New thinkers for a renewed African Humanities and Social Sciences

INSPIRED THINKING

NIHSS National Doctoral Workshop
29 – 30 July 2015
Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg

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The inaugural NIHSS National Doctoral Workshop heralds an engaging and catalytic space for Humanities and Social Sciences Doctoral students. An initiative of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) in partnership with the South African Humanities Deans Association (SAHUDA) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), it brings together a new generation of thinkers whose research is set to reignite this field.

The national workshop will provide doctoral fellows registered in diverse HSS fields across South African universities with thought-provoking insights from leading scholars and research skills support from mentors.

It aims to:
- Encourage Doctoral students to think ‘out of the box’ and in-depth about their research;
- Introduce and provide a space of interaction between Doctoral students and appointed mentors;
- Provide capacity building to Doctoral students through thematic discussions;
- Launch selected Regional Doctoral Schools and Thematic Groups;
- Establish a community of NIHSS Doctoral students who will nurture each other via peer-support within institutions and thematic research areas; and
- Foster engagement between all partners.

This booklet includes brief profiles, research summaries and the contact details of most students participating in this inaugural NIHSS National Doctoral Workshop.
ART, LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY
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<th><strong>ADRI MARAIS</strong></th>
<th><strong>ADRIENNE VAN EEDEN-WHARTON</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field of study:</strong></td>
<td>English Studies</td>
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<td><strong>Institution:</strong></td>
<td>Stellenbosch University (SU)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mrs.a.marais@gmail.com">mrs.a.marais@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Biosketch**

Adri Marais has a Master’s degree in English Studies from SU, concentrating on the feminist revision of the Bible in contemporary fiction. She is currently teaching first- and second-year English at SU. Her field of specialisation is the feminist revision of fairy tales and she is interested in the way that contemporary revisions draw upon and enrich current debates in post-colonial and queer theory, as well as ageing studies.

**PhD research**

Adri’s study is located in the larger area of scholarship that can be defined as Feminist Revisionist Fiction. Her research focuses specifically on the revision of fairy tales in fictional works published after 1990, considering the idiosyncrasies of visual and narrative texts as they address notions of heteronormative sexuality, Eurocentrism and ageism.

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<tr>
<td>Adrienne van Eeden-Wharton is a Cape Town-based artist, writer and curator. She holds a Master’s degree in Fine Arts from SU and has lectured in both practical and theoretical subjects at various tertiary institutions. She has worked as a freelance journalist and art critic for several print and online publications, and as a researcher and producer on documentary film projects and interactive digital archival platforms.</td>
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**PhD research**

Adrienne’s research is focused on the crafting of a non-representational creative praxis-theory that is situated, embodied, performative and socially engaged. She adopts conceptions of theory that position it as embedded in, rather than in opposition to, practice, and do not demand that it takes a logico-verbal format. In addition, she aims to demonstrate that creative praxis is not just a valid, but also an essential form of critical inquiry.
ANIEN sHAW
Field of study: Music
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: annien.music@gmail.com

Biosketch
Annien Shaw has been a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra and has toured Canada and Spain as a member of the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra. She led the Stellenbosch University’s String Quartet as part of her Master’s degree in Chamber Music. Annien also holds a postgraduate diploma in Solo Performance and FRSM diploma from the ABRSM. She is a founding member of the Juliet String Quartet and a member of the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Tinta Barocca and Cape Consort. She also teaches music.

PhD research
Annien’s proposed research is an in-depth study of the fingering methods of Louis Spohr as stipulated in his *Violinschule* of 1832 and as realised in his own violin concerti publications and his students’ editions of his compositions. The study includes an integrated creative component with four recitals that will be performed alongside the research to demonstrate the findings in a practical manner.

AMBIGAy YUDKOFF
Field of study: Musicology
Institution: University of South Africa (Unisa)
Email: 53316835@mylife.Unisa.ac.za

Biosketch
Ambigay Yudkoff taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, US, before joining the faculty at the Hoosick Falls High School in New York in 2006. One of her primary goals is broadening her students’ musical and cultural horizons. They have appeared on television and performed at various festivals and events, most notably at Carnegie Hall. Ambigay is a published contributing author with certifications in Music, English, Principalship and Superintendency.

PhD research
Ambigay will examine the work of the musician, educator and activist, Sharon Katz. Her study will analyse significant initiatives of Katz whose humanitarian work and performances continue to highlight the ongoing struggles and developments during the social and political transition from a racially segregated country to a democratically elected majority-ruled post-apartheid South Africa.
### Bandile Gumbi

**Field of study:** African Studies  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** bandile.gumbi@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Bandile Gumbi, a creative writer, holds a Master’s degree in Communication for Development from Malmo University, Sweden. She has self-published a poetry collection and is in the process of publishing a second collection with a grant from the Centre of the Book. Bandile works with artist collectives and has held various positions in the Arts and Culture NPO sector. She was employed as an operations and projects manager at the Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg, before starting her PhD studies.

**PhD research**
Bandile’s research looks at periodicals (journals and magazines) which include and/or focus on African visual arts. One of the core interests informing her study is understanding the impetus that drove the creation of the chosen periodicals and to determine which artists, writers and institutions have contributed to their establishment and sustainability. In doing so, the influence that such actors had, and still have, on the African art world can be determined.

### Barbara Burger

**Field of study:** Comparative Literature  
**Institution:** Stellenbosch University (SU)  
**Email:** bibiburger@sun.ac.za

**Biosketch**
Barbara (Bibi) Burger completed her BA degree in Afrikaans and Philosophy as majors at North-West University. For her Honours degree in Afrikaans and Dutch, she moved to the SU, where she also completed her Master’s, which included a six-month stay at Leiden University, the Netherlands. Her thesis dealt with a feminist reappropriation of the domestic sphere in three Afrikaans novellas published during the 1980s.

**PhD research**
Barbara’s research is concerned with urban space and the way this is represented in Afrikaans and English South African novels published since 2000. Her study places particular focus on a comparative study of the representation of the city in English and Afrikaans contemporary novels, and their critical reception.
**Biosketch**
Daniel Rankadi Mosako holds Honours degrees in History of Art and Information Science, a postgraduate diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies, and a Master’s degree in Fine Arts. He offered art lessons at tertiary intuitions and worked as a graphic designer before becoming a curator at the University of Pretoria Museum. He is a practising artist and a researcher who has participated in numerous workshops, residencies and conferences. Daniel has showcased his artworks in multiple international art exhibitions and has curated several art shows.

**PhD research**
Daniel’s study investigates whether major art expositions promote local art talent, particularly those from peri-rural areas. He explores occurrences and administration logistics related to major art expositions in South Africa.

**David wa Maahlamela**
Field of study: African Oral History
Institution: Rhodes University (RU)
Email: maahlamelatd@webmail.co.za

**Biosketch**
David wa Maahlamela is the author of three books: *Moswarataukamariri* (2006), *Ditlabonyane* (2012) and *Sejamoledi* (2012). His poetry has appeared in more than 50 literary journals and anthologies in South Africa and abroad. He compiled and edited the ground-breaking anthology of Sepedi poetry, *Tša Borala* (2014) and has received various awards for his work. David serves as a council member for the National English Literature Museum and on the Literature Advisory Panel for the National Arts Council of South Africa.

**PhD research**
David’s study is titled ‘Sepedi oral poetry with reference to kiba traditional dance of South Africa’. He aims to critically examine and translate kiba poetry into English with minimal loss of its richness to provide critical knowledge about areas in this poetry. David also aims to lay a foundation of information for other scholars to further explore kiba poetry and Sepedi oral literature, and to contextualise it within the South African poetry repertoire.
DOREEN RUMBIDZAI TIVENGA

Field of study: Linguistics
Institution: University of the Free State (UFS)
Email: drtivenga@gmail.com

Biosketch
Doreen Rumbidzai Tivenga holds Master’s and Honours degrees in English from the University of Zimbabwe. She has lectured at the Catholic University of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Open University in Literature in English and Language courses. Her research interests include the youth's daily cultural encounters, new media, identity and culture.

PhD research
Doreen’s research investigates the intersection between Zimbabwean urban grooves music and global culture, and how this impacts the everyday culture and identity of this country’s youth. Zimbabwean urban grooves music is a genre that localises American hip-hop, R&B and Jamaican dancehall music by blending them with local Zimbabwean and other African rhythms.

ESTHER NAA DODUA DARKU

Field of study: African Studies
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: esnad12@gmail.com

Biosketch
Esther Naa Dodua Darku holds a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Ghanaian Languages from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and a Master’s degree from the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana. Her main research areas are economic sociology, cultural sociology, Sino-African relations and the textiles industry in Africa.

PhD research
Esther’s doctoral dissertation examines the role of culture in creating economic spaces in a globalised world. Specifically, it focuses on the ways in which cultural symbols and other cultural elements have been mobilised by actors in the textiles industry in attempts to reinvigorate this industry in Ghana and South Africa – in the face of mounting global competition.
**Jane Anderson**

**Field of study:** Philosophy  
**Institution:** University of Johannesburg (UJ)  
**Email:** 201339683@student.uj.ac.za

**Biosketch**
Jane Anderson has a Master’s degree in Philosophy and has a strong interest in the psychological aspects of philosophy.

**PhD research**
Jane’s study aims to explore whether the view of the mind-body-self provided by the biological regulation account can satisfactorily dissolve the false dichotomy of materialism versus dualism. She proposes to research three broad areas: ‘Explanation’, inside and outside the sciences; biological regulation; and the paradox of unconscious consciousness.

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**Fednand M’bwangi**

**Field of study:** Theology  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** manjewarev@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Fednand M’bwangi is an ordained priest in the Anglican Diocese of Mombasa, Kenya, and a full-time lecturer in Religious Studies at Pwani University in this country. He has taught at Bishop Hannington Institute for Theology (Diocese of Mombasa), and served as a parish priest and attached clergy in various parishes within the Anglican Diocese of Mombasa before joining the university.

**PhD research**
Fednand's PhD study is titled ‘The Sermon on the Mount and Jewish Christian Relations in Syria and Galilee in the Late 1st CE: A study in identity politics’. Among other aims, it will reconstruct the social history of Galilee and Syria in the late first century CE to explain Matthew’s use of the beatitudes as a response against the imposition of Roman social values on the Matthean community.
### JOHN SOKFA
**Field of study:** Sociology of Religion  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** sokfa.john@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
John Sofka holds a diploma in Philosophy from St Joseph’s Institute, Cedara, an Honours degree in Religious Studies from the University of Jos, Nigeria, and a Master’s in Gender, Religion and Health from UKZN. He is passionate about understanding historical and post-colonial African society. Having grown up in northern and Middle Belt Nigeria, gaining insight into social conflicts is one of his major interests, specifically the place of religion and ethnicity in society and contemporary conflicts. He is also fascinated by the online world and culture.

**PhD research**
John’s study is set against the background of tense ethno-religious relations in northern Nigeria, as well as the increasing relevance of the online space and internet culture. He applies post-colonial theory and the emerging framework of digital religion to explore the ways in which the southern Kaduna religious and ethnic identities are articulated and contested online in a closed Facebook forum.

### KAMIL NAICKER
**Field of study:** Literary Studies  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** kamil.naicker99@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Kamil Naicker received a Master’s degree in English Literature from the University of Leeds, UK. Her work at Leeds included courses in Postcolonial, Modernist and Romantic Literature with a dissertation focusing on Azar Nafisī’s *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*. This led to an interest in the subversion of traditional literary forms, as well as in the intersection of history, sociology and literature. Her belief in the importance of interdisciplinary scholarship informs both her teaching approach and the direction of her current research.

**PhD research**
Kamil’s thesis aims to investigate the ways in which the crime novel genre has been taken up and adapted to depict and grapple with transitional justice in selected post-colonial contexts. It will approach this investigation through the figure of the ‘returnee detective’ in these texts and determine how this recurring figure is used to mediate the reader’s understanding of civil conflict in the post-colonial world.
KIRBY AMERICA

Field of study: Linguistics
Institution: University of the Western Cape (UWC)
Email: kirby.america@gmail.com

Biosketch
Since her Master’s degree, Kirby America’s broad field of interest has been Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC), specifically looking at the way that language is adapted and used in online communication. She attended the first KCL-HKU PhD sociolinguistics summer school in Hong Kong, organised and funded by King’s College London. Kirby is currently a senior tutor in the department of Linguistics. She has also worked as a research assistant.

PhD research
The main objective of Kirby’s study is to examine the role played by specific communicative features in the relationship between forms of disclosure in online platforms and cyberbullying – whether or not sharing your thoughts and how you share your thoughts, opens you up to instances of cyberbullying.

KANYISO NTIKINC A

Field of study: Sociology of Labour
Institution: Rhodes University (RU)
Email: ntkincakanyiso26@gmail.com

Biosketch
Kanyiso Ntikinca holds Master’s, Honours and Bachelor’s degrees, majoring in Industrial and Economic Sociology and Organisational Psychology, from Rhodes University. During his Master’s studies, he worked as a junior researcher at the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU). He has tutored and mentored undergraduate students.

PhD research
Kanyiso’s study is titled ‘Planting, picking, packing and selling apples in the jungle commodity market: A study of the position and condition of labour in the apples value chain of South Africa’. It aims to highlight key stakeholders (both local and international), their share in the market and their different roles within the apples value chain of South Africa. It will also cover the ‘winners and losers’ (in terms of profit), the global and national regulatory framework of deciduous fruits, the role of government, among other objectives.
ART, LITERATURE, LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

LUTHANDO NGEMA

Field of study: Media and Cultural Studies
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: Ngemal@ukzn.ac.za

Biosketch
Luthando Ngema, a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), aims to contribute knowledge to the new discourse on ‘black economies’, development issues in South Africa during democratisation and women in (and) education. Her interests range from issues related to cultural tourism and economic development to CSI initiatives that aim to improve education using new media tools in rural South Africa. She has worked as a junior lecturer, research assistant and tutor, and volunteered with ARROWSA, an NPO.

PhD research
Luthando’s study is titled ‘Tourism and economic development: Township tourism as diffusion of innovation to economic development in two South African townships’. It aims to examine the diffusion of the economic development concept, specifically in activities that occur through township tourism.

MARIANNE LOUW

Field of study: Leadership Communication
Institution: University of South Africa (Unisa)
Email: marianne.louw@monash.edu

Biosketch
Marianne Louw is Head of Communication and Media Studies in the School of Social Science, where she lectures Interpersonal Communication, Public Relations and the Media, and Consulting. She has 23 years’ experience in communication, media and journalism and is one of the leading authorities on interpersonal communication in South Africa. She has co-authored a comprehensive South African textbook on interpersonal communication, as well as chapters in other textbooks. She is a qualified life and business coach, and has edited several self-help books.

