



HUMANITIES 7TH POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE



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ABSTRACT CATALOGUE



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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Faculty of Humanities

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Welcome to the UP Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Conference 2025!

This conference is a celebration of you and of your research; we are here to honour and acknowledge the energy, creativity, and critical insight that our postgraduate scholars bring to the humanities. Your work reflects the curiosity and courage that drive research, and it reminds us that knowledge grows when we ask difficult questions, explore new perspectives, and engage deeply with societal challenges.

But this conference is not only an opportunity to showcase your research – it is also a space that we hope will inspire conversation, connection, and collaboration, the sharing of ideas, and the construction of supportive networks. Humanities disciplines and humanities scholars thrive on such conversation, sharing, and support, and so I encourage you to engage openly with one another, to challenge assumptions, and to imagine new possibilities.

Finally, this conference is a significant event on our calendar because the work of postgraduate students is a declaration about the future of scholarship. The contributions you make will extend well beyond the academy, shaping the ways we understand society, culture, and human experience in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

In closing, I thank and commend the supervisors, mentors, and colleagues whose guidance makes this work possible and whose dedication to advancing knowledge is the lifeblood of our faculty and our university.

I wish you an inspiring day of learning, exchange, and growth.

Prof Kevin Thomas



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY DEAN RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

The Crucial Role of Postgraduate Studies in Fuelling the Knowledge Economy

In today's global landscape, the knowledge economy—an economic system where growth is driven by knowledge-intensive activities—reigns supreme. In this context, postgraduate studies have emerged as a critical catalyst, equipping individuals with the specialized skills, critical thinking, and innovative mindset necessary to propel economic development and societal progress. Advanced degrees are no longer a mere luxury for a select few but a vital component in building a competitive and sustainable future. Postgraduate programs, through their in-depth curriculum and rigorous research components, are specifically designed to cultivate this expertise. Graduates with postgraduate qualifications are better positioned to tackle complex societal challenges, drive innovation, and contribute to societal well-being. As such, they 'Make Today Matter'. I am pleased that in a post Covid-19 pandemic era, postgraduate studies in our faculty are already providing the necessary framework for addressing the human-centric challenges necessary to meet the demands of the 21st century.

Prof Innocent Pikirayi



Keynote Address

Mr Edwin T Smith

Profile: Edwin T. Smith is a graduate of the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO), the school the ANC established in Morogoro, Tanzania in 1978 and closed in 1992. Smith then studied at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in the United States of America.

Smith left the DTI to join UP as Director of the Department of Marketing and Communication in 2003 and then as the inaugural Director of the Mamelodi Campus from 2004 to 2017. When the University appointed a Dean for the Mamelodi Campus, Smith then served the campus as Manager: Campus Operations and now also as the Acting Director: Mamelodi Campus.

Apart from being published in a range of academic journals, such as *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*, *Yesterday & Today*, the *South African Journal of Cultural History*, and *Historia*, where he is also the Book Reviews Editor and in the popular media in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (USA), the *Mail and Guardian*, *Sowetan* and *The Star* in South Africa, Smith is also the author of two collections of poetry, namely: *Immortal: A poetic memento for Vuyisile Miles Smith* (2016) and *Umalusi (The shepherd): A collection of poems in Xhosa* (2023).

He is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies where he also serves as an Extraordinary Lecturer.

Interventions enhancing postgraduate student accessibility and inclusivity: The case of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies

In order for the institution to realise its strategic goal of becoming a research-intensive university, postgraduate studies are important for the University of Pretoria. However, postgraduate studies are challenging, arduous and fraught with complexities.

Across the globe, higher education institutions have engaged in elaborate efforts to enable postgraduate students the wherewithal to successfully navigate their academic journey in universities. These include different interventions to enhance student accessibility and inclusivity

In our Faculty, the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies (DHHS) developed the MD Club (Master's and doctoral students' club), as a homegrown intervention creating an academic community for postgraduate students to successfully navigate their educational experience in the department.

