentations:

Prof Stephanie Cawood

- Organised and hosted UFS-ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture by Prof Loretta Baldassar held on 18 March 2024 in Council Chambers.
- Spearheaded the conceptualisation of the colloquium on decolonising knowledge production in HSSA domains until departing on research leave from 1 June 2024.
- Assisted with the logistics of the LGBTQI+ evening event with Jessica Lynn and Debi Jackson (Theme: Intimate Encounters) held on 4 April.
- Assisted with the logistics of the LGBTQI+ sensitisation seminar with Jessica Lynn and Debi Jackson (Theme: Trans/Formations) held on 5 April.
- Attended the Project Manager's Forum for IKSDCs hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation in Durban (KZN) from 16–18 April.
- Organised and presented the first instalment in the IKSDC Webinar Series on 28 May 2025 (titled: Decolonising knowledge: IKS as epistemic emancipation) on behalf of the DSI.
- Online lecture on 'The interface of cultural heritage and environmental science' for the Centre for Environmental Management at the UFS for their students in the PGDip in Integrated Water Management, 25 October 2024.

Nomcebo Dlamini

- April 2024, fourth-year supervisor training for WIL (Work-Integrated Learning).
- July 2024, third- and second-year supervisor training for WIL (work-integrated learning).

Prof Pamila Gupta

- Invited Panel Reviewer, European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grants (2 million Euros), “Culture and the Arts” Panel, Brussels, Belgium, April 16-19, 2024.
- Invited Speaker, “Camera South Asia II”, Columbia University, New York. Title: “Looking for, Listening to ‘Crowds’ in the Capital Art Studio Collection (Zanzibar)”, April 27, 2024.
- Invited Speaker to discuss future collaborations with Prof Kylie Thomas and colleagues, based at the Radical Humanities Laboratory and Art History, University College Cork. Cork, Ireland. September 9-10, 2024.
- Invited Panel Reviewer, European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grants (2 million Euros), “Culture and the Arts” Panel, Brussels, Belgium, September 23-27, 2024.

Prof Heidi Hudson

- In February 2024, Prof Hudson chaired a plenary session on academic freedom and the Senate on behalf of the UFS at the Council for Higher Education conference. Later in the year, December 2024, Prof Hudson was nominated and facilitated the awarding of an Honorary degree to Dr Bineta Diop, Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission Chairperson.

Dr Juliet Kamwendo

- Invited to participate in the regional workshop on establishing AFR100 Technical Assistance Platform (TAP) for FLR Monitoring, Registries and Gender Mainstreaming, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 25 – 29 March 2024.

Dr Nadine Lake

- Coordinated and moderated the LGBTQI+ evening event with Jessica Lynn and Debi Jackson (Theme: Intimate Encounters) held on 4 April.
- Coordinated and moderated the LGBTQI+ sensitisation seminar with Jessica Lynn and Debi Jackson (Theme: Trans/Formations) held on 5 April.

Dr Moorosi Leshoele

- In July 2024, Dr Leshoele collaborated with a Cape-Town-based research collective, namely Chimurenga, on a research project “*A special edition of Chimurenga Chronic, exploring the intellectual, social, and political work of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela during the period of her banishment in Brandfort from 1977-86*”. The research took place at the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Museum and was conducted with residents from the Winnie Mandela Township, previously known as Brandfort, in the Free State region. See the link here for the overview of the research project: <https://chimurengachronic.co.za/chimurenga-presents-brandfort-liberation-capital-1977-86/>.
- Dr Leshoele fielded radio interviews on Setsoto FM, a local radio station based in Ficksburg. Dr Leshoele also fielded interviews on Motswedding FM, a national radio station, at the SABC.
- Dr Leshoele formed part of the local organising committee (LOC) for the Decolonising the Humanities conference hosted by the Centre (CGAS), where the LOC planned and executed all the logistics and content of the conference.

Dr Grey Magaiza

- Actively coordinating the International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference: In search of decolonial recoveries in the face of rising insecurity, pandemics, climate shocks, emergencies, and financial insubordination to be hosted by CGAS and the Sociology Department (20-21 November 2024).

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga

- Dr Mushonga was invited as discussant for “Identity Construction as a Spatiotemporal Phenomenon within Doctoral Students’ Intellectual and Academic Identities” by Dr Rudo Hwami, Postdoctoral Fellow in the SARCHI Chair in Higher Education and Human Development (HEHD), University of the Free State, 12 February 2024.
- Dr Mushonga was invited to be the discussant to Dr Taiwo Bello, Oklahoma State University, USA’s presentation: “They came to us; we did not rape them”: Rape, Abduction and Forced Marriages in Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War, 1967–1970, 9 May 2024.
- Organised and co-ordinated the launch of a co-edited book at UFS Qwaqwa Campus. Details of book: Mushonga, M., Aerni-Flessner, J., Twala, C., & Magaiza, G. (eds.). *Migration, Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities*. Lexington Books: New York. 2024, pp.312, 22 May 2024.
- Dr Mushonga was invited to give a talk at the UFS Library and Information Services’ Breaking New Ground: Carving a Decolonised Collection Path Symposium (Online). Title of talk: Decolonising Being/ Body = Decolonising the Mind = Decolonising Knowledge, 26 June 2024.
- Dr Mushonga was invited to give a talk at the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP)’s Decolonising Systems of Knowledge Symposium to address PhD students and supervisors working in the decolonial field at the University of Johannesburg. Title of talk: Decolonising Knowledge in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts: Asking tough and tormenting questions, Auckland Park, Johannesburg, 2 July 2024.
- Dr Mushonga was invited to lecture at the 3rd Annual Dr Khotso Nkhatho Public Lecture under the theme, Decoloniality in Higher Education. Title of talk: The Decolonial Khotso Nkhatho a.k.a Mopheme Mopheme & the Imperative for Indigenous (African) Languages, CUT, Bloemfontein, 15 August 2024.
- Chaired the LOC and coordinated the colloquium on “Decolonising’ knowledge production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts {HSSA}: Reflecting on a decade of the Charter for Humanities and Social Sciences in South African Higher Education”, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 27–29 August 2024.
- Delivered a paper in a mentoring capacity with Isabel Human at the “Decolonising Knowledge Production Colloquium”. Title of paper: “The politics of naming in South Africa: A case study of bird species”, 27–29 August 2024.
- Delivered a paper in a mentoring capacity with N. Zungu at the “Decolonising Knowledge Production Colloquium”. Title of paper: “Public visibility and impact of indigenous knowledge (IK) research in South Africa: A bibliometrics analysis”, 27–29 August 2024.
- 2 October 2024: Launched the book “Migration, Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities” at the National University of Lesotho during the Lesotho Bicentenary Conference.
- 15 October: Invited to an Open Conversation on “Decoloniality and Embodied Knowledges”, University of Limpopo.
- Dr Mushonga was invited to be a panellist at the Policy Dialogue Series 2: Curriculum Design and Decolonisation, organised by the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science, Embassy of the Netherlands, Pretoria, South Africa, 22 October 2024. Focus of Talk: “Europeanisation v Africanisation”.
- 28 October 2024: Invited to give a talk at the ‘Brown Bag’ Series at the SARCHI Chair in Higher Education and Human Development (HEHD), University of the Free State. Title of talk: “The Resilient Epistemic Empire and Neoliberal Constructions of Higher Education and the University” (part of a forthcoming 2024 book chapter by UJ Press).

- 5 December 2024: Invited to give a talk to the joint Southern Journal for Contemporary History (SJCH) and UFS–History Department Seminar Series. Title of talk: “Decolonising Black/Africa{n} {Hi}/{Her} stories/Studies: Connecting the Dots through Personal Reflections and Disruptions”.

Prof Hussein Solomon

- Respondent at the book launch of *State of the Nation: Quality of Life and Well-Being*, co-edited by Narnia Bohler-Muller, Vasu Reddy, Zitha Mokomane and Crain Soudien. Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Publishers. Pretoria, 2024, book launched by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State, Prof Francis Petersen, Bloemfontein, 13 June 2024.
- “Israel-Palestine: Charting the Way Forward,” a paper presented to the Roundtable on Palestine: Sights on the current state, struggles and solutions. Hosted by the ATKV, Bloemfontein, 4 July 2024.
- “Financing Terror in the Rainbow Nation,” paper presented to Limmud South Africa 2024, Johannesburg, 24 August 2024.
- “The Spectre of Islamic Terrorism: Comparative Insights,” paper presented to Limmud South Africa 2024, Johannesburg, 25 August 2024.
- “The Future of the Government of National Unity,” presentation made to the seminar *What lies ahead for South Africa after the Election?*, hosted by Netwerk 24, Bloemfontein, 13 September 2024.
- “Towards a More Effective Framework for Civil-Military Relations in South Africa,” paper presented to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee of Defence, Parliament of South Africa, Cape Town, 18 September 2024.
- “India-Africa Security Cooperation: From State to Human Security,” paper presented to staff and students at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India, 4 October 2024.
- “Origins and Trajectory of Islamist Extremism in Africa,” paper presented to staff at the Viveknanda International Foundation, New Delhi, India, 4 October 2024.

Institutional service

- CGAS staff members provide institutional service to the following committees:
- Prof Stephanie Cawood (Humanities Faculty: Exams Board, Finance Committee, Faculty Management Committee, Faculty Board, Senate, CGAS Advisory Board).
- Dr Grey Magaiza (Humanities: Teaching and Learning Committee, Exams Board, Faculty Management Committee, Faculty Board, CGAS Advisory Board, Qwaqwa Management Committee).
- Prof Hussein Solomon (Humanities: Research Committee, Faculty Board, Senate, Senate Committees: Honorary Degrees Committee, Research Committee).
- Dr Juliet Kamwendo (Faculty: Scientific Review Committee for Culture, Faculty Management Committee, Faculty Board, UFS General Human Research Ethics Committee).
- Dr Nadine Lake (Faculty Board, Faculty: Scientific Review Committee for Culture, Employment Equity & Transformation Committee).
- Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga (Faculty Board, Faculty Management Committee, UFS Decolonisation Engagement Group of Senate).
- Dr Moorosi Leshoele (Faculty Board, Faculty Scientific Review Committee for Culture).
- Ankia Bradfield (Occupational Health and Safety Committee, UFS).

Memberships and Editorial Responsibilities

CGAS staff hold numerous memberships to academic associations and provide service to broader academia through memberships on editorial boards of accredited journals and publishers:

- Prof Cawood: Memberships in
 - The African Association of Rhetoric
 - The International Memory Studies Association

- Prof Gupta: Invited member of the following editorial boards:
 - Blue Humanities
 - Anthropology Southern Africa
 - Journal of Global History
 - Safundi
 - American Anthropologist
 - World Anthropology (section co-editor with Penelope Papailias, University of Thessaly, Greece).
 - Series editor of the following book series:
 - University of Michigan Press: African Perspectives Book Series (with Kelly Askew, US, and Laura Fair, US), 2021-present
 - Routledge Press: Oceans and Islands Book Series with May Joseph (US), Phil Hayward (Australia), and Adam Grydehoj (China), 2020-present.
- Prof Hudson:
 - Member: International Studies Association (ISA)
 - Series editor of a new book series on “Reimagining Feminist International Studies” with Bristol University Press
 - Editorial board memberships:
 - The Women, Peace and Security Book Series (De Gruyter Press)
 - Review of International Studies (Cambridge University Press, British International Studies Association)
 - Journal of World Affairs (Voice of the Global South) (WAJ)
 - International Feminist Journal of Politics
 - Revista Relaciones Internacionales
 - Civil Wars
 - Stichproben: Vienna Journal of African Studies
- Dr Leshoele: Association memberships:
 - South African Association of Political Science (SAAPS)
 - South African Development Studies Association (SADSA)
 - Afrocentricity International (SA Chapter)
 - Pan African Federalist Movement (PAFM)
- Dr Magaiza: Member:
 - Community Development Society (CDS), South Africa
 - Community Development Task Team, South Africa
- Prof Solomon:
 - Association memberships: South African Association of Political Science; African Studies Association of India membership; Global Action to Prevent War (New York) membership
 - Affiliations: Research Fellow of the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA) at the Military Academy of Stellenbosch University; Captain in the Reserve Force of the South African Air Force
 - Member: Working Group on Operationalising Human Security based at the University of Potsdam, Germany
 - Research Fellow: Israel-Africa Relations Institute in Tel Aviv, Israel
 - Senior Associate: Israeli-based think tank research on Islam and Muslim in Africa
 - Visiting Professor: Osaka School of International Public Policy
 - Research Fellow: Israel-Africa Relations Institute

- Visiting Professor: Nelson Mandela University; Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Military Science at Stellenbosch University
 - Extraordinary Professor: School of Government, North-West University
 - Research Fellow: Niger Delta University
 - Researcher: Africa Research Institute at Hungary's Obuda University
 - Senior Analyst: New York-based WikiStrat
 - Member: International Advisory Boards of the Middle East Institute; Research Institute for European and American Studies in Athens, Greece
 - Membership to the following editorial boards: Politeia; Globalizations; Southern African Peace and Security Studies; London Security Policy Study; Springer's Gulf Studies Series; Africa Insight; Afro-Eurasian Journal; African Security; Minorities in World Politics; Contemporary Review of the Middle East; Alternatives, Journal of Administrative Sciences; Afro-Arab Social and Economic Review; Journal of African Union Studies; Politikon; African Journal for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism; Scientific Journals International; Critical Studies on Terrorism; SVAROG; Contemporary Security Studies; Insight on Africa
 - Board of Trustees: All Africa Women for Peace
- Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga and Dr Grey Magaiza: Co-editors on the book published and launched in 2024, 'Migration, Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity published by Lexington Press in January 2024 under the title: *Migration, Borderlands and Borders: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities*, pp.312. This book is the culmination of the NIHSS borderlands project.

Service to academia/scholarship

CGAS academic staff routinely provide service to scholarship by acting as external examiners for student research and peer reviewers for book and article publications:

- Prof Hussein Solomon served as external examiner MA and PhD students at the following universities: University of Otago (New Zealand), Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), Osaka University (Japan), Nottingham Trent University (England), University of Botswana, Gordon Institute of Business Science, University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University, North-West University, and Stellenbosch University.
- Prof Solomon also acted as a peer reviewer for manuscripts from the following publishers: Nova Publishers, Rowman and Littlefield, Sun Media and Routledge.
- Dr Magaiza reviewed a journal article and was the conference reviewer for SoTL in the South.
- Dr Magaiza was appointed as external examiner at UJ and Rhodes University for Master's dissertations and internal examiner for a Master's in sociology and PhD in Social Work.
- Prof Cawood was appointed to serve as a critical reader for the UNISA module, Gender in Context (GEN4802) in the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, College of Human Sciences (May-June 2024), and has also acted as an external moderator for this module since 2023.
- Dr Grey Magaiza was appointed as a critical reader for the UNISA module, Community Development Theories and Approaches, in the Department of Youth Studies.

National and International Collaboration

The CGAS has longstanding ties to Jawaharlal Nehru University, covered under the auspices of an existing MoU at the institutional level, and, in 2024, expanded with a two-day conference on Africa's International Engagements in February 2024. It is hoped that an edited book will emanate from this during 2025. Through the initiative of Prof Hussein Solomon, the CGAS was instrumental in the UFS signing the MoUs with the following international institutions:

- Riara University in Kenya and Delhi University. Immediately upon signing, Prof Solomon started teaching their MA and PhD students. Prof Onditi agreed to do the same this year with CGAS. With Delhi, a new joint webinar series on Research Methodology was initiated.
- Prof Hussein Solomon initiated the development of an MoU with Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. The process is currently with the UFS Office of International Affairs. The final MoU should be ready for signing in due course.
- Other MoUs we were servicing were with the Independent University of Banja Luka and the Russian Academy of Sciences. We had a joint conference with these two universities, and a joint publication is expected to appear in 2025.

CGAS academics have strong national and international networks and collaborations, as is evident by the extent of their international conference contributions (see 'Conference Paper/Posters' and 'Individual Staff Presentations/Participation' under 'Engaged Scholarship' above) and representation on the editorial boards of highly regarded international journals and publishers (see 'Memberships and Editorial Responsibilities' above) but also collaborations as highlighted below:

- The Free State Indigenous Knowledge Systems Documentation Centre (FS IKSDC), housed in the CGAS, continued its work as part of the national initiative of the National Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI).
- Dr Jerit Dube from the CGASQQ in 2024 joined the CSUR Project, a collaboration between the University of the Free State (Qwaqwa) and Walter Sisulu University.
- Dr Juliet Kamwendo's involvement in the Masibambisane GBV project continued. The Foundation for Human Rights runs the project under the new sponsorship of FORD.
- In 2024, with international colleagues (Haastrup and MacKenzie), Prof Hudson initiated a new book series on "Reimagining Feminist International Studies" with Bristol University Press. She was also invited to mentor African Peacebuilding fellows of the Social Science Research Council, New York. Two sessions on interdisciplinary methodologies and article writing were conducted in Addis Ababa, 29 January to 1 February 2024 and Lagos, 22 to 25 July 2024.
- Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga continued in his role of Global Academic Director of the Decolonial International Network (DIN), which he first assumed on 1 January 2023.
- Dr Mushonga also attended the prestigious 2024 Granada Critical Muslim Studies Summer School from 6-10 June 2024.



Dr Mushonga with fellow delegates and presenters at the Granada Critical Muslim Studies Summer School

- Dr Grey Magaiza conducted two workshops with Civic Society organisations in Qwaqwa, resulting in the formation of the Maluti-A-Phofung Sustainable Development Forum (MAP-SDF). He is also the Grant Coordinator for the Mountain-to-Mountain Project with Appalachian State University in the USA, UK-USDP Project Coordinator with the University of Venda, and Steering Committee Member for the MIYA Living Lab.

- Dr Magaiza applied for and was awarded the Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Grant to host Prof Jesse Lutabingwa from Appalachian State University at CGAS Qwaqwa Campus. Prof Lutabingwa conducted Grant writing workshops and co-authored an article with Dr Magaiza.
- Dr Magaiza and the University of the Highlands and Islands' Centre for Mountain Research submitted a grant application to the British Academy for Science.
- Prof Hussein Solomon is a Captain in the South African Air Force (Reserves). He serves as advisor to the SANDF on issues of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency across Africa. He also advised the AU on light weapons proliferation in Africa and its nexus with organised crime and terror groups (March/April 2023).

The CGAS hosted numerous international visitors to their shores in 2024, inter alia:

- Prof John Grider from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the USA was awarded a Fulbright US Scholar Grant to be a Visiting Professor at the CGAS from February to July 2024. During his visit, he participated in postgraduate contact sessions, seminars, and field research. Prof Stephanie Cawood was his institutional host.
- Prof Loretta Baldassar, Edith Cowan University (Australia) and the 2024 ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar, visited numerous South African institutions from 2-28 March 2024, such as the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Limpopo, Rhodes University, the University of the Free State Stellenbosch University, the University of Cape Town, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, and the University of the Western Cape. At the UFS, the CGAS, through Prof Cawood, hosted her where she delivered the UFS-ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture titled, "Transnational Family Care: From Social Death to Digital Kinning over a Century of Australian Migration".



UFS-ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture
By Prof Loretta Baldassar

Transnational Family Care:
from social death to digital kinning over a century of Australian Migration.

MARCH 18 2024

Venue: Chancellor's Room, George du Toit Building | Time: 15:00

Prof Baldassar is visiting the UFS as part of the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Programme of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and will engage with the university communities of numerous South African institutions during her visit, inter alia, the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Limpopo, Rhodes University, Stellenbosch University, the University of the Western Cape, the University of Cape Town, and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Speaker biography:
Loretta Baldassar is Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, Vice-Chancellor's Professor of Research Fellow and Director of the Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab at Edith Cowan University (ECU). Baldassar was recently named Australian Research Fields leader in Migration Studies and in Ethnic and Cultural Studies. She is lead Chief Investigator on a Medical Research Future Fund Seminal and Migrant Communities project, social support stream lead on the National Family Kit project, and co-Chief Investigator of the Youth Mobilities project. Her work is widely acknowledged as foundational to the field of Transnational Family Studies, including Transnational Families in Africa (with Marchetti, Mercer & Swartz, 2023). Her research team is leading innovation in social care across the life course, contributing social science perspectives and methodologies to the creative and caring professions. Her career has been devoted to better understanding the impact of migration on families and communities, with a focus on the role of social support networks, intergenerational relations, and the social uses of new technologies.

The CGAS hosted Prof Loretta Baldassar, who delivered the ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar lecture on 18 March 2024, organised by Prof Cawood

- Numerous national and international colleagues visited the CGAS (Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses) to participate in the numerous events held throughout 2024, inter alia, Dr Robet Zuber,

Prof Ismail Rashid, accompanied by his wife, Prof Francis Nyamnjoh, Prof Peter Vale, Prof Henning Melber, Xoli Kamadlala, prof Adebayo Olukoshi, and Dr Nqobizitha Dube, to name a few.

The CGAS Advisory Board is of critical strategic importance and assists the Centre in directing its strategic agenda. The composition of the Advisory Board reflects a balance between local and international board members:

- Prof Vasu Reddy (Vice-Rector: Research and Chair)
- Prof Mogomme Masoga (Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities)
- Prof Marlize Rabe (Vice-Dean: Teaching and Learning, Faculty of the Humanities)
- Prof Stephanie Cawood (Director: CGAS)
- Dr Grey Magaiza (Deputy Director: CGASQQ)
- Prof Lynette Jacobs (Acting Director of the UFS Office for International Affairs)
- Prof Deirdre Byrne (Unisa)
- Sixolile Ngcobo (Gender Practitioner)
- Dr Litlhare Rabele (Foundation for Human Rights)
- Prof Ramon Grosfoguel (UC Berkeley)
- Prof Stephen Small (UC Berkeley)
- Sandew Hira (Decolonial International Network)

Postgraduate Students

In 2024, the CGAS had 161 postgraduate students enrolled in their various postgraduate programmes:

- PGDip in Community Development (QQ) – 89 students
- BAHons with specialisation in Africa Studies (Bfn) – 5
- BAHons with specialisation in Gender Studies (Bfn) – 12
- MPhil with specialisation in Africa Studies by dissertation/article option (Bfn) – 12
- Structured MA with specialisation in Gender Studies (Bfn) – 12
- PhD (Bfn) – 31

Our PhD programme is one of the largest doctoral programmes in the Faculty of the Humanities and the broader university.

The following students graduated with the MA with specialisation in Gender Studies (structured):

Lengau, GSK

Title: Exploring the gendered discourses and dynamics of revictimisation in the rape case of Fezekile Kuzwayo.

Supervisor: Prof S Cawood

Graduation: April

Phejane, MMV

Title: Called but cancelled: Experiences and stories of lesbian ministers in Methodist and Anglican churches in South Africa.

Supervisor: Dr JC Kamwendo

Graduation: April

Moruri, PA

Title: Ulwaluko and Xhosa constructions of manhood: Experiences of gay men in Mthatha, Eastern Cape.

Supervisor: Dr M Mushonga

Graduation: April

Ramokepa, R

Title: Unpacking the disparities between official statistics and the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in South African universities.

Supervisor: Dr M Mushonga

Co-supervisor: Dr B Sibanda

Graduation: April

Khaahloe, Moleboheng

Title: The extent to which the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated gender-based violence (GBV), particularly intimate partner violence in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

Supervisor: Dr Juliet Kamwendo

Co-supervisor: Dr NC Lake

Graduation: April

The following students graduated with the MPhil with specialisation in Africa Studies by dissertation:

Mahula, C

Title: The geopolitics and geoeconomics of enclavism: An appraisal of Lesotho's tourism relations with South Africa.

Supervisor: Dr M Mushonga

Graduation: April

The following doctoral students submitted their theses for examination by the end of the academic year and are expected to graduate in April 2025:

Djesse, WM

Title: Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade and the Gendered Political Economy of the Everyday: Post-Conflict Reconstruction in North and South Kivu Provinces, DRC.

Supervisor: Prof H Hudson

Dube, J

Title: Entrepreneurship Resilience and Vulnerability Reduction in the Afromontane Region: Analysing the Livelihood Strategies of Female Entrepreneurs in Qwaqwa.

Supervisor: Dr G Magaiza

Lechaba, LT

Title: Exploration of Biko and Sankara's political thoughts and praxes in relation to African Renaissance as a decolonial project.

Supervisor: Dr M Leshoele

Co-supervisor: Prof C Twala

Oso, AO

Title: Destination Europe: Migration Challenges and Governance along the Nigeria-Libya Route.

Supervisor: Dr MWT Chibwana

Co-supervisor: Dr M Mushonga

Other Activities

The CGAS hosted its second strategic staff summit in Clarens on 23 May 2024 to coincide with the Africa Day Memorial lecture hosted by the CGASQQ on 22 May 2024. The goal of the summit is for all CGAS

staff from Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa to come together and discuss their work experiences, teaching programmes, research, and engaged scholarship with each other, as well as to explore potential collaboration across campuses. For more junior staff, it also provides important networking and mentoring opportunities with more experienced staff.



CGASBfn staff attending the 2024 Africa Day Memorial Lecture hosted by their CGASQQ colleagues on 22 May 2024



Photo 44: CGAS staff attending the biennial staff summit on 23 May 2024

Prof Pamila Gupta is currently in the process of completing a book project titled “The Experiments in the Dark: Visualising Capital Art Studio (Zanzibar)”, which is under contract with the University of Michigan Press. She is also currently a new piece on the protea flower in relation to South African heritage, visibility, and trade with the Netherlands. She contributed to the discussions and attended a writing retreat with Prof Susan Levine (Anthro, UCT) for a joint project on South African adoption.

Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga has become active as a mentor of junior scholars by co-authoring and co-presenting with Nkosinathi Zungu, Puleng Moruri, and Dr Isabel Human, among others.

Dr Jerit Dube conducted a ‘fieldsourcing’ at Mthatha in the Eastern Cape Province on African mountain livelihood research and also participated in organising the Heritage Day and pop-up market events hosted by the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at Qwaqwa Campus.

Gcina Mtengwane was appointed by the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) as an observer in the 2024 National Elections.

Staff (2024)

Prof S Cawood

Director (Research leave: 1 June–30 Nov 2024)

Dr G Magaiza

Deputy Director CGASQQ (Acting Director: 1 June–30 Nov 2024)

Staff: CGASBfn

Prof S Cawood

Associate Professor

Prof P Gupta

Research Professor

Willem Ellis

Contract support: SLP Coordinator, lecturer (units)

Prof H Hudson

Professor

Dr JC Kamwendo

Lecturer

Dr NC Lake

Senior Lecturer

Dr M Leshoele

Lecturer

Nomsa Makoseng

IKSDC contract support: IK data recorder

Mamgqibelo Mlangeni

IKSDC contract support: IK data recorder

Dr M Mushonga

Senior Lecturer

Mike Nxumalo

IKSDC contract support: IKSDC Coordinator

Prof H Solomon

Senior Research Professor

A Bradfield

Senior Assistant Officer

P Gailele

Senior Assistant Officer

B Jacobs

Senior Officer (retired from 1 July 2024)

Staff: CGASQQ

Dr G Magaiza

Senior Lecturer

Nomcebo Dlamini

Lecturer

Coreen Steenkamp

Lecturer

Rose Nkoebele

Assistant Officer

A Khumalo

Junior contract lecturer (units)

J Dube

Contract lecturer (units)

D Klaas

Contract lecturer (units)

N Molefi

Contract lecturer (units)

T Mokoena

Junior contract lecturer (units)

G Mtengwane

Contract lecturer (units)

J Esbach

Contract lecturer (units)

N Sithole

Contract support: Assistant Officer

Institutional leadership affiliated with CGAS

Prof MA Masoga

Dean: Faculty of the Humanities

Prof M Rabe

Vice-Dean for Teaching and Learning: Faculty of the Humanities

Prof V Reddy

DVC: Research and Internationalisation

Affiliated scholars

Extraordinary Professors

Prof G Griffin	Centre for Gender Research (Uppsala University)
Prof H Melber (Emeritus)	The Nordic Africa Institute (Uppsala University)
Prof SJ Ndlovu-Gatsheni	Chair of Epistemologies of the Global South (University of Bayreuth)
Prof C Obi	African Peacebuilding Network (Social Science Research Council, New York)
Prof P Vale (Emeritus)	University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University, Rhodes University, African Earth Observatory Network

Other

Dr M Alubafi	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (HSRC)
Dr O Amao	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Prof LL Atanga	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (PAUWES)
Prof N Bohler-Muller	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (HSRC)
Dr M Chibwana	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Save the Children AU)
Dr H Cloete	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Prof J Fisher	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (University of Birmingham)
Dr K Goddard	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Dr S Goddard	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Prof C Hungwe	Research Fellow CGAS QQ (Midlands State University)
Dr T Kamuti	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Prof O Kolawole	Research Fellow CGAS QQ (Okavango Research Institute)
Prof P Limb (Emeritus)	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Michigan State University)
Dr D Højlund Madsen	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Nordic Africa Institute)
Dr S Maliehe	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (National University of Lesotho)
Prof S Monro	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (University of Huddersfield)
Dr M Mulumeoderhwa	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (UFS)
Dr S Mushonga	Postdoctoral Fellow CGAS QQ
Dr J Muzondidya	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Dr O Ogunnubi	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Carleton University)
Dr S Onwuegbuchulam	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (UKZN)
Dr K Padayachee	Research Fellow CGAS QQ (Independent researcher)
Dr B Sibanda	Ad hoc lecturer (University of Johannesburg)
Dr J Steyn-Kotzé	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (HSRC)
Prof M Thabane (Emeritus)	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (National University of Lesotho)
Prof RA Themnér	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Uppsala University)
Prof A Vallega	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (University of Oregon)
Dr R van der Merwe	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (University of Groningen)
Dr D van Reenen	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Independent researcher)
Dr R Williams	Research Fellow CGAS Bfn (Western Reserve Historical Society)

Academic Head of Department
Prof Michelle Engelbrecht

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Overview of 2024

Several key achievements marked the success of 2024 for the CHSR&D

Firstly, the project *Adapting an Evidence-based Intervention for Sesotho-speaking Couples to Promote Male Engagement in Maternal and Neonatal Health* saw successful community engagement. The five-week intervention “*Botswadi bo kopanetsweng - Let's be together on this*” for pregnant women and their partners, facilitated by LoveLife, was overwhelmingly well-received and shows promising potential for expansion.

Secondly, Prof Monique Brown (University of South Carolina) visited from 18 to 30 August, presenting a lecture on ‘Trauma, HIV, and Ageing: A Mixed Methods Approach,’ networking with the Free State Department of Health, and exploring community-based HIV and psychosocial support at Mosamaria AIDS Ministry.

Thirdly, we secured funding from the UFS Directorate Research Development (DRD) for the project *Older Adults' Experiences of HIV in the Free State Province: A Biopsychosocial Perspective*, advancing research in this crucial area.

Fourthly, in collaboration with the Free State Department of Health and a representative from the World Health Organization, we addressed health information system (HIS) challenges during the COVID-19 outbreak by researching the development of digital HIS tools through implementation science, participatory action research, and descriptive qualitative research. This initiative contributed three chapters to the forthcoming book *The Emerging South African Digital Health Systems*, to be published by the National Department of Health in 2025.

Finally, we significantly expanded the Centre's academic footprint through collaborations in research and postgraduate training with various departments and faculties within the university, including the Division of Public Health, the School of Nursing, and the Departments of Community Health and Paediatrics in the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Departments of Psychology and Social Work in the Faculty of The Humanities, and the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre (DiMTEC) in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

We are grateful to the Faculty of the Humanities, the UFS, and our funders for continued support.

Achievements

Student Achievements

Palesa Leshaba, a candidate in the Master of Health Systems Studies programme, received a partial bursary from the Ernest and Ethel Eriksen Trust for her studies.

Research Projects

Involving Prof Michelle Engelbrecht as principal investigator and Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male and Dr Ngwi Mulu as co-investigators, the CHSR&D project, *"Adapting an Evidence-based Intervention for Sesotho-speaking Couples to Promote Male Engagement in Maternal and Neonatal Health,"* stems from the recognition that male partner involvement (MPI) is a crucial strategy for improving maternal morbidity and mortality outcomes. However, despite its potential, MPI remains limited in many regions globally, including South Africa. Given the absence of a gender and culturally sensitive intervention specifically designed to encourage Sesotho-speaking men to become constructively involved in maternal and neonatal health, the project sought to adapt an existing evidence-based intervention (Program P) for MPI in maternal and neonatal health.

This three-year, multi-phase project commenced in 2022, and during 2024, the adapted Program P, *"Botswadi bo kopanetsweng - "Let's be together on this"* was tested with pregnant women and male partners. Overall, the feedback from participants, facilitators, and observers was overwhelmingly positive. Participants were keen for the intervention to run over a more extended period of time and were of the opinion that it should be offered at primary healthcare facilities so that more pregnant couples could be exposed to the benefits of MPI in maternal health care. Additional funding has been secured, and the intervention will be tested among two new groups of participants in more rural and traditional areas with a strong emphasis on cultural heritage and customs. The intervention will be shared with civil society organisations, social development practitioners, and healthcare providers. Funding for the project, to the amount of R1 153 738, which includes R400 000 for a postdoctoral fellow, was received from the National Research Foundation.

Together with colleagues from the Department of Paediatrics, University of the Free State (UFS), Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male is a Co-Principal Investigator on the Project titled *"Understanding the perspectives of parents, occupational therapists and advocacy group representatives on the Development Resource Stimulation Programme for Children with Down Syndrome: A qualitative study."* The Development Resource Stimulation Programme (DRSP) is vital in supporting the holistic development of children with Down Syndrome. While the programme has been tested and shows promise in meeting their needs, it is important to gather insights from parents, occupational therapists, and advocacy group representatives to understand how effective the DRSP is and where improvements could be made. This research aims to explore the experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by parents, as well as occupational therapists and advocacy group representatives' perspectives of the DRSP. The project received R150 000.00 from the University of the Free State Interdisciplinary Grant.

Together with researchers from the Department of Psychiatry (UFS) and the University of South Carolina (USA), Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male (Principal Investigator) and Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (Co-Principal Investigator) are involved in an interdisciplinary research project titled: “*Older adults’ experiences of HIV in the Free State Province: A biopsychosocial perspective*”. The large-scale roll-out of antiretroviral treatment (ART) has led to early treatment initiation, improved life expectancy, and reduced mortality rates among people living with HIV (PLHIV). Consistent use now allows PLHIV to live nearly as long as the general population, significantly reducing AIDS-related morbidity and mortality. Over one-fifth of PLHIV are aged 50 years and older, facing unique challenges, such as polypharmacy, multimorbidities, cognitive impairment, frailty, and mental health conditions.

There is evidence of increasing HIV prevalence, high-risk behaviour, and low HIV literacy levels among older persons. Additionally, Older People Living with HIV (OPLHIV) increasingly face stigma and discrimination, including ageism, resulting in a heightened prevalence of social isolation and loneliness. It is thus crucial to understand the relationship between HIV and geriatric syndromes. The research aims to examine the biopsychosocial factors influencing the health and well-being of OPLHIV on ART in the Free State Province. The UFS Research Directorate (R150 000) and the CHSR&D (R150 000) partially fund the project.

Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male, Prof Michelle Engelbrecht, and Prof Christo Heunis are involved in an inter-institutional (UFS-Central University of Technology, CUT) Implementation Science project (PI: Dr P Shangase and Dr L Mogongoa) titled “*Capacity building for the use of implementation science in various typologies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) for the prevention and/or management of the quadruple burden of disease*”. This initiative is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically, Goal 3 (Good health & well-being), Goal 4 (Quality education), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The project’s multidisciplinary nature is expected to inform both curriculum development and research activities with a strong emphasis on community engagement to enhance public health outcomes. As part of this initiative, a multi-stakeholder training programme was conducted for participants from the UFS, CUT, and various community stakeholders. The programme focused on building capacity in implementation research and strengthening the ability of diverse actors to design, apply, and scale evidence-based interventions and policies aimed at improving public health in the Free State Province. The training was supplemented with field visits within Mangaung and an Implementation Science symposium. The project is jointly funded by the UFS Directorate Research Development (DRD) and the Department of Research Development (CUT), for a total amount of R280 000.

Amid the formidable challenges posed by health information systems (HIS) in managing the COVID-19 outbreak in the Free State, Prof Christo Heunis collaborated on a project led by Dr Perpetual Chikobvu (Free State Department of Health and Department of Community Health, UFS). This initiative aimed to develop digital HIS tools pertinent to the multi-sectoral (public and private sector) response to the pandemic. Employing implementation science, participatory action research, and descriptive qualitative research, the project contributed three chapters to a forthcoming book titled *The Emerging South African Digital Health Systems*, set to be published by the National Department of Health in 2025:

- Tshilo TR, Heunis JC, Chikobvu P, Ntombela B & Litheko M. Chapter 12: Development and implementation of the Master Health Facility List (MHFL): Insights from the Free State’s 2021 COVID-19 vaccine rollout
- Ntombela B, Heunis JC, Chikobvu P, Muteba M, Tshilo TR & Lenyehelo M. Chapter 13: Leveraging the Go.Data digital platform for COVID-19 epidemiological surveillance: Case of the Free State, South Africa
- Chikobvu P, Heunis JC, Setlogelo M, Ntombela B & Tshilo TR. Chapter 14: Implementation of the Health Patient Registration System in the Free State: Lessons learned

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Engelbrecht M, Mulu N & Kigozi-Male G. 2024. Exploring Factors Associated with Limited Male Partner Involvement in Maternal Health: A Sesotho Socio-Cultural Perspective from the Free State, South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21,1482

Heunis C & Kigozi-Male G. 2024. Exploring managers' insights on integrating mental health into tuberculosis and HIV care in the Free State Province, South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(11): 1528

Heunis C, van Jaarsveldt D, Chikobvu C, Kigozi-Male G & Litheko M. 2024. Exploring health research priority setting in a South African province: A nominal group technique approach. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(7): 861

Kigozi-Male G, Heunis C, Engelbrecht M & Tweheyo R. 2024. Possible depression in new tuberculosis patients in the Free State province, South Africa. *Southern African Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 39(1): a653

Mulu NT & Engelbrecht, M. 2024. "Someone Who Is Going to Preserve Your Surname and Clan Name": A Sesotho Cultural Perspective on Male Partner Involvement in Maternal and Newborn Care in the Free State, South Africa. *Social Sciences*, 13: 540

Peresu E, Kigozi-Male G, Engelbrecht M & van Rooyen R. 2024. Exploring factors associated with uptake of breast cancer screening among women in a South African metropolitan: research to inform public health interventions. *South African Health Review*. <https://hdl.handle.net/10520/ejc-healthr-v2023-n1-a13>

Peresu E, De Graeve D, Heunis JC & Kigozi NG. 2024. Cost-consequence analysis of ambulatory clinic- and home-based multidrug-resistant tuberculosis management models in Eswatini. *PLoS ONE*, 19(4): e0301507

Amoatika DA, Addo PNO, Kaur A & Brown MJ. 2024. Coping strategies associated with art adherence among older adults living with HIV, South Carolina, Psychology, Health & Medicine, DOI: 10.1080/13548506.2024.2417314

Chapters in edited volumes

Heunis JC, Joubert M & Ncube A. 2024. Chapter 13 Social worker role-taking during communicable disease outbreaks in South Africa: The need for disaster management training. In: S Levy, U Odera Okoye, PT Tanga & R Ingram R (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook on African Social Work Education*. Oxfordshire: Routledge International Handbooks; pp. 152-164. ISBN: 9781032322957

van Straaten M, Heunis C, Ncube A & Szarzynski J. 2024. Social work mental health and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups during COVID-19 in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State, South Africa. In: AL Shokane, A Keet & V Nadesan (Eds.), *Social work in the 21st century: Scholarship and praxis reimagined towards vulnerability*, Knowledge Pathing: Multi-, Inter- and Transdisciplining in Social Sciences Series, vol. 3. Cape Town: AVARSITY Books; pp. 47-59. ISBN: 978-1-991269-12-6; E-ISBN: 978-1-991270-12-2

Conference Papers/Posters

Heunis C & Kigozi-Male G. 2024. Integration of mental health into tuberculosis and HIV care: Insights of health managers in the Free State. 12th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on 'Health and Healthcare on the Brink of National Health Insurance.' Free State Department of Health, Virtual, 22 November 2024

van Straaten MM, Heunis JC & Ncube A. 2024. Whole-system approach needed to address healthcare inequities: Neglect of mental health services by social workers during COVID-19 in Mangaung. 12th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on 'Health and Healthcare on the Brink of National Health Insurance.' Free State Department of Health, Virtual, 22 November 2024

Heunis JC & van Jaarsveldt D. 2024. *Health research priority setting in the Free State*. National Health Research Committee Meeting with the Free State Provincial Health Research Committee, Pretoria, 29-30 October 2024

Chikobvu P, Heunis C, Oliphant B, Meyer B & Litheko M. 2024. *Preliminary insights on reporting indicators for episodes of care (EOC)*. Public Health Case Management Conference. National Department of Health. Mbombela, 20-22 August 2024

Engaged Scholarship

Heunis C, Kigozi-Male G, Engelbrecht M & Van der Walt N. BRICS research collaboration is crucial to end tuberculosis. *UFS News Archive*. 26 March 2024. <https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/news-archive/campus-news/2024/march/brics-research-collaboration-is-crucial-to-end-tuberculosis>

Bolleurs L. UFS CHSR&D drives research to advance stronger health systems. *UFS News Archive*, 21 October 2024 <https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/news-archive/campus-news/2024/october/ufs-chsr-d-drives-research-to-advance-stronger-health-systems>

Prof Michelle Engelbrecht served as the chair of the Scientific Committee of the Faculty of the Humanities, as a member of the General Human Research Ethics Committee (GHREC), and associate editor for the African Journal of AIDS Research

National and International Collaboration

- Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male – Reviewer, National Research Foundation Rating Application Review
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht – Internal Reviewer, National Research Foundation Thuthuka Application Review
- Prof Monique Brown visited the CHSR&D from 18 to 30 August. As part of this visit, she presented a lecture on Trauma, HIV and Ageing: A mixed methods approach.
- Prof Christo Heunis – Convenor, National Health Research Committee (NHRC) Subcommittee on Monitoring and Evaluation
- Prof Christo Heunis – Member, National Health Research Committee (NHRC)
- Prof Christo Heunis – Member, South African Alliance for the DHS
- Prof Christo Heunis – Participant, South African Demographic and Health Survey High Level Technical Meeting, Pretoria, 25-26 April
- Prof Christo Heunis – Reviewer, National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Five-Year Application Review
- Prof Christo Heunis – Reviewer, National Research Foundation Rating Application Review

Postgraduate Students

Completed Master's supervision

- NM Maeko. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Services: Experiences and views of young adults and providers in Soshanguve*. Master of Health Systems Studies, UFS. Prof Christo Heunis, CHSR&D, UFS; Co-supervisor: Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male, CHSR&D, UFS
- HM Johnston. *Predictors of external TB and HIV/AIDS stigma among healthcare workers in the Free State Province, South Africa*. Master of Social Science in Clinical Psychology (UFS). Prof Michelle Engelbrecht, CHSR&D, UFS

Completed Honours supervision

- C Kobran. The impact of COVID-19 on the psychological well-being/mental health of first-year university students: A critical review (Module: PSHR6804). Supervisor: Prof Michelle Engelbrecht, CHSR&D, UFS
- Z de Bruin. Exploring the Impact of School-Based Mental Health Support on Learners' Psycho-Social Well-Being in South Africa: A Critical Review (Module: PSHR6804). Supervisor: Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male, CHSR&D, UFS

- E Ketse. *The role of support systems and communication access in enhancing the resilience of deaf individuals: A critical review*. Honours Research Project in Psychology Research (Module: PSHR6804). Supervisor: Prof Christo Heunis, CHSR&D, UFS
- Other Activities
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht – Session chair at the 12th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on ‘Health and Healthcare on the Brink of National Health Insurance.’ Free State Department of Health, Virtual, 22 November 2024
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht – Evaluation Committee member, School of Nursing, UFS; Public Health Division, UFS
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht – Manuscript reviewer for *Frontiers in Health Sciences*
- Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male – Manuscript reviewer for *British Medical Journal* and *African Journal of AIDS Research*
- Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male – Evaluation Committee member, School of Nursing, UFS; Public Health Division, UFS
- Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male – Session chair at the 12th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on ‘Health and Healthcare on the Brink of National Health Insurance.’ Free State Department of Health, Virtual, 22 November 2024
- Prof Christo Heunis – Organising team member, abstract book editor, session chair, vote of thanks, and presenter at the 12th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day on ‘Health and Healthcare on the Brink of National Health Insurance.’ Free State Department of Health, Virtual, 22 November
- Prof Christo Heunis – Organising team member and session chair at the Lejweleputswa District Health Summit 2024 on ‘Partnerships and collaborations towards district health strengthening to promote healthy lives and well-being in Lejweleputswa.’ Welkom, 13-15 November
- Prof Christo Heunis – Manuscript reviewer for *International Journal for Environmental Research and Public Health*



Staff (2024)

Prof Michelle Engelbrecht	Director
Prof Christo Heunis	Associate Professor
Prof Gladys Kigozi-Male	Associate Professor
Belinda Jacobs	Senior Administrative Officer
Bridget Smit	Administrative Officer
Dr Ngwi Mulu	Postdoctoral Fellow

Communication Science

Academic Head of Department
Prof Nyasha Mboti

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Overview of 2024

Communication is in everything we do. It is at the heart of social, professional, political, economic, and cultural discourse. It shapes our identities and our encounters and relations with others. The field of Communication Science is by nature interdisciplinary. Students in Communication Science get to study key communication ideas, concepts, and practices, and apply them to various lived contexts in a manner that allows them to solve communication problems and see communication at work in different communication and media contexts. Our grounding and focus of application are in South Africa, Africa, and the global south, while we are able to abstract and interlink with the rest of the international scene.

The Communication Science Department is one of the largest departments in the Faculty of the Humanities. It offers two undergraduate, three Honours, three Master's, and a PhD degree programme on the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses. We teach 27 undergraduate modules and 10 Honours modules on the Bloemfontein Campus, as well as eight undergraduate modules and five Honours modules on the Qwaqwa Campus. Teaching and learning are student-focused and provide hundreds of undergraduate students with access to a strong academic foundation, emphasising employability through formal job opportunities and entrepreneurship. The current undergraduate programmes, BA (Journalism) and BA (Integrated Organisational Communication), were introduced in 2018 and are now two-thirds through their second full iteration, with modules being adapted to incorporate feedback and improvements to align with industry requirements as well as institutional policy.

Two new lecturers recently joined the department: Anathi Nyadu at the Bloemfontein Campus and Babalwa Sibango at the Qwaqwa Campus, welcome additions that bring further quality, youth, and versatility to the Department. The year 2024 also brought a renewed focus on teaching excellence,

postgraduate throughput, increased research, and engaged scholarship. Research outputs and internationalisation have also improved.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Stacey Lee Khojane, a lecturer in the Department, joined the national legislature as a Member of Parliament in South Africa's 7th National Assembly's Administration. In Parliament, Ms Khojane sat on the Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, and the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs.

Rentia du Plessis hosted a highly subscribed inaugural annual career webinar on 9 May 2024, where an exciting lineup of former Communication Science Department students shared their insights on possible career paths for students with a Communication degree. Dr Phumzile Mmope, an outstanding motivational speaker and consultant specialising in leadership communication, was an invited keynote speaker at the event, graciously agreeing to waive her fee and address our students for free.

Prof Nyasha Mboti was invited to the Journalism Summit held at Rhodes University from 4 to 6 April 2024 to participate in drafting the Makhanda Declaration on Journalism.

Student Achievements

BA (Integrated Organisational Communication): 52 students graduated in 2024

BA (Journalism): 50 students graduated in 2024

Katarina Ndeshi Kamari graduated with a Master's degree under the supervision of Dr Adri van der Merwe and Dr Mthobeli Ngongo. Thesis title: *"The Role of Public Relations Officers in the Namibian Public Sector"*

Victorine Mbong Shu successfully completed her doctoral research titled "Sexuality Communication in African Families: The Dynamics of Openness and Closedness". Supervisor: Prof Diana Breshears

Mamello Mosaefane successfully completed her Master's research titled "A frame analysis of the reportage of the Revolutionary For Prosperity party by *Lesotho Times* and *The Post*". Supervisor: Margaret Linstrom

Nonsindiso Qwabe, an MA (Communication Science) student, is doing her Master's research under a R90 000 grant from the UFS-QQ Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC), a National Research Foundation (NRF) programme under the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU). Ms Qwabe's work is part of Prof Diana Breshears' ongoing ARU project on Qwaqwa families.

Robson Nkosi successfully applied for the Article Refinement Programme under Prof Corli Witthuhn of the Department of Sustainable Food Systems and Development in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

Thirty final year undergraduate students in the BA (Journalism) programme graduated with certificates in the Communicating Social Justice Short Learning Programme (SLP) offered through a collaboration of the Department of Communication Science, the Unit for Transformation and Social Change, and the MICT-SETA.

Teaching

The Department of Communication Science has, since 2018, consciously and actively promoted the development and mentoring of a cohort of emerging lecturing talent. This cohort currently has five young female Black South African lecturers permanently employed in the Department, namely: Duduzile Dlamini, Lesego Radebe-Nkosi, Boitumelo Mampane, Millicent Mavimbela, and Babalwa Sibango. The temporary lecturers in the cohort include Anathi Nyadu, Robson Nkosi, Anthony Mthembu, and Kgalalelo Mphephuka. Facilitators are Sinakho Maphekula and Clement Selepe. This large cohort is part of an approach to “building our own timber”, development, and talent retention that we hope will pay off by 2030.

Short Learning Programmes offered

Thirty final year undergraduate students in the BA (Journalism) programme graduated with certificates in the Communicating Social Justice Short Learning Programme (SLP) offered through a collaboration of the Department of Communication Science, the Unit for Transformation and Social Change, and the MICT-SETA.

Research Projects

Prof Diana Breshears is collaborating with Prof Haley Horstman from the University of Missouri on the ARU project on Qwaqwa families.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Naudé, L. and **Breshears, D.** 2024. It has given us a title: Identity-transitions in first-generation students at a South African university, *Journal of Education*, 97.

Breshears, D., and Du Plessis, E. 2024. Choosing to learn outside the classroom: Rural South African students' motivation for and benefits of participating in voluntary international virtual exchanges, *SOTL in the South* 8(1), i

Glen, I.E., 2024. The ethics of wildlife documentary making in Africa: Frédéric Rossif's La Fête Sauvage and the school of lies, *Journal of African Cinemas* 15(2), 181-197.

Mampane, T. 2024. This field I call home: black feminist (auto)ethnography in Alexandra Township, South Africa, *African Identities*, 22(3), 570-583.

Ngcongco, M., 2024. Exploring the Virtual Culture of Reality Television Communities: Lessons From #Date My Family. *Television & New Media* 25(1), 19-40.

Breshears, D., and **Du Plessis, E.** 2024. Choosing to learn outside the classroom: Rural South African students' motivation for and benefits of participating in voluntary international virtual exchanges, *SOTL in the South* 8(1), 19-33.

Chapters in edited volumes

Mboti, N. 2024. *The Rate of Oppression (ROp): The Apartheid Studies Approach to the Study of Harm*, In: Chitando, E., and Mlambo, O. (Eds.) Palgrave Handbook of Violence in Africa. London: Palgrave, 53-75.

Books

Glen, I.E., 2024. *Wildlife Documentaries in Southern Africa: From East to South*, Anthem Press.

Conference Papers/Posters

Mboti, N., 2024. “Flashing Headlights, Blinded Driver, and Blinding Driver: A Communication and Apartheid Studies Approach to Understanding How People Get Used to Living with Harm”, South African Communication Association (SACOMM), Stellenbosch University, 10–12 September 2024.

Mboti, N., 2024. “Simon Sabela’s ‘life goes on’ films: An Apartheid Studies forensic inductive interrogation of uDeliwe, Ikati lemnyama, Inkedama, Inyakanyaka, and Ngaka”, CILECT-CARA Conference 2024, Wits University, 1–4 July 2024.

Engaged Scholarship

Prof Nyasha Mboti facilitated a two-day intensive interdisciplinary workshop at the University of KwaZulu-Natal’s College of Humanities, on 28 and 29 October 2024, titled “Interdisciplinary Theory Building in and From South Africa: The case of Apartheid Studies as a Scientific Paradigm”.

Rentia du Plessis hosted a highly subscribed inaugural annual career webinar on 9 May 2024, where an exciting lineup of former Communication Science Department students shared valuable insights on possible career paths for students with a communication degree.



Rentia Du Plessis serves as an adjudicator for school debating competitions organised by the ATKV.

Dr Willemien Marais is the Editor of *Communitas*. The Department of Communication Science publishes the accredited journal *Communitas* annually. *Communitas* aims to promote a better understanding of communication-related issues that affect developing societies, including Southern African communities. The journal is included in the following lists/indices: Scopus, Web of Science Core Collection: Emerging Sources Citation Index, SciELO SA, DOAJ and the DHET list.

Prof Diana Breshears is an active member of the National Communication Association and the National Adoption Coalition of South Africa, as well as a peer reviewer for *Children and Society*, *Journal of Family Communication*, and *Journal of Family Issues*.

Elbie Lombard serves on the Faculty of the Humanities Engagement Scholarship Committee.

Elbie Lombard continues in her role as a member of the Centre for Cinema and Media Studies (CIMS) at Ghent University in Belgium.

Margaret Linström mentors and coaches journalists at *Courant*, a community newspaper in Bloemfontein.

Dr Mulder is a member of the Scientific Committee: Social Science and Humanities Scientific Review Process.

Prof Nyasha Mboti facilitated two university-wide workshops for UFS postgraduate students on Science Communication and Academic Writing at the invitation of the Centre for Graduate Support.

Prof Nyasha Mboti is a member of the Senate Task Team on Decolonisation, which is producing the University of the Free State's Decolonisation Framework.

Prof Nyasha Mboti is a member of the Senate Engaged Scholarship Committee.

Prof Nyasha Mboti is a member of the Institutional Forum.

National and International Collaboration

Prof Nyasha Mboti serves on the Steering Committee for MediArXiv, a scholar-led digital archive for media, film and communication studies, hosted by the Centre for Open Science.

Prof Diana Breshears collaborates with Prof Haley Horstman from the University of Missouri as part of her ARU project on Qwaqwa families.

Prof Ian Glenn is collaborating with Stanford University on an African digital mapping project.

Elbie Lombard is the Deputy President for the Ghent University Alumni Chapter South Africa. She is responsible for the continuous liaison between Ghent University and Ghent University alumni in South Africa. She also serves as a member of the Stichting Neerlandia.

Postgraduate Students

Communication Science students in the Department's three Honours programmes were seconded, for the fourth year running, to departments in the Faculty of the Humanities as Marketing Communication student assistants. The success of this programme is shown by the fact that departments requested its continuation. The programme started in 2021 and is set to continue in 2025. The programme aims to provide Honours students in the field of Communication Science with workplace experience while providing some administrative assistance to departments and units.



Staff (2024)

Prof Nyasha Mboti Academic Head of Department

Programme Director: Communication Professions

Dr Willemien Marais

Academic and lecturing staff: Bloemfontein Campus

Dr Lucrezea de Lange	Lecturer
Duduzile Dlamini	Lecturer
Rentia Du Plessis	Lecturer
Margaret Linström	Lecturer
Elbie Lombard	Lecturer
Boitumelo Mampane	Lecturer
Sinakho Mapekula	Academic Facilitator
Millicent Mavimbela	Lecturer
Dr Dalmé Mulder	Lecturer
Anathi Nyadu	Lecturer
Lesego Radebe-Nkosi	Lecturer
Clement Selepe	Academic Facilitator

Academic and lecturing staff: Qwaqwa Campus

Prof Diana Breshears	Subject Head: Qwaqwa Campus
Babalwa Sibango	Lecturer
Keneilwe Chologi	Academic facilitator

Administrative staff: Bloemfontein Campus

Nomvo Bam	Officer
Phumeza Madliwa	Senior Assistant Officer

Affiliated Staff

Prof IE Glenn	Research Fellow
Prof M Rivera	Research Fellow
Prof T Tufte	Extraordinary Professor

Criminology

Academic Head of Department
Prof F Steyn

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Overview of 2024

The year was marked with major strides in staff development, research, and teaching and learning success. With reference to staff development, three lecturers completed their postgraduate qualifications, a long-standing vacancy was filled, and a staff member was promoted. The increase in seniority and skills allowed for significant capacity building, internationalisation, and collaborative teaching and learning. The Department attained growth in the number of postgraduate (19 Master's and doctoral) candidates and maintained a steady stream of nearly 2000 undergraduate students. By extending its scholarly reach, memorandums of understanding were signed with the Department of Correctional Services and Khulisa Social Solutions, respectively, to facilitate a service-learning programme and research with monitoring and evaluation support for their community initiatives.

The Department continued its support to the Restorative Justice Centre and initiated several new research projects, including international comparative work on recidivism, inter-university research regarding student victimisation and off-campus safety, expungement of criminal records for youth offenders, green Criminology, victim-offender mediation, social interventions in at-risk communities, and the application of legal pluralism in gender-based violence cases. The number of accredited research outputs increased, and a substantial number of research papers were presented at local and international conferences. Intra-university collaboration featured the Law Clinic, Protection Services, and the Department of History. Engaged scholarship was extended to, amongst others, the National Scholarly Editors Forum, the Criminological Society of Africa, the *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology*, and lecturers served on several local and international editorial boards. The Criminology Student Association ensured vibrant student experiences, including a career day, documentary dissection, and guest lectures.

Achievements

Ms Boleu was promoted to lecturer. Mr Phillips (PhD in Criminology), Ms Coetzee (MA in Sociology), and Ms Giddy (MA in Criminology) submitted their postgraduate research for examination.

The recipients of the best student awards were:

- First-year: NMJ Setenane
- Second-year: C Klopers
- Third-year: RP Lebitsa
- Honours: M Mosia

Teaching

Due to his involvement in the Centre for Anti-Racist Scholarship, Advocacy and Action as a community council member, Dr Cronjé arranged an online guest lecture exchange between himself and Prof Favian Martin of Arcadia University, USA. Dr Cronjé presented on inclusive community empowerment using a case study of the Alexandra social cohesion project implemented by the Department's community partner, Khulisa Social Solutions. Prof Martin presented his research in the emerging field of Ghost Criminology, specifically looking at its application in the "whitewashing" of American history using the historical sites of Gettysburg, titled, "Experiencing Ghosts in Gettysburg: Dark Tourism, Racism and US History" in the Theoretical Perspectives of Crime and Justice honours class. Mr Phillips also presented a guest lecture at Arcadia University titled Rituals, Symbols and Identity: Exploring the Origin and Dynamics of Devil-Worshipping Youth Gangs and Occult Practices in the Free State, South Africa.