PhD research
Marianne’s research goal is to provide a theoretical framework for interpersonal leadership communication in organisations. Her study will describe the existing theoretical viewpoints on leadership and interpersonal communication, and consider the importance of leader traits, leader skills, leader behaviours, the communication context and the leader-follower relationship in creating such a framework.
MARY ELIZABETH LANGE

Field of study: Communication, Media and Society
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: marylange@telkomsa.net

Biosketch
For the past 30 years, Mary Elizabeth Lange has specialised in research and teaching in the areas of culture, heritage, the arts, oral narratives, visual anthropology and participatory communication, specifically applied storytelling. She is Chairperson of ARROWSA, an NPO. Mary is also a research advisor for the Centre for Communication, Media and Society at UKZN. She has a number of journal publications and books under her own name. In addition, Mary has facilitated and edited books published under the names of indigenous authors, specifically from the Kalahari.

PhD research
Mary’s study is titled ‘Spirituality, memory and the future in applied storytelling: A comparison of two ‘Sites of Conscience Museums’, Free Derry Museum Northern Ireland, United Kingdom and District Six Museum, South Africa’. The research will provide a comparative study that can inform museums globally regarding spirituality and storytelling participatory communication mediums and methodology.

MARY NKEMDILIM OKOCHA

Field of study: Film Studies
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: mnokocha@gmail.com

Biosketch
Mary Nkemdilim Okocha obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Arts, as well as a Master’s degree in Media Arts from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She has worked as a radio presenter, producer and sound engineer. Mary joined Osun State University, Nigeria, as a graduate trainee in the College of Humanities and Culture, and has conducted research in communication, film studies, arts and culture. Her reviews have appeared in the Journal of African Cinema and International Journal of English and Literature.

PhD research
Mary’s research seeks to explore the everyday viewing conditions and interpretations of Nigerian films by audiences in South Africa and Nigeria to understand how they engage with this media form. The outcome of this study will contribute to the body of literature on audience research, especially those of African background.
MOHAMMAD SHABANGU

Field of study: English
Institution: Stellenbosch University (SU)
Email: mohammadshabangu@gmail.com

Biosketch
Mohammad Shabangu has written a Master’s thesis entitled ‘In search of the Comprador: Self-exoticisation in Middle Eastern and South Asian diasporic texts’. He has experience in teaching undergraduate courses in Postcolonial and Transnational Literatures.

PhD research
Mohammad’s study is titled ‘Nomadic authorship: The double bind of African migrant writing’. This study explores the positionality of contemporary African migrant writers and their transnational interpolation. It argues that their novels suggest a ‘transnational’ or ‘global subjectivity’ in which characters (like their authors) exist in an in-between space. It also argues that such a space or structural duality opens up both potentialities, as well as limitations in representation.

NDUMISO NGIDI

Field of study: Development Studies
Institution: University of Free State (UFS)
Email: ndumison@dut.ac.za

Biosketch
Ndumiso Ngidi has a Master’s of Development Studies from UKZN, and an interest in youth development, particularly in the area of education and human geography. He has written a policy brief for the Programme to Support Pro-Poor Development, under the European Union. Ndumiso is currently a student development practitioner at DUT. In 2014 he became a MAC AIDS fellow in the field of HIV and gender-based violence prevention among youth in townships.

PhD research
Ndumiso’s study aims to explore the intra-racial interclass relations between middle-class and poor youth in Ntuzuma and Kwamashu townships by investigating how township youth experience growing class inequalities and how these inequalities are negotiated. It will also focus on how class inequalities influence the educational trajectories of young people.
**NEWTON CLOETE**

**Field of study:** Theology  
**Institution:** University of the Western Cape (UWC)  
**Email:** newton.cloete9@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Newton Cloete holds a Bachelor of Theology from UWC and completed a Master’s degree in 2012. He aims to become a lecturer. Acknowledging his roots, Newton hopes to make a tangible difference to the lives of those affected by social challenges.

**PhD research**
Newton’s study is situated in the context of Christian ecotheology. It will investigate the positions of five distinct authors who have offered a redescription of the nature of sin through their contributions to ecotheology. The authors are John Chryssavgis (Greek Orthodox Church), Aruna Gnanadason (Church of India), Jesse Mugambi (Anglican Church in Kenya), Larry Rasmussen (Lutheran Church in the US) and Rosemary Ruether (Roman Catholic Church in the US).

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**PHILLIP SANTOS**

**Field of study:** Journalism and Media  
**Institution:** Rhodes University (RU)  
**Email:** analyticsofpower@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Phillip Santos holds a BSc Honours degree in Journalism and Media Studies from the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and a Master’s degree from RU. He lecturers at the department of Journalism and Media Studies at NUST in Zimbabwe, and has worked as a video editor and audio technician. Social capital patterns in Africa, political communication and the sociology of technology in Africa are among his research interests.

**PhD research**
Phillip’s research is premised on the assumption that social memory – also referred to as collective, popular, public or cultural memory – has shaped, and continues to shape, a sense of identity among Zimbabweans. It aims to comparatively establish the range of memory elements reported and interpreted by *The Sunday Mail* and *The Standard*. 
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<tr>
<th><strong>PROSPER TAKAVARASHA</strong></th>
<th><strong>QANITA LILLA</strong></th>
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**Biosketch**
Prosper Takavarasha holds an Honours degree in English, a graduate certificate in Education (English and History) and a Master’s in Language for Specific Purposes from the University of Zimbabwe. He is currently a lecturer and has examined and supervised various courses and projects in Applied Linguistics with a bearing on rhetoric. The dynamics in Zimbabwe’s political realm have been of particular interest to Prosper, especially the liberation struggle’s legacy. He has presented academic papers at local and international conferences.

**PhD research**
The general aim of Prosper’s study is to unravel the rhetorical strategies and coherence of speech employed by the Zimbabwean president in articulating his views to Zimbabweans and the world at large.

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<td><strong>Institution:</strong> Stellenbosch University (SU)</td>
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<td><strong>Email:</strong> <a href="mailto:qanitalilla@gmail.com">qanitalilla@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Biosketch**
Qanita Lilla is working on an institutional critique of the South African National Gallery over the last hundred years. She has worked in both state-funded and vernacular museums in South Africa and internationally, most recently the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha. Her research interests lie in the history and ideology of art museums and the construction of canons of art history in colonial and post-colonial contexts.

**PhD research**
Qanita’s research investigates the ideological construction of South African art through the institutional medium of the South African National Gallery. Factors that coalesced at the museum to create the official art canon, as well as those purposefully excluded, will be scrutinised to write a history of this gallery and to analyse the impact of that history on the broader historical art context.
RANGARIRAYI MAPANZURE
Field of study: African Literature
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: mapanzurer@yahoo.co.uk

Biosketch
Rangarirayi Mapanzure holds a Master’s degree in African Literature in English from Wits, an English Honours degree from the University of South Africa, as well as a BA in English and Communication Studies and a Certificate in Education, both from the University of Zimbabwe. He has lectured at the Catholic University of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Open University in African literature, Film and Literature and Shakespearean Studies, among other courses. He has also worked as a part-time lecturer, tutor and extensively as high school teacher. His major area of interest is African literature in English.

PhD research
Rangarirayi’s research focuses on the evolution of the dictator novel and the changing strategies and visions of African writers. His PhD thesis is titled ‘Writing dictatorship, rewriting writing: the triumph of disillusionment and aesthetics’. The research will rely on close analysis and interpretation of primary texts.

RIASON NAIDOO
Field of study: Fine Art
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: naidooriason@gmail.com

Biosketch
Riason Naidoo is an artist and curator. He has a BA and MA in Fine Art from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). As a curator, he has been involved in various exhibitions. One of these was A Portrait of South Africa: George Hallett, Peter Clarke & Gerard Sekoto at the Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris. Apart from curating, he directed The South African-Mali Project: Timbuktu Manuscripts for the Presidency and the Department of Arts and Culture. He has been in charge of artistic projects at the French Institute of South Africa in Johannesburg, taught in the department of Architecture at Wits and led the art education programme at the Durban Art Gallery.

PhD proposal
Riason’s dissertation centres on whether it is possible to understand art from modern and contemporary African artists in non-Western terms. Focusing on key exhibitions of African contemporary art, and locating curatorial practices within the broader artistic, cultural and philosophical milieus of African modernity, it will examine moments in the history of Western visual representations of Africa.
**TARA LEVERTON**

**Field of study:** English Language and Literature  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** LVRTAR001@myuct.ac.za

**Biosketch**  
Tara Leverton is a tutor and seminar leader at UCT. Her research interests include medieval and early modern literature, contemporary South African literature, disability, neurodiversity, feminist criticism, queer theory, lesbian literature and speculative fiction. In 2014 she published an article *English Studies in Africa*. In 2015 a review of Fred Abrahamse and Marcel Meyer’s production of *Othello* at Maynardville was accepted into *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* (forthcoming).

**PhD research**  
Tara’s thesis is titled ‘Mad men and mad money: Disability and economics in late medieval and early modern English literature’. Her primary goal is to analyse the ways in which late medieval and early modern literature represents psychological disability and neurodiversity or ‘madness’. It also focuses on the ways in which such representations devalue and dehumanise people with non-normative minds, especially insofar as they become vehicles for negotiating socio-economic concerns.

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**STEPHANUS PETRUS (PEET) VAN AARDT**

**Field of study:** Creative Writing  
**Institution:** University of Pretoria (UP)  
**Email:** peetvanaardt@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
Peet van Aardt holds a Master’s degree in Afrikaans and Dutch, and is a part-time academic facilitator at the University of the Free State. One of his academic goals is to continue studying and publishing works that focus on Afrikaans writers who through the years were opposed to the apartheid regime. These are writers who through their writing, established an alternative, socially conscious culture among the Afrikaners. His research has taken him throughout South Africa and to the US.
TEBOGO GEORGE MAHASHE
Field of study: Fine Art
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: info@georgemahashe.co.za

Biosketch
Tebogo George Mahashe is a photography practitioner involved in fashion, photo-archival research and installation art. His first solo exhibition, *Gae Lebowa* opened at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in 2010. He also participated in the group exhibition, *Nestling Narratives* at Goethe on Main in 2014. Tebogo has been nominated for the Foam Paul Huf award, and has been granted a two-month residency in Germany by IFA’s Artist Contact Award. He regularly contributes to academic conferences and symposia. His current project titled ‘MaBareBare’ has been selected to be part of *Telling Time*, the 10th edition of the Bamako Encounters.

PhD research
Tebogo’s study is titled ‘MaBareBare: Exploring Balobedu subjectivity through archive and its imagining within contemporary artistic practice’. The PhD explores the idea of subjectivity in relation to the question of how a contemporary scholar engages the colonial archive.

THANDI WELMAN
Field of study: Classics
Institution: Stellenbosch University (SU)
Email: thandi.welman@gmail.com

Biosketch
Thandi Welman completed her undergraduate degree at Rhodes University in 2009, majoring in Classical Civilizations, Latin and Ancient Greek. She completed an Honours degree in Classical Languages and Linguistics, after which a Master’s thesis focused on Euripidean Tragedy, Gender and Identity in Ancient Athenian Society followed. She has volunteered at Iziko Museums’ Social History Research Centre and on Dr Samantha Masters’ Thuthuka-funded project.

PhD research
Thandi aims to determine the relevance of classical artefacts in South African museums through the case study of the Iziko collection of antiquities in Cape Town. In doing so, she will assess the future conservation needs and responsibilities related to these objects.
### Wandile Kasibe

**Field of study:** Sociology  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** gwandile@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Wandile Kasibe obtained a Master’s degree in Fine Art from UCT and went on to work as Public Programmes Coordinator at the Iziko South African Museum. In 2009 he was chosen by the Scientific Committee of the World Heritage at Work academic programme to pursue a Master’s degree in World Heritage at the International Training Centre in Turin and in 2011, he was awarded a Chevening Scholarship to pursue a Master’s degree in Museum Studies at Leicester University, UK.

**PhD research**
Wandile’s research examines the connection between the sociological pathology of the construction of race in the processes of museum making, and the ongoing contestations of public space in South Africa’s ‘culture wars’. The study traces the genealogy of power relations which have played out over centuries.

### Winani Kgwalala

**Field of study:** Anthropology  
**Institution:** University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)  
**Email:** wkgwatalala@gov.bw

**Biosketch**
Winani Kgwalala’s research is an enquiry into the migration of heritage from African colonies to the master countries. The research looks into the different ways and reasons for the migration of this heritage, resulting in some museums in non-African countries having 90% of their collections coming from former colonial countries. Emphasis is placed on the notion of shared heritage as promoted by UNESCO, the International Council of Museums and the International Council of African Museums.
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**Biosketch**

Abraham Mashatole has built up solid experience in teaching. He has researched literacy practices of local schools, as well as undertaken translation projects and the development of children’s books in African languages. Abraham was part of a national literacy research team and co-authored its final research report, which is due to be published before the end of 2015. Abraham was also invited to participate in a multi-institutional consortium focused on practices of using African indigenous languages for learning and teaching.

**PhD research**

Abraham’s research centers on developing academic literacy and biliteracy by investigating a case study of Sepedi and English bilingualism at the University of Limpopo. At its broadest, the study will seek to explore what pedagogical and contextual factors enable mother tongue-based instruction in higher education.

**Biosketch**

Adesoji Ojuri Oladokun King holds a Master’s degree in Educational Psychology from UKZN, as well as an Honours degree in this field. He completed his Bachelor’s degree in Social Science at the University of South Africa. “One of the strongest motivations for my PhD research is my experiences, both as an orphaned child and as an educator,” he says.

**PhD research**

The purpose of Adesoji’s study is to determine the experiences of primary school teachers who deal directly with orphans and vulnerable children in their classrooms. When teachers’ attitudes, feelings and experiences are explored, their needs in this regard can be recognised and addressed by providing practical strategies.
AKHONA SINEFU
Field of study: Criminology
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: ASinefu@ufh.ac.za

Biosketch
Akhona Sinefu is a lecturer at UFH. With a major in Criminology Studies as an undergraduate and a Master’s degree in Penology, he now focuses on victimology and penology. Akhona is particularly interested in studying victims of gang crimes inside and outside prison. His PhD topic was inspired by his Master’s project which looked at the relationship between prison and its effects.

PhD research
Akhona’s study aims to examine the psychological impact of imprisonment within the South African context. The research will focus on how imprisonment affects inmates, as well as the psychological effects and changes related to these individuals in South Africa.

AMANDA MODJADJI MASETLA
Field of study: Education
Institution: University of Venda (Univen)
Email: amandamodjadji@yahoo.com

Biosketch
Amanda Modjadji Masetla’s Master’s thesis focused on factors that lead to grade 12s’ poor performance. Her PhD studies were inspired by the way in which appraisals are performed in schools around Shiluvane, Mopani District. She would like her study to influence various stakeholders in education to change certain policies related to appraisals to improve their use.

PhD research
Amanda will study the effectiveness of teacher appraisals in Shiluvane circuit. Her objectives include understanding how a teacher appraisal is conducted in Shiluvane and determining the extent to which it promotes teacher development and improvement in teaching and learning. The study will recommend how the teacher appraisal system can be turned into a success.
**BONITA ADELE MARIMUTHU**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** bonita.adelle.16@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Bonita Adele Marimuthu holds Master’s and Honours degrees in Criminology from UKZN. She has presented academic papers locally, as well as in India and her work has been published in various journals.