The following discusses how the DHHS's MD Club enables and promotes postgraduate students' access and inclusion in the academic community, which is critical to the successful completion of their academic programme at our institution.

3MT
PRESENTATIONS



Duncan Lotter

'Man' of the Match: Sports media, sportsmen and masculinities in South Africa, 1950s-1990s

Wendy Cox

"Disturbing the silences" - South African pioneer woman archivist and activist, M.K. Jeffreys (1893-1968)



Matsobane Steven Motena

Imprisoned by dark heritage: South African prisons and the culture of prisoners' food, 1910 - 1994



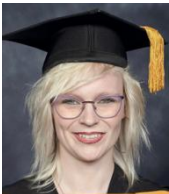
Johanna Jaimison

Genealogetic biography: A social and natural science alliance



Sihe Khumalo

Embodied Purification and Liminality: PGM XIII.343-646 and Zulu Ukuthwasa in Comparative Perspective



Ruby McGregor-Langley

News in Absentia? The African Mirror Newsreel and Media Dissemination, 1913 - 1984



Jabulile Ntuli:

UP student newspaper *Die Perdeby* as a social historical lens of South Africa 1960-1980



Trevor van Wyk

"Informality/ Sociology of waste" which is the sub-field I am working within, not the actual title

PARALLEL SECTIONS

Theme:
**Rethinking care &
wellbeing**

Rethinking care and wellbeing (SESSION 1)

K Sonkwala

Exploring students' experiences who use on-campus health services

T Cheele

Reported auditory complaints and extended high-frequency hearing loss in call centre workers

TL Pape

A systematic exploratory review investigating the relationship between working memory and emotion regulation: Implications for working memory training

N Moonga

Indigenous musical arts and psychosocial innovation: managing cancer diagnosis-induced anxiety and distress in Zambia

A Stipinovich

Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for communication strategies to support end-of-life decision-making by persons with Aphasia

Chair: Dr Sonja Mostert



Kwezilomso Sonkwala

Psychology

Exploring Students' Experiences Who Use On-Campus Health Services

Exploring the health experiences of young adults is vital for developing policies that address their needs and improve health. Promoting health and maintaining lifestyles in this vulnerable population relies on access to quality healthcare. Transitioning from high school to tertiary education presents challenges like emotional difficulties, stress, financial strain, and social isolation, which can negatively affect health. Therefore, access to healthcare services is essential. Research at South African tertiary institutions highlights the value of on-campus healthcare services. However, limited studies focus on student experiences, as most are outdated or quantitative. This study aimed to explore student experiences with on-campus healthcare using a qualitative approach. Semi-structured interviews, conducted with participants via Microsoft Teams, analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), revealed five themes: Healthcare staff at its best; Campus care that meets student needs; Communication gap in campus healthcare; All-in-One healthcare, and Improved health awareness across campus. The results revealed challenges students face accessing on-campus healthcare services and included recommendations for improvement. The findings were shared with University Health Clinic staff and posters were created to raise awareness about the services. Future research should use a diverse sample, and a mixed-methods approach better to understand experiences with on-campus health services across institutions.



TL Pape

Psychology

A systematic exploratory review investigating the relationship between working memory and emotion regulation: Implications for working memory training

Working memory training (WM-T) as an intervention strategy to improve emotion regulation (ER) has become popular in cognitive psychology. However, it poses many different challenges for researchers, and far-transfer effects on subsequent ER have been debated. This systematic exploratory review investigates how the WM-ER dyad is implicated in WM-T as an intervention strategy for improving ER. Systematic review protocols were followed for the selection of studies investigating the relationship between WM and ER, and WM-T to improve ER. An electronic database search following the PRISMA statement was conducted in which 15 studies were considered eligible. The studies were assessed for quality control using an adapted Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool for quantitative studies. Studies were analysed using the PVO (population, variables, and outcomes) strategy for systematic exploratory reviews. Five studies included psychological disorders and one study used brain imaging. From a neural perspective, the coupling of the prefrontal cortex and the anterior cingulate cortex over the amygdala was involved in the WM-ER dyad. Although there was a lack of evidence of far-transfer effects of WM-T to improve ER, the mechanisms of reward-enhancing effects in WM-T, as well as dopamine release (involved in brain-reward circuitry), should be explored further. This will allow researchers to re-evaluate the direction that the investigation is taking. More concerningly, there is a need for quality control in WM-T studies due to several studies lacking ethical consideration and standardisation. Future WM-T studies must ensure that research is founded on quality evidence.



