

# Department of Psychology: Research Themes & Focus Areas: 2022/2023

**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"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> <li>• Communities and Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Coloured' identity, decoloniality, psychometrics, test development, mentoring, military psychology, well-being (positive psychology), gender and cognitive psychology research</li> </ul>
Ms	Bezuidenhout, Monique	monique.bezuidenhout@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive psychology, bariatric surgery, obesity</li> </ul>
Prof	Cassimjee, Nafisa	nafisa.cassimjee@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neuropsychology of aging and degenerative disorders, intervention studies focusing on Deep Brain Stimulation, and technology-assisted mindfulness using the MUSE brain-interface</li> </ul>
Dr	Chigeza, Shingairai <i>Programme Manager: BSocSci Honours Psych</i>	shingairai.chigeza@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration, social gerontology (well-being of older people), families and intergenerational relationships</li> <li>• Intervention studies focusing on relationships (interpersonal and intergroup relationships)</li> </ul>
Dr	Coetzee, Nicoleen	nicoleen.coetzee@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychophysiological well-being of adults and adolescents as well as what happens when psychophysiological well-being is absent</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Prof	Duncan, Norman <i>Emeritus Professor</i>	norman.duncan@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research interest primarily in the fields of authorship development, racism, and social and community psychology</li> </ul>
Prof	Guse, Tharina <i>Head of Department</i>	tharina.guse@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on positive psychology broadly</li> <li>• More specifically, interested in positive psychology interventions, psychological strengths (hope &amp; gratitude), psychological well-being as well as hypnosis for mental health promotion</li> <li>• Research on measuring constructs related to positive psychology</li> </ul>

Title	Surname & Name	Email Address	Level of Supervision	Works in Research Theme(s)	Brief Description of Research Focus
Dr	Liccardo, Sabrina Programme Manager: MA Research Psychology	sabrina.liccardo@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing visual arts-based, community-engaged and experimental qualitative (narrative) methodologies that explore the discursive, symbolic and material practices of psychosocial reproduction and transformation at South African universities</li> </ul>
Mr	Mahlo, Setagwa	setagwa.mahlo@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African conceptualisation of suicide (Notions and rituals); Indigenous methodologies</li> <li>• Afrocentrism and Critical psychology</li> </ul>
Dr	Malema, Mosa	mosa.malema@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity and meaning construction; male and female factor infertility</li> <li>• Complex trauma and psychological development</li> <li>• Psycho-spiritual stress associated with major/terminal illness</li> <li>• Existentialism and Phenomenology</li> </ul>
Prof	Maree, David Programme Manager: Academic MA Psychology & PhD Psychology, & Dept ResCom	david.maree@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on test development and psychometrics using Rasch modelling and structural equation modelling</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Dr	Martin, Jarred Programme Manager: MA Clinical Psychology	jarred.martin@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on critical psychological studies of gender (gendered identities, experiences, violences, 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).</li> </ul>
Dr	Matamela, Nyambeni	nyambeni.matamela@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on trauma, resilience, adolescent trauma and suicidal behaviours, psychopathologies, older person's psychology</li> <li>• Life adversities and post traumatic growth, HIV &amp; AIDS-psychological processes and community psychology</li> </ul>
Mr	Mohamed, Ahmed	ahmed.mohamed@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focussed on parent-infant/parent-child attachment</li> <li>• Attachment in the context of intellectual or developmental disabilities</li> <li>• Attachment-based interventions</li> <li>• Parenting</li> </ul>
Dr	Mostert, Sonja	sonja.mostert@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>• Teaching &amp; Learning in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on the impact of social media on health behaviours</li> <li>• The relation between academic self-efficacy and academic performance</li> <li>• Student perspectives of academic success</li> <li>• The relation between stress and academic self-efficacy</li> <li>• Pseudoneglect, lateral biases in attention and memory</li> <li>• The mediating role of social media in determining body image</li> <li>• The role of technology in attention and memory</li> </ul>

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Dr	Motileng, Benny	benny.motileng@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>Teaching &amp; Learning in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantitative, Qualitative and mixed method research on depression, suicide, self-esteem, motivation, self-efficacy, academic performance</li> <li>Empowerment strategies, affirmative action, micro-finance, program evaluation, customer experience and market research</li> </ul>
Dr	Ntonzini, Anathi Programme Manager: Undergraduate SLK Modules	anathi.ntozini@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>Theories &amp; Measures in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student wellness, elderly well-being, as well as traditional and alternative masculinities</li> <li>Also focus on psychosocial impact of HIV/AIDS and pandemic's on mental health</li> </ul>
Mr	Philander, Sulaiyman	sulaiyman.philander@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan</li> <li>Teaching &amp; Learning in Psychology</li> <li>Theories in Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mainly focus on a qualitative understanding of self-defeating behaviour and why people fail to self-regulate</li> <li>Currently, focussing on emotion and, specifically, how emotion is conceptualised and shaped within the discipline of psychology (meta-research)</li> <li>Also open to research on teaching and learning, critical psychology, and psychology within digital spaces</li> </ul>
Dr	Rawatlal, Kamilla Programme Manager: MA Counselling Psychology	kamilla.rawatlal@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; well-being across the lifespan (student motivation &amp; wellness in HE)</li> <li>Teaching &amp; Learning in Psychology (health professional education &amp; training)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas include student wellness, careers, mental health promotion and risk reduction</li> <li>Health professional training, motivation and strengths based approaches</li> <li>Counselling modalities</li> </ul>
Dr	Sibanda, Sharon	sharon.sibanda@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; well-being across the life span</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas include complex trauma and trauma in the military, have an interest in work on race and its implications for psychotherapy</li> <li>Focus is also on contextualising Black people's cognitive, emotional and overall psychological developmental experiences</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
Ms	Visagie, Elné	elne.visagie@up.ac.za	Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health &amp; well-being across the life span</li> <li>Communities &amp; society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nutrition, individuals' relationship with food, body image and disordered eating</li> <li>Masculinity and feminism, gender and sexuality across different developmental stages, also the perceptions of gender roles</li> <li>Gender-based violence</li> <li>The well-being and pathology of individuals and communities</li> <li>Environmental psychology (climate change) and adventure-based therapy</li> </ul>

Title	Surname & Name	Email Address	Level of Supervision	Works in Research Theme(s)	Brief Description of Research Focus
Prof	Visser, Maretha	maretha.visser@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; well-being across the life span</li> <li>• Communities &amp; society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community psychology, community interventions to improve health/mental health, psycho-social aspects of HIV, community stigma, gender role perceptions</li> <li>• <u>Specific topics</u>: • Evaluation of a group intervention for children exposed to violence implemented by community health workers • Mental health of community health workers • Comparison of gender perceptions of primary school boys and girls (data available) • Evaluation of a psycho-education programme to change gender role perceptions (data available)</li> </ul>
Prof	Wagner, Claire	claire.wagner@up.ac.za	Master's & PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching &amp; Learning in Psychology</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental psychology especially pro-environmental behaviour and climate change</li> <li>• How interdisciplinary experiential and project-based learning is implemented and experienced by students and how research methods can be decolonised</li> </ul>