**PhD research**
Bonita’s study is titled ‘An exploration of resilience in victims of school violence: A case study of an Indian Secondary School in Chatsworth, Durban’. It intends to contribute to the understanding and fostering of resilience in coping with school violence in a township school.

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**BOUDINA MCCONNACHIE**

**Field of study:** Music Education  
**Institution:** Rhodes University (RU)  
**Email:** boudinac@yahoo.com

**Biosketch**
Boudina McConnachie is a music education specialist and lecturer of Music and Creative Arts at RU. She teaches flute, marimba and various theory courses at RU and a number of schools. She recently authored a textbook titled *Listen & Learn – Music Made Easy*. Boudina is completing another book about using music to teach numeracy and literacy in the Foundation Phase, as well as starting a pilot project guiding teachers to run marimba bands at primary schools in the Eastern Cape. She has been involved in various eisteddfods and competitions, and has performed and presented in many cities and festivals around South Africa.

**PhD research**
Boudina’s study seeks to develop a proposal for integrating South African traditional music in addition to Western music into South African schools from Foundation Phase to matric and to understand how technauriture can facilitate this process.
### CHARLES NOTA

**Field of study:** Music Education  
**Institution:** University of Pretoria (UP)  
**Email:** muketiwamakoto@gmail.com  

**Biosketch**
Charles Nota holds a Bachelor’s degree in Education, as well as Honours and Master’s degrees in Music (both of the latter from the North-West University). He has held the positions of Cluster Resource Teacher and District Resource Teacher, and has lectured in African Music and Music Education. Charles has participated in several music education symposia under the North-South-South Partnership project. He also facilitated the acceptance of the Africa University in Zimbabwe into this partnership and an exchange programme for students.

**PhD research**
Charles’ study aims to find ways to preserve indigenous African marimba musical knowledge through designing curriculum content materials, pedagogies and sample songs that could be used in the contemporary Zimbabwean education system. It investigates and addresses the limited attention that marimba music has been subjected to regarding its curriculum content, pedagogy and repertoire development.

### CAROLINE HOORN

**Field of study:** Career Development  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** choorn@gmail.com  

**Biosketch**
Caroline Hoorn grew up in a community where violence, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, gangsterism and the like, were the order of the day. She made a commitment to herself to not be influenced by her surroundings. Her interest in studying career development at PhD level was ignited by her own experience as a young adult without support and guidance.

**PhD research**
Caroline’s study is titled ‘Career development in a disadvantaged community: An explorative study on Douglas, a disadvantaged community in Kimberley, Northern Cape’. Among other objectives, she will determine which factors prohibit post-matriculants from pursuing their careers, as well as their attitudes and perceptions regarding career choices.
EDUCATION AND CRIMINOLOGY

**Danielle Arendse**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Pretoria (UP)  
**Email:** arendse.danielle@gmail.com

**Biosketch**

Danielle Arendse holds a Master's degree in Research Psychology and an Honours degree in Psychology. She has worked as a Psychology tutor, research assistant, mentor and also assisted in facilitating workshops and training of mentors, among other roles. In 2011, she registered as a research psychologist and became a uniformed member (captain) in the SANDF. Danielle was part of the Women in Leadership Programme (WIL) and sponsored to attend the Women in Leadership Conference, as well as the Student's Village Women's Leadership Conference.

**PhD research**

Danielle’s doctoral study aims to explore the construct validity and reliability of the English Comprehension Test (ECT). It aims to advance the research and exploration of the concept of verbal reasoning, specifically within a South African population. This proposed study is necessary to advance psychological research on verbal reasoning and test development in psychology.

**Cynthia Formson**

**Field of study:** Language  
**Institution:** University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
**Email:** CFormson@ufh.ac.za

**Biosketch**

Cynthia Formson's academic background is in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition, as well as TESOL. She has worked in seven higher education institutions on the African continent and in the Caribbean. Cynthia is interested in issues in language and the interrelationships among languages in different societies.

**PhD research**

Cynthia’s research focuses on the benefits and challenges of using isiXhosa alongside English as a language of instruction at the Fort Hare and Walter Sisulu Universities. It will include lecturers and students’ perspectives.
**DORAN TOKOMS**

**Field of study:** Criminology  
**Institution:** University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
**Email:** doran.tokoms@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Doran Tokoms’ strong interest in criminology developed from his exposure to inmates during a Restorative Justice Programme in which he participated during the final year of his junior degree. He also has experience as a prison warden. Dorian is a tutor in the department of Criminology at UFH.

**PhD research**
Doran’s study applies the Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revision as a framework aimed at exposing psychopathic traits in South African prison inmates. By studying a sample of South African prisoners at the East London Maximum Facility and exposing these traits, it is envisioned that recidivism can be curbed in a bid to reduce the crime rate in South Africa.

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**ELEANOR ALVIRA HENDRICKS**

**Field of study:** Social Work  
**Institution:** University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
**Email:** ehendricks81@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Eleanor Alvira Hendricks is a senior social worker specialising in counselling and community development. She has a B.Social Work degree from the University of Pretoria, as well as a Master’s degree in Social Work and Health Care from the University of Fort Hare. Her research has been published and she is also a peer reviewer for KRE Publications.

**PhD research**
Eleanor’s study aims to explore learner’s experiences of school violence in the Cacadu District Municipality in the Eastern Cape. She will examine the types of violence and factors responsible for their escalation in selected schools. In addition, Eleanor will determine the effects on learners and measures taken by communities and other stakeholders.
JOE MALINGA

Field of study: Musicology
Institution: University of Venda (Univen)
Email: mukomars@gmail.com

Biosketch
Joe Malinga was the first black reporter at The Times of Swaziland and went on to study music at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Graz, Austria. He remained in exile for 26 years as a performing and recording artist with many well-known musicians. Years spent as part-time music lecturer at the Univen alerted him to the need for innovative interventions required to revive arts education in Venda. He is currently authoring The Ocarina Method for use in primary schools.

GODFREY MUTENDERA

Field of study: Indigenous Knowledge Systems
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: goddymutendera@yahoo.co.uk

Biosketch
Godfrey Mutendera holds various qualifications in Education. He is currently the principal lecturer in the Theory of Education and a lecturer in Information Communication Technology (ICT) at Marymount Teachers’ College in Zimbabwe. Godfrey has taught at various levels of education over the course of his career.

PhD research
Godfrey’s proposed research centres on incorporating indigenous knowledge and skills into the curriculum through community involvement in teaching Home Economics at primary school level. It will include perceptions and attitudes of the community, teachers and heads of schools.
KABELO MOLOANTOA
Field of study: Education
Institution: University of Pretoria (UP)
Email: kabelomoloantoa@ymail.com

Biosketch
Kabelo Moloantoa has served in numerous positions in the Orbit TVET Council, including as a committee member of the academic, financial, planning and resources sub-committees. He holds a Master’s degree in Social Science, and has worked as Head of Mental Health at the Department of Health and at Medicare Private Hospital’s Physical Rehabilitation Centre.

PhD research
Kabelo’s study is centred on the Department of Basic Education in the North-West, exploring how changes in the curricula influence teachers, especially in terms of stress-related workplace support needs. His research is aimed at designing an adjustment programme for teachers affected by curriculum overload.

LILLIAN NKHWASHU
Field of study: Higher Education
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: lilnkhwashu@gmail.com

PhD research
Lillian Nkhwashu’s study aims to identify if there is something unique about the transition period that puts adolescents who are entering institutions of higher learning at risk for difficulty in coping with their new environment. It also intends to investigate if there are mediating and moderating effects associated with the risk involved, as well as studying how adolescent students can use these factors to establish resilience in their new environment.
EDUCATION AND CRIMINOLOGY

LINCOLN FITZ
Field of study: Criminology
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: lincoln.fitz@gmail.com

Biosketch
Lincoln Fitz is currently employed with the Department of Correctional Services as an operational manager. He has a Master's degree in Corrections and Penology. As a correctional official part of his responsibilities is to ensure that offenders receive rehabilitation and the environment is safe and secure. As such, he serves as a member of the Security Cluster and the provincial JOINTS (Operational and Intelligence Structures). He is also a facilitator in various specialised fields within the department and is a member of the national task team on gangs within South African correctional centres.

PhD research
Lincoln’s study will explore criminological and sociological perspectives to understand why there are gang activities in correctional centres. It aims to determine inmates’ motivation for joining gangs, gangs currently operating (if any) and links to street gangs, among other research questions. The research will contribute to existing strategies to effectively manage gangs in correctional centres.

LIZEKA GCASAMBA
Field of study: Mathematics Literacy
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: lizekagcasamba@gmail.com

Biosketch
After graduating with a Bachelor of Economic Science from Wits, Lizeka Gcasamba joined the financial industry as an investment consultant. Passionate about mathematics education, she completed Honours and Master’s degrees in this area. Lizeka has founded an NPO which focuses on helping learners in Soweto with mathematics. The organisation has also started a society to assist women who attend stokvels with financial literacy workshops. Lizeka lectures in Engineering Mathematics at Tshwane University of Technology and in Quantitative Literacy at the University of South Africa.

PhD research
Lizeka’s doctoral study investigates teacher learning in a professional development programme through a case of lesson and learning study. The proposed study is an attempt to implement a sound school-based teacher professional development model to improve teachers’ professional competencies in understanding and implementing a research-based instructional tool called Mathematics Teachers’ Framework (MTF).
MATHOMO MOILA
Field of study: Education
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: mathomo1@yahoo.com

Biosketch
Mathomo Moila holds a Master in Education focused on Computer Integrated Studies from the University of Pretoria, among other qualifications. He has worked as a lecturer at Naphuno College of Education and curriculum advisor, as well as supported Mpumalanga secondary schools with research assistance. Mathomo is currently the principal of a primary school.

PhD research
Mathomo will use a sequential mixed methods approach to investigate attitudes, behaviour and practices of the use of information communication technology (ICT) in Mathematics teaching and learning in two secondary schools in Limpopo.

MATTHEW CRONJE
Field of study: Criminology
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: mattcronje07@gmail.com

Biosketch
Matthew Cronje’s interests within the field of criminology include the psychological aspects of crime ranging from investigation through to offender reintegration, criminal justice system processes and procedures, and criminological research. He has participated in the World Society of Victimology (WSV) postgraduate course, since the beginning of its African leg in 2009 and has presented at the WSV symposiums in South Africa, the Netherlands, Croatia and Perth, as well as the National Gang Crimes Research Centre Conference in Chicago, US. He is a co-founder of Monash University’s first Criminological and Victimological Student Society, CRIMON.

PhD research
Matthew’s study investigates the effectiveness of programme participation in decreasing recidivism. His research is aimed at identifying and testing the factors contributing to repeated offending behaviour, while evaluating the effectiveness of programme participation in curbing this behaviour.
MBONGENI SHADRACK SITHOLE
Field of study: Social Work
Institution: University of Zululand (UNIZULU)
Email: SITHOLEM3@ukzn.ac.za

PhD research
Mbongeni Shadrack Sithole’s study is titled ‘The supervision trajectory: Reflections on social work supervisor’s role transition experiences’. It aims to explore the role of transition experiences of social work supervisors in a developmental trajectory. Mbongeni’s objectives include exploring social work supervisors’ understanding and experiences of supervision, as well as the factors that influence the supervisory role transition.

MTHOBISI MKHIZE
Field of study: Education Development
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: mthobie@gmail.com

Biosketch
Mthobisi Mkhize is currently a tutor and is active in student leadership, the SRC, peer education and mentoring, among other activities. He aims to become a lecturer in Political Science.

PhD research
Mthobisi’s study investigates the effectiveness of corporate social investment (CSI) towards education development in KwaZulu-Natal. Focusing on three JSE-listed companies, the paper reveals good practices and proposes a model of intervention that could maximise the impact.
**NAFISA PATEL**

**Field of study:** Religious Studies  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** nafisahp@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Nafisa Patel holds a BA degree in Islamic Studies and Arabic, and a Master’s degree in Religious Studies from UCT. Her interests centre on the intersection of gender, education and religion, with a particular focus on Muslim childhood pedagogies. Nafisa has worked as an early childhood educator and is part of the IPAC task team on curriculum development for the BA Islamic Studies programme at the International Peace College, South Africa. She is an executive board member of the IHATA Shelter for Abused Women and Children.

**PhD research**
Nafisa aims to develop a theoretical framework for thinking about contemporary Muslim childhood gendered ethics and praxis in South Africa. She proposes to develop a practical guideline for curricula reform in South African madâris, aimed at facilitating more gender-conscious Muslim childhood praxis within and through the madrassah framework.

**NONTOBeko BUTHELEZI**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** Buthelezin@ukzn.ac.za

**Biosketch**
Nontobeko Buthelezi is a lecturer at the UKZN School of Applied Human Sciences within the discipline of Psychology. She is involved in teaching, research supervision and clinical supervision of Psychology students, as well as coaching and mentoring under- and postgraduate students. She has a particular interest in special needs education and psycho-educational assessment, remedial education and the psychology of learning, as well as career counselling.

**PhD research**
Nontobeko’s research focuses on what enables and constrains student academic performance at UKZN within the College of Humanities. She will investigate how student backgrounds, policies and institutional mechanisms influence the academic performance of students.
**PHINDILE LUNGILE MAYABA**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** Mayabap@ukzn.ac.za

**Biosketch**
Phindile Lungile Mayaba is an educational psychologist and a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She also supervises postgraduate students’ research projects focusing on the psychological assessment of culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) learners. In addition, she contributes as a module coordinator for the certificate course in Community Based Work with Children and Youth. Phindile has worked as a monitoring and evaluations manager and on a consultancy basis with NGOs.

**PhD research**
Phindile seeks to explore the addressivity of challenges experienced when assessing CLD learners’ intellectual functioning. Her PhD focuses on one of the psychological assessment tools that has been translated to isiZulu, with the intention of qualitatively analysing its cultural and linguistic appropriateness.

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**RASHMI SCOTT**

**Field of study:** Education  
**Institution:** University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
**Email:** Rjadhunundhan@ufh.ac.za

**Biosketch**
During the past 13 years, Rashmi Scott has established herself as an academic at UFH. She holds a Master’s degree in English Studies and has travelled fairly extensively, mostly for academic purposes. Rashmi has served as the programme coordinator of a programme for foundational provision in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at UFH, where she has seen the positive results first hand.

**PhD research**
Rashmi’s research is concerned with examining the empirical evidence that is unique to UFH in determining whether the implementation of Foundation Programmes has had an impact on retention, attrition and graduation rates. The study’s main focus is to evaluate whether foundational provisioning at UFH has reduced, increased or had a neutral effect on retention, attrition and graduation rates for students enrolled on such programmes.
**SIMEON AMBROSE NWONE**  
**Field of study:** Information Studies  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** simeonnwone@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
Simeon Ambrose Nwone holds a Master’s degree in Information Science from the University of Ibadan and a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from the University of Benin, both in Nigeria. He has worked in information technology firms in various capacities for over 10 years. His research interests include information behaviour, indigenous knowledge management and user studies. Simeon has been published in international journals.