As part of the relationship with Arden University, opportunities have been created for lecturers and postgraduate students from both institutions to share knowledge across the global north/south divide. In 2024, two guest lectures were arranged for Honours students with Arden University in the CRIM6824 Honours class, namely, "Rhino Poaching and the Illegal Wildlife Trade: Challenges and Implications" by Richard Charlton and "Child sexual abuse: An academic examination" by Salima Murji.

Short Learning Programme

Mr Phillips, in collaboration with Prof Theodore Petrus (Department of Anthropology), has successfully developed and applied for an SLP entitled Gang Subculture: Practical Intervention Strategies. The UFS Executive Committee of Senate approved the SLP.

Research Projects

Dr Cronjé embarked on developing a research project with colleagues from the School of Criminal Justice at Arden University in the United Kingdom. The project aims to develop comparative studies on the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration interventions between the United Kingdom and South Africa. The study will lay the foundation for future comparative recidivism and desistance research between the countries to share best rehabilitation and reintegration practices. Dr Cronjé received funding from the Faculty's Research Committee for a research visit to Arden University to further develop the collaborative research project.

Dr Cronjé coordinated the development of a collaborative agreement to provide experiential learning and research opportunities for colleagues and students with Khulisa Social Solutions. The collaboration was finalised in January and officially launched in July. As a national NGO with a partner branch in the United Kingdom, the Department will be assisting in collecting and analysing data on

the implementation of community-based interventions, which will result in publishable research and empirical information for Khulisa Social Solutions to use in their official reports. Thus far, Dr Cronjé has disseminated information from Khulisa Social Solutions at guest lectures and conferences.

The Criminology Consortium, under the stewardship of Dr Cronjé, is an inter-university project that aims to determine the experience of undergraduate students regarding victimisation insofar as personal and property offences are concerned. The comparative nature of the study allows for the identification of correlations between students' biographic profiles (gender, socio-economics, geography, etc.) and experiences of victimisation. The study is aligned with sections of the 2022/2023 Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey, providing an opportunity for research of this nature to contribute to the current dearth of research related to the victimisation experiences of South African students. A total of 1030 students have participated in the surveys.

In a revitalised project with the UFS Law Clinic, Mr Pophaim, Mr Phillips and Ms Mathaha were requested to compile a technical report on the constitutional validity of section 271B of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977, with Section 87 of the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 insofar as they deal with the period of expungement of criminal records for persons convicted as children. Drawing on their criminological expertise, the report highlights how criminal records perpetuate stigma, obstruct access to higher education, and limit employment opportunities, subsequently reinforcing cycles of disadvantage and recidivism among youth who have come into conflict with the law. It positions South Africa's current five- to ten-year waiting period for expungement, and complex application process within an international context examining restorative-justice models in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada.

Prof Steyn and Mr Pophaim collaborated with the Restorative Justice Centre. This civic organisation focuses on assisting victims, perpetrators, and all those involved in the interaction by advocating for the use of restorative justice mediation, dialogue, and conflict transformation. The project culminated in a technical report on the impact of a mediation intervention on a group of victims and perpetrators in gender-based violence cases. The key findings show that most respondents voluntarily engaged in the mediation process and felt well-prepared. Both groups generally rated the mediation experience positively, citing respectful, unbiased facilitation and a safe environment for honest and open dialogue. Building on the positive findings, the Department is gearing up toward replicating the study with the new cohort of participants who have engaged with the mediation process to validate the initial results.

Prof Peacock collaborated with the Basque Institute of Criminology in the Basque Country, Spain, in the *Laboratorio de teoría y práctica de la justicia restaurativa*, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation with the project title "Restorative justice for crimes against the environment and against animals: Design of prevention, intervention and reparation programmes within a globalised framework." Amongst others, key role players refer to the University of Tasmania, the World Society of Victimology, O.P. Jindal Global University, and the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UN Vienna).

Prof Steyn met with Cobus van Jaarsveld, Deputy Director at the UFS Protection Services, to explore potential working and research collaborations with the Department. Of the many topics discussed, it was decided to focus on the well-being of students who rent private accommodation. Under the stewardship of Prof Steyn and Mr Phillips, the study aims to determine the safety and security of students who live off campus, particularly in the Brandwag neighbourhood adjacent to the Bloemfontein Campus. The research objectives included the security measures at these accommodations, students' feelings of safety, victimisation, and students' risk-taking behaviour. The 2024 project was a pilot study, and 123 students participated in the survey. The study will continue in 2025 with the involvement of the University of Cape Town and the University of Pretoria.

Dr Murhula initiated a research project on the barriers and potential strategies for utilising legal pluralism to address the injustice experienced by women who have been victims of gender-based violence (GBV). The study aims to examine how access to justice for women who have been victims of GBV is perceived and incorporated within the pluralistic justice system. A review will be conducted on the implementation of GBV policies in rural settings, while the study will also investigate the challenges related to ensuring that women who are victims of GBV have access to justice. The project distinguishes itself from prior investigations into GBV by examining the intricate relationship between legal pluralism and GBV in rural contexts. The project received funding from the Research Committee of the Faculty of the Humanities.

The Department is involved in an ongoing research project on the history of the University of the Free State. As part of the project, Prof Steyn, Dr Murhula and Mr Phillips are collaborating on a co-authored article that traces the Department's evolution from its apartheid-era foundation to its contemporary decolonial and multidisciplinary identity. By drawing on archival research, interviews with retired and current staff, and enrolment and staffing data, the study explores shifts in theoretical paradigms, curriculum development, and transformation within Criminology at UFS.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Castlemaine, M. & Steyn, F. 2024. Pathways to maternal filicide among women incarcerated in Gauteng, South Africa. *Gender & Behaviour*, 22(2):22737-22746.

De Oliveira, J.D., Jordaan, J. & Cronjé, M. 2024. Morality, self-control, age, type of offence, and sentence length as predictors of psychopathy amongst female incarcerated offenders in South Africa. *PLoS ONE*, 19(3):e0299847.

Hagemeister, D.T., Oosthuizen, W. & Mokae, B.K. 2024. Legal requirements for reporting clinical cases to the South African police or social services. *South African Family Practice*, 66(1):5919.

Holtzhausen, M. & Cronje, M. 2024. Perceptions of the Availability, accessibility, and implementation of programmes and services offered to street-connected youth in Bloemfontein, South Africa. *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology & Victimology*, 37(2):42-58.

Oeschger, S., Nunlall-Hiralal, R. & Steyn F. 2024. Disrupting gender-based violence: The role of private security. *Community Psychology in Global Perspective*, 10(1/2):137-156.

Phillips, A.R. & Cronjé, M. 2024. Forged in secrecy, sealed in blood: The origin, initiation, symbolism, hierarchy, and power dynamics within devil-worshipping gangs in the Free State Province. *South African Journal of Criminal Justice*, 37(3):313-339.

Sarkin, J.J. & Sarkin, E. 2024. Jazz music: From black pride to political consciousness to social change in the United States. *Journal of Policy and Society*, 2(1):1426-1426.

Sarkin, J.J. & Morais, T. 2024. The agency of refugees and asylum-seeking women in the face of the inability of states to provide protection against sexual and gender-based violence. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 46(3):523-548.

Sarkin, J.J. & Sotoudehfar, S. 2024. Artificial intelligence and arms races in the Middle East: The evolution of technology and its implications for regional and international security. *Defence & Security Analysis*, 40(1):97-119.

Sarkin, J.J. & Morais, T. 2024. Assessing the intersectional impact of domestic migration law: Reacting to state-created categories and vulnerabilities of asylum seekers in Israel. *Israel Law Review*, 57(3):423-448.

Chapters in edited volumes

Murhula, P.B.B. 2024. An overview of gender-based violence in Africa: Causes and legal instruments. In: Asakitikpi, A. & Murhula, P.B.B. (Eds). *Gender-based violence in sub-Saharan Africa: Prevalence, patterns, and policies*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

Murhula, P.B.B. 2024. Understanding the profile of gender-based violence perpetrators in South Africa. In: Asakitikpi, A. & Murhula, P.B.B. (Eds). *Gender-based violence in sub-Saharan Africa: Prevalence, patterns, and policies*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

Murhula, P.B.B. 2024. Addressing gender-based violence in Africa: Reducing risks through primary prevention. In: Asakitiki, A. & Murhula, P.B.B. (Eds). *Gender-based violence in sub-Saharan Africa: Prevalence, patterns, and policies*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

Mr Pophaim authored a book chapter with Dr Sadiki (Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town) on homelessness. The chapter, for the *Routledge Handbook of Criminal Justice Social Work*, is titled "Homelessness in context: A Southern African perspective of victimisation and policy intervention".

Technical research report

Prof Steyn and Mr Pophaim compiled a research report titled *The impact of a mediation intervention on victims and offenders* for the Restorative Justice Centre in Pretoria.

Conference Papers

Ms Boleu presented a paper titled *Are we doing what we should? Presiding officers' expectations of criminologists as expert witnesses in court* at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, Stockholm, Sweden, 10-12 June 2024.

Dr Cronjé presented a paper titled *A strength-based approach to community cohesion: Reflections from community dialogue circles in Alexandra, Johannesburg*, at the 1st International Conference on Criminology & Criminal Justice, Gangodawila, Sri Lanka, 3-4 October 2024 (online).

Dr Cronjé presented a paper titled *An analysis of the victimisation experiences and victimogenic factors associated with a group of South African recidivists* at the 1st Stellenbosch Criminal Justice Colloquium, University of Stellenbosch, 18-19 July 2024.

Prof Peacock presented a valedictory paper titled *Future vision of the World Society of Victimology* at the 18th World Society of Victimology Symposium in Gandhinagar, India, 1-5 September 2024.

Together with V. Nair, M. O'Connell, and G.M. Verone, Prof Peacock presented a paper titled *A global perspective on challenges in teaching and research on green victimology* at the 18th World Society of Victimology Symposium. Gandhinagar, India, 1-5 September 2024.

Mr Phillips presented a paper titled *Devil-worshipping youth gangs: Exploring risk, victimisation and the protective factors in occult-driven youth violence* at the 13th International Conference on Victim Assistance hosted by O.P. Jindal University, 12 November 2024 (online).

Mr Phillips presented a paper, *Exploring the enigmatic: A contemporary perspective on the nature, dynamics, symbolism and initiation rites in 'devil-worshipping' youth gang subcultures* at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, Stockholm, Sweden, 10-12 June 2024.

Mr Pophaim presented a paper *Challenging the South African Hate Crime and Hate Speech Bill to promote inclusivity and enhanced protection for homeless victims* at the Stockholm Criminology Symposium, Stockholm, Sweden, 10-12 June 2024.

Dr Murhula presented a paper at the 13th International Conference on Victim Assistance hosted by O.P. Jindal University titled *The effectiveness of restorative justice practices on victims of crime: Evidence from South Africa* (online), 12 November 2024.

Dr Murhula presented a paper titled *The politics of knowledge production and the colonial logics underpinning it in the criminal justice systems* at the Decolonising Knowledge Production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (HSSA) Colloquium hosted by the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, Faculty of the Humanities, University of the Free State, 27-29 August 2024.

Dr Murhula and Ms Giddy presented a paper, *Improving the efficiency and consistency of the parole system in South Africa*, at an online workshop arranged by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), 20 November 2024.

Prof Steyn presented a paper, *Informal foodways and food preparation in a South African female prison* at the 1st International Conference on Criminology & Criminal Justice, Gangodawila, Sri Lanka, 3-4 October 2024 (online). He also served as facilitator of the session.

Prof Steyn presented a paper, *What makes a journal article publishable?*, at the UNISA College of Law Research Summit: Academic research, scholarship, and impact – Towards excellence and sustainability, 13-15 August 2024 (online).

Prof Steyn and Ms Klopper (Department of Social Work and Criminology, University of Pretoria) presented a paper, *Experiences and expressions of violence among imprisoned women: Implications for rehabilitation policy and practice*, at the Stellenbosch Criminal Justice Colloquium. University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, 18-19 July 2024.

Prof Steyn presented a paper, *How to incentivise reviewers without compromising the integrity of the peer review process* at the Annual National Scholarly Editors Forum Meeting, 11 April 2024 (online). The presentation was published in the Proceedings Report.

Engaged Scholarship

Ms Boleu (Vice-Chair) and Mr Pophaim (Governor) served on the board of the Kidz Care Trust. Prof Steyn (Senior Editor/Editor-in-Chief), Mr Phillips (Editor), and Mr Pophaim (Assistant Editor) continued their duties with the *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology*. Mr Phillips was elected council member, and Dr Cronjé was elected treasurer of the Criminological Society of Africa (CRIMSA). Dr Cronjé served on the Community Advisory Council for the Centre for Anti-Racist Scholarship, Advocacy and Action (CASAA), Arcadia University, USA. As a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society for Criminology, Prof Peacock served on the Scientific and Advisory committee of the 2025 World Criminology conference to be hosted in Delhi, India.

Prof Steyn served on the National Scholarly Editors Forum (NSEF) Committee, which was tasked with revising the ASSAf Code of Best Practice in Scholarly Journal Publishing, Editing, and Peer Review. He was also invited to present a paper on how to incentivise reviewers without compromising the peer review process at the NSEF meeting, an event hosted annually by ASSAf's Scholarly Publishing Programme, 11 April.

Prof Peacock was invited to present at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the European Union on the topic of *trauma-informed practice for public and front-line workers*. Prof Peacock served as Honorary Research Fellow at the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, O.P. Jindal Global University of Eminence, Delhi, India and participated in research-led curriculum renewal of Advanced Victimology offerings. Prof Peacock was successful in his appointment to the Roster of African Transitional Justice Experts by the International Centre for Transitional Justice in New York. The purpose is to work across society and borders to challenge the causes and address the consequences of human rights violations.

Prof Peacock was the guest speaker of the Faculty of Law and Criminological Sciences at KU Leuven in Belgium, and the Research Lines of Human Rights and Transitional Justice, and Restorative Justice and Victimology. He presented on the topic of "Victimology in Africa: Towards a new horizon". He also served as an Executive Board member of Just Detention International – Los Angeles/South Africa, a health and human rights organisation that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention.

Prof Peacock served as the senior editor of *Global Advances in Victimology and Psychological Studies* and he served on the editorial boards of the following journals: *Victimology and Victim Justice* (India); *Ethnicity and Criminal Justice* (USA); *Temida: Journal of Victimology, Gender and Human Rights* (Serbia); *Criminologia e Vittimologia* (Italy); *Acta Criminologica: African Journal of Criminology and Victimology* (South Africa). Prof Peacock served as guest editor together with role-players from Italy and Belgium for the journal *Mediarres: Rivista su trasformazione dei conflitti, cultura della riparazione e mediazione*.

On 20 November, the National Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, along with the Department of Correctional Services, held a workshop focused on evaluating South Africa's parole system. The primary goal of the workshop was to engage key stakeholders in assessing the effectiveness of the parole system in accordance with the provisions outlined in Chapter VII of the Correctional Services Act. During the event, Dr Murhula and Ms Giddy made contributions on how to increase the efficiency and consistency of South Africa's parole system. Ms Coetzee served on the Free State Provincial Trafficking in Persons Task Team and the Free State Provincial Task Team for Sexual Offences. Prof Steyn served on the Free State Provincial Child Justice Forum.

National and International Collaboration

In 2019, the Department entered into an MOU with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to offer its postgraduate students an Experiential Learning Programme (ELP). In 2024, the Department of Criminology and the DCS renewed the MOU until 2026. They launched the initiative at Grootvlei Correctional Centre on 21 June during a signing ceremony with the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Petersen, and the DCS National Commissioner, Mr Thobakgale, among other distinguished guests. This landmark partnership provides students with experiential learning opportunities with the DCS, including the opportunity to participate voluntarily as part of community engagement with the DCS to assist with assessment and profiling of correctional clients and communities, as well as with the rendering of correctional programmes. In addition, the partnership opens doors for research collaboration and opportunities to develop future symposia to expand on the corrections-based scholarly network and share and disseminate research relevant to the DCS research agenda.\



Prof Petersen, Dr Cronjé, M Mabe (Acting Chief Deputy Commissioner: Department of Correctional Services), and Prof Masoga at the MOU signing ceremony.

The Criminology Consortium, steered by Dr Cronjé, collaborates with the Department of Criminology (University of Fort Hare), the Department of Social Work and Criminology (University of Pretoria), and the Department of Criminal Justice (University of Venda). National collaboration featured with the Centre of Criminology (University of Cape Town) and the Department of Social Work and Criminology (University of Pretoria) regarding an inter-institutional research project on the safety and security of students renting off-campus accommodation. Prof Steyn visited the Department of Social Work and Criminology (University of Pretoria) in June regarding collaborative research output of research projects on female offenders and violence, as well as foodways in correctional centres. Mr Pophaim and Prof Steyn were part of an inter-university team which, together with the Restorative Justice Centre in Pretoria, is developing a national research agenda for restorative justice in South Africa.

Prof Peacock was invited by the National Forensic Sciences (University of India) as a visiting professor to present lectures at the 2nd Indian Postgraduate Course of Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice (27-31 August 2024). He presented lectures on the topics of Forensic Victimology and the Victimisation Vulnerability of Street-Connected Children.

Postgraduate Students

Diale, P. MSocSci. An exploration of the reciprocal nature of cooperation between probation officers and residential social workers with specific reference to the effectiveness of Secure Care Centre services. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Giddy, A. MSocSci. Reintegration and beyond: Parolees' lived experiences and perceptions of post-release services offered in the Mangaung Management District. Supervisor: Dr Cronjé.

Gildenhuys, A. MSocSci. Navigating the nexus of law and society: A socio-legal exploration of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2020 – 2030) through the lens of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation. Supervisor: Dr Cronjé; Co-supervisor: Mr Pophaim.

Gunguluza, L. MSocSci. Male experiences of intimate partner violence in Mangaung Metropolitan, South Africa. Supervisor: Ms Boleu; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Hayman, C. MSocSci. 'Out in the inside': The victimisation vulnerability of LGBTQI+ individuals in places of detention. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Jonker, G. PhD. Functional imperatives for the system of intermediary services for child witnesses in South African criminal courts. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Kolotla, L..L. M.Soc.Sc. Perspectives on decriminalisation of Commerical Sex Workers in Matjabeng, Free State. Supervisor: Mr Pophaim; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Kweyama, V.W. PhD. Towards a victimological study of the links between transitional and social justice in post-apartheid South Africa. Supervisor: Dr Cronjé; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Mathaha, T. MA. Autopsies in criminal investigations: Utility and personal experiences of investigators. Supervisor: Dr Cronjé; Co-supervisor: Mr Pophaim.

Mohapi, K. MSocSci. Factors associated with canine attacks: Perspectives from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in South Africa. Supervisor: Dr Cronjé; Co-supervisor: Mr Phillips.

Mokae, B. MSocSci. Adult female rape survivor experiences of post-incident assistance and empowerment. A critical analysis of rape survivors' experiences of secondary victimisation. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Mtetandaba, H. MSocSci. The phenomenon of female incarceration within a transitional justice framework. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Molebatsi, N. MSocSci. Girls' affiliation with gangs in the Free State and Northern Cape: Exploring the risks, roles, consequences and protective factors. Supervisor: Mr Phillips; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Mosia, M. MSocSci. Voices behind bars: Exploring childhood risk factors as pathways to female offending behaviour. Supervisor: Mr Pophaim; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Nathane, B.K.K. Pathways to victim-offender interchangeability among adult male sex offenders. Supervisor: A Phillips; Co-supervisor: Prof F Steyn.

Ncube, D.T. MSocSci. Towards a sustainable future in the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality: An exploration of environmental harm within a green victimological framework. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Nthatisi, R. MSocSci. Moral development and involvement in criminal activities among adolescents. Supervisor: Mr Pophaim; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Obotseng, T.K. MA. The victimisation vulnerability of crime news reporters. Supervisor: Prof Peacock.

Paballo, D. MSocSci. An exploration of the reciprocal nature of cooperation between probation officers and residential social workers with specific reference to the effectiveness of Secure Care Centre services. Supervisor: Prof R Peacock.

Phillips, A. PhD. Exploring gang subculture: Contemporary perspectives on initiation rites, gang dynamics, symbolism, hierarchy, and the criminogenic variables perpetuating gang membership. Supervisor: Dr Cronjé; Co-supervisor: Prof Steyn.

Pophaim, J. PhD. An analysis and reframing of South African policies in response to homelessness: Towards an evidence-based victim-inclusive policy framework. Supervisor: Prof Steyn; Co-supervisor: Dr Cronjé.

Other Activities

The Criminology Student Association (CSA), under the auspices of Ms Boleu, registered as an official student body with UFS Student Affairs. The CSA had a productive exchange with UFS Protection Services. The executive members were representatives from both undergraduate and postgraduate groups. The

CSA hosted a Career Day on 17 May, attended by the South African Police Services, the Department of Correctional Services, UFS Career Services, and the UFS Engaged Scholarship Office. Speakers offered guidance on the academic requirements and application processes associated with law enforcement, corrections, and public service careers. On 22 August, the CSA had a Documentary Dissection. This educational session provided students with the opportunity to watch a crime-related documentary and then participate in a critical discussion linking the film's content to criminological theories. On 14 September, the CSA hosted a guest lecture featuring Lt. Col. Khumalo from the South African Police Services. The session gave students an unfiltered look into the day-to-day realities of working in the Psychology Crimes Unit. The CSA further collaborated with SIGNALS to commemorate deaf awareness month. The groups discussed barriers experienced by deaf people and how that translates in the criminal justice setting. In November, the CSA fundraised and donated R800 to the Kids Care Trust, an organisation that supports people living on the streets.



Career Day held on 17 May 2024: CSA members and the executive team

Ms Boleu participated in the UFS Researcher Excellence Acceleration Programme (REAP), which provides structured mentoring, career planning, and professional development workshops to emerging scholars to achieve excellence in research, teaching, and academic leadership. Participation in REAP enabled Ms Boleu to secure funding to visit her academic supervisor, and she also attended a REAP writing retreat, both of which were pivotal in completing her research proposal. Ms Boleu is registered for her PhD in Criminology at the Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town, titled "A socio-legal exploration of access to justice for deaf justice-involved people in South Africa". Data collection will include interviews with members of the deaf community, as well as stakeholders from the South African Police Services, Justice and Corrections sectors, and interpreters from DeafSA and the South African National Deaf Association. Ms Boleu also initiated a deaf learner reading initiative in collaboration with Neville Alexander and the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies.

Dr Cronjé examined doctoral theses for the University of Pretoria and the University of South Africa. Prof Steyn examined a doctoral thesis for the Tshwane University of Technology and a Master's dissertation for the University of Cape Town. Prof Steyn and Dr Cronjé evaluated rating applications for the National Research Foundation, and they facilitated sessions at the 1st International Conference on Criminology and Criminal Justice, Gangodawila, Sri Lanka, 3–4 October. Prof Steyn reviewed articles for the *Journal of Family Studies* and *Children & Society*. Mr Pophaim reviewed a manuscript for the *International Journal (De)constructing Criminology: International Perspectives*. Mr Phillips conducted a review for the

Journal of Law, Society and Development, and he commented on gang-related violence in Westbury, Johannesburg, for SABC News on 15 November.

At the 13th International Conference on Victim Assistance (11-12 November 2024) in Delhi, India, Prof Peacock served as panel expert of a session on *Empowering victims in the era of environmental and social justice: Embracing sustainability and decolonisation in Victimology*. Prof Peacock served as Chair of a session on *Childhood physical and sexual abuse* at the 18th World Society of Victimology Symposium in Gandhinagar, India (1-5 September). Prof Peacock also attended in the 10th anniversary celebration of *Just Detention International* – SA and the associated event commemorating International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia.

Dr Lufuno Sadiki, senior lecturer at the Centre of Criminology (University of Cape Town), visited the Department on 28 August and had a Q&A session with postgraduate students. Ms Boleu served as an executive member of the UFS Women's Forum. Dr Cronjé served on the General Human Research Ethics Committee, Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, and the Faculty Rulebook Committee. Dr Cronjé and Prof Steyn served on the Faculty Scientific Committee. Mr Phillips served on the Faculty of the Humanities Engaged Scholarship Committee, and Dr Cronjé and Mr Phillips served on the Faculty of the Humanities Marketing Committee. Prof Peacock served on the Executive Committee of Senate.

Staff (2024)

Permanent

L Coetzee	Junior Lecturer
KP Boleu	Junior Lecturer (promoted to lecturer)
AM Giddy	Learning facilitator
Dr BB Murhula	Senior Lecturer
AR Phillips	Lecturer
JP Pophaim	Lecturer
Dr M Cronjé	Lecturer & Programme Director
Prof R Peacock	Professor
Prof F Steyn	AHD

Contract

K Mohapi	Teaching Assistant
A Gildenhuys	Teaching Assistant

Support Staff

M Wouda	Administrative Officer
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Affiliated Staff

Prof JJ Sarkin	Research Fellow
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Drama and Theatre Arts

Academic Head of Department

Prof Anthea van Jaarsveld

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Overview of 2024

In 2024, the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts at the University of the Free State continued to solidify its reputation as a dynamic, inclusive, and intellectually rigorous environment in which excellence is pursued through creative innovation and socially responsive scholarship. Anchored by the Faculty's theme *Quality in Diversity*, this year affirmed the Department's belief that multiplicity – in form, in perspective, in people – is not a challenge to overcome but a source of strength, growth, and artistic vitality.

The Department's strategic vision prioritised interdisciplinarity, transformation, and public engagement as key levers for quality. Staff and students collectively embraced this mandate through a remarkable spectrum of creative and scholarly work, much of which gained national recognition and international visibility. The year was marked by an expansion of community-based learning, a renewed commitment to decolonial curriculum design, and the amplification of student and alumni voices across diverse performance platforms – from experimental theatre and Theatre for Young Audiences to satire, physical theatre, and politically engaged performance.

One of the year's most significant institutional milestones was the launch of the UFS *Artist in Residency Programme*, hosted by the Department in June 2024. This initiative underscored the Department's role in shaping national arts policy and facilitating transformative dialogue between academia and the broader cultural sector. The residency, which welcomed celebrated playwright Mike van Graan as its inaugural artist, served as a platform for creative development and a space for collaborative pedagogy, social critique, and knowledge co-production.

The Department's pedagogical and artistic footprint was further extended through award-winning productions at the Vrystaat Arts Festival, international collaborations such as the Film7Days Festival in Russia, and practice-led research that engaged with urgent themes including gender identity, ecological collapse, trauma, and mental health. These contributions exemplified the Department's ability to bridge the local and the global while remaining firmly rooted in the cultural complexity of South African society.

Quality was pursued not through uniformity but through depth of research, performance, and student engagement. Diversity was not a catchphrase but a lived practice, embodied in the Department's multilingual productions, cross-cultural collaborations, and inclusive performance pedagogies. Whether through puppet theatre for children in Soutpan, devised student works exploring campus life, or mythological explorations of African cosmology, the Department reaffirmed its commitment to theatre as a critical and connective force in society.

As the Department moves into its next phase of development, it does so with a sharpened sense of purpose: to nurture graduates who are not only technically proficient but ethically aware, intellectually agile, and creatively courageous. 2024 has borne witness to the fact that when quality and diversity are brought into meaningful dialogue, the result is not compromise but transformation.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts celebrated a year of exceptional academic, creative, and professional milestones achieved by its staff members, affirming the Department's ongoing contribution to excellence in higher education, theatre-making, and research.

Obakeng Kgwasi was awarded a PhD in 2024, further strengthening the Department's research capacity and scholarly profile. In addition to this significant academic achievement, both **Dr Kgwasi** and **Dr Thys Heydenrych** were promoted to lecturer and senior lecturer, respectively, in recognition of their continued excellence in teaching, research, and creative output.



The Department also extends hearty congratulations to its staff who excelled at the **2024 Vrystaat Arts Festival**. The Department was represented in 13 productions, with students and graduates playing key roles across nearly every venue and production platform. A substantial number of Vryskitter nominations and awards were received, which is clear evidence of the depth and calibre of work produced by members of the Department and its broader community. The festival's highest honours were awarded to *Ons wag vir Godot*, a new Afrikaans translation of

Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* by renowned translator **Prof Naomi Morgan**. The production was co-produced by the theatre company Ahumba and Drama lecturer **Walter Strydom**, marking the first official Afrikaans staging of Beckett's modernist masterpiece. Naledi Publishers supported the production through the release of a limited-edition translation, which later became the top-selling title at the Literature Festival. *Ons wag vir Godot* earned an outstanding nine Vryskitter nominations and secured five awards: Best Production, Best Director (**Dion van Niekerk**), Best Ensemble (**Chris Vorster, Gerben Kamper, Peter Taljaard, Charl Henning, and Sibabalwe Jokani**), Best Supporting Actor (**Peter Taljaard**), Best Publication (Literature Festival top seller). Further nominations included Best Artistic Design (**Van Niekerk**), Best Actor (**Vorster and Henning**), Best Supporting Actor (**Kamper**). The production highlighted

the creative synergy between current and former staff and students. **Dion van Niekerk**, **Chris Vorster**, and **Walter Strydom** are full-time lecturers in the Department. **Charl Henning**, Head of Ahumba, is a learning facilitator and alumnus. **Gerben Kamper**, a veteran actor and retired lecturer, also returned to the stage for this production. Alumnus **Peter Taljaard** and first-year student **Sibabalwe Jokani** completed the ensemble.



The Department is also proud to announce the international selection of alumni and staff for the 2024 *Film7Days Short Film Festival* in Kazan, Russia. **Lorenzo Dampies** (staff member), **Ethan Petzer** (alumnus), and **Daniëlle Doubell** (Master's student) were selected to represent South Africa at this prestigious event from 28 August to 8 September 2024. The festival is designed not only to showcase the cultural vibrancy of the city of Kazan, but also to foster meaningful collaboration among global filmmakers. This selection reflects the Department's growing international visibility and commitment to nurturing versatile, globally engaged artists. Other countries represented at the festival included Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Tatarstan, Russia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

Student Achievements

The Department proudly celebrates the achievements of its students, many of whom were recognised for their outstanding contributions at the 2024 Vrystaat Arts Festival.



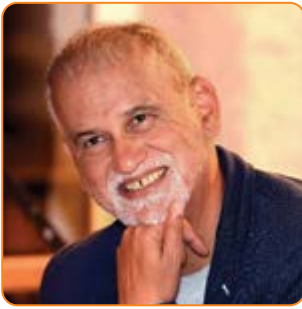
Third-year student **Anke Meyer-Auld** was awarded the prestigious *Cobus Rossouw Prize for Best Emerging Free State Artist* for her moving one-person play *Hoor jy die Water?*, which she co-created and produced under the direction of **Walter Strydom**. Her deeply personal and evocative performance resonated with audiences and judges alike, confirming her status as a rising talent in the South African theatre landscape.

The production *Khanya and her Golden Dream*, a vibrant Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) piece, won *Best Community Engagement* and *Best Marketing*. Written, directed, and produced by alumni **Sibahle Mabaso**, the production reflects Mabaso's enduring commitment to accessible, socially conscious theatre. A graduate of the Department's Honours programme, Mabaso is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Gender and African Studies. Her work was also nominated for *Best Emerging Artist*.



Alumni achievements also include **Marli van der Bijl's** win for *Best Musical Composition* for her original score in *Die Waarheid oor Duiwe*, and **Nathan Janse van Rensburg's** win for *Best Technician*. Additional nominations in the technical category included current third-year student **Fika Majozini** and alumni **Juani Smith** and **Jolene Swartz**, further showcasing the Department's strong technical training legacy.

Teaching



The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts continues to advance its pedagogical vision through transformative, contextually responsive, and socially engaged teaching practices. In 2024, the Department undertook significant interventions that foregrounded the importance of creative interdisciplinarity, decolonial pedagogies, and community-rooted learning. Two highlights of this academic year were the launch of the University of the Free State's *Artist in Residency Programme* and the integration of site-based learning into the third-year *Drama and Performance Studies* curriculum.

The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts continues to embrace a progressive and inclusive pedagogical philosophy, championing transformative educational practices, interdisciplinarity, and the strategic alignment of arts education with broader societal needs. A major highlight in 2024 was the successful launch of the University of the Free State's **Artist in Residency Programme**. This groundbreaking initiative is poised to strengthen the University's commitment to creativity, innovation, and the performing arts. On 27 June 2024, the launch was attended by prominent figures in the University's leadership, including Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Francis Petersen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation, Prof Vasu Reddy, Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities, Prof Mogomme Masoga, and inaugural resident artist and award-winning playwright, **Mike van Graan**. With an oeuvre of more than 36 produced plays and an extensive history of cultural policy engagement and arts advocacy, van Graan brings an unparalleled wealth of experience to the programme. His opening remarks addressed the urgent need for a cultural policy environment that meaningfully supports artistic production and recognises the critical role of theatre in shaping national consciousness. Van Graan spoke with clarity and conviction about the necessity of visionary leadership in the arts sector. He articulated the potential of the residency model to reframe theatre education in South Africa by deepening industry-academic partnerships and promoting socially relevant, politically incisive, and aesthetically compelling dramaturgy. His reflections also highlighted the symbolic and practical importance of embedding the arts into higher education as a platform for transformation. The programme launch included curated staged readings from Van Graan's recent works, offering a rich pedagogical resource for staff and students alike. These included excerpts from *The Good White* (with **DeBeer Cloete** (staff member), **Reabetswe Mokone** (student), and **Lenthea Jantjies** (alumni)), a thought-provoking work exploring race, protest, and privilege during the 2015/16 #FeesMustFall movement, and *Return of the Ancestors* (with **Sikhuthali Bonga** (learning facilitator) and **Zabesutu Mpiti** (junior lecturer)), a satirical homage to *Woza Albert* that imagines the return of struggle icons such as Steve Biko and Neil Aggett in a post-apartheid democratic South Africa. Both pieces were performed as part of the Department's critical performance studies curriculum.

Guided by **Prof Anthea van Jaarsveld** (AHD), the launch demonstrated the Department's commitment to a praxis-based model of teaching and learning, wherein students engage with contemporary texts that interrogate the intersections of politics, identity, and aesthetics.

As part of the **DRHT3700 – Drama and Performance Studies module**, third-year students undertook a curriculum-integrated excursion to the National Women's Memorial in Bloemfontein. This visit, facilitated by **Dion van Niekerk** (lecturer) and former student **Sibahle Mabaso**, forms part of the module's unit on gender, with a specific focus on feminist theory, performance activism, and the politics of representation. The site visit was pedagogically designed to intersect theoretical study with embodied reflection. Students engaged critically with the historical narratives represented at the memorial, interrogating how space, memory, and gendered trauma are curated and communicated through public

monuments. The excursion also facilitated discussion on the silencing and erasure of marginalised voices in nationalist historiographies. It enabled students to draw connections between memorialisation and performative modes of resistance. Reflections on the visit were scaffolded through performative writing tasks and seminar discussions, encouraging students to theorise their positionality within feminist frameworks and consider the ethical dimensions of staging gendered histories.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Creative Outputs

The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts remains a hub of innovation in practice-led research and theatrical creation. The 2024 creative calendar showcased a dynamic range of productions, exploring diverse aesthetic forms, narrative styles, and pressing sociocultural themes. Below is a curated overview of the Department's major creative research outputs for the year:



A Tail of Courage

Written and directed by **Nic Beukes**

26–28 March 2024, Rehearsal Room, Scaena Theatre Complex

A Tail of Courage tells the charming and heroic tale of Carl, a timid mouse misjudged as cowardly by his peers. When the Mouse Kingdom's bravest warrior is captured, Carl embarks on a perilous journey through the dark forest, facing fearsome foes, including Narcis the owl and his gang of rats. Along the way, Carl is unexpectedly joined by a courageous princess. Together, they redefine bravery in this imaginative family production, filled with wit, whimsy, and heart. The production contributed to Beukes's ongoing creative research into children's theatre and anthropomorphic narrative devices.



Run for Your Wife

Written by Ray Cooney, and directed by **Thys Heydenrych**

8–10 May 2024, Wynand Mouton Theatre

This fast-paced British farce delivered an uproarious evening of slapstick confusion and comedic entanglements. The play follows John Smith, a seemingly ordinary cab driver juggling two wives and two households. A frenzy of mistaken identities and outrageous cover-ups ensues when his double life unravels. With a cast of talented student actors and expert direction by senior lecturer Dr Heydenrych, the production explored the mechanics of comic timing, farce, and classical British theatrical form as tools for ensemble training and audience engagement.



Known Unknown Unknown Known

Written by David Oamen, and directed and choreographed by **Obakeng Kgwasi**

15–17 May 2024, Scaena Theatre Foyer

This original, movement-based production interrogated the tensions between knowledge, desire, and human impulse through the lens of Bosophytic Theatre. Drawing from somatic performance, *Known Unknown Unknown Known* offered a visceral journey into one man's unrelenting craving for fulfilment and the ecological and existential consequences of his actions. The ensemble-based

work used bodily choreography to expose the unconscious registers of greed and longing, functioning as both performance and critical embodied research. Dr Obakeng Kgwasi's direction and choreography formed part of his continued exploration into African-rooted performance methodologies and therapeutic dramaturgies.



Pool (no water)

Written by Mark Ravenhill, and directed by **Dion van Niekerk**

21-23 August 2024, Scaena Theatre

This intense and minimalistic ensemble piece, penned by provocative British playwright Mark Ravenhill, unfolds around a reunion that spirals into jealousy, rivalry, and bitter resentment. The play centres on a group of artists whose superficial camaraderie is fractured when tragedy strikes. With brutal honesty and poetic rage, *Pool (no water)* was brought to life under the direction of lecturer Dion van Niekerk, engaging with postmodern narrative fragmentation, physicalised text delivery, and emotional choreography. The work provided fertile ground for student experimentation in abstract dramaturgy and psychophysical performance.



Jabulani and the Tangerine Dress

Written by Juliany Taveras, and directed by **DeBeer Cloete** and **Annebelle Smit**

21-24 August 2024, Scaena Rehearsal Room Theatre

This emotionally resonant piece follows Jabulani, a creative young boy who defies societal norms through his love for painting, singing, and wearing his beloved tangerine dress. Co-directed by lecturers DeBeer Cloete and Dr Annebelle Smit, the production confronted the gender binary through theatrical narrative, encouraging radical acceptance and challenging entrenched gender stratification. Through a hybrid approach blending poetic realism and stylised performance, the work engaged students in both performance and discourse on identity politics, queerness, and performative resistance.

Engaged Scholarship

The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts continues to affirm its commitment to socially responsive and community-rooted pedagogies through a range of engaged scholarship initiatives. These projects foreground theatre and performance as dialogic spaces that foster reflection, social critique, and participatory transformation while enhancing students' civic literacy and public impact. In 2024, the Department broadened its reach through dynamic interdisciplinary projects, youth education, health-sector collaborations, and festival-based community engagement.

Soutpan Community Engagement

(Coordinated by **Dr Annebelle Smit**)

The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts proudly participates in the Faculty of the Humanities' flagship community engagement initiative in Ikgomotseng, Soutpan—launched on 18 April 2023 and expanded throughout 2024. Located approximately 40 km from Bloemfontein, the partnership seeks to address



pressing social challenges such as substance abuse, gender-based violence, and intergenerational trauma. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof Mogomme Masoga, underscored the University's responsibility to engage in meaningful, transformative work beyond the classroom: "Universities have an important role to play in the healing of communities by engaging in initiatives that address social ills such as drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and violence against children, women, and the elderly." In collaboration with other departments across the Faculty, the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts contributed to the project by developing **puppet theatre performances for children** at the Halaletsang Day Care Centre and surrounding schools. These performances aimed to stimulate imagination, promote emotional resilience, and encourage positive social behaviour among children. Facilitated by staff and student teams, the project enabled learners to access theatre as a space of education and healing.

Moulage Medical Simulation

(Led by DeBeer Cloete)



In 2024, lecturer DeBeer Cloete once again led the Department's contribution to interdisciplinary collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences and the National Department of Health. Cloete and his team of students specialising in theatre make-up conducted four high-impact moulage simulation sessions at Pelonomi Academic Hospital. These simulated trauma scenarios allowed medical students to practise their clinical responses in lifelike, high-stress environments, enhancing both the realism and ethical integrity of medical training. The moulage project develops technical artistry among theatre students. It also enables them to engage with social issues through cross-disciplinary knowledge exchange, a key pillar of

engaged scholarship at the UFS.

Patient Simulation – Psychology

(Coordinated by Dr Thys Heydenrych and Jani Marais)

In another significant interdisciplinary partnership, senior lecturer Dr Thys Heydenrych and junior lecturer Jani Marais coordinated a collaboration with the Department of Psychology at the UFS. The project involved third-year and Honours acting students portraying patients experiencing a variety of psychological conditions and emotional states as part of simulated consultations. These simulations formed a vital training tool for Psychology students, allowing them to practise diagnostic and communication skills in controlled, yet emotionally realistic scenarios. For Drama students, the project offered a valuable opportunity to apply their acting techniques in therapeutic, human-centred contexts, demonstrating the value of performance-based methodologies in non-traditional domains such as health care and counselling.

Born Under Ladders

Written and performed by **Mia Kahts** (student), and directed by **Jean-Pierre Louis Paquot** (teaching facilitator)



Born Under Ladders is a solo theatre production that offers an immersive exploration of the inner workings of the human psyche. Written and performed by Mia Kahts and directed by Jean-Pierre Louis Paquot, the piece interrogates the intimate dialectic between the visible self and the concealed, compartmentalised narratives that govern human behaviour. The performance invites the audience to confront internal contradictions, psychic scars, and the quiet desperation of emotional isolation through fragmented actions and abstract storytelling. This production embodies the transformative power of theatre in enabling social solidarity. It challenges

societal norms, dismantles stereotypes, and opens a space for meaningful engagement with complex psychological and social experiences. *Born Under Ladders* is deeply rooted in a humanistic theatrical tradition—one that views performance not merely as representation, but as intervention. By centring personal reflection and shared vulnerability, the play acts as a catalyst for critical dialogue around authenticity, identity, and mental well-being. Through its layered dramaturgy and performative intimacy, *Born Under Ladders* contributes meaningfully to the Department's vision of theatre as a force for empathy, inclusion, and community building. It exemplifies how student-led work can become a site of intellectual, emotional, and ethical encounter, essential to forming socially engaged graduates.

Multicamera Workshop – Bloemfontein Homeschool Community

(Facilitated by **Dr Chris Vorster** and **Lorenzo Dampies** of the Visual Media Hub)



In a bid to demystify the production techniques behind multicamera filming, the Department welcomed learners, including several parents and teachers, from the Bloemfontein Homeschool Community for a hands-on workshop at the UFS Visual Media Hub. Held in 2024, the session offered a practical introduction to the aesthetics and logistics of soap opera-style filming. Learners rotated between behind-the-scenes roles (camera, boom operation, cueing) and acting positions, recording three improvised scenes with a team comprising 11 student-performers and seven student crew members. The day culminated in a critical reflection and playback session,

underscoring the Hub's role as a creative learning space for broader community access.

Mthonyama Arts Festival (KwaBhaca, Eastern Cape)

(Community workshop facilitated by **Sikhuthali Oliver Bonga** and **Rondo Mpiti**)

The Mthonyama Arts Festival, launched in KwaBhaca in March 2024, provided a vibrant and necessary platform for indigenous performance traditions and local storytelling. Beyond showcasing work by UFS-affiliated theatre-makers such as Bonga and Mpiti, the festival also hosted a workshop to capacitate emerging artists from the surrounding community. In partnership with the local municipality, the workshop provided foundational training in acting, ensemble work, and theatre-making to enable sustainable creative careers in the Eastern Cape. This intervention exemplifies the Department's long-standing commitment to rural arts development and cultural equity.

National and International Collaboration

The Department of Drama and Theatre Arts continues to contribute to South Africa's broader cultural landscape through professional creative outputs that foster cross-institutional partnerships, national visibility, and international engagement. In 2024, staff members, students, and alumni participated in a variety of significant projects, festivals, and performance platforms that expanded the reach of the Department's creative and scholarly work.



Dewald is nie oukei nie

Directed by **CW Laten** (alumnus); *with* **Nic Beukes** (staff) and **Hester Maree** (alumnus)

Premiered at the Vrystaat Arts Festival, this Afrikaans psycho-dramatic production explores themes of grief, mental health, and pandemic trauma. Set in the aftermath of South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown, the play follows Dewald, a man recovering from a failed suicide attempt, and Lorrie, the caretaker who inadvertently becomes entangled in her own emotional unravelling. The play interrogates unconventional mourning practices and offers a haunting, tender meditation on healing.



Die Eks Boyfriend

Directed by **Walter Strydom** (lecturer), *with* **Jani Marais** (junior lecturer)

This comedic yet poignant Afrikaans production debuted at the Vrystaat Arts Festival. It centres on Haley, a woman struggling with debt who decides to pawn off sentimental items left behind by former lovers. Balancing hilarity and heartbreak, the production poses sharp questions about value, memory, and emotional economies in postmodern relationships.



Ons wag vir Godot

Directed by **Dion van Niekerk** (lecturer)

Performed for the first time in Afrikaans, this historic staging of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* premiered at the Vrystaat Arts Festival and featured several UFS staff and alumni. A tragicomic masterpiece, the production examined existential absurdity through a distinctly South African lens, using language, casting, and scenography that resonated with contemporary local themes. The production was recognised with multiple Vryskitter awards (see Awards section).



Hoor jy die Water?

Directed by **Walter Strydom** (lecturer), *with* **Anke Meyer-Auld** (student)

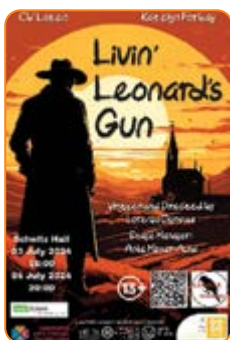
Premiered at the Vrystaat Arts Festival, this poetic one-woman performance uses Afrikaans verse to explore memory, innocence, alienation, and internalised trauma. The piece traces a woman's preparations for a night out, subtly revealing an inner journey of loss and transformation. Strydom's direction and Meyer-Auld's performance exemplify the Department's mentorship model and its capacity for student-led excellence.



Khanya and her Golden Dream

Written and directed by Sibahle Mabaso (alumnus)

This Theatre for Young Audiences production follows Khanya's disillusionment after relocating to Johannesburg, and her magical journey into a reimagined "City of Gold" where she learns the value of agency and social change. Staged at the Vrystaat Arts Festival, the production foregrounded themes of hope, activism, and imagination, while demonstrating Mabaso's commitment to arts-based community engagement.



Living Leonard's Gun

Directed by Lorenzo Dampies (staff), with CW Laten (alumnus), Anke Meyer-Auld and Katelyn Forbay (students)

This gritty Western set in a lawless frontier town tells the story of a wounded gunslinger and his hostage, a young woman with her own demons. Their tense confrontation unfolds into a meditation on violence, forgiveness, and redemption. This collaborative piece represents the Department's continued investment in genre exploration and interdisciplinary training in filmic and theatrical narratives.



Omhoog

Directed by Nic Beukes (staff), with Juné Pretorius (postgraduate), Claudi Els (alumnus), CW Laten (alumnus), and Jean-Pierre Louis Paquot (staff)

This psychological thriller, staged at the Vrystaat Arts Festival, takes place on a skyscraper rooftop where a social gathering spirals into paranoia and confessions following a deadly accident. The production interrogates interpersonal trust, trauma, and guilt through stylised horror aesthetics and rich ensemble dynamics.



Who Gets to Wear the Pants

Created and performed by Sibahle Mabaso (alumnus) and DJ Kruger (MA student)

Performed at the KKNK 2024 as part of the Lucky Pakkie initiative, this satirical collage explored gender identity, performative masculinity, and feminist critique through physical theatre, Shakespearean parody, and symbolism. A collaboration between two former theatre-making classmates, the piece highlighted the creative bonds fostered in the Department and the generative potential of student networks.



Macgam

Directed by Sikhuthali Oliver Bonga (learning facilitator)

This mythologically rich production premiered at PACOFS and later featured at the Mthonyama Arts Festival. It explores the migration of the Nguni people and the ritual practices surrounding female initiation, framed through the cosmology of African deities. Drawing on the works of Credo Mutwa, the play confronts tensions between tradition and modernity while celebrating ancestral knowledge.



And... Action!!!

Written by **Jane Mpholo** (alumnus), featuring **Rondo Mpiti** (lecturer)

Commissioned by the KKNK Lucky Pakkie programme, this extract from Mpholo's work-in-progress was first explored at Teksmark Johannesburg 2023 and performed at the KKNK 2024 in a 15-minute showcase. Mpiti's powerful performance brought nuance and intensity to this autobiographical theatre work-in-development, offering a glimpse into the intersection of trauma, art, and activism.



Ijoloba – The Spiritual Order

Written and directed by **Zabesuthu Mpiti** (junior lecturer)

Presented at the Mthonyama Arts Festival, *Ijoloba – The Spiritual Order* forms part of a larger dramatic trilogy inspired by Credo Mutwa's *Indaba, My Children*. The production reimagines African mythology in a narrative about a goddess withdrawing her blessings from humanity due to their corruption. Through ritual, prophecy, and poetic imagery, the production immerses the audience in pre-colonial cosmology and the spiritual ecology of the continent.



In Transit

Written and performed by **Sibahle Mabaso** (alumnus), featuring **Fika Majozini** (student) and **Katelynne Matthews** (student)

Selected for the 2024 Theatre in the Dark Festival, *In Transit* was one of the few national works chosen to experiment with alternative lighting in response to South Africa's loadshedding crisis. Blending comedy and political reflection, the production engaged themes of urban movement, precarity, and resilience. Mabaso's inclusion in the festival marks another significant achievement in her expanding national profile as a theatre-maker and cultural worker.

Postgraduate Students

2024 MA (Drama and Theatre Arts):

- **Sikhuthali Oliver Bonga** (Supervisor: DeBeer Cloete; Co-Supervisor: Dion van Niekerk)
- **Jané Schnetler** (Supervisor: DeBeer Cloete; Co-Supervisor: Anthea van Jaarsveld)
- **Barend Kriel** (Supervisor: DeBeer Cloete; Co-Supervisor: Annebelle Smit)
- **Jani Marais** (Supervisor: DeBeer Cloete; Co-Supervisor: Pedro Ata)

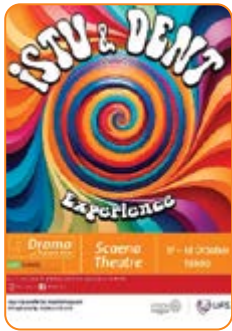
2024 MA (Film and Visual Media):

- **Mpendulo Quinton Myeni** (Supervisor: DeBeer Cloete; Co-Supervisor: Anthea van Jaarsveld)

2024 BA Honours (Drama and Theatre):

- **Kabelo Sekhoto**
- **Diana Matsoso**
- **Mosa Nyelele**
- **Siphephile Nene**
- **Other Activities**

In addition to the Department's formal curriculum, research outputs, and community engagement initiatives, 2024 saw several student-driven theatrical works that emerged from independent initiatives, performance modules, and mentorship-led creative incubation. These productions reflect the Department's commitment to developing performers and socially conscious, critically engaged theatre-makers.



iStu & Dent Experience

Co-created by Fika Majozini (student) and Lungelo Makhathini (student), and directed by Charl Henning (learning facilitator), 17-18 October 2024, Scaena Theatre

iStu & Dent Experience is a devised theatre piece that emerged from student collaboration and mentorship under the direction of Charl Henning. Conceived and performed as a two-hander, the production presents a raw, energetic, and often humorous examination of the daily realities confronting South African students. The piece explores recurring challenges – some structural, some personal – and investigates how these barriers to growth and success impact the lived experiences of learners in higher education. Through a multi-disciplinary and physical theatre approach, the creators sought to craft an immersive encounter with the frustrations, absurdities, and small triumphs that characterise campus life. The performance offered audiences a space of recognition and catharsis while highlighting the invisible pressures many students navigate. The work is a testament to the Department's support of student-led artistic exploration grounded in lived experience.



The Lesson

Directed by Thato Kabelo Sekhoto (student), 8 November 2024, Scaena Theatre

In this bold reimagining of Eugène Ionesco's *The Lesson*, director Thato Kabelo Sekhoto restaged the iconic absurdist text within a South African socio-political framework. Set against the backdrop of ongoing debates surrounding the current education system's efficacy, equity, and logic, the production presented a satirical and unsettling commentary on pedagogical authority, systemic dysfunction, and epistemic violence. Sekhoto's directorial vision was informed by his own background as both scholar and teacher, bringing a personal urgency and resonance to the piece. Performed by a committed ensemble and supported by a student technical team, *The Lesson* unfolded as both entertainment and provocation, challenging audiences to confront the absurdities that persist within formal education structures. The production received commendation for its intellectual rigour, clarity of vision, and its ability to foster post-performance reflection and dialogue. Special acknowledgement is extended to **Dr Thys Heydenrych** for his dramaturgical guidance and mentorship in developing this work.



Staff (2024)

Permanent Academic Staff

Prof Anthea van Jaarsveld	Academic Head of Department
Dr Thys Heydenrych	Programme Director / Senior Lecturer
Dr Chris Vorster	Senior Lecturer
Dr Annebelle Smit	Lecturer
DeBeer Cloete	Lecturer
Dion van Niekerk	Lecturer
Dr Obakeng Kgwasi	Lecturer
Walter Strydom	Lecturer
Zabesutu Mpiti-Spies	Junior Lecturer

Permanent Support Staff

Brandon Hewetson	Officer (Wynand Mouton Theatre)
Karen Combrinck	Senior Assistant Officer
Nic Beukes	Assistant Officer (Wynand Mouton Theatre)
Lorenzo Dampies	Assistant Officer (Visual Media Hub)

Contract Staff

Adriaan de Ridder	Lecturer (Units)
Jani Marais	Junior Lecturer (Units)
Jean-Pierre Paquot	Junior Lecturer (Units)
Charl Henning	Facilitator (Units)

Academic Head of Department

Prof Susan Brokensha

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Qwaqwa Campus Interim Subject Head

Dr Kudzayi Ngara



Overview of 2024

The Department of English boasts many highlights for 2024 that reflect pockets of excellence in the areas of teaching and learning, research, and engaged scholarship. Notable achievements include Prof Helene Strauss being awarded an Individual Fellowship by the [Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study \(STIAS\)](#), for 2025, Dr Rick de Villiers being selected as an [Iso Lomso Fellow](#) at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (2025–2027), Prof Susan Brokensha being appointed as Head of Department, and Prof Oliver Nyambi achieving a C1 NRF-rating. With respect to teaching and learning, and in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, a significant moment has been the accreditation of a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. In addition, the Department of Political Studies and Governance launched its Postgraduate Diploma in Governance and Political Transformation. Within this qualification, the English Department presented one of the new modules on the intersection between big data/emerging technologies and public governance from a humanistic perspective. Several students have also graduated this year, having obtained their Master's and Doctoral degrees. Research initiatives and both national and international collaboration continue to yield outstanding results. Many colleagues have attended national and international conferences at universities such as North-West University, Rhodes University, Stellenbosch University, and the University of London. Permanent academic staff members, departmental research professors, research fellows, and postdoctoral researchers have published several journal articles, book chapters, and monographs. A significant highlight is the publication of a monograph by Prof Oliver Nyambi titled *Contested Liberations, Transitions and the Crisis in Zimbabwe* (Brill). The Department's Speaker Series has showcased the work of scholars who include Dr Nonki Motahane (Qwaqwa Campus), Prof Albert Weidman (UFS research fellow), Prof Saikat

Majumdar (Ashoka University), and Yonwaba Matshobotiyana (Master's candidate). Outside of teaching and research, staff activities have included academic citizenship, which takes the shape of reviewing manuscripts or conference paper abstracts, examining theses and dissertations, serving on editorial boards, presenting writing retreats, etc.

Achievements

Staff Achievements



Dr Rick de Villiers

Dr Rick de Villiers was selected as an [Iso Lomso Fellow](#) at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS). The fellowship extends from 2025–2027, during which time he will complete his second monograph, provisionally titled *Ctrl Z: Undoing Narratives*.

Dr Rick de Villiers was also selected as a Fellow of the [DHET Future Professors Programme](#), Phase 2, Cohort 2 (2024–2025).

Prof Susan Brokensha was appointed as Academic Head of the Department of English on 1 September 2024.

Dr Marthinus Conradie was invited to teach and conduct research at the University of Regina (Canada).

Prof Oliver Nyambi achieved a C1 rating from the National Research Fund for his exemplary contributions to scholarship.

Prof Helene Strauss will take up a Visiting Fellowship at the [Institute for Cultural Inquiry](#), Berlin, from 6 May to 9 July 2025.

Prof Helene Strauss was awarded an Individual Fellowship by the [Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study \(STIAS\)](#), July–December 2025. She will be working on a book project titled *Phytospheric Justice*.

The following staff members submitted their PhD theses for examination at the end of 2024:



Hanta Henning



Peter Moopi



Ndhivhuwo Ndou



Kundai
Watson Fingson

Hanta Henning. *Alleviating the Narrative Burden: South African Adoption Narratives, Kinship, and Belonging*, University of the Free State, South Africa. (Supervisor: Prof Oliver Nyambi; Co-supervisor: Dr Thinus Conradie)

Peter Moopi. *Approaches to, and Representations of, the Decolonial Question: A Comparative Study of Selected South African and Zimbabwean Literary Texts*, University of the Free State, South Africa. (Supervisor: Prof Irikidzayi Manase; Co-supervisor: Prof Rodwell Makombe)

Ndhivhuwo Ndou. Language Programme Evaluation for Meaningful English Language Teaching in Diverse Township Schools: Investigating the Parameters for More Equitable Education, University of the Free State, South Africa. (Supervisor: Dr Colleen du Plessis; Co-supervisor: Prof Pinky Makoe, UJ)

Kundai Watson Fingson. Cosmologies of Madness: Exploring Representations of Madness in Selected Contemporary African Literary and Cultural Texts, University of the Free State, South Africa. (Supervisor: Dr Kudzayi Ngara; Co-supervisor: Prof Oliver Nyambi)

Teaching

In October 2024, the Department of English, in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, received the news that their qualification, a **Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MA TESOL)**, had been approved by the NQF Qualifications Committee (H/H06/AR150CAN). The UFS will be one of only two universities in the country that offer a dedicated MA in TESOL degree.

Prof Susan Brokensha and Prof Eduan Kotzé (Department of Computer Science and Informatics) designed and presented a module on Knowledge-Based Governance (GOVK5814) for the new Postgraduate Diploma in Governance and Political Transformation offered by the Department of Governance and Political Transformation. The module is a first of its kind in the Faculty of the Humanities, introducing students to big data management from a humanities perspective.



Prof Helene Strauss

Prof Helene Strauss continues her work as part of the international 'Reworlding Research Collective' towards decolonial curricular and pedagogical renewal accountable to the vulnerabilities resulting from a worsening climate crisis. Alongside recent scholarship in the Ecological and Plant Humanities, she has been testing affective-embodied methods of inhabiting human-to-non-human interdependence in the classroom. This work includes designing a new Honours course titled 'Reading, Breathing, and Sensing with Plants'. She also completed a book chapter on embodied pedagogy titled 'Breathing with Trees: Towards Decolonial Embodied Learning' (currently under review).