Thato Cheele

***Speech-Language
Pathology & Audiology***

Reported auditory complaints and extended high-frequency hearing loss in call centre workers

Objective: Occupational noise exposure is a significant concern in many sectors, including call centres. This study aimed to describe the prevalence of auditory complaints among call centre employees (CCEs) and analyse associations with pure tone (PT) and extended high-frequency (EHF) audiometry results.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study collected 67 responses via an online survey. The survey included 57 participants (Male = 22.8%; Female = 77.2%) aged 21–43 years (mean = 30.0, SD = 5.2) with up to more than 10 years of employment at a single call centre. After the survey, 49 participants who qualified for and attended the hearing screening underwent PT and EHF audiometry. Data analysis included the Wilcoxon signed-rank test, Phi coefficients, and Spearman and point-biserial correlations.

Results: Most participants (57.9%) maintained a "high" headset volume throughout the workday. Symptoms after headset use included itching ears, tinnitus, and earache. Additionally, 14.0% experienced difficulty hearing, and 15.8% had trouble understanding conversations. Over half (52.6%) noted sudden volume increases during calls, 12.2% showed reduced hearing sensitivity, and 38.8% exhibited high-frequency notches. EHF results indicated that more than half (51.0%) had early signs of cochlear damage. Longer employment correlated with elevated EHF thresholds, and tinnitus was associated with higher thresholds at 1000 Hz.

Conclusion: Frequent sudden volume increases from headsets may risk hearing loss. The prevalence of elevated EHF thresholds and high-frequency notches suggests potential noise-induced hearing loss, highlighting the need for hearing loss prevention programmes in the call centre industry.



Nsamu Moonga

Music

Indigenous musical arts and psychosocial innovation: managing cancer diagnosis-induced anxiety and distress in Zambia

Background

Psychosocial distress is increasingly recognised as a crucial factor in cancer care; however, Zambia's oncology ecosystem remains under-resourced in culturally responsive mental health support. This ongoing study investigates how individuals with cancer (PwC) at Lusaka's Cancer Diseases Hospital engage Indigenous Musical Arts (IMAs) to manage anxiety and distress induced by the cancer diagnosis.

Methods

Drawing on Indigenous Research Methodologies, the research centres on community-based ceremonies and conversation circles that emphasise relationality, spirituality, and expressive arts. The study adopts a desire-based theoretical framework that reframes research around strength, agency, and cultural resilience. Through the MIECAT method and focusing techniques, participants engage in arts-based storytelling, musicking, and collective reflection.

Preliminary Findings

These ceremonial and narrative practices serve not only to express distress but also to reconstruct meaning, assert identity, and foster relational healing within institutional cancer care settings. Preliminary insights suggest PwC utilise IMAs to promote placemaking, nurture kinship beyond biological ties, and resist clinical objectification. The Indigenous principle of "tilitonse", shared attentiveness, guides both methodology and analysis, reinforcing mutual witnessing and the co-creation of knowledge.

Implications

Participants demonstrate agency by transforming hospital spaces into sites of spiritual anchoring, emotional regulation, and community connection. This study proposes that Indigenous psychosocial innovations, such as IMAs, should be integrated into psycho-oncology frameworks throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Poster findings encompass emerging themes, visual documentation from ceremonies, and implications for patient-led support structures, advocating for healthcare environments that honour Indigenous worldviews and position patients as active meaning-makers.