**PhD research**  
Simeon’s doctoral research will be essential to the academic library in the planning and provision of effective information services to support the professoriate in teaching and research. It will also help develop institutional policies and strategies to promote access to electronic information resources by the professoriate.

**STEPHEN PHIRI**  
**Field of study:** Education  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** stephenworld@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
Stephen Phiri received his first degree in Philosophy from St Joseph’s Theological Institute in 2007. In 2010 and 2011, he completed Honours and Master’s degrees in Systematic Theology at UKZN. Stephen also holds a second Master’s degree in Policy and Development. He is an undergraduate mentor with research interests ranging from the relationship of civil organisation and the state to the contribution and participation of civil society in public policy and discourse.

**PhD research**  
Stephen’s study is titled ‘Learning to be ‘Out of Order’: A life history of the Church Land Program (CLP) and how its praxis has been influenced by Fanon and Freire’. It is a neo-liberal critique of the methodology and praxis of NGOs in postcolonial African states and uses the CLP’s methodological reform as a heuristic example of a potential NGO praxis.
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**Biosketch**

Siyanda Kheswa has a Bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences and postgraduate diploma in Information Studies. He also holds two Master’s degrees. Siyanda is the senior tutor in the Advanced Certificate in Education specialising in School Library Development and Management (ACESLD). He is passionate about school libraries and adult education.

**PhD research**

Siyanda’s study seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of the ACESLD training programme. He will trace educators who have graduated from the programme and determine the impact that the training has had on their work as teacher librarians, as well as the development and management of their school libraries in KwaZulu-Natal.

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**Biosketch**

Soraya Abdulatief holds a Master’s degree in English Literature from the University of the Western Cape. She has lectured in English Communication and was an online editor at 24.com and Mweb respectively. Her research is primarily in academic literacy and teaching critical literacy and critical analysis to higher education students. Other research interests include multimodalities with an emphasis on the visual and debates around race, gender and language.

**PhD research**

Soraya’s research focuses on English Communication courses at universities of technology and how these courses teach students a narrow, decontextualised set of written forms without offering support for multilingual students. She argues that critical literacy offers multilingual students better use of their language resources and will extend students’ critical thinking and writing.
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<th><strong>THOLANI SALVATORIS HLONGWA</strong></th>
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**Biosketch**
Tholani Salvatoris Hlongwa is a Developmental lecturer with a Master’s degree in Linguistics from the University of Wisconsin, US, as well as Honours and Bachelor’s degrees in isiZulu and Linguistics from the UKZN. Tholani also completed various certificates at the University of Wisconsin, where he was involved in community engagement projects. He is a language mentor and instructor at the Siyakhuluma Project, an NPO, where he facilitates the learning of isiZulu.

**PhD research**
Tholani’s proposed research is influenced by his observations from learning environments where he has worked and volunteered as a language instructor. These will help him determine what needs to be designed to add value to language learning communities, including stakeholders, such as government education officials.

**Biosketch**
Temba Sibanda obtained his Master’s degree in Education from Unisa. He has worked as a primary school teacher for the Department of Basic Education in Johannesburg, specialising in Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology. During his tenure as a school teacher, he held the position Head of Department for Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

**PhD research**
Temba’s research is aimed at investigating how gendered experiences impact on the educational outcomes of immigrant children in South African schools. One of its objectives is to offer a range of possible recommendations to help reduce gendered culture in schools.
**THOKOZANI NDALENI**

**Field of study:** Language  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** ndaksi.ndaleni5@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Thokozani Ndaleni obtained a Master of Education degree from UKZN, following many years as an English teacher of secondary school learners. He has investigated teaching English oral communication to isiZulu-speaking secondary school learners and has served as a tutor at UKZN. He aims to become a teacher educator.

**PhD research**
Thokozani’s research objectives are to examine the personal learning histories of isiZulu-speaking English language teachers to gain insight into how an understanding of personal learning histories could enhance the teaching of English language.

**TREVOR McARTHUR**

**Field of study:** Sociology and Social Anthropology  
**Institution:** Stellenbosch University (SU)  
**Email:** trevormcarthur1@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Trevor McArthur obtained BSW (Social Work) and MPhil (Criminal Justice) degrees from the University of Cape Town. He has worked extensively with young people in conflict with the law in the Western Cape. His research interests include sociology of children and youth, crime and deviance, critical and intersectionality theories of race, gender and education, human sexuality and gender studies, research methodology, as well as the positionality of researchers in qualitative research.

**PhD research**
Trevor’s research focuses on coloured boys from relatively poor backgrounds, attending a predominantly coloured school in a small town in the Northern Cape. His study centres on how young boys and men from a particular social class and cultural backgrounds construct identities and navigate relations, and how these may affect and may be affected by their experiences of schooling.
VUYOKAZI MAGUNGXU

Field of study: Criminology
Institution: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)
Email: vmagungxu@gmail.com

Biosketch
Vuyokazi Magungxu holds a Bachelor’s degree with majors in Psychology and Industrial Sociology and an Honours degree, also with Industrial Sociology as major, from the University of Fort Hare. The findings of his Honours study led to his Master’s thesis titled: ‘Correctional education in South Africa: An evaluation of its rehabilitative and reformative impact’. He has attended a number of workshops and conferences, where he has also presented papers. His research has been published.

PhD research
Vuyokazi examines the effectiveness of correctional education and recreational programmes in rehabilitating juvenile offenders. It seeks to identify the gaps within the ‘bleak permeable’ barrier of reintegrating released juvenile offenders, highlighting factors that result in the unsuccessful rate of reintegration and looking at sustainability issues of offenders after release.
**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**ASSEFA MULAT ZINABU**

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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mulatznb@gmail.com">mulatznb@gmail.com</a></td>
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**Biosketch**

Assefa Mulat Zinabu holds a Master’s degree in Governance and Development Studies from Hawassa University, Ethiopia. After completing this qualification, he was appointed as Department Head of Governance at Wollo University, where he has also participated in the research programme. He was also a member of the seminar conference prepared for the 23rd celebration of the anniversary of the fall of the Dergue in 2014.

**PhD research**

Assefa’s study is a critical investigation of the politics and practice of environmental sustainability in Ethiopia. He will explore the link between politics, the environment and development in this country. In addition, his research will assess the mutual causation of issues of sustainability and the political practice in determining the politics of sustainability in Ethiopia.

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**BIKWIBILI TANTOH HENRY**

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**Biosketch**

Bikwibili Tantoh Henry holds Master’s and BSc degrees in Geography and Environmental Planning from the University of Dschang, Cameroon. He provided academic support to undergraduate students at this university, while working as a part-time consultant. Bikwibili currently tutors at Wits’ department of Geography. His research interests are natural resources management, specifically involving communities, and climate variation and change.

**PhD research**

Bikwibili’s study aims to investigate the role of community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) in promoting the sustainable use of potable water in rural north-west Cameroon.
EROMOSE EBHUOMA

Field of study: Environmental Studies
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: 970493@students.wits.ac.za

Biosketch
Eromose Ebhuoma holds a Master's degree in Safety, Health and the Environment from the University of Salford, UK. During his studies, he participated in the Aim Higher programme of Edge-Hill University, UK. He has completed the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) certifications in construction health and safety, as well as international oil and gas operational safety. Eromose tutors in Wits' department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

PhD research
His PhD study aims to understand the extent to which climate change risk communication (CCRC) can help small-scale farmers in the rural Delta State of Nigeria protect and/or transform their assets; and if in doing so, they can adapt to the impacts of climate change and/or variability and still continue food production for a sustainable livelihood.

KHUMBU ZUMA

Field of study: Development Studies
Institution: University of Johannesburg (UJ)
Email: khumbuzuma@gmail.com

Biosketch
Khumbu Zuma obtained her Master's degree at Wageningen Research University, the Netherlands. Since joining UJ in January 2015, she has been involved in student orientation and tutoring, and participates in Master's and Honours seminars as a voluntary advisor. She is passionate about grassroots development and has worked in natural resources management, as well as water and sanitation. Some of her research work has been documented in the Water Research Commission Report in 2007 and Open Society Journal in 2009.

PhD research
Khumbu's research aims to investigate how the process of implementation of the National Water Resources Strategy (versions 1 and 2) has affected and shaped water governance discourse in the selected water management areas. The research looks at the interface between politics and the ecosystem.
ENVIROMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

NKOSINATHI NGESI

Field of study: Religious Studies
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: nsomandi@lrc.org.za

Biosketch
After obtaining his Theological diploma, Nkosinathi Ngesi served as Minister of Religion in numerous areas of South Africa, before joining the South African National Defence Force as a chaplain.

PhD research
Nkosinathi’s study is centred on Khayelitsha in Cape Town and is aimed at investigating the interplay between the Christian church and environmental conservation, including other environmental organisations in this township, with particular focus on sustainable environmental projects.

SERGE KUBANZA

Field of study: Geography of Development and the Environment
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: sergekubanza1@yahoo.fr

Biosketch
Serge Kubanza holds a Master’s degree in Development Planning from Wits and an BA Honours in Sociology and Anthropology from University of Kinshasa, DRC. He has held positions at the Organisation of African Youth, the ACTION Support Centre and at CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation (all in South Africa). His interests include issues related to urban environmental management and southern African regional solidarity.

PhD research
Serge’s study focuses on the social and environmental injustice in solid waste management in Kinshasa. It aims to gain an understanding of the institutional challenges and barriers involved in solid waste management in this city, paving the way towards sustainable solutions to the solid waste problem.
GENDER AND FAMILY
### GENDER AND FAMILY

#### BOITUMELO SEEPMORE

**Field of study:** Social Work  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** Seepamoreb@ukzn.ac.za

**Biosketch**

Boitumelo Seepamore is a Social Work lecturer at UKZN. She holds a BA degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in Social Work and a Master’s degree in Industrial Social Work from the same institution. Her areas of interest are parenting and community engagement. Having worked in various fields, her experience ranges from medical social work to local government. She has volunteered at various organisations, and is a board member at the Meyrick Bennett Child Guidance Centre in Durban and secretary of UKZN-CORE, an NPO.

**PhD research**

Boitumelo’s research focuses on the experiences of domestic workers in parenting their children from a distance and how structural issues continue to impinge on communities and the family. This qualitative study explores the views of domestic workers living or working in central Durban in the eThekwini Metro.

#### EDDIE OMBAGI

**Field of study:** Gender Studies  
**Institution:** University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)  
**Email:** ombagi@kabianga.ac.ke

**Biosketch**

Eddie Ombagi holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Moi University, Kenya and a Master’s of Arts in Literature from the University in Kabianga, also in Kenya. As a graduate student, he initiated a postgraduate Students Conference, which is currently in its third year. His research interests include critical studies, gender studies, post-colonial discourse, popular cultures, literature of the black diaspora and queer studies.

**PhD research**

Eddie intends to argue that the current understanding of queer sexuality, which is Western oriented, is inadequate to articulate queer experience in Africa because African sexuality and its varied manifestations are culture specific. His study proposes that non-normative sexual expressions in Africa must be seen through the past heritage of colonisation, the postcolonial nationalist discourse and the rhetoric of Christian religion.
EMMILY KAMWENDO
Field of study: Gender Studies
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: emmlynaphambo@icloud.com

Biosketch
Emmily Naphambo has been a development practitioner for the past 10 years. Her focus has been on the development and management of programmes in the fields of children's rights, gender, adolescents and youth sexual reproductive health, and HIV and AIDS. She has held positions at Plan International and the United Nations Population Fund. Emmily also spearheaded the development of a first Joint United Nations Programme on Adolescent Girls in Malawi (JPAG). In addition, she has served in NGOs and managed a number of women's rights projects. Emmily has published several research reports on women, youth and children’s issues.

PhD research
Emily’s research topic is ‘Child marriages: An impediment to girls’ sexual rights?’ Her proposed study will provide a comparative analysis of the issue in Malawi and Zambia, some of the countries with the highest rates in southern Africa. This analysis could clarify differences in how child marriage uniquely affects girls from different countries and social strata.

GABBY DLAMINI
Field of study: Social Anthropology
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: gabbysdlamini@gmail.com

Biosketch
Gabby Dlamini’s interests lie in issues of belonging, relationships and representation. Her Master’s degree focused on Swazi middle-class migrants in South Africa. Gabby’s Honours research concentrated on the Swazi Royal burial and was presented at a symposium and conference. She has also been involved in research for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and worked for a multinational shipping line in exports and imports.

PhD research
Gabby’s research will focus on ageing, intergenerational relationships and identity formation of the elderly and their impact on the life course. She aims to understand the impact of the conceptualisation of ageing and what it means to the elderly’s role in society.
KISITU GYAVIIRA

Field of study: Gender Studies
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: kisitudavis@yahoo.com

Biosketch
Kisitu Gyaviira holds a Master’s degree in Gender and Religion. She also has a BA degree in Philosophy from Urbaniana University, Italy, a diploma in Philosophy from the Consolata Institute of Philosophy Nairobi, Kenya and a Bachelor of Theology from the St Joseph’s Theological Institute. Her research fields include gender, religion and sexualities from an African perspective.

PhD research
Kisitu’s study is titled ‘A post-colonial enquiry into the factors that led to the 2014 homosexuality criminalisation in Uganda: A case of the American anti-homosexual evangelicals’. The main research question that this study hopes to answer is: ‘Given that there are other possible factors that seem to be associated with homosexuality criminalisation in Uganda, to what extent did the American anti-homosexual evangelicals contribute to the 2014 homosexuality criminalisation?’

KATLEGO DISEMELO

Field of study: Gender Studies
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: katlegodisemelo@gmail.com

Biosketch
Katlego Disemelo’s research interests lie in the field of cultural studies, media representations, gender and queer studies. He received the Stuart Hall Prize for the best Master’s dissertation in 2015. Throughout his postgraduate studies, his research has been aimed at understanding the ways through which queer masculinities have been re-imagined and represented throughout various discursive platforms in post-apartheid South Africa.

PhD research
Katlego views drag pageantry and performance as a vital site for the investigation of the many ways in which gender and sexuality have been discursively re-imagined in post-apartheid South Africa. His study seeks to understand the role of drag as a vital form of queer consumer-citizenship, as well as an aspect of queer empowerment in post-apartheid South Africa. Katlego seeks to undertake an in-depth ethnography of the preparations, rehearsals and final crowning events of three drag beauty pageants.
MOONIQ SHAIKJEE

Field of study: Linguistics
Institution: University of the Western Cape (UWC)
Email: mooniq.shaikjee@gmail.com

Biosketch
Mooniq Shaikjee’s academic interests lie in the intersection between language, gender and sexuality, with a focus on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and multimodality. Her Master’s research investigated theatrical performances of masculinity by focusing on a group of women in Cape Town who perform on stage as drag kings. She has also conducted research on depictions of masculinity in the media. In addition to issues of gender, Mooniq is interested in the possibilities of new media.