Hanta Henning continues her teaching for the Centre for Graduate Support. To date, she has developed two short online courses for postgraduate students to aid in developing their academic writing, namely 'Basics of Grammar for Postgraduate Students' and 'Grammar for Academic Writing'. She also frequently teaches online workshops for the Centre on topics related to postgraduate academic writing.

Research Projects



Elani Boshoff

Alongside **Prof Susan Brokensha** and **Gemma Field**, **Elani Boshoff** co-authored an article on the framing of generative artificial intelligence that is currently under review.

Prof Susan Brokensha, Prof Eduan Kotzé, and Dr Burgert A. Senekal were awarded a UFS Interdisciplinary Research Grant of R60 000-00 for an interdisciplinary study titled 'Automating the assessment of English essays using network science and AI'.



Dr Thinus Conradie

Dr Marthinus Conradie was invited to teach and conduct research at the University of Regina (Canada), which has yielded a book project on cultural appropriation, scheduled for publication in 2025.

Prof Irikidzayi Manase, Prof Elizabeth Gunner (University of Johannesburg) and Dr Anna Schwenck (University of Siegen) sent out a call for the *African Studies* Special Issue on the research project, “Political song and its future in Africa”; manuscripts were submitted and reviewed by the end of December. He also started a research and publication project for the *Matatu: Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies* titled “Texts and contexts of humour in Southern Africa”, which he will co-edit with Prof Rodwell Makombe (North-West University).

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Staff



Dr Kudzayi Ngara

Dr Kudzayi Ngara co-authored a study with Mr Fingson, published in *Matatu*, a journal dedicated to interdisciplinary dialogue.

Conradie, M.S. 2024. Permission to Share What They Think About Racism: Tutors Reflect on Encounters with Students. *International Journal of Social Pedagogy* 13(1): 12.

Conradie, M.S. 2024. Never Forget Where You Come From: Critical Diversity Literacy and Structure-facing Virtue Among First-year Students. *Language, Discourse and Society* 12(1): 73-92.

De Villiers, R. 2024. True Feints: Samuel Beckett and the Sincerity of Loneliness. *Journal of Modern Literature* 47(2): 56-70.

De Villiers, R. 2024. Poetic Licentiousness and the Destitutions of High Culture. *Critical Quarterly*. Preprint Open Access; awaiting print issue allocation.

Fingson, K.W. and Ngara, K., 2024. An Afro-cosmological Approach to Marechera's *The House of Hunger* (1978). *Matatu* 55(1): 143-160.

Mhiti, T. and **Manase, I.** 2024. The discourse of session in Novuyo Rosa Tshuma's *House of Stone*. *African Studies* 83(1): 57-72.

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Nyambi, O. 2024. The New Prison Narrative in Zimbabwe: Re-Imagining (In)Justice in the Second Republic. *Imbizo: International Journal of African Literary and Comparative Studies* 15(2): 1-17.

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Strauss, H., Arseneault, J., Clarke, T., Corridon, L., Kirumira, F., O'Brien, S., Sewali-Kirumira, Spearey, S., Thiyagaran, N. and Vela-Alarcón, A. 2024. Reckoning, Repairing, and Reworlding as Praxis (Editors' Outro). *Studies in Social Justice* 18(4): 1006–1022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26522/ssj.v18i4.4886>.

(Postdoctoral) Research Fellows and Research Professor



Dr Leila Hall,
Postdoctoral
Research Fellow

Houliston, V. 2024. The End of the Beginning? *The Oxford History of British & Irish Catholicism. Vol. I: Endings and New Beginnings, 1530–1640.* pp. 26–42 in James E. Kelly, J.E. and McCafferty, J. (Eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023. pp. xxv + 325. ISBN 978-0-19-884380-1, *British Catholic History* 37(1) (2024).

Gradellini, C., Pretorius, M., Vermeiren, S., Schärli-Lim, S., Bønløkke, M. and Lorenzo, E.D. 2024. The Development and Validation of an Intercultural Nursing Educator Profile Using the Delphi Method. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing* 35(1): 62–73.

Green, J., Davis, C., Judith, K., Harmes, M. and **Weideman, A.** 2024. Using a Five-phase Applied Linguistics Design to Develop a Contextualised Academic Literacy Placement Test for Pre-University Pathway Students. *Literacy Research and Instruction* [Online]: 1–27. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/19388071.2024.2340031>.

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Matsika, T. 2024. The Mother Complex in Dambudzo Marechera's Life and Works. *Matatu* 55(1): 119–142.

Musanga, T. 2024. Zimbabwe's Post-2000 Land Reform Programme, Inter-ethnic Hierarchies Among 'Black Zimbabweans' and the Potential of Resource Conflict: The Case of Chipinge District. *African Identities* 22(2): 388–400.

Padró, F.F., Trimmer, K., Chang, H. and **Green, J.H.** 2024. TQM's Presence within Legal Systems: Example of Impact on Australian Higher Education. *The TQM Journal* 36(7): 1845–1864.

Schildt, L., Deygers, B. and **Weideman, A.** 2024. Language Testers and Their Place in the Policy Web. *Language Testing* 41(2): 338–356. (First published online on 17 August). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/02655322231191133>.

Sinyonde, B. 2024. South African Politics and Online Electioneering Discourses in Selected Social Media Sites in Phuthaditjhaba. *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*. 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.51415/ajims.v6i1.1171>.

Tembo, N.M. 2024. Framing Eastern African Precarious Mobilities: Two Women's War Narratives. pp. 23–37 in Nikro, N.S., Odanga, D., Ogone, J.O., Obura, O. and Musumba, O. (Eds.), *Insidious Trauma in Eastern African Literatures and Cultures*. London: Routledge.

Tembo, N.M. 2024. Women, Political Violence, and the Production of Fear in Malawian Social Media Texts. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 26(1): 81–99.

Weideman, A. 2024. Ignore at Your Peril: Paradigm Choice in Applied Linguistics. *Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) Journal* 46(2): 195–210. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37546/JALTJ46.2-3>.

Drennan, L., Joubert, M. and **Weideman, A.** 2024. Institutional Responses to Academic Literacy Challenges: An In-house Test as an Alternative for Assessing Academic Literacy Levels. *Journal for Language Teaching* 58(2), Article 6269. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56285/jltVol58iss2a6269>.

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

Staff

Brokensha, S.I. 2024. (Mis)Trust in the News Media's Anthropomorphic Framing of AI Technologies in the (Future) World of Work: Perceptions of Humanities Students in South Africa. pp. 35–53 in Bhaso, N., Singh, A. and Timm, S. (Eds.), *The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Critical Perspectives on Innovation, Power and Potentialities*. South Africa: AOSIS.



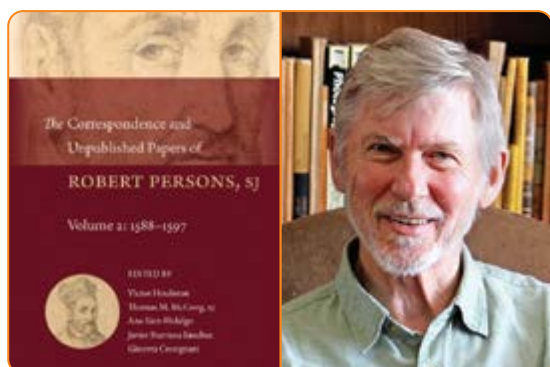
Prof Susan Brokensha

Nyambi, O. 2024. Pre-colonial and Colonial Violence in Zimbabwe: A Literary-cultural Exegesis. pp. 961-978 in Mlambo, O.B. and Chilando, E. (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Violence in Africa*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature.

Strauss, H. 2024. 'Dangerous, Ugly Air': reckoning with atmospheric and photosynthetic injustice in Dying for Gold. pp. 159-179 in Austen, V. and Guttman, A. (Eds.), *Ruptured Commons*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Strauss, H., Arseneault, J., D'Adamo, S. and Wright, H.K. 2016. Contemporary Orientations in African Cultural Studies. Reprinted in Tomaselli, K. and Wright, H.K. (Eds.), [An Anthology of African Cultural Studies, Volume II: Directions](#). London and New York: Routledge, October 2024.

(Postdoctoral) Research Fellows and Research Professor



Prof Victor Houliston, Research Professor

Houliston, V. 2024. Thomas McCoog, Ana Saez-Hidalgo, Javier Burrieza Sanchez and Ginevra Crosignani. *The Correspondence and Unpublished Papers of Robert Persons: Vol. 2: 1588-1597*. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

Houliston, V. 2024. Missionary Printing, Robert Persons's Letters, and the Logistics of Rapid Response. pp. 134-159 in *The Elizabethan Catholic Underground: Clandestine Book Culture and Scribal Subversion in the English Counter-Reformation*. Leiden: Brill.

Salaberry, M.R., and **Weideman, A.** 2024. Context, Construct and Ethics. pp. 3-27 in Salaberry, M.R., Weideman, A. & Hsu, W-L. (Eds.), *Ethics and Context in Second Language Testing: Rethinking Validity in Theory and Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003384922 -2.

Deygers, B. and **Weideman, A.** 2024. Validity and Validation: An Alternative Perspective. pp. 28-50 in Salaberry, M.R., Weideman, A. and Hsu, W-L. (Eds.), pp. 28-50 *Ethics and Context in Second Language Testing: Rethinking Validity in Theory and Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003384922 -3.

Matsika T. 2024. Versions of Heterotopia in Dambudzo Marechera and Soul Jah Love's Art. pp. 283-309 in Chidora T, Tivenga, D.R. and Chitando E. (Eds.), *The Zimdancehall Revolution: Critical Perspectives*. Palgrave MacMillan, Switzerland: Palgrave MacMillan.

Matsika T. 2024. Pandemics as Disability: Reflections on the Feminisation of Care during Pandemics in Zimbabwe. pp. 180-190 in Munyiswa, I., Mateveke, P. and Chitando, E. (Eds.), *COVID-19 and Gender-Based Violence in Zimbabwe*. London: Routledge.

Mhiti, T. and **Manase, I.** 2024. The Discourse of Secession in Novuyo Rosa Tshuma's *House of Stone*. *African Studies* 83(1): 57-72.

Tembo, N.M. 2024. Women, Political Violence, and the Production of Fear in Malawian Social Media Texts. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 26(1): 81-99.

Weideman, A. 2024. Yardsticks for the Future of Language Assessment: Disclosing the Meaning of Measurement. pp. 220-234 in Salaberry, M.R., Weideman, A. and Hsu, W-L. (Eds.), *Ethics and Context in Second Language Testing: Rethinking Validity in Theory and Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003384922 -12.

Weideman, A. 2024. Advancing Professionalisation: The Achievement of Language Assessment Literacy. pp. 239-249 in Baker, B. and Taylor, L. (Eds.), *Language Assessment Literacy and Competence Volume 1: Research and Reflections from the Field*. Cambridge University Press series *Studies in Language Testing*.

Books

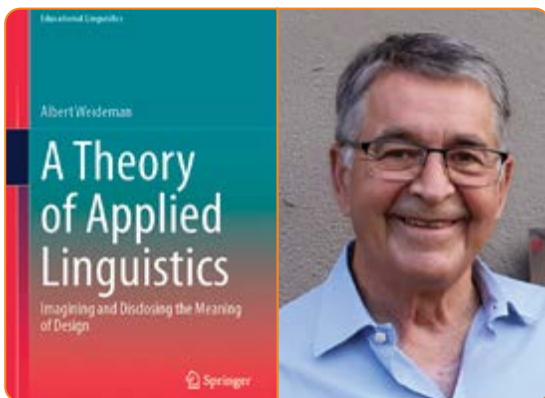
Staff



Prof Oliver Nyambi

Nyambi, O. 2024. *Contested Liberations, Transitions and the Crisis in Zimbabwe: Encounters with Post-colonial (Counter) Cultures (2000-2020)* (Vol. 48). Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.

Research Professor and Research Fellows



Prof Albert Weideman, Research Fellow

Houlston, V. 2024. Thomas McCoog, Ana Saez-Hidalgo, Javier Burrieza Sanchez and Ginevra Crosignani. *The Correspondence and Unpublished Papers of Robert Persons: Vol. 2: 1588-1597*. Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies.

Majumdar, S. 2024. *The Amateur: Self-Making and the Humanities in the Postcolony*. New York, NY & London, UK: Bloomsbury.

Weideman, A. 2024. *A Theory of Applied Linguistics: Imagining and Disclosing the Meaning of Design*. Educational Linguistics series number 65. Cham, Switzerland: Springer. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/9783031675591>.

Journal Special Issues



The cover of the special issue of *Studies in Social Science* co-edited by Prof Helene Strauss

Strauss, H. 2024. Reckoning, Repairing, Reworlding: The (In) humanities, Artistic Practices, and Planetary Crisis. *Studies in Social Justice* 18(4). Co-edited with the international 'Reworlding Research Collective': Jesse Arseneault (Concordia University); Tayah Clarke (Brock University); Linzey Corridon (McMaster University); Feisal Kirumira (University of Alberta); Susie O'Brien (McMaster University); Jane Sewali-Kirumira (University of Alberta); Susan Spearey (Brock University); Helene Strauss (UFS); Nandini Thiagarajan (Acadia University); and Andrea Vela Alarcon (McMaster University).

Creative Outputs

Strauss, H. 2024. Rebirth | Revolt | Resurrect – A Conversation about Uhuru Phalafala's *Mine Mine Mine* (Creative Intervention). With Uhuru Phalafala. *Studies in Social Justice* 18(4): 903–914. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26522/ssj.v18i4.4378>.

Conference Papers/Posters:

Staff



Dr Doreen Tivenga

Dr Tivenga presented a paper on using internet memes to enhance students' critical thinking skills at the *Annual UFS Teaching and Learning Conference* held in September 2024.

Boshoff, E. 2024. Developing a Passion for Reading: Probing the Reading Attitudes and Habits of Pre-service Teachers in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. Paper delivered at the *South African Association for Language Teaching (SAALT) Conference*, 9–12 July 2024, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa.

Brokensha, S.I. 2024. Exploring South African News Media Framings of (Mis)Trust in ChatGPT's Applications in (Higher) Educational Spaces: A Sociotechnical Imaginaries Approach. Paper delivered at the *Higher Education Close-Up (HECU) 11 Conference*, 3–5 July, Rhodes University in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Brokensha, S.I. Invited Speaker. 2024. Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Environmental Management Ecosystems: A Relational Ethics of Care. *UFS Centre for Environmental Management's 30th Anniversary Conference: 'Exploring Sustainable Futures: A 30-Year Outlook'*, University of the Free State, 11–12 October 2024, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Brooks, M. 2024. The role of suicide narratives in normalising conversations about suicide. Paper presented at *the Limits of Communication and the Ethics of Suicide in Cultural Presentations*, 13–14 December 2024 (online), Middle Tennessee State University/Technische Universität Dresden/Universität Innsbruck.

Conradie, M.S. 2024. Whiteness in the Free State and Texas: A Duoethnographic Exploration of South African and US Contexts. Paper presented with Boucher, M.L. at the *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting*, 11–14 April 2024, Philadelphia, United States of America.

De Villiers, R. Invited Speaker. 2024. Poverty's Plenitudes: High Art and Low Living in Marlene van Niekerk's *The Snow Sleeper*. *Narrative Identity and Performance Workshop 2*, 19 June 2024, North-West University, South Africa.

Du Plessis, C. 2024. Determinants of Inclusive Quality Education for Deaf Students Undergoing Teacher Training in South Africa. Paper delivered at the *South African Association for Language Teaching (SAALT) Conference*, 9–12 July 2024, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa.

Du Plessis, C. 2024. Exploring Construct Validity and Reliability in Non-standardised Online and Written Language Course Assessments. Paper delivered at the *South African Association for Language Teaching (SAALT) Conference*, 9–12 July 2024, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa.

Fingson, K. 2024. 'IsiLimela Unbound: Philosophical insights for Bantu epistemologies and the Zimbabwean postcolonial terrorscape in Novuyo Tshuma's *Digging Stars* (2023)'. Paper presented at the *Durban University of Technology Humanities and Social Sciences Conference*, 6–8 November 2024, Durban, South Africa.

Henning, H. 2024. Fact, Fiction, Infraction: Popular Culture, Literature, and the Adoption Triad's Narrative Burden. Paper presented at the *Northeast Popular Culture Association 2024 Hybrid Conference*, 3–5 October 2024, Nichols College, Dudley, Massachusetts (online).

Henning, H. 2024. Archetype, Phenotype, Stereotype: The Volksmoeder/Domestic Worker in Selected South African Novels. Paper presented at *The International Academic Forum (IAFOR) Barcelona Conference on Arts, Media & Culture (BAMC2024)*, 12–16 November 2024, Barcelona, Spain (online).

Henning, H. 2024. Reading South African Adoption Narratives as Sites of Unburdening and Affective Liminality. Paper presented at the *9th Annual Siedlce Forum for Contemporary Issues in Language and Literature: Thresholds of Liminality in Literature, Linguistics, Philosophy and Culture*, 21–22 November 2024, Siedlce University Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies and University of the Balearic Islands Faculty of Philosophy and Art (online).

Manase, I. 2024. The Depiction of 'Anxious' Connections and Disentanglement as Fictional Bulawayo Transitions from Colonial Rhodesian Rule in Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu's novel, *The Quality of Mercy* (2022), *African Literature Association Conference*, 23–25 May 2024, Louisville University, Louisville, Kentucky, United States of America.

Manase, I. 2024. Siphiwe Gloria Ndlovu's City of Kings Trilogy: Depictions of and Suggestions for Re-ordering Sets of Knowledges on the Colonial, Anti-colonial and Postcolonial Experience of Zimbabwe for a Common Future. Paper presented at the *African Studies Association-UK Conference*, 29–31 August 2024, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Moopi, P. 2024. Democratisation and contested decolonial pathways/trajectories in post-1994 South Africa: The case of Rehana Rossouw's *New Times*". Paper presented at the *International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference (IQIC2024)*, 20–21 November 2024, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus, South Africa.

Motahane, N. 2024. Attending to Reading: A Literary Approach. Paper presented at the *Attending Together: New Directions for South African Higher Education Workshop at the Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics (AGCLE)*, 10–11 May 2024, Rhodes University, South Africa.

Nyambi, O. 2024. Sotho school names and the onomastic decolonisation of philosophies of Education in Qwaqwa, South Africa. Paper presented at *Names Society of Southern Africa*, 25–27 September 2024, University of Eswatini, Swaziland.

Tivenga, D. 2024. Internet Memes: A Tool to Enhance Critical Thinking Skills in the Study of Literature. Paper presented at the *Annual UFS Teaching and Learning Conference*. Theme: Enhancing the Quality of Blended Learning and Teaching Within the UFS Context, 16–19 September 2024, University of the Free State, South Africa.

Strauss, H. 2024. **Keynote Address** for a colloquium themed "'Decolonising' knowledge production in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (HSSA): Reflecting on a decade of the Charter for Humanities and Social Sciences in South African Higher education," hosted by the *Centre for Gender and Africa Studies*, UFS, August 27–29, 2024. Title of talk: Learning to Breathe in South African Higher Education.

Strauss, H. 2024. **Plenary Speaker** for a two-day conference on *Futures Interrupted: Disappointment and Renewal in South African Feminisms*, 15–16 August 2024, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. **Invited** by Shireen Hassim, Amanda Gouws and Pumla Dineo Gqola. Paper: Risky Atmospheres: Clearing the Air for South African Feminist Futures.

Strauss, H. 2024. **Plenary Speaker** for the "[Breathing In: Air and Atmospheres](#)" seminar series. Co-hosted by the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) and The Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) at the University of London, UCL, 8 April 2024. **Invited** by Sarah Nuttall, Isabel Hofmeyr and Megan Vaughan.

Strauss, H. 2024. **Plenary Panel**: "Beyond the toxic university: towards connection, kinship, and care," with the Reworlding Research Collective, Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies (CAPS), June 2024, Montreal, Canada.

Strauss, H. 2024. *Tumbleweed*. Paper presented at the *2024 CAPS conference*, June 2024, Montreal, Canada.

(Postdoctoral) Research Fellows and Research Professor

Hall, L. 2024. 'Stories of Pride, Ambition and Rebellion': Queer Futurity and Africanfuturist Imaginings in Recent Nigerian Short Fiction. Paper presented at the *African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) Conference*, August 2024, Oxford Brookes University.

Houliston, V. 2024. The Many Faces of Andreas Philopater, 23 March 2024, *Renaissance Society of America*, Chicago.

Houliston, V. 2024. Rapid fire from Robert Persons: Four editions of *De persecutione Anglicana*, 1581–1582, 1 July 2024, *Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP)*.

Houliston, V. 2024. Book launch: *Correspondence and Unpublished Papers of Robert Persons, SJ, Vol. 2*, 23 July 2024, Catholic Record Society.

Engaged Scholarship

Dr Mariza Brooks was invited to deliver a guest lecture on 'Theoretical Underpinnings for Feminist Projects' at Eduvos, Bloemfontein, April 2024.

Prof Susan Brokensha served as an NRF reviewer for 2025 Master's Level Funding (Faculty of the Humanities, University of the Free State).

Prof Susan Brokensha became a member of the Language Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities.

Prof Susan Brokensha continues to fulfil her role as a researcher focusing on 'Digital Well-being and Labour' and 'AI4Ed' located within the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures (ICDF) at the UFS. This research involves engagement with ethical and pedagogical issues around the growing ubiquity of the digital not only in our mundane lives but also in academia (i.e., research) and tertiary classrooms.

Second-year English co-ordinator, **Gemma Field**, with support from Prof Diana Breshears, Assistant Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities, hosted author Futhi Ntshingila on the QwaQwa campus on 22 October 2024. Speaking to more than 100 students, Ms Ntshingila provided unique insights into her journey as a writer, her body of work, and the challenges of balancing creativity with profitability. This was a unique opportunity for students to interact with the author of one of their prescribed novels.



Futhi Ntshingila, Prof Diana Breshears, and Gemma Field

Hanta Henning provided training for learners and acted as adjudicator in public speaking competitions for Southern Free State Schools Debating and Public Speaking.

Prof Helene Strauss is the Lead Convenor of the "UFS Working Group to Advance Gender Parity within Academic Leadership." Since October 2023.

Prof Helene Strauss is a Specialist Member on an NRF-Review Panel for the Performing and Creative Arts, and Design (PCAD). Three-year term: 2022–2024.

Prof Helene Strauss serves on the Core Organising Team for the [ACS Virtual Lecture Series](#) (since 2020).

Prof O. Nyambi was appointed by the NRF to the NRF Specialist Panel on Languages and Literature.

Prof O Nyambi served on the Adjudication Board of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Postgraduate Scholarships.

National and International Collaboration

Prof Susan Brokensha was appointed by the TESOL International Association to review their abstracts for the *TESOL 2025 Virtual Convention & Expo*.

On 23 August 2024, **Prof Susan Brokensha** gave a short presentation on 'The Role of AI in Modern Education with an Emphasis on Trust' at the *AI for Education Colloquium* hosted by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Teaching and Learning (ICDF) at the UFS.

On 26 September 2024, and as part of a panel discussion, **Prof Susan Brokensha** gave a short presentation on the 'Challenges of AI' at the first *AI Colloquium* hosted by the Faculty of the Humanities at the UFS.

Prof Susan Brokensha was a technical committee member for the *Southern African Conference on AI Research* ('SACAIR 2024 – Artificial Intelligence for Societal Impact') held between 2 and 6 December 2024 at the University of the Free State. She also presented a tutorial at the conference titled '(Mis)Trust in Student-educator Interactions Mediated by AI', exploring perceptions of trust in generative AI and student-academic interactions mediated by this technology.

Prof Helene Strauss serves on the following editorial and scholarly boards (current): [Cultural Studies](#); [Association for Cultural Studies](#) (Vice-Chair until 2024); [Journal of Literary Studies](#); [ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature](#); Free State Centre for Human Rights.

Prof Helene Strauss is a member of the 'Reworlding Research Collective', which is part of an ongoing international collaborative project.

As chair of the Department's Visiting Speakers committee and organiser of the Department's Speaker Series, **Hanta Henning** and colleagues **Prof Oliver Nyambi** and **Prof Helene Strauss** hosted several national and international speakers. These include Prof Bertus van Rooy (University of Antwerp), Dr Gilbert Ndi-Shang (University of Bayreuth), Prof Saikat Majumdar (Ashoka University), Dr Mariëtte van Graan (UNISA), and author Mphuthumi Ntabeni.

Prof O. Nyambi (with co-editors [Ifeoluwa Aboluwade](#), [Serena Talento](#) (both University of Bayreuth, Germany) and [Pepetual Mforbe Chiangong](#) (Humboldt University, Berlin) submitted the manuscript of the book *African Shakespeare: Subversions, Appropriations, Negotiations* for publication by Routledge.

Prof O. Nyambi was appointed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (together with Susanne Zepp, University of Duisburg-Essen) as the Co-Chair of the Humboldt Colloquium (Humanities Workshop) to be held in Pretoria in March 2025.



Above: Speakers who delivered presentations during the 2024 Speaker Series cycle

As chair of the department's Visiting Speakers committee and organiser of the department's Speaker Series, **Hanta Henning** and colleagues **Prof Oliver Nyambi** and **Prof Helene Strauss**, hosted several national and international speakers. These include Prof Bertus van Rooy (University of Antwerp), Dr Gilbert Ndi-Shang (University of Bayreuth), Prof Saikat Majumdar (Ashoka University), Dr Mariëtte van Graan (UNISA), and author Mphuthumi Ntabeni.

Postgraduate Students

Two Master's students, **Ananke Meintjies** and **Yonwaba Matshobotiyana**, presented research papers as part of the Department's Speaker Series on 30 May 2024 and 18 October 2024, respectively.

Matlolane Zandile – MA student, Qwaqwa Campus (together with her supervisor **Dr Nonki Motahane**), presented a paper titled 'Wounded Childhoods: The Representation of Child Soldiers in Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone* (2007)' at the North-West University International Spring School, 16–20 September 2024.

Khumalo Maqhinga – MA student, Qwaqwa Campus (together with his supervisor **Prof Oliver Nyambi**), presented a paper titled 'Crime and the Post-colonial Condition of Young Men in Sifiso Mzobe's Novel *Young Blood*' at the North-West University International Spring School, 16–20 September 2024.

The following students submitted their Master's dissertations for examination at the end of 2024:



Dr Nonhlanhla Dlamini

Dr Nonhlanhla Dlamini supervised **Agnes Ndlovu's** Master's dissertation on "Gangsterism, Gender (Re) Construction and Negotiation in Selected South African Male Prison Narratives".

Yonwaba Matshobotiyana. Of Speaking and Visibility: The Intersectional Resistance and Resilience of Black Women in Koleka Putuma's *Collective Amnesia*, Vangile Gantsho's *Red Cotton* and Danai Mupotsa's *Feeling and Ugly*, University of the Free State, South Africa. Supervisor: **Prof Helene Strauss**. Co-supervisor: **Dr Doreen Tivenga**.

Ananke Meintjies. An Animate Earth: Reading the Vitality of Place in Postcolonial Narratives of Displacement, University of the Free State, South Africa. Supervisor: **Prof Helene Strauss**. Co-supervisor: **Dr Rick de Villiers**.

The following students successfully completed their BA Honours degrees with Specialisation in English in 2024:

Qwaqwa Campus

- Yonelisa Behlule
- Qama Bunyula
- Mandla Kumalo
- Thuto Mahlangu
- Samkelo Majola
- Ennie Mkotywa
- Nomsa Ntsala
- Thandi Photolo

Bloemfontein Campus

- Timothy du Plessis
- Karlos Khoza
- Lesego Maisela
- Nyamisi Manganye
- Masego Mfolo
- Julé Pretorius

Awarding of a PhD:



From the left: Prof Helene Strauss
and Heziwell Mhunduru

Heziwell Mhunduru. *Literary Archives of the Namibian Genocide: An Eco-critical Reflection.* Obtained the degree Doctor of Philosophy with Specialisation in English, December 2024. Supervisor: **Prof Helene Strauss.**

Other Activities

Staff:



Dr Colleen du Plessis

Dr Colleen du Plessis visited the University of Namur in Belgium to collaborate with colleagues on bilingual pedagogies for inclusive education of Deaf students in schools and at universities.

Hanta Henning reviewed an article for *Literator* and served as an external examiner of three honours research papers from the North-West University's Potchefstroom and Vaal campuses, respectively. Henning is also a member of the Street Poetry project under the leadership of Prof Angelique van Niekerk (Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French).

Dr Kudzayi Ngara has served on the Faculty Scientific Committee (Languages) since 2015 and the General Human Research Ethics Committee (GHREC) since 2023.

Prof Helene Strauss served as the Chair of the Finance Committee for the Faculty of the Humanities. She also serves as an elected member of Senate on the Higher Degrees Committee of the Senate (2022 to 2026). During 2024, she peer-reviewed work for the journals *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature*, *Critical Arts*, and *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*; a book proposal for Routledge; Creative outputs for DHET subsidy purposes; and rating applications for the NRF.

Dr Doreen Rumbidzai Tivenga served as external examiner for a Master's student from the University of Venda.

Several staff members and research fellows who presented papers at the department's Speaker Series throughout the year were **Dr Mariza Brooks**, **Dr Rick de Villiers**, **Kundayi Fingson**, **Hanta Henning**, **Peter Moopi**, **Dr Nonki Motahane**, **Peter Moopi**, **Prof Oliver Nyambi**, and **Prof Albert Weideman**.

Research Professor:

Prof Victor Houliston obtained an MA in Creative Writing with distinction from the University of the Witwatersrand (June 2024). Prof Houliston also received invitations to present public lectures at Christendom College, Front Royal, Virginia, USA and Utah State University, Logan, Utah (March 2024). In June, at the request of the Deputy Dean for Research (Prof Mpume Zondi), Prof Houliston held a residential workshop for applicants for NRF rating from the Bloemfontein Campus. The aim was to assist with the applications and improve the prospects for rating. There were 12 participants.

Staff (2024)

Prof I Manase
Prof S Brokensha

Academic Head of Department (until 31 August 2024)
Academic Head of Department (appointed 1 September 2024)

Academic Staff

Permanent

E Boshoff	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof S Brokensha	Associate Professor and Researcher at the ICDF, UFS
Dr M Brooks	Senior Lecturer
Dr M Conradie	Senior Lecturer
Dr R de Villiers	Senior Lecturer
Dr N Dlamini	Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr C du Plessis	Senior Lecturer
Dr C Els	Lecturer
H Henning	Lecturer
Dr N Motahane	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
N Ndou	Lecturer
Dr K Ngara	Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof O Nyambi	Associate Professor (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof H Strauss	Professor
P Moopi	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr Dr Tivenga	Lecturer
G Field	Lecturer

Support Staff

SG Khojane	Senior Assistant Officer (Outgoing)
KM McGuire	Officer
MS Lesego Moqhaisa	Senior Assistant Officer (appointed 1 December 2024)
NV Matsoso	Senior Assistant Officer (Qwaqwa Camous; shared with Office of the Assistant Dean)

Academic Head of Department

Prof Janine Allen-Spies

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E: allenj@ufs.ac.za



Overview of 2024

The Fine Arts Department marked a historic milestone in 2024, celebrating fifty years of artistic excellence and cutting-edge research. The year was marked by the experimental exhibition “Echoes of Resilience”, curated by Sibenoxolo Foji, Jacobeth Selinga and Siobhan Swart. Staff achievements signalled the Department’s growing national and international presence. Johandi Du Plessis-Kleynhans graduated with an MA in Fine Arts (cum laude). Her research has been commended for its originality and scholarly depth. Bontle Tau completed the first component of her MA degree with a solo exhibition entitled “The Texture of Fiction”. Dr Adelheid von Maltitz and Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans were both awarded the prestigious international Ampersand Foundation Fellowship and Artists Residency situated in Manhattan, New York. Lyrene Kühn-Botma travelled to the Netherlands to engage with potential PhD supervisors towards a joint PhD degree between the University of the Free State and the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, supported through the sub-Saharan Africa Travel Grant from the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

Dr von Maltitz was promoted to associate professor, and Du Plessis-Kleynhans to lecturer. Prof Janine Allen was selected as a finalist in the national Vuleka Art Competition. Some students, as well as alumni, were selected as finalists in the prestigious South African SASOL New Signatures Art Competition. The alumnus Miné Kleynhans became the overall winner of the SASOL New Signatures. Lyrene Kühn-Botma participated in the “Postcards from North and South Project”, a print exchange involving The Printing Girls, Press North Printmakers and Fire Station Print Studio in Australia. Dr von Maltitz published an article titled “Adelheid Frackiewicz: Land art, Mourning and Translation” in *Critical Arts*. She had a solo exhibition titled “Uprooted” at Nirox Sculpture Park, situated at The Cradle of Humankind. Global dialogues in art were reflected in international collaborations. The renowned Ghanaian artist **Ibrahim**

Mahama delivered a talk and engaged with students. The Department hosted international artists **Prof Magda Søbon** (Poland) and **MJ Blebo** (Ghana). The BA Fine Arts final year art students delivered fresh and engaging art exhibitions. The external examiner, **Dr Zingisa Nkosinkulu** (Walter Sisulu University), commended the quality of the undergraduates' work. These recognitions underscore the Department's commitment to fostering excellence in academic leadership, research and art practice.



Evaluation Panel during pregraduate final evaluation: Lyrene Kühn-Botma, Prof Janine Allen Spies, Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans, Dr Zingisa Nkosinkulu (external examiner from WSU), Bontle Tau, Prof Adelheid von Maltitz.

Achievements



Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) during her residency in New York City

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz was promoted to associate professor.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans was promoted to lecturer.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans was awarded the prestigious international Ampersand Foundation (TAF) Fellowship and Artist Residency, which recognises excellence in the visual arts and entails a one-month residency at the Ampersand apartment in Tribeca, Manhattan, New York City. Du Plessis was awarded R227 463.00 from TAF and R63 270.00 supplementary funding from the UFS (totalling R290 733.00). Two artworks by Du Plessis-Kleynhans are permanently installed in the artist residency, namely *FOAF* (ongoing) and *Foreshadowing Life Esidimeni (Zulu for "dignity")*: *Altering hierarchy of needs* (2024-). Du Plessis-Kleynhans also installed a site-specific experimental intervention in the TAF apartment.

Dr von Maltitz was awarded the Ampersand Foundation (TAF) Fellowship and Artist Residency. One artwork titled *Teething Field* (2024) was installed as part of the permanent collection at the Apartment in New York City.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans graduated with her MA in Fine Arts (cum laude) in April. Her exhibition is titled "Viral Images", and her thesis is entitled *Curious image objects*

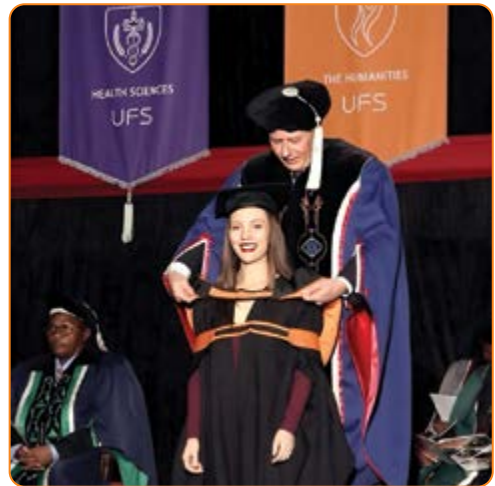
and South African social imaginaries: Place, desire, Power. (Supervisor Prof Janine Allen Spies; Co-supervisors: Prof Suzanne Human and Prof Willem Boshoff)

Lyrene Kühn-Botma visited the Netherlands upon receiving the Sub-Saharan Africa Travel Grant from the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. A supervisor was identified to enable Kühn-Botma to enrol in a joint PhD degree program between the University of the Free State and the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, a top 100 university. Prof Ann-Sophie Lehmann from the Rijksuniversiteit accepted Kühn-Botma as an incoming PhD student. Kühn-Botma was introduced to academics at the Minerva Art Academy at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. Kühn-Botma partnered with the Stone Lithography specialist, Marius Langerak, who invited her to work in the Lithography workshop. During her time at the Minerva Art Academy, Kühn-Botma made a series of Polyester Plate lithographs. Kühn-Botma has since applied to the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen's Graduate School for the Humanities and has been accepted as a PhD candidate. She will return to the Netherlands as part of the requirements for her joint degree and participate in any research or creative research opportunities.

Prof Janine Allen was selected as a finalist in the national Vuleka Art Competition.

Prof Janine Allen had a solo exhibition titled "Flowerfountain", a series of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) photography exhibited at *Magnifying Moments*, the 2024 Microscopy Society of South Africa Conference.

Prof Janine Allen exhibited in the group exhibition "SEEDS III". Curated by Southern Africa Foundation for Contemporary Art, Villa Arcadia and Online (Strauss & Co), 5 & 11-14 October 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa.



Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans at the April Graduation, receiving her MA in Fine Arts (cum laude)



Lyrene Kühn-Botma at the Zaanse Schans in Amsterdam



Lyrene Kühn-Botma: Shared Participation, 2024.
Series of 4 Polyester plate lithographs with Chine Cole on Magnani, 45x38 cm (each)

Bontle Tau had an MAFA exhibition, “The texture of fiction”, at the Johannes Stegman Art Gallery.



Photograph of installation work ‘Bien encadré’ at Tau’s MAFA exhibition

Lyrene Kühn-Botma participated in the “SEEDS III” exhibition curated by Southern Africa Foundation for Contemporary Art, Villa Arcadia and Online (Strauss & Co), 5 & 11-14 October 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The **Stethoscope Silver Jubilee** exhibition entitled “Echoes of resilience” was held, which included the recent work of alumni and staff members.

Student Achievements

Jacobeth Sekgametsi Selinga was awarded the Dot Vermeulen Prize for Best Fourth-Year Student in Fine Arts at the Humanities Prizegiving 2024. Her research project is entitled *Ha re kene dibateng*. Her supervisor was Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans. <https://bettyjacobeth95.wixsite.com/my-site>

Ovayo Makapela was awarded the Best Third-Year Student in Fine Arts at the Humanities Prizegiving 2024.

Lizka Fouché was awarded the Best Second-Year Student in Fine Arts at the Humanities Prizegiving 2024.

Cailyn Nuttal was awarded the Best First-Year Student in Fine Arts at the Humanities Prizegiving 2024.



Humanities Prizegiving. Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans (lecturer), Jacobeth Selinga (Best Fourth-Year), Ovayo Makapela (Best Third-Year), Lizka Fouché (Best Second-Year), Cailyn Nuttal (Best First-Year), Prof Janine Allen-Spies (AHD)

Leon Witthun's sculptural installation and **Foji Sibenoxolo's** art installation were selected for the Redbrick Hotel Exhibition. They received an award to attend a week's residency at the Redbrick Hotel.

BA Fine Arts students **Arwen Olivier** and **Mikayla Swartz** were selected as finalists for the 2024 SASOL New Signatures Competition Top 100.

MA Fine Art student **Louiza Combrinck** was selected as a finalist for the 2024 SASOL New Signatures Competition Top 100.

Department of Fine Arts Alumni **Jacobeth Selinga**, **Sibenoxolo Foji**, **Teboho Mokhuto** and **Elizabeth Vorster** were selected as finalists for the 2024 SASOL New Signatures Competition Top 100.



Sasol New Signatures finalist Jacobeth Selinga's performative art installation entitled Ha re kane dibateng

The Department celebrates the overall winner of the 2024 SASOL New Signature Art competition, **Miné Kleynhans**. Kleynhans is an alumnus of the Department and is currently the project manager at the Johannes Stegmann Gallery at the UFS.

The **Annual Graduate Exhibition** of the Department of Fine Arts was held at the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, University of the Free State.

The **annual student exhibition** of the Department of Fine Arts was held at the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, University of the Free State. The exhibition featured the artworks of the 2023 cohort of first- to third-year students.

Teaching

Prof Janine Allen presented the "Seven Dams Landscape Painting Project" with second-year students (Ecological art).

Final year student **Leungo Sonia Ntlhayakgosi's** research project entitled *Consensual Boundaries: The Fragility of Intimacy* (with distinction) (Supervisor: Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans)



Alumnus Miné Kleynhans, Overall winner of the SASOL New Signatures competition 2024

Final year student **Sebotse Selamulela**'s research project entitled *In Search of Home: Objects, Devotion, Religious Exchange* (with distinction) (Supervisor: Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans)

Artist as Guest Lecturer yearly workshop project: For the second year running, esteemed artist and educator **Dr Jan van der Merwe** presented a sculpture project to second-year students. **Johandi du Plessis** envisioned the overall project. **Dr Adelheid von Maltitz** led the second iteration in collaboration with Dr Jan van der Merwe.

Visiting artists gave talks and workshops and participated in studio critique sessions. Prolific Ghanaian artist **Ibrahim Mahama** and **Dr Jan van der Merwe** gave valuable feedback to students during studio critique sessions with senior undergraduate, Honours, as well as postgraduate students.

Second-year students explored performance art as a contemporary and alternative form of artmaking in and around campus. This dynamic project was introduced by **Prof Allen-Spies** in 2016 and presented by Bontle Tau in 2024.

In preparation for the second-year **Land Art** project at MAPSA, first-year students investigated land art as a form of conceptual and site-specific art-making on campus, in various outside locations. Presented by Bontle Tau.

The Annual **Richmond Land Art Project:** Facilitated by Dr Adelheid von Maltitz and Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans in 2024 and held at MAPSA (Modern Art Projects South Africa) in Richmond in the Karoo. The project, also considered a mini artist residency for the students, where they respond to the site as well as psychosocial and economic issues related to Richmond and the Karoo. Initiated in 2013, the Fine Arts Department from the UFS is the only Arts department in the country with such a project.

Invited international guest artists, **Magda Søbon** (Poland) and **MJ Blebo** (Ghana) and art historian **Prof Suzanne Human** (Art History and Image Studies, UFS) attended and engaged with the students in the project.



Interactive land artwork by Mylize Eloff as part of the Richmond Land Art Project. From left to right: Harrie Siertsema (MAPSA), Magda Sobon (guest artist, Poland), Prof Suzanne Human (Art History and Image Studies, UFS), MJ Blebo (guest artist, Ghana), Johandi du Plessis (lecturer, Fine Arts) and lying in the middle of the artwork is Dr Adelheid von Maltitz (Fine Arts)

Second-year Intermedia Digital Painting Project: Students engage and explore digital painting, focusing on developing technical proficiency in Adobe Photoshop and mastery of the Wacom digital drawing tablet, balanced with exploring these tools and themes creatively and imaginatively. The project encourages experimentation across a range of image-making processes, including body painting, traditional oil painting techniques, and other analogue methods, which are then reinterpreted and translated into the digital painting medium.

Final year Art Exhibition Catalogue Project: This project guides final-year students through the comprehensive process of conceptualising, designing, and producing a professional exhibition catalogue. Students gain practical experience in photographing and editing images of their artworks using digital cameras and Adobe Photoshop. They also develop and refine their artist statements while learning to compile, design, and lay out the catalogue using Adobe InDesign. This project fosters both creative and technical skills. It also equips students with the knowledge and confidence to professionally present and market their artistic practice. Ultimately, it encourages self-sufficiency and prepares them for engagement within the broader arts industry.

Nirox Sculpture Park third-year project: This project was facilitated by Prof Willem Boshoff, Dr von Maltitz and Bontle Tau. During this project, the third-year students work at Nirox in a ten-day residency. The students also visited galleries in Johannesburg and the Jack Ginsburg book collection.



Mylize Eloff's digital painting Colourful Nightmares (2024)

Research Projects

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans obtained her MA in Fine Arts (cum laude) from the University of the Free State. Her MA research project comprises a full thesis, a solo exhibition showcased at Oliewenhuis Art Museum, and an exhibition catalogue. Her thesis is entitled ***Curious image objects and South African social imaginaries: Place, desire, power*** and her solo exhibition, ***Viral Images***. Another installation and site-specific artwork at NIROX in the Cradle of Humankind formed part of her research project.

Prof Janine Allen and Prof Karlien Albertyn (Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry) initiated an ongoing “New World” interdisciplinary research project with the Department of Fine Arts, the Centre of Microscopy and the Department of Microbiology and Biochemistry.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Dr von Maltitz published an article titled “Adelheid Frackiewicz: Land Art, Mourning and Translation” in *Critical Arts*.

Creative Outputs

Prof Janine Allen’s series of artworks, “The Aura of Corona”, was accepted as an International creative output by the DHET.

Lyrene Kühn-Botma: *Ostrich Strategy*, stone Lithograph on Magnani. Exhibited with The Printing Girls Collective at the Association for Visual Arts (AVA Gallery), Cape Town, 10 October to 21 November 2024.



Lyrene Kühn-Botma: *Ostrich Strategy*, 2024. Stone Lithograph on Magnani, 68 x 95.5 cm, Ed. 9.



Janine Allen: *The order of things*. Mixed media photographic and digital collage, Vuleka Art Competition, Belville, Cape Town.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans: *FOAF (A friend of a friend told me...)* (ongoing artwork), GIF-based animation. Permanently installed at the Ampersand Foundation Residency, Tribeca, Manhattan, New York City, USA.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans: *Foreshadowing Life Esidimeni (Zulu for “dignity”): Altering hierarchy of needs* (Part of the Hierarchy of Needs series) (2024). Hand-manipulated digital print on Arches archival paper. Permanently installed at the Ampersand Foundation Residency, Tribeca, Manhattan, New York City, USA.

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans: *Siphoning millions from NSFAS meant for needy students* (Part of the Hierarchy of Needs series) (2024), Hand-manipulated digital print on Arches archival paper. Exhibited as part of the Stethoscope Exhibition in celebration of the Fine Arts Department’s Golden Jubilee, *Echoes of Resilience* at the Fine Arts Department, University of the Free State, and as part of the *International Global Social Innovation Indaba*, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein.

Dr von Maltitz has a solo exhibition at Nirox Sculpture Park in September 2024 entitled “Uprooted”.

Dr von Maltitz exhibited the work titled *Anger, Trust and Love* in the Group exhibition “Approximations to a voice: Ellipsis”, curated by Jean Dreyer at the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery in June 2024.

Dr von Maltitz exhibited 17 large-scale murals across South Africa titled *Teething* as part of the 136 murals for ABSA ‘Your Story Matters’ site-specific exhibitions.

Dr von Maltitz participated in the three-person exhibition titled “In the Making: Paint, Resin and Thread” at the KZNSA gallery in Durban during October 2024.

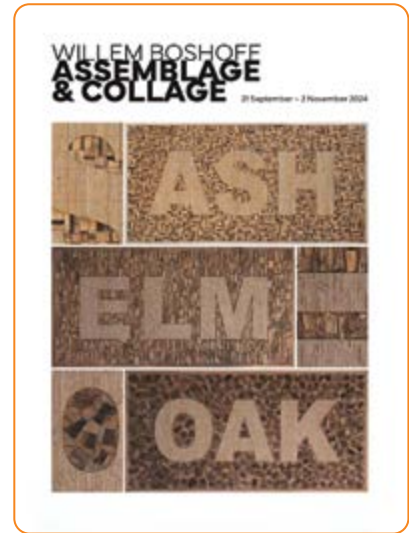
Prof Willem Boshoff had an exhibition, *Assemblage and Collage*, at Nirox Sculpture Park, The Cradle of Humankind, Johannesburg.



Prof Willem Boshoff with the work Uprooted, a site-specific installation by Dr. Adelheid von Maltitz



Adelheid von Maltitz. Teething (site-specific artwork): ABSA "Your story matters"



Willem Boshoff. Catalogue front page; "Assemblage and Collage" exhibition, Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg

Conference Papers/Posters

Prof Janine Allen, Prof Willem Boshoff, Dr Adelheid von Maltitz, Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans, Lyrene Kühn-Botma and Bontle Tau (staff), as well as students, participated in the Stethoscape exhibition "Echoes of resilience" exhibited at the International Global Social Innovation Indaba, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein.

Solo exhibition of Janine Allen-Spies, entitled "Flowerfountain", a series of Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) images exhibited at *Magnifying Moments*, The 2024 Microscopy Society Conference.

Conference Proceedings

Lyrene Kühn-Botma presented online at the *Encounters in Artistic Research* conference held at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in partnership with the Minerva Art Academy in the Netherlands, September 2024. Title of her monologue: "Artmaking, Working, and Working Through".



Minerva Art Academy. Encounters in Artistic Research attended by Lyrene Kühn-Botma

Engaged Scholarship

Janine Allen and Lyrene Kühn-Botma exhibited works at the exhibition entitled *Arboretum*, Co-op Gallery, Bloemfontein. Curators: Dawid Griesel and Esrè Claasen.

Drawing workshops were presented to local community members at the Department of Fine Arts.

OFM interviewed Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans about her Ampersand Residency in NYC, the Fine Arts Department, and how students can apply to study Fine Arts at the UFS: Nel Sekape, P. 2024. 'The Artistic Odyssey: From Free State to New York', **OFM**, 11 June. URL: <https://www.ofm.co.za/article/arts/332152/the-artistic-odysseyfrom-free-state-to-new-york> [Accessed 26 June 2024].

UFS article and interview with Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans about the Ampersand Foundation Art Residency: Luthuli, L. 2024. 'Art lecturer Johandi du Plessis secures NYC scholarship, shakes up installation art world', **University of the Free State**, 15 May. URL: <https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/newsarchive/campus-news/2024/may/art-lecturer-johandi-duplessis-kleynhans-securesnyc-scholarship-shakes-upinstallation-art-world> [Accessed 26 June 2024].

Johandi du Plessis-Kleynhans is a member of The Association for Visual Arts (AVA), South African National Art Historians (SAVAH), South African National Arts Therapies Association (SANATA) and Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA).

Lyrene Kühn-Botma continues to be an active member of the national printmaking collective **The Printing Girls**.

National and International Collaboration

- Prof Peter Glendinning presented the *Attached to the soil (2024-2025)* project, enabling a photography collaboration with Prof Peter Glendinning of Michigan State University, US.
- Stethoscape presented an international talk in collaboration with the UFS Art Galleries and with photographer and artist Roger Palmer from Leeds University.
- Prof Magda Søbon visited the Department and presented a workshop, lecture and critique sessions.
- MJ Blebo visited the Department and presented a workshop, lecture and critique sessions.
- The renowned South African artist Jan van der Merwe presented a sculpture project to second-year students at the Department.
- Lyrene Kühn-Botma participated in the "Postcards from North and South Project" by the Printing Girls. A print exchange collaboration between South Africa and Australia involved The Printing Girls, Press North Printmakers, and the Fire Station Print Studio in Australia.
- The renowned artist Ibrahim Mahama visited the Department and presented a lecture and critique sessions.





Ghanian artist Ibrahim Mahama with final-year BA Fine Arts student Mikhayla Swartz



Ghanian artist Ibrahim Mahama with Fine Art students

Other Activities

Stethoscape Silver Jubilee talk and workshop with fibre artists and fashion designers of the African Research Institute (Eric Scott Williams) in collaboration with the UFS Art Galleries.

Janine Allen, external examiner for the Master of Visual Arts Project (UNISA).



Staff (2024)

Prof Janine Allen

Dr Adelheid von Maltitz

Lyrene Kuhn-Botma

Bontle Tau

Johandi Du Plessis-Kleynhans

Prof Willem Boshoff

Tanya Sarluis-Meyer

Petrus Morata

AHD, Associate Professor

Senior lecturer, Sculpture and Installation

Programme director, Printmaking

Lecturer, Performance Art, Conceptual Art and New Media

Lecturer, Conceptual Art, Installation Art and Intermedia Art

Distinguished Professor, Conceptual Art, Sculpture

Professional Officer, Support Staff

Technical Assistant, Support Staff

Hebrew

Academic Head of Department
Prof TJ Makutoane

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Overview of 2024

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

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

Achievements



Dr Kevin Chau



Prof Tshokolo J Makutoane



Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé and
Prof Jacobus Naudé

Dr Chau's research interests involve Biblical Hebrew poetry, particularly metaphor, lyric poetry, and the interface between linguistic and literary methods. He is currently contributing to the *Oxford Handbook on Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford University Press) and co-authoring *Biblical Hebrew Poetry: An Introduction and Guided Reader* (Hendrickson Publishers, USA). His research on an international level and his teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels are inextricably linked.

Prof TJ Makutoane was invited as the keynote speaker to a workshop for Bible translators organised by Wycliffe South Africa on Oral Bible Translation and Transcription (15-19 April 2024) in Johannesburg. His keynote address was "The Role of Oral Bible Translation in Language Development for Minority Communities: A Complexity Analysis." Orality in Bible translation was also the theme of his international publication in the Q1 journal *Religions* entitled "Orality in Translating Biblical Hebrew Proverbs in Sesotho."

Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé and **Prof Jacobus Naudé** were invited to present a paper at the Fifteenth Conference on Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World held at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio (USA), 26-30 June 2024. Their presentation, entitled "Special Grammar and the Oral-Scribal Emergence of the Alphabetic Acrostic Poems of Lamentations", examined how the concept of the "special grammar" of oral poets, which Parry and Lord first identified for traditional epic poets in Czechoslovakia and ancient Greece can be used to understand the scribal formation and oral recitation of the alphabetic acrostic poems of the Hebrew Bible.

Prof Jacobus Naudé's research on the history of Afrikaans Bible translation resulted in an important discovery in 2024 for the history of Afrikaans. He discovered the page proofs of a preliminary Afrikaans Bible translation in 1920, which had been lost and provided crucial information for Afrikaans' history as a language. His research will be published in 2025 as "Die rol van die 1920-proefvertaling in die ontluiking van Afrikaans as 'n Bybeltaal / The role of the 1920 trial translation in the emergence of Afrikaans as a Bible language."

Prof Tania Notarius demonstrated a strong and multifaceted scholarly profile in Ancient Near Eastern and Hebrew studies. A key achievement was securing the Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR) Award from the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa for her work on ancient

Hebrew and its related Northwest Semitic languages. Her project, “Ancient Northwest Semitic languages as an areal development”, is funded for three years and will provide groundbreaking work on the intertwined history and development of these languages.

Student Achievements

Jurec Mulder graduated in 2024 with the MA Bible Translation qualification with distinction and received the prize for the best dissertation, titled “Translating Hebrew Lyric of Psalm 32 through the Lens of Semiotics and Alterity,” supervised by Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé and co-supervised by Dr KD Chau. His research focused on a key issue: many Bible translations present poetry in ways that do not read or sound like poetry because they focus primarily on the meaning of words, rather than the lyrical beauty of the poems. Drawing on semiotics and alterity as a philosophical framework – and complexity theory and Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) for his methodology – he offered his own lyrical translation of Psalm 32 and a comparative analysis of some Christian and Jewish translations of the psalm. Jurec will continue his study of Biblical Hebrew poetry in the MA Hebrew.

John Motswetsa completed the MA Bible Translation qualification in 2024 with distinction and received the Dean’s medal. His mini-dissertation, entitled “Orality and Performance in Bible Translation Post-Colonial South Africa: A Call to Worship in Revelation 5”, produced a performance translation of Revelation 5 in isiZulu-speaking communities based upon Greco-Roman orality and contemporary African oral tradition. This approach stirs up participation through verbal effects that stimulate reaction from the audience. John will continue his studies with a PhD in Bible Translation.

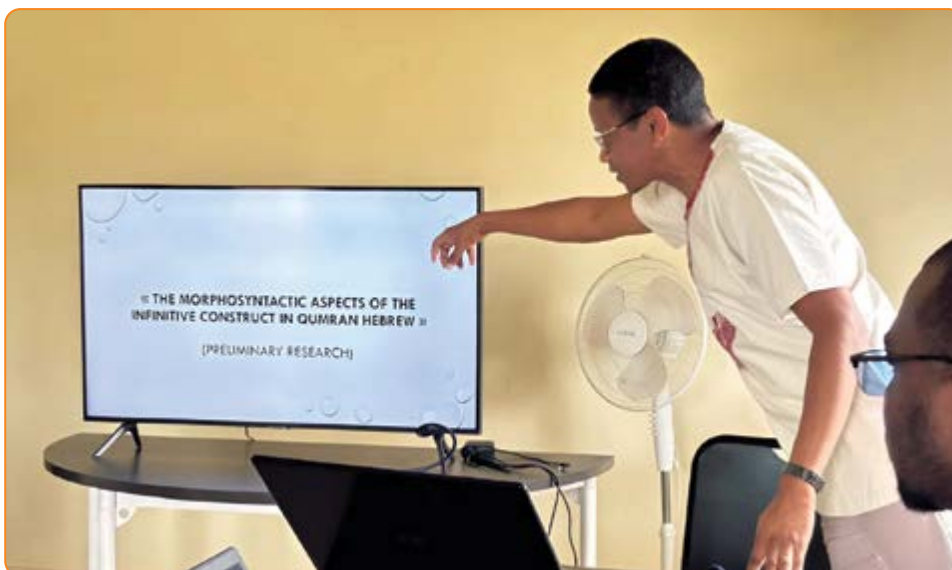
Fianarana Rampanjato completed the MA Hebrew with distinction in 2024. His dissertation research aims to describe the exact nature of the Hebrew infinitive construct, as found in the post-biblical Hebrew manuscripts in Qumran Hebrew. For the analysis, two texts were selected as the corpus: Serek



Prof Tania Notarius



John Motswetsa



Fianarana Rampanjato

ha-Yahad [The Rule of the Community] (1QS) and the War Scroll (1QM[ilhamah]). The study situates the functions of the infinitive construct in Qumran Hebrew with respect to earlier (Biblical Hebrew) and later (Mishnaic Hebrew) varieties of Hebrew. He presented his research at a Langham Partnership workshop in Lusaka in 2024. Since 2018, Fianarana has been part of the management team of Transafrican Education Network. This organisation provides basic theological training for grassroots pastors in 12 French-speaking countries in Africa. He also lectures at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Madagascar. He will continue his research on Qumran Hebrew for his PhD in Hebrew.

Mias Nortier completed the MA Hebrew in 2024 with a dissertation entitled *“Representations of Trauma in Poetic Parallelisms of the Biblical Hebrew Book of Job: A Complexity Theoretical Analysis,”* exploring how poetic parallelism in the Biblical Hebrew book of Job conveys trauma. The research offers a fresh, interdisciplinary approach to Biblical Hebrew poetry, deepening our understanding of trauma, emotion, and meaning in the text. Mias will continue his research on trauma and Hebrew poetry with a PhD in Hebrew. He is also the Reverend of the Dutch Reformed Church in Jacobsdal and a lecturer for our second-year Hebrew modules.



Mias Nortier and family

Bronwen Cleaver graduated with a PhD in Bible Translation in 2024. Her thesis, “A design for a performance-based oral Bible translation in the Southern Altai language (Siberia)”, considered how to design a contextualised performance of biblical passages using the traditional forms of epic poetry in Altai that have been orally transmitted through the centuries. Her thoroughly revised thesis has been accepted for publication by Wipf and Stock (USA) as *Oral Bible Translation and Biblical Performance in Southern Siberia* (forthcoming 2025). Bronwen is Director of the Institute for Bible Translation in Russia, with over 60 Bible translation projects in the Russian Federation and its surrounding countries.