Keywords: cancer care, Indigenous Musical Arts, psychosocial distress



Alex Stipinovich

***Centre for Augmentative and
Alternative Communication***

Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for Communication Strategies to Support End-of-Life Decision-Making by Persons with Aphasia

Background

Persons with aphasia (PWA) experience communication barriers to participating in decisions, including end-of-life decisions. With appropriate support, PWA may participate in decision-making.

Project aim

To develop and appraise evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for communication strategies to support end-of-life decision-making by PWA.

Methodology

An exploratory sequential mixed method design, guided by the framework of evidence-based practice (EBP), was implemented. In Phase 1, research evidence on communication strategies to support decision-making by PWA was gathered through a scoping review of the literature. Clinician expertise regarding the content of the guidelines was gathered through focus group discussions with SLTs with expertise in aphasia. Using Q-Methodology, PWA and their communication partners ranked the end-of-life decisions and communication strategies identified in the literature and by the SLTs. In Phase 2 aggregative synthesis of the information gathered in Phase 1 was performed in developing the guidelines. In Phase 3 the quality of the guidelines was appraised using an adaptation of the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation (AGREE) II Instrument (Brouwers et al., 2017).

Results and discussions

The data gathered in Phase 1 complemented and supplemented each other; culminating in communication strategies that support decision-making, end-of-life decisions that PWA may be faced with, and barriers and facilitators to the decision-making process. This information was included in the guidelines, which were appraised to be high-quality.

Conclusion

Guided by the framework of EBP, the research design implemented proved valuable in developing high-quality guidelines. Involving PWA in the guideline development and appraisal strengthens the social validity thereof.

Rethinking care and wellbeing (SESSION 9)

KP Zwane

Exploring the influence of psychosocial factors on the mental health of parents caring for children with intellectual disabilities in Eersterust.

IM Pieters

Clinical Improvisation and Songwriting for Emotional Processing and Identity Integration in Adults with Acquired Physical Disability

M Zwane

From experience to action: advancing best practices in substance use treatment during biological disasters

E Claassens

A hybrid approach to inclusive social work practice in South Africa

M Mgwedli

The quality of life of South African homeless older persons in Housing First facilities: Implications for service delivery

Chair: Dr Adele May

KP Zwane

Social Work & Criminology

Exploring the influence of psychosocial factors on the mental health of parents caring for children with intellectual disabilities in Eersterust.

Healthcare

This study explored the psychosocial factors affecting the mental health of parents caring for children with intellectual disabilities (IDs) in Eersterust, South Africa. While research on children with IDs is extensive, there is limited focus on their caregivers especially in the South African context. The study aimed to examine parents' coping strategies, sources of social support, and the role of resilience in managing their mental health, while offering recommendations to strengthen support systems. A qualitative approach was used to capture the lived experiences of five purposively selected parents. Semi-structured interviews were conducted and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. Seven major themes emerged: emotional and psychological challenges such as denial, burnout, and fear of the future; social exclusion linked to stigma and a lack of community awareness; financial strain related to caregiving needs; parenting challenges involving behaviour management and navigating cultural beliefs.

Parents coped using faith, family support, and emotional regulation. Despite hardships, they found meaning and personal growth, particularly in understanding and celebrating their children's strengths. The study highlights the urgent need for enhanced community support, increased awareness, and access to services and resources.

The findings inform interventions to address emotional, social, and financial burdens on caregivers. Future research should include fathers, families with more than one child with an ID, and siblings, to gain a comprehensive understanding of family dynamics and further improve psychosocial support for these families.