PhD research
The working title of Moonique’s study is ‘Negotiating gendered spaces: Mobility, discourses of belonging and discourses of estrangement in women’s experiences in South African mosques’. Using phenomenology and Bourdieu’s theory of habitus, she will consider the lived and bodily experiences of women in the mosque. She will particularly focus on how its linguistic and semiotic landscape influences and impacts women’s experiences of the mosque and their ideas about Muslim womanhood.
**MUTALE MULENGA-KAUNDA**

**Field of study:** Gender and Religion  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** mutalemkaunda@gmail.com

**Biosketch**

Mutale Mulenga-Kaunda holds Master’s and honours degrees from UKZN. Her research interests include issues of intersectionality and the connectedness of gender issues with religion, culture, work and economy. She has published articles focusing on women, culture and religion. Mutale is also a writing mentor to Master’s students at UKZN. She is passionate about how emerging feminist methodologies contribute to education systems in Africa and how women activists can help to shape femininities and masculinities that promote gender equality.

**PhD research**

Before marriage or the wedding, Bemba women go through a marriage preparation course known as *amaufunde yambusa* (literally ‘marriage teachings’). Traditional customs and rites, such as *imbusa* (sacred emblems/visual aids handed to Bemba brides before the wedding) are often seen as the preserve of ‘uneducated’ and ‘rural’ women. The aim of Mutale’s study is to find out whether women are completely faithful to the teachings of *imbusa*, whether they are critical of these teachings, or whether they adopt a ‘supermarket’ approach (putting only what is important into their ‘basket’).

**NEVASHNEE PERUMAL**

**Field of study:** Social Work  
**Institution:** University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
**Email:** Nevashnee.Perumal@nmmu.ac.za

**Biosketch**

Nevashnee Perumal is a qualified, registered social work practitioner. She has worked in the fields of care for the elderly, as well as child protection and family welfare services. Focused on giving back to social workers in training, she mentors and supervises Social Work students in their field practice, and publishes in the areas of child abuse, foster care and most recently, in social work management and leadership. She has also presented papers at various national and international conferences.

**PhD research**

Nevashnee’s research focuses on social work management tasks by looking at the experiences of frontline social workers in the NPO sector in Port Elizabeth. The aim of this study is to gain an understanding of the range of management tasks that frontline social workers undertake in this sector in the functions of planning, organising, leading and controlling.
PEDZISAI Ndagurwa

Field of study: Demography and Population Studies
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: pndagu@gmail.com

Biosketch
Pedzisai Ndagurwa holds a Bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences and a Master’s in Population Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). He has worked as a tutor at UKZN and an academic writing consultant.

PhD research
Pedzisai’s study aims to advance research toward an Afro-centric theoretical conceptualisation of fertility transition. The study will use a comparative analysis of fertility transitions in Zimbabwe and South Africa to explore an alternative Afro-centric theory of fertility wholly based on African populations.

RYAN DU TOIT

Field of study: Psychology
Institution: Rhodes University (RU)
Email: r.dutoit@ru.ac.za

Biosketch
Ryan du Toit holds a Research Master’s degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is registered as an intern research psychologist and conducts research for the Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction (CSSR) Centre. Ryan is a member of the Gender and Sex Project (GASP), an initiative run by university students to get school learners to engage in democratic dialogue on gender and sex issues. He is a member of the Golden Key Honour Society.

PhD research
The overarching aim of Ryan’s research is exploring how first trimester pre-termination of pregnancy (PTOP) counselling is conducted in the public health sector in the Eastern Cape. This study forms part of a larger research project which seeks to compare pre-termination of pregnancy counselling in South Africa and the UK.
## GENDER AND FAMILY

### Thanduxolo Mngomezulu

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Zululand (UNIZULU)  
**Email:** thanduxolo2008@gmail.com  

**Biosketch**
Thanduxolo Mngomezulu has a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology, among other qualifications. She has held a managerial position in the Psychosocial department at Zisize Educational Trust, an NGO. Her department covered education, child protection and family challenges.

**PhD research**
While working at Zisize Education Trust, Thanduxolo developed an interest in studying men abuse. She notes that there have been very few investigations of this issue in South Africa and, therefore, it is an area requiring further research and attention.

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### Thandeka Prudence Mdletshe

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** prudiepra@gmail.com  

**Biosketch**
Thandeka Prudence Mdletshe holds a Master’s degree from the University of the Witwatersrand. She worked as research assistant, academic tutor, residence assistant, peer educator and counsellor at this university between 2010 and 2013. In addition, she has been a fellow at the Africa Gender Institute’s Young Women’s Leadership initiative. She is currently a Developmental lecturer in the Psychology department at UKZN.

**PhD research**
Prudence’s study is titled ‘Narratives of fatherhood across generations in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces, South Africa’. The research aims to find out what fatherhood means in the African context. It will also focus on delivering a theoretical definition of fatherhood in South Africa.
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<th><strong>THUNYISWA NDINDWA</strong></th>
<th><strong>ZIBONELE ZIMBA</strong></th>
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**Biosketch**

Thunyiswa Ndindwa has extensive experience as a social worker and tutor within the department of Social Work and Social Development in the Eastern Cape, and has served as a supervisor in the fieldwork placement of final-year Social Work students. She has a particular interest in the role of social work to assist the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in society.

**PhD research**

Thunyiswa's research is aimed at investigating the effects of polygamous marriages among African women, with specific focus on: why women stay in polygamous marriages the role of social networks within these marriages, and to investigate how social service practitioners can be of service within polygamous marriages.

| **Field of study:**    | Sociology           |
| **Institution:**       | University of Fort Hare (UFH) |
| **Email:**             |                        |

**Biosketch**

Zibonele Zimba holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Social Work from UFH. She has worked as a social worker at the department of Social Development, but is currently a part-time research supervisor for final-year Social Work students at UFH. Zibonele is a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Human Ecology* and has published two papers.

**PhD research**

Zibonele's study is titled ‘The impact of family reunification and family preservation services on families in South Africa: A case study of Amathole district in the Eastern Cape province’. It will explore the nature and types of services offered to families, assess their availability and accessibility, and determine their impact on family cohesion, functioning and wellbeing.
**ALEMU MUAUZ GIDEY**

**Field of study:** Political Science  
**Institution:** University of Pretoria (UP)  
**Email:** muauzaga@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Alemu Muauz Gidey graduated from Addis Ababa University (AAU), Ethiopia in 2003. Between 2004 and 2010, he served as Conflict Transformation and Security Advisor of Afar Regional State. He completed his postgraduate qualification in Peace and Security Studies at IPSS-UPEACE, AAU and earned his Master’s degree in 2010. After graduating, Alemu reengaged in peace-, conflict- and violence-related assignments. He completed several studies on Issa-Afar. He is currently a senior lecturer and researcher at Wollo University’s department of Civics and Ethical Studies.

**PhD research**
Alemu’s research is titled ‘Deserted in the desert: Critical inquiry into the phenomenology of Issa-Afar violence in Ethiopia’. He aims to explore and explain the unabated continuity, recurrence, self perpetuation and transformation of this violence. Envisaging a design of constructive transformation is at the heart of the study.

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**BINYAM YITAY**

**Field of study:** African Studies  
**Institution:** University of Venda (Univen)  
**Email:** bininabute@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Binyam Yitay holds a Master’s degree in Law and Development from the University of Limpopo, as well as an LLB degree from Mekelle University, Ethiopia. He has held teaching and research positions and conducted various socio-legal studies over the course of his career. Binyam has also presented papers at the International Peace and Security Conference in 2008 and the Human Rights Education Conference in 2011. He is the Vice Chairman of the Ethiopian community in Polokwane.

**PhD research**
Binyam's study is titled ‘Probing regional integration in the Horn of Africa: The case of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)’. The purpose of his research is to probe mechanisms through which the IGAD regional integration programmes can be achieved and which may contribute towards the socio-economic growth of IGAD countries.
BLESSED MAGADZIKE

Field of study: Historical Studies
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: bmagadzike@gmail.com

Biosketch
Blessed Magadzike has a keen interest in aspects of Zimbabwe’s war histories and its legacies, especially that of memorialisation. He holds a postgraduate diploma in Museums and Heritage Studies and was awarded a Mellon scholarship that led to a Master’s degree in History that also specialised in this field.

PhD research
Blessed’s research is an attempt to revisit the historical omissions that occurred in postcolonial Zimbabwe’s representations of its colonial past. His study seeks to reconstruct Zimbabwe’s popularised war historical narrations by offering the refugee a platform to add his/her voice to the existing grand narrative through using oral history as the key research formula.

CECILIA NEDZIWE

Field of study: Political Science
Institution: Rhodes University (RU)
Email: cnedziwe@gmail.com

Biosketch
Cecilia Nedziwe holds a Master’s degree in International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland, Australia. She also has an Honours degree in Economics from the Don-State Technical University, Rostov-on Don, Russia and a certificate in the methodology of teaching Russian as foreign language. Over the last 12 years, she has worked as researcher and research assistant in peace-building, economic justice, conflict resolution and development with various civil society organisations in Norway, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

PhD research
Cecilia’s research is titled ‘Beyond state-centrism: Civil society regionalisation and its implication for future region-building in Southern Africa’. Her research project builds on the development, since the 1990s, of how international relations (IR) conceptualises regionness.
CHENGETE CHAKAMEREA
Field of study: Economics
Institution: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
Email: chakamera.c@gmail.com

Biosketch
Chengete Chakamera holds Master’s and Honours degrees in Economics from Rhodes University (RU), as well as a BCom degree from the University of Fort Hare. He also has a PG certificate in Business and Economics from the Vrije Universiteit in the Netherlands. In 2014, he received an Outstanding Master’s Research Award from RU. He works as an economics electronic tutor at the University of South Africa and has had stints as library student assistant, as well as tutor and academic development facilitator at RU.

PhD research
Chengete’s study is titled ‘Infrastructure as a driver for economic growth and poverty alleviation: The case of sub-Saharan Africa’. It will contribute to knowledge in infrastructure, growth and poverty.

CLAYTON HAZVINEI VHUMBUNU
Field of study: International Relations
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: cvhumbunu@gmail.com

Biosketch
Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu holds a Master’s degree in International Relations and an Honours degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Zimbabwe. He has also completed various diplomas and certificates. Currently, Clayton is an associate researcher at the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC). He has also had stints as senior administrative officer and part-time lecturer. His papers have been published in various journals.

PhD research
The key objective of Clayton’s study is to interrogate the appropriateness and sustainability of separatism as a strategy for resolving post-independence intra-state ethnic, tribal and religious conflicts in postcolonial African states. It draws lessons and experiences from the Sudanese case in light of the African vision for continental peace, prosperity and unity through regional and continental integration.
DON WESSELS

Field of study: International and Public Affairs
Institution: University of Free State (UFS)
Email: don.wessels@telkomsa.net

Biosketch
Trained as an army lieutenant, Don Wessels served in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in the 1980s. He was injured in an explosion in Angola in 1988. An entrepreneur, Don works as a motivational speaker and in the property sector.

PhD research
Don’s proposed study will be an attempt to address questions and make a scholarly contribution in relation to the political, policy and military competency of the African Union and its peace and security architecture to address intra-state and civil wars on the African continent. With the SANDF playing an active role in peace keeping in Africa, he hopes that his study can proactively contribute to fewer people being killed or maimed in wars.

DOREEN NCHANG

Field of study: Linguistics
Institution: University of Western Cape (UWC)
Email: doreennchi@gmail.com

Biosketch
Doreen Nchang is a graduate of the University of the Western Cape, University of Yaoundé 1 and Ecole Normale Superieure with a Master’s degree in Linguistics, Bachelor’s degree in English and a teacher’s qualification, respectively. She has worked as a teacher (teaching English to French speakers at high school level), researcher, tutor, co-lecturer and academic literacy consultant. Doreen has participated in various research workshops, seminars and writing retreats. Her research focuses on issues of language, migration and identity.

PhD research
Doreen’s study aims to explore the different trajectories of a selected number of African migrants into and around South Africa, coupled with the effects of these on their language use patterns and linguistic identities. Informed by the interpretive paradigm, the study will show the effects of space, migration, trauma and ethno-linguistic tensions, like xenophobia, on people’s language use.
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INTEGRATION**

**EHIANE OSEZUA STANLEY**

Field of study: International and Public Affairs  
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
Email: stanleyehiane@yahoo.com  

**Biosketch**
Ehiane Osezua Stanley holds MSc and BSc degrees in Political Science, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and postgraduate diploma in Education. He is a member of various associations, institutes and councils. Ehiane has worked as a part-time lecturer and as a human resources development and training manager. His papers have been published in a number of journals.

**PhD research**
The main aim of Ehiane's doctoral thesis is to examine the causes of terrorism in Nigeria and current challenges with a view to finding a better solution to this issue.

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**FREDERICK MUGANDA ODOLO**

Field of study: International Relations  
Institution: University of South Africa (Unisa)  
Email: majodolo@yahoo.com  

**Biosketch**
Frederick Muganda Odolo holds the rank of lieutenant colonel and is a lecturer at the South African National War College. He has also been a lecturer at the Defence Staff College, Kenya and the Kenya Military Academy. Frederick has held a range of positions in the air force, including that of Staff Officer 1 Operations at the Kenya Air Force headquarters.

**PhD research**
Frederick's study aims to provide a better understanding of the extent to which the contagion theory explains the link between the conflict in Somalia and the deteriorating state of security and stability in Kenya.
Biosketch
Harvey CC Banda is a lecturer in African History in the department of History at Mzuzu University, Malawi. He holds a Master’s degree in African Social History from Chancellor College, a constituent college of the University of Malawi. Harvey specialises in labour migration history and gendered migrancy, especially between Malawi and South Africa. He has been researching migration-related issues in northern Malawi since 2004.

PhD research
Harvey’s study aims to understand the nature, changing dimensions and patterns of international labour migration from the Mzimba and Nkhata-Bay Districts in northern Malawi to Johannesburg since the 1970s. During this time, formal migration was in decline and informal labour migration picked up in its stead.

Biosketch
Kgothatso Brucely Shai is a lecturer in Political Science at UL, and a writer, poet and political analyst. He has been widely published and has presented several academic papers at international and national conferences. He has a Master’s degree in Political Science. His research interests include public policy analysis, US foreign policy, Africa’s international relations and politics.

PhD research
The aim of Kgothatso’s study is to critique the US foreign policy towards Africa, particularly in Ghana and Tanzania, using an African perspective. One of the study’s objectives is to give critical details of the areas of divergence and convergence between the US foreign policy and the national interests of selected African states in the context of oil politics.
### MARCELINES NIWENSHUTI

**Field of study:** Political Science  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** marcelineog@hotmail.co.za  

**Biosketch**
Marceline Niwenshuti holds Master’s and honours degrees in Theology and Development from UKZN, as well as various diplomas and a Theology degree from the Evangelical Seminary of Southern Africa. Marceline is a library assistant at the UKZN main library, and mentor at the Academic Monitoring Programme (AMP), which supports academically ‘at risk’ students. Through her PhD research, she hopes to contribute to the peace-building process in post-genocide Rwanda.