Dr Bronwen Cleaver (left) with Altai performers of oral Bible translation in Siberia



Daniel Moses Gya

Daniel Moses Gya is a Bible translation consultant based in Nigeria who serves with Seed Company in Anglophone West Africa. In 2024, he graduated with a PhD in Bible Translation with his thesis titled “Translating Biblical Poetry in the Context of African Oral Literature: The Case of Rigwe Language of Central Nigeria.” In his research, he collected many traditional songs in Rigwe from various genres, analysed them, and suggested that poetry-to-poetry translation can be achieved through researching the orality strategies, linguistic and rhetorical structures, and special devices used in traditional African poetry. Daniel is a senior lecturer for some of our Bible translation modules.

Seseme Mohokare graduated with a PhD in Bible Translation with the thesis titled “Translating Animal Names in the Sesotho Bible: A Complexity Analysis.” He contributed to the translation of animal names in indigenous African languages using integrated complexity, semiotics, alterity, and metaphoric analysis. He identified the biblical animals zoologically, compared characteristics and metaphorical uses of the animals in the Bible with those of Sesotho animals, and considered ecological and ethical issues involving the translation of animals. The study has important implications for future Bible translation projects as well as the current revision of the 1989 Sesotho Bible.



Gift Nyirenda

Gift Nyirenda completed his PhD in Bible Translation in 2024 with the thesis titled “Intersemiotic Bible Translation for an Orally Dominant Culture: The Case of Translating Lamentations into Nsenga.” Drawing upon the traditional rhetorical forms of laments and dirges in Nsenga. He produced a new translation of the biblical book of Lamentations, using tonal variations and performative elements. Gift is the Translation Manager for the Bible Society of Zambia, overseeing all Bible translation projects in the country. He also presented his research at a Langham Partnership workshop in Lusaka in 2024.

Teaching

Teaching Hebrew

Based solidly on the multifaceted study of Biblical Hebrew, our third-year undergraduate curriculum explores several important Northwest Semitic languages related to Hebrew, offering students direct engagement with original texts and their historical background. Central to this offering is the study of Biblical Aramaic, enabling students to interpret key sections of the Old Testament books of Daniel and Ezra in their original linguistic form. Furthermore, students have the opportunity to study Ugaritic language and literature, discovering the mythology and ritual of the ancient Near East. They are also introduced to Syriac, providing access to the ancient Peshitta translations of both the Old and New Testaments as well as very early biblical commentaries. Through this journey, students gain knowledge and a profound appreciation for how these ancient languages intertwine and continue to shape our understanding of history and culture.

Our BA Honours Hebrew programme provides students with a foundation in linguistics, the scientific study of how languages work, to offer a deeper understanding of Biblical Hebrew. This linguistic emphasis allows our students to leverage their diverse linguistic backgrounds to understand how Hebrew can

be understood within the broader context of world languages. Our linguistic emphasis moves students beyond rote memorisation, enabling them to critically analyse Biblical Hebrew. For instance, in one class on Biblical Hebrew Poetry, students discover how poetry conveys meaning through paralleled words and sentences and through paralleled syntax. The following biblical proverb provides an illustration: “A thorn rises into a drunkard’s hand. // A proverb rises in a fool’s mouth” (Proverbs 26:9). The similarities between the two lines force readers to equate the two seemingly unrelated sentences to discover the wisdom hidden in this proverb — fools hurt themselves when they try to offer wisdom. Whether our graduates pursue further studies or enter the work field, this immersion in linguistics equips them with invaluable critical thinking skills for both their professional and personal lives.

Teaching Ancient Near Eastern culture and its connections to Africa

In “People, Power and Culture in the Ancient Near East” (HNES1514), lecturer Mbuyiseni Mahlangu connects the Ancient Near East to the African context by examining certain characteristics of both ancient and modern cultures that may enhance the practical use of these cultural features. For example, the headrest was used to support the head while sleeping or as a stool in both the Ancient Near East and Africa, and the cultural connections are undeniable.



(Left) Egyptian headrest from the Old Kingdom (ca 2300 BC); (right) several 20th-century African headrests from the collection in the Glencairn Museum

One of the key concerns of lecturer Ronel Kellner in teaching “Memory, writing and the construction of knowledge in the ancient Near East” (HNES1624) is to redress the increasing post-modern disavowal of the reduction of knowledge that is acquired through the creation, preservation and transmission of cultural experiences to knowledge acquired through the dissemination of information that is bereft of human experiences. The course argues that at the heart of this reduction is a gross undervaluing of the exchange of human and cultural experiences preserved and transmitted through the complex interface of oral and written communicational strategies. Students are introduced to the sophisticated oral-written interface of communication strategies of cultures and societies in the ancient Near East and Africa, such as the Sumerians, Akkadians, Egyptians and Nubians, to celebrate the exchange and transmission of human experiences in the oral tradition against the Western colonial and imperial projects that misappropriated the written tradition to create a presupposed hierarchy between oral and literate cultures. Students are therefore challenged to reconsider the primary importance of oral communication strategies over the dominant elevation of written information that is often devoid of a critical concern for the exchange and transmission of human experiences. Students are also encouraged

to examine their own cultural experiences and traditions within the context of the cultural experiences and traditions of societies in the ancient Near East and Africa to think about new ways to understand how knowledge of cultural experiences is constructed, preserved and transmitted in a complex interplay of memory, oral traditions and literary texts. For example, the role of memory in hearing-dominant cultures is explored by comparing the African religious oral tradition of the cult of the ancestor and the ancient Egyptian funerary cult and the role of funerary texts such as the Pyramid texts. Through critical research and their own shared human and cultural experiences, students can challenge wrong habits of thinking inherited from a colonial past about Egyptian beliefs in the afterlife and traditions of how the deceased pharaoh might reach the afterlife. Rather, these might be better explained in light of traditional African ancestor cults and the funerary pyramid texts as conveying oral rituals and traditions in the cult of the ancestor in Egyptian belief.



*Koisan Rock Art, Cederberg Conservancy
(Cederberg.co.za)*



*Egyptian scribes from the tomb of Menna
(Wikimedia Commons)*



Ronel Kellner

Teaching Arabic

Modern Standard Arabic, both conversational and literary, is taught from first-year through to third-year. For the first time, third-year modules are being taught. Dr Asadullah Karimov describes ARAB3714 as having a strong emphasis on enhancing students' proficiency in all four core skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course utilises the second volume of *Arabic at Your Hand*, a comprehensive textbook that provides ample material to refine students' language skills. Through this module, we aim to build conversational fluency, enabling students to develop the ability to communicate confidently in Arabic. Students enrolled in this year's third-year Arabic course will benefit from a more tailored learning experience, which fosters a deeper understanding of the Arabic language and its cultural contexts. The course is designed to ensure that students advance their linguistic competence and gain the practical skills necessary for real-world communication.

Research Projects

Dr Chau is co-authoring *Biblical Hebrew Poetry: An Introduction and Guided Reader* (Hendrickson/Tyndale) with Prof Lance Hawley. This book surveys both the classical approaches to Biblical Hebrew poetry (e.g., parallel lines) and newer approaches (e.g., lyric). The volume offers 30 close readings of selected Hebrew poems, concentrating on how the poetic form specifically structures and produces meaning in each poem.

Dr Chau is contributing to and co-editing the volume *And Behold, It Was Very Good: Perspectives on Nature and Environmental Ethics in the Hebrew Bible* (co-editors: Dr Johannes Ro and Dr Mari Joerstad). This project emerged from the 2022 and 2023 symposia at International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan) on “Perspectives on Nature and Environmental Ethics in the Old Testament”. His article in the volume is “Brotherly Nature and Nature Metaphors in Jacob’s Farewell Poem”. This project demonstrates how the world needs more than science in the hope of caring for the environment. He has submitted a final draft and is currently finalising the editing of the volume.

Dr Chau has submitted a final draft for an article surveying metaphor for a volume on cognitive linguistics entitled *Cognitive Linguistics for Biblical Studies: An Introduction* (Atlanta: SBL Press). The field of cognitive linguistics has been an important field in biblical studies. However, there has yet to be an introductory volume that is tailored to biblical studies.

Dr Chau and his PhD student, Luke Bert, are contributing an article on metaphor and metonymy for the *Oxford Handbook of Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford University Press). This handbook has contributions from major international scholars working on metaphor in the Hebrew Bible.

Prof Makutoane has a long-term project on orality and performance in African Bible translations, with ongoing projects to train Sesotho ministers and congregations in oral performance of biblical passages for scripture engagement. In 2024, he published an article on “Orality in Translating Biblical Hebrew Proverbs in Sesotho” in the Q1 journal *Religions*. He also presented a keynote lecture on “The Role of Oral Bible Translation in Language Development for Minority Communities: A Complexity Analysis.” In addition, he heads a language typology project to produce pedagogical materials for teaching Biblical Hebrew to African students without making Western languages and grammatical concepts the point of departure.

Prof Jacobus Naudé and Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé have a long-term project on religious translation. In 2024, they published an article on “Mitigating Gender-Sensitivity in English and Alterity in Biblical Hebrew: The Revised JPS Edition”, and chapters on “The Semiotics of Theology and Alterity in 21st Century Bible Re-translations: The 2020 Afrikaans *Direkte Vertaling* [Direct Translation] as a Case in Point”, “The Translators of the Septuagint and Its/Their Theology in the Meaning-making of Sacred Space” and “South Africa: History of Translation.” The project is funded from the authors’ research and NRF incentives.

In another long-term project, Prof Miller-Naudé and Prof Naudé are researching the application of linguistic theory to pre-modern Hebrew. In 2023, they published an article on “Pronominal Reference and Agreement in Vocative Expressions in Biblical Hebrew.”

Prof Miller-Naudé and Prof Naudé, together with Dr Daniel Wilson (a former PhD student and now a research fellow in the Department), are involved in a project titled ‘Negative Existential Cycle in Ancient Hebrew’. This project examines how ancient Hebrew changed over time by recognising that change occurs in cycles. One publication appeared in 2022 as a chapter in a volume published by the Language Sciences Press (Berlin). Another publication is in press with Uppsala University (Sweden). The project is funded from the authors’ research and NRF incentives.

Prof Miller-Naudé and Dr Leoma G Gilley (SIL International) are collaborating on a research project on the linguistic description of Shilluk, a Nilo-Saharan language spoken in South Sudan. This research examines the typologically unusual features of the morphology and syntax of a previously undocumented African language. They are currently working on an analysis of intransitive verbal morphology and syntax. The authors fund this project.

Prof Notarius continued to serve on the Advisory Board of the “Edition des ugaritischen poetischen Textkorpus (EUPT)” project at the Theological Faculty in Göttingen and as an international Mercator-Fellow at the same project. She is also an affiliated researcher at the Copenhagen Ugaritic Corpus at the University of Copenhagen <https://github.com/DT-UCPH/cuc>. Prof Notarius is a B2-rated researcher of the NRF of South Africa. She submitted an application to the Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR) Award of the NRF of South Africa with the project “Ancient Northwest Semitic languages as an areal development” and won the award (R70 000 per year, for three years).

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

KD Chau, “Song 7:2–6 [Eng: 1–5] as a Symphony of Poetry, Metaphor, and Passion.” *Journal for Semitics* 33 (1–2): 17 pages. <https://doi.org/10.25159/2663-6573/14905>.

TJ Makutoane, “Orality in Translating Biblical Hebrew Proverbs in Sesotho”. *Religions* (Q1) 15(2):190. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15020190>.

CL Miller-Naudé and JA Naudé. “Pronominal Reference and Agreement in Vocative Expressions in Biblical Hebrew.” *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 50(1–2): 153–169.

JA Naudé and CL Miller-Naudé. “Mitigating Gender-Sensitivity in English and Alterity in Biblical Hebrew: The Revised JPS Edition.” *Hebrew Studies* (Q4) 65: 197–223.

T Notarius. “Passive Voice in Ugaritic in Historical Perspective” (in Hebrew), *Leshonenu* 86:7–27.

T Notarius (with Y Feder), “‘Surely There Is God in This Place’: Ugaritic *ʾt* and Hebrew *ʾiššeh* Reconsidered in Light of Kirta’s Vow (KTU 1.14 IV 38),” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 86: 429–449.

Chapters in edited volumes

KD Chau, “Psalm 118: Poetry and Poetics through a Past in Science.” In *Psalm: My Psalm, My Context*. Edited by A Brenner-Idan and GA Yee, 164–68. London: T&T Clark.

TJ Makutoane, “Re-translating for the empowerment of readers: The case of the Revision of 1989 Sesotho Bible Translation”, in *[Re]Gained in Translation II: Bibles, Histories, and Struggles for Identity*, edited by S Dievenkorn and S Levin, 311–340. Berlin: Frank & Timme.

CL Miller-Naudé and JA Naudé. “The Semiotics of Theology and Alterity in Twenty-first Century Bible Re-translations: The 2020 Afrikaans *Direkte Vertaling* [Direct Translation] as a Case in Point”. In *[Re]Gained in Translation II: Bibles, Histories, and Struggles for Identity*, 97–147. Edited by Sabine Dievenkorn and Shaul Levin. Berlin: Frank & Timme.

JA Naudé and CL Miller-Naudé. “The Translators of the Septuagint and Its/Their Theology in the Meaning-making of Sacred Space”. In *Septuagint Theology and Its Reception: Stellenbosch Congress on the Septuagint, 2022*, 49–88. Edited by J Cook, W Kraus, and M Rösel. *Septuagint and Cognate Studies* 78. Atlanta: Scholars Press.

JA Naudé and CL Miller-Naudé. “South Africa: History of Translation”. In the *Encyclopedia of Translation and Interpreting*. Edited by JF Aixelá and RM Martín. Granada: Asociación Ibérica de Estudios de Traducción e Interpretación. https://www.aieti.eu/enti/south_africa_ENG/; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10950029>

Creative Outputs

TJ Makutoane. “Afrika Borwa” [Sesotho translation of JA Naudé and CL Miller-Naudé, “South Africa (History of Translation)”) in *Encyclopedia of Translation and Interpreting*. Edited by JF Aixelá and RM Martín. Granada: Asociación Ibérica de Estudios de Traducción e Interpretación. https://www.aieti.eu/enti/south_africa_SOT/

Conference Papers/Posters

KD Chau. "Primary Metaphors of Height in Biblical Hebrew Poetry". South African Society of Near Eastern Studies; UNISA (September).

KD Chau. "Primary Metaphor in Lamentations 2: Lowliness and Sorrow" in programme unit of Metaphor Theory and the Hebrew Bible, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego (November).

TJ Makutoane. "The Role of Oral Bible Translation in Language Development for Minority Communities: A Complexity Analysis." Keynote speaker invited by Wycliffe South Africa to the annual Oral Bible Translation and Transcription training workshop, 15-19 April 2024, Johannesburg.

CL Miller-Naudé and JA Naudé. "Special Grammar and the Oral-Scribal Emergence of the Alphabetic Acrostic Poems of Lamentations", invited presentation to the Fifteenth Conference on Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World, Ohio Northern University (USA), 26-30 June 2024.

JA Naudé and CL Miller-Naudé. "The Diachronic Trajectory of the Quantifier כָּל [kol] in Biblical Hebrew", invited presentation to the international Ullendorff Conference for Semitic Linguistics, Hebrew University, 10-12 January 2024. [Postponed to a later date due to the war in Gaza.]

T Notarius. "Land Property in the Aramaic Ostraca from Second-Temple Period Idumea (4th century BCE) in the Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Context", South African Society of Near Eastern Studies Virtual Seminar hosted by the Department of Hebrew, University of the Free State, February 2024.

T Notarius. "Impersonal experiential constructions in the ancient Northwest Semitic languages", DMG, Arbeitsgruppe für Semitistik Workshop, Leipzig University: April 2024.

T Notarius. "Judea and Idumea in the Late Persian Period: Populations, Identity, Religion". Southern Africa Society for Near Eastern Studies annual conference, University of South Africa, 09-13 September 2024.

T Notarius. "Impersonal experiential constructions in Biblical Hebrew in its ancient Northwest Semitic context", Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego (November).

T Notarius and TJ Makutoane. "Exploring Land Tenure Systems: A Comparative Study of Ancient Near Eastern Rural Communities and Contemporary South Africa" at the International Interdisciplinary Security of Land Tenure Conference, University of the Free State, 6-8 May 2024.

T Notarius and TJ Makutoane. "A Comparative analysis of land tenure systems: Ancient Near East Rural Communities and Contemporary South Africa". Southern Africa Society for Near Eastern Studies annual conference, University of South Africa, 09-13 September 2024.

Engaged Scholarship

Dr Kevin Chau is the secretary of the South African Society of Ancient Near Eastern Studies (SASNES). He helped organise the SASNES 2024 conference at UNISA. He also directed the planning for the SASNES virtual colloquium hosted by the Hebrew Department, which was geared to students. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal for Semitics*, the journal of the society. He serves as co-chair for the Ethnic Chinese Biblical Colloquium, an affiliate group of the Society of Biblical Literature (USA) and assisted in planning the annual meeting sessions of the group in San Diego. He also serves on two steering committees of the Society of Biblical Literature: "Biblical Hebrew Poetry" and "Cognitive Linguistics in Biblical Interpretation." He is an instructor for the Fellows Programme (The Drama of Scripture) for Upper House, a study centre associated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In October, he taught two adult education classes for his church ("How to Read Parables" and "How to Read the Gospels through the Old Testament").

Prof Tshokolo Makutoane was a member of the redactional committee of the Sesotho Bible Translation project for the Bible Society of South Africa, and a member of the curatorium for the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa. He is piloting the use of oral Bible translations for Biblical Performance Criticism within

the Sesotho community to engage Scripture through oral performance. In addition, Prof Makutoane was elected the chair of the Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies at their annual meeting held in Pretoria at Unisa from 9–13 September 2024. Prof Makutoane was the chair of the virtual seminar sponsored by the Southern African Society for Near Eastern Studies and hosted by the Hebrew Department on 22 February 2024. He also chaired the session of the colloquium on publishing in the Humanities, “What is holding me back?”, University of the Free State, 19 November 2024. He was the peer reviewer of two Q1 journal articles: “Reception of Farsi Translations of the Quran in a Multilingual Context: A Theory of Practice Perspective”, for the *International Journal for Multilingualism* and “Cooking and the Properties of Cook verbs in Nilamba (F-31)” for *Cogent Arts & Humanities* as well as a Q2 journal “Values Education through Teaching Literature: The Analysis of ‘Everyman’” for *Acta Theologica*.

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

Prof Jacobus Naudé served as co-editor of the series *Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic*, published by Pennsylvania State University Press. Prof Naudé was a member of the editorial boards of several journals – *Handbook of Translation Studies*, *The Bible Translator*, *Folia Orientalia* and *Journal of North-West Semitic Languages* – and on the Advisory Board for the *Handbook of Terminology*. In addition, he was a member of the Regional Board of the Central Region of the Bible Society of South Africa.

Prof Tania Notarius maintained active engagement in international scholarship through her roles on the Advisory Board of the “Edition des ugaritischen poetischen Textkorpus (EUPT)” project at the University of Göttingen (Germany) and as an affiliated researcher with the Copenhagen Ugaritic Corpus (Denmark). She was invited to write a peer review for *Orientalia Suecana* and other journals. She also serves as the Biblical Studies Book Review Editor for the international journal *Hebrew Studies*.

In addition, she served as a reading committee member at the Theological University of Utrecht for the PhD thesis of Samuel J. Koser, “Linguistic dating und das Jesaja-Buch. Eine Untersuchung der sprachlichen Entwicklung des Hebräischen im Jesaja-Buch sowie ihre Auswirkung auf die Datierung des Buches und auf die Verwendung des linguistic dating im Allgemeinen”. She also served as reading committee member at the Copenhagen University for the PhD thesis of Peter Brylov Christensen “The Enigmatic *Mem*: The Rise and Decline of Comparative Semitic Philology Exemplified through a Series of Case Studies into a Common Semitic Morpheme -*m*.”

National and International Collaboration

Throughout the years, the Department has had several MA and PhD students who have been affiliated with the Langham Partnership. In November 2024, Dr Lina Toth (from the UK) and Dr Siegfried Ngubane (from Cape Town) visited the Department to discuss further possible collaborations with Prof Makutoane, Prof Miller-Naudé, and Prof JA Naudé.

Prof Tania Notarius is involved in the following national and international collaborations. She serves on the Advisory Board of the “Edition des ugaritischen poetischen Textkorpus (EUPT)” project in the Theological Faculty at the University of Göttingen (Germany). She is also an affiliated researcher at the Copenhagen Ugaritic Corpus at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark).

Postgraduate Students

In 2024, there were five BA Honours Hebrew students, nine MA Hebrew (research) students, nine PhD Hebrew students, two MA Bible Translation (structured) students, one MA Bible Translation student and nine PhD Bible Translation students.

The following students achieved milestones in 2024:

Jasper, Kizito. “Primary Metaphors in the Song of Songs.” BA Honours Research Project. Dr KD Chau (supervisor). [distinction]

Makhapela, Rorisang. “A Comparative Analysis of the Depiction of Creation in Hebrew Psalm 8 and Its Translation in Targum Psalm 8.” BA Honours Research project. Prof CL Miller-Naudé, Prof JA Naudé, and Prof TJ Makutoane (joint supervisors). [distinction]

Motswetsa, John. “Orality and Performance in Bible Translation in Post-Colonial South Africa: A Call to Worship in Revelation 5.” MA Bible Translation mini-dissertation. Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé (joint supervisors). [distinction and Dean’s Medal in Theology]

Nortier, Mias. “Representations of trauma in the poetic parallelism of the Book of Job: A complexity theoretical approach.” MA Hebrew research dissertation. Prof JA Naudé and Prof CL Miller-Naudé (joint supervisors).

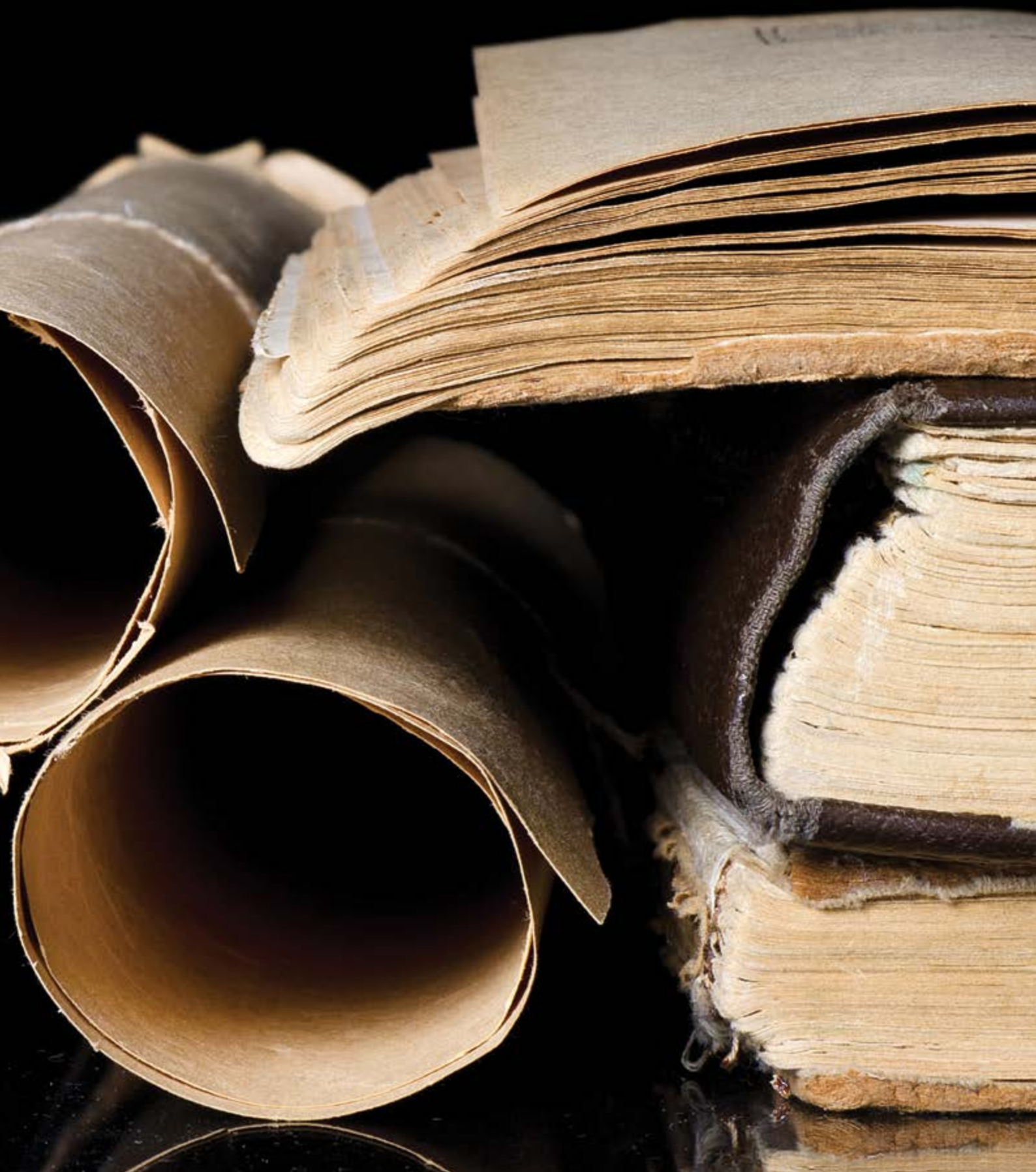
Rampanjato, Fianarana. “Syntactic Features and Semantic Functions of the Infinitive Construct in Qumran Hebrew.” MA Hebrew research dissertation. Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Prof JA Naudé (joint supervisors). [distinction]

Mohokare, Sesheme. “Translating animal names in the Sesotho Bible: A complexity analysis.” Prof TJ Makutoane (supervisor) and Prof JA Naudé (co-supervisor).

Nyirenda, Gift. “Intersemiotic Bible Translation for an Orally Dominant Culture: The Case of Lamentations into Nsenga.” PhD Bible Translation. Prof CL Miller-Naudé and Prof JA Naudé (joint supervisors).

Other Activities

Prof TJ Makutoane was asked to endorse the following book: *God Saw That It Was Good, Not Perfect. A Canonical-Dialogic Reading of Genesis 1-3*, by Hulisani Ramantswana, published by Langham Academic in 2024.



Staff (2024)

Prof TJ Makutoane Academic Head of Department

Academic Staff: Permanent

Prof TJ Makutoane Associate Professor
Dr KD Chau Senior Lecturer
Prof T Notarius Associate Professor

Academic Staff: Contract

Dr D Gya Senior Lecturer (units)
Dr A Karimov Senior Lecturer (units)
Rev R Janse van Rensburg Junior Lecturer (units)
R Kellner Lecturer (units)
Rev M Mahlangu Junior Lecturer (units)
Prof CL Miller-Naudé Emeritus / Senior Professor
Prof JA Naudé Emeritus / Senior Professor
Rev M Nortier Junior Lecturer (units)
I Saul Lecturer (units)
A Wiese Junior Lecturer (units)

Support Staff

R Zaal Administrative Officer

Affiliated Staff

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

History

Academic Head of Department
Dr Clement Masakure

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Overview of 2024

An intellectually diverse Department, the Department of History in Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa continued with the standards set in previous years. This was demonstrated through new NRF ratings, teaching and research awards, and other academic recognitions. The highlight in teaching this year was the introduction of new modules at the first-year level, kick-starting the curriculum renewal process for the entire undergraduate programme. The quality of accredited research is reflected in the outputs produced in 2024, with 16 outputs, including journal articles, books and book chapters, published locally and internationally.

Achievements

Saleem Badat was awarded the Academy of Science of South Africa Science-for-Society Gold Medal Award for 'the outstanding application of scientific or scholarly thinking in the service of society'.

Clement Masakure received an NRF C2 rating in February 2024. He was also appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Historia*, the journal of the Historical Association of South Africa. In addition, he was elected to be a member of the Pan African Scientific Committee of the Encyclopaedia Africana Flagship Project of the African Union.

Jared McDonald received second place for his monograph, *Khoesan and Imperial Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century South Africa*, at the Exceptional Academic Achievers Awards: UFS Book Prize.

Victor Gwande was invited to be a founding board member for the Southern African Economic History Network.

Neo Lekgotla laga Ramoupi was awarded the UFS Humanities Excellence Award: Curriculum Development, Transformation, and Renewal.

André Wessels received an honorary award from a Bloemfontein cultural society.

Student Achievements



*T Lephoto who completed her
MA with distinction*



*Kyle Wakeford, won best 3rd Year
History Student for 2024*

Tokoloho Hope Lephoto was conferred the MA degree with distinction.

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

Bongumenzi Thwala, tutor for undergraduate third-year modules, won two prizes at the Annual A-Step Awards: Best Tutor in the Humanities and Second-Best Tutor in the UFS A-Step Programme.

The following were the best-performing students in 2024:

- Second-year Level: Nompilo Mcunu
- Third-year Level: Kyle Wakeford
- Honours Level: Xolile Mdakane



*2024 Humanities Prize Giving Award Winners:
To the left Nompilo Mcunu and to the right Xolile Mdakane*



Department Indaba was held in Clarens

Teaching

In 2024, the Department of History rolled out the first of its new undergraduate modules, namely HIST 1534 (A Brief History of the Whole World) and HIST 1644 (Histories, Historians and History-makers). HIST 1534 is an international history module that gives students a brief overview of the major themes, processes, and events in the development of our global human society. It aims to create informed and responsible global citizens. HIST 1644 introduces students to history as an academic discipline, highlighting the dynamic and contested nature of history as a discipline and exploring different interpretations of the past. It also emphasises students' development of discipline-specific understanding and skills. The lecturers responsible for the rearticulation of the modules mentioned above were Dr Wouter de Wet, Dr Victor Gwande, Dr Lazlo Passemiers and Dr Rebecca Swartz.

Some members of the Department were appointed external examiners:

- Dr Marietjie Oelofse: Two Honours research reports, a MA mini-dissertation, two PhD theses at the University of Pretoria and one MA dissertation, North-West University
- Dr Victor Gwande: One MA dissertation for the University of Johannesburg's History Department and for the University of Pretoria's History Honours modules
- Dr Rebecca Swartz: MA mini-dissertation at Wits University
- Dr Clement Masakure: Senior undergraduates at Walter Sisulu University, one MA dissertation and one PhD Thesis for the University of Pretoria

Research Projects

Prof Saleem is leading the research project on the Histories of Universities in South Africa (RPHUSA), for which a grant of R 1.2 million has been raised.

Prof Saleem Badat and **Prof Goolam Vahed** (UKZN) worked on an edited collection on the University of Durban-Westville.

Prof Saleem Badat and **Prof Vasu Reddy** worked on an edited collection on Research and Activism.

Dr Lazlo Passemiers' Research project 'Namibia's Forgotten Vote in South Africa's 1960 Republican Referendum', received R44,000 from the Faculty of Humanities Research Committee.

Prof Neo Ramoupi was the Principal Investigator (PI) of IZOKO-UFS Heritage Research Project (IZIKO Museums of South Africa), October 2024 to February 2025, R500,000.00.

Dr Rebecca Swartz was awarded the Royal Historical Society UK Open Research Grant amounting to £1,000 for her research on her forthcoming book.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

- Aerni-Flessner, J. & Twala C.** 2024. Lesotho and the Qwaqwa Ski Resort, 1975–82: Border Disputes and South Africa's Increasingly Deadly Responses. *The Journal of African History*. 65(2):207–222.
- Awasom, N.** 2024. Towards the decolonisation of the archives and writing African history: Preliminary issues. *Journal of African Humanities Research and Development (JAHRD)* 1:1–21.
- Badat, S.** 2024. The university in contemporary South Africa: Commodification, corporatisation, complicity, and crisis. *Journal of Education* 96: doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/2520-9868/i96a01>
- De Wet, W.** 2024. South Africa's journey to full status on the International Rugby Football Board, 1906–1958. *New Contree* 91: a253. <https://doi.org/10.4102/nc.v91.253>
- Du Bruyn, D.** 2024. Memories and testimonies of passbooks, permits and platkeps in apartheid-era Batho, Mangaung. *New Contree* 91: a254. <https://doi.org/10.4102/nc.v91.254>
- Gwande, V.** 2024. 'Autonomy for our economy': A Review of the Responsible Government Status and Economic Interest Groups in Southern Rhodesia, 1922 and beyond. *South African Historical Journal* 75 (4):485–504.
- Chambwe T. V & **Gwande, V.** 2024. African Entrepreneurship in Urban Colonial Zimbabwe: The case of Highfield, 1953–1965. *Zeitschrift für Unternehmensgeschichte. Journal of Business History*. 69 (2): 337–360.
- Makombe, E.** 2024. The State, Climate Change and Energy Transition in Zimbabwe, 1992–2022, *Global Environment* 17: 546–578.
- Makombe, E. & Masakure, C.** 2024. The colonial state, land-use policy and local responses in Seke Reserve, Rhodesia: 1935 to 1958. *New Contree*, 91: a249. <https://doi.org/10.4102/nc.v91i0.249>
- McDonald, J.** 2024. 'Was not John the Baptist a Bushman?' John Philip, the Cape San, and Constructions of Imperial Citizenship. *Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa* 78: 17–32.
- Venter, L. Oelofse, M & Van Zyl, J.** 2024. The composition of the Imperial British Forces in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899–1902: A Military and Socio-Historical Overview. *Scientia Militaria* 52(2): 53–69.
- Passemiers, L.** 2024. 'Primarily, I want to be an instrument of change': Nana Mahomo's Contribution to the Anti-Apartheid Struggle. *Historia* 69 (2): 65–98.

Chapters in edited volumes

- Passemiers, L.** 2024. "'Our Country or Death': Reconstructing the Mozambique Revolutionary Committee's (Coremo) political ideology through its public discourse". In Lopes, Rui, and Natalia Telepneva, eds. *Globalizing Independence Struggles of Lusophone Africa: Anticolonial and Postcolonial Politics*, 41–62. London: Zed Books, 2024.

Books

- Blake, A.** 2024. Jopie Fourie: *'n Besinning*. Pretoria: Protea Boekhuis.
- Clark, N.L., & Worger, W.H.** 2024. *Voices of Sharpeville: The Long History of Racial Injustice* (1st ed.) New York: Routledge.
- Conz, C. R.** 2024. *Environment, Knowledge, and Injustice in Lesotho: The Poverty of Progress*. London: James Currey.

Conference Papers/Posters

- Badat, S.** Notes on reparative justice as decoloniality: Historical context and contestations. Faculty of Law, Department of Public Law and UFS Africa Reparations, 15 February 2024
- Badat, S.** The University in Contemporary South Africa: Commodification, Corporatisation, Complicity and Crisis, The Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies Public Lecture, University of Johannesburg, 20 March 2024
- Badat, S.** Transformation and 'Accountability Matters', Stellenbosch University Transformation Indaba, 23 October 2024
- Badat, S.** Tennis, Apartheid and Social Justice. Michigan State University Graduate Seminar, Sport & Society in African History, 12 February 2024
- Badat, S.** Experiences from the Frontline – Leading with Integrity, University of Johannesburg Future Professor's Programme, Sandton, 24 May 2024

Badat, S. Comments at the book launch of Uma Dhupelia-Mesthrie's *Gandhi's African Legacy: Phoenix Settlement 1904 to 2024. A History Through Letters*. Phoenix Settlement, 5 October 2024

Badat, S. Reparative Justice and Social Justice Scholarship, Centre for the Study of the Afterlife of Violence and the Reparative Quest, Stellenbosch University, 22 October 2024

Badat, S. Navigating the contemporary university terrain and landscape and the KwaZulu-Natal political economy, UKZN ECS 2024 Retreat, Champagne Castle Resort, Drakensberg, 3 December 2024

De Wet, W. 2024. Snapshots into the History of Golf in the Eastern Free State Province, South Africa. Poster presentation. Heritage Association of South Africa (HASA) Conference, Clarens. 22-24 October 2024

Gwande, V. 2024. "Rational disputation"? Douglas Mwonzora, Politics, and the Spectre of Constitutionalism in Zimbabwe's Democratisation Struggle, c. 1988 to the present', paper presented at the Southern African Historical Society's Biennial Conference, University of Johannesburg, 26-28 June 2024

Masakure, C. 2024. Dr. Andrew Milroy Fleming and the Establishment of Biomedical Services in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1897-1931. Race, Empire and the Edinburgh Medical School Conference, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, 18-19 April 2024

Masakure, C. 2024. From a private to a state institution: Towards a history of Lady Chancellor Maternity Home. Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), Biennial Conference, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-28 June 2024

Oelofse, M. 2024. Remembering and sharing: Healing and Reconciliation from the past?. Paper presented at the Engagement Session on "Exploring the Interplay of Theology and Humanities in Shaping a 30-Year Democracy in South Africa: Towards a Just and Inclusive Society", Bloemfontein, 20 March 2024

Passemiers, L. 2024. Writing a Transnational Biography of Manelisi Ndibongo's Role in Southern Africa's Liberation Struggle. Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), Biennial Conference, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-28 June 2024

Ramoupi, N.L.L. 2024. Teaching of (South) African History in the Post-1994 South African Dispensation: Decolonisation and Africanisation of the Curricula in the African University. What Lessons Can South Africa Learn from Universities in the USA and Caribbean Islands? Department of History, Howard University, Washington D.C., 22 April 2024

Ramoupi, N.L.L. 2024. Teaching History in Challenging Contexts: Decolonisation, Africanisation and Africanised History Education and Research. Keynote speech presented at the 38th South African Society for History Teaching (SASHT) Conference, University of the Free State, South Campus, 25-26 October 2024

Ramoupi, N.L.L. 2024. 'What Is Your Heritage?': A Heritage Day Festival. Faculty of the Humanities of the UFS in collaboration with the Ikgomotseng Community in Soutpan, Bloemfontein. The 88th South African Museums Association's Conference, Bloemfontein, 3-5 September 2024

Swartz, R. Children, agency and freedom in the Cape colony, 1820-1850. Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), Biennial Conference, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-28 June 2024

Wessels, A. Presented the annual Ken Gillings Memorial Lecture in Durban at a joint meeting of the South African Military History Society and the South African National Society.

Engaged Scholarship

Several members of the Department were involved in various forms of community engagement and public scholarship in 2024.

Professor Saleem Badat wrote several opinion pieces for newspapers:

- Hamba kahle, Dr Zuleikha Mayat. Sunday Tribune, 4 February 2024.
- Zuleikha Mayat: South African author and activist who led a life of courage, compassion and integrity. The Conversation, 6 February 2024.
- Tennis SA silent on apartheid exclusion. Herald, 16 July 2024.
- Politics, KZN and the NIC at 130. Post, 2 October 2024.
- The enduring impact of Phoenix Settlement: Gandhi and beyond. Post, 16 October 2024.
- Awesome Asherville author. Saturday Independent, 19 October 2024.

- Desmond Thompson's 'Why I gave prize money to Palestinian cause' – Saleem Badat. University World News, 29 October 2024; interview on winning the ASSAF Gold Medal.
- A return love letter to Asherville's Shubnum Khan. Post, 11 December 2024.

Dr Wouter de Wet acted as a reviewer for the journals *Historia*, *Social Dynamics*, and *New Contree*.

Dr Victor Gwande reviewed academic papers for the *Journal of African and Asian Studies*, *Southern African Historical Journal* and *Africa*, and he continued as a paralegal advisor to the National Union of Transport Workers of Zimbabwe.

Dr Clement Masakure became a member of the Pan African Scientific Committee of the Encyclopaedia Africana Flagship Project of the African Union. He also continued with editorial work as Editor-in-Chief, *Historia*, the *Journal of the Historical Association of South Africa*, continued to serve on the Executive Committee of the Historical Association of South Africa, reviewed rating applications for the NRF, and gave a talk entitled 'The Death of African Culture with Dr Clement Masakure', for The Social Justice Lab. The talk is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPn3H9E4stE&t=539s>

Dr Jared McDonald edited a special issue of 'SOTL in the South on Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Futures'. The special issue arose from the conference held in September 2024. He continued to serve on the editorial board of the *Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa*, and in November 2023, he gave a talk titled 'San Child Confiscations and Cultural Erasure with Dr Jared McDonald | Khoi Khoi History, Cape Colony', for The Social Justice Lab. The talk is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1GwjF6B8GQ>

Dr Marietjie Oelofse reviewed academic articles for Indago and twice for the *South African Journal of Cultural History*.

Dr Lazlo Passemiers continued to help the Ndibongo family by gathering historical material about Manelisi Ndibongo's contribution to the liberation struggle. He wrote a book review for *Safundi*, acted as a reviewer for *Historia* and the *South African Historical Journal*, and continued as an associate editor for the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*.

Prof Neo Ramoupi was a respondent to the Keynote Address by Mofumahali Malerotholi Mathealira Seeso: Mother of the Chieftainess of Mokholong District, held at the University of the Free State, 1-2 August 2024. He was a lead facilitator (with the University of the Free State team of Thabang Khanye, archivist at the UFS Archives and Maneo Ralebitso, PhD Student) of a two-day Pre-Conference Oral History Training Workshop that provided training on collection and preservation of oral history, hosted by the National University of Lesotho and the University of the Free State, at Thaba-Bosiu Cultural Village in Lesotho from 20-24 August 2024.

Dr Rebecca Swartz acted as a peer mentor for the British Academy-funded International Writing Workshop under the theme 'Dismantling epistemic and systemic challenges to writing and publishing for early career scholars in Southern Africa', assisting two early career scholars in preparing papers for publication. She reviewed a book manuscript for the University of Pennsylvania Press, and conducted peer reviews of journal articles for *History of Education*, *Safundi*, *South African Historical Journal* and the *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*. She continued to serve as book reviews editor for *History of Education* and as an editor of *Historia*. She continued her role as a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the History of Childhood and Youth. She was an abstract reviewer for the European Association of Educational Researchers Conference.

Prof André Wessels continued to serve as a member of the National Women's Monument Commission. He also presented four other lectures at meetings of other history and cultural societies, and on fifteen (15) occasions took part in radio interviews, including one for an overseas radio station.

National and International Collaboration

Prof Saleem Badat served on the Board of the International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs (ICCTP) based at the University of California, Berkeley. He also served on the Advisory Board of the SARCHI Chair in Teaching and Learning at the University of Johannesburg. He presented on 'Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Building Supportive Postgraduate Environments in which Students can Thrive', The South African Research Chair (SARCHI) Teaching and Learning (PSET), University of Johannesburg.

In October 2024, **Prof Christopher Conz** joined the Department as Visiting Associate Professor. A Fulbright Fellow, Prof Conz is an Assistant Professor of History at the College of the Holy Cross, United States of America.

Dr Victor Gwande, together with colleagues, Dr Ushehweu Kufakurinani from Sussex University and Dr Godfrey Hove, from the National University of Lesotho, organised a British Academy International Writing Workshop Grant under the theme 'Dismantling epistemic and systemic challenges to writing and publishing for early career scholars in Southern Africa'.

Prof Jared McDonald, **Dr Rebecca Swartz** and **Prof Sarah Emily Duff** (Colby College, USA) co-hosted a workshop at UFS on the theme of 'Histories of childhood and youth in southern Africa: From the precolonial to the present'. Papers from this workshop are being collected to form an edited book collection. The workshop welcomed local and international scholars from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana, the UK, Canada, the USA and Germany to the UFS Bloemfontein Campus for a two-day meeting in July 2024. The workshop was generously funded by the DRD and SHCY, and was opened by Prof Vasu Reddy.



Histories of Childhood and Youth in Southern Africa Workshop

During 2024, collaboration on different levels between the Department of History and the Archives for Contemporary Affairs and the Provincial Archives continued in terms of postgraduate student visits.

Postgraduate Students

In 2024, 29 postgraduate students were registered in the Department of History.



2024 Honours Class Graduates

Nine students completed their Honours degree:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ K. Dyan | ▪ Y. Makhaweni | ▪ B.S. Thwala |
| ▪ E.M. Maesela | ▪ X.P. Mdakane | ▪ T.Tsotetsi |
| ▪ M.N. Mahlangu | ▪ K. Nkosi (Qwaqwa) | ▪ B.N.D. Van Rooyen |

Two students completed their MA degrees: Juliet Mdlalana and Tokoloho Lephoto (*cum laude*). Juliet Mdlalana was supervised by Dr Marietje Oelofse; her dissertation title was 'Colonialism, justice, and the case for climate reparations in Africa: An historical perspective'. Tokoloho Lephoto was supervised by Dr L. Passemiers & Prof C. Twala; her dissertation title was 'A history of using literary and performance art to depict Black urban life in apartheid Johannesburg: 1948–1994'.

Two students, Elisha Lefuo and Baldwin Hove, completed their PhD studies. Prof Twala supervised Elisha Lefuo; thesis title: 'The Azanian People's Organisation: An anti-apartheid struggle, Bloemfontein, 1978–1994'. Baldwin Hove was supervised by Prof B. Dube and Dr T. Moloi; his thesis title was 'The role of students in the liberation struggle of Zimbabwe: A case of Christian missionary secondary boarding school students in South West Zimbabwe, c.1966 – 1979'.

Other Activities

In 2024, the Department organised six seminar presentations by academics based in South Africa, the United States, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. They presented innovative research on a variety of contemporary African History topics.

Dr Clement Masakure presented a paper on the 1972 Hwange Colliery Disaster at the Stanley Trapido Seminar hosted by the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State.

Dr Lazlo Passemiers presented on the anti-apartheid activist, Manelisi Ndibongo, at the Stanley Trapido Seminar hosted by the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State.

In partnership with the UFS' Archives for Contemporary Affairs, the Department of History organised the book launch of Barry Gilder's novel, *At Fire Hour*.

During Heritage Month, the Department of History, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work, the Institute for Social Justice and the UFS Library, facilitated the book launch of Nthebe Molope's historical work on the legacy of King Mzilikazi, titled *King Mzilikazi KamaShobane*.



Colloquium on publishing in the Humanities: “Publishing Journeys – Pitfalls and Achievements”, organised by the Faculty of the humanities



Book Launch of Dr J McDonald and Dr V Gwande held on the Qwaqwa Campus.



Book launch of Thebe Molope’s historical work on the legacy of King Mzilikazi, titled: King Mzilikazi KamaShobane.



In partnership with the UFS’ Archives for Contemporary Affairs, the Department of History organised the book launch of Barry Gilder’s novel, At Fire Hour.

Staff (2024)

Dr C Masakure

Academic Head of Department

Dr W de Wet

Subject Head (Qwaqwa)

Academic Staff

Prof S Badat	Senior Research Professor
Dr W de Wet	Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa)
Dr V Gwande	Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa)
Dr J McDonald	Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa)
P Nkosi	Lecturer (Qwaqwa)
Dr M Oelofse	Senior Lecturer
Dr L Passemiers	Senior Lecturer
Prof N Ramoupi	Associate Professor
Dr R Swartz	Senior Lecturer
L Bloch	Researcher (Universities Project)

Support Staff

N Masalla	Senior Assistant Officer
T Lepphoto	Academic Facilitator
Z Dobo	Senior Assistant Officer (September- December 2024)

Affiliated Staff

Dr JC Aerni-Flessner	Research Fellow	Dr B Kusena	Research Fellow
Prof NF Awasom	Research Fellow	Dr EK Makombe	Research Fellow
AB Blake	Research Fellow	Dr PP Molosiwa	Research Fellow
Dr L Bolliger	Research Fellow	Prof NR Ndille	Research Fellow
Dr SM Botes	Research Fellow	Dr A Pinwinkler	Research Fellow
GCJ Coetzee	Research Fellow	Prof AWG Raath	Research Fellow
Dr CR Konz	Research Fellow	Dr H Snyders	Research Fellow
Dr JH de Bruin	Research Fellow	Prof CM Twala	Research Fellow
Dr HJ du Bruyn	Research Fellow	Dr JJR Van Zyl	Research Fellow
Dr L Efron	Research Fellow	L Venter	Research Fellow
Dr VR Heunis	Research Fellow	Prof A Wessels	Research Fellow
Dr GF Houston	Research Fellow		

International Studies Group

Academic Head of Department
Prof Ian Phimister

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Overview of 2024

Overview of 2024 from Acting HOD Dr Clement Masakure

In 2024, the International Studies Group remained a centre of excellence in research and publication as postdoctoral fellows and PhD students continued making strides internationally. This is evidenced by numerous secured fellowships and grants, consistent engagement with international seminars and conferences, and appointments to editorial roles. In alignment with the University of the Free State Vision 130, particularly cultivating a research-centric environment, the ISG hosted two workshops that attracted local and regional early-career scholars. A total of two books, 19 journal articles, and four chapters in edited collections were published.

Achievements

Tari Gwena was promoted from Assistant Officer to Senior Assistant Officer.

Student Achievements

Belinda Makare

- Certificate of Competence in Postgraduate Language Development Programme held by Centre for Graduate Support (March 2024).
- Award: Young Scholars Initiative USD950 Travel Support 2024

- Award: Transport to attend the Young Scholars Initiative Africa Pre-Conference at the 17th Annual Meeting of the AEHN in Rome, Italy, 25 September 2024

Geraldine Sibanda

- Award: Young Scholars Initiative USD950 Travel Support 2024
- Award: Transport to attend the Young Scholars Initiative Africa Pre-Conference at the 17th Annual Meeting of the AEHN in Rome, Italy, 25 September 2024.

Nyasha Bushu

- Research Fellowship: The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa (Next Gen) Programme of the Social Science Research Council, 2024-2025

Geraldine Sibanda

- Secured YSI Funding for a workshop at the University of Nairobi, Law School (US\$11,000) for a workshop themed **“Economic Thinking and Economic Development in Africa – Past, Present and Prospects for the Future”**, 5-6 September 2024, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Secured YSI funding for the **second ISG Bootcamp**, whose theme was **People Pandemics and Economic Margins**, held at the University of the Free State, 23-25 October 2024.

George Bishi

- Fellow in the Summer Program in Social Science (SPSS) at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, USA, 8-17 October 2024.

Unaludo Sechele

- Appointed to the Botswana Notes and Records International Advisory Board in January 2024. BNR is a journal housed at the University of Botswana. It is published by the Botswana Society and publishes Botswana-related topics.

Chama Kaluba

- Became a Young Scholars Initiative organiser in February 2024. Successfully presented a workshop proposal funded by YSI (\$5,000).
- Organising a workshop on Commodities in Southern African History with Dr Sibanengi Ncube, 4-5 September 2024. Funded by International Studies Group (ISG) and Young Scholars Initiative (YSI).



Picture: YSI Workshop group photo

Teaching

Belinda Makare: Certificate of Competence in Postgraduate Language Development Programme held by the Centre for Graduate Support (March 2024).

Geraldine Sibanda: Awarded First Prize for Newcomer of the Year at the University of the Free State's Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Unaludo Sechele: Facilitator of the year at the Centre for Teaching and Learning, second place for teaching Academic Literacy for Humanities.

Research Projects



Dr Geraldine Sibanda

Dr Geraldine Sibanda: Postdoctoral fellow with the International Studies Group. She is also a Research Associate with the Twentieth Century International Economic Thinking and the Complex History of Globalisation (ECOINT) based at the European University Institute. Sibanda is also a review editor with the H-Diplo journal, an international journal specialising in diplomatic and global histories. She is working on various projects. Among them are the role of international organisations and international economic thinkers in spreading economic ideas in Africa in the 20th century, global solidarity and financing decolonisation in Southern Africa and monetary institutions in Africa. The projects will culminate in profiles of international thinkers and working papers, a monograph, journal articles, and book chapters.



Dr Innocent Dande

Dr Innocent Dande (Southern African socio-cultural history): Innocent Dande's research focuses on the 19th and 20th centuries in Southern Africa. It comprises three projects. The first examines African human-dog relations in southern Africa to cross-pollinate peasant dog-rearing and working-class dog-rearing practices with those of the ruling and middle classes in global Western cities. The second focuses on the food-budgeting, cooking and eating practices of the lower classes to put the food aesthetics and choices of the poor and lower classes into the global food historiography. The last project examines the sanitation history of the city of Harare by analysing the infrastructural, technological and environmental dimensions of the city's sewerage reticulation systems.



Dr Michael Glover

Dr Michael Glover (Animal History, Southern African History, Cattle History). Michael Glover (PhD) is an animal historian. His research interests include cattle history, southern African history, colonial history, animal sentience, and experiential histories. With Dr Les Mitchell, Michael co-edited an anthology called *Animals as Experiencing Entities: Theories and Historical Narratives* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024). He has published on cattle history, economic history, animal ethics, and Activity Theory. His book *Cattle's Experiences of Colonialism: An Animal History of Southern Africa* (Brill) is currently in press and expected to be in print in October 2025. Michael is a lifetime [Associate Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics](#) and a member of the [Australasian Animal Studies Association](#). Michael is currently working on a cattle-centred history of southern Africa from the mid-twentieth century to the present.



Dr Chama Kaluba

Dr Chama Kaluba: Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the International Studies Group (ISG), University of the Free State in South Africa. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts with Education and a Master of Arts in History from the University of Zambia in 2011 and 2017, respectively. In 2021, he obtained a PhD in African History from the University of Pavia. His research interests include African social and economic history, focusing on agricultural, environmental and food histories. He has a book chapter published in a book on *History Education in Africa* by Palgrave Macmillan. He has also published peer-reviewed articles in local and international journals, including *African Economic History Journal* (AEH), *Africa Rivista*, *Zambia Social Science Journal*, and has a forthcoming article in *Food and History Journal*. He is a member of and organiser at the Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) Africa Group. He is also a member of the International Oral History Association (IOHA)-Africa chapter. He has presented papers at local and international conferences, including the Stanley Trapido seminar, the African Economic History Network Annual Meeting, and the Southern African History Society Conferences. He has experience in successfully co-organising a fully funded workshop. He is an alumnus of the British Academy-funded writing workshop held at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein.

His current project, focusing on the history of Cassava in Zambia from the pre-colonial times to the present, extends the results of his doctoral thesis by touching on the role of Cassava in Zambia's political economy beyond the 1990s. He is currently working on a monograph that deals with the history of Cassava in Zambia, from pre-colonial times to the present (under contract with Brill).



Dr Peter Uledi

Dr Peter Uledi: PhD obtained from Stellenbosch University. Currently, he is a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State, working on a project titled **"Plunder for Profit?" Zimbabwe's Look East Policy and Environmental degradation, 2000 to present**. His research interests span environmental, social, and economic history, peasant studies, agriculture, and rural development. His PhD project focused on environmental policing in the tribal trust lands and African peasant responses in Zimbabwe, c.1960–2005. His recent publication is a paper submitted to the *South African Historical Journal* titled, *Financial Mobilisation for Economic Survival: The Rhodesian Insurance Industry during UDI 1965–1979*. Currently, he is working on publishing three papers, all submitted for review. The first is a single-authored paper titled "Until we find ways to give more land to the peasants, we are sitting on a time bomb": *Land Reform, Peasant Livelihoods and the Environment, c.1992 to 2005*, submitted to *African Historical Review*. The second one is a co-authored paper with Prof Sandra Swart submitted to the *Journal of Southern African Studies* titled, "To the people ... independence means that they can plough everywhere": *Environmental Policy, Land Redistribution and State-Peasant Relations in Zimbabwe, c.1980 to 1992*. The last one is a co-authored paper with Nyasha Bushu submitted to the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*, titled "Ambivalent realities; Economic prospects and slum conditions: The case of Mbare Matapi Flats in Harare, Zimbabwe, 1980–2020".



Dr George Bishi

Dr George Bishi: Research Fellow in the International Studies Group (ISG) at the University of the Free State, South Africa. His research focuses on the social,



Dr Mutale Mazimba

cultural and political history of Zimbabwe. He has published several articles in peer-reviewed regional and international journals covering several aspects of colonial and post-colonial Zimbabwean history.

Dr Mutale Tinamou Mazimba (Postdoctoral Fellow): She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Zambia (2013), a Master of Arts in History from the Zambian Open University (2018), and a PhD in History from the University of Zambia (2024). Her research interests encompass war and society, particularly indigenous Africans' contributions to the First World War. Generally, she is interested in topics that combine the social, political and economic lenses in understanding the history of Southern Africa. Mutale also has an interest in gender history. She is working on a monograph on Zambians in the First World War, which will be published by Ohio University Press. After being awarded the JSAS Colin Murray Prize in October 2024, she researches changing norms among Zambian women in low-income households.



Dr Saima Ndahangwapo

Dr Saima Ndahangwapo: Postdoctoral Fellow with the International Studies Group at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa and affiliated to the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Namibia. She teaches history modules on the German and South African colonial periods and the process of decolonisation in Namibia. Her research interests include diplomatic, mining and labour histories in southern Africa.

Dr Chibamba
Jennifer Chansa

Dr Chibamba Jennifer Chansa (PhD in African Studies): She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of the Free State in South Africa. She also holds a BA in History and Library and Information Studies from the University of Zambia, and an MA in African Studies from the University of Basel in Switzerland. Jennifer's research interests include environmental, mining, and labour history, as well as African anthropology. Her PhD research focused on environmental pollution, management and regulation within Zambia's 'old' (Copperbelt) and 'new' (North-Western) Copperbelt mining regions.



Dr Sibanengi Ncube

Dr. Sibanengi Ncube: Senior Lecturer (History) at Walter Sisulu, Eastern Cape, South Africa. A recipient of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship (2023-2024), the American Council of Learned Societies' African Humanities Program Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (2020-2021) and University of the Free State Postdoctoral Fellowship (2019-2024), Sibanengi has published articles in key international and regional peer-reviewed journals. His book, *Politics, Profits and Protection: Zimbabwe's Tobacco Industry since 1947*, has received favourable reviews from peers. He also sits on the Editorial Board of the *African Economic History Journal*. Sibanengi holds a PhD from the University of the Free State, South Africa, an MA and BA Hons degrees in African Economic History and Economic History, respectively, from the University of Zimbabwe.