Keywords: Parents, Intellectual Disability, Mental Health, Psychosocial Factors, Eersterust, Social Work



Mimi Zwane

Social Work & Criminology

From experience to action: advancing best practices in substance use treatment during biological disasters

Substance use disorders (SUDs) remain a major global public health challenge, yet access to treatment in many upper- and middle-income countries, including South Africa, remains limited. This study explored the retrospective experiences of persons living with SUDs and interdisciplinary team (IDT) members regarding treatment services during a biological disaster (i.e., COVID-19) in the Gauteng Province. A qualitative study, through a multiple case study design, was employed, using purposive and snowball sampling. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with five persons living with SUDs, and five focus groups with IDT members (25 in total, including social workers, auxiliary social workers, and nursing staff) across inpatient and outpatient centres. Underpinned by the ecological systems theory and biopsychosocial perspectives, data were analysed using reflective thematic analysis, while ensuring trustworthiness. Findings revealed disruptions to SUD treatment, at outpatient services that closed for extended periods, limiting access and increasing relapse risk. Persons with SUDs reported isolation, loneliness, and relapse, while family support was identified as a key coping mechanism. Despite challenges, such as fear of death, IDT members demonstrated resilience and adaptability by developing strategies to maintain continuity of care and safeguard the well-being of people living with an SUD. Drawing on data triangulation and policy analysis, best practice guidelines will be presented to strengthen SUD treatment during future biological disasters. Recommendations include regular training and institutional support for IDT members, routine review of emergency response plans, prioritisation of staff well-being, maintaining full IDT capacity, and relapse prevention programmes tailored to crises such as COVID-19.



Elmien Claassens

Social Work & Criminology

A hybrid approach to inclusive social work practice in South Africa

While the integration of technology into social work is not new, the imperative to ensure that such developments advance an inclusive and just society is increasingly important. Technology-supported services offer additional platforms for engaging vulnerable populations, but the digital divide exacerbates existing structural inequalities, excluding already marginalised people. This study employed Fraser's theory of social justice and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as complementary theoretical frameworks to conceptualise a hybrid approach to social work practice in SA. A mixed methods research design was used; the qualitative phase involved semi-structured interviews with 22 social workers and managers from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the National Association of Social Service Organisations (NACOSS). The quantitative phase drew on data collected through self-administered online questionnaires from 105 social workers and managers. The data analysis triangulated statistical results and thematic patterns to identify key findings of inclusion and exclusion in technology-supported social service delivery. Findings suggest that a hybrid model can promote inclusion but also highlight substantial barriers. These include gaps in digital literacy, limited technological infrastructure, and concerns around ethical practice, privacy, and confidentiality. The digital divide, shaped by broader socio-economic disparities, remains a critical barrier to equitable access. The study proposes a set of guidelines to support inclusive hybrid practice, encompassing ethical standards, organisational governance, social justice advocacy, intersectoral partnerships, and professional training. These recommendations highlight the need for both structural reform and practice-level innovation to ensure that digital transformation in social work serves to promote social inclusion rather than exclusion.



M Mgwedli

Social Work & Criminology

The quality of life of South African homeless older persons in Housing First facilities: Implications for service delivery

The population of homeless older persons is on the rise, yet little is known about their well-being and functioning. Except for Ghana and Nigeria, there is a hiatus in the existing literature on studies conducted in African countries, focusing on homelessness among older persons (50 years and older). To determine the perceived quality of life of homeless older persons in Housing First facilities in the City of Tshwane. The study followed a quantitative approach to determine the quality of life using the World Health Organization's Quality of Life Brief Version (WHOQOL-BREF), which measures the quality of life based on the physical and psychological well-being, social relationships, and environment domains on a 5-point response scale. Data was collected through face-to-face surveys with participants. Overall, participants perceived their quality of life ($M=3.26$) as neither poor nor good and were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their health ($M=3.55$). Participants ($n=38$) scored the highest in the psychological domain ($M=3.77$), followed by the physical ($M=3.64$) and environment ($M=3.32$) domains. The social relationships domain ($M=3.22$) scored the lowest. The results revealed that participants had a moderate perception of their quality of life across all domains. The results suggest that the quality of life of homeless older persons in Housing First facilities needs improvement. Based on the Biopsychosocial (BPS) perspective, recommendations for improvement are offered to target personal and structural barriers.

