

# 2024/2025 Research Themes & Focus Areas

## Four (4) Identified Research Themes

1. Health and well-being across the lifespan
2. Communities and Society
3. Teaching and Learning in Psychology
4. Theories and Measures in Psychology

## Alphabetical List of Staff (A to J) Research Themes & Focus Areas

	Title:	Surname & Name:	Email Address	Supervision Level Offered	Research Theme(s):	Research Focus Area 1:	Research Focus Area 2:	Research Focus Area 3:	Research Focus Area 4:	Research Focus Area 5:
1	Dr	Arendse, Danille (research associate)	arendse.danielle@gmail.com	Masters; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Theories and Measures in Psychology; Communities and Society	Coloured identity; Decoloniality; Gender; Autoethnography	Military Psychology; Metoring; Well-being (Positive Psychology)	Test Development; Cognitive Psychology; Psychometrics;	-	-
2	Dr	Bezuidenhout, Monique	monique.bezuidenhout@up.ac.za	Master's	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan	Weight loss surgery	Weight maintenance	Obesity	Scuba diving	Qualitative research; Reflexive thematic analysis
3	Prof	Cassimjee, Nafisa	nafisa.cassimjee@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Neuropsychology; Degenerative Disorders; Deep Brain Stimulation	Geropsychology; Psychology of aging	-	-	-
4	Dr	Chigeza, Shingairai	shingairai.chigeza@upac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Intergenerational relationships (Families & Communities)	Interpersonal and intergroup relationships	Psychosocial and Relational well-being (Individuals; Families and Communities)	Social Gerontology (Well-being of older people)	Relationships and Meaning (Migration; Education; Families and Communities)
5a	Prof	Coetzee, Nicoleen	nicoleen.coetzee@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan	Determining the relationship between burnout; wellbeing and emotional intelligence: A secondary data analysis	Psychophysiological determinants of wellbeing	Development of an intervention that will enhance wellbeing	-	-
5b	Prof	Coetzee, Nicoleen	nicoleen.coetzee@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Psychophysiological well-being of adults and adolescents	Well-being or any other form of the absence of well-being	Any constructs related to psychophysiological wellbeing	New measures that can be used to measure psychophysiological well-being and the development of measurement instruments to measure psychophysiological well-being	The investigation and development of interventions that would enhance psychophysiological well-being
6	Prof	Davids, Eugene Lee	eugene.davids@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan	Adolescence and emerging adulthood	Social determinants of health and well-being.	Judgement and decision-making.	-	-
7	Prof	Guse, Tharina	tharina.guse@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Positive Psychology	Psychological well-being	Hope	Gratitude	Positive Psychology Interventions
8	Dr	Janse van Vuuren, Herman (Educational Psychology)	herman.jansevanvuuren@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Teaching and Learning in Psychology; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Primary research focus is within higher education; specifically relating to learning analytics and student success in tertiary education	Interest in research methodology within the social sciences and psychology areas; seeking to refine and develop methods of investigation and interpretation	-	-	-
9	Dr	Joubert van Appel, Jolize	jolize.joubertvanappel@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Positive Psychology & Positive Psychology Interventions in a Clinical Context	Female Health & Well-being	-	-	-

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10	Dr	Liccardo, Sabrina	sabrina.liccardo@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Teaching and Learning in Psychology; Communities and Society	Qualitative research methodology (particularly narrative and visual methods); Researcher Vulnerability	Psychosocial Studies; Narrative theories of identity (re- )construction	Psychology of art and creativity; Art therapy theories	Feminist Science and Technology Studies	Belonging and alienation at South African universities; Programme Evaluation; Policy Development; Dynamics of Systems-level Social Change
11	Mr	Mahlo, Setagwa	setagwa.mahlo@up.ac.za	Master's	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	African Psychology	Conceptualisation of mental illness from an African perspective	Suicide and Grief	Indigenous Healing and Psychology	Community Psychology
12	Prof	Maree, David	david.maree@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Teaching and Learning in Psychology; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Psychometrics en test development using Rasch modeling and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM); assessing positive psychological constructs.	Developing a realist metatheory for scientific practice and methodology in psychology	Exploring cognitive and perceptual phenomena such as change blindness	-	-
13	Dr	Martin, Jarred	jarred.martin@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Sexuality (Intersections of Sexuality with Race; Disability; or Gender)	Gender (Men and Masculinities; Relationships; and Gender-based Violence)	LGBTIAQ+ (Identity; Relationships; Communities; and Violence)	Sex and Sexual Health (Links between Mental Health; Well-being and Sex)	Kink (Positive Sexuality approaches to Alternative Sexualities; BDSM; and other Kinks)
14	Dr	Matamela, Nyambeni	nyambeni.matamela@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Trauma exposure and Mental Health Outcomes Across the Life Span	HIV/AIDS and Mental Health	Older Adults Psychological Issues	None	None
15	Mr	Mohamed, Ahmed Riaz	ahmed.mohamed@up.ac.za	Master's	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan	Focused on parent-infant / parent-child attachment	Attachment in the context of intellectual / developmental disabilities	Attachment-based interventions	Parenting	Psychologists' perceptions of working with people with intellectual disabilities
16	Dr	Mostert, Sonja	sonja.mostert@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Health Psychology	Neuro-cognitive	Teaching and learning	n/a	n/a
17	Dr	Motileng, Benny	benny.motileng@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Qualitative and mixed method research on depression; suicide; self-esteem; Motivation; self-efficacy; academic performance	Empowerment strategies; Affirmative action; work & customer satisfaction studies	Program evaluation studies	Race relation studies; affirmative action studies	customer experience and market research
18	Dr	Muller, Jacomien	jacomien.muller@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan	Focus on factors related to child and parental sleep; including sleep interventions; parental sleep quality; sleep practices in South Africa; conceptualisations of child sleep problems; and perception of support during sleep interventions	Positive psychology; with a focus on parental subjective well-being during infancy and early childhood	None	None	None

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19	Mr	Philander, Sulaiyman	sulaiyman.philander@up.ac.za	Master's	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Teaching and Learning in Psychology; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Qualitative research on emotion; uncertainty and self-defeat	Qualitative synthesis and qualitative methodology (meta- research)	Also open to qualitative research on psychology within digital spaces depending on the topic	Also open to qualitative research relating to critical psychology depending on the topic	Also open to qualitative research on teaching learning depending on the topic
20	Dr	Rawatlal, Kamilla	kamilla.rawatlal@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Teaching and Learning in Psychology; Theories and Measures in Psychology	Counselling Psychology interventions/therapeutic modalities	Career Assessment and Counselling	Student/Practitioner wellbeing and health promotion	Counselling Psychology curriculum and training	N/A
21	Dr	Visagie, Elné	elne.visagie@up.ac.za	Master's	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Mechanisms of health and well- being: Health psychology; nutrition; type 2 diabetes; individuals' relationship with food; body image; and disordered eating	The well-being and mental health of individuals and communities: Complex trauma; gender-based violence; and psychological development	Environmental psychology (climate change) and adventure-based therapy	None	None
22	Prof	Visser, Maretha	maretha.visser@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Health and Well-being Across the Lifespan; Communities and Society	Community psychology	large scale interventions to improve mental health of different groups and address psycho-social community issues	Training and support of volunteers; community health workers and professionals (teachers; nurses) that work with people; to promote mental health and take care of themselves to avoid burnout	none	none
23	Prof	Wagner, Claire	claire.wagner@up.ac.za	Master's; Doctorate	Teaching and Learning in Psychology; Theories and Measures in Psychology		Teaching psychology	Research methods	Interdisciplinary research and teaching	None