Dr Unaludo Sechele

Dr Unaludo Sechele (Postdoctoral Research Fellow): Her research focuses on the changing dynamics of the family structure in Botswana influenced by long-term labour migration. Dr Sechele assesses how the prolonged absence of husbands due to labour migration and their subsequent return affects the family structure and responsibilities within the family unit. The research investigates how the women's (wives') decision-making and power dynamics are affected by the permanent return of their husbands.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

- Stevenson, A., & Baker, S.** 2024. What do we know about YouTube content and academic writing? A multimodal analysis. *Learning, Media and Technology*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439884.2024.2358245>
- Evans, A.** 2024. Job 7:20: A Burden to God or to Himself? William Blake's Monistic Exegesis of Job's Nightmares as a Resolution of Theodicy, *Journal for Semitics* 33 (1–2):16 <https://doi.org/10.25159/2663-6573/17328>
- Daimon, A.** 2024. Prominent Malawian Machona Progenies in Zimbabwe. *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*, 49(1), 3–22. <https://doi.org/10.38140/sjch.v49i1.8020>
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- Nkhoma, B.** 2023. No Maize, No Life: Conservation, Maize Production, and African Responses in Colonial Southern Malawi, 1920–1960. *African Historical Review*, 54(1): 61–84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17532523.2023.2219147>
- Koke, H.E., & Ncube, S.** 2024. The Political Economy of Farmland Taxation in Colonial and Postcolonial Zimbabwe, 1914–32 and 1980–c. 2018. *African Historical Review*, 54(2): 37–63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17532523.2024.2322872>
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- Money, D., & Simabwachi, M.** 2024. Archive history in Zambia as a history of loss. *Social Dynamics*, 50(1): 87–91. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02533952.2024.2320572>
- Phiri, A., & Dande, I.** 2024. Surviving on the margins: The Tjwa (San) food economies, politics and the environment in Zimbabwe. *Liverpool University Press*, 7 (3–4) <https://doi.org/10.3828/hgr.2021.3>
- Evans, L.** 2024. Violence in the South African Transition. *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of African History* <https://oxfordre.com/africanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277734-e-1104>.
- Evans, L.** 2024. The Bhisho March and Massacre of September 1992: The 'Leipzig Option' and the Meanings of Mass Action in the South African Transition. *South African Historical Journal* 75 (3): 287–324 <https://doi.org/10.1080/02582473.2024.2399631>
- Evans, L.** 2024. The Mass Action Campaign of 1992: The Ciskei Crisis and the African National Congress in Transition. *South African Historical Journal*, 75(3): 259–286. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02582473.2024.2399633>
- Graham, M.** 2024. 'Anti-apartheid with a Welsh flavour': National cultures, organisational autonomy, and the Welsh anti-apartheid movement. *Contemporary British History*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13619462.2024.2440049>
- Graham, M., & Fevre, C.** 2024. Anti-apartheid at the periphery: A case study of grassroots activism in Dundee, 1967–1990. *Modern British History*, 36 (1) hwae064, <https://doi.org/10.1093/tcbh/hwae064>
- Graham, M., & Fevre, C.** 2024. International Solidarity at the Grassroots: A Case Study of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 50(1):133–151. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2024.2370654>

Walton, S. J. 2024. Soldier Sojourners and Cityscapes: Anzac Impressions of the Port Cities of Durban, Cape Town, and Freetown During the First World War and the Significance of the Built Environment. *Britain and the World*, 17 (1): 1–22 <https://www.eupublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/brw.2024.0410?widget=aboutthisjournal>

Walton, S. J. 2024. 'Botha Cake' and 'Belgian Onion Soup': Gendered Patriotism Through Three South African First World War Community Cookbooks. *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 52(3): 441–463. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03086534.2024.2344367>

Chapters in edited volumes

Stevenson, A. and Hopkins, S. 2024. Sexism, Misogyny, and Gender Violence: Feminist Political Thought in the Colonial, Heteropatriarchal, Carceral State of Australia in *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought*. Mary Caputi and Patricia Moynagh (Eds). Massachusetts: Edward Elgar Publishing. pp. 159–191.

Chama, K.J. 2024. Teaching History in Zambia: The Use of the Project Method in Reviving the Value of History Education. In: *History Education in Africa*. Boadu, G., Oppong, C.A. (Eds) Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 193–214.

Glover, M.J. and **Mitchell, L.** 2024. Introduction: Animals 'caught with ourselves in the net of life and time'. In: *Animals as Experiencing Entities: Theories and Historical Narratives*. Glover, M.J., Mitchell, L. (Eds) Cham: Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series. pp. 1–23.

Mitchell, L. 2024. Stolen Children of the Endless Night: A Critical Account of the Lives of British Pit Ponies. In: *Animals as Experiencing Entities: Theories and Historical Narratives*. Glover, M.J., Mitchell, L. (Eds) Cham: Palgrave Macmillan Animal Ethics Series. pp. 259–293.

Books

Nkhoma, B. 2024. *Bettering their food, peasant production, nutrition and the state in Malawi, 1859–2005*. Makhanda: On behalf of the African Humanities Association by NISC (Pty) Ltd. ISBN: 978-1-920033-94-1

Horn, K. 2024. *Prisoners of Jan Smuts: Italian Prisoners-of-War in South Africa in WWII*. Johannesburg & Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers. ISBN 978-1-77619-284-7

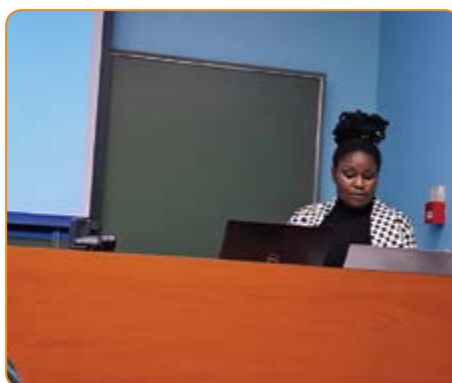
Creative Outputs

Geraldine Sibanda: Review Article. H-Diplo ROUNDTABLE XXVI-4. The Ideological Scramble for Africa: How the Pursuit of Anticolonial Modernity Shaped a Postcolonial Order (1945–1966). Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2023. ISBN13: 9781501767913. 23 September 2024 | PDF: <https://hdiplo.org/to/RT26-4>, pp20–27.

Conference Papers/Posters

Maringa, A. 2024. "Healing a nation in crisis?" Drug smuggling and the pharmaceutical industry in Zimbabwe, 2007–2017. Presented a draft paper at the *Ramblers seminar series*. Ramblers, Bloemfontein, 8 May 2024.

Maringa, A. 2024. "Healing a nation in crisis?" Drug smuggling and the pharmaceutical industry in Zimbabwe, 2007–2017, *Southern African Historical Conference*, University of Johannesburg, 26–28 June 2024.



Audrey Maringa, presenting at the Southern African Historical Society held at the University of Johannesburg in June 2024

Maringa, A. 2024. "Healing a nation in crisis?" Drug smuggling and the pharmaceutical industry in Zimbabwe, 2007–2017. *Commodities in Southern African History workshop*, which was held at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 4 September 2024.

Maringa, A. 2024. Syphilis, colonialism, and the African society 1890-1969. *Disease, Discourse, and Dissonance: Ideas and Concepts of Health/Illness in African Studies*, University of Bayreuth, Germany, 30 September - 2 October 2024.

Maringa, A. 2024. Syphilis, colonialism, and the African society 1890-1969, 'Pandemics, People and Economic Margins,' University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, ISG, 23-25 October 2024.

Nhete, S. 2024. Legislation and Preventive Healthcare in Southern Rhodesia from 1923 to 1963. *Ramblers*, ISG, 8 March 2024.

Nhete, S. 2024. Legislation and Preventive Healthcare in Southern Rhodesia from 1923 to 1963. *Southern African Historical Society Biannual Conference*, 26-28 June 2024.

Nhete, S. 2024. A history of illicit alcohol in Urban Zimbabwe: The case of Kachasu and Tumbwa from 1960s to 2020. *Commodities workshop*, University of the Free State, ISG, 4-5 September 2024.

Nhete, S. 2024. Drug Use, COVID-19 and the Perils of a Lockdown: The Case of Harare, Zimbabwe 2020-2022. *Pandemics, People and Economic Margins workshop*, University of the Free State, ISG, 23-25 September 2024.



Shalot Nhete: Southern African Historical Society Biannual Conference at the University of Johannesburg

Bushu, N. 2024. African Cosmology, Superstition and Justice in Southern Rhodesia c.1890-1937, 29th SAHS 2024 Biennial Conference, 26-28 June 2024.

Bushu, N. 2024. Beyond chiefly courts: African grassroots justice practices in Southern Rhodesia c.1890-1937. *APN & Next Gen Research Methods Workshop*. Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria, 22-25 July 2024.



APN & Next Gen Research Methods Workshop. Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria, 22-25 July 2024.

Bishi, G. 2024. 'The White hordes from the West': Australian media representations of White Rhodesian immigrants during Zimbabwe's decolonisation, 1960s to late 1970s. *Australian Historical Association Annual Conference*, Adelaide, Flinders University, Australia, 1-4 July 2024.

Uledi, P. 2024. Navigating the Academic Terrain for Early Career Scholars: Thoughts and Reflections. *Zimbabwe Open University*. 19-20 September 2024.

Tsholo, K. 2024. The Rise of Development Corporations in Bophuthatswana. YSI Economic Development in Africa event titled *Economic Thinking and Economic Development in Africa: Past, Present, and Prospects for the Future Conference*, Kenya, Nairobi, 5-6 September 2024.

Makare, B. 2024. Climate Change, Livelihoods and Resilience among the aged in 21st century Lesotho. *First PhD Colloquium in Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation*, Marriott Hotel Bloemfontein, South Africa, 17-19 April 2024.

Makare, B. 2024. The State and African peasantry: A socio-environmental history of Agrarian change in Lesotho's Leribe district, 1938-1966. *Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference*, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-28 June 2024.

Makare, B. 2024. Advances and Retrogressions: Agrarian and Soil Conservation Practices in Lesotho, 1966- 2021. *Young Scholars Initiative Africa Pre-Conference Workshop*, Rome, Italy, 25 September 2024.

Makare, B. 2024. The Colonial State and the African Peasantry: Soil Conservation and Agrarian Change in Lesotho's Leribe district, 1938-1966. *17th Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network*, Rome, Italy, 26-27 September 2024.



Belinda Makare at the first PhD Colloquium in Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation, Protea by Marriott Hotel, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 17 to 19 April 2024.

Machinga, P. 2024. A Pathetic State of Affairs: Maternity Health Care and Indigenous Midwifery in Postcolonial Zimbabwe, 1990-2023. *Southern African Historical Society 2024 Conference*, University of Johannesburg, 28 June 2024.



Dr Priscillah Machinga, YSI Conference

Machinga, P. 2024. A historical study of Ananyamukuta – Shona midwives: Identity, roles and development in Zimbabwe, 1880s to 1970s. *Stanley Trapido Seminar*, International Studies Group, University of the Free State, 29 July 2024.

Machinga, P. 2024. Maternal Health in Zimbabwe During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Pandemics, People and Economic Margins Workshop*, International Studies Group, University of the Free State, 24 October 2024.

Machinga, P. 2024. Public Maternity Services and Ananyamukuta (Indigenous Midwives) in Postcolonial Zimbabwe. The '1974-2024: 50 Years of Transitions in Southern Africa and the Development Challenges Ahead' Conference, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy, 15 November 2024.

Chama, K.J. 2024. Methods of studying the pre-colonial history of childhood in Zambia. *Histories of Childhood and Youth in Southern Africa*, University of the Free State, 1-2 July 2024.

Chama, K.J. 2024. "Nsima is Here to Stay": Citizens and the Politics of Staple Food Prizes in Zambia, 1990-2024. *17th Annual Meeting of African Economic History Network (AEHN) Conference*, Rome, Italy, 25-27 September 2024.

Chansa, C.J. 2024. Nation Building and Resource Management: Experiences and lessons from mining and political transitions in Zambia. *50 Years of Transition in Southern Africa and the Development Challenges Ahead Workshop*. Bologna, Italy, 15 November 2024.

Chansa, C.J. 2024. Liberation stories from below: Stories of women who participated in the struggle for Zambia's independence. *Remembering the forgotten heroes of Zambia's Liberation Struggle conference*. Organised by the *Southern African Institute for Policy and Research* and the *Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula Foundation*. Lusaka, Zambia, 21-22 October 2024.

Chansa, C.J. 2024. Local minerals, global laws: The impact of global developments in environmental and natural resource regulation on the Zambian mining industry (1970s to 2005). *Commodities in Southern African History workshop*, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 4-5 September 2024.

Chansa, C.J. 2024. The environmental impact of pre-independence mining expansion on the Northern Rhodesian Copperbelt. *World Congress of Environmental History*, Oulu, Finland, 19-23 August 2024.

Chansa, C.J. 2024. Investigating conservation farming and climate change mitigation strategies in Zambian mining communities: Experiences and lessons. *Climate Change and Environment in Zambia: A Multi-disciplinary Conference*. Lusaka, Zambia, 24-25 April 2024.

Yon, N. 2024. Social Protection. *Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)* Rwanda, 3- 8 March 20-24.

Yon, N. 2024. Social Protection, Inequality, and Unemployment in Zimbabwe, 2000-2015. *Southern African Historical Society (SAHS)* Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-28 June 2024.

Yon, N. 2024. Reimagining Economic Development: Informal Work, Care Economy, and Social Security Policies in Zimbabwe. *Young Scholars Initiative (YSI) conference on 'Economic Thinking and Economic Development in Africa: Past, Present, and Prospects for the Future*, Kenya, 5-6 September 2024.

Yon, N. 2024. Care in Zimbabwe's Informal Economy: Case Study of Harare. *International Labour Organisation (ILO) workshop on Care initiatives in Zimbabwe's Informal Economy*, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1 October 2024.

Conference Proceedings

Saneze Tshayana: Virtual presentation. The 'Second Pandemic': Changing Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa. *Annual Australian Historical Association conference*. Presentation mention: Lilith conference review (p.173), https://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n13384/pdf/09_killoran_gregory.pdf 4 July 2024.

Engaged Scholarship

Sibanda, G. 2024. Academic Blogspot. Profiles of International Economic Thinkers. 'International Economic Thinkers-Profile: Angie Elizabeth Brooks Randolph', ECOINT IET Profile #9, available at: <https://www.ecoint.org/post/profile-of-angie-elizabeth-brooks-randolph>.

De Cola, A. 2024. African Agencies in the Making of Colonial Currencies: The Case of Ḥasan Mūsā al-'Aqqād in the Italian Colony of Eritrea (1885-1890), *Afriche e Orienti*, (1): 184-206, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.23810/AEOXXVIII2024110>

Grilli, M. 2024. Experiencing Arab-African Solidarity: Basotho in Cairo in the 1960s and 1970s*. *Afriche e Orienti* 26 (1): 1-23. <https://www.africheorienti.com/journal/article/view/116>

National and International Collaboration

The ISG enjoys collaborative research projects, graduate student and postdoctoral fellow exchanges with the Universities of Basel, Bologna, Kent, Nottingham, Pretoria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Copperbelt, and Botswana. In November, for example, four ISG postdoctoral Fellows presented papers at a workshop hosted by the University of Bologna, the latest event in a particular collaboration extending back more than a decade.

Postgraduate Students

2024 PhD Students

Audrey Maringa

Thesis: A Social History of Venereal Diseases in Zimbabwe, 1890–2005

Supervisor: Dr C Masakure

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Dr H Munene, Dr P Machinga, and Dr V Gwande

Belinda Makare

Thesis: Agriculture, Soil Conservation, and the State in Lesotho: The case of Leribe district, c.1884–1966

Supervisor: Dr C Masakure

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Dr L Nkomo, Prof B Nkhoma, Dr J Chansa, and Dr Evans

Keabaka Tsholo

Thesis: The Role of Development Corporations in Bophuthatswana's Political Economy, 1977–1994.

Supervisor: Dr V Gwande

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Prof C Twala, Dr A De Cola, Dr S Ashipala, and Dr C Kaluba

Nicola Yon

Thesis: African Women and Formal Social Protection Systems in Zimbabwe, c.1950s–2016

Supervisor: Dr R Swatz

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Dr G Sibanda, Dr G Bishi, and Dr SJ Walton

Nyasha Bushu

Thesis: Beyond Chiefly Courts: African Grassroots Justice Practices in Southern Rhodesia c.1890–1937

Supervisor: Dr S Ncube

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Dr M Ruguwa, and Dr P Machinga

Saneze Tshayana

Thesis: 'Ties that Bind: Representations of Black Love in a Selection of South African Narratives'

Supervisor: Dr R Swatz

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Dr I Dande, Dr A Stevenson, and Dr N Dlamini

Shalot Nhete

Thesis: A History of Recreational drug use in Zimbabwean Urban areas, 1955 to 2021

Supervisor: Dr L Passemiers

Co-supervisors: Prof IR Phimister, Dr M Simabwachi, Dr M Glover, and Dr U Sechele

Academic Staff

Prof IR Phimister

Academic Head of Department

Support Staff

I Le Roux

T Gwena

Affiliated Staff

Alfred Tembo

Arrigo Pallotti

Andrew Cohen

Frank Gerits

Ana Stevenson

Karen Horn

David Patrick

Vrinda Narain

Laura Evans

Lindie Koorts

Anusa Daimon

Matthew Graham

Kate Law

Gerold Krozewski

Jurgen Zimmerer

Tawanda Chambwe

Brian Raftopoulos

Danelle Van Zyl- Hermann

Duncan Money

Hlengiwe Dlamini

Kundai Manamere

Honest Koke

Jodie Sun

Nicola Ginsburg

Rita Amaral

Rory Pilosof

Les Mitchel

Matteo Grilli

Alessandro De Cola

Hyden Munene

Miyanda Simwabachi

Bryson Nkhoma

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Annette Evans

Sarah-Jane Walton

Linguistics and Language Practice

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Overview of 2024

In 2024, Kelly Kilian joined the department as lecturer, which meant that the department then, for the first time, had a full complement of three linguistics and four language-practice lecturers, together with a departmental officer, a postdoctoral researcher and two interns.

The department worked hard on assisting staff to obtain PhDs, arranging study leave and lecture replacement to give staff time to work on PhDs. More senior staff worked hard on their research, and the department was listed in an internationally published journal article as one of the most influential translation studies departments in the world. International research fellows have clearly contributed to the department's visibility, and we thank them for this. It seems that the hard work in research is starting to pay off as more and more staff members are invited to international research groups and events.

In teaching, staff continued to rework modules to ensure that teaching was both pedagogically and in terms of content up to date with the latest knowledge.

Achievements

Monnapula Molefe attended the fourth meeting of the "Participatory Translation Studies" group in Germersheim, Germany, from 6-8 June 2024. It was hosted by the Faculty of Translation Studies, Linguistics and Cultural Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University. The goal of this meeting was to explore '... aspects of participation and (self-)positioning at the micro-level of (triadic) interactions in

different social contexts. Special attention was paid to the complex role multilingualism, translation, as well as underlying language and translation ideologies play with regard to the possibility of participation of actors in the specific interactions.”

During the three allocated days, the members of the network then presented and discussed their insights together with two invited guest experts, who held talks on *Equitable participation in court interpreting: Between translanguaging and language ideologies* (Philipp Angermeyer, York) and *Participatory communication and interpreting in legal contexts* (Mira Kadrić-Scheiber, Vienna). The meeting also served to bringing together and structure the networks’ findings, as well as brainstorming on future cooperations and discussing the concept for a joint publication as an outcome of the network.”



Monnapula Molefe with members of the Participatory Translation Studies research group.

Pulane Plaatjies completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management.



Dr Marlie van Rooyen

Marlie van Rooyen was selected to participate in the UFS’s first cohort of Women Influencing and Shaping Education (WISE) programme in 2024. The programme aims to create opportunities for women in academia to achieve excellence in academic leadership. WISE focuses on mid-career academic women who already have a skill set and life experience and express the need to plough back, influencing and shaping education whilst increasing their research productivity and impact as well as leadership capacity.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) nominated Marlie van Rooyen for inclusion in AcademiaNet, a database that contains profiles of women academics from all disciplines, in Europe, but also elsewhere. The most important criteria used in the selection for the candidate should have outstanding academic qualifications, as measured by the standards of her particular academic discipline and academic maturity. Examples of standards are prizes and awards, publishing activities and independently raised funding. She is one of only two South African scholars included on the database.

Kobus Marais delivered the following two keynote addresses at international conferences:

- *Exploring an ecology of translation*, Redefining translation? Historical fluctuations, new practices and epistemologies in the making. Conference to celebrate the 35 year of the journal TTR, Montreal, Canada, 10–13 June
- *Complexity thinking in translation studies: A critical reflection*, 2nd International Conference on Translation and Cultural Sustainability: Challenges and New Avenues, University of Salamanca, Spain, 17–19 April

Teaching

Marie van Heukelum attended the curriculum renewal programme where she developed the following to modules:

- LIN06814 Sociolinguistics (Honours module).
- LINA6824 Language acquisition (Honours module).

Research Projects

In 2024, Marlie van Rooyen and her co-investigator Prof Lucile Davier from the University of Geneva were awarded a research grant funded by the National Research Foundation and the Swiss National Science Foundation. The project, “South–North flows of information through translation in the global news agency Agence France–Presse (AFP),” will run over three years (2025 to 2027). Two postdoctoral fellows have been appointed to contribute to the project: a UFS-based postdoctoral fellow (funded by the NRF) from Morocco and a postdoctoral fellow from Bolivia appointed at the University of Geneva (funded by the SNSF). Extensive fieldwork at AFP bureaux in Africa and Latin America will commence in 2025.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Allman, M, Song, H, Venta, A, Serekoane, M, Pienaar, M, Cloete, J, **Marais, K**, Marais L and Sharp, C. ‘In their own words: Linguistic analysis of interviews with Sesotho mothers on their child’s first thousand days.’ *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies* (Online first) DOI: [10.1080/17450128.2024.2302618](https://doi.org/10.1080/17450128.2024.2302618)

Jansen van Vuuren, X. 2024. “Animal photojournalism as knowledge translation: an ecosemiotic approach to visual activism”. In *The complexity of social-cultural emergence: biosemiotics, semiotics and translation studies*. Edited by Kobus Marais, Reine Meylaerts and Maud Gonne. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Marais, K. 2024. “Co-constructing the Vredefort Dome: The implications of new materialism for epistemic translation”. *Translation Matters* 6(1): 145–163. DOI: 10.21747/21844585/tm6_1a9

Marais, K. and Naudé, L. 2024. “Identity in university students: The semiotic work of making sense of yourself”, *Culture and Psychology* (Online first). DOI: 10.1177/1354067X241242413

Chapters in edited volumes

Marais, K. 2024. “Humanizing translation” in A. Lange, C. Rundle & D. Monticelli (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook on the History of Translation Studies*. New York: Routledge. pp. 263–276

Marais, K. 2024. “Levels of translation, levels of freedom” in A. Sharov, G. Mikhailovsky (eds). *Pathways to the origin and evolution of meanings in the universe*. Hoboken: Scrivener Publishing. pp. 401–418

Van Rooyen, M. & Davier, L. 2024. ‘Translation in mass media’, In: Tyulenev, S. & Luo, W. (eds). *Routledge Handbook of Translation and Sociology*. Routledge. pp. 306–321.

Books

Marais, K, Meylaerts, R and Gonne, M. (eds) 2024 *The complexity of social-cultural emergence: Biosemiotics, semiotics and translation studies*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Conference Papers/Posters

Biberauer, T & **van Heukelum, M.** (2024) *Imperative consequences? Afrikaans and Dutch 'geen', German 'kein' and English 'no'*. Talk given at the 9th International Germanic Sandwich workshop (GS9), Lancaster University, UK. 11th April.

Biberauer, T & **van Heukelum, M.** (2024) *Afrikaans negation is really unlike Dutch negation: corpus-based evidence from the acquisition of 'geen'*. Talk given at the 16th Forum for Germanic Language Studies (FGLS14), University of Cambridge, UK. 13th April.

Biberauer, T & **van Heukelum, M.** (2024). *Not nothing: the significance of timing differences in the acquisition of Afrikaans and Dutch 'geen' ('no')*. Poster presented at the 49th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD49). Boston, Massachusetts, USA. 8th November.

Jansen van Vuuren, X. 2024. *Translating the more-than-human: an ecosemiotic approach to animal activism as translation*. Presented at the IX International Conference in Cultural Studies: Cultures, Activisms and Cultural Changes, Aveiro, Portugal, 13-15 November 2024.

Jansen van Vuuren, X and Cawood, HM. 2024. *Urban wildlife photography as activism: a visual translation of solastalgia*. Presented at the IX International Conference in Cultural Studies: Cultures, Activisms and Cultural Changes, Aveiro, Portugal, 13-15 November 2024.

Jansen van Vuuren, X. 2024. *An ecosemiotic approach to translating animals into human thinking: a look at the global South*. Presented at the 24th Annual Gatherings in Biosemiotics, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 18-21 June 2024.

Marais, K. 2024. *Translating Innenwelt: The biosemiotics of art* Presented at the 24th Annual Gatherings in Biosemiotics, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 18-21 June 2024.

Marais, K. 2024. *Agency and culture*. Panel hosted at the 24th Annual Gatherings in Biosemiotics, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 18-21 June 2024.

van Heukelum, M & Biberauer, T. (2024). *From a 'yes-bias' to a 'no-bias': The role of prescriptivism in determining Afrikaans-English bilinguals/ tolerance of grammatical norm violations in spoken Afrikaans*. Talk given at the "Multilingualism, language contact, and variation" colloquium, 18 January. Humboldt University, Berlin.



Dr Xany Jansen van Vuuren presenting at the 24th Gatherings in Biosemiotics.

Engaged Scholarship

Xany Jansen van Vuuren (serving in the marketing portfolio of the Association for Translation Studies in Africa) and Marlie van Rooyen (vice-president of the association) initiated an online webinar series on the topic of theoretical and conceptual frameworks in the field of Translation Studies. The audience includes postgraduate students and emerging scholars in Translation Studies. The series runs over a year from November 2024 to October 2025. Marlie and Xany also presented the first webinar on the topic, *Introduction to Translation and Interpreting Theory*.

Kobus Marais is the editor in chief of the *Journal for Translation Studies in Africa*.

Concerning community engagement, Xany Jansen van Vuuren and Marlie van Rooyen lead the service-learning module in the Bachelor of Arts in Language Practice. Third-year students in Language Practice serve as interpreters for healthcare students as part of a research project led by the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Interpreting students share their language and cultural knowledge to facilitate and mediate between healthcare students and mothers/caregivers at early childhood development centres in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality and the Kopanong Local Municipality.



Third-year students on their way to the community.

Marlie van Rooyen is the custodian of the newly launched Langlistic Student Association under the auspices of the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice at the UFS.

Marlie van Rooyen and Xany Jansen van Vuuren were invited to join colleagues from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences to present a poster at the UFS Learning and Teaching Conference held in September 2024. The presentation, “Real-world ready: Bridging theory and practice through community engagement,” aimed to showcase the joint project in community-based education in which the third-year language practice students participate.

National and International Collaboration

Marlie van Rooyen was invited to join the International News Translation Network (NewsTraN). The mission of the network is to enhance, support, and strengthen academic research collaboration on news translation between scholars from universities across the globe. The researchers propose to highlight the convergence between translation studies and journalism in a rapidly evolving media landscape and the need to better consider the multimodal and multimedial nature of news.

Marlie van Rooyen serves on the international conference committee of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS). IATIS is a worldwide forum designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and resources among scholars in various parts of the world. She also serves on the Scientific Committee for the 2025 conference to be held in Oman.

The Department partnered with the Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu to obtain an Erasmus Mobility grant that will see staff and student exchanges between 2024 and 2026. In 2024, Prof Kalevi Kull from Tartu visited the UFS and delivered a public lecture with the title “The role of semiosis in ecosystems; or semaphylls and other phenomena of biosemiotic relations”.



Prof Kull delivering a public lecture during his visit.

Kobus Marais was invited as guest lecturer to Queens University in Belfast where he gave three public lectures and engaged in tutoring sessions with PhD students.

Postgraduate Students

Our Masters' student, Lani de Beer, spent a semester at the University of Tartu as part of our Erasmus Mobility Agreement with the Department of Semiotics, University of Tartu in Estonia. She completed several modules and obtained good marks for all of these modules.



Lani de Beer at the statue of the famous Estonian semiotician of culture, Juri Lotman.

Other Activities

Kobus Marais and Xany Jansen van Vuuren organised the 24th Gatherings in Biosemiotics (a conference dedicated specifically to bio-, zoo- and ecosemiotics) in June 2024. This was the first time that this conference was held in Africa.



Participants who attended the 24th Gatherings in Biosemiotics in person.

Hlumela Mkabile and **Marlie van Rooyen** took the lead of the Department of Linguistics and Language Practice's participation in the University of the Free State Open Days (one for grade 10 and 11 learners, and the other for grade 12 learners). Students in the Department participated in the event by sharing their experiences of the curriculum with eager school learners interested in learning more about language-related career opportunities.

Kobus Marais visited the Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu in November and December, presenting a public lecture in the Jakob von Uexkull series, as well as lectures and tutoring sessions with PhD and MA students.

Staff (2024)

Academic staff

Prof Kobus Marais	Professor, Academic Head of Department
Dr Xany Jansen van Vuuren	Lecturer
Kelly Kilian	Lecturer
Hlumela Mkabile	Lecturer
Monnapula Molefe	Lecturer
Dr Marie van Heukelum	Lecturer
Dr Marlie van Rooyen	Senior lecturer

Support staff

Pulane Plaatjies	Administrative officer
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Odeion School of Music

Academic Head of Department
Dr Frelét de Villiers (Left)

Artistic and Operational Head
Dr Jan Beukes (Right)

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Overview of 2024

The year 2024 was busy, yet fulfilling, with several exciting projects. These relate to creative and academic outputs as well as engaged scholarship. We hosted 15 concerts as part of our concert series. Dr Engelbrecht and the voice students successfully produced *Dido and Aeneas*, and Prof Strydom organised and hosted the International Clarinet Extravaganza. Two of Lance Phillip's compositions were performed in Cambridge, UK, and he was commissioned to compose a Latin mass. Establishing an international network of colleagues is an essential part of being a composer in the 21st century, and music notation software and MIDI technology enable creative musicians to collaborate and promote their work. Staff members and research fellows excelled in producing academic outputs. We had eight articles in accredited journals, two chapters in edited volumes, 15 conference presentations and one conference proceeding. Prof Wium was one of the contributors to a book that won an award from the American Musicological Society. We are particularly proud of Prof Matildie Wium and Prof Danré Strydom, who were promoted to Associate Professors. In addition, they received C3 and C2 NRF ratings, respectively. Four staff members were selected to be part of the Emerging Scholar Accelerator Programme and Future Professoriate Programme. The Bloemfontein Life Change Centre for Music (BLCC) continues to provide accessible music education to children and youth from the Heidedal community. Mrs Novella and Mr Chabala are key players in this vital outreach of the OSM.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

The Odeion School of Music is very proud of the achievements and awards our staff and students won in 2024. Prof Matildie Wium was awarded a C2 rating by the National Research Foundation, and Prof Danré Strydom a C3 rating. They were both promoted to Associate Professors.

The book *Opera and British Print Culture in the Long Nineteenth Century*, for which Prof Wium contributed a chapter, was awarded the H. Robert Cohen/RIPM Award from the American Musicological Society.

Dr Frelét de Villiers won the first prize at the Exceptional Academic Achievers Awards: Learning and Teaching Research: Emerging, and Dr Anchen Froneman was awarded second place in the UFS Exceptional Academic Achievers Award, Vice-Chancellor's Award in Learning and Teaching category. Prof Danré Strydom was awarded the UFS Exceptional Young Achievers Award in Research and the Humanities Excellence Award for Research with International Impact.



Dr Frelét de Villiers



Prof Danre Strydom

Dr Frelét de Villiers was chosen to be part of the Women Influencing Scholarship and Education Programme (WISE) and was selected to be part of the UFS Teaching and Learning Fellowship.

Four members of staff, namely Dr Joseph Kunnuji, Dr Sonkanise Nkosi, Dr Anchen Froneman and Dr Marc Röntsch, were selected for the University's Emerging Scholar Accelerator Programme and Future Professoriate Programme.

Prof Matildie Wium and Dr Marc Röntsch successfully procured institutional funding for the Odeion School of Music's first postdoctoral research fellow, who will begin in the second semester of 2025.

Student Achievements

Final year BMus student Lisa Lombaard won the Journal of Musical Arts in Africa Undergraduate Essay award, which resulted in her publishing her first article in the international publication *Journal of Musical Arts in Africa*, with an essay entitled "Volksmoeder steeds vandag volksvreemd: Portrayals of Afrikaner women and femininity in the music of Koos Kombuis".

Alumni voice students Mongezi Mosoaka and Dumisani Rini each won first prize in the tenor and baritone open category of the 2024 Musicon of the Free State competition. In the same competition, soprano Xoliswa Memane won first prize in the U20 category, and tenor Mzo Luwaca received third prize in the open category. These were/are all voice students of Dr Albertus Engelbrecht.



Xoliswa Memane



Mongezi Mosoaka, Dr Albertus Engelbrecht and Dumisani Rini

Joshua McLachlan was invited to participate in the Unisa Music Scholarship Competition 2024 due to his outstanding performance in his UNISA Grade 8 organ examination. He is an organ student of Dr Jan Beukes. During the competition, he was awarded the following prizes: Du Toit-Van Tonder Music Scholarships and Johanna van der Spuy Memorial Prize (1906-2010) for the best performance of a Romantic work. McLachlan also received the Leonore Kloppers trophy for the best organ student during the 'Vrystaat Kunswedstryd'.

A final-year cello student, **Willie Naude**, has been awarded the Arts Trust Academic Honorary Award for being the best undergraduate student in performance studies majoring in an orchestral instrument. Furthermore, Willie was the only OSM student progressing to the final round of the National Human Naude Scholarship Competition. He was also selected to attend the prestigious 2024 International Masterclasses Course in Dublin, Ireland, during the last week of July 2024. Naude is a student of Prof Anmari van der Westhuizen.

Paballo Tejane (trumpet) won the Best Brass Trophy during the 'Vrystaat Kunswedstryd'. Tejane is a student of Dingaan Chabalala.



Joshua McLachlan



Willie Naude



Paballo Tejane

Teaching

The Music Education and Practice Unit of the OSM presented a Music Education and Practice Mixed Methodology Workshop. Dr Sonkanise Nkosi delivered a presentation on Indigenous African Music Arts Education pedagogies, and Angelique Novella on Orff Schulwerk's application in the general music education classroom for the Foundation Phase.



The invitation to the workshop

As part of the practical component of the Diploma in Music Education and Practice module, six first- and second-year students taught general music education classes at Sentraal Primary School during the second semester. Over a period of 10 weeks, learners in Grades 2 and 3 engaged in a variety of music activities, including singing, movement, listening, and music creation. These lessons introduced and reinforced key elements of music in an interactive and engaging manner. Thus, it provided valuable teaching experience for the students and enriched musical exposure for the young learners.



Student-teachers teaching general music education classes at Sentraal Primary School.

The Bloemfontein Life Change Centre (BLCC) is a youth development initiative that provides various outreach services to the community of Heidedal. The Music School is an integral part of the Centre. It aligns with the Centre's aims, namely fighting poverty, providing youth with a positive influence on their lives, being a carrier of hope, providing the youth with leadership and mentorship programmes, and equipping them with life and job-related skills. The BLCC Music School is an OSM community music outreach programme.

The primary objective is to enhance the accessibility of music education within the historically disadvantaged community. Also, the programme seeks to provide a constructive after-school activity for school children and adults, aiming to keep them engaged and away from the streets. The Music School was established in 2015 by Dr George Foster and provides tuition in music theory, music education and practice, brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, and tuba), and ensemble training.

The OSM provides teachers, instruments, materials, and equipment as part of their continued commitment to community engagement. Angelique Novella and Dingaan Chabalala are key role players, alongside student-teachers Paballo Tejane, Paul Maloka, and Lisa Lombaard. On 17 May 2024, the BLCC Music School Brass Band had the opportunity to perform alongside the Free State Youth Wind Ensemble (FSYWE) in the Odeion Hall, showcasing their growing musical skills in a prestigious concert setting.



On 31 July 2025, both individual members and the full BLCC Brass Band participated in the 'Vrystaat Kunswedstryd'. All participants were awarded Gold certificates in recognition of their outstanding performances. As part of the same event, the band also performed in a collaborative concert featuring the FSYWE, the Paul Roos Gymnasium Orchestra, and the Musicon Ensemble, highlighting their ability to contribute meaningfully to large-scale ensemble music-making.



Dingaan Chabalala conducting the BLCC Music School Brass Band at the 'Vrystaat Kunswedstryd'.



Angelique Novella with members of the BLCC Music School after their performance at the 'Vrystaat Kunswedstryd'.



Paballo Tejane teaching a practical Brass instrument class at BLCC Music School in Heidedal.



Paballo Tejane teaching a practical Brass instrument class at BLCC Music School in Heidedal.



Lisa Lombaard teaching a music theory class to students at BLCC in Heidedal.

Angelique Novella taught beginner and intermediate theory classes to the learners, and Music Education and Practice classes to the teachers of Mangaung Strings Programme at the Musicon. By using approaches such as Orff and Dalcroze, musical elements were explored, and children had the opportunity to discover, experience, read, write, and perform rhythm and pitch pattern combinations. Learners had the opportunity to get to know other orchestral instrument families, and dove into the world of the expressive elements of music. Musicianship was developed playfully and enjoyably through the use of body movement, body percussion, and adaptive materials such as flashcards, tennis balls, paper plates, and ice cream sticks.



Students from the Mangaung Strings Programme engaging in an embodied music activity.

Mr. Werner Stander, conductor of the University of the Free State Campus Choir, the Bloemfontein Children's Choir and both the Junior and Senior Choirs of Primêre Meisieskool Oranje, presented an engaging workshop on choral conducting to first- and second-year Diploma in Music Education and Practice students. The session covered a range of essential topics, including how to conduct auditions, understanding vocal ranges across different voice groups, effective vocal warm-up techniques, and fundamental conducting skills. The workshop offered valuable practical insights and guidance for aspiring music educators.



Werner Stander (choral conductor, right) and Angelique Novella (Music Education and Practice lecturer, left), alongside Diploma in Music Education and Practice students at the Choral Conducting workshop.

The Write Site created and presented workshops on academic writing and writing for the following modules: MUSG1513, MUSH1512, MUSH2612, MUSM1622, and assignment-specific workshops for MUSG1513 and MUSG1523.

The year 2024 saw the academic music studies and research division invite two scholars to present their research for staff and students in seminars. We were very honoured to have Prof Nicol Claire Hammond from the University of California, Santa Cruz, present her research on queerness and the Karen Zoid fandom. Prof Hammond also met with our Honours student cohort and guided their research reports. Prof Willemien Froneman from The Centre for the Study of the Afterlife of Violence and the Reparative Quest at Stellenbosch University spoke about her monograph, *The Groovology of White Affect: Boeremusiek and the Enregisterment of Race in South Africa*, and engaged with our final year musicology undergraduates on her writing.

Research Projects



Dr Marc Röntsch



Dr Anchen Froneman



Dr Joseph Kunnuji



Prof Matildie Wium

Dr Marc Röntsch is busy with research on Cape Town lo-fi band Tape Hiss and Sparkle for submission to the Rock Music Studies journal. He has had an abstract accepted for Popular Music History's special edition on Popular Music and Violent Conflict. Dr Röntsch's research on Christopher James and his project on the James String Quartets with the Odeion String Quartet is ongoing.

Dr Anchen Froneman obtained a UFS grant for Interdisciplinary Research towards a book publication, *Shaping Southern Shifts: Provocations in/through Laban Bartenieff Movement Studies*, planned for publication in 2025, for which she is the Editor-in-Chief.

Dr Joseph Kunnuji and **Prof Matildie Wium** collaborated on a study of historical ethnomusicological recordings collected in Nigeria during the 1960s by the Austrian ethnomusicologist Gerhard Kubik. They presented a paper on this topic at the International Association of Music Librarians' 2024 congress in Stellenbosch and are currently preparing the research for publication.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

De Villiers, F & Palmer, C. 2024. Lecturers' views on teaching composition at South African universities: A qualitative inquiry. *SAMUS*, 43/44:94-103.

Kunnuji, J. 2024. Performing Affects: Precarity, Liminality, Belonging and the Strategies of a Migrant Bandleader Within a South African Music Scene. *Popular Music and Society*, 48(1),25-40.

Lombaard, L. 2024. Volksmoeder steeds vandag volksvreemd: Portrayals of Afrikaner women and femininity in the music of Koos Kombuis. *Journal of Musical Arts in Africa*, 21(1-2), pp.103-119.

Röntsch, M. 2024. Sex Machines: Performing and Critiquing Masculinity in the Music of Stereo Zen. *SAMUS*, 43/44:62-75.

Viljoen, M. 2024. Cultural and political congruity and divergence between Palestinian and antiapartheid protest songs. *South African Journal of Cultural History*, 8(2.1):127-150.

Viljoen, M & Erasmus-Alt, J. 2024. Musikale betekenis en metafore van liminaliteit in die liedkuns van Coenie de Villiers. *LitNet Akademies (Geesteswetenskappe)*, 21(1).

Viljoen, N. 2024. Some (after)thoughts on Arnold van Wyk's Ricordanza (1984). *SAMUS*, 43/44:162-180.

Wium, M. 2024. On Deciduousness and Assiduousness. *SAMUS*, 43/44:4-7.

Chapters in edited volumes

De Villiers, F. 2024. Using technology in teaching music at the tertiary level – an innovation ecosystem in the sphere of the arts. In Ramazan Uctu (ed.), *Innovation Ecosystems: Definitions, Actors and Applications*, pp.181-210.

Kunnuji, J. 2024. Gbenopo in Ogu Musical Culture: An Ethnography of Social Capital in Badagry. In Paul Nnodim and Austin Okigbo (eds.), *Ubuntu: A Comparative Study of an African Concept of Justice*, Leuven: Leuven University Press, pp. 119-138.

Conference Papers/Posters

De Villiers, F. 2024. The inclusion of Arts Management as a module within the Higher Education context: Re-thinking the approach and content. Paper delivered at the University of Pretoria School of the Arts, Arts Management Symposium, Pretoria, 18-19 April 2014.

Engelbrecht, A. 2024. The Role of Vocal Registration in Performance Practice: An Autoethnographic Enquiry of Singing the Evangelist in J.S. Bach's St. John Passion in a HIP Approach. Paper delivered at the 2nd National Association of Teachers of Singing South Africa Chapter Conference, Gqeberha, South Africa, 13-15 June 2024.

Froneman, A. 2024. From critical thinking to contemplative embodiment: 'Experiencing the inexpressible. Paper delivered at the Heltasa (Un)conference 2024, University of Limpopo, South Africa, 26-29 November 2024.

Froneman, A. 2024. Transculturality and Translation: Shaping Southern Shifts. Paper delivered at the International Conference of Rio de Janeiro Laban 2024, Rio de Janeiro, South America, 1-3 August 2024.

Kunnuji, J. & Wium, M. 2024. Resounding Yorùbá Narratives: Analysing Àlò Prosody through Sound Visualisation Technology in Contemporary Archival Studies. Paper delivered at the Annual Congress of the International Association of Music Libraries (IAML), Department of Music, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 23-28 June 2024.

Lombaard, L. 2024. Volksmoeder steeds vandag Volksvreemd: Portrayals of Afrikaner Women and Femininity in the Music of Koos Kombuis. Paper delivered at the Annual Congress of the South African Society for Research in Music, University of the Witwatersrand, 26-28 July 2024.

Maloka, K. 2024. From townships to the world: Gender Dynamics in Amapiano. Paper delivered at The Annual Congress of the South African Society for Research in Music, University of the Witwatersrand, 26-28 July 2024.

Maloka, K. 2024. From townships to the world: Gender Dynamics in Amapiano. Paper delivered at the Ethnomusicology Symposium held at the International Library of African Music, Rhodes University, 31 July-3 August 2024.

Nkosi, S. 2024. Improving relationships between musicians, music promoters, and music managers. Paper delivered at the University of Pretoria School of the Arts, Arts Management Symposium, Pretoria, 18-19 April 2014.

Nkosi, S. 2024. The decolonisation of Music Education and Practice modules at the OSM. Paper delivered at the UFS Humanities Scholarship of Teaching and Learning seminar, Clarens, South Africa, 17-19 July 2024.

Nkosi, S. 2024. Music Business and Intellectual Property within the recording industry. Paper delivered at the University of Pretoria Music Festival, Pretoria, South Africa, 19-24 August 2024.

Röntschi, M. 2024. Persona and the Archive: Reconsidering the Christopher James Biography Project. Paper delivered at The Annual Congress of the South African Society for Research in Music, University of the Witwatersrand, 26-28 July 2024.

Röntschi, M. 2024. (Un)Silenced and (Dis)belonging: Sounding South African whiteness in Hog Hoggidy Hog's Oink!. Paper delivered at the '(In)visible Publics: Performing (non-) belongings' conference. Online. University College Dublin, Ireland.

Wium, M. & Kunnuji, J. 2024. Resounding Yorùbá Narratives: Analysing Àlò Prosody through Sound Visualisation Technology in Contemporary Archival Studies. Paper delivered at the 2024 Congress of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres.

Wium M. 2024. The uses of opera in Pierre de Wet's 'Kom saam vanaand' (Come along tonight) (1949). Paper delivered at the Annual Congress of the South African Society for Research in Music, University of the Witwatersrand, 26-28 July 2024.

Conference Proceedings

Strauss, J.A., **Strauss, S.** and Prinsloo, J.J. 2024. 'Professional Springbok rugby players' career transitional reality after retirement'. Competitive paper in the *Proceedings of the 17th International Business Conference*, 22–25 September 2024, Stellenbosch, RSA: 3150–3179. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E4d-qLdVpEu3dVfpbh5mltHxW6mYU_k/view

Engaged Scholarship

In terms of engaged scholarship, Lance Philip played a key role in restoring the organ of Bloemfontein Anglican Cathedral. The year 2024 marked his 11th year as Director of Music at the cathedral. He also headed the promotion, publicity, administration and fundraising for this project. In August, they announced that the full amount (R1.25 million) to complete the restoration had become available. The work is estimated to be finished by July or August 2025. Once complete, the instrument will be available for recitals and concerts; organists (including those associated with the University) will be invited to participate in performances and recordings.

The year 2024 saw Prof Matildie Wium's final year as co-editor of the journal *SAMUS* (*South African Music Studies*). Both Prof Wium and Dr Marc Röntsch were elected to the Executive Committee of the South African Society for Research in Music, and both presented on the panel on composer Michael Moerane at the pre-concert event for the Free State Symphony Orchestra's Heritage Concert held at the Sand du Plessis Theatre.

The staff members were active reviewers. Dr Marc Röntsch reviewed the book *The Jazz Problem: Education and the Problem of Morality During The Jazz Age*, which was published by the journal *History of Education*, Volume 54, Issue 1. Dr Frelét de Villiers was part of the external audit for the Music Department, North-West University. She also reviewed articles for the international journal *Cogent Educational* (ISSN 2331-186X) and the international journal *Electronic Journal of E-learning* (ISSN 1479-4403). Furthermore, she was a reviewer for the Oppenheimer Trust Postgraduate Scholarships applications.

Angelique Novella was invited to serve as an adjudicator at the Northern Cape Arts Festival, held in Kimberley from 12 to 16 August 2024. The festival featured a wide range of performances by individual instrumentalists, vocalists, choirs, and ensembles from Kimberley and the broader Northern Cape region, showcasing the diverse musical talent of the area.

Dr Albertus Engelbrecht adjudicated at the Musicon Free State Competition for singers in September 2024 and coordinated and directed an OSM student production of *Dido and Aeneas* in collaboration with the Odeion String Quartet that was performed on 8 November 2024 on the stage of the Odeion Auditorium.



Dido and Aeneas



The poster for Dido and Aeneas

Regarding creative outputs, our staff members excelled. Dr Albertus Engelbrecht (tenor) and Teresa de Wit (mezzo-soprano) performed as soloists in the Symphony Nr 9 by Ludwig van Beethoven with the Free State Symphony Orchestra in the Sand du Plessis theatre, November 2024. Prof Danré Strydom performed the *Strydom2* (Odeion Concert series – BFN), *Opus ZA* (Mzansi Chamber collective – JHB) and *The Meeting* (Mzansi Chamber Collective – Pretoria).



The Concert Agency of the Odeion School of Music hosted fifteen major concerts in 2024. Each year, the OSM strives to bring a diverse and dynamic concert series to the public, overcoming various challenges to fulfil its artistic and cultural mission. The 2024 lineup was no exception, offering a rich blend of musical excellence, from intimate solo recitals to vibrant chamber ensembles. The year 2024 marked a particularly exciting return to international collaboration, following the restrictions of the COVID-19 era. We proudly welcomed five international performances, featuring artists from Italy, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, and Berlin. We also celebrated the best of South African talent, including esteemed musicians and staff members of the OSM, who are celebrated performers in their own right. Sponsorship was secured from two major contributors: the Rupert Music Foundation (R220,000.00) and the Arts Trust (R150,000.00).

The following concerts were presented:

- **15 February | Wicked Tongues**
Austrian Recorder Consort
Carin van Heerden, Magdalena Rath, Michaela Vaught, Domenika Thanner, Veronika Traxler
- **14 March | Danilo Mascetti – Piano Recital**
“A Diabelli Project”
- **19 April | Cape Town Baroque Trio**
Artists: Ralitzza Macheva, Annien Shaw, Rosamund Ender
- **25 Apr | Wits Trio**
Mendelssohn, Shostakovich & Zaidel-Rudolph
Zanta Hofmeyr, Susan Mouton, Malcolm Nay
- **30 May | The Romantic Soul**
Lieder Recital
Albertus Engelbrecht (tenor), Albie van Schalkwyk (piano)
- **8 June | Jan Bartoš – Piano Recital**

- **13 June | Moonlight, Musicals And More**
Niël Rademan, Jeanne-Louise Moolman, Elna van der Merwe
- **25 July | Louis Nel – Piano Recital**
- **12 September | Most Beautiful EngLISH SONGS**
Teresa de Wit (mezzo-soprano), Lesley-Ann Mathews (piano)
- **10 October | Evocation**
Ané van Staden (violin), Misha Melck (piano)
- **24 October | Franz Trio Berlin**
“Viennese Serenade”
Avigail Bushakevitz, Ernst-Martin Schmidt, Constance Ricard
- **31 October | Strydom² – “Adapt And Adopt”**
Danré Strydom (clarinet), Cèzarre Strydom (piano)
- **14 November | Marianne Cilliers – Violin Recital**
with Petro Engelbrecht (piano)
- **21 November | Take Four**
Zanta Hofmeyr, Jeanne-Louise Moolman, Susan Mouton, Elna van der Merwe
- **5 December | A Spanish Night of Music and Dance**
Chris van Zyl (cello), Petro Engelbrecht (piano) & Dancers



National and International Collaboration

Prof Danré Strydom has been key in fostering musical excellence at the OSM through event organisation. In January 2024, she successfully organised the International Clarinet Extravaganza, bringing together leading clarinetists from around the world. She is also the organiser of two major BFN events: the ‘Vrystaat Kunswedstryd’ held in August, where more than 3000 entries were received, and the International Woodwind Competition held in September 2024. The Woodwind competition was a major success, with total prize money of R120 000. These initiatives reflect her commitment to developing the Woodwind music community both locally and internationally.

Prof Strydom initiated and organised a recorded symposium hosted by the recorder group “Element of Prime” from Austria. This event was attended by several recorder teachers from across the country.



2nd International Woodwind competition winners. From Left to Right: Josie McClure, Yanze Song, Lisa van Wyk



Poster of the recorder symposium

Two of Lance Phillip's compositions were performed at international events. In September, the *Agnus Dei* and *Gloria in excelsis* of my Communion service 'Fiat lux' were sung by Harvard University Choir in the Harvard Memorial Church (Cambridge, Massachusetts). David von Behren played the organ, and Edward Elwyn Jones conducted the choir. The YouTube recordings are available at <https://youtu.be/kfkPTPLlhy4?si=3fwNJR6-zfN4wT9K> <https://youtu.be/pXKHdrn6qro?si=qZgzfloCs854vOUG>.

In October, he was asked to compose a communion motet on a given text by Ricardo Luna to be sung at the High Mass in St Peter's Church, Vienna, on 10 November. Capellmeister Luna required a work for three solo voices and organ, in a suitable style. He was pleased with the work, *Quinque prudentes virgines*, and has since commissioned him to compose a complete Latin mass for choir and organ, for performance in 2027. The YouTube recording is available at <https://youtu.be/E31tENli4DQ?si=LBrdUn8l1InkbrPi>



Lance Phillip

In addition, he contributed a YouTube video to the Frank Martin Society, recording a setting of the Lord's Prayer from the composer's wartime oratorio *In terra pax*. The Cathedral Singers was one of several choirs from around the world invited to record the Lord's Prayer, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the work, composed in anticipation of the declaration of peace after the Second World War. The Cathedral Singers' contribution to this project, commissioned by UNESCO and the publisher Universal Edition, Vienna, was recorded in the Odeion MIDI laboratory, and was the first in the world to be submitted and published on the website of the Frank Martin Society: <https://www.frankmartin.org/notreperere/>

In July 2024, Prof Barbara Hill Moore and LeAndrew Moore from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, visited the Odeion School of Music [OSM] in Bloemfontein as a fact-finding mission to discuss a collaboration with the OSM. In a meeting with Dr Jan Beukes, Marius Coetzee, and Dr Albertus Engelbrecht, a production of the Musical Carousel with students from both universities was initiated, and the OSM would host it in June 2025. Coetzee compiled an extended programme for the visit and made the initial contact with colleagues of the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.



Dr Frelét de Villiers

Dr Frelét de Villiers is an Executive Committee member of the International Research Network for Innovative, Sustainable and Seamless Education. This network strives to enhance the visibility of seamless learning by researching teaching and learning practices and fosters a community of practice. (<https://irnissee.weebly.com/about-the-team.html>)

Postgraduate Students

In 2024, 20 postgraduate students were registered: 11 PhD, 6 Master's and 3 Honours degree students.

Other Activities

In December, Lance Phillip was informed that his second *Preces & Responses* (2011) setting had been approved for the repertoire lists of the 2025 London Festival of Contemporary Church Music. Whilst this is not a guarantee of performance, it acknowledges that the panel found the work to be of sufficient interest to merit inclusion.

The FSYWE continued serving as an educational platform for young musicians in the Free State. The ensemble participated in several yearly performances, providing students with opportunities to grow through music. A highlight of the year was the invitation to perform at the Music, Art, Dance and Drama Festival (MADDfest), hosted by St Patrick's CBC in Kimberley. In addition, the FSYWE performed at the iconic Big Hole in Kimberley, offering a vibrant musical experience to the local community and visiting tourists in collaboration with the Big Hole Kimberley. The ensemble also had the opportunity to collaborate with Paul Roos Gimnasium School from Stellenbosch to create an enriching musical and cultural exchange experience for all students involved.



The OSM Camerata

The OSM Camerata presented *OSMC In Concert 1*, featuring Giovanni Pergolesi's poignant *Stabat Mater* (1710-1736) and Arcangelo Corelli's vibrant *Concerto Grosso Opus 6 No. 4* (1653-1713), performed with soloists. The repertoire consisted of Baroque masterworks on Sunday, 21 April 2024, at 16:00 in the Bloemfontein Anglican Cathedral. The concert was conducted by Prof Anmari van der Westhuizen, with Marius Coetzee as manager.

The OSM Camerata presented *OSMC In Concert 2* at the Anglican Cathedral of St Andrew and St Michael in Bloemfontein, which featured a programme with works by Corelli, Dall'Abaco, Hovhaness, Delius, and Holst. The concert showcased trumpet soloist Dingaan Chabalala and was conducted by Prof Anmari van der Westhuizen, with Mr. Marius Coetzee as manager.

Staff (2024)

Permanent Staff

Dr Jan Beukes	Senior Lecturer, Artistic and Operational Head
Dr Frelet De Villiers	Senior Lecturer, Academic Head of Department
Dingaan Chabalala	Lecturer
Dr Albertus Engelbrecht	Lecturer
Dr Anchen Froneman	Senior Lecturer
Dr Joseph Kunnuji	Senior Lecturer
Dr Sonkanise Nkosi	Senior Lecturer
Lance Phillip	Lecturer
Dr Marc Röntsch	Senior Lecturer
Prof Danré Strydom	Associate Professor
Prof Matildie Wium	Associate Professor

Contract Staff

Maritsa Barlow	Lecturer
Teresa De Wit	Lecturer
Luzanne Eigelaar	Senior Lecturer
Nicolene Gibbons	Lecturer
John Holloway	Junior Lecturer
Michelle Horn	Junior Lecturer
Manuela Lovisa	Lecturer
Karin Maritz	Lecturer
Lesley Mathews	Lecturer
Angelique Novella	Lecturer
Hans Potgieter	Lecturer
Claire Röntsch	Lecturer
Dr Suzanne Strauss	Senior Lecturer
Tarien Van der Linde	Lecturer

Support Staff

Marius Coetzee	Senior Officer
Ella Kotze	Officer
Ninette Pretorius	Officer
Leon Snyman	Officer
Charlene Williams	Officer

Philosophy & Classics

Academic Head of Department
Prof JH Rossouw

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Overview of 2024

This was yet another groundbreaking year for the Philosophy & Classics Department. I mention just a few highlights:

- An undergraduate pass rate of 89.7%;
- Four of the five Philosophy Honours students are on course to pass, of which two with distinction, with two of the four planning to do an MA in the Department;
- One staff member promoted to senior lecturer, and two staff members successfully completing their probation period;
- More than 22 research publishing units, as well as an authored monograph, an edited collection of essays, and a groundbreaking Greek-Afrikaans poetry translation published;
- An exceedingly high rate of 69 engaged scholarship publications.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

Dr H-M Cawood

- Promoted to Senior Lecturer

Dr JC Meyer

- Successful completion of a two-year probation period
- Organised the Classics and Classical Studies Teaching, Learning and Assessment Indaba, 27-28 September 2024, UFS

Teaching

Dr JC Meyer

Initiated a service module with the Faculty of Health Sciences in Medical Terminology. This module is slated to be extended in 2025 into a full teaching module.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Alt, Heinrich H

UFS-050772 – 2024. Kosmiese wet, noodsaaklikheid en waarskynlikheid: Armstrong se beskouing oor natuur- en waar-skynlikheidswette en Van Fraassen se kritiek daarop. *Journal for Christian Scholarship= Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap*, 60(1-2), pp.79-98.

UFS-050771 – 2024. Kosmiese wet, noodsaaklikheid en waarskynlikheid: 'n Christelike perspektief vanuit die Wysbegeerte van die Kosmonomiese Idee. *Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap| Journal for Christian Scholarship*, 60(1&2), pp.191-210.

Beukes, Cornelius CJ

UFS-050691 – 2024. Die voortgesette ontwikkeling van studies in Middeleeuse seksualiteit. *Litnet Akademies: 'n Joernaal vir die Geesteswetenskappe, Natuurwetenskappe, Regte en Godsdienswetenskappe*, 21(1), pp.25-53.

Britz, Rudolph RM

UFS-053211 – Britz, R.M. and Meijer, M.D., 2024. Compilation of the Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism. *In die Skriflig/In Luce Verbi*, 58(1), p.3024.

Cawood, Helen-Mary H

UFS-053227 – Cawood, H.M., 2024. Spectacles of social activism: pandemic and politicking in the age of digital media. *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 43(4), pp.323-337.

Meyer, John JC

UFS-052264 – 2024. Review: C. van Tilburg: City Gates in the Roman West, Forms and Function. *Gymnasium* 130(4): 402-405.

Masaka, Dennis D

UFS-052526 – 2024. A Critique of Oyowe's Mind-Dependent Ancestral Persistence Thesis. *Philosophia Africana*, 23(1), pp.21-28.

