UP Philosophy Areas of Supervisory Expertise

The following topics are those that staff of the University of Pretoria Department of Philosophy could supervise in the first instance at Doctoral level; some staff could supervise additional topics at Honours and Master's levels. Enquire to the Postgraduate Coordinator or a particular staff member for more information.

PERMANENT STAFF
(in alphabetical order)

Prof Benda HOFMEYR

- **Contemporary Continental philosophy** (esp. thinkers following in the wake of Heidegger with emphasis on post-structuralism and phenomenology)
- **Philosophical anthropology** (theories of self and subjectivity from Kant onwards)
- **The entanglement of European and non-Western philosophy** (esp. post-colonial African philosophy and the possibility of a dialogue across these divergent yet fundamentally intertwined traditions)

Prof Bernard MATOLINO

- **African philosophy** (all areas)
- **Political theory** (esp communitarianism and liberalism)
- **Race and racism** (esp ontology of race and social aspects of race)
- **Epistemology** (esp metaepistemology and social epistemology)

Ms Keo MBEBE (currently able to supervise at Honours and Master's level)

- **Metaethics and normative ethics** (esp. the nature of ethics, justice, and rationality)
- **Epistemology** (eg, the nature of rationality, knowledge, truth, reasons for belief)
- **Philosophy of race** (esp. the nature of race and related conceptual matters)
- **Philosophy of emotions** (incl. the relations with rationality and ethics)
- **Philosophy of law** (incl. the nature of law and its bearing on justice)
- **Philosophy of history** (esp. how to understand the nature of history and how to approach it)

Prof Thaddeus METZ

- **African philosophy** (esp. moral/political/legal theory, but possibly religion/metaphysics)
- **Applied ethics** (incl. bioethics; animal rights; media ethics)
- **Comparative philosophy** (incl. African/Confucian/Islamic/South American/Western)
- **Meaning of life** (and related issues, eg, well-being; mental health; axiology of theism)
- **Philosophy of higher education** (esp. aims; accountability; decoloniality)
- **Political/legal philosophy** (incl. human rights; economic justice; punishment; reconciliation)

Dr Thando NKOHLA-RAMUNENYIWA

- **The ethics of technology** (focusing on media, communications, transport and in African contexts)
- **Political philosophy** (especially relation to freedom and agency/autonomy)
- **Environmentalism** (esp. regarding the impact of technology)

Assoc Prof Jonathan Chimakonam OKEKE

- **African philosophy** (methodology; epistemology; metaphysics; ethics; political philosophy; and history of African philosophy)
- **Conversational thinking** (foundation; method; doctrine; applications on selected topics in political philosophy and ethics)
- **Logic** (African contributions, especially the three-valued class as in complementary logic, harmonious monism, Ezumezu logic; Aristotelian and modern western logic, esp. Frege, Gödel, etc)
- **Decoloniality and coloniality** (esp. modernity; colonialism, neo-colonialism, and coloniality; imperialism; border thinking; epistemicide; epistemic marginalization; curriculum transformation)
- **Identity** (eg, politics of identity; cultural ramifications; relationality theory; digital and technological dimensions)
- **Poverty** (incl. politics of poverty; Odera Oruka; measurements; intellectual impacts)

Prof Emma RUTTKAMP-BLOEM

- **The philosophy and ethics of technology** (incl. human-technology relations; data ethics; machine ethics; ethics and social robotics; policy research in AI ethics)
- **The philosophy of science** (esp. the structure of scientific theories; scientific realism; scientific methodology in the era of big data)
- **Formal logic** (non-classical logics, eg, preferential logic; modal logics, eg, epistemic logic)

Dr John SANNI

- **African philosophy** (African political philosophy, philosophy of religion, moral philosophy, difference and identity, decoloniality and coloniality)
- **Continental philosophy** (Heidegger, Levinas, Gadamer, Jean Luc-Marion, among others)
- **Migration** (Statism, cosmopolitanism, conceptions of faces and spaces, ethics of migrations)
- **Violence** (proper role of violence in society)

Dr Mpho TSHIVHASE

- **Uniqueness of persons** (incl. irreplaceability; incomparability; and their bearing on morality)
- **Personhood** (African and Western; implications for gender, race, and AI ethics)
- **Ubuntu** (its nature; principles; criticisms thereof)

AFFILIATED STAFF

Prof Philippe VAN HAUTE (extraordinary appointment; based at Radboud University)

- **Philosophical anthropology** (incl. theories of subjectivity and of the human from Kant to Foucault; Hacking and historical epistemology; status of psychiatric diagnostical categories; the normal vs. the pathological)
- **Psychoanalytic theory** (eg, relation between psychoanalysis and philosophy – historical and systematic aspects; Freud and the history of psychiatry)

Prof Ulrike KISTNER (emerita)

- **Political philosophy** (incl. sovereignty and the state; the concept of the political; theories of nationalism, ideology, totalitarianism; modernity; subjectivity; political theology; politics of human rights; theories of populism; critical race theory)
- **Social philosophy** (incl. collective action; collective self-constitution; theories of economic/social/symbolic exchanges; debates on social pathologies)
- **Psychoanalytic theory** (theories of sexuality; group psychology; aspects of the history of psychoanalysis and psychiatry)