**PhD research**
Marceline’s research will explore relevant aspects of consensual democracy, ascertain the nature of democracy in post-genocide Rwanda and evaluate the role of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission of Rwanda (NURC) in combating democratic challenges caused by ethnicity, as well as options available to enhance the country’s democracy.

### MARTIN SEHLAPELO

**Field of study:** Information Studies  
**Institution:** University of South Africa (Unisa)  
**Email:** sehlapelo@telkomsa.net  

**Biosketch**
Martin Sehlapelo is currently the Head: Office of the Group CIO at Transnet. After completing a postgraduate diploma in Defense Studies at King’s College London, he was posted to the Military Academy in Saldanha Bay as Chief Military Instructor. He served as Chief Information Officer at the Department of Health and Social Development in Limpopo. Martin completed a Master of Information Studies degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

**PhD research**
Martin's research aims to develop a theoretical framework that will be useful for the South African Development Community, or similar countries, to build information societies underpinned by a formalised theoretical framework.
OBADIAH SAMUEL

Field of study: International Politics  
Institution: University of South Africa (Unisa)  
Email: obadiahsamuel1971@gmail.com

Biosketch
Obadiah Samuel holds a Master’s degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies, and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Jos, Nigeria. He is a lecturer at the Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies at this university. His areas of interest include migration, farmers-pastoralist conflicts, human security, globalisation, identity conflicts, cities in transition and the contested city.

PhD research
The primary objective of Obadiah’s study is to examine the relationship between cross-border migration of pastoralists on Nigeria’s national security. Among its objectives are making recommendations to the Nigerian government and other key actors about policy measures that can be taken towards adequately tackling the effects of cross-border migration of pastoralists on the country’s national security.

PATRICK AJIBADE

Field of study: Information Technology  
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
Email: AjibadeP@ufh.ac.za

Biosketch
Patrick Ajibade holds Master’s and Honours degrees from UFH. He also studied Business Information Systems in the Netherlands. Patrick majored in Modern Software Design at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and Business IT Alignment, Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Organisations and Virtual Organisations in a Dynamic Context at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. He was a successful business manager before resigning to further his studies.

PhD research
Patrick’s study will analyse the levels of business information technology alignment utilisation in small and medium enterprises in Africa. Nigeria and South Africa will be used in this comparative study.
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<tr>
<th>QURAYSHA ISMAIL SOOLIMAN</th>
<th>ROCHELLE NICOLETTE DAVIDS</th>
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<td><strong>Field of study:</strong></td>
<td>Ethics</td>
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<td><strong>Institution:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
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**Biosketch**

Quraysha Ismail Sooliman has been inspired to think critically about justice, law, African human rights and the notion of a ‘post-apartheid becoming’, as well as an African perspective on justice and race. Quraysha hosts a weekly show called *Finding Me* on DSTV 347, in which she interviews guests, among them high-profile thought leaders, about identity and belonging. She is also a committed member of the Caring Women’s Forum, an NPO.

**PhD research**

Quraysha’s research focuses on IS. She mentions that the IS phenomenon demands a deeper examination of the meaning of terms and the usage of language in defining or describing phenomena and anomalies related to this issue, if one seeks to contribute to a solution of the conflict. There is a gap in the literature in examining the context for the occurrence of this phenomenon from a decolonial perspective as almost all studies automatically categorise the IS within a religious/terrorist paradigmatic framework.

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**Biosketch**

Rochelle Nicolette Davids completed her Master’s degree in Ethics at UWC in 2013. She also has a diploma in Theology from the SA Theological College and a certificate in Marketing. Rochelle has held various positions of responsibility during her career, including Branch Manager at the South African Post Office. She has also been a part-time research assistant and ethics tutor at UWC. Her goal is to become a researcher within the South African government.

**PhD research**

Rochelle’s study focuses on the viability of the South African National Development Plan (NDP) and Amartya Sen’s theory of ethical development. Her critical assessment will be based on the NDP’s development paradigm as its embedded in the constitutional notions of freedom, equality, participation and sustainability.
**RASHA SHARIF**

**Field of study:** Political Studies  
**Institution:** University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)  
**Email:** rashashar85@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Rasha Sharif holds a BSc degree in Psychology and Pre-School Education, and a Master’s degree in Gender and Development Studies from Ahfad University for Women, Sudan. She is a women activist and a member of governmental organisations and NGOs concerned with gender issues, human rights, women’s empowerment, community development and peace building. Rasha has been working for the Department of Women and Child Affairs in the State Ministry of Social Affairs in South Darfur.

**PhD research**
Rasha’s research explores women’s agency in conflict and peace-building processes in Darfur. It hopes to provide evidence and insight into women's active engagement in mediating peace. In doing so, the aim is that policy makers and peace researchers will engage in discussion about alternative peace-building strategies that integrate women's perspectives and promote their inclusion in a formal manner.

**ROSETTE SIFA VUNINGA**

**Field of study:** History  
**Institution:** University of the Western Cape (UWC)  
**Email:** rosettesifa@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Rosette Sifa Vuninga holds a BA degree, with majors in History, Sociology and Tourism, and an Honours degree in History. For her Master’s degree mini-thesis in the same discipline, she focused on Congolese local films and how they portray the Congolese diasporic identity. She is a tutor and active member of Congolese Diaspora of Cape Town. Rosette is working with a group of Congolese women to create an NGO to assist single mothers and their families.

**PhD research**
Her proposed PhD project centres on the ways in which regional identities are experienced in the Congolese diaspora. Rosette’s research will focus on the juxtaposition of Baswahili (Swahili-speaking people of the Eastern parts of DRC, such as former Kivu and Katanga) and Kinois (inhabitants of Kinshasa who speak Lingala) identities and the role of the diaspora in shaping and maintaining them.
RUTH MURAMBADORO
Field of study: Political Sciences
Institution: University of Pretoria (UP)
Email: rmurambadoro@gmail.com

Biosketch
Ruth Murambadoro holds a Research Master’s degree in Political Science, an Honours degree in International Relations and a Bachelor of Political Sciences from UP. She has also completed postgraduate certificates in Conflict Management, Post-conflict Transitions and International Justice from the International Peace and Security Institute (IPSI). Ruth has participated in international study exchange programmes and has experience in qualitative research on peace and conflict and transitional justice in sub-Saharan Africa. Transitional justice, reconciliation and democracy are among her research interests.

PhD research
Ruth’s proposed research is located in the growing debate about the role of tradition-based approaches in dealing with issues of transitional justice (TJ) and reconciliation, and the implications of these processes on transforming the attitudes, behaviours and structure of the conflict in post-conflict communities. Her study aims to identify practices for resolving conflict that are already present in local communities, which may contribute to national TJ and reconciliation processes in Zimbabwe.

SANDLA NOMVETE
Field of study: Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies
Institution: University of Pretoria (UP)
Email: songezo.nomvete@yahoo.com

Biosketch
Sandla Nomvete has a Master’s degree in Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies from UP. Over the past decade, he has been involved in multiple projects that include health and safety in mines, mining migration and trade unions. He is also involved in co-authoring two book chapters to be published later in 2015.

PhD research
Sandla’s research seeks to challenge Wolpe’s notion of cheap labour power that manifests cheap migrant labour as an apartheid phenomenon. He seeks to further prove that the system shows no signs of diminution and to investigate why people are still migrating if the migrant labour system has diminished.
SONJA THERON

Field of study: Political Sciences
Institution: University of Pretoria (UP)
Email: sonjatheron@yahoo.com

Biosketch
Sonja Theron holds a Master’s degree in Conflict, Security and Development from King’s College London, UK, and is an assistant lecturer and research assistant at the department of Political Sciences at UP. She has conducted research on various projects relating to regional integration and security, South African foreign policy and peace-building. Her current research interests include leadership, identity and peace-building.

PhD research
By using a case study of South Sudan, Sonja’s research seeks to establish under which conditions nation-building can occur after identity-based conflicts, and the value this can bring to established peace-building thinking. She aims to bring into the discourse a better understanding of post-conflict nation-building and to explore how the leadership process can contribute to peace-building through nation-building, moving beyond the traditional focus on institution-building.

SIZO NKALA

Field of study: Political Science
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: sizoski2@gmail.com

Biosketch
Sizo Nkala has worked for World Vision Zimbabwe and, after being granted a scholarship, obtained a Bachelor’s degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Further scholarships led to him completing Honours and Master’s degrees. After an internship with Consultancy Africa Intelligence in 2014, he was offered his current position as an external consultant.

PhD research
Sizo’s research centres on a comprehensive appraisal of Zimbabwe’s indigenisation policy. It aims to analyse the historical and ideological background of this country’s indigenisation and empowerment policy. The appraisal of the policy is expected to generate suggestions and recommendations for improvements.
## VUSUMZI DUMA

**Field of study:** International Relations  
**Institution:** University of Fort Hare (UFH)  
**Email:** vduma2002@yahoo.com

**Biosketch**
After obtaining an Honours degree in Sociology, Vusumzi Duma completed a Master’s degree in Sociology at the then University of Port Elizabeth. During his Master’s studies, he specialised in Advanced Sociological Theory, Industrial and Economic Sociology, and Sociology of Development. Vusumzi has always been interested in xenophobia as a theoretical issue. He has been involved in collaborative research endeavours and has co-authored a number of research papers which were published.

**PhD research**
Vusumzi’s proposed topic is ‘An investigation of the contexts and manifestation of the South African post-apartheid state of xenophobia’. Through this study, Vusumzi aims to make recommendations on strategies to minimise the impact of factors driving the negative public sentiment towards immigrants in South Africa.

## XAVIER ROMAO

**Field of study:** International Relations  
**Institution:** University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)  
**Email:** romaoxavier02@yahoo.com.br

**Biosketch**
Xavier Romao obtained his Master’s degree in Public Advocacy in Australia. He is a development practitioner with more than 25 years of experience working in positions that bridge development policy and practice through engagement with development agencies, government, NGOs and communities. He has worked with numerous international NGOs, the United Nations and the African Union.

**PhD research**
Xavier’s research aims to understand the technologies of rule in making pan-African civil society, and the level of its participation in the governance and policy-making process of pan-African institutions. He aims to examine the degree to which organised pan-African civil society has been participating in the governance of these institutions.
LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Christopher Ndlovu

**Field of study:** Education  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** chrisndlovu47@gmail.com

**Biography**
Christopher Ndlovu is a lecturer at Lupane State University, Zimbabwe in the Educational Foundations department. Thinking back to his younger years, he remembers how everybody was part of a large family, how traditional and indigenous agricultural methods were followed religiously and how school was markedly different than being at home, where maintaining ubuntu was emphasised. “During and after my school days, I realised with some nostalgia that much of the knowledge I had acquired from my community was neither relevant, nor respected in the ‘civilized world’, where people view issues using the Western scientific knowledge system,” he says. This has motivated him to focus on the integration of indigenous knowledge into the education curricula. Christopher has authored and presented various papers on this subject.

**PhD research**
Christopher will contextualise the current agricultural curriculum in Zimbabwe’s agricultural colleges. His research will examine both its epistemology and pedagogy, and explore possibilities of integrating indigenous knowledge into the current curriculum that is relevant to the socio-cultural setting of Zimbabwean society.

Eve Nabulya

**Field of study:** Environment  
**Institution:** Stellenbosch University (SU)  
**Email:** evenamala@gmail.com

**Biography**
Eve Nabulya is an assistant lecturer at Makerere University, Uganda. She holds Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees in Literature from this university and a diploma in Language Education from Kyambogo University, Uganda. Eve, who has a special interest in Shakespearian work, also teaches drama. She has presented several conference papers about the relationship between literature and the physical environment. Eve also works with women in peri-urban Kampala and is the Assistant Director of Care Women Ministry, a community-based organisation.

**PhD research**
Eve’s proposed study examines selected African literary works in English committed to the physical environment to explore alternative associations in the relationship between ecocriticism and language-based literary theory. The research
seeks to attempt a stylistic analysis of environmental literary works, as opposed to the more common thematic-focused appraisals.

**FLORAH MODIBA**

**Field of study:** Development Studies  
**Institution:** University of South Africa (Unisa)  
**Email:** 33428212@mylife.unisa.ac.za

**Biosketch**
Florah Modiba is interested in applying effective information communication technologies (ICTs) to problem solving in areas that include education, small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and addressing workplace gender inequality. She is a published researcher who has worked in research and development projects in the areas of e-mentoring and mobile applications. Florah has a Master’s degree specialising in female entrepreneurs and ICT.

**PhD research**
Her research centres on a matrix for assessing and evaluating the impact of mobile phones for development in rural communities, utilising a case study of the Phake Rebone community. She aims to investigate how community members use mobile phones and determine how this usage can be measured, among other objectives.

**GANTA BRIGHTMAN GEBREMICHAEL**

**Field of study:** Development Studies  
**Institution:** University of South Africa (Unisa)  
**Email:** bgb michael@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Ganta Brightman Gebremichael holds a Law degree and a Master’s degree in Environmental and Nature Resource Law from Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia. He started his working career at Wollo University, where he is currently a senior lecturer and researcher at its School of Law. Ganta has also produced two studies related to land and investment laws.

**PhD research**
Ganta’s research is titled ‘Scrutinising the post-1991 rural land tenure system of Ethiopia in view of land tenure security of peasants and pastoralists’. His study’s primary objective is to assess the extent to which the statutorily defined post-1991 rural land tenure system of Ethiopia has contributed to the promotion of tenure security of peasants and pastoralists.
KEFILOE SELLO

Field of study: Social Anthropology
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: kefiloesello@gmail.com

Biosketch
Kefiloe Sello has co-founded ‘Her Chance To Be’ Foundation, an NGO that sponsors girls from disadvantaged backgrounds and gives them access to education. Her research interests vary from child-authentication and information communication technologies (ICTs) for women development to anthropocene and ethno-ecology. She seeks to deconstruct marriage and identity, reconfigure the anthropocene and women’s role in cultural and environmental sustainability, and enable empowerment through exposure to ICTs.

PhD research
Kefiloe’s study will address this research question: ‘Can the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) be viewed as capitalist machine in the quest for anthropocene and ethno-ecology for Lesotho, disregarding the culture, heritage and indigenous knowledge of its own people?’ Among her objectives is providing a prescription on how future resettlement programmes can be mainstreamed so that less harm is caused to the cultural and environmental consciousness of the communities in question.

SHARON GABIE

Field of study: Social Anthropology
Institution: Rhodes University (RU)
Email: sharon_gabie@yahoo.ie

Biosketch
Sharon Gabie completed her Master’s degree in Social Anthropology in 2014. She is interested in the study of identity politics, heritage and culture, with a particular focus on how identity relates to heritage, centred on the Khoi-San people of southern Africa and the phenomenon of indigenous claims after 1994.