Olivier, Gysbert G

UFS-053117 – 2024. The Future of the Past of a Miser and of a Womaniser: Dickens's A Christmas Carol (1843), Hollywood and Psychoanalysis. *Alternation: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of the Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa (Formerly International Journal for the Study of Southern African Literature and Languages)*.

UFS-053072 – 2024. The Limits of Artificial Intelligence. *Alternation: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of the Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa (Formerly International Journal for the Study of Southern African Literature and Languages)*.

UFS-052849 – 'Mikrochaos': *Triomf* in intratekstuele en ekstratekstuele perspektief. 2024. *Stilet: Tydskrif vir die Afrikaanse Letterkundevereniging*.

UFS-052529 – 2024. Hede, verlede en toekoms: Verwagting, risiko en gevaar van vernietiging / *Present, past and future: Expectation, risk and danger of destruction*. 2024. *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe*, 64(4), pp.567-585.

UFS-052272 – 2024. Reading between the Lines: Reflections of the Unconscious in a Philosophical Text. *Alternation*, 41, pp.70-91.

UFS-052270 – 2024. Exacerbating Beck's Risk Society (1992) –The 'pandemic' and Beyond. *Alternation*, 41 (no sed).

UFS-052268 – 2024. Arresting the ravages of time: Neoclassical architecture, with reference to some Neoclassical houses in Mytilene, Lesbos. *South African Journal of Art History*, 39(1), pp.56–72.

UFS-052265 – 2024. Kant's Perpetual Peace (1795) and the Russia-Ukraine/NATO Conflict. *Phronimon*, 25, pp. 14 pages.

UFS-050696 – 2024. Parrhesia as therapy in 'fragile times'. *Psychotherapy & Politics International*, 22(1), pp.1–25.

UFS-050693 – 2024. Identity, diversity, and rhizomatic complexity. *Acta Academica*, 56(1), pp.21–42.

Raath, Andries AWG

UFS-052486 – 2024. Tussen aktivisme en quiëtisme: Johannes Ruysbroeck, Andrew Murray en die dialektiese aard van die apostoliese mistiek. *Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap / Journal for Christian Scholarship*, 60(3&4), pp.133–133.

UFS-052485 – 2024. Lig uit Lig: Die metafisiese tradisie van metaforiese lignumineuse en die neerslag daarvan in Andrew Murray. *Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap / Journal for Christian Scholarship*, 60(3&4), pp.111–129.

UFS-052302 – 2024. Gerhard Tersteegen (1697–1769), Andrew Murray (1827–1917) and mystical gnosis. *Journal for Christian Scholarship / Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap*, 60(1–2), pp.61–78.

UFS-050780 – 2024. Synsperspektiewe en spekulatiewe mistiek in Andrew Murray se teologie. *Tydskrif vir Christelike Wetenskap / Journal for Christian Scholarship*, 60(1&2), pp.161–172.

Rossouw, Johannes JH

UFS-052488 – 2024. René Girard, Michel Houellebecq, mimetiese wedywing in die liberale verbruikersamelewing, en die metafisiese toekoms van die Afrikaners. *Litnet Akademies: 'n Joernaal vir die Geesteswetenskappe, Natuurwetenskappe, Regte en Godsdienstwetenskappe*, 21(2), pp.89–106.

Books

Vanhoutte, Kristof KKP

UFS-052574 – 2024. *The Mirror of Death: Hermeneutical Reflections of the Realms in the Afterlife*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Villet, Charles C

UFS-052491 – 2024. A Postcolonial Theory of Recognition: Honneth and Fanon on Violence and Mutual Recognition. In *Philosophy of Violence: A Multidisciplinary Perspective* (pp. 175–200). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Conference Papers/Posters

Prof JH Rossouw

- Invited to present at Akademia's Philosophy & Theology conference, 22–23 July 2024, Akademia residential student campus, Clubview, Centurion
Title: Die Logos en die eietydse (Afrikaanse) teologie en filosofie
- Invited to present at the Western Cape Dutch Reformed Church Sentrum vir Voortgesette Bedieningsopleiding seminar on the theology of U2, 6–7 August 2024, Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality, Wellington, Western Cape
Title: U2 se al hoe stiller, al hoe ligter gebed
- Invited to present at the annual Etienne van Heerden-veldsoirée, Cradock, Eastern Cape, 19–21 September 2023
Title: Oor en ons trane, nou – en die mistiese groot trek

Dr H-M Cawood

- Invited to present at the IX International Conference in Cultural Studies: Cultures, Activisms, and Cultural Changes, at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, from 13–15 November 2024
Title: Resistance, rebellion, renunciation: Ultra trail running as an act of civic dissidence

- Co-presentation with Dr Xany Jansen van Vuuren
Title: Urban wildlife photography as activism: A visual translation of solastalgia
- Invited to present at the 24th Gatherings in Biosemiotics Hybrid Conference, 17-21 June 2024, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein
Title: Photography in the ecosemiosphere: Hermeneutic reflections on the non-verbal interpretation of the “veld”
- Panel presentation at the 24th Gatherings In Biosemiotics Hybrid Conference, 17-21 June 2024, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein
Title: Biosemiotics in the Global South

Dr MJ Amiradakis

- Invited to present at the 2024 South African Society for Critical Theory Conference, 13-17 November 2024, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Title: Culture Industry 2.0: The curious case of the ‘Swiftie Brigade’

Dr JC Meyer

- Invited to present the Classical Association of South Africa’s Teaching, Learning and Assessment Indaba, 27-28 September, UFS
Session Title: Service Modules at the University of the Free State
- Invited to present at Stellenbosch – Oxford – Stanford (SOSI) Colloquium, Virgil and the Land, 23-24 February, Stellenbosch University
Title: PRUDENTIA EST PARS MELIOR FORTITUDINIS: Leonine Imagery in Vergil

E Pistorius / RG Schreiber

- Roundtable discussion at the Classical Association of South Africa’s Teaching, Learning and Assessment Indaba, 27-28 September 2024, UFS
Title: Latin and Greek Textbooks for Beginners

Dr M Moyo

- Invited to present at 3rd International Classics Conference in Ghana (ICCG) – ‘Classics Beyond Borders’, 18-20 September 2024, University of Ghana
Title: The obelisks of Matabeleland: Rhodes, conquest and the Classics
- Invited to present at The Institute of Classical Studies (ICS), “Out of the Shadows of Empire Seminar series”, University of London, UK, (online) – 20 May 2024.
Title: The obelisks of Matabeleland: Rhodes, conquest and the Classics
- Chair Roundtable discussion at the Classical Association of South Africa’s Teaching, Learning and Assessment Indaba, 27-28 September 2024, UFS
Session Title: Teaching Classics to students in multicultural contexts

L Gobingca

- Invited to present at the 2024 South African Postgraduate Symposium, 13-14 July 2024, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Title: The Modern Project in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A Tension between Reform and Revolution
- Invited to present at the 2024 South African Postgraduate Symposium, 13-14 July 2024, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Title: The State as a Mumfordian Technical Machine: An Aid to the Critique of the Modern State

Engaged Scholarship

Prof G (Bert) Olivier

2024. 'Is Peace Possible Today?'. *Brownstone Institute*, 27 December. <https://brownstone.org/articles/is-peace-possible-today/>

2024. 'War, Revolution, and Ambition'. *Brownstone Institute*, 12 December. <https://brownstone.org/articles/war-revolution-and-ambition/>

2024. 'The Philosophy of Provisionality'. *Brownstone Institute*, 5 December. <https://brownstone.org/articles/the-philosophy-of-provisionality/>

2024. 'Gattaca's Warning against Vaccine Passports'. *Brownstone Institute*, 19 November. <https://brownstone.org/articles/gattacas-warning-against-vaccine-passports/>

2024. 'Complex Systems and the U.S. Election'. *Brownstone Institute*, 5 November. <https://brownstone.org/articles/complex-systems-and-the-u-s-election/>

2024. 'Dissent: Gaps in the Regime'. *Brownstone Institute*, 28 October. <https://brownstone.org/articles/dissent-gaps-in-the-regime/>

2024. 'Considerations on Civil Disobedience'. *Brownstone Institute*, 16 October. <https://brownstone.org/articles/considerations-on-civil-disobedience/>

2024. 'Schopenhauer: Humanity's Fall to Irrationality'. *Brownstone Institute*, 9 October. <https://brownstone.org/articles/schopenhauer-humanitys-fall-to-irrationality/>

2024. 'Political Renewal, Intellectual Revival'. *Brownstone Institute*, 30 September. <https://brownstone.org/articles/political-renewal-intellectual-revival/>

2024. 'Dungeons and Dragons Archetypes Come to Life'. *Brownstone Institute*, 17 September. <https://brownstone.org/articles/dungeons-and-dragons-archetypes-come-to-life/>

2024. 'Entertainment Weaponised'. *Brownstone Institute*, 6 September. <https://brownstone.org/articles/entertainment-weaponized/>

2024. 'All Warfare is Based on Deception'. *Brownstone Institute*, 21 August. <https://brownstone.org/articles/all-warfare-is-based-on-deception/>

2024. 'Science, Society, and Stability'. *Brownstone Institute*, 8 August. <https://brownstone.org/articles/science-society-and-stability/>

2024. 'History, Technology, and a Balanced Attitude.' *Brownstone Institute*, 30 July. <https://brownstone.org/articles/history-technology-and-a-balanced-attitude/>

2024. 'Why Denial Persists'. *Brownstone Institute*, 24 July. <https://brownstone.org/articles/why-denial-persists/>

2024. 'The History We Make Today'. *Brownstone Institute*, 11 July. <https://brownstone.org/articles/the-history-we-make-today/>

2024. 'Do People Want Precious Freedom?'. *Brownstone Institute*, 8 July. <https://brownstone.org/articles/do-people-want-precious-freedom/>

2024. 'Savage Reservations'. *Brownstone Institute*, 1 July. <https://brownstone.org/articles/savage-reservations/>

2024. 'Elite Envy as a Civilizational Toxin'. *Brownstone Institute*, 25 June. <https://brownstone.org/articles/savage-reservations/>

2024. 'Two Sides of the Nihilistic Coin'. *Brownstone Institute*, 16 June. <https://brownstone.org/articles/two-sides-of-the-nihilistic-coin/>

2024. 'Nihilism Strikes with a Vengeance'. *Brownstone Institute*, 7 June. <https://brownstone.org/articles/nihilism-strikes-with-a-vengeance/>

2024. 'Philosophy of Law for the Modern World'. *Brownstone Institute*, 29 May. <https://brownstone.org/articles/philosophy-of-law-for-the-modern-world/>

2024. 'Is "Avian Flu" Anything to fear?'. *Brownstone Institute*, 18 May. <https://brownstone.org/articles/is-avian-flu-anything-to-fear/>

2024. 'A View of Kant from the East'. *Brownstone Institute*, 17 May. <https://brownstone.org/articles/a-view-of-kant-from-the-east/>
2024. 'Open Letter to the People: The Time is Now'. *Brownstone Institute*, 10 May. <https://brownstone.org/articles/open-letter-to-the-people-the-time-is-now/>
2024. 'Ancient Political Advice for Today's Rulers'. *Brownstone Institute*, 2 May. <https://brownstone.org/articles/ancient-political-advice-for-todays-rulers/>
2024. 'We've Forgotten Kant's Moral Lesson'. *Brownstone Institute*, 19 April. <https://brownstone.org/articles/weve-forgotten-kants-moral-lesson/>
2024. 'The WHO's Road to Totalitarianism'. *Brownstone Institute*, 9 April. <https://brownstone.org/articles/the-whos-road-to-totalitarianism/>
2024. 'Plato's Cave Resurrected'. *Brownstone Institute*, 28 March. <https://brownstone.org/articles/platos-cave-resurrected/>
2024. 'The Road to a New McCarthyism'. *Brownstone Institute*, 19 March. <https://brownstone.org/articles/the-road-to-a-new-mccarthyism/>
2024. 'The War Between Knowledge and Stupidity'. *Brownstone Institute*, 14 March. <https://brownstone.org/articles/the-war-between-knowledge-and-stupidity/>
2024. 'Technology: Weapon of the People'. *Brownstone Institute*, 7 March. <https://brownstone.org/articles/technology-weapon-of-the-people/>
2024. 'Levers of Control: Accept or Flee?'. *Brownstone Institute*, 26 February. <https://brownstone.org/articles/levers-of-control-accept-or-flee/>
2024. 'Authority Isn't What it Used to Be'. *Brownstone Institute*, 15 February. <https://brownstone.org/articles/authority-isnt-what-it-used-to-be/>
2024. 'They Inch Towards Total Technological Control'. *Brownstone Institute*, 4 February. <https://brownstone.org/articles/they-inch-towards-total-technological-control/>
2024. 'Ulrich Beck and our "Risk Society"'. *Brownstone Institute*, 30 January. <https://brownstone.org/articles/ulrich-beck-and-our-risk-society/>
2024. 'When "Psychopathic" is No Exaggeration'. *Brownstone Institute*, 22 January. <https://brownstone.org/articles/when-psychopathic-is-no-exaggeration/>
2024. 'On Wokism and Broken Homes'. *Brownstone Institute*, 16 January. <https://brownstone.org/articles/on-wokism-and-broken-homes/>
2024. 'The Great Taking Exposes the Financial End Game'. *Brownstone Institute*, 7 January. <https://brownstone.org/articles/the-great-taking-exposes-the-financial-end-game/>
2024. 'Hope Matters in Our War'. *Brownstone Institute*, 1 January. <https://brownstone.org/articles/hope-matters-in-our-war/>

Prof Johann Rossouw

2024. 'Die sonderlinge lewe en werk van René Girard: oor Benoît Chantre se René Girard – Biographie'. *LitNet Akademies*, 17 January. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-die-sonderlinge-lewe-en-werk-van-rene-girard-oor-benoit-chantre-se-rene-girard-biographie/>
2024. 'n Profeet vir ons tyd: In gesprek met Benoît Chantre oor René Girard. *LitNet Akademies*, 17 January. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-n-profeet-vir-ons-tyd-in-gesprek-met-benoit-chantre-oor-rene-girard/>
2024. 'Om jou te manipuleer, meneer'. *Rapport*, 21 January. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-om-jou-te-manipuleer-meneer-20240121>
2024. 'Onthou jy ons groot trek na aanvaarding?'. *Rapport*, 18 February. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-onthou-jy-ons-groot-trek-na-aanvaarding-20240218>
2024. 'Gesprek met Kleinboer oor erf en elders'. *LitNet Akademies*, 28 February. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-video-opname-van-gesprek-met-kleinboer-oor-erf-en-elders/>

2024. 'Gesoek: Een ritme vir almal'. *Rapport*, 17 March. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-gesoek-een-ritme-vir-almal-20240317>
2024. 'Die stryd teen stropery'. *LitNet Akademies*, 12 April. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-die-stryd-teen-stropery/>
2024. 'Herontdek opnuut dié manier van verstaan'. *Rapport*, 21 April. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-herontdek-opnuut-die-manier-van-verstaan-20240421>
2024. 'Gesprek met Ivan Vladislavić en Rick de Villiers oor *The near north*'. *LitNet Akademies*, 16 May. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-n-onderhoud-rondom-the-near-north/>
2024. 'Tegnologie vat plek van praat'. *Rapport*, 19 May. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-tegnologie-vat-plek-van-praat-20240519>
2024. 'Oor die Afrikaner Verklaring'. *LitNet Akademies*, 27 May. <https://www.litnet.co.za/oor-die-afrikaner-verklaring/>
2024. 'Oor die algemene verkiesing en 'n regering van nasionale eenheid (RNE) – 'n postkoloniale ontleding'. *LitNet Akademies*, 13 June. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-oor-die-algemene-verkiesing-en-n-regering-van-nasionale-eenheid-rne-n-postkoloniale-ontleding/>
2024. 'Die ontbinding van die Weste – 'n oorsig oor Emmanuel Todd se *La défaite de l'Occident*'. *LitNet Akademies*, 21 June. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-die-ontbinding-van-die-weste-n-oorsig-oor-emmanuel-todd-se-la-defaite-de-loccident/>
2024. 'Koerante se sluit het "nasmaak van verraad"'. *Rapport*, 23 June. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-koerante-se-sluit-het-nasmaak-van-verraad-20240623>
2024. 'Geagte president Ramaphosa'. *LitNet Akademies*, 11 July. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-geagte-president-ramaphosa/>
2024. 'Hallo, offerlam (en sondebok)'. *Rapport*, 21 July. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/hallo-offerlam-en-sondebok-20240719>
2024. 'Oor die toekoms van die geskrewe en gedrukte woord in Afrikaans'. *LitNet Akademies*, 7 August. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-oor-die-toekoms-van-die-geskrewe-en-gedrukte-woord-in-afrikaans/>
2024. 'Leer om te luister, nie net te hoor nie'. *Rapport*, 18 August. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-leer-om-te-luister-nie-net-te-hoor-nie-20240818>
2024. 'Versfeld, Degenaar en die herwinning van die Logos in die eietydse Afrikaanse filosofie en teologie'. *LitNet Akademies*, 13 August. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-versfeld-degenaar-en-die-herwinning-van-die-logos-in-die-eietydse-afrikaanse-teologie-en-filosofie/>
2024. 'Video-aanbieding aangaande U2 se al hoe ligter, al hoe stiller gebed'. *LitNet Akademies*, 16 August. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-video-aanbieding-aangaande-u2-se-al-hoe-ligter-al-hoe-stiller-gebed/>
2024. 'Gesprek met Dana Snyman oor *Seun*'. *LitNet Akademies*, 3 September. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-video-opname-van-gesprek-met-dana-snyman-oor-seun/>
2024. 'Bou aan 'n blinker nuustoe-koms'. *Rapport*, 15 September. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-bou-aan-blinker-nuustoe-koms-20240915>
2024. 'Oor Crito'. *LitNet Akademies*, 17 September. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-oor-crito/>
2024. 'Gesprek met Louise Cilliers oor *Kostis Palamas, Die ses woorde van die sigeuner*'. *LitNet Akademies*, 1 October. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-videogesprek-met-louise-cilliers-oor-kostis-palamas-die-ses-woorde-van-die-sigeuner/>
2024. 'In gesprek met PJO Jonker, 'n video-onderhoud oor *Die onsigbare*'. *LitNet Akademies*, 14 November. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-in-gesprek-met-pjo-jonker-n-video-onderhoud-oor-die-onsigbare/>
2024. 'Trump-triomp: Dis 'n opstand teen die papskeppers'. *Rapport*, 17 November. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/trump-triomp-dis-n-opstand-teen-die-papskeppers-20241117>

2024. 'n Onderhoud met Pierre-Marié Finkelstein.' *LitNet Akademies*, 22 November. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-n-onderhoud-met-pierre-marie-finkelstein/>

2024. 'Oor Breyten; vir Breyten'. *LitNet Akademies*, 28 November. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-johann-rossouw-gespreksreeks-oor-breyten-vir-breyten/>

2024. 'Abstrakte nasiebegrip is 'n teelaarde vir revolusie'. *Rapport*, 15 Desember. <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/johann-rossouw-abstrakte-nasiebegrip-teelaarde-vir-revolusie-20241215>

National and International Collaboration

Prof CJ Beukes

Research Associate (ongoing from 2019) at CHPS, Centre for the History of Philosophy and Science, Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen.

Research Associate (ongoing from 2022) at GCMEMT, Groningen Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Thought, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen

Members of the following international societies:

- Foucault Cirkel Nederland/België
- SIEPM (Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale)

Dr JC Meyer

Nominated as chairperson of the Northern Branch of CASA at the Potchefstroom meeting on 9 February 2024.

Postgraduate Students

The following students were awarded their degrees during the April 2025 graduation:

PhD

Candidate: Dr CWH Boshoff

Supervisor: Prof JH Rossouw

Title: Die oorfloedige lewe as antwoord op die skaarsheidsontologie van die moderniteit

Candidate: Dr PR Eloff

Supervisor: Prof JH Rossouw

Title: Serving the volk at His feet: An intellectual history of neo-Calvinist philosophy at the University of the Free State, 1942-1968

Candidate: Dr RE van Rensburg

Supervisor: Prof JH Rossouw

Title: Digitalisering en die omgewingskrisis: 'n Filosofiese ondersoek

MA

Candidate: CN Otto

Supervisor: Prof G Olivier

Title: Ideology, Discourse, and Power in the South African Built Environment: A Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis of the Mangaung Intermodal Transport Facility

Honours

Candidate:	R Radise (2019091582) (Distinction)
Supervisor:	Dr H Cawood
Candidate:	WS Quist (2020205866) (Distinction)
Supervisor:	Dr MJ Amiradakis
Candidate:	TM Khosa (2020148991)
Supervisor:	NK Govender
Candidate:	BL Masuku (2020312902)
Supervisor:	Dr MJ Amiradakis

Five students presented their research at the 2024 South African Society for Critical Theory Conference, 13-17 November 2024, University of KwaZulu-Natal:

MA Smit (PhD)

Title:	Is a digital democracy even possible?
Supervisor:	Prof G Olivier

NK Govender (PhD) with CN Otto (MA)

Title:	Erich Fromm and Spontaneity Within the South African Built Environment: Toward a Critical Theory of Architecture
Supervisors:	Dr MJ Amiradakis, Dr H Cawood, and Prof G Olivier

DD Prins (MA)

Title:	Digital colonialism in the Global South: A critical analysis of the instrumental view of technology
Supervisors:	Dr MJ Amiradakis and Dr H Cawood

W Shaer (MA)

Title:	Digital Media, The Culture Industry and Gadamer's Critique of Kantian Aesthetic Consciousness
Supervisors:	Prof JH Rossouw and Dr MJ Amiradakis

PJ du Plessis (MA)

Title:	The development of the myth of masculinity in South African cricket
Supervisors:	Prof JH Rossouw and Dr H Cawood

DD Prins (MA)

Invited to attend a workshop and present her research at the 'Technology Transfer and Culture in Africa' project at the University of Johannesburg Philosophy, in collaboration with the Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab

Workshop:	18-19 November 2024
Conference:	20-22 November 2024
Title:	Digital colonialism in the Global South: A critical analysis of the instrumental view of technology
Supervisors:	Dr MJ Amiradakis and Dr H Cawood

Staff (2024)

Permanent staff members:

Prof JH (Johann) Rossouw	Academic Head of Department
Dr H (Helen-Mary) Cawood	Senior Lecturer: Philosophy
Dr MJ (Mark) Amiradakis	Lecturer: Philosophy
Dr JC (John) Meyer	Lecturer: Classical Studies
Dr M (Madhlozi) Moyo	Lecturer: Classical Studies
E (Evert) Pistorius	Lecturer: Classical Languages
L (Lindani) Gobingca	Lecturer: Philosophy
AFM (Alice) Stander	Administrator / Office Manager

Contract staff members:

NK (Nathis) Govender	Lecturer: Philosophy
RG (Reinhard) Schreiber	Junior Lecturer: Classical Languages
A (Anisja) Smit	Facilitator: Classical Studies
DD (Diane) Prins	Facilitator: Philosophy
W (William) Shaer	Facilitator: Philosophy
PJ (Peetjan) du Plessis	Facilitator: Philosophy

Political Studies and Governance

Academic Head of Department
Dr Albert Schoeman

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E: schoemanpa@ufs.ac.za



Overview of 2024

The Department of Political Studies and Governance experienced a dynamic and productive year in 2024, marked by significant academic, research, and pedagogical achievements. Staff members received prestigious awards and fellowships, including NRF ratings and institutional teaching accolades, while contributing meaningfully to curriculum innovation and decolonisation efforts. Notably, transformative pedagogical practices such as flipped classrooms and collaborative learning were implemented across undergraduate and Honours modules.

Research output was robust, with numerous accredited publications, book chapters, and conference presentations addressing pressing global and African political issues, from climate change and migration to digital governance and security. Staff actively engaged in national and international collaborations, serving on editorial boards, participating in global conferences, and contributing to academic networks.

Postgraduate supervision flourished, with successful completions at Honours, Master's, and doctoral levels. The Department also played a vital role in engaged scholarship, with staff contributing to public discourse through media articles, blogs, and expert commentary. External moderation and examination activities further underscored the Department's academic influence across Southern Africa.

Overall, 2024 was a year of growth, innovation, and impact, reflecting the Department's commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement.

Achievements

Prof Eben Coetzee

- Promoted from senior lecturer to associate professor.

Dr Mamokhosi Choane

- Awarded a certificate of completion of the UFS Teaching and Learning Fellowship Programme.
- Guest speaker at the graduation ceremony of Marematlou Training Institute.

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

- Winner: 2024 Humanities Excellence Award: Teaching Methods and Assessment.
- Nominee: 2024 UFS Teaching and Learning Conference Awards: Innovating My Curriculum through Assessment.
- Promoted from lecturer to senior lecturer.

Dr Bianca Naudé

- Awarded a Y-rating from the NRF.

Prof Theo Neethling

- Received the UFS Exceptional Academic Achievers Award for the Teaching and Learning Khothatsa Project in October 2024.

Teaching

Prof Eben Coetzee

- POLS6856 (Contemporary International Relations thinkers)
- POLS6816 (Research methodology and proposal; co-lecturer)
- POLS3744 (International Political Economy; co-lecturer)

Dr Mamokhosi Choane

- POLS 2614 (Globalisation and World Politics)
- POLS 6836 (Political Theory)
- POLS 6826 (Forms of State and Systems of Government: Comparative Perspectives)
- Implemented transformative pedagogical practices in the Political Science learning environment, particularly second-year modules and Honours, including postgraduate supervision.
- Transformed the second-year Political Science module, implemented an active and collaborative learning approach and introduced flipped classrooms.
- Involved in a collaborative learning project and collaborated with Political Science students in the project to promote active learning. Also completed the Teaching and Learning Fellowship Programme in 2024 (Ethical clearance: UFS-HSD2023/0166/23).

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

- POLS 3724 (Ideology and Political Theory)
- POLS 6816 (Methodology and Research Proposal)
- POLS 6836 (Political Theory)

Guest lecture offered in POLS6816: Research Methodology and Proposal. Prof Peter Thompson from Appalachian State University presented a lecture on Quantitative and Computational Political Science.

Mosibudi Motimele

- POLS 1514 (Introduction to Politics)
- POLS 2624 (Governance and Political Transformation in Africa)

Mandlenkhosi Mthombeni

- POLS 3734 (Political Risk Analysis and Strategic Planning)
- POLS 3744 (International Political Economy)

Dr Bianca Naudé

- POLS 2634 (Cooperative Governance and Electoral Politics)
- POLS 3724 (Ideology and Political Theory)
- FRAP 8616

Prof Theo Neethling

- POLS 3734 (Political Risk Analysis and Strategic Planning)
- POLS 3744 (International Political Economy)
- POLS 6866 (Foreign Policy and Diplomacy)

Sam-Maree Rooi

- POLS 1524 (Introduction to World Politics and Global Governance)
- POLS 3714 (Security and Conflict Studies)

Dr Albert Schoeman

- POLS 1514 (Introduction to Politics)
- POLS 1524 (Introduction to World Politics and Global Governance)
- POLS 2624 (Governance and Political Transformation in Africa)
- POLS 3714 (Security and Conflict Studies)
- POLS 6866 (Foreign Policy and Diplomacy) Presented to study units
- FRAP 8616 Guest Lecturer

Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu

- POLS 2634 (Cooperative Governance and Electoral Politics)
- POLS 2644 (Politics, Law and International Organisations)

Short Learning Programmes offered**Dr Schoeman**

Coordinator: African Union Short Learning Programme (Conflict Prevention and Early Warning). Planning and course development are in progress to commence with teaching in 2025.

Research Projects**Dr Mamokhosi Choane**

SoTL project – Promoting Active Learning in Political Science: Using a Collaborative Learning Approach

Research Outputs (accredited)

Dr Mamokhosi Choane

Articles

Choane, M. 2024. Ubuntu pedagogy: Transforming teaching and learning at the University of the Free State in South Africa

Conference Papers/Posters

Attended a conference with an accepted abstract titled *Collaborative learning as an effective teaching method for Political Science*, at the Humanities and Social Sciences Conference, held at the Durban University of Technology, November 2024.

Dr Eben Coetzee

Works in progress [Accepted]

Coetzee, E. "The enduring wisdom of the realist tradition" in Van Wyk, J-A. & Botha, S. (eds). *An African Introduction to International Relations*, Routledge, **forthcoming**. [Book Chapter; Status: Submitted]

Coetzee, E. "The politics of nuclear energy in Africa: opportunities, fears, and constraints" (Edited book; Publisher: UJ Press, **forthcoming**). I have authored the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 7: The geopolitics of nuclear energy in Africa: What, who, and why?
- Chapter 9: Conclusion

Dr Jacobus Eksteen (Research Fellow)

Articles

Eksteen, J.A. 2024. The Suez Aftermath: South Africa and Liberation Movements

Eksteen, J.A. 2024. The Suez Aftermath: Personalities and Colonialism

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

Articles

Grobbelaar, A. (2024). Cyberterrorism in Africa – Is This the Real Life; Is This Just Fantasy? *Journal of Central and Eastern European African Studies*, 3(4), 108-124. <https://doi.org/10.59569/jceas.2023.3.4>.

Conference Papers/Posters

Grobbelaar, A. Conference Presentation: "Teaching and Assessing canonical Political Theory in the modern context". Presentation delivered at the annual UFS Teaching and Learning Conference. University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus.

Dr Fanie Herman (Research Fellow)

Articles

Herman, F. 2024. Die Afrika Vrede-en-Sekuriteit-Argitektuur (AVSA): 'n Strategiese Ontleding deur middel van die Model van Doelwitte-Aksies-Middele (DAM)

Dr Bianca Naudé

Chapters in edited volumes

Naudé, B. (2024). Growing in harmony with our cosmic selves: A holist answer to the "no technical solution problem" of climate change. In *BRICS and Climate Change: Balancing national interest, national development goals, and Global Environmental Sustainability*, edited by H. Solomon, S. Madonsela Solomon & B. Gupta. Gateway East: Palgrave Macmillan.

Conference Papers/Posters

"Navigating vicarious trauma in International Relations scholarship: An autoethnographic reflection", paper presented at the 2024 *Virtual Conference of the International Studies Association*, 2 August 2024 (Nominated for the Best Paper Award).

“More than survival: Climate, security, and the human right to thrive”, invited opening address of the *Conference on Climate Change and its Impact on African Security*, organised jointly by the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State and The Global Action to Prevent War, 18 March 2024.

Prof Theo Neethling

Articles

Neethling, T. The SANDF after 30 years: Walking the tightrope between external and internal operations on a shoestring budget. *Strategic Review for Southern Africa*, vol 66, no 1, 2024.

Chapters in edited volumes

De Kluiver, J. and Neethling, T. The Digital Silk Road: Implications for Africa's digital governance and transformation. In: Onyango, G., Karuri-Sebina, G. (eds),

Digitalisation and public policy in Africa. Studies in national governance and emerging technologies. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. ISBN 978-3-031-75078-6.

Conference Papers/Posters

Neethling, T. Russia's para-military operations in Africa, 2014–2023: The Wagner Group as a de facto foreign policy instrument. Central and East European Studies Association (CEEISA) and the International Studies Association (ISA) Joint International Conference: Knowing the global-local: Imagining pasts, debating futures, University of Rijeka, Croatia, 18–21 June 2024.

Neethling, T. The Wagner Group's para-military operations in Africa: The legacy of Yevgeni Prigozhin and beyond. International conference on counter-terrorism, technology and development in Africa, co-hosted by Stellenbosch University and Obuda University (Hungary), Waterkloof Air Force Base, Pretoria, 19 September 2024.

Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu

Chapters in edited volumes

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). 'Implications of International Migration Restrictions on Inter-State Diplomatic Relations during COVID-19: China-Africa in Perspective'. In: Ehiane, S. O., Masuku, M. M. and Suping, K., (eds), *Understanding the Horizontal and Vertical Nature of Africa Migration in Contemporary Times*. Palgrave Macmillan: Singapore, pp. 233–260. (Hardcover ISBN: 978-981-97-7595-8; Softcover ISBN: 978-981-97-7598-9; eBook ISBN: 978-981-97-7596-5). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-7596-5>

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of SADC'S Peace and Security Architecture', in Ehiane et al. (eds.). *Engagement of Africa in Conflict Dynamics and Peace Architectures*. Springer Publishers/Palgrave Macmillan: Singapore, pp. 373–400. Hardcover ISBN (978-981-99-8234-9); Softcover ISBN (978-981-99-8237-0); eBook ISBN (978-981-99-8235-6). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-8235-6>

Ehiane O.S., Shulika, L.S. and Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). 'Peace and Security in Africa: Reflecting on the Past, Present, and Future', in Ehiane et al. (eds.). *Engagement of Africa in Conflict Dynamics and Peace Architectures*. Springer Publishers/Palgrave Macmillan: Singapore, pp. 3–15. Hardcover ISBN (978-981-99-8234-9); Softcover ISBN (978-981-99-8237-0); eBook ISBN (978-981-99-8235-6). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-8235-6>

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). 'Examining the role of civil society in African Transitional Politics: A comparative analysis of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic'. In: Kariuki, P., Ehiane, S. O., and Mngomezulu, B. (eds). *Political and Civil Leadership in Africa: Changes and Transitions*. University of Johannesburg Press: South Africa, pp. 45–71. (ISBN: 978-1-0370-0468-1 Paperback, ISBN: 978-1-0370-0469-8 PDF; ISBN: 978-1-0370-0470-4 EPUB). Available at: <https://ddp.org.za/resources/publications/files/political-and-civil-leadership.pdf>

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). 'Peace-building Processes to Prevent and Manage Xenophobia in South Africa'. In: Kiyala, J.C.K., Chivasa, N. (eds). *Climate Change and Socio-political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa in the Anthropocene: Perspectives from Peace Ecology and Sustainable Development*. The Anthropocene: Politik Economics Society Science, Vol 37. Springer: Cham, pp. 645–665, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-48375-2_26

Books

Ehiane O.S., Shulika, L.S. and Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). *Engagement of Africa in Conflict Dynamics and Peace Architectures*. Springer Publishers/Palgrave Macmillan: Singapore. Hardcover ISBN (978-981-99-8234-9);

Softcover ISBN (978-981-99-8237-0); eBook ISBN (978-981-99-8235-6), <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-8235-6>

Conference Papers/Posters

Vhumbunu, C.H. and Khanyisani A. Khanyile (2024). *The (re)emergence of anti-migrant vigilantism, anti-migrant populism and xenophobia in South Africa: Can Ubuntu be the magic wand?* Paper presented in-person at the “15th Humanities and Social Sciences International Conference” hosted and funded by the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) at Umfolozi Hotel Casino Convention Resort in Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa: 10–11 October 2024. Reference website: <https://www.hassic.unizulu.ac.za/>

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). *Balancing the peace-trade equation in Africa through the African Continental Free Trade Area: Possibilities, Probabilities, and Evidence*. Paper virtually presented at the International Conference on the “Future of African Trade and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”, funded and hosted by the University of Professional Studies Accra (UPSA) Law School, Accra, Ghana: 16–17 May 2024. Reference website: <https://upsafricanlawconferences.org/>

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). *The Impact of Social Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Zimbabwean Urban Areas: The City of Harare in Perspective*. Paper presented at the “Social Policy in Africa Conference on Social Policy in post-COVID Africa: In

Search of an Inclusive and Equitable Architecture”, hosted and funded by the University of South Africa (UNISA) South African Research (SARChI) Chair in Social Policy/CODESRIA/UNRISD/Open Society at the Southern Sun Hotel, City of Tshwane, South Africa; from 15–17 April 2024. Reference website: <https://socialpolicyinafricaconference.codesria.org/>

Vhumbunu, C. (2024). *Reflecting on China's Belt and Road Initiative's Contribution towards Transforming the African Digital Economy: Experiences, Challenges and Prospects*. Paper virtually presented at the International Symposium on “Africa-China Relations in the Digital Era: Power, Precarities and Prospects”, funded and hosted by Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong, from 12–13 April 2024. Conference programme available at: https://www.ln.edu.hk/sgs/content/media/123/2024%20event/LU_Africa-China_Relations_International_Symposium_Rundown.pdf

Engaged Scholarship

Prof Eben Coetzee

Coetzee, E. “Pro-Israel hoef nie pro-oorlog te wees nie”, *Netwerk24*, 28 October 2024. Available at: <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/aktueel/pro-israel-hoef-nie-pro-oorlog-te-wees-nie-20241024>

Coetzee, E. “The geopolitics of civilian nuclear energy projects in Africa”, *RUSI Newsbrief*, 18 October 2024. Available at: <https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/rusi-newsbrief/geopolitics-civilian-nuclear-energy-projects-africa>

Coetzee, E. “Iran nie heethoofdig met aanvalle op Israel, eintlik gematig”, *Netwerk24*, 9 October 2024. Available at: <https://www.netwerk24.com/netwerk24/stemme/menings/iran-nie-heethoofdig-met-aanvalle-op-israel-eintlik-gematig-20241008>

Coetzee, E. “Drawing the right lessons from Iran’s missile attack on Israel”, *LitNet*, 5 October 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/drawing-the-right-lessons-from-irans-missile-attack-on-israel/>

Coetzee, E. “One decision can change everything – lessons for South Africa’s political parties from the history of international politics”, *LitNet*, 5 June 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/one-decision-can-change-everything-lessons-for-south-africas-political-parties-from-the-history-of-international-politics/>.

Coetzee, E. “Die lasbriewe van die Internasionale Strafhof en die kontinuïteit van die internasionale politiek” [The ICC’s arrest warrants and the continuity of international politics], *LitNet*, 27 May 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-lasbriewe-van-die-internasionale-strafhof-en-die-kontinuïteit-van-die-internasionale-politiek/>.

Coetzee, E. “The dangers of the two-state solution”, *LitNet*, 30 April 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/the-dangers-of-the-two-state-solution/>.

Coetzee, E. “Die komende Israel-Iran oorlog?” [The coming Israel-Iran war?], *LitNet*, 19 April 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-komende-israel-iran-oorlog/>.

Coetzee, E. "The Israel-Gaza war – war or genocide?", *LitNet*, 16 April 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/the-israel-gaza-war-war-or-genocide/>.

Coetzee, E. "Will South Africa also plead Taiwan's cause? I doubt it, and here's why", *LitNet*, 10 April 2024. Available at: <https://www.litnet.co.za/will-south-africa-also-plead-taiwans-cause-i-doubt-it-and-heres-why/>.

"The dangers of the two-state solution", *Interview on RSG Radio*, 2 May 2024.

"Oorlog en gerugte van oorlog" [War and Rumours of War], *Interview on Radio Pulpit*, 17 April 2024.

Dr Mamokhosi Choane

Guest speaker at the graduation ceremony of the Marematlou Training Institute.

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

Invited speaker (panellist): Boko Haram and Social Media. Invited speaker at the 1st West African Dialogue on Terrorism and Social Media. Theme: Addressing Terrorism and Social Media in West Africa: Challenges and the Way Forward. Hosted by African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention, Nigeria.

Consultant to Oranje Girls High debating teams to prepare for various competitions. Adjudicator and consultant to Oranje Girls High junior and senior debating teams, preliminary rounds.

Head Adjudicator for the ATKV "Dink-of-Sink" High Schools Debating Tournament: Free State Rounds (August)

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

External examination of Master's thesis for Wits University: "*Cyber Espionage in South Africa, Nigeria and Ethiopia*"

Prof Theo Neethling

Neethling, T. South Africa's military is expected to do more with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years, *The Conversation*, 4 February 2024.

The article was republished as/in:

- How the SANDF has declined over 30 years. *Mail&Guardian*, 4 February 2024.
- South Africa's military is expected to do more with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years, *Modern Ghana*, 4 February 2024.
- South Africa's military is expected to do more with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years. *DefenceWeb*, 5 February 2024.
- South Africa's military is expected to do more with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years. *TimesLive*, 5 February 2024.
- SA's military is expected to do more than ever with tighter budgets. *Moneyweb*, 10 February 2024.
- SA's military is expected to do more than ever with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years. *African Insider*, 5 February 2024.
- South Africa's military is expected to do more with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years, *Polity.org.za*, 6 February 2024.
- South Africa's military is expected to do more with tighter budgets: How the force has declined over 30 years, *BGTN: BRICS Global Television Network*, 6 February 2024.

Neethling, T. The South African National Defence Force at 30: Balancing political aspirations with budgetary realities, *News24*, 22 February 2024.

The article was republished as/in:

- The South African National Defence Force at 30: Balancing political aspirations with budgetary realities, *DefenceWeb*, 13 March 2024.

Neethling, T. Verkiesing 2024: Onderliggende veranderlikes van besondere belang, *LitNet Menings*, 13 May 2024.

Neethling, T. Elections 2024: 10 variables of profound importance. *UFS website*, 15 May 2024.

The article was republished as/in:

- Elections 2024: 10 variables of profound importance. *Business Ghana*, 14 May 2024.
- Elections 2024: 10 variables of profound importance. *Polity*, 13 May 2024.
- Important variables that could define the future of SA. *Sowetan*, 17 May 2024.
- Elections 2024: 10 variables of profound importance. *TimesLive*, 19 May 2024.

Neethling, T. Verkiesing 2024: 10 faktore wat invloed kan hê. *Maroela Media*, 21 May 2024.

Neethling, T. Hier kom nog baie uitdagings vir nuwe regering. Rapport, 21 July 2024.

Neethling, T. African nations can do more to benefit from ties with China, the world's second-strongest economy. The Conversation, 2 September 2024.

Neethling, T. 'n Sterker Afrika teenoor China. Maroela Media, 3 September 2024.

Neethling, T. Midde-Ooste: 'Voortploeter' sonder 'n oplossing steeds die toekoms, Netwerk24, 8 October 2024.

The article also appeared in the following newspapers:

- Steeds geen kompromisse, Beeld, 9 October 2024.
- Steeds geen kompromisse, Die Burger, 9 October 2024.
- Steeds geen kompromisse, Volksblad, 9 October 2024.

Neethling, T. Mosambiek het 'n groot kopseer vir Suid-Afrika en Suider-Afrika geword. In welke mate is die SAOG van hulp? Litnet, 11 November 2024.

Dr Albert Schoeman

Internal moderator for MA Student Barend Mattheus Ruben Pretorius. 2024. Neo-patrimonialism in post-colonial sub-Saharan Africa: The barricade to modern statehood (UFS). Moderator: Prof Eben Coetzee

Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu

Participated in a two-week *"Seminar on Think Tanks and National Development Research for English-Speaking African Countries"*, fully-funded and hosted by the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (UCASS), Fangshan District, in the City of Beijing and City of Guangzhou, People's Republic of China (PRC): from 15-28 October 2024. Reference website: <https://www.ucass.edu.cn/en/index.html>

Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). Zimbabwe's Experiences in Implementing Maputo Protocol provisions on Women's Right to Participation in the Political and Decision-Making Process. *African Union Commission for Human and People's Rights Newsletter*,

Volume 2, 17 May 2024. Available at: <https://achpr.au.int/en/special-mechanisms-reports/newsletter-special-rapporteur-rights-women-africa-may-2024>

Mawire, C. and Vhumbunu, C.H. (2024). Interrogating the legality, appropriateness and sustainability of vigilantism against migrants in South Africa. *Conflict Trends*, 2023 (1), pp.32 - 42, ISSN: 1561-9818. Available at: <https://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/interrogating-the-legality-appropriateness-and-sustainability-of-vigilantism-against-migrants-in-south-africa/>

Engaged as a peer expert reviewer, upon invitation from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Completed review of abstracts submitted by scholars for the 19th Africa Young Scholars and Graduates (AYGS 2025) Conference organised by the HSRC's Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) in collaboration with the National Research Foundation's (NRF) Future Earth Africa Hub Leadership Centre, Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI), and the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), from 4-6 March 2025 at the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) in South Africa under the theme *"Enabling Africa's Inclusive and Sustainable Development Challenges and Opportunities"*. Reviewed over ten (10) abstracts for the Conference sub-theme of *"Governance, Peace, and Security in Enabling Africa's Inclusive and Sustainable Development"*. Conference details available at: <https://aygs.hsrc.ac.za/about-us/>

Engaged and appointed as an external moderator by the University of Namibia (UNAM) in Namibia. Completed moderation work for the following modules between February 2024 and December 2024:

External moderator for a Master's of Security Studies (MSS) Course on **Public Policy (PPP3771)**, University of Namibia (UNAM) School of Military Science, Windhoek, Namibia.

External moderator for a Master's of Security Studies (MSS) course on **Human Resources Management (ARM3641)**, University of Namibia (UNAM) School of Military Science, Windhoek, Namibia.

External moderator for a Master's of Security Studies (MSS) course on **Security Sector Policy Analysis (T6921MS)**, University of Namibia (UNAM) School of Military Science, Windhoek, Namibia.

External moderator for a Master's of Security Studies (MSS) course on **Military Human Resources Management (T3641MG)**, University of Namibia (UNAM) School of Military Science, Windhoek, Namibia.

External moderator for a Master's of Security Studies (MSS) course on **Comparative Foreign Policy (MSS5912)**, University of Namibia (UNAM) School of Military Science, Windhoek, Namibia.

Appointed as an external examiner and completed the following postgraduate examination for Master's dissertations and doctoral thesis between February 2024 and December 2024:

Examined the **Master's dissertation** of Thenjiwe Bongiwe Ncube (Student Number: 216008775) titled *Role of Indigenous Knowledge in the Evolving Nature Conservation Systems: The Study Area of Khula Village, Mtubatuba Local Municipality, KZN*, School of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa (February 2024).

Examined the **Master's dissertation** of Aletta Nevabosi (Student Number: 2107785) titled *An evaluation of democratisation processes in West Africa: A comparative analysis of Nigeria's and Ghana's democratic governance*, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (May 2024).

Examined the **doctorate/PhD Thesis** of Alexandre Mwana-Nteba (Student Number: 22064697) titled *Rehabilitation of Child Inmates in North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo*, Faculty of Management Sciences – Peace Studies, Durban University of Technology (DUT), South Africa (September 2024).

Examined the **Master's Dissertation** of Dean Naicker (Student Number: 223104917) titled *Assessing the Challenges and Prospects of Economic Integration in Africa: A Case Study of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)*, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Faculty of the Humanities, University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa (December 2024).

National and International Collaboration

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

- Co-editor of the special edition journal of Frontiers in Political Science. Special edition: "[The Evolution of Homeland and Civil Security Policies around the World: Values and Resilience](#)"

Dr Bianca Naudé

- Member of the *Narrative and Conflict Research Network*, led by Dr Hilde van Meegdenburg, Leiden University, Netherlands, and Dr Andrew Palmer, Canterbury Christ Church University, United Kingdom.
- FRAP 6816 welcomed two guest lecturers: Dr Yolanda Spies, Director of the Diplomatic Studies Programme at the University of Oxford, UK and Prof Oumar Ndongo from Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal.

Prof Theo Neethling

- Neethling, T. Editorial Advisory Board: *Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies*.
- Neethling, T. Academic Council: *Ante Portas – Security Studies* (Poland)
- Neethling, T. Editorial and Advisory Board: *Athens Journal of Politics & International Affairs* (Greece).

Postgraduate Students

Dr Mamokhosi Choane

- Postgraduate student: Lehlohonolo Seokwe (student number 2019107719) completed his Honours under my supervision and registered for his Master's in Political Science in 2024 under my supervision.

Dr Bianca Naudé

Two Honours students successfully completed their mini-dissertations:

- Batseba Moloto: "International Humanitarian Law and International Court (s) as potential instruments of conflict mediation and intervention: South Africa's case against Israel"
- Musa Masonde: "Surveillance capitalism in Africa" (awarded with distinction)

Dr Albert Schoeman

- Supervisor for Honours student Lerato Tswai. Carbon Tax and Just Energy Transition: Analysing South Africa's dual strategy towards reducing the effects of climate change in the coal-intensive economy (In progress)
- Supervisor for PhD: Lumanyano Ncgayisa, **An authoritarian rethinking of African statecraft**: The architecture of transitional constructive authoritarianism (In progress)

Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu

- Successfully graduated a supervised Master's student, Bevin K. Mukasa (student number: 218231304). Master's degree in Public Administration. Dissertation titled "*Investigating The Role of Public Private Partnerships in Addressing Healthcare Infrastructure Challenges in the Ministry of Health and Social Services: A Case Study of Khomas Region, Namibia*". **Department of Public Management and Political Studies, University of Namibia (UNAM)** (December 2024).
- Successfully graduated a supervised Honours student, Aobakwe Mothobi (student number: 2019010061). Honours degree in International Relations. Dissertation titled "*Examining the effects of poaching and wildlife trafficking as a transnational crime in Africa: The case of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park*". **Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of Free State (UFS)** (December 2024).



Other Activities

Dr Mamokhosi Choane

- CTL workshops 2024
- Institutional training workshop – Blackboard Collaborate, 16 July 2024
- Institutional training workshop – Design your Blackboard page, 15 July 2024

Dr Alta Grobbelaar

- Peer reviewing of an academic article: SAGE Publishers: “Ethio-Eritrean Relation: From Jubilant Liaison to Paroxysm Hostility since 2018”. Submitted to Insight on Africa.

Dr Bianca Naudé

- Bianca Naudé served as Editorial Board Member of the academic journal, *Social Sciences and Humanities Open*, and peer reviewer for several leading International Relations journals.
- Bianca Naudé chaired the Scientific Committee (Culture Cluster) and served as a reviewer for the General Human Research Ethics Committee (GHREC). She further represented the Faculty of the Humanities on the institutional committee, *Communities of Practice on Engaged Scholarship*, and served as a member of the Faculty Engaged Scholarship Committee.
- Bianca Naudé completed a Data Analysis for the Social Sciences course as part of the 2024 Spring School in Advanced Research Methods hosted by the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations.

Prof Theo Neethling

- Neethling, T. Senate representative on the UFS Institutional Forum.
- Neethling, T. Faculty representative on the UFS Higher Degrees Committee.

Dr Albert Schoeman

- Member of the Subject Heads Committee (Faculty of the Humanities, Qwaqwa Campus)
- Member of the Library Senate Committee as representative of the Qwaqwa Campus
- Member of the Faculty Management Committee (as Academic Head of Department)
- Faculty Research Committee (Qwaqwa Campus)
- Member of the Faculty Board
- Member of Senate
- Member of the University Readmissions Review Tribunal (URRT)
- Member of BSoc Sc Advisory Board (Dr Schoeman and Dr Grobbelaar acted on behalf of the Department as hosts for 2024 in organising the two annual meetings. Different departments in the BSoc Sc programme act as hosts on an annual basis.

Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu

Appointed to serve, and continued to serve, as a member of the **Faculty of the Humanities Scientific Review Committee**.

Staff (2024)

Dr Albert Schoeman	Academic Head of Department
Prof Eben Coetzee	Subject Head
Dr Mamokhosi Choane	Lecturer
Dr Alta Grobbelaar	Senior Lecturer
Mosibudi Motimele	Lecturer
Mandla Mthombeni	Lecturer (retired at the end of 2024)
Dr Bianca Naudé	Senior Lecturer
Prof Theo Neethling	Full Professor
Marichen Preller	Senior Assistant Officer
Sam-Maree Rooi	Junior Lecturer
Dr Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu	Senior Lecturer

Governance and Political Transformation



Programme Director
Dr Ina Gouws

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Overview of 2024

Postgraduate

There was a total of **41** Postgraduate Diploma students, **49** Master's degree students and **7** PhD students registered for 2024.

Pass Rates for 2024 (including the December graduation):

Postgraduate Diploma **34**

Master's degree **15**

PhD **2**

The total number of postgraduate students who have graduated to date:

Diplomandi **343**

Graduandi **370**

PhD **14**

Undergraduate

There were **367** registered students for the year in the BA Governance and Political Transformation Programme in 2024. A total of **46** students graduated in 2024, excluding those who graduated in December.

A total of **4362** students have obtained their **BA degrees** since 2002.

Achievements

Staff achievements

- Cathy de Lange completed the Human-centric Digital Transformation SLP with NWU (on a SETA grant) with distinction.
- Cathy de Lange was among the top 5 finalists in the Centre for Teaching and Learning Academic Excellence awards. Her category was Most Valued Professional.
- Dr Tania Coetzee completed her term as Programme Director after 17 years of service in the position.
- Dr Tania Coetzee successfully completed the Academic Leadership Programme.
- Dr Ina Gouws was appointed as the new Programme Director commencing in January 2025.

Student achievements

- **Siphilangenkosi Dlamini**, Postgraduate Diploma graduate, represented the UFS at the UNESCO Conference on Intercultural Competencies, held at Strathmore University in Kenya in October 2024. He presented his research report, which he wrote as part of a second-semester Governance module.
- **Beulah Kruger**, Governance Master's degree graduate, winner of the UFS 3Minute Thesis competition, held in September 2024.
- **MA Tsilo** (2012124265) received the award for the best Master's student in 2024.
- **D Masevhe** (2020294480) received the award for the best Postgraduate Diploma student in 2024.

Teaching

Three new modules were implemented in the Postgraduate Diploma in 2024:

- Knowledge-based Governance
- Communicating Governance
- Community-based Governance

Short Learning Programmes offered

- The SLP **Introduction to Transformational Governance** was successfully presented in March 2024 with participants receiving their certificates.
- The **Parliamentary Decorum** SLP was also presented successfully, and new contract negotiations are underway.
- The SLP **Mastering Leadership for Coalition Governance** will be offered in 2025.

Research Projects

1. Advancing Digital Ethics in Higher Education: A Focus on Generative AI Research

Principle Researcher: Dr Grey Stopforth

Collaborators: Dr Jacques Matthee and Dr Ina Gouws

R150 000

Report submitted in March 2024.

The project has concluded with the following deliverables and achievements being attained:

Guidelines for Responsible AI Use:

- We developed the first guidelines for the Faculty of Law at UFS, addressing the responsible use of generative AI in educational contexts.

- These guidelines were subsequently amended and adapted for the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and the the Faculty of The Humanities, ensuring a broader application across multiple disciplines.
- A general template for AI use guidelines was also developed, which faculties can customise to insert their own specific requirements.
- These guidelines are instrumental in the process of developing the UFS policies, which are underway.

2. UFS Learning & Teaching Fellowship

Dr Ina Gouws was awarded the UFS L&T Fellowship in 2024.

R5000 allocated for page fees for publication. The research article is in the concluding writing phase and will be submitted in June 2025.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Dr Roy Jankielsohn and Dr T Coetzee. Progressive Realisation as Instrument to Transform Rule-Based Governance of Animal Custodianship in South Africa. *African Journal of Democracy and Governance*. Vol 10 (1 and 2):39-62. 2023. https://journals.co.za/doi/10.10520/ejc-ajdg_v10_n1_2_a6

Conference Papers/Posters

- UFS Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC) Seminar, 29 January 2024, UFS.
Title: AI at the UFS: Assessment for Public Governance
- University of the Free State, Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures (ICDF) and the Digital Scholarship Centre (DSC). *AI Wayfinder Seminar Series*
Title: Assessment and Teaching with AI. Co-presented by Dr Ina Gouws & Dr Grey Stopforth, 4 April 2024, Bloemfontein, South Africa.
- UFS Teaching and Learning Conference, 17 September 2024, UFS.
Title: Ethical AI Governance: Integrating Responsible AI Use into Public Governance Education in South Africa
- 26th Ireland International Conference on Education (IICE-2024), 28-30 October 2024, Dublin, Ireland.
Title: Dynamic Learning Ecosystems: A reflection on the renewal of Public Governance Curricula

Engaged Scholarship

- Op-Ed. Dr Ina Gouws: Community-based Governance – Let your vote help your community.
https://www.timeslive.co.za/ideas/2024-05-29-dr-ina-gouws-community-based-governance-let-your-vote-help-your-community/#google_vignette
- Interview: SA's Political Players – Mashatile's strategic brilliance: Shivambu's missing hatred for Zuma
<https://www.biznews.com/interviews/sas-political-players-mashatiles-strategic-brilliance-shivambus-missing-hatred-for-zuma>
- Interview: Koalies maak Suid-Afrikaners nie opgewonde nie
<https://www.rsg.co.za/rsg/omny/koalies-maak-suid-afrikaners-nie-opgewonde-nie/>
- Interview: Election'24: Snapshots of the ANC, DA, EFF, MK and the PA
<https://www.biznews.com/interviews/election-24-snapshots>
- Interview: SA enters phase of “necessary uncertainty” ...
<https://www.biznews.com/interviews/sa-necessary-uncertainty>

National and International Collaboration

The Programme had its first Academic Advisory Board introductory session. Colleagues and alumni working in the field of governance are making a significant impact in the public and private spheres.

Other Activities

Dr Tania Coetzee facilitated a strategic planning session for the Department of Fine Arts in November 2024.

Staff (2024)

Dr Tania Coetzee	Outgoing Programme Director 2024, Senior Lecturer
Dr Ina Gouws	Newly appointed Programme Director 2025, Senior Lecturer
Juanita Potgieter	Officer
Cathy de Lange	Officer

Department of

Psychology

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Overview of 2024

The Department of Psychology has enjoyed another exceptional year in 2024. Despite managing a large cohort of undergraduate and postgraduate students, the Department continues to uphold its commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and research.



Attending the launch of IDEaS

*Front Row: Left to right: Prof Luzelle Naude, Prof Amber Thalmayer and Prof Mogomme Masoga
Back Row: Left to Right: Prof Nompumelelo Zondi, Dr Edwin Du Plessis and Dr Rosaline Sebolao*



A key highlight of the year was the launch of the **IDEaS Interdisciplinary Identity Research Hub**, spearheaded by **Prof Luzelle Naudé (C2 NRF-rated researcher)**, a recognised leader in the field of identity development and self-exploration. **Prof Naudé's** involvement in **The Africa Long Life Study** also earned international recognition when the project received the **Society for Improving Psychological Science (SIPS)** award. This award is presented to a select number of outstanding initiatives that align with and advance the mission of SIPS.

Furthermore, international collaboration continued to strengthen through several research projects, publications, and engaged scholarship projects. Memoranda of understanding were signed with the Department of Psychology, University of Zürich and the Faculty of Psychology and Law, SWPS University, Poland.

The Department's research output continues to grow, with **76 journal articles** and **three book chapters** published in 2024. The Department proudly conferred degrees at the postgraduate level on **28 Honours students** (15 of whom graduated with distinction), **27 Master's graduates**, and **three Doctoral graduates**.

In terms of staff movements, the Department welcomed **Dr Moloka Malema**. At the same time, the Department bid farewell to **Dr Ncamisile Mbambo** and **Dr Edwin du Plessis**, both of whom resigned during the year.

Achievements

Prof Luzelle Naudé

In October 2024, the *IDEaS Interdisciplinary Identity Research Hub* was launched as the outcome of an interdisciplinary research grant from the Vice-Rector Research and Internationalisation. *IDEaS (Identity Development and Exploration of Aspects of the Self)* is an interdisciplinary research hub coordinated by **Prof Luzelle Naudé** from the Department of Psychology, UFS. This research hub serves as a knowledge nexus where scholars collaborate to explore the complex ways in which identities unfold across the lifespan. The hub showcases research on the various pathways individuals follow to find their place in the world. It includes topics such as transformational journeys regarding self and society, as well as the challenges of forming an integrated identity in contexts of change and transition.

