

Department of Psychology: Research Themes & Focus Areas: 2023/2024

Four (4) Identified Research Themes:



- Health and well-being across the lifespan
- Communities and Society
- Theories and Measures in Psychology
- Teaching and Learning in Psychology

Alphabetical List of Staff Research Themes & Focus Areas

List includes full-time Permanent Staff, an Emeritus Professor & a Research Associate

Title	Surname & Name	Email Address	Level of Supervision	Works in Research Theme(s)	Brief Description of Research Focus
Dr	Arendse, Danille <i>Research Associate – Contract</i>	arendse.danielle@gmail.com	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the lifespan • Theories & Measures in Psychology • Communities and Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Coloured' identity, decoloniality, psychometrics, test development, mentoring, military psychology, well-being (positive psychology), gender and cognitive psychology research
Ms	Bezuidenhout, Monique	monique.bezuidenhout@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the lifespan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive psychology, bariatric surgery, obesity
Prof	Cassimjee, Nafisa	nafisa.cassimjee@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the lifespan • Theories & Measures in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuropsychology of aging and degenerative disorders, intervention studies focusing on Deep Brain Stimulation, and technology-assisted mindfulness using the MUSE brain-interface
Dr	Chigeza, Shingairai <i>Programme Manager: BSocSci Honours Psych</i>	shingairai.chigeza@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the lifespan • Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration, social gerontology (well-being of older people), families and intergenerational relationships • Intervention studies focusing on relationships (interpersonal and intergroup relationships)
Dr	Coetzee, Nicoleen	nicoleen.coetzee@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the lifespan • Theories & Measures in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychophysiological well-being of adults and adolescents as well as what happens when psychophysiological well-being is absent • In addition, new measures that can be used to measure psychophysiological well-being as well investigating and developing interventions that can improve the psychophysiological well-being of adults and adolescents are also investigated • The development of interventions that would enhance psychophysiological well-being
Prof	Duncan, Norman <i>Emeritus Professor</i>	norman.duncan@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research interest primarily in the fields of authorship development, racism, and social and community psychology

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Prof	Guse, Tharina Head of Department	tharina.guse@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Theories & Measures in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on positive psychology broadly More specifically, interested in positive psychology interventions, psychological strengths (hope & gratitude), psychological well-being as well as hypnosis for mental health promotion Research on measuring constructs related to positive psychology
Dr	Liccardo, Sabrina Programme Manager: MA Research Psychology	sabrina.liccardo@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My research broadly focuses on exploring the interrelationship between the self, psyche, and society through narrative and visual methodologies Specific topics of interest include social psychological perspectives on identity constructions and (non)belonging in education, and higher education institutional cultures, transformation, policy development and programme evaluation
Mr	Mahlo, Setagwa	setagwa.mahlo@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African conceptualisation of suicide (Notions and rituals); Indigenous methodologies Afrocentrism and Critical psychology
Dr	Malema, Mosa	mosa.malema@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Theories & Measures in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity and meaning construction; male and female factor infertility Complex trauma and psychological development Psycho-spiritual stress associated with major/terminal illness Existentialism and Phenomenology
Prof	Maree, David Programme Manager: Academic MA Psychology & PhD Psychology, & Dept ResCom Chair	david.maree@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories & Measures in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on test development and psychometrics using Rasch modelling and structural equation modelling Also investigates the possibilities of realism as a metatheory from psychological science and did some work in cognitive psychology related to change blindness, consciousness, and eye tracking
Dr	Martin, Jarred Programme Manager: MA Clinical Psychology	jarred.martin@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on critical psychological studies of gender (gendered identities, experiences, violence, embodiment, and masculinity/ies), sexuality (LGBTIAQ+ subjectivity and life experiences), and sex (sexual health and well-being, sexual relationships, sexual and erotic practices, and kink).
Dr	Matamela, Nyambeni	nyambeni.matamela@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on trauma, resilience, adolescent trauma and suicidal behaviours, psychopathologies, older person's psychology Life adversities and post traumatic growth, HIV & AIDS-psychological processes and community psychology

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Mr	Mohamed, Ahmed	ahmed.mohamed@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focussed on parent-infant/parent-child attachment Attachment in the context of intellectual or developmental disabilities Attachment-based interventions Parenting
Dr	Mostert, Sonja	sonja.mostert@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Teaching & Learning in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on health psychology; health and health behaviours; adherence; self-efficacy in relation to health; and illness cognitions Cognitive psychology; memory and attention; technology and learning Academic performance in relation to teaching and learning; stress; social media and academic success; self-efficacy and learning; and emotional intelligence
Dr	Motileng, Benny	benny.motileng@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Teaching & Learning in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative, Qualitative and mixed method research on depression, suicide, self-esteem, motivation, self-efficacy, academic performance Empowerment strategies, affirmative action, micro-finance, program evaluation, customer experience and market research
Dr	Ntonzini, Anathi Programme Manager: Undergraduate SLK Modules	anathi.ntozini@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Theories & Measures in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student wellness, elderly well-being, as well as traditional and alternative masculinities Also focus on psychosocial impact of HIV/AIDS and pandemic's on mental health
Mr	Philander, Sulaiyman	sulaiyman.philander@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan Teaching & Learning in Psychology Theories in Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly focus on a qualitative understanding of self-defeating behaviour and why people fail to self-regulate Currently, focussing on emotion and, specifically, how emotion is conceptualised and shaped within the discipline of psychology (meta-research) Also open to research on teaching and learning, critical psychology, and psychology within digital spaces
Dr	Rawatlal, Kamilla Programme Manager: MA Counselling Psychology	kamilla.rawatlal@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & well-being across the lifespan (student motivation & wellness in HE) Teaching & Learning in Psychology (health professional education & training) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas include student wellness, careers, mental health promotion and risk reduction Health professional training, motivation and strengths based approaches Counselling modalities

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Dr	Sibanda, Sharon	sharon.sibanda@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the life span 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas include complex trauma and trauma in the military, have an interest in work on race and its implications for psychotherapy • Focus is also on contextualising Black people's cognitive, emotional and overall psychological developmental experiences • Current projects include undiagnosed PTSD in the South African National Defence Force, racial trauma and identity development, as well as an intrapsychic exploration of Intimate Partner Violence in a Black community
Ms	Visagie, Elné	elne.visagie@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the life span • Communities & society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition, individuals' relationship with food, body image and disordered eating • Masculinity and feminism, gender and sexuality across different developmental stages, also the perceptions of gender roles • Gender-based violence • The well-being and pathology of individuals and communities • Environmental psychology (climate change) and adventure-based therapy
Prof	Visser, Maretha	maretha.visser@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & well-being across the life span • Communities & society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sychology, alternative community interventions to improve mental health of different groups and address psycho-social community problems • Using volunteers and community health workers in interventions • Gender perception of primary school boys and girls (data available)
Prof	Wagner, Claire	claire.wagner@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching & Learning in Psychology • Communities & Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental psychology especially pro-environmental behaviour and climate change • How interdisciplinary experiential and project-based learning is implemented and experienced by students and how research methods can be decolonised