PhD research
The main aim of Sharon’s study is to explore the ways in which individuals who self-identify as Khoi-San classify and conceptualise issues around the reinvention of culture, heritage, identity and land claims, in the relation to global discourses around indigeneity. Her research proposes to trace how this particular group of individuals understand and categorise their claim to indigeneity, where it is understood that identity is a constructed category which transforms and evolves over time.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY FORMATIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY FORMATIONS

ERICK MARIGA
Field of study: Political Science
Institution: University of the Western Cape (UWC)
Email: ericomariga@gmail.com

Biosketch
Erick Mariga completed an Honours degree in Commerce and Marketing, after which a Master’s qualification in Development Studies at UWC followed. He has held a series of progressive roles spanning five years, most recently as a data analyst at the NEPAD Agency. Passionate about peace and development, he has gained extensive experience as a development practitioner.

PhD research
Eric’s thesis is titled ‘Assessing the role of sport for development and peace among communities: A case study of the Kenya Community Sports Foundation (KESOFO) – Sport for Peace and Social Transformation Program in Uasin Gishu, Kenya’. He aims to examine contemporary questions around sport’s contribution to enhancing peace-building efforts and development among the communities in Uasin Gishu County.

HENRY KOFI BOSOMPEM
Field of study: Sociology
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: henry.bosompem@googlemail.com

Biosketch
Henry Kofi Bosompem holds qualifications from the University of Ghana, Ghana Institute of Journalism and the Institute of Education at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. He has proven research and communication skills, and has used these to benefit a number of organisations.

PhD research
The aim of Henry’s study is investigating and establishing to what extent donor support influences the electoral processes in the Buffalo City Municipality, Eastern Cape, and the electoral dynamic factors which connect this agenda with governance and democratisation.
JOHN MASHAYAMOMBE
Field of study: Industrial Sociology and Labour
Institution: University of Pretoria (UP)
Email: jsmashaya@gmail.com

Biosketch
John Mashayamombe holds Master’s and Honours degrees in Industrial Sociology and Labour Studies from UP, and an Honours degree in Sociology from the University of Zimbabwe. John has participated extensively in commissioned studies undertaken by the Sociology department at UP. He also tutors and facilitates courses in the Sociology department at this university. His research interests include labour in mines, as well as mines and communities in terms of the environment and law.

PhD research
John’s research aims to understand how mines set up during post-apartheid differ from those set up during the colonial and apartheid eras. It specifically references how workers are housed, how employee relations are structured and how mines relate to the communities in which they operate.

KAGISO ‘TK’ POOE
Field of study: Economics
Institution: North-West University (NWU)
Email: tk.poe7@gmail.com

Biosketch
Kagiso ‘TK’ Pooe is a public policy research practitioner with experience in both local and provincial government. He holds a Public Policy Master’s degree in Monitoring Evaluation and Analysis/Project Management and Implementation, as well as a Public Policy Honours degree and Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Kagiso conducts research for various institutions. He belongs to the Golden Key Honour Society.

PhD research
Kagiso’s PhD study is titled ‘The effects of the Gauteng Growth and Development Strategy on the Sedibeng Local Economic Development strategy 2006-2012’. It explores the policy outcomes of the local economic development and entrepreneurship planning by the local and provincial government of Gauteng over the last five years.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY FORMATIONS

MATILDAH SINGENDE
Field of study: Criminology
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: tildasing@gmail.com

Biosketch
Matildah Singende holds a Master’s degree in Development Studies from the Women’s University in Africa. She completed her undergraduate education at the Zimbabwe Open University. She joined the Zimbabwe Republic Police as a sergeant 23 years ago and rose through the ranks to become a superintendent. In 2008 she was deployed to Liberia as a peacekeeper with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for one year.

PhD research
Matildah will investigate police and community trust in Zimbabwe, considering the management of trust in a transforming nation. Her research will be conducted in the Harare Metropolitan Province in Zimbabwe.

MZWANDILE MAKHoba
Field of study: Development Studies
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: Makhobam@ukzn.ac.za

Biosketch
Prior to registering as a PhD candidate, Mzwandile Makhoba consulted on various research projects for NGOs and government departments. Contributing to knowledge production and conducting research that helps to transform and tackle contextual challenges faced by post-apartheid South Africa are his passions. He teaches undergraduate Sociology modules and has served in various capacities in student leadership.

PhD research
Mzwandile’s study is titled ‘A communicative analysis of integrated developmental plans at Oribi Village’. It aims to microscopically diagnose local government machinery and produce knowledge that could be of future use for other municipalities in the country.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MLUNGISI PHAKATHI</th>
<th>SANELE BRIAN MBAMBO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mlungisi Phakathi holds a Master’s degree, as well as Honours and B.Social Sciences degrees from UKZN. He is currently a Developmental lecturer at this university. Mlungisi has also been a municipal outreach coordinator, intergovernmental relations and a tutor. His research interests include intergovernmental relations, South African party politics, peace studies and international humanitarian law.</td>
<td>Sanele Brian Mbambo holds a Master’s degree in Housing and a Bachelor’s degree in Geography and Environmental Management from UKZN. He is involved in student development programmes, and participates in various campus organisations. Sanele has held a number of career guidance workshops in poor communities in KwaZulu-Natal, and is a member of the Human Settlements Students’ Organisation.</td>
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<td><strong>PhD research</strong></td>
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<td>Mlungisi will study how intergovernmental relations are managed in Operation Sukuma Sakhe. This flagship programme of the KwaZulu-Natal government seeks to address the social ills faced by poor communities.</td>
<td>Sanele’s study is titled ‘Human settlements and integrated development in the post-apartheid urban communities, in South Africa: A case study of KwaMashu township and Durban North suburb, eThekwini Municipality’. It aims to assess the extent to which infrastructural development through human settlements has been utilised to achieve urban spatial transformation.</td>
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</table>
SICELO MAKAPELA

Field of study: Sociology
Institution: University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Email: SMakapela@ufh.ac.za

Biosketch
Sicelo Makapela holds a Master’s degree from the University of Connecticut, US. He is currently a lecturer.

PhD research
Sicelo’s study is titled ‘Pursuing socio-economic rights in post-apartheid South Africa: A case study of the Buffalo City municipality’. The main aim of this study is to examine the extent to which a range of socio-economic rights are enjoyed in this Municipality.

STANLEY MUTETWA

Field of study: Linguistics
Institution: University of the Western Cape (UWC)
Email: smutetwa@gmail.com

Biosketch
Stanley Mutetwa completed a Master’s degree in Linguistics in 2013 at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). He also holds an Honours degree and a postgraduate diploma in Media and Communication Studies. He has a strong background in theatre and society, acting, film and media, as well as artistic directing, and extensive teaching experience. Stanley lectures Language and Communication Studies and Cross Cultural Communication at UWC. His research interests include language ideologies, language and identity, and television discourse, among others.

PhD research
Stanley intends to explore the potential of social media to democratise society. The premise is that these new spaces offer new platforms for African dissent and resistance against authoritarian regimes in ways not permitted in the mainstream media.
**TINASHE CHIMBIDZIKAI**

**Field of study:** Sociology  
**Institution:** University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)  
**Email:** tinashechimbi@yahoo.co.uk

**Biosketch**
Tinashe Chimbidzikai holds MSc and BSc Honours degrees in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the University of Zimbabwe (UZ). He has worked as a part-time lecturer in Introduction to Feminist Studies and Gender and Development at the Women’s University in Africa and in Sociology/Social Anthropology at the Arrupe College-Jesuit School of Philosophy and Humanities. Urban sociology and migration studies, religion, Pentecostal Christianity and transnationalism are among his research interests.

**PhD research**
Through ethnography, Tinashe is working with Pentecostal Christian churches to explore how the everyday life experiences and practices of migrant congregants contribute to the (re)production of urban spaces. The study uses the concept of emplaced religion – migrants make or remake urban spaces by articulating their individual and collective needs as a group.

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**UNATHI MERCY LUTSHABA**

**Field of study:** Sociology  
**Institution:** Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)  
**Email:** malutshaba@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Unathi Mercy Lutshaba holds a Master’s degree in Development and a postgraduate certificate in Applied Economic Analysis and Forecasting, among other qualifications. A scholarship from the European Commission took her to the University of Antwerp, Belgium, where she majored in Strategy Management and Strategy Implementation & Control. In future, she would like to work in government to influence social policy, and as a part-time lecturer.

**PhD research**
Unathi’s study addresses the fusion of traditional economic value systems and the current economic value system in Dikidikana, Eastern Cape from a socio-economic development perspective. Her research will provide an improved analysis of the current economic value systems, as well as extrapolate findings to articulate the process of either replacing or integrating these values in Dikidikana.
**Biosketch**
Ursula Lau is a research psychologist and clinical mental health professional. She has affiliations with the Institute for Social & Health Sciences and the Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa, University of South Africa, where she has engaged in peace promotion and violence prevention work with communities in low-income peri-urban township settings. She obtained a Master’s degree in Research Psychology from the University of the Witwatersrand. As a recipient of the Ford Foundation International Fellowship, she obtained a Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counselling at the Ohio State University, US.

**PhD research**
Ursula’s research aims to explore the meaning and experience of ‘home’ and ‘belonging’ for individuals living in what presents as geographically contrasting sociospatial and material contexts in post-apartheid South Africa, namely a gated community and an informal township.
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**Biosketch**
Clement Mensah holds Master’s degrees from UWC and Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, as well as a BSc degree from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. He has been a graduate intern at the African Capacity Building Foundation in Ghana and intern at the Partnership with Africa Foundation in Germany. Clement has also had stints as development analyst, executive assistant and monitoring and evaluation officer, among other roles.

**PhD research**
Clement seeks to explore the domestic food assistance and livelihood security nexus through the lens of the home-grown school feeding model, using South Africa and Ghana as cases. Using such a comparative approach will serve as a conduit for an enhanced appreciation of the phenomenon within the SSA context, as well as allow for useful comparisons in terms of implementation modalities, challenges and prospects.

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**Biosketch**
Freedom Mazwi’s research interests are land and agrarian issues with a major focus on agrarian finance and markets. He is a research associate at the African Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS), and holds an Honours degree in Political Science from the University of Zimbabwe and a Master’s degree in Development Studies.

**PhD research**
Freedom’s study focuses on land and agrarian reform issues in Zimbabwe. It seeks to analyse the impacts of integrating the Zimbabwean peasantry into the global financial capitalist system. The study will interrogate competing schools of thought on the subject and try to understand how cash crop production through contract farming affects food security and food sovereignty.
POVERTY AND LIVELIHOODS

JULIUS OKELLO
Field of study: Social Development
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: okellojulius29@gmail.com

Biosketch
Abducted at the age of nine, Julius Okello was a child soldier in Uganda for more than 22 years. He was officially discharged from the Uganda People Defence Forces in 2008. Julius holds a Master’s degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Makerere University. In 2013, he received intensive training sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) as a gender and policy research analyst. He has also participated in other training, especially in research, and has worked on several research projects for various international organisations, including the United Nations Population Fund.

PhD research
Julius’s thesis seeks to investigate the role of social protection programmes in reducing poverty and vulnerability at household and community level in the post-conflict district of Katakwi District in north-eastern Uganda. It aims to assess the effectiveness of cash transfer programmes in empowering households in post-conflict areas to recover and transit out of poverty, analyse their structure of implementation and design a conceptual framework.

KIGGUNDU JOSEPH
Field of study: Development Studies
Institution: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)
Email: kingjos2006@gmail.com

Biosketch
Kiggundu Joseph holds a Master’s degree in Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University (UMU). He also has a Bachelor’s in Development Studies from Makerere University and diplomas in Community-Based Studies and Education. He has been contributing to the field of development and management as a development professional, practitioner and lead trainer at various levels. Kiggundu currently teaches at the Ndejje and Makerere Universities.

PhD research
Kiggundu’s study focuses on community participation in managing rural livelihood projects in the Gomba and Kumi Districts of Uganda. The main purpose is to find out whether their participation enhances the social and economic welfare of community members living in the selected districts.
SINELISIWE LEOHANG THWALA
Field of study: Psychology
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: thwalas@ukzn.ac.za
glebohangd6@gmail.com

Biosketch
Sinelisiwe Lebohang Thwala is a Psychology lecturer at the UKZN. She received her most current qualification, a Master's degree in Research Psychology, from this university and has worked as Master’s intern at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). She has been published and has attended and presented at several conferences, including the South African AIDS Conference in 2011.

PhD research
South Africa has seen a steady increase in female-headed households. Sineliswe’s doctoral research aims to explore the narratives of these women. It will look at the challenges and their experiences as female heads of households, and how society views their role. The study will be conducted in the Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.

THERESA TENDAI RUBHARA
Field of study: Agriculture
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: theresarubhara@gmail.com

Biosketch
Theresa Tendai Rubhara holds a Master’s degree in Management of Development from the Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands. She completed a Bachelor’s of Agricultural Science Honours at the Bindura University of Science in Zimbabwe. Theresa is currently an agriculturalist at Hlumelelisa, an NGO. She has also worked as a researcher and lectured at Chibero College of Agriculture in Zimbabwe.

PhD research
Theresa’s PhD study will analyse factors determining the choice of dominant farming practices at household level and the effect of cash cropping on the food security status of households. It will combine qualitative and quantitative methods.
**THEMBELIHLE DUBE**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** Stellenbosch University (SU)  
**Email:** thembelihiled@hotmail.com

**Biosketch**

Thembelihle Dube completed a Master’s degree in Community Counselling and Clinical Psychology at the SU. Her dissertation was presented at the 2012 International Congress for Psychology. She is currently a clinical psychologist in private practice. Thembelihle’s areas of interests are identity, youth development, supervision, psycho-education and parenting skills.

**PhD research**

Thembelihle’s study seeks to uncover the voices of the unemployed youth of Kayamandi (narrative identities) to understand who they are, reflect on the discourses that inform who they are, what their experiences have been, and what kinds of influences (barriers, needs, resources and support) play a role in their aspirations for a better life (narrative content). The study also serves as an intervention aimed at empowering the unemployed youth in Kayamandi.

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**TSHEPO PETER TLAPANA**

**Field of study:** Communication  
**Institution:** Durban University of Technology (DUT)  
**Email:** tshepot@dut.ac.za

**Biosketch**

Tshepo Peter Tlapana holds a national diploma in Marketing from the then Technikon Natal and a Master’s degree in Marketing from the Durban University of Technology. Before joining this university as a junior lecturer, he worked at Makro for two years where he developed a keen interest in retailing. Tshepo is now Programme Manager Retail Business Management at DUT and lectures Research Methodology. He is passionate about academia, specifically research.

**PhD research**

Tshepo’s study will evaluate the applicability of customer service strategies undertaken by independent food chains in this province. It will also look at the gap between customers’ expectations and their subsequent experiences with service levels. The study will conclude by determining customer satisfaction levels with independent food chains.
WELLBEING, HEALTH, ILLNESS AND MORTALITY
## Bitso Paul

**Field of study:** Sociology  
**Institution:** University of Pretoria (UP)  
**Email:** bitsopaul@gmail.com

### Biosketch
Bitso Paul has held the position of banker, and has also managed the Workers Compensation Fund. The latter ignited his desire to investigate the consequences of disabling workplace injuries. He has participated in a number of international and regional conferences and presented papers at most of them. Bitso is affiliated to the Southern African Social Protection Expert Network (SASPEN), an alliance network of social protection experts. He also serves in the Research Ethics Committee of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

### PhD research
Bitso’s research investigates the consequences of workplace injuries on disabled former mineworkers using the case study of the Eastern Cape and Lesotho. He will ask various questions relating to social, economic and environmental consequences to add new knowledge to existing literature.