Webpage: www.ufs.ac.za/ideas-hub

"*The Africa Long Life Study*" received the *Society for Improving Psychological Science* award to recognise and increase awareness of a limited number of exemplary projects that further the SIPS mission.

Prof Paul Fouché

Prof Fouché obtained an NRF C1 researcher rating in April 2024.

Student Achievements

Tumelo Mats'ela received the Van Schaik Bookstore Prize for the Best First-Year Student in Psychology.

Khosi Letsoho received the Departmental prize for the Best Third-Year Student in the Department of Psychology.

Damian Forman received the Cengage Learning Prize for the Best Honours Student in Psychology. Mr Foreman also received the Dean's medal for the Best Honours student in the Faculty of the Humanities.

Elmé Strauss received the prize at the Faculty prize-giving ceremony in April 2024 for the Best Research Project in the BPsych Honours programme. Her psychobiographical study on the componential creativity of Johann Baptist Strauss II was also revised by her supervisor, **Prof Paul Fouché**, and published in the journal *Cogent Arts & Humanities* in April 2024 [<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2335772>].

Teaching

Dr Jacques Jordaan

Dr Jordaan, the Programme Director for the Department, has played an active role in the ongoing monitoring, development, and teaching of the compulsory BSocSci module SCSR2622, for which he also served as the academic leader. This module is designed to introduce BSocSci students to the process of scientific research within the Social Sciences. In addition, **Dr. Jordaan** contributed as a guest lecturer in the BSocSci module SCS12612.

Prof Luzelle Naudé

Prof Naudé continued as co-presenter at the Forschungs Kolloquium/Research Study Group on Mental Health and Personality Research on Emerging Adulthood in Africa with Prof Amber Thalmayer of the University of Zürich.

Dr Pravani Naidoo and Dr Mpho Ramarumo

In the **BPsych Honours** programme, the module PSHC6804 (Social and Community Psychology) has extended its community service-learning outreach to three projects. The first project is a well-being project undertaken at the Lettie Fouché school (headed by **Dr Naidoo**). The second is the Study Buddy project undertaken at the Bainsvlei school (headed by **Dr Ramarumo**). The third project is an international collaborative project, COIL, headed by **Dr Naidoo**.

Dr Naidoo was a guest presenter at the UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion Colloquium on Engaged Scholarship on 8 February 2024.

Research Projects

Prof Luzelle Naudé

Grants

- Vice Rector's Interdisciplinary Research Grant, UFS, 2022-2024
- NRF grant in the Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers award programme, 2023-2025

Editorial Experience

- Associate Editor: *Emerging Adulthood Journal* 2021 – ongoing.
- Editorial board: *Identity: An International Journal of Theory and Research* 2020 – ongoing.
- Guest editor of special issue “*Identity Interventions*” in *Identity: An International Journal of Theory and Research* with Oana Negru-Subtirica and Konrad Piotrowski, 2024-2025.

Dr Carla Nel and Prof Paul Fouché

The “Psychobiographical study of exemplary lives” project at the UFS, Department of Psychology, has been internationally recognised by the American Psychology Association (APA) in a 2024 commissioned book on international psychobiography, commissioned by and undertaken by the author, Prof Joe Ponterotto from Fordham University, New York. Four psychobiographers from Bloemfontein who were, and still are, involved in the psychobiography project were acknowledged for their unique contributions to the psycho-historical analysis of lives via psychobiography. These psychobiographers include Dr Barbara Burnell, Dr Angela Panelatti, **Dr Carla Nel and Prof Paul Fouché**.

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

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Chapters in edited volumes

Mayer, C-H., & Fouché, J. P. (2024). Von Baruch Spinoza gelernte Lektionen: Scham und Glaubensentwicklung im Kontext der Herausforderungen der heutigen Gesellschaft. In: Mayer, CH., Vanderheiden, E., Wong (emeritiert), P.T.P. (eds) *Scham 4.0*. Springer, Cham.

Van Reenen, K., Fouché, J. P., & Naidoo, P. (2024). The 'Arabian Desert Queen', Gertrude Bell (1868–1926): A *Levinsonian Psychobiography of the Trailblazing Leader in British Politics, Archaeology and Linguistics*. In: Mayer, CH., van Niekerk, R., Banai, M. (eds) *Psychobiographies of Political Leaders from Across the World*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Swanepoel, S., Fouché, J. P., Naidoo, P. (2024). *The Humble, Decolonial Leader-Activist: A Psychobiography of Oliver Reginald Tambo (1917–1993)*. In: Mayer, CH., van Niekerk, R., Banai, M. (eds) *Psychobiographies of Political Leaders from Across the World*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Conference Papers/Posters

Prof Luzelle Naudé:

Bitalo, D. W., **Naudé, L.**, & Piotrowski, K. (2024, June). 'No manhood without fatherhood; It's my legacy': South African fathers' experiences of fatherhood and parental identity development. The International Society for Research on Identity, 30th Anniversary Conference "Research on Identity: Legacy and Future", Tilburg, The Netherlands.

Naudé, L., & Adams, B. G. (2024, June). *Working towards a work identity: The emergence of professional identity among young scholars in South Africa*. The International Society for Research on Identity, 30th Anniversary Conference "Research on Identity: Legacy and Future", Tilburg, The Netherlands.

Nel, R., **Naudé, L.**, & Piotrowski, K. (2024, June). "Days were never long enough, yet they were never-ending ...": South African mothers' experiences of motherhood, role conflict, and identity amid a pandemic. The International Society for Research on Identity, 30th Anniversary Conference "Research on Identity: Legacy and Future", Tilburg, The Netherlands.

Bitalo, D., Piotrowski, K., & **Naudé, L.** (2024, October). *Parental identity: Fatherhood as the birthplace of self-reflection, self-actualisation and healing*. PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Nel, R., Piotrowski, K., & **Naudé, L.** (2024, October). *Motherhood, work, and life all wrapped up in a pandemic: Why would there be conflict?* PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Thalmayer A. G., **Naudé, L.**, Laher, S., Hassem, T., Asatsa, S., Shino, E., Florence, M., Adonis, T. A., Uugwanga, S., Hofmann, D., Murangi, A., Makunda, J., Shirima C. M., & Botha, C. (2024, October). Symposium: *The Africa Long Life Study: Lifespan research in Kenya, Namibia and South Africa*. PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Uugwanga, S., & **Naudé, L.** (2024, October). *Markers of adulthood in Sub-Saharan Africa: Contextualised findings*. Symposium: *The Africa Long Life Study: Lifespan research in Kenya, Namibia and South Africa*. PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Naudé, L., & Esau, M. (2024, October). *The quest for a soft life and the transition into adulthood: Views from South African emerging adult students*. PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Shirima C. M., Maso, E., Molumo, K., Sokhaya, L., Viti, Z., Thalmayer, A. G., & **Naudé, L.** (2024, October). *Instability, possibility, and responsibility: Experiences of emerging adults in Kenya, Namibia and South Africa* PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Shirima, C. M., & Thalmayer, A. G. (2024, October). *Youth in Action: Empowering and Building Resilient Youths*. PsySSA's 30th Anniversary Annual South African Psychology Congress. Johannesburg, South Africa.

Prof Paul Fouché:

Fouché, J. P., & Hugo Q. *The first Afrikaans female and feminist medical practitioner in South Africa: Utilising psychobiography to reconstruct her Feminist Identity Development as a non-conformist and anti-racist personality*. 28th Annual SA Psychology Congress, 8–11 October 2024, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr Lindi Nel:

Heppel, M., & Nel, L. *The experiences of adolescent daughters of mothers diagnosed with borderline personality disorder*. InPACT: International Psychological Application Conference and Trends. 20–22 April 2024, Porto, Portugal.

Dr Florence Tadi:

12th Annual Provincial Health Research Day: Health and Healthcare on the Brink of National Health Insurance
Mental Health Literacy Amongst Black South African Communities. (NF Matsoele & NF Tadi)

12th November 2024, South Africa, online

WoRiHSS Inaugural Conference 2024.

Empowering Excellence: The Transformative Impact of Mentorship on Black Female Lecturers: An Autoethnography. 12–13 September 2024, South Africa, Richards Bay

Humanities SoTL Seminar

Theme: Towards The Humanities' Learning and Teaching Hub

Students' Evaluation of the Instructional Learning Module for Advanced Developmental Psychology. 18 July 2024, South Africa, Clarens

Engaged Scholarship

Dr Jacques Jordaan

Dr Jordaan, a collaborator with the Inside-Out Outside-In South African Corrections Interest Group, initiated a book project at the Mangaung Correctional Centre (MCC), located on the outskirts of Mangaung.

Dr Jordaan extended the Inside-Out Corrections Interest Group Book Project to MCC with generous book donations from the UNISA library, alongside contributions from Rotary Humanitarian International, staff of the Department of Psychology at the University of the Free State (UFS), and postgraduate Psychology students from the UFS. On 20 September 2024, a total of 1,079 books were officially handed over to MCC. These donations comprised fiction, non-fiction, academic textbooks, and schoolbooks, all aimed at supporting the education and personal development of incarcerated offenders.

Prof Paul Fouché

Prof Fouché has been an active member of the Psychology Society of South Africa since 1994.

Affiliate member of the Counselling Division of PsySSA (i.e., the South African Association of Counselling Psychology)

National and International Collaboration

Dr Jacques Jordaan

Dr Jordaan collaborated with Prof Wagdy Loza from the Department of Psychiatry at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. Through this collaboration, **Dr Jordaan** gained access to the Self-Appraisal Questionnaire (SAQ), a psychometric test developed by Prof Wagdy Loza. The SAQ is being used in different South African research studies (by **Dr Jordaan** and UFS students under his supervision) to investigate the risk of violent and non-violent recidivism amongst South African incarcerated offenders.

Prof Luzelle Naudé**Current Collaborations/Participation in International Multi-year Research Projects**

1. *The Africa Long Life Study: A Longitudinal Exploration of the Psychological Development of Young Adults in Africa*. Project collaboration between South Africa, Switzerland, Namibia, and Kenya. Principal investigator: Prof A. G. Thalmayer (Ethical Approval: UFS-HSD2021/1906/21).

2. *Sense of Identity and Basic Personality Traits as Predictors of Quality of Life in Early and Middle Adulthood: Cross-Cultural Comparisons*: Multi-national project between South Africa, the United States, Israel, Poland, and Japan. Principal investigator: Prof K. Piotrowski (Ethical Approval: UFS-HSD2021/2098/22).
3. *Globalising Cultural Psychology: Ingroup commitment and competition in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Multi-national project. Principal investigator: Prof Shinobu Kitayama, University of Michigan. (Ethical Approval: UFS-HSD2024/1579)
4. *Life Projects: A Cross-cultural Perspective*. Project collaboration between UFS, South Africa and Utrecht University, Netherlands. Principal investigators: Dr. V. Coscioni and Dr. L. den Boer. (Ethical Approval: UFS-HSD2024/1841)
5. *Cross-national Study of Identity, Intrinsic Motivation, and Well-being*. Multi-national project. Principal investigators: Prof Seth J. Schwartz, UT-Austin University and Prof Alan S. Waterman, College of New Jersey. (Ethical Approval: UFS-HSD2024/2478).

Coordination of Interdisciplinary Research Project

Selves within Selves on a University Campus: The intersectionality of student identity development in a transitional society. Interdisciplinary research project funded by the Vice-Rector: Research and Internationalisation, UFS. (Ethical Approval: UFS-HSD2022/1149/22).

Memoranda of Understanding with

- Department of Psychology, University of Zurich
- Faculty of Psychology and Law, SWPS University, Poland

Hosted international visitor and research fellow: Prof Amber Gayle Thalmayer is a Swiss National Science Foundation-supported professor of Personality, Mental Health, and Culture at the University of Zurich. Her research focuses on distinguishing cross-culturally universal from culturally specific phenomena in psychology, especially with regard to personality and mental health. She uses both emic, localised, cultural psychology methods and etic, cross-cultural ones for comparison and context. In October 2024, she visited the UFS. She delivered a guest lecture on *The Africa Long Life Study: Lifespan Research in the Majority World*, led a roundtable discussion on *African Cultural Models in Psychology and Research* and facilitated a research colloquium for Master's and PhD students with Prof L Naudé.

Prof Paul Fouché

Invited as a co-guest editor of the international journal, *International Review of Psychiatry*. It involves acting as international guest editor (2024/2025) for a special edition on psychobiography titled: *Psychobiography 4.0: All about Robots, AI and Humanoids*.

Invited as a co-guest editor of the international journal, *Europe's Journal of Psychology*. It involves acting as international guest editor (2024/2025) for a special edition on psychobiography titled: *Death and Dying within Psychobiography*.

Dr Pravani Naidoo

In June 2024, **Dr Pravani Naidoo** met with **Prof Janka Taborecka** from Matej Bel University, Slovakia, to discuss a potential Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) partnership. This meeting was initiated by Prof Maura Adshead from the University of Limerick, Ireland, a key liaison who was introduced to Dr Naidoo during 2023 by Dr Karen Venter, UFS Directorate: Community Engagement.

Prof Taborecka and **Dr Naidoo** agreed that a COIL partnership was feasible. Her colleagues, Dr Filip Smutný and Dr Andrea Seberini, joined the COIL team. They spent the rest of 2024 planning their pilot COIL project, "Connecting Minds, Enhancing Lives: A South Africa-Slovakia COIL Partnership," scheduled

for the first term of 2025. This project involves Honours Community Psychology students from the University of the Free State and undergraduate Marketing students from Matej Bel University.

The Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project aims to enhance students' learning experiences, skills and competencies via collaborative engagements on an intervention to promote student well-being across global contexts. Together with Ilzené Douglas, a Psychology Master's student whose COIL research is supervised by Dr Naidoo, they participated in COIL training led by Prof Lynette Jacobs, Office of International Affairs. Consequently, the planned module was submitted to the UFS Curriculum Renewal Programme in October 2024. This COIL project, the first COIL in the Psychology Department and Humanities Faculty, will run from 7 March to 25 April 2025.

Dr Lindi Nel

Dr Nel is the programme coordinator of the DPsych in Child Psychology group, an applied doctoral program combining coursework and research. As part of the international benchmarking of this programme, Dr Nel collaborated and invited **Prof Carla Sharp** (a full professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston, and the Director of the Developmental Psychopathology Laboratory) to present a five-day workshop to the DPsych group during June 2024 on the Bloemfontein Campus. Dr Nel and Prof Sharp also discussed and designed collaborative research projects.

Prof Stephen Walker

Prof Walker is currently collaborating with **Prof Louise McHugh** (University College Dublin) on the supervision of two PhD students:

1. Kruger, I.S. *Development of a brief self-discrimination intervention for women living with infertility.*
2. Venter, Y.E. *Development of an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)-based court preparation programme for child victims of sexual abuse.*

Postgraduate Students

In 2024, the Department enrolled 152 students (Honours to Doctoral) in the various programmes offered:

BPsych Honours:	60
MPsych:	50
M.Soc.Sc. Clinical:	6
M.Soc.Sc. Counselling:	6
PhD:	23
DPsych (Child Psychology):	7

Twenty-eight (28) students obtained their Honours degrees in 2024, 15 of whom received their degree with distinction: T Basson, T Deis, I Douglas, D Foreman, O Gcuze, M Hohls, L Hotzhausen, I Isaacs, B January, N Maqhasa, S Maseko, P Molibeli, N Thusi, E Strauss and S Siko.

Twenty-seven (27) Master's students obtained their degrees in 2024: M Coetee, L Digwamaje, A Mamontov, R Mulaudzi, A Ngantweni, Z Sibisi, A Macingwane, S Mchunu, K Molete, N Muilaudzi, R Nathan, B Phillips, T Vorster (with distinction), M Hlabangane, R Langenhoven (with distinction), R Nel, D Rex, B Sibuyi, S Zungu, K Morgan, N Eksteen, H-M Johnston, M Le Roux, M Moduane, K Naidoom, M Ramahoya, L Odendaal.

The following doctoral candidates graduated in 2024:

Hugo, Quinli (PhD)

Thesis: Anna Petronella van Heerden: A psychobiography of the first Afrikaans Feminist Medical Practitioner

Supervisor: Prof JP Fouché

De Villiers, Belinda (Doctor of Philosophy in Child Psychology)

Thesis: The development and evaluation of a model for psychologists to conduct child sexual abuse evaluations in the South African context

Promoters: Prof E van Rensburg (NWU) and Prof KGF Esterhuyse (co-promoter)

Coetzee, Heleen (Doctor of Philosophy in Child Psychology)

Thesis: Mothers' psychological well-being and attachment pre- and post-partum

Promoters: Prof M Wissing (NWU), Prof L Schutte (co-promoter) and Prof J Jordaan (co-promoter)

Academic Committees

Prof Paul Fouché

- Executive Committee in the Department of Psychology, UFS
- Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities

Dr Jacques Jordaan

- Programme Director, Bachelor of Social Science, UFS
- BSocSci Advisory Board in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- Admissions Advisory Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- Marketing Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- Teaching and Learning Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- Executive Committee in the Department of Psychology, UFS

Dr Pravani Naidoo

- Internationalisation Coordinator's Forum at the UFS
- Engaged Scholarship Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS

Prof Luzelle Naudé

- Executive Committee in the Department of Psychology, UFS
- Member of the Senate Research Ethics Committee
- HPCSA Professional Board of Psychology Examiner/Moderator (Research Psychology).
- NRF C2 rating
- Governing Council, Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood (2023–2027)
- Member of the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood Conference Organising Committee 2024/5
- Programme committee, International Society for Research on Identity (2023–2024)

Dr Carla Nel

- Scientific Review Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- General and Human Research Ethics Committee at the UFS

Dr Lindi Nel

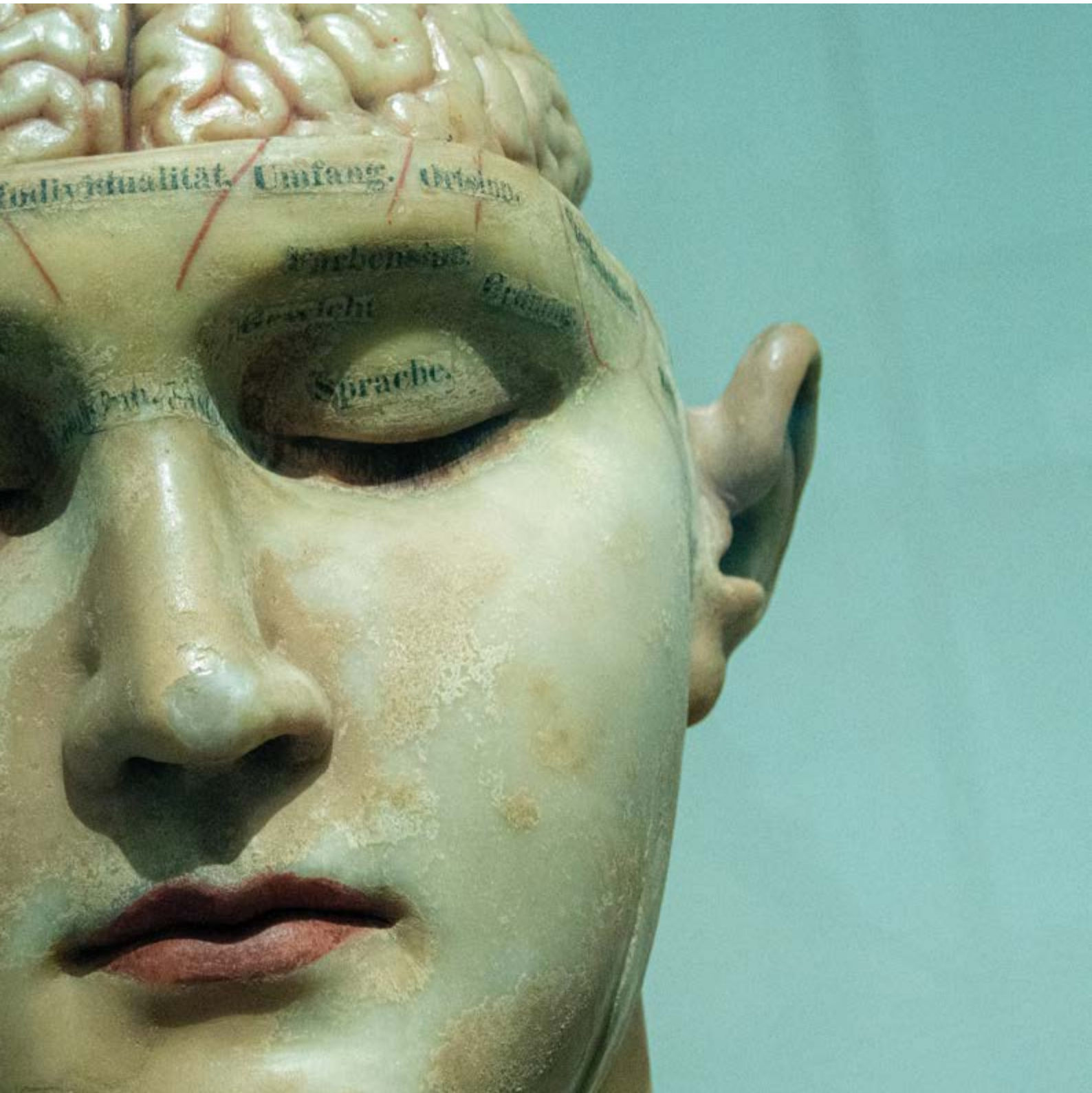
- Wellness Committee at the UFS

Henry Taylor

- Representative for the Department of Psychology on the UNIBS Management Committee

Prof Stephen Walker

- Finance Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- Scientific Review Committee in the Faculty of the Humanities, UFS
- Executive Committee in the Department of Psychology, UFS



Staff (2024)

Academic Staff

Dr ED du Plessis	Academic Head of Department
K de Villiers	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Prof JP Fouché	Professor
Dr J Jordaan	Senior Lecturer and Programme Director (BSocSci)
Dr AP Khanye	Lecturer and Subject Head (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr MM Malema	Lecturer
Dr M Mbambo	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
M Mpilo	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr P Naidoo	Lecturer
Prof L Naudé	Professor
Dr C Nel	Lecturer
Dr L Nel	Senior Lecturer
Dr M Ramarumo	Lecturer
Dr NF Tadi	Lecturer
HW Taylor	Lecturer
YE Venter	Lecturer
Prof SP Walker	Professor

Support Staff

A Diesel	Senior Assistant Officer
E du Plessis	Officer
Y Francis	Senior Assistant Officer
B Nel	Senior Assistant Officer

Service Workers

TJ Mhlathi	Service Worker
KJ Mtshali	Service Worker

Affiliated Staff

Prof K Oppong Asante	Research Fellow
Prof KF Peltzer	Research Fellow
Prof KGF Esterhuyse	Research Fellow
Prof RG Cowden	Research Fellow
Prof Amber Thalmayer	

South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies

Academic Head of Department

Prof Annalene van Staden

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Overview of 2024



Prof Annalene van Staden



Beatrice Nelson

Prof Annalene van Staden, now in her fifth year as Academic Head of the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies (DSASLDS), continues to lead with vision and purpose. She inspires excellence across the three core pillars of the UFS – teaching and learning, research, and community engagement – by leading by example. Her commitment to staff development is unwavering, and she actively encourages colleagues to further their qualifications, particularly by pursuing their PhDs.

Supporting her is **Beatrice Nelson**, who joined the Department in 2022. Often described as the “locomotive” of the Department, Nelson plays a central role in keeping things running smoothly. Her warmth, efficiency, and attention to detail have made a lasting impact. Whether it’s assisting students or supporting staff with daily tasks, she brings energy and care to everything she does – truly powering the Department from the “engine room”.

Reflecting on 2024, the Department celebrates a year of meaningful growth, strengthened connections, and academic innovation. Anchored in our core values of inclusion, diversity, and excellence, we have continued to foster a vibrant environment where teaching, research, and community engagement intersect. This year’s progress reaffirms our commitment to shaping a socially responsive academic space that serves both the Deaf community and the broader society with purpose and impact.

Our teaching programmes are flourishing at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. With a strong commitment to decolonising our curriculum, we continue to rethink and reshape our teaching content, centring African epistemologies and diverse linguistic realities. Our Honours programmes have shown a steady increase in enrolments year after year – a clear reflection of the growing interest in and relevance of our work. Currently, our postgraduate cohort proudly includes seven MA students and three dedicated PhD candidates who are making impactful contributions to the field.

A major area of growth has been our commitment to expanding access to South African Sign Language (SASL). In 2024, our *Introduction to SASL (Basic)* Short Learning Programme was offered three times, enrolling 80 participants across various modes of delivery. This popular programme combines theoretical insight with practical skills, equipping participants with foundational SASL abilities and a deeper understanding of Deaf culture. Through these and other initiatives, we continue to contribute meaningfully to third-stream income generation for the Department and the Faculty of the Humanities.

We also continue to expand our reach through cutting-edge research and collaborative projects. A major highlight is our partnership with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures (ICDF), funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Focused on sociolinguistics and technology, this project has seen our Department lead the sociolinguistic component with a strong team of postdoctoral fellows, MA-level researchers, and staff. Final fieldwork was completed in early 2024, with the remainder of the year dedicated to analysis, output production, and working toward the final deliverables ahead of the project's conclusion in June 2025.

Our Department also plays an active role in the academic discourse of language and identity. In July 2024, we co-hosted the 3rd Language Diversity in Educational Settings Colloquium (LDESC) at the SAALT conference in Cape Town, under the theme *"SASL as an official language – language teaching and learning challenges and opportunities."*

Another flagship initiative is the International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN), which continues to foster toponymic research in South Africa and beyond. In partnership with international bodies, the 8th ISPN is set to take place in Clarens in November 2025. Closely tied to this work is the OurPlaces mobile app, which is now in its final development stages. This app makes etymological data on Southern African place names – now also featuring SASL place names – accessible to the public. Developed in collaboration with multiple faculties, it exemplifies our Department's commitment to inclusive digital futures.

Community engagement remains central to our identity. Our early literacy project for Deaf children and their parents on the South Campus continues to have a profound impact on foundational learning and language development. Our student association, SIGNALS, works closely with staff to raise SASL awareness both on campus and in the wider community, championing a truly inclusive environment.

Each year, our Deaf Awareness Month outreach events bring the campus together through dialogue and celebration. Our annual Philippius multi-speaking competition remains a beloved tradition, allowing learners to express their cultural heritage in their own languages – and, in recent years, including Deaf learners in this enriching experience.

A standout moment in 2024 was our visit to Bartimea School for the Blind and Deaf in Thaba Nchu. This unforgettable day was filled with joy, connection, and creativity. Children participated in games, painting, and storytelling, culminating in a beautiful poster created by the Deaf learners – an expression of hope, inclusion, and pride.

As we look ahead, we are filled with pride and purpose. The Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies has grown and is thriving. Our motto is to reach more milestones, deepen impact, and broaden our vision. We are becoming one of the most dynamic and impactful departments in the Faculty of the Humanities – and we are just getting started.

In the words of Nelson Mandela:

“It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, and that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from the other.”

These words continue to guide our mission: to uplift, to educate, and to build a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

The year marked significant achievements for members of our **academic and support staff**.



Prof Theo du Plessis

I would especially like to give recognition to **Prof Theo du Plessis**.

Prof Theo du Plessis, Professor Emeritus in Language Management at the University of the Free State and research fellow in the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies, has made an invaluable contribution to our Department. His unwavering dedication, intellectual leadership, and mentorship continue to enrich our research culture and academic life, inspiring both colleagues and students alike. Prof Du Plessis lectured in language policy, planning, management, and politics, with research focused on multilingualism and language governance. Since 1988, he has been a visiting scholar at institutions in Belgium, Germany, Israel, and the USA. He has delivered over 130 conference papers nationally and internationally and co-edited 12 influential books on multilingualism, education, and language politics. His scholarly output includes two monographs, 77 book chapters, over 70 peer-reviewed articles, and numerous contributions to conference proceedings.

Prof Du Plessis currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Language Policy Studies in South Africa* (Van Schaik) and the *South African Language Rights Monitor* (SUNPreSS) and previously held the role of Associate Editor for *Language Matters*.

He also serves on the editorial boards of *Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity*, *Language Policy*, and *Onoma*. He is also an active member of several scholarly associations, including the International Academy of Linguistic Law and the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns. We are honoured to count Prof Du Plessis among our departmental fellows and thank him sincerely for his continued contribution to the advancement of language policy studies in South Africa.

Jani de Lange: Appointed to PanSALB's National Language Body and received international recognition.

Jani de Lange has been appointed to serve on the National Language Body (NLB) of the Pan South African



Language Board (PanSALB) until 2029. This appointment underscores her longstanding dedication to language rights and policy advocacy for South African Sign Language (SASL), with a particular focus on standardisation and linguistic equity. In alignment with her role, Mrs de Lange participated in the PanSALB Indaba held in Boksburg from 1 to 2 February 2024.

In addition to her national contributions, Mrs de Lange has received international scholarly recognition. She was invited by the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) to present an online lecture, *Onomastics and Sign Language: An Unexplored Terrain*. The live presentation took place on 12 December 2024 and is available on ICOS' Youtube channel at <https://youtu.be/PnILS7-Vz6k>.



Dr Chrismi-Rinda Loth

Dr Chrismi-Rinda Loth: I would also like to acknowledge Dr Chrismi-Rinda Loth for her significant contributions to the projects of the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies, as well as her dedicated management and coordination of our annual conferences. Dr Loth has been instrumental in managing this groundbreaking initiative, which was launched in 2021 as the *Survey of SASL Place Names*. The project has since evolved into the collaborative *Advancing SASL for 4IR Technologies Using Place Names*, funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and conducted in partnership with the ICDF. Dr Loth also oversees the development of the *OurPlaces* mobile app, which documents South African place names alongside their SASL equivalents – an innovative integration of language, technology, and accessibility.

Her effective management of this innovative project is advancing the Department's research in signed language, contributing to both linguistic preservation and digital inclusion. Dr Loth was also elected to the Board of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) and now serves as Vice-Chair of the ICOS Working Group on Toponymy. Her election highlights the international relevance of her research in place-name studies and further elevates the global profile of our Department.



Emily Matabane

Emily Matabane: We are thrilled to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the history of our Department, namely that Emily Matabane, one of our valued colleagues and a proud member of the Deaf community, has become the first Deaf student ever to enrol in and successfully complete the BA Honours qualification in South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies.

Congratulations, Emily! We are incredibly proud of your achievement. As a teaching assistant in the Department, Ms Matabane continues to do outstanding work in promoting SASL as a vibrant and accessible conversational language among our undergraduate students. Her presence, passion, and commitment are instrumental in fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment.

Together, these milestones reflect not only the academic strength of the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies, but also its commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and excellence at every level.

Student Achievements

Congratulations to our Outstanding Students

We are proud to celebrate the achievements of the following students, recognised at the Faculty Academic Prize-Giving Ceremony:

Top First-Year Student: Noluvuyo Jacobs

Congratulations, Noluvuyo, on your outstanding performance during your first year.

Top Second-Year Student: Carla Ellis

Well done, Carla, for your hard work and dedication in your second year.

Top Third-Year Student: Robin Moffat

Congratulations, Robin, on your academic excellence in your third year.

Top Honours Student: Sibisiswe Mlangeni

Well done, Sibisiswe, on your exceptional achievements in your Honours year.

Your dedication and hard work are truly inspiring!



Academic prize winners with Prof Van Staden (AHD)

Teaching



Annemarie le Roux

Annemarie le Roux significantly advanced Sign Language education by teaching Conversational Sign Language and Advanced Language Acquisition modules. Her dedication was evident across various modules presented to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of the Humanities, and beyond.

Among the undergraduate offerings, *SICL 3504* was a smaller module with 15 students enrolled. Despite its size, the module showed steady performance, with students achieving an average mark of 62.93% and a highest mark of 77%.

The modules with the highest enrolments, **SICL 3512** and **SICL 3522**, reflect the growing demand for South African Sign Language education. **SICL 3512** attracted 230 students, with 46 earning distinctions. The top mark was an impressive 89%, and the class achieved an average of **62.22%**. **SICL 3522**, which continues to grow in student numbers each year, had an even larger cohort of 299 students. Among them, 62 achieved distinctions, with a top mark of 87% and a class average of **57.79%**. Meanwhile, **SICO 3512** and **SICO 3522**, which were presented on the Main Campus for the first time to students from faculties outside Education and Humanities, had smaller enrolments – only five students each. Nevertheless, both modules saw solid outcomes: two students in each earned distinctions, with the highest marks reaching 80% and 78%, respectively.

At the Honours level, Mrs Le Roux taught the *SASA 6808 Advanced Acquisition* module, which saw seven students registered in 2024. Of these, five successfully passed the module. The average mark was 55%, and the highest achieved was 68%. Delivered in contact sessions within the SASL lab, the first semester focused on theoretical foundations of language acquisition, while the second took a more hands-on approach. The practical phase was particularly impactful, as students engaged with SASI, the interpreting module, and participated in role-play assessments with Deaf participants in the lab.

Mrs Le Roux's efforts across these modules continue to shape a generation of students equipped with linguistic knowledge and a deeper understanding of Deaf culture and the value of inclusive communication.



Jani de Lange

Jani de Lange, an expert in Deaf Studies, continues to significantly impact the Department through her teaching, research, and deep engagement with the Deaf community. With a strong academic foundation and years of practical involvement, Mrs De Lange brings invaluable insight into the cultural, linguistic, and social dimensions of Deaf Studies. She is currently in her fourth year of PhD research, further cementing her position as a leading scholar in the field. Her work is grounded in a deep respect for Deaf culture and a commitment to advancing inclusive education through South African Sign Language.

In 2024, Mrs De Lange co-taught *SASL3718*, where the central theme was the significance of Sign Language literature in preserving and promoting Deaf culture. This focus allowed students to explore the richness of visual storytelling, poetry, folklore, and performance within the Deaf community, emphasising that Sign Language is a means of communication and a cultural and artistic expression. A total of 21 students registered for the module, with 20 successfully passing. The class achieved a strong average of 70.38%, and the highest mark obtained was 85%, a reflection of both the students' dedication and the high-quality instruction provided.

At the Honours level, Mrs De Lange taught the *SASC6808 Advanced Deaf Studies* module, which delves into the frameworks and methodologies used to study the Deaf community. This year, five students enrolled in the module, and four passed. The average mark was 54.6%, with the top student achieving 63%. The module challenges students to critically engage with the sociocultural, political, and linguistic realities faced by the Deaf community, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to Deaf advocacy, research, and professional practice.

Additionally, Mrs De Lange worked alongside Dr Patrick Sibanda, who was contracted to co-teach the Deaf Studies component of *SASL2614*. This collaboration brought further academic depth and diversity to the programme. In 2024, the module enrolled 63 students, achieving a pass rate of 58. The highest individual mark was an impressive 93%, while the class average was 67.32%.

Through her academic leadership, research, and close collaboration with both hearing and Deaf colleagues, Mrs De Lange continues to elevate the standard of Deaf Studies education within the Department. Her work not only fosters academic growth but also helps students cultivate a deeper understanding of and respect for the lived experiences of Deaf individuals.



Susan Lombaard

Susan Lombaard is a qualified South African Sign Language (SASL) interpreter and an experienced educator who plays a pivotal role in the Department's teaching and academic leadership. Her deep understanding of SASL acquisition and interpreting, combined with her practical experience in the field, makes her an indispensable asset to both students and colleagues. Her expertise not only enriches the curriculum but also ensures that students receive linguistically accurate, culturally respectful, and professionally relevant training.

In 2024, Mrs Lombaard taught a range of foundational and advanced modules. These included *SASL 1514* and *SASL 1524*, which introduce first-year students to SASL acquisition, as well as *SASL 3718* and *SASL 3728*, the third-year acquisition modules. She also taught *SASL 6808: Interpreting* to Honours students and supervised or co-supervised the research essays of three postgraduate students, contributing significantly to the academic growth and professional readiness of future scholars and interpreters.

The journey begins in *SASL 1514*, where first-year students are introduced to basic signs used in everyday communication. Assessments in this module evaluate both receptive and expressive signing abilities. In 2024, 99 students completed the formal assessments. Of these, 30 students scored between 60-69%, 35 between 70-79%, and 11 between 80-90%, indicating strong performance across the board. A total of 91 students progressed to *SASL 1525* in the second semester. While the majority of the cohort scored in the 50-59% range, a noteworthy eight students achieved marks between 80-89%, reflecting both progression and deepening skill in expressive signing.

By the third year, students move beyond everyday vocabulary to acquire more abstract and academic terminology, preparing them for real-world application in both community and professional settings. In *SASL 3718*, a highlight of the course is a live presentation delivered in front of a panel comprising the lecturer and Deaf community members. This not only assesses students' signing proficiency but also allows them to engage directly with the Deaf community in an authentic and meaningful way. Of the 21 students who completed the formative assessment in 2024, 20 passed, and only one did not meet the requirements. The class average was an impressive 70%, with the top mark reaching 85%. In *SASL 3728*, presented in the second semester, 22 students were registered. All students successfully passed the module, and nine earned distinctions. The lowest mark recorded was 50%, and the highest was again 85%, showcasing a consistent level of achievement and improvement.

Mrs Lombaard's role as an experienced SASL interpreter brings a unique dimension to her teaching. She is able to model fluent, contextually appropriate, and grammatically accurate signing, while also providing insights into the professional and ethical demands of interpreting. Her teaching goes beyond the mechanics of language; she instils in her students a deep appreciation for Deaf culture, the nuances of bilingual communication, and the responsibilities of being a linguistic and cultural bridge between Deaf and hearing communities.

Her ongoing commitment to excellence ensures that students leave her classroom with technical competence, confidence, empathy, and a strong foundation for further study or professional practice in interpreting and Deaf education.



Carla Joubert

Carla Joubert continues to be a cornerstone of the Department's teaching and community outreach efforts, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge in South African Sign Language (SASL) and Deaf education. Appointed on contract for the past five years, Mrs Joubert has played a mammoth role in strengthening both undergraduate teaching and the Department's third-stream income through her coordination of short learning programmes.

In 2024, she taught SASL2614 and SASL2624, two key modules that reflect the Department's ongoing commitment to fostering academic excellence and building robust SASL competency among students. SASL2614, which introduces students to foundational linguistic principles and Deaf Studies content, had 65 students enrolled. The module recorded an impressive 92.06% pass rate, with nearly 26% of students achieving distinctions – a testament to both the quality of instruction and the students' engagement with the material.

The success continued with SASL2624, a follow-up module that builds on the skills and knowledge acquired in the first semester. With 66 students registered, the module achieved a remarkable 98.46% pass rate, and 92.31% of students passed with distinction in one of the core assessments. These outcomes underscore the effectiveness of Mrs Joubert's teaching approach, her ability to create inclusive and interactive learning environments, and the academic strength of the curriculum she helps deliver.

Beyond her classroom teaching, Mrs Joubert serves as the coordinator of the Department's short learning programmes. This portfolio generates significant third-stream income. These programmes extend the Department's reach into broader communities and professional networks and position it as a leader in continuing education and public engagement with SASL. Under her stewardship, these programmes have grown in impact and reputation, contributing to the financial sustainability and visibility of the Department.

Mrs Joubert's ongoing contributions to undergraduate teaching further affirm her integral role in the department. Her knowledge of SASL, combined with her commitment to pedagogical innovation and community-based learning, ensures that students are equipped with both theoretical insight and practical proficiency. She remains a passionate advocate for the Deaf community and a dedicated mentor to students navigating the complexities of language learning, cultural understanding, and professional growth.

Through her multifaceted work, Carla Joubert continues shaping the future of SASL education – both within the university and beyond.



Donovan Wright

Mr Wright plays a central role in advancing the academic and linguistic understanding of South African Sign Language (SASL) at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. With extensive expertise in sign language linguistics, he is responsible for designing and delivering key components of the SASL curriculum, ensuring students engage with the structure, grammar, and broader linguistic context of SASL as a natural and fully-fledged language.

A dedicated educator, Mr Wright coordinates and lectures on the linguistic components of several core undergraduate modules, including SASL1524, SASL2624, and SASL3728. Each focuses on key aspects of South African Sign Language (SASL) phonology, morphology, and syntax, while offering distinct thematic extensions.

- SASL1524 introduces students to linguistic argumentation, equipping them with tools to understand and support the classification of SASL as a natural human language. This module enrolled 106 students.

- SASL2624 expands into applied areas of linguistics, including neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and basic sociolinguistics, with a class of 96 students.
- SASL3728, with 21 students, incorporates a creative dimension, exploring sign language poetry and innovative signed expression, thus bridging technical analysis with artistic exploration.

Mr Wright's leadership continues at the postgraduate level, where he teaches SASP6808: The Structure and Grammar of SASL, a module that attracted five students with a strong interest in the technical linguistic features of the language. Under his guidance, these students engaged in detailed SASL data annotation using ELAN software and produced original oral and written research outputs. Their work significantly contributes to the growing body of linguistic knowledge in South African Sign Language.

Notably, Mr Wright also serves as the primary supervisor of Renata van Reenen, the Department's first Deaf MA postgraduate student. His mentorship reflects a deep commitment to inclusive academic practice and Deaf scholarship, ensuring that linguistic research on SASL is both academically rigorous and grounded in lived experience.

Through his teaching and research supervision, Mr Wright continues elevating the academic status of SASL, fostering a new generation of scholars and linguists dedicated to studying and promoting this vibrant and complex language.

Short Learning Programmes offered

Carla Joubert coordinates the Short Learning Programmes in our Department.



South African Sign Language Programme

The Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies presents the following exiting course.

Basic South African Sign Language Short Learning Program

- This is an accredited course at the University of the Free State presented on an NQF level 4 over a period of 3 weeks.
- This course is presented online, with an interactive class with the lecturers during the week. The notional learning hours for the course are 40 hours.
- If you have a National Senior Certificate and love languages, this is a course for you.
- Please register on this link <https://kpha.ufs.ac.za/account/login>

Last day of payments 23 September 2024

R5 500.00 p.p.
Online Course
Venue: Blackboard Collaborative
11-30 November 2024

Contact the Project Coordinator for more information and the programme:
Carla Joubert
ResterC2@ufs.ac.za
051 401 2476

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The **Introduction to Sign Language (Basic)** Short Learning Programme experienced notable success in 2024, with three offerings presented during the year. A total of **80 participants** enrolled, generating an income of **R470,000**. This highly regarded course combines theoretical and practical components to equip participants with essential South African Sign Language (SASL) skills while fostering a deeper understanding of **Deaf culture** and communication. Delivered in both face-to-face and online formats, the programme continues to contribute meaningfully toward greater **inclusivity and awareness**.

Research Projects

Advancing SASL for 4IR Technological Development Using Place Names (UFS-AGR22-000115)

This project is conducted in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures. It is funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. It commenced in 2022 and will conclude in June 2025. The project has two components: A sociolinguistic aspect and a technological focus. Our Department is responsible for managing the former. During 2024, the research assistant (MA level), Kirsten de Villiers and student assistant, Nhlanhla Simelane, formed part of the core team in addition to the two postdoctoral fellows, Dr Patrick Sibanda (Zimbabwe) and Dr Sara Siyavoshi (Iran) and the team leader, Dr Chrismi Loth, under the guidance of the PI, Prof Annalene van Staden. The other staff in the Department continuously provides support, for example, with translations, cultural insights, and practical matters.

The final fieldwork (ethical clearance number: UFS-HSD2023/1614/4) was conducted in March 2024, with two departmental research assistants (MA level), Mamotete Mapeshoane and Gloria Motshoeneng, joining the team and thereby gaining valuable experience. The remainder of the year was spent processing the data, producing research outputs, and working towards finalising the project deliverables. The core team will continue their tasks until the project concludes in June 2025.

Language Diversity in Educational Settings Colloquium (LDESC)

The 3rd LDESC was hosted at the SAALT 2024 conference, 10-12 July 2024, in Cape Town. The theme for this session was “SASL as official language – language teaching and learning challenges and opportunities”.

International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN)

The ISPN aims to cultivate toponymic (place name) research in South Africa in collaboration with international partners. ISPN was initiated in 2011. Since 2015, it has been co-hosted with the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy. In 2024, the ICOS Working Group on Toponymy joined the partnership. Interested parties can join our official LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10047495/> to stay informed. The 8th ISPN will be hosted in November 2025 in Clarens, South Africa.



Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Bruwer, Beusetha, Van Staden, Annalene, Du Plessis, Lodewyk. 2024. A Bilingual-Bicultural literacy programme for deaf learners in Namibia. *Perspectives in Education* 42(2): 267–281. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.38140/pie.v42i2.7779>.

Chapters in edited volumes

Du Plessis, T. & Roth, C-R. 2024. Transforming the Linguistic Landscape of South Africa – more of the same? In D. Gorter & J. Cenoz (Eds). *The Handbook of Linguistic Landscapes and Multilingualism*. Hoboken: Wiley, pp. 257–376.

Van Staden, Annalene, A Du Plessis, Lodewyk. 2024. Bruwer, Beusetha, Bilingual-Bicultural literacy programme for deaf learners in Namibia. *Perspectives in Education* 42(2): 267–281. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.38140/pie.v42i2.7779>.

Du Plessis, T. 2024. Kommentaar op Becker-Ferreira en Van Eck se artikel, “Die ‘ander’: Lukaanse Jesus en Lévinas” in *TGW* 63(4):737–755. *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe*, 64(2): 336–343.

Du Plessis, T. 2024. Die verampteliking van Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal: Diversiteitstokenisme as taalbeplanning. [The officialization of South African Sign Language: Diversity tokenism as language planning?] *LitNet Seminare en essays*, 2024-07-06. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-verampteliking-van-suid-afrikaanse-gebaretaal-diversiteitstokenisme-as-taalbeplanning/>.

Du Plessis, T. 2024. The officialisation of South African Sign Language: Diversity tokenism as language planning? Keynote address delivered at the 2024 SAALT Congress, Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town, 10–12 July 2024.

Du Plessis, Lodewyk. 2024. Bruwer, Beusetha, Van Staden, Annalene, A Bilingual-Bicultural literacy programme for deaf learners in Namibia. *Perspectives in Education* 42(2): 267–281. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.38140/pie.v42i2.7779>.

Du Plessis, T. 2024 Collaboration and themes in the *Journal for Language Teaching* (2001–2023): A network analysis. *Journal for Language Teaching* 58(2).

Senekal, BA & Du Plessis, LT. 2024. Collaboration and themes in the *Journal for Language Teaching* (2001–2023): A network analysis. *Journal for Language Teaching* 58(2).

Senekal, BA. 2024. Oorgrensfunksionering in die (Suid-)Afrikaanse musiektoneel: Fokofpolisiekar binne die Spotifykunstenaarverwantskapnetwerk, *Stilet* 36(2).

Senekal, BA. 2024. Die magsbalans tussen die Nederlandse State-Generaal en die Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC) tydens die stigting en administrasie van die Kaap de Goede Hoop, 1652–1795, *Tydskrif vir Nederlands en Afrikaans*, 31(2): 50–73.

Senekal, BA. 2024. ‘n Netwerkwetenskaplike oorsig en verkenning van netwerke rondom die Ontlaeringprojek, *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe* (64):740–759.

Senekal, BA. 2024. The Norse Pagan revival in music: A network analysis of Wardruna’s environment on Spotify, *Ensovoort* 45(9).

Senekal, BA. 2024. Tracing the origins of the oldest song in the Germanic languages: A discussion of “In Maidjan” by Heilung, *Ensovoort* 45(8).

Chapters in edited volumes

Du Plessis, T. & Roth, C-R. 2024. Transforming the Linguistic Landscape of South Africa – more of the same? In D. Gorter & J. Cenoz (Eds). *The Handbook of Linguistic Landscapes and Multilingualism*. Hoboken: Wiley, pp. 257–376.

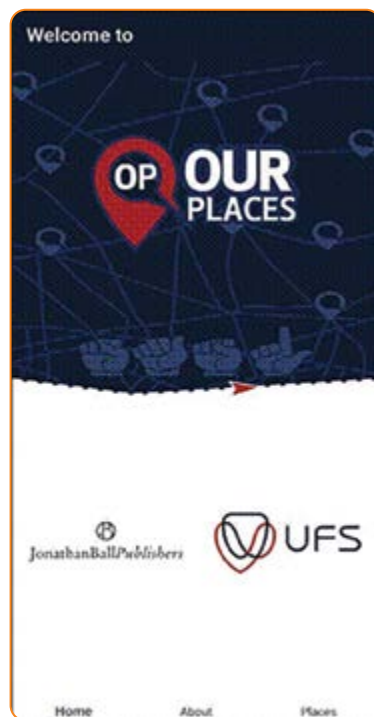
Books

Raper, E Boesman-invloed op Afrikaanse plekname. Page 1 to page 314 <https://doi.org/10.36615/9780906785164>

Creative Outputs

OurPlaces mobile app

Prof Peter Raper, Professor Extraordinaire, and Dr Lucie Möller, both research fellows in the Department, specialise in the Bushman etymology of Southern African place names. In 2014, they published the fourth updated and expanded edition of their dictionary: Raper PE, Möller LA & Du Plessis LT. 2014. Dictionary of Southern African Place Names. 4th edition. Jonathan Ball: Cape Town. (An updated and translated version is also available: Raper PE, Möller LA & Du Plessis LT. 2020. Plekname van Suider-Afrika. Protea Boekhuis: Protea). At the 2015 ISPN, of which they are both founding members, they proposed developing a mobile application to make the information more accessible, especially to travellers.



OurPlaces: Landing page



OurPlaces: Sample entry with SASL place name

In 2017, the erstwhile Unit for Language Facilitation and Empowerment (ULFE) conducted a Big Data project to explore the application of big data in the humanities. As a sub-project, the possibility of such a mobile app was explored collaboratively between the ULFE (Dr Chrismi Loth and Jani de Lange) and the Department of Computer Science and Informatics (JP du Plessis). To this end, an agreement was signed with Jonathan Ball Publishers to use a percentage of the Dictionary's content for the proposed app. Dr Chrismi Loth (ULFE) and JP du Plessis (Department of Computer Science and Informatics) co-supervised an Honours project in this regard. The student developed a recommendation algorithm for such an app: Gomotso Lilokoe, BSc Hons, Department of Computer Science and Informatics, UFS. Project nr 2017/04. Title of project: 'Technical manual: Raising awareness about the etymology of South African place names through recommendation agents.'

At the end of 2020, the development of the mobile app commenced. At this point, the ULFE and the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies (DSASLDS) have already been amalgamated; as a result, the conceptualisation of the app now entailed the inclusion of place names in South African Sign Language. The initial development was done by a contracted developer (Dr Gideon Kotzé), and by the end of 2022, an external company was involved via ICT Services.

SASL place names are not simply direct translations of spoken names. In addition, there is no systematically collected database of SASL place names. The DSASLDS initiated the Survey of SASL Place Names project in 2021 to address this information gap. This project was incorporated with the bigger 'Advancing SASL for 4IR Technological Development Using Place Names' project in 2022.

The mobile app is currently in the final stages of development. As per the agreement with Jonathan Ball Publishers, the free version of the app will include a limited selection of place-name entries, and a more extensive selection for the paid version. Place-name signs collected during the aforementioned research project will be included in both versions.

Conference Papers/Posters

Du Plessis, T. 2024. The officialisation of South African Sign Language: Diversity tokenism as language planning? Keynote address delivered at the 2024 SAALT Congress, Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town, 10-12 July 2024.

Hirrel, L., **Siyavoshi, S.** & Wilcox, S., 2024. The Mouth Shrug: A Gestural Expression of Epistemic Control. Inaugural Cognitive Linguistics Association of North America Conference CLANAC1, Canada (27-29 June 2024). Montreal, Québec.

Loth, C., Sibanda, P. & Siyavoshi, S. (2024). The Name of the Rose in South African Sign Language: Variations in Signs for Bloemfontein. *23rd Names Society of Southern Africa Biennial International Congress*, 25-27 September. University of Eswatini, Eswatini.

Sibanda, P. (2024). The Phonological Structure of South African Sign Language Toponyms. *Sociolinguistics Symposium 25*, 24-27 June; Curtin University, Perth, Australia.

Sibanda, P. & Siyavoshi, S. (2024). The Implementability and Implementation of the Constitutional Provisions for South African Sign Language in Deaf Education. *Language Diversity in Educational Settings Colloquium at SAALT*, 10-12 July 2024, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Sibanda, P. & Tlale, LDN. (2024). Advancing Full Participation of Deaf Learners in Education in South Africa and Zimbabwe. *The 12th Teacher Education and Interdisciplinary Research Conference (TEIR)*, 8-12 April 2024, Ezulwini, Eswatini.

Combrink, H., **Siyavoshi, S., Sibanda, P. & Loth, C. (2024).** The Intersection of AI and Sign Linguistic Ethical Dilemmas and Solutions in Studying South African Sign Language (SASL). *South African Linguistics and Applied Linguistics Society*, 25-27 June, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Published

Magaracha, S. & **Sibanda, P. (2025).** Availability of Assistive Technologies (Ats) to Children with Disabilities in Bulawayo Central District (BCD) in Zimbabwe, *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*. DOI: 10.1080/17483107.2025.2454241, Taylor & Francis.

Siyavoshi S, 2024. Sign Languages under multiple suppressions, Conference Proceedings of 2023 McGill Symposium of Language Studies. (9-11 November 2023, Online).

Siyavoshi, S. & Sibanda, P. (2024). Urban Toponymy in South African Sign Language (SASL): Patterns and variations. *Journal of Sign Language Studies*, 24(4): 942-960.

Wilcox, S., Martínez, R., & **Siyavoshi, S. 2024.** *Signed Language and Cognitive Grammar. Elements in Cognitive Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press, DOI: 0.1017/9781108951326.

Submitted

Farzaneh Soleimanbeigi, **Sara Siyavoshi** & Iman Askari. (submitted). Exploring Spatial Grammar in Iranian Sign Language: Insights from Natural Conversations. *Journal of Language Research*.

Sibanda, P. & Tlale, LDN (in press). Advancing Full Participation of Deaf Learners in Education in South Africa and Zimbabwe. *The International Journal of Educational Development in Africa*.

Sibanda, P. (in second review). South African Sign Language Urban Place Name Signing Patterns. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*.

Sibanda, P. (in third review) Transforming the Education of the Deaf through Sign Bilingual Education: Towards the Inclusion of the Deaf in Sustainable Development. *Discover Education*. (Taylor & Francis).

Sibanda, P. & Siyavoshi, S. (in review) The Phonological Structure of South African Sign Language Toponyms. *South African Journal of African Languages*.

Sibanda, P. & Tlale, LDN (In review). Implications of the Officialisation of South African Sign Language. *South African Journal of Education*.

Sibanda, P., Loth, C. & Siyavoshi, S. (Submitted). Ethical Practices for Gaining Access for Research in Deaf Communities in South Africa. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Ethics*.

Siyavoshi S. & Soleimanbeigi F. (Submitted). The Story of Esharani. *Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology: Iran and Shared Spheres in Homelands and Diasporas* (Springer Nature/Springer handbooks in languages and linguistics).

Yassaman Choubasaz, **Sara Siyavoshi & Farzaneh Soleimanbeigi**, 2025 (Submitted & accepted). Iranian Sign Language variant in Kermanshah and how it is different from Tehrani variant. *Journal of Language Science*.

2024 SAALT Conference

A le Roux. Teaching and Assessing South African Sign Language through a Hybrid method at the University of the Free State.

Du Plessis, T. 2024. The officialisation of South African Sign Language: Diversity tokenism as language planning? Keynote address delivered at the 2024 SAALT Congress, Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town, 10-12 July 2024.

Susan Lombaard: Workshop in SAALT conference in Cape Town: Teaching South African Sign Language as a Subject at the University of the Free State.

Engaged Scholarship

Non-accredited publications

Du Plessis, T. 2024. Kommentaar op Becker-Ferreira en Van Eck se artikel, “Die ‘ander’: Lukaanse Jesus en Lévinas” in *TGW* 63(4):737-755. *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe*, 64(2): 336-343.

Du Plessis, T. 2024. Die verampteliking van Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal: Diversiteitstokenisme as taalbeplanning. [The officialization of South African Sign Language – diversity tokenism as language planning?] *LitNet Seminare en essays*, 2024-07-06. <https://www.litnet.co.za/die-verampteliking-van-suid-afrikaanse-gebaretaal-diversiteitstokenisme-as-taalbeplanning/>.

Community engagements

Philippolis Multilingual Public Speaking Competition Shines Once Again

As in previous years, the Philippolis Multilingual Public Speaking Competition, held on 10 October 2024, stood out as one of the year’s most inspiring highlights. Coordinated by the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies, in collaboration with the ATKV Philippolis branch and Bergmanshoogte School, the event brought together learners from across the district and surrounding towns to celebrate language, culture, and expression.

This year was made even more special with the inclusion of two schools for the Deaf: Bartimea School in Thaba Nchu and Retlameleng School in Kimberley, adding South African Sign Language (SASL) to the list of home languages alongside Afrikaans, isiXhosa, and Sesotho. This meaningful inclusion highlighted the power of linguistic diversity and ensured that the competition truly reflected South Africa’s rich multilingual heritage.

Learners delivered powerful speeches on topics such as “*Language as Part of My Identity*,” “*Everyday Heroes Around Us*,” and “*My Language Speaks to My Heart*.” The arrival of new participating schools added a refreshing energy and a sense of excitement to the event.

A spirit of unity and collaboration was evident throughout, with strong teamwork between participating schools and the Department fostering an inclusive and empowering space for all. We were especially

proud to have a second-year student from our Department serve as the MC, leading the event with exceptional clarity, confidence, and enthusiasm.

We were equally honoured to welcome the Academy for Multilingualism from the University of the Free State, whose participation elevated the day's significance. The event not only celebrated language but also strengthened the bonds between communities and reinforced the value of inclusion in education.



Captured moments at Bergmanshoogte High School during the annual Philippi Multi-Speaking Competition, featuring learners from participating schools alongside SASL and UFS staff, in a vibrant celebration of multilingual excellence.

Deaf Awareness and Signals: Visit to Bartimea School for the Blind and Deaf

One of the most memorable highlights of the year was our visit to Bartimea School for the Blind and Deaf in Thaba Nchu. The day was a heartwarming success, filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful connections. We spent time with the children participating in various fun, interactive activities, encouraging friendship, inclusion, and mutual respect.

From lively games and face painting to creative art sessions, every moment brought smiles and strengthened the bond between students and visitors. A truly special highlight was when Deaf learners painted a vibrant, collaborative poster, an inspiring display of their artistic talent and spirit.

Their artwork stood as a powerful testament to the creativity, expression, and ability that flourishes within the Deaf community. It was a day of learning, celebration, and unforgettable connection – one that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.



Students and staff on their way to Bartimea School for the Deaf, where we spent a joyful day engaging with the learners through fun games and meaningful interactions.

As part of our outreach, we also handed out stationery supplies – one of the key needs highlighted by the school. A heartfelt thank you to all our generous sponsors who helped make this outreach a great success!



SASL/DS staff members enthusiastically engaging with learners at Bartimea School!



Some of our students signed stories to the children, who then shared their own stories in SASL with the students.



Painting faces – a fun activity that the learners look forward to every time!



We distributed 'worry worms' along with stationery packets to each learner – a small, personal gift for them to call their own.

Bloemfontein School of Autism

As part of our Deaf Awareness outreach, we had the incredible opportunity to visit the Bloemfontein School of Autism in Lourierpark. This truly inspiring institution stands as a beacon of hope for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Established in 2022 and managed by the Free State Department of Education, this fully-fledged school is dedicated to unlocking its learners' learning potential through specialised education and tailored support.

Our visit was filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful engagement. We played games with the children and introduced them to a few basic South African Sign Language (SASL) signs, which they eagerly embraced. The interaction was more than just educational – it was a celebration of inclusion and mutual respect. Witnessing their curiosity and enthusiasm reminded us of the power of communication and the importance of building bridges between communities. It was a heartwarming

and unforgettable experience for all involved, reaffirming our commitment to inclusive education and Deaf awareness.



Annemarie le Roux teaching SASL signs to one of the learners.



We created wonderful memories, and the children made these beautiful thank-you cards for us.

Signals Student Organisation

This year has been filled with memorable moments and impactful initiatives. Despite facing some challenges, we remained dedicated to our mission of promoting awareness and inclusivity, particularly in the Deaf community. Our activities ranged from competitions to charity events and collaborative efforts, all aimed at engaging students, spreading awareness, and supporting those in need. Below is a summary of our key activities and future plans for continuing this important work.



Signer of the Month Competition



We were excited to launch the "Signer of the Month" competition to inspire students to enhance their South African Sign Language (SASL) skills and deepen their appreciation of Deaf culture. The initiative ran over a two-month period and, while participation was lower than anticipated, it offered us valuable lessons on student engagement and motivation. Those students who did take part were acknowledged with small prizes in recognition of their enthusiasm and effort. We're proud of these students and grateful for their commitment.

Although the competition had a shorter run than planned, it served as an important pilot project. It highlighted the need for more innovative and interactive strategies to encourage wider involvement. We're taking these insights forward as we continue developing creative and inclusive activities that truly resonate with our student community.

Volleyball Event in September

In September, we hosted a vibrant volleyball event that quickly became one of the most exciting and well-attended activities of the year. Designed as more than just a fun social gathering, the event aimed to promote teamwork, inclusivity, and connection across our student community.

Students from diverse backgrounds joined in, emphasising creating a welcoming space for Deaf students to participate fully. The friendly yet competitive atmosphere helped break down social barriers and fostered a strong sense of community and collaboration.

The event was a resounding success, filled with laughter, positive energy, and genuine team spirit. It offered participants a meaningful opportunity to bond while highlighting the importance of inclusion in all areas of life. The enthusiasm and joy shared on the court left everyone eager for more events like this in the future.



Collaborating with Golden Key to Raise Deaf Awareness

In a dynamic and meaningful partnership with Golden Key, we hosted a vibrant Deaf Awareness event aimed at deepening understanding of Deaf culture and the challenges faced by the Deaf community. The event brought together passionate students and staff for a series of engaging sessions, thought-provoking discussions, and interactive activities.

From exploring Deaf identity and language to hands-on experiences with South African Sign Language (SASL), participants walked away with a renewed sense of empathy, knowledge, and respect. This collaboration marked a significant step towards creating a more inclusive campus environment, where awareness leads to action, and understanding builds bridges between communities.



National and International Collaboration

Du Plessis. T. 2024. Research visit to the Namur Institute of Language, Text and Transmediality, University of Namur, Belgium, 2-13 December 2024.

Advancing SASL for 4IR Technological Development Using Place Names

This project is conducted in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures. It is funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and the MoA is ongoing for the duration of the project (concluding June 2025). The Department also signed a supportive data-sharing MoA with the National Institute for the Deaf for the duration of this project.

Language Diversity in Educational Settings Colloquium (LDESC)

The 3rd LDESC was hosted at the SAALT 2024 conference, 10-12 July 2024, in Cape Town. The theme for this session was “SASL as official language – language teaching and learning challenges and opportunities”.

International Symposium on Place Names (ISPN)

This biennial event is co-hosted by the Joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy and the ICOS Working Group on Toponymy. Following the success of 2023, the agreement is ongoing, and the next ISPN will be hosted in November 2025 in Clarens.

Postgraduate Students

The Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies proudly celebrates the significant contributions of our postgraduate students and their supervisors, whose research continues to expand the knowledge base of SASL and Deaf Studies, directly impacting policy, practice, and inclusion.

Postdoctoral Research Fellows Advancing SASL Place Name Research

In 2023, Dr. Sara Siyavoshi and Dr. Patrick Sibanda were appointed as postdoctoral research fellows in the Department of South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies at the University of the Free State. Both scholars are key contributors to the project “*Advancing South African Sign Language for 4IR Technological Development Using Place Names*”, funded by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. This collaborative initiative, undertaken with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Digital Futures, focuses on documenting and analysing SASL place name signs as a foundation for linguistic and technological innovation.



Dr. Sara Siyavoshi

Dr. Sara Siyavoshi has played a central role in documenting and analysing South African Sign Language (SASL) place name signs. Her research focuses on lexical variation, phonological features, and the pedagogical challenges of teaching SASL in diverse contexts. With a strong background in linguistics and Deaf education, she brings a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approach to the project.

Before joining the UFS, Dr. Siyavoshi lectured at Azad University in Tehran, where she taught Linguistics, Sign Linguistics, and Persian for Deaf Students. She also pioneered Iran’s first professional sign language interpreter training program, significantly advancing accessibility for the Deaf community. Her work continues to bridge academic excellence with social impact, making her a valuable asset to the Department and the broader field of Deaf studies.



Dr. Patrick Sibanda

Dr. Patrick Sibanda brings deep expertise in Deaf education, signed toponymy, and inclusive education. In addition to his postdoctoral role at UFS, he is a Senior Lecturer at the Zimbabwe Open University, where he has held various academic and leadership positions. His experience includes supervising postgraduate research, co-supervising PhD candidates, and leading projects focused on disability access and Deaf livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Sibanda also contributes to academic development beyond his institution. He serves as an external examiner for PhD theses across several universities and is a reviewer for international journals. As Associate Editor of the *South African Journal of African Languages*, he plays an active role in promoting scholarly dialogue in the field.

His current research is rooted in Sign Language, Deaf culture, and the development of bilingual education through technology.

Together, Dr. Siyavoshi and Dr. Sibanda bring rich, complementary expertise to the SASL place names project, strengthening the Department's impact on Deaf scholarship, linguistic documentation, and inclusive innovation.

PhD students

At the PhD level, J. de Lange, under the supervision of Prof T. du Plessis, is conducting a pioneering study titled *"The standardisation of geographical names and signed place name planning in South Africa."* Her work is shaping the formal recognition and integration of signed toponyms into national frameworks, contributing to linguistic justice and the cultural empowerment of the Deaf community.

MA students



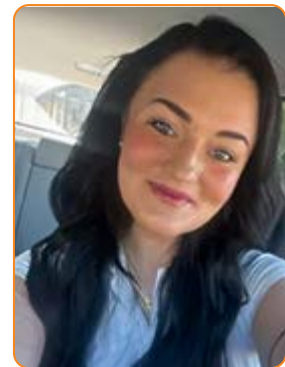
Ms Van Reenen



Ms Mapeshoane



Ms Motshoeneng



Ms De Villiers

Among our Master's students, **Ms Van Reenen**, supervised by Donovan Wright and Prof Du Plessis, is conducting groundbreaking research on *"Variation in SASL mouth movements."* She is the first Deaf student at MA level in our Department, and her work enhances our understanding of the essential role of non-manual signals in signed communication. Her study supports improved linguistic analysis and teaching practices in SASL. Ms Van Reenen is on track to submit her dissertation by the end of 2025, marking a historic and inspiring milestone for the Department.

Ms Mapeshoane, supervised by J de Lange, explores *"Place name changes in South Africa: a comparison between official place names and signed place names."* Her study documents important cultural-linguistic distinctions and supports the recognition of SASL in national heritage narratives.



Ms Kotoyi



Ms Putsoa



Mr Masinamela



Ms Mhlangeni

Ms Motshoeneng, supervised by Dr Herkulaas MvE Combrink and Donovan Wright, examines “*Evaluating an Annotation System: A Comparative Study Between American Sign Language (ASL) and South African Sign Language (SASL)*.” Her research offers valuable insight into annotation practices that could standardise and enhance sign language documentation across languages.

Ms De Villiers, under the supervision of Mr Wright and Dr Chrismi Loth, studies “*The function of rhetorical questions in information structure: A focus on South African Sign Language place names*.” Her work contributes to a more nuanced understanding of discourse features in SASL, especially in naming and storytelling.

Ms Kotoyi, supervised by Prof du Plessis and J. de Lange, focuses on “*The standardisation of South African Sign Language – achievements and challenges*.” Her research addresses key issues in language policy and the ongoing development of SASL as an official language.

Ms Putsoa, under the guidance of J. de Lange, and Annemarie le Roux, investigates “*Understanding Cross-Border Language Contact: A Comparison of Variation Between South African and Lesotho Sign Language Place Names*.” Her work highlights the dynamics of linguistic variation across national borders and contributes to the comparative study of sign languages in Southern Africa.

In addition, Prof van Staden and Susan Lombaard supervise a dedicated MA candidate, **Beata Matesane**, from Lesotho, whose research focuses on “*Interpreting in mainstream schools in Lesotho*.” Her work is of critical importance to Deaf education and accessibility in inclusive schooling environments. By examining the practices, challenges, and opportunities of interpreting in mainstream settings, she contributes to developing more effective support systems for Deaf learners in Lesotho and the region more broadly.

Our Honours programme in South African Sign Language and Deaf Studies continues to grow from strength to strength. In 2024, nine dedicated students enrolled in the programme, reflecting sustained interest and commitment to advancing knowledge in this important field. We are proud to report an impressive pass rate of 88.89%, which highlights both the academic strength of our cohort and the quality of teaching and supervision provided by the Department.

This year, **Thilidzi Masinamela** distinguished himself as the top Honours research essay student, delivering insightful and rigorous work that exemplifies the high standards we strive for. Also, **Sibubusiwe Mhlangeni** was recognised as the overall top-performing Honours student for 2024, a testament to her consistent academic excellence and dedication throughout the year.

These achievements affirm the ongoing success and potential of our postgraduate programmes, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the years to come. Moreover, each programme contributes to greater linguistic inclusivity, educational access, and the recognition of signed languages in Southern Africa and beyond.



Celebratory Lunch at Avela for Our Honours Graduates

Other Activities and Achievements

Susan Lombaard

External Moderator Championing Excellence in SASL Home Language at UMALUSI

Susan Lombaard has been re-appointed as an external moderator for South African Sign Language (SASL) Home Language at UMALUSI. As part of her responsibilities, she has to ensure that SASL HL meets national standards and is assessed on par with other Grade 12 subjects. Mrs Lombaard plays a crucial role in the quality assurance process, which includes overseeing the setting and video recording of examination papers, contributing to marking guideline discussions and verifying final marking after the November/December examinations. In addition to her work on the final examination, she conducts school-based assessment moderation at schools for the Deaf across the country. Mrs Lombaard is also deeply involved in the ongoing development and training of teachers who present SASL as a Home Language in the Further Education and Training (FET) phase.



Community Interpreting

The Work of Annemarie le Roux

Annemarie le Roux plays an important role in promoting linguistic inclusion through her volunteer work as a community interpreter. Noticing a lack of sign language interpretation in youth church services, she began interpreting the evening services focused on children and students. These are live-streamed and accessible on YouTube, ensuring broader access for the Deaf community.

In addition to her local church, Mrs Le Roux also interprets at women's functions in other churches, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to accessibility and the visibility of South African Sign Language in community spaces.



Prof T du Plessis delivered a landmark lecture titled *"The emergence of South African Sign Language as a 12th official language: A language planning perspective on legal milestones along the road"* at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Antwerp) on 10 December 2024. His presentation underscored the critical legal and policy developments that have shaped the official status of SASL in South Africa. Prof Du Plessis also submitted a monograph to UJPress: Du Plessis, T. Van tegniek tot amptelike taal. Die opkoms van Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal as 12de amptelike taal van Suid-Afrika [From technique to official language. The emergence of South African Sign Language as the 12th official language of South Africa.] Currently in review.



SASL Year-End Celebration 2024

Staff (2024)

Permanent

Prof A van Staden	Associate Professor, Academic Head of Department
JC de Lange	Lecturer
A le Roux	Lecturer
SC Lombaard	Lecturer

Contract

Prof LT du Plessis	Emeritus Professor, Senior Researcher and Research Fellow
Dr Chrismi-Rinda Loth	Senior Researcher
C Joubert	Facilitator (SLP)
NT Simelane	Student Assistant
G Motshoeneng	Research Assistant
L Mapeshoane	Research Assistant
K De Villiers	Research Assistant

Support Staff

E Matabane	Teaching Assistant
B Nelson	Senior Assistant Officer

Research Fellows and Postdoctoral fellowships

Prof PE Raper	Research Fellow
Prof T Reagan	Research Fellow
Prof P Jordan	Research Fellow
Prof J Moll	Research Fellow
Dr M Schuster	Research Fellow
Dr B Senekal	Research Fellow
Prof M Stander	Research Fellow
Dr AA van Rhyn	Research Fellow
Dr LA Möller	Research Fellow
J Myburgh-Smith	Research Fellow
Dr P Sibanda	Postdoctoral Fellow
Dr S Siyavoshi	Postdoctoral Fellow

Social Work

Academic Head of Department

Prof Mpumelelo E. Ncube

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Overview of 2024

In 2024, the Department of Social Work continued to contribute meaningfully to academic excellence, social impact, and the transformation of higher education. Led by Prof Mpumelelo E. Ncube and Dr Carel van Wyk as the Programme Director, the Department participated in the Provincial Inauguration of over 100 newly employed social workers, many of whom were UFS graduates. This signified the Department's sustained impact on the professional landscape.

Notable academic contributions included several peer-reviewed publications by Prof Ncube and Prof Reyneke, covering themes such as social development post COVID-19, child protection, school safety, and the role of social services. The Department's academic reach extended through international conference presentations in Peru, Panama, Zambia, and South Africa, highlighting its leadership in decoloniality, trauma-sensitive education, and mental health advocacy.

The Department also celebrated student excellence, with three students and the guidance of Dr Esau receiving the Faculty's Service Learning Prize. Although no short learning programmes or funded research projects were reported, the Department's scholarly output was robust, with contributions to high-impact journals and edited volumes.

Prof Reyneke's engaged scholarship included training, school policy development, public speaking, and service on national boards such as Childline SA. Additionally, the Department maintained collaborative momentum through editorial appointments and community engagement initiatives.

Staff development, curriculum transformation efforts, and a committed team of lecturers, facilitators, and field instructors further underscored the Department's mission to produce socially responsive graduates.

The report affirms the Department's ongoing commitment to academic innovation, community relevance, and inclusive education in line with broader institutional goals as espoused in Vision 130.

Achievements

Dr Merlene Esau received the 2024 Humanities Excellence Awards for recognition of outstanding performance in Engaged Scholarship.

Prof ME Ncube and Dr Carel van Wyk attended the Provincial Inauguration of over 100 newly employed social workers, a significant number of whom were UFS social work graduates.

Prof Mpumelelo Ncube was invited to write a book review for the Social Work Maatskaplike Werk Journal. Rautenbach, J., Maistry, M. & Shokane, A. L. (Eds). (2023). Introduction to Social Work. 2nd ed. Juta, Limited. ISBN: 978-485-3-99. Pages 505. https://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?pid=S0037-80542024000300012&script=sci_arttext

Student Achievements

For the project conducted in the 2024 academic year, the following students received the Faculty's Service Learning Prize:

- Ntombizanele, Kamohelo Molefi
- Simphiwe Mnguni
- Omphulusa Muntswu

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Ncube, ME. 2024. Social development in Southern Africa in the wake of COVID-19. *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*, 60(4), 16-37

Reyneke, RP. 2024. The Role of Social Services in Realising Children's Rights in and through Education. *Education As Change* 28 (February): 23 pages. <https://doi.org/10.25159/1947-9417/15049> (Scopus & Scielo SA [Q3])

Reyneke, R. 2024. Unveiling the Significant Contribution of Child and Youth Care Workers in South African Township Schools. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 161 (June) (Scopus & WoS [Q1]). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107674> (Open access)

Reyneke, RP. 2024. The contribution of safe parks to school safety: Lessons from the Thari programme. *Perspectives in Education*, 42(1): 218-237. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.38140/pie.v42i1.7201> (IBSS & Scopus [Q3]). (Special issue).

Reyneke, R. 2024. Enhancing Children's Safety and Well-being: Exploring the role of a new social service programme in Free State township schools. *Social work/Maatskaplike werk*, 60(3): 503-529. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15270/60-3-1345> (Scopus and Scielo SA [Q3]) (Open access)

Reyneke, R.P. 2024. Assessing the contribution of the Thari Programme in protecting children against violence and enhancing school safety. *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*, 15(3): 1-28. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18357/ijcyfs153202422160> (DOAJ [Q4]). (Open access)

Chapters in edited volumes

Social work mental health and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups during COVID-19 in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State, South Africa. Martha van Straaten, Christo Heunis, Alice Ncube & Joerg Szarzynski. Published in *Social work in the 21st century: Scholarship and praxis reimagined towards vulnerability*, in Knowledge Pathing: Multi-, Inter- and Trans-Disciplining in Social Sciences Series, vol. 3, AVARSITY Books, Cape Town, pp. 47-59. <https://doi.org/10.4102/aosis.2024.BK473.03>

Social worker role-taking during communicable disease outbreaks in South Africa. Christo Heunis, Martha Joubert & Alice Ncube. In: *Routledge Handbook of African Social Work Education*. London: Routledge, pp.152-164.

Conference Papers/Posters

Ncube, M.E. (2024). Reclaiming Indigenous Knowledge: Translating Social Work Terminologies through a Decolonial Lens. A paper presented at the International Congress of Social Work CAPA 2024, Peru, 3-5 July.

Ncube, M.E. (2024). The Praxis for Decoloniality in Institutions of Higher Education. A paper presented at the IFSW-AISSW Social Work and Social Development, 4-7 June 2024, Panama.

M van Straaten did a paper presentation on Systemic Approach Needed to Address Healthcare Inequities: Neglect of Mental Health Services by Social Workers During COVID-19 in Mangaung at the 12th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day (online).

RP Reyneke. Building Trauma-Sensitive Schools: Prioritising Educator Well-Being and Psychosocial Support. African Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) 11th Conference and 13th Roundtable, 6-11 May 2024, Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka, Zambia.

RP Reyneke. A Missed Opportunity: The Role of Social Services and the Bella Bill, South African Education Law Association International Conference (SAELA), 4-7 August 2024, The Protea Hotel, Johannesburg.

Engaged Scholarship

RP Reyneke. Professional consultancy: The improvement and development of discipline policies. Christiaan De Wet combined school. Dewetsdorp. January 2025 – ongoing.

RP Reyneke. Training: Understanding how trauma affects learners. Navalsig High School. 16 April 2024.

RP Reyneke. The need for social work supervision. Young Social Workers Network. Online panel discussion. Teams. 15 November 2024.

RP Reyneke. Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ALDR): The University of the Free State, Faculty of Law. Department of Mercantile Law. Labour law. Know yourself, your personality types and your communication skills.

RP Reyneke. Chairperson of Childline South Africa Free State board.

RP Reyneke. Member of the Childline South Africa National Board.

National and International Collaboration

RP Reyneke was appointed as an editorial board member for the International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies.



Staff (2024)

Prof Mpumelelo E. Ncube	Academic Head of Department and Associate Professor
Prof Roelf Reyneke	Adjunct Professor
Dr Carel Van Wyk	Undergraduate Programme Director Lecturer
Dr Marlene Esau	Lecturer
Christene Gaitskill	Lecturer
Kubesh Gounder	Lecturer
Aisha Abrahams	Junior Lecturer
Randy N. Tiger	Senior Assistant Officer
Martha Van Straaten	Placement Liaison Officer

Second-year facilitators

Gosego Parkie
Thabang Mahlape

Third-year facilitator

Lausanne Hugo

Fourth-year field instructors

Bianca Swart	Maggie Breytenbach
Bonolo Molwele	Marinique du Plessis
Carin Beukes	Marlize Ramsden
Debbie Rademeyer	Neo Ravhuhali
Elbie Conradie	Nnini Matolong
Faith Letseka	Nonceba Phike
Gosego Parkie	Precious Matsietsa
Ingrid Bengell	Tshebeletso Motshabi
Khumo Mosala	Viaan Lucas

Master's field instructors

Marinel Read
Lauren van Zyl

Sociology

Academic Head of Department

Prof Sethulego Matebesi

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Overview of 2024

As a founding Department of the Southern African Sociological Network (SASN), a regional network of sociology departments from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, we continued to enhance the collective understanding of social issues and foster collaborations that could ultimately benefit the communities in these countries. Reflecting on the past year, the Department is heartened and grateful for the significant shift in the visibility and impact of its Qwaqwa colleagues. The co-hosting of the first *International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference* in November is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our Qwaqwa colleagues. The Department has experienced measured growth in sourcing third-stream funding, including National Research Foundation Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC) and Nurturing Emerging Scholars Programme (NESP) grants and research outputs. This year, the Department published 13 accredited research articles, three books, one book chapter, 18 conference presentations, and 14 opinion pieces. There have also been several notable developments regarding our postgraduate recruitment and retention drive, as well as the active participation of students in departmental reading sessions and research seminars.

Achievements

Dr Nombulelo Tholithemba Shange completed her PhD in Anthropology with a thesis titled *Identity and Environmental Harmony as Practised by Table Mountain Doctors: A Struggle over Land and African Healing Systems*.

Student Achievements

Mulalo Sadiki was a student finalist for Library and Information Services Honours and Undergraduate Research Seminar (LISHURS), 5 April 2024: “Addressing Climate Change: Corporations and Business.”

Siphiwoyinkhosi Dlamini, an Honours student, received his first byline on News24 after publishing a feminist piece: *The continued commodification of women proves Engels was spot on*. The piece was part of a Sociology of Social Movements and Collective Action course’s short essay assessment, a course lectured and coordinated by Nombulelo Tholithemba Shange. <https://www.news24.com/citypress/voices/yink-dlamini-the-continued-commodification-of-women-proves-engels-was-spot-on-20240824>



Dr Nombulelo Shange

Second-year and Honours Sociology of Social Movements and Collective Action students hosted a documentary screening of two short doccies, followed by a panel discussion and a long, robust open discussion between panellists and students in the audience. The course lecturer and coordinator, Nombulelo Tholithemba Shange, supported and led the engagement. The event was a way to connect the students and mark the end of the course and semester. It also hoped to create a space for dialogue and debate on South Africa, especially with the 2024 elections fast approaching. Students and community members who assisted in different ways in the build-up to the event included Moshala (Tumisho) Madisha, Aobakwe Maboja, Lindokuhle Skosana, Bonolo Moshia, Khutsitse Leburu, Sachin-Lee Du-Plessis, Constance Mofokeng and the [56 Tambo](#) team. Panellists included 56 Tambo and CINE BA! Founder, activist and artist Tshiamo Malatji and Sociology second-year and Honours students Siphiwoyinkhosi Dlamini, Amahle Nxele, Balulekile Mlaba, Avela Mabele, Bulela Gushman, and Political Science student, Thato Morithi. The panel discussion was led and moderated by third-year Sociology student Neo Mokhuoane. While the Sociology students led the event, they received support and participation from different departments, including Anthropology, Political Studies, Sign Language, Communication Science, The Collective_FS, and many others. The event was further supported by the [Anthropology Student Association](#), which wrote a reflection on the event titled, *Is This Who We Are?* by Nhlakanipho Nkosi.

Sanelisiwe Khumalo, a Master’s student on the Qwaqwa Campus, had the opportunity to undertake a four-month exchange visit to the Freiburg University of Education in Germany. The UFS has an MOU with the Freiburg University of Education, facilitating staff and student mobility exchanges between the two universities. Sanelisiwe’s visit was funded by the EU’s Erasmus Mundus Mobility Grant. The student was featured in one of the [UFS’s online news outlets](#).

Teaching

The second-year and Honours Sociology of Social Movements and Collective Action course is in its second year of hosting guest lectures. We invite different individuals working in this space, from activists/members of social movements, NGOs, academics, students, and trade unionists. We hope to expand to media and/or social media individuals reporting on or somehow involved with social movements. The guest lectures aim to help students understand different perspectives that are not just academic,

and give a glimpse into how what we have learnt can lead them on various career paths. Furthermore, provide them access to essential life histories they would not otherwise have had in the classroom. Past guest lectures have included Sociology Faculty board member and Director of Earthlife Africa, Makoma Lekalakala. She also won the 2018 Goldman Prize for her work to stop the South African government's massive secret nuclear deal with Russia; the High Court ruled that the \$76 billion nuclear power project was unconstitutional.

This year's speakers included Bokang Fako, UFS Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law LLM student, fallist and UFS exSRC Vice-President and Secretary of the Student Parliament. She currently holds the Chairperson seat of "The Collective". This is a student organisation that she co-founded in 2019, the purpose of which is to foster a community for marginalised groups of students. It employs advocacy tools, awareness campaigns, and education to create a culture of critical discourse and student engagement. Prof Saleem Badat is a UFS History Research Fellow and was the first Black Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. Dr Ntando Sindane has participated in different activist spaces, including unionism and student activism as a fallist. He is currently a Law lecturer at the University of the Western Cape.



The Department hosted its **Annual Curriculum Review Workshop** on 13 October 2024. The workshop served as a vital platform for reflection, collaboration, and strategic planning, ultimately aiming to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. Our guest, Vice-Dean: Teaching and Learning, Prof Marlize Rabe, provided key insights on the evolution of assessments in the Higher Education Sector post COVID-19.



Departmental Annual Curriculum Workshop

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Marais, L., **Matebesi, S.** and Van der Watt, P. 2024. Social licensing and dependencies: implications for mine closure in South Africa. *Resources Policy*, 95(2024) 105120.

Marais, L., Van der Watt, P., **Matebesi, S.**, Cloete, J., Harris, J., Ern, M.A.L. and Owen, J.R. 2024. The catastrophic failure of the Jagersfontein tailings dam: An industrial disaster 150 years in the making. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 109(2024).

Matutu V, Odhav, K. and **Matebesi, S.** 2024. The welfare state, social protection gaps and opportunities for elderly people in post-2000 resettlements of Zimbabwe. *Journal of Social Development in Africa*, 14(2): 187-205.

Maviza, G., Moyo, K. and **Nzima, D.**, 2024. Missing masculinities: Transnational fathering experiences in migrant families. *South African Review of Sociology*, 53(4): 425-445.

Redelinghuys, N., Esterhuysen, S. and Goodrick, W.F. 2024. Fractured perceptions: Unconventional oil and gas development and the social construction of risk perceptions in South Africa. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 19(2024). DOI: 10.1016/j.exis.2024.101519.

Rebe, S., Cronje, N., **Redelinghuys, N.**, Pretorius, W. and Du Toit, A. 2024. Exploring the consumption of maize products, side dishes and snacks preferred by consumers at a public tertiary institution in South Africa. *Journal of Consumer Sciences*, Special Conference Edition (16th International SAAFECS Conference), 1(2024): 23-42.

Maviza, G., and **Nzima, D.** 2024. Dynamics of protection in a shrinking economy: A peek into Zimbabwe's refugee regime. *African Human Mobility Review*, 10(2): 29-50.

Platzky Miller, J. 2024. Comparing the South African and Brazilian student uprisings (2015-16): Similarities, circulations, and distance". *South African Review of Sociology*, 54(3): 307-330.

Daniel, A. and **Platzky Miller, J.** 2024. Imagination, decolonisation, intersectionality: The #RhodesMustFall student occupations in Cape Town, South Africa". *Social Movement Studies*. 23(4): 495-516.

Daniel, A. and **Platzky Miller, J.** 2024. Must Fall' Movements globally: Transnational flows of South African student activism. *Third World Quarterly*. DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2024.2419011.

Shange, N. T. 2024. Review of the book Navigating Womanhood in Contemporary Botswana, by Stephanie S. Starling. *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics*, 8(2): 41.

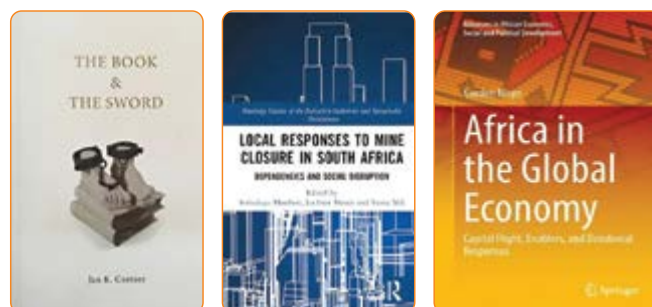
Shange, N.T. 2024. The paradox of environmental conservation in South Africa: Marginalising indigenous sustainability practices and ideologies. *Journal für Entwicklungspolitik*. XXXX (1/2): 182-190.

Shange, N.T. 2024. African ubuntu humanness ontology and ecological connection. *Environmental Justice*. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2023.0068>.

Chapters in edited volumes

Pelser, A and **De Wet, K.** 2024. *Social media and academic performance: A profile of undergraduate students at a South African university*. In Msila, V. and Djoyou-Kamga, S (Eds.). *Rethinking Higher Education in Africa: Examining the Ongoing Struggles for Cognitive Justice and Politics of Transformation*. Stellenbosch: Africa Sun Media.

Books



Coetzee, Jan K. 2024. *The book and the sword*. An artist's book (181pp.) published in a limited edition, hand-bound, signed, dated, and numbered. Cape Town: Rob Print.

Matebesi, S., Marais, L. and Nel, V. (Eds.). 2024. *Local responses to mine closure in South Africa: dependencies and social disruption*. Oxon and New York: Routledge.

Moyo, G. 2024. *Africa in the global economy: Capital flight, enablers, and decolonial responses*. Gewerbetrasse (Switzerland): Springer Cham.

Book chapters

Shange, N.T. 2024. The holism of ubuntu: The missing link in the Fourth Industrial-led environmental justice solutions. In Ndzendze, B, Singh, A, Timm, S, Barnes, B. and Graham, S (Eds.). *The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Critical perspectives on Innovation, Power and Potentialities*. Cape Town: AOSIS Books, (pp.141-155).

Conference Papers/Posters

Redelinghuys, N. de Wet, K., Erasmus, E., Schutte-Smith, M., Mogale, R. and Visser, D. University students' knowledge, awareness, perceptions and practices of environmentally sustainable menstrual hygiene products. Sustainable horizons – Navigating the future with environmental innovation, Bloemfontein, 11-2 October 2024.

Nzima, D. and Maviza, G. Gender and climate change-induced migration in Southern Africa: An invitation to an exploration of linkages, 9th African Population Conference. Lilongwe, Malawi, 20-24 May 2024.

Nzima, D. Anti-French sentiments and the Coup Contagion in the Sahel: What happened in Burkina Faso and Niger (2022-2023)? South African Sociological Conference. Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, 1-4 July 2024.

Moyo, K. Etching migrant identities, belonging and non-belonging in the socio-physical spaces of Johannesburg, South Africa. Ongoing And Emerging Discourses in African Architectural Practices Conference, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 3-9 July 2024.

Moyo, K. Turning the gaze on the global north: Reciprocal research as the new frontier in decolonising migration studies research. Association for African Studies in Germany e.V. / Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD) conference 'Reconfigurations Africa – and in African Studies. University of Bayreuth, Germany, 30 September to 2 October 2024.

Moyo, K. Convenor of the panel entitled "*The potential and pitfalls of reciprocal research in African studies.*" Association for African Studies in Germany e.V. / Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD) conference 'Reconfigurations Africa – and in African Studies. University of Bayreuth, Germany, 30 September to 2 October 2024.

Tanyi, P., Pelser, A.J., Odii, A. and Lawal, U.S. 2024. Penis size and sexual satisfaction in Africa: A social work perspective. Biennial Conference of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology (University of Nigeria), in partnership with the Pearson Institute (University of Chicago), and the Emengini Institute for Comparative Global Studies (Worcester, USA): "Researching Africa: For Whom and to What End?" Nsukka, Nigeria. 17-19 September.

Pelser, A. 2024. From theory to praxis: Linking policy research with human development and social justice. Keynote paper delivered at the 5th Annual Conference of the International Society for Academic Researchers (ISfAR), 24-26 July 2024. Golden Tulip Hotel, Zanzibar Island.

Masisi, T.V., Sabela, K.S., Rose, L., Jackson, M., **Matebesi, S., Pelser, A.**, and Rothmann, L.A. 2024. *A first look at farmer perceptions of sorghum production, disease constraints and future outlooks*. 53rd Southern African Society of Plant Pathology Congress, 22-25 January 2024, Clarens, South Africa.

Roldán Mendívil, E. and **Platzky Miller, J.** Capital, social reproduction and 'race' in Peru and South Africa. Historical Materialism. SOAS, London, 6-10 November 2024.

Platzky Miller, J. Marxist interpretations of the History of Philosophy and the myth of 'Western Philosophy'. Historical Materialism. SOAS, London, 6-10 November 2024.

Platzky Miller, J. Audiences for Critical Scholarship, then and now: Lessons from Ben Kies (1917-1979). South African Sociological Association. Stellenbosch, 1-4 July 2024.

Platzky Miller, J. Invited panellist: "(in)Between Africa and Latin America: Circulation of Experiences, Activism and Ideas". South African Sociological Association. Stellenbosch, 1-4 July 2024.

Roldán Mendívil, E. and **Platzky Miller, J.** "Feminist Social Reproduction Theory: Global Debates, Local Salience?". Inaugural Feminist Philosophy in Southern Africa conference. UKZN, Pietermaritzburg, 11-12 July 2024.

Platzky Miller, J. The three alternative sources for philosophical inquiry. *Philosophical Society of Southern Africa*. Stellenbosch, 17-19 January 2024.

Sele, S.J. An exploratory study on the perceptions and attitudes of South African men towards #MenAreTrash digital feminist activism. SASA, Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, 1-4 July 2024.

Sele, S.J. An exploratory study on the perceptions and attitudes of South African men towards #MenAreTrash digital feminist activism. The International Institute of Knowledge Management, Bangkok, Thailand, 19-20 September 2024.

Shange, NT. Exploring ukuthunywa as African Methodology: Decolonial research and ethical considerations. University of Zululand WoRiHSS Inaugural Conference, Richards Bay, 12-13 September 2024.

Conference Proceedings

The Department co-hosted the International Qwaqwa Interdisciplinary Conference (IQIC2024) at the UFS Qwaqwa Campus from 20 to 21 November 2024. The conference is jointly convened by the Department of Sociology and the Centre for Gender and African Studies (Qwaqwa Campus) and the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security team at the Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture. The conference's theme was "Global Crises and Population Shocks in Africa: In Search of Decolonial Recoveries in the Face of Rising Insecurity, Pandemics, Climate Shocks and Emergencies, and Financial Subordination."



Engaged Scholarship



Prof Sethulego Matebesi, Elections 2024

Prof **SZ Matebesi** was invited to contribute to the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) 2024 Elections-Coalitions Report. He focused on the election analysis, complemented by an analysis of possible coalition dimensions (even if manifested indirectly) in the Free State Province.

Prof **SZ Matebesi** was one of the 16 Panel of Analysts for the SABC to contribute to its radio, TV and online coverage in the build-up to and during the 2024 National and Provincial Elections, which were scheduled for 29 May 2024. The Panel, based at the Independent Electoral Commission's Results Operation Centre at Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand, commented, amongst other topics, on aspects relating to the elections, party politics, party governance,

service delivery issues, leadership and prospects for the elections, and proposed policies and implications for the country at large.

Coetzee, Jan K. 2024. *The book & the sword*. A solo art exhibition and walk-around presentations at Glen Carlou Gallery, Stellenbosch, 17 March to 31 May 2024.

Quinn, Corneli 2024. *The book & the sword* deur **Jan K Coetzee**: ñ Dinamiese sinergie. Oorsig artikel in LitNet (11 June 2024). Available at <https://www.litnet.co.za/the-book-the-sword-deur-jan-k-coetzee-n-dinamiese-sinergie/>

Coetzee, Jan K. 2024. *Unearthing society's nature: An archaeology of knowledge on the roots of domination*. Presentation to Paarl Reading Group, Paarl Library, 15 October 2024.

Matebesi, S. 2024. New generation of Tintswalos needs an equitable chance to prosper. Available at <https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2024-02-15-sethulego-matebesi-new-generation-of-tintswalos-needs-an-equitable-chance-to-prosper/>

Matebesi, S. 2024. Lucas Mangope leaves a complex legacy of power and postcolonial leadership. Available at <https://mg.co.za/friday/2024-08-27-the-two-sides-to-the-legacy-of-wily-mangope/>

Matebesi, S. 2024. Human rights this and that – whose perspective matters? Available at Human rights this and that – whose perspective matters? Available at <https://www.news24.com/citypress/voices/sethulego-matebesi-human-rights-this-and-that-whose-perspective-matters-20240321>

Matebesi, S. 2024. Bungling of graft cases ‘reflective of deeper systemic issues.’ Available at <https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/opinion/bungling-of-graft-cases-reflective-of-deeper-systemic-issues-8caf394b-6567-4373-b5c7-0f3c2b4ebc13>

Matebesi, S. 2024. *Collective activism strengthens our agency and resolve to respect human rights*. Available at <https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2024-03-21-sethulego-matebesi-collective-activism-strengthens-our-agency-resolve-to-respect-human-rights/>

Matebesi, S. 2024. Democratic backsliding or significant progress for IEC? Available at <https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/democratic-backsliding-or-significant-progress-for-iec/>

Matebesi, S. 2024. *New parties have ushered in an era of unprecedented opposition politics*. Available at https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2024-05-28-sethulego-matebesi-new-parties-have-ushered-in-an-era-of-unprecedented-opposition-politics/#google_vignette

Matebesi, S. 2024. Clock ticks down to high-stakes elections. Available at <https://www.timeslive.co.za/ideas/2024-05-23-prof-sethulego-matebesi-clock-ticks-down-to-high-stakes-elections/>

Matebesi, S. 2024. Perennial failure to soften rough edges of some leaders. Available at <https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/opinion/perennial-failure-to-soften-rough-edges-of-some-leaders/>

Matebesi, S. 2024. SA coming up short. Available at <https://www.news24.com/news24/community-newspaper/express-news/sa-coming-up-short-20240402>

Moyo, K., 2024. Migration in Southern Africa – Openness is Overshadowed by Xenophobia. *Global Food Journal/Welternährung* 02/2024

National and International Collaboration

Dr Nombulelo Shange and **Dr Josh Platzky Miller** were invited to give a guest lecture on *Decolonising Education and the South African Student Movement* at the University of Manchester and on *A #RhodesMustFall Reading of the Global South University* at the University of Zululand. Dr Platzky Miller also engaged with the Church Land Programme in Pietermaritzburg (KZN), discussing theories of social reproduction and how they apply in South Africa.

Staff (2024)

Academic Staff

Prof SZ Matebesi	Academic Head of Department
L Ackermann	Lecturer
Prof K de Wet	Associate Professor
Prof SZ Matebesi	Associate Professor/Academic Head of Department
Dr B Malope	Lecturer
Dr K Moyo	Senior Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr D Nzima	Senior Lecturer/Subject Head (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr MM Phadi	Senior Lecturer
Dr J Platzky Miller	Lecturer
S Sele	Lecturer (Qwaqwa Campus)
Dr NT Shange	Lecturer
NL Velelo	Lecturer and Programme Director: BSocSci
M Bhele	Academic Facilitator (Qwaqwa Campus)
D Jonker	Academic Facilitator
N Ndlovu	Lecturer (Contract)

Support Staff

M Hoeane	Senior Administrative Officer
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Affiliated Staff

Prof JK Coetzee	Research Fellow
Prof A Membretti	Research Fellow
Prof A Pelser	Research Fellow
Dr N Redelinghuys	Research Fellow
Dr PL Tanyi	Research Fellow
Dr G Moyo	Research Fellow
Dr G Maviza	Research Fellow
Prof A Scherr	Research Fellow

Unit for the Professional Training and Service in the Behavioural Sciences (UNIBS)

Academic Head of Department
Prof Adelene Grobler

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Overview of 2024

At the end of 2024, two UNIBS colleagues with decades of experience, Prof Adelene Grobler (Head of Department) and Sandra Heymans (Receptionist), bid UNIBS farewell as they embarked on a well-deserved retirement. While UNIBS wishes both colleagues many happy retirement years, knowing the remarkable gap their absences would leave meant that 2024 served as a pathway toward a new era at UNIBS. As in the past, UNIBS serves a tri-functional mandate which emphasises (1) research, (2) training and learning and (3) service delivery/engaged scholarship. With a handover of responsibilities in mind, UNIBS' research mandate and the focus on internationalisation were best served through the reconnection with international colleagues, Prof Koen Luyckx (research associate from the University of Leuven (KUL)) and Prof Hilde Colpin (KUL intern co-ordinator). Therefore, UNIBS hosted both colleagues for a week in September and November, respectively.

Furthermore, considerable emphasis was placed on high-quality training to address UNIBS' training and learning mandate, in addition to the international training opportunities provided by Prof Luyckx and Prof Colpin, as well as the weekly training presented by local experts and in-house trainers. UNIBS staff and interns also attended the first edition of the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Association of South Africa's (CBTASA) congress. This congress allowed UNIBS staff and interns to gain invaluable training from several world-renowned experts in CBT. Finally, UNIBS's contribution to service delivery (engaged scholarship) and the local community's well-being cannot be understated. UNIBS staff and interns assisted 355 clients in accessing free or significantly fee-reduced mental health services across nine rotational sites. Significantly, UNIBS interns provided counselling and workshops for 2133 children and adults during their rotation on the Phelophepa Healthcare Train. Therefore, UNIBS fulfilled its mandates in 2024, paving the way for new leadership and further growth in 2025.

Achievements

Staff Achievements

At the end of 2024, Prof Adelene Grobler and Sandra Heymans bid the Unit farewell as they both embarked on well-deserved retirements. For 17 years, UNIBS had the privilege of being led by a remarkable director, Prof Adelene Grobler. She has been the heart and warmth of UNIBS for many years, and UNIBS would like to thank her for leading the Unit with integrity and passion for all these years. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her a long and happy retirement. In addition to her many years at UNIBS, Prof Grobler was also awarded a long service award for 30 years of service to the UFS, further emphasising her commitment to the Unit and the Institution at large.



Prof Grobler at the Long Service Ceremony

Ms Heymans (receptionist) has also been a part of the UNIBS team for 19 years, and her role as the voice and face of UNIBS will be missed. We want to thank Ms Heymans for her many years of service and wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

Student Achievements

Ruben Langenhoven received the George Roux floating trophy and cash prize for the most outstanding intern at UNIBS during 2023 after becoming the first intern at UNIBS to complete his Master's dissertation, write the HPCSA board exam and register as a Counselling Psychologist during his internship year. Mr Langenhoven subsequently accepted a contract lecturing position with the Psychology Department and acted as a private practitioner at UNIBS in 2024. With Mr Langenhoven's positive result at the HPCSA board examination, UNIBS has continued to maintain a 100% pass rate for all interns since the inception of the examination in 2003.



Ruben Langenhoven

Learning and Teaching

UNIBS annually offers a number of internships in counselling psychology. The internships run from the beginning of January to the end of December each year and serve to fulfil the internship requirements for registration as a counselling psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA. In 2024, Counselling Psychology intern positions were allocated to Asanda Jiyane and Thembeke Mbokane. Since 2023, UNIBS has also acted as a rotational site for Student Counselling and Development (SCD) interns two days per week. SCD interns, therefore, contributed to service delivery under the supervision of UNIBS staff.



From left to right: UNIBS interns - Asanda Jiyane and Thembeke Mbokane

In addition to their usual rotations, UNIBS interns are exposed to a weekly training programme that includes didactic presentations, workshops, journal discussions, and intern case presentations. The training programme is purposefully multi-disciplinary, with contributions from disciplines such as psychology, psychometry, social work, medicine, developmental paediatrics and law. The programme covers a wide range of subjects as required by the HPCSA guidelines for the training of intern counselling psychologists, such as:

- Psychological assessment of children, adolescents and adults.
- Counselling or psychotherapy with children, adolescents and adults.
- Psychoeducation or community and public health interventions or advocacy.
- Ethical and professional conduct.
- Other professional activities.

UNIBS endeavours to provide interns with at least two training sessions by international presenters each year. In 2024, international training opportunities attended by the interns, Prof Grobler, and Ms Kruger included a three-day CBTASA conference in Cape Town at the end of August. The conference speakers included several world leaders in cognitive behavioural therapies, including Dr Judith Beck (President of the Beck Institute for CBT) and other highly esteemed international speakers. The calibre of the speakers clearly highlights the quality of the training provided to interns and staff. Further international training provided to interns and staff included a one-day workshop on Identity Formation by Prof Koen Luyckx (research fellow from the University of Leuven (KUL)) and a morning workshop on “How to tackle bullying at school? Overview of the evidence base and current challenges” by Prof Hilde Colpin (researcher from KUL). Both of these expert-level training sessions deepened the intern’s conceptual

understanding of children and adolescents and created new insights for application when working with these populations. An additional training opportunity was attended by Prof Grobler, Ms Kruger, Ms Docherty, and Lize Wolmarans (ad hoc supervisor) on Defensive Progress notes, which aims to improve the quality of notes and record-keeping done by interns.

Research Projects



Prof Koen Luyckx

The substantial role that Prof Koen Luyckx, research fellow from the University of Leuven in Belgium, plays in generating research outputs for this Unit cannot be disputed. Prof Luyckx's appointment was initially made in September 2018. To date, he has produced over 100 research articles in internationally accredited, peer-reviewed journals for UNIBS. During 2024, Prof Luyckx authored and co-authored 15 articles (10 of which have been captured on RIMS).



Isna Kruger

Isna Kruger is currently in the process of completing her PhD, while simultaneously supervising two postgraduate students in the Department of Psychology. It is important to note that all postgraduate research students, supervised by UNIBS staff members, are essentially registered students in the Department of Psychology at the UFS. All international research engagements initiated, maintained, and financed by UNIBS also directly benefit the Department of Psychology at the UFS and contribute to the larger stature of the discipline at this university. Mrs Kruger supervised the following research studies:

- **L. Bock:** A case study on the experiences of UFS students during the COVID-19 lockdown period.
- **B. Jooste:** Community service learning and the development of psychological skills: Honours students' experiences

Research Outputs (accredited)

Articles

Publications 2024 (Not yet published – online only)

De Moor, E.L., Campens, S., Eggermont, K., Raemen, L., Vanderhaegen, J., Vankerckhoven, L., Van Laere, E., Bogaerts, A., Koster, N., Branje, S., Claes, L., Luyckx, K. (2024). Mental illness and identity in adolescents with internalising problems: A qualitative exploration of identity-relevant narratives. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*.

Luyckx, K., Vanderhaegen, J., Raemen, L., & Claes, L. (2023). Identity formation in adolescence and emerging adulthood: A process-oriented and applied perspective. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 1–20.

Uyar, A., Vankerckhoven, L., Claes, L., Maes, C., & Luyckx, K. (2024). Positive body image in adolescence: Longitudinal associations with identity and eating disorder symptoms. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

Van Laere, E., Oris, L., Schepers, K., Vanderhaegen, J., Campens, S., Moons, P., Hilbrands, R. & Luyckx, K. (2024). Stability and change of illness identity in Belgian youth with type 1 diabetes: A latent transition analysis. *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.

Vankerckhoven, L., Claes, L., Raemen, L., Palmeroni, N., Eggermont, S. & Luyckx, K. (2024). Longitudinal associations among identity, internalisation of appearance ideals, body image, and eating disorder symptoms in community adolescents and emerging adults: Adaptive and maladaptive pathways. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

Publications 2024 (Already published and captured on the RIMS system)

Campens, S., Claes, L., Vanderhaegen, J., Van Laere, E., Prikken, S., Lemiere, J., Uyttebroeck, A., & Luyckx, K. (2024). Nonsuicidal self-injury in adolescent and emerging adult childhood cancer survivors: A first exploration. *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology*, 13(6), 813–819.

Campens, S., Van Laere, E., Vanderhaegen, J., Van Bulck, L., Moons, P., & Luyckx, K. (2024). Illness identity and well-being in congenital heart disease: Directionality of effects and developmental trajectories. *Society for Health Psychology*, 43(3), 203–213.

Daelman, B., Van Bulck, L., Luyckx, K., Kovacs, A. H., Van De Bruane, A., Ladouceur, M., Yang, H., Moon, J. R., Schmidt, A., Lykkeberg, B., Callus, E., De Hosson, M., Sandberg, C., Johansson, B., Hlebowicz, J., Areias, M. E., Amedro, P., Coats, L., Mandalenakis, Z., ... Goossens, E. (2024). Frailty and cognitive function in middle-aged and older adults with congenital heart disease. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 83(12), 1149–1159.

De Lise, F., Luyckx, K., & Crocetti, E. (2024). Identity matters for well-being: The longitudinal associations between identity processes and well-being in adolescents with different cultural backgrounds. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 53(4), 910–926.

Eggermont, K., Smits, D., Bogaerts, A., Pauwels, E., Dierckx, E., Luyckx, K., & Claes, L. (2024). A brief screener for impairment in personality functioning: Psychometric validation of the Five-Item Screening Scale for Personality Disorders in a Dutch-speaking clinical sample. *Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment*, 15(4), 269–274.

Kiekens, G., Claes, L., Kleiman, E. M., Luyckx, K., Coppersmith, D. D. L., Fortgang, R. G., Myin-Germeys, I., & Nock, M. K. (2024). The short-term course of nonsuicidal self-injury among individuals seeking psychiatric treatment. *JAMA Network Open*, 7(10), 1–16.

Kovacs, A. H., Luyckx, K., Thomet, C., Budts, W., Enomoto, J., Sluman, M. A., Chun-Wei, L., Jackson, J. L., Khairy, P., Cook, S. C., Chidambarathanu, S., Alday, L., Estensen, M., Dellborg, M., Berghammer, M., Johansson, B., Mackie, A. S., Menahem, S., Caruana, M., ... Moons, P. (2024). Anxiety and depression in adults with congenital heart disease. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 83(3), 430–441.

Vanderhaegen, J., Raymaekers, K., Prikken, S., Claes, L., Van Laere, E., Campens, S., Moons, P., & Luyckx, K. (2024). Personal and illness identity in youth with type 1 diabetes: Developmental trajectories and associations. *Health Psychology*, 43(5), 328–338.

Verschuere, M., Claes, L., Palmeroni, N., Raemen, L., Moons, P., Bruckers, L., Molenberghs, G., Dierckx, E., Schoevaerts, K., & Luyckx, K. (2024). Identity functioning in patients with an eating disorder: Developmental trajectories throughout treatment. *Nutrients*, 16(5), 591.

Webb-Mitchell, R., Constantine, A., Van Bulck, L., Goossens, E., Kovacs, A., Luyckx, K., Moons, P., Dimopoulos, K., & Coats, L. (2024). Engagement of adults with congenital heart disease in research: Overcoming barriers relating to social deprivation. *European Heart Journal*, 45(Supplement), 1.

Engaged Scholarship

In 2024, UNIBS interns (and to some extent the SCD interns) provided essential psychotherapeutic and assessment services to the following rotation sites on a weekly basis:

- Four local schools
- Child Welfare
- Student Counselling and Development
- Walk-in clients at UNIBS
- Universitas Hospital Pain Management Clinic
- St Dominic's College – annual rotation for subject-choice counselling
- Transnet Phelophepa Health Care Train – annual two-week rotation

These services are provided at either significantly reduced rates or free of charge.

The Transnet Phelophepa Health Care Train community outreach project is internationally recognised as an exemplary partnership between corporates, learning institutions and the community. During the annual two-week rotation on the train, interns typically provide therapeutic and workshop services to hundreds or even thousands of people in dire need of healthcare services from the selected communities. In 2024, UNIBS arranged for interns from both UNIBS and SCD to experience the train in January. Prof Grobler orientated and coordinated the process for all interns. Interns from UNIBS went on Phelophepa I and were sent to Ladysmith, while interns from SCD were on Phelophepa II and were stationed at Swartkops. During their two-week rotation, UNIBS interns provided psychotherapy/counselling to 32 clients and facilitated workshops for 108 adults and 1993 children. Feedback from interns upon returning from the train always alludes to a life-changing experience – professionally and personally.

The interns engaged in several other engaged scholarship activities, including Study Methods workshops at Dr Blok Secondary School and Christian Brothers' College (CBC). UNIBS and SCD interns also attended the UFS Grade 9 Open Day to educate students on the services provided by UNIBS, especially those pertaining to subject choice counselling and study skills development.



UFS Grade 9 Open Day – Interns with Isna Kruger. From Left to Right: Mieke van Niekerk, Ontiretse Kalakgosi, Isna Kruger, Ntotole Maloba, Thembeke Mbokane and Asanda Jiyane.

At the start of 2023, UNIBS committed to running monthly Continued Professional Development (CPD) workshops for registered psychologists in the community, coined “Confidential Coffees”. During 2024, these sessions were facilitated by local practitioners who had previously shown interest in the workshops and indicated a desire to share their own niche expertise. Topics included:

- Focused Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (FACT) as a brief intervention by Prof Stephen Walker (Counselling Psychologist)
- Career crafting: Rethinking career development by Prof Liezel Massyn (Counselling Psychologist)
- Identity formation by Prof Koen Luyckx (Research associate)
- Rethinking attachment in child psychology by Dr Lindi Nel (Clinical Psychologist)
- Strategies for building a healthy Self-esteem by Lize Wolmarans and Lizette Muller (Counselling Psychologists)
- How to tackle bullying at school? Overview of the evidence base and current challenges by Prof Hilde Colpin (KUL researcher)

These sessions were well received by local private practitioners and aided in building and strengthening the psychologist network between UNIBS and the community at large.

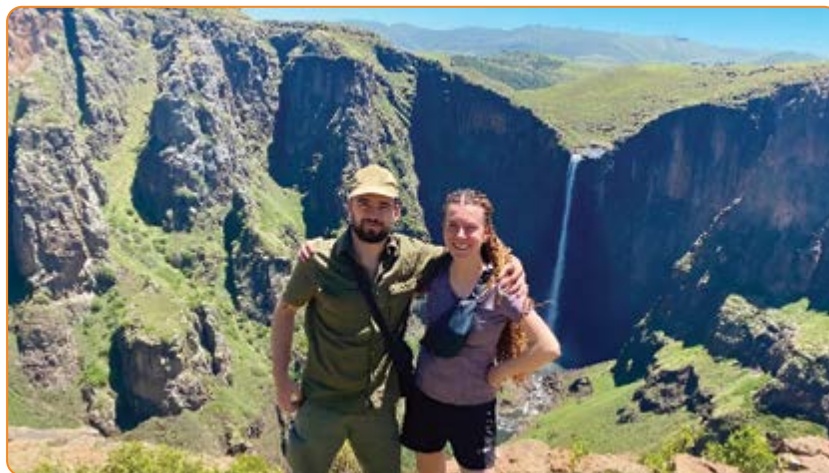
Interdepartmental and Local Collaboration

Over and above representatives from the Faculty of the Humanities, the UNIBS Advisory Board includes representatives from outside the Faculty and UFS. These include Dr J Nel (Practical Theology), Dr F Khanare (Psychology of Education), Dr L Bezuidenhout (Industrial Psychology), Z Zweni (Dr Blok High School), H Barlow (Barloworld Equipment – retired director), Dr ER Seane (Private Practice) and Dr M Dunn-Coetzee (Student Counselling and development). With the handover of responsibilities in mind, Isna Kruger was introduced to the Advisory Board as the future acting HOD.

Staff at UNIBS also assist other departments at the UFS with training for their students or other interdepartmental collaborations. Prof Grobler serves on a national accreditation board to vet CPD activities to ensure that proposed CPD training activities meet the HPCSA standards for accreditation. Mrs Kruger was involved in the Master's selection processes for the UFS Department of Psychology's class of 2025 as a moderator. She also presented lectures at the UFS Business School about managing personal stress. Nicole Docherty co-presented a week-long training course on Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy for the M1 Psychology students with Prof Stephen Walker (Psychology Department) as well as lectures related to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) with Children and Career Counselling. Ms Docherty also acted as a clinical supervisor for one M1 student from the Department of Psychology.

National and International Collaboration

UNIBS was instrumental in establishing a formal MoU between the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at KUL, in Belgium and the UFS Faculty of Humanities in 2017 (renewed in 2022). This agreement facilitates the internship exchange programme implemented annually and originally ensured an international accreditation for the Unit as an internship site for interns in School Psychology at KUL. The programme was reignited in 2023 after Prof Grobler visited the KUL following a brief pause in the exchange programme due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The internship was also re-accredited by KUL following changes in their academic programme. Following the discussions between Prof Grobler and KUL colleagues, particularly Prof Hilde Colpin, and the reaccreditation of UNIBS as a KUL clinical psychology internship site, students were introduced to UNIBS as a potential site and a record number of four students applied to be part of the selection process. Following the selection process (conducted by both KUL and UNIBS staff), two Belgian students were selected for the 2024/2025 internship term. Catho Aerts and Kobe Peeters, the first male intern from KUL, joined our internship programme in September 2024. Ms Aerts and Mr Peeters quickly integrated into the team and have since contributed meaningfully at their various rotation sites.



From left to right: KUL interns Kobe Peeters and Catho Aerts

In 2023, UNIBS was awarded a prestigious international Erasmus+ scholarship, which allows the Unit to send one registered PhD student to KUL for a period of five months and is a significant stride forward toward the facilitation of a joint PhD between the UFS and the KUL. Following a selection process, Sachintha Galhenage, a former UNIBS intern, was awarded the scholarship with Prof Luyckx being allocated as his KUL supervisor and Prof Stephen Walker as his UFS supervisor. During his visit to UNIBS in September of 2024, Prof Luyckx also had a meeting with Prof Walker and Mr Galhenage, which focused on the commencement of the joint PhD degree.

Staff (2024)

Academic Staff

Permanent

Prof AA Grobler	Associate Professor, Academic Head of Department
I Kruger	Counselling Psychologist: Internship co-ordinator

Contract

N Docherty	Counselling Psychologist: Internship administration and supervision
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ADHOC

R Langenhoven	Counselling Psychologist
L Wolmarans	Counselling Psychologist (Supervisor)

Support Staff

R Bekani	Service Worker
S Heymans	Secretary
J Laubscher	Officer
I Redelinghuys	Psychometrist/Officer

Affiliated Staff

A Jiyane	Counselling Psychology Intern
Prof KGM Luyckx	Research Fellow
T Mbokane	Counselling Psychology Intern