## Anastasia Julia Ngobe

**Field of study:** Mental Health  
**Institution:** University of Limpopo (UL)  
**Email:** anastasia.ngobe@gmail.com

### Biosketch
Anastasia Julia Ngobe holds BA, Honours and Master’s degrees in Psychology, all from the University of Limpopo (UL). She has worked in various capacities within education – from focusing on assisting mentally disabled learners to providing career guidance. Her research interest lies in mental health and African perspectives. Anastasia is currently a senior student assistant at the department of Psychology at UL.

### PhD research
Anastasia’s study is titled 'Investigating the potential for integration between traditional and Western trained health practitioners in the management of chronic mental illnesses at Ga-Dikgale Village in Limpopo province'. The main objective of the study is to understand perspectives from Western and traditional health providers regarding mental health care and their views on the potential for integration.
**DONNÉ VAN DER WESTHUIZEN**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Cape Town (UCT)  
**Email:** donvanwest@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
Donné van der Westhuizen developed a strong interest in the study of the human brain as an undergraduate and went on to train in Applied Clinical Neuropsychology as part of her Master's degree. Donné is a research associate at UCT, collaborating with researchers from institutions in the Netherlands, London and Switzerland. Travel and participation in international symposia form an important part of her research agenda.

**PhD research**  
Donné aims to test the proposal that testosterone facilitates IA, which refers to the accurate awareness of internal bodily states and which constitutes one aspect of bodily representation. Aligned to current trends in the field, IA will be measured using a heartbeat-tracking task. This study further seeks to investigate whether or not testosterone attenuates the expected drop in IA following social ostracism.

**DANIELLA RAFAELY**

**Field of study:** Critical Psychology and Sociology  
**Institution:** University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)  
**Email:** daniellaweiss@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
Daniella Rafaely's study interests lie in the field of critical psychology and sociology, with a focus on rigorous empirical analysis in a range of discursive methodologies. Her focus is on childhood as an historical construct, and traces the ways in which it is discursively produced and deployed in social settings, as well as the methods by which morality is reproduced as a social institution in daily interaction.

**PhD research**  
Daniella’s research seeks to identify the ways in which childhood mortality is constituted in social interaction. By examining locally produced practices, both current and historic, the study will show that childhood mortality is socially constructed and its presence acts to fulfil various social functions.
Biosketch
Farzana Alli completed her Master’s degree in Population Studies at UKZN’s School of Built Environment and Development Studies. Her fields of interest include population health, HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment, demography and policy development. She has been involved in consulting and research at various organisations including Oxfam, Child Line South Africa, South African Medical Sciences Research Council, as well as the Health, Economics and HIV and AIDS Research Division.

PhD research
Farzana’s study entails an investigation of selected risk factors for non-communicable diseases among older adults in rural contexts in South Africa. Her research aims to bridge the current research gap by conducting research on selected risk factors for non-communicable diseases, specifically diabetes and hypertension, among the older population.

JENNIFER ROGERSON
Field of study: Social Anthropology
Institution: University of Cape Town (UCT)
Email: jenniferjm.rogerson@gmail.com

Biosketch
Jennifer Rogerson focused on marine conservation for both her Honours and Master’s research. She was part of the Contested Ecologies reading group which resulted in a conference and a book. Jennifer is interested in staying in an interdisciplinary setting, but is moving into the field of healthcare.

PhD research
Jennifer’s research aims to identify how The Midwives Model of Care™ is used, practised and experienced. She will investigate how midwives approach pregnancy and birth (differently) and what they consider important, and how they respond to popular pregnancy and baby literature in relation to their own model of care.
KEAOLEBOGA PORTIA MARUPING

Field of study: Indigenous Knowledge Studies
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: Marupingk@ukzn.ac.za

Biosketch
Keaoleboga Portia Maruping is a Psychology lecturer at UKZN. Her research interests include indigenous knowledge systems, particularly African traditional healing practices and conceptions of illness from African cosmologies. Her interest in mental health and illness epistemologies developed during her time at the University of Johannesburg where she worked as a registered psychologist for three years.

PhD research
Keaoleboga’s study explores the illness experiences of black South African traditional healers by means of narrative inquiry. The study’s main aim is to generate new knowledge that will benefit public health from a national perspective, more specifically understanding people of African ancestry’s conceptions of illness from the African perspective.

LENTSU NCHABELENG

Field of study: Communication
Institution: Durban University of Technology (DUT)
Email: nchabelengl@gmail.com

Biosketch
Lentsu Nchabeleng received a Master’s degree in Public Relations Management from DUT. Her experiences working as a pre-doctoral fellow at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa strengthened her aspirations to make a difference among young people exposed to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

PhD research
Lentsu’s study is aimed at addressing the limited research focused on reviewing communication tools for HIV and AIDS education in universities. She will analyse the communication tools employed for HIV and AIDS education by student services at universities in KwaZulu-Natal. The study will be useful for health practitioners and policy makers when implementing health education programmes and tools to address issues related HIV and AIDS in tertiary institutions.
LYNN NORTON
Field of study: Health Promotion
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: tlnorton@iafrica.com

Biosketch
Lynn Norton holds Bachelor’s and LLB degrees. She was admitted as an attorney in 1992 and worked in both commercial and community law, including training and lecturing. In 2012, she returned to her studies and completed a Psychology Honours degree and a Research Master’s in Health Promotion. She has co-authored a book for a peace education project. Lynn’s primary interest lies in narrative research and intervention work, especially in the use of life story methodology and reflexivity.

PhD research
The general purpose of Lynn’s research is to identify pathways to reflexivity through the telling, hearing and analysis of life stories, and to find out more about the experience of reflexivity as a process that is potentially transformative in a number of settings. She aims to explore what happens when space is created for reflexivity through story-telling and other reflexive methodology that facilitates individual and collective voice, agency and social support.

MATIMBA MABASA
Field of study: Social Work
Institution: North-West University (NWU)
Email: Allan.Mabasa@univen.ac.za

Biosketch
Matimba Mabasa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Master of Arts degree. He has worked as a generic social worker at the Department of Social Development, Capricorn District Municipality. He joined the University of Venda as a Social Work lecturer in 2014. His goal is to become a professor emeritus and a social engineer in socio-cultural, health-related and substance abuse issues. Mabasa has presented an abstract and paper at various academic events.

PhD research
Matimba conducts prevention intervention research for substance abuse among the youth in rural settings of Vhembe District of Limpopo. He will explore and describe the contextual aspects leading towards substance abuse, and develop a substance abuse programme for rural area contexts, among other objectives.
**MARIEtJIE WILLEMSE**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** North-West University (NWU)  
**Email:** Mwillemse2004@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
After a career of educating young people in the public schooling system and at correctional facilities, Marietjie Willemse decided to return to university. While studying, she was inspired to gain more insights into the field of psychology. Always drawn to transforming data to knowledge, she is involved in advocacy for the rights of people in a diverse society.

**PhD research**  
Marietjie plans to focus on understanding the architecture of the diabetes landscape and how individuals construct meaning in this complex environment. Her research project’s general objective is to investigate the diabetes management of young adults and their psychological wellbeing by exploring the influence of personal models, meaning and social support.

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**MICHAEL MCINERNEY**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** Rhodes University (RU)  
**Email:** mp.mcinerney@gmail.com

**Biosketch**  
Michael McInerney is a qualified counselling psychologist who has a small private practice and lectures at tertiary level. His professional interests centre on the intersection of performance and psychology, and he often works with athletes in both individual counselling and group work through teams and academies. Experiences in this capacity have taught him the value of addressing the systemic issues present in the lives of performers, and the value of working collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary team.

**PhD research**  
Michael’s research forms part of a larger research project commissioned by World Rugby. His study aims to understand the use and attitudes towards performance-enhancing substances (PES) in South African schools among rugby playing boys. A model of PES use in athletes will be developed that goes beyond the social-cognition understanding of behaviour to incorporate the interplay of socially constructed talk of PES on intention and behaviour.
### MIKATEKO MABUNDA

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** North-West University (NWU)  
**Email:** Mikateko.mabunda@yahoo.com

**Biosketch**
Mikateko Mabunda is an organisational health and wellness coordinator at the Department of Energy. He has a Master’s degree in Psychology and his research has been published and presented. Mikateko has previously held the positions of mental health practitioner and organisational health and wellness expert.

**PhD research**
Mikateko will study the dynamics of workplace violence, its effects on mental health and how gender, personality and EQ moderate its impact, especially in the mining industry.

### MOLELEKOA KOMETSI

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** Kometsi@ukzn.ac.za

**Biosketch**
Molelekoa Kometsi holds a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Cape Town. He is a lecturer in the School of Psychology at UKZN and was formerly a senior clinical psychologist at Fort Napier Hospital, Pietermaritzburg. He currently serves on the Health Professions Council of South Africa’s Disciplinary Committee for Psychology. His interests are in the fields of psychopathology, psychodynamic psychotherapy, community psychology and psychologists’ professional training.

**PhD research**
Molelekoa’s study seeks to investigate what people know and understand about mental illness. It is titled ‘Mental health literacy: Notions and attitudes toward mental disorders and beliefs about treatment among African residents of Sisonke District in KwaZulu-Natal’. It will answer questions related to whether the public can recognise mental disorders, as well as their perceptions and attitudes towards these conditions and help-seeking behaviours.
Nomalungelo Mjwara

Biosketch
Nomalungelo Mjwara is a qualified, registered social worker who has been working in the field of community and health sciences for over eight years. She holds a B.Social Work degree and a Master’s degree in Child and Family Studies.

PhD research
Nomalungelo’s doctoral research explores the psychosocial issues relating to grief in HIV and AIDS orphans. She will look at the issues from caregivers and service providers’ perspectives.

Patrick Mncedisi Diniso

Biosketch
Patrick Mncedisi Diniso holds a Master’s degree in Chaplaincy Studies from Stellenbosch University, a BTh from the South African Theological Seminary and a BA degree in Theology from the University of Potchefstroom (now the North-West University). He also has a diploma in Theology and various relevant certificates. He was ordained to the pastoral charge of the Free Church in Southern Africa in 1995 and joined the South African National Defence Force as a chaplain in 2002. Patrick is also involved in the activities of the above-mentioned church.

PhD research
The study has been motivated by Patrick’s involvement in the church. He has learnt that there is no theological guidance and support for young children during bereavement among Xhosa people. Many people in this culture may be of the opinion that children do not grieve and are immune to bereavement grief. He seeks to prove beyond doubt that Xhosa children do need theological guidance during bereavement.
**RUDZANI MARRY SIRIBA**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Limpopo (UL)  
**Email:** siriba.rudzani@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Rudzani Marry Siriba has a Master’s degree in Research Psychology from UL and has a strong interest in understanding mental illness within an African context through using an Afrocentric approach to psychological investigation. He is currently a research assistant at UL.

**PhD research**
Rudzani’s research explores the psychological intervention of people living with neurological disorders in Ha-Dikgale, with the aim of developing an Afrocentric psychological intervention.

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**PRUDENCE LEKOTA**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Limpopo (UL)  
**Email:** ntebod@hotmail.co.za

**Biosketch**
Prudence Lekota holds Master’s, Honours and Bachelor’s degrees from UL. She has been a student mentor, student assistant and research assistant. Prudence has also volunteered at primary and high schools in Seshego to help students with dyslexia.

**PhD research**
Prudence aims to identify and implement a community health worker programme that will help to train health workers in mental health problems in gaDikgale Village, Limpopo. The programme will educate them in screening, identifying and giving referrals to patients in the village.
**SHAI NKOANA**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of Limpopo (UL)  
**Email:** Shai.Nkoana@ul.ac.za

**Biosketch**  
Shai Nkoana is a lecturer at the University of Limpopo (UL). He completed an MSc Clinical Psychology and has lectured at various institutions. Shai currently teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He is involved in community engagement, as well as research in psychology.

**PhD research**  
Shai explores the lived experiences of elderly men of African descent diagnosed with prostate cancer in Limpopo. His study objectives centre on perceived causes and psychological strategies to develop a culturally informed conceptual model to explain cancer among men of African descent.

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**THILIVHALI MUSEHANE**

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)  
**Email:** tshavhu@live.com

**Biosketch**  
Thilivhali Musehane obtained her Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from the North-West University. She joined the Department of Health where she worked at Tshilidzini Hospital as a clinical psychologist until 2002, before moving to Kutama Sinthumule Maximum Prison where she worked as a senior clinical psychologist until 2004. She is currently a clinical psychologist at Donald Frazer Hospital.

**PhD research**  
The aim of Thilivali’s study is to explore and understand the Vhavenda rituals in grief and mourning, and explain their therapeutic significance. She will explore implications in developing grief therapeutic models for the Vhavenda indigenous groups during mourning.
### Velile Dhlamini

**Field of study:** Social Work  
**Institution:** University of Zululand (UNIZULU)  
**Email:** vilakazi.lwazi@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Velile Dhlamini is a social worker with vast experience in justice-related issues in society. During her career, she has engaged individuals, groups and communities to improve conditions in their lives, and have played advocacy and facilitation roles.

**PhD research**
Velile will investigate bridging the gaps between HIV and AIDS service delivery by the stakeholders and the NSP 2012-2016 in Ekurhuleni. She will analyse and contextualise the NSP 2012-2016 for HIV and AIDS service delivery, identify critical gaps and formulate recommendations.

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### Wyline Saal

**Field of study:** Psychology  
**Institution:** Stellenbosch University (SU)  
**Email:** wylene.saal@gmail.com

**Biosketch**
Wyline Saal holds a Master’s degree in Psychology, among other qualifications. Her main research interests are psychiatric disorders and research methodology. Additional interests include health psychology and adherence to ART. She is currently a tutor in Community Psychology with a particular focus on academic writing skills.

**PhD research**
Wyline’s research focuses on common mental and substance use disorders among people seeking HIV testing. She aims to determine the prevalence of these CMDs: major depressive disorder, persistent depressive disorder, generalised anxiety disorder and alcohol use disorders.
YONELA SCINA

Field of study: Reproductive Health
Institution: University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
Email: yscina@gmail.com

Biosketch
Yonela Scina holds a Master’s degree in Anthropology, a Bachelor of Community Development and a Bachelor of Social Science, all from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She has held the positions of VMMC Analyst at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), FPD Fellow at MatCH, as well as research assistant and tutor at UKZN.

PhD reseach
Yonela’s research focuses on the life histories of traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in the context of a changing reproductive health practice in Umzimkhulu, KwaZulu-Natal. The broader issue that this study will be concerned with is the encroaching hegemony of the biomedical reproductive health discourse and praxis, which appear to marginalise and push ‘underground’ African traditional reproductive health care.
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