Theme:
**Constructing the African
State and Self**

**Constructing the African State and Self
(SESSION 2)**

P Hove

Addressing the Social Security Needs of Returned Migrant Mine
Workers in Harare, Zimbabwe

O Mazibuko

Disconnected Governance? Rethinking Policy Implementation in
Decentralized South Africa

S Igba

The conflict prevention role of community policing in South Africa: an
exploration and evaluation

R McGregor-Langley

The Maturation of a Nation: The African Mirror Newsreel and Imaging
National Identity, 1913-1968

R J Sachs

“There is nothing on this ship for me”: Decolonial ecofeminism in
Mohale Mashigo’s cli-fi short stories

T Nethonzhe

Fictionalising the collective self: strategies of representation in selected
African novels

Chair: Dr Gerhard Wolmarans



Primrose Hove

Sociology

Addressing the Social Security Needs of Returned Migrant Mine Workers in Harare, Zimbabwe

This paper identifies existing social security policies and programs in Zimbabwe that addresses the social security needs of returned migrant mine workers in Harare. With the trend of return migration from the selected Southern African countries (South Africa, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia) following the mass exodus to Zimbabweans to look for better economic prospects in those countries, evaluating the adequacy of current policies addressing returned migrant mine workers' social security needs is very important. The study utilized qualitative research methodology. This included in-depth interviews with returned migrant mine workers in Harare from selected Southern African countries for this study and key informant interviews with officials from purposively selected various migration organizations such as Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ex Wenela Miners Association of Zimbabwe. This was complemented by secondary data analysis of international (UN), regional (SADC) and national (Zimbabwean) policy documents available online. Through that, the study findings reveals that while some provisions exist, they often overlook the unique circumstances of this group of migrants. Migrants are often treated as a homogeneous group which makes returned migrant mine workers a disadvantaged group since the provisions for migrants in general do not adequately address their social security needs. Findings indicate a lack of targeted support. This therefore, implies the need for the development of specific social security programs and initiatives that could significantly improve returned migrant mine workers' reintegration experience in Zimbabwe upon return.

O Mazibuko

***Anthropology, Archaeology &
Development Studies***

Disconnected Governance? Rethinking Policy Implementation in Decentralized South Africa

This paper explores the implications of decentralization on policy implementation and coordination within Rustenburg Local Municipality, South Africa. While decentralization is designed to enhance local autonomy and responsiveness, findings indicate persistent misalignments between national development priorities and municipal execution, particularly in the delivery of youth-focused services and inclusive urban development. Drawing on institutional analysis and qualitative research, the study highlights structural and procedural bottlenecks that hinder effective intergovernmental collaboration. It critically examines the fragmented implementation of national policies such as the National Development Plan and the National Youth Policy at the local level, revealing limited integration, resource constraints, and siloed administrative practices. The paper argues for strengthened vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms, adaptive governance frameworks, and capacity-building at the municipal tier. By centering Rustenburg's experience, the study contributes practical insights into how the Global South can better align decentralization with accountable, inclusive, and coordinated urban governance.



Samuel Igba

Political Sciences

The conflict prevention role of community policing in South Africa: an exploration and evaluation.

One effective tool for increasing trust in the South African Police Service (SAPS) post 1994 has been the introduction of community policing, which engages and collaborates with local communities to build trust and address safety concerns. This approach helped restore some legitimacy and trust in SAPS post-1994 when the Community Policing Forums (CPF) were established and mandated to serve as a vehicle for relaying community safety and policing needs. This study argues that CPFs present a potential mechanism for grassroots conflict prevention through local peacebuilding interventions in South Africa. Drawing on John Paul Lederach's conflict transformation theory, which prioritises addressing root causes over managing surface-level disputes, the study explores how community policing can address the root causes of conflict across South Africa. Through a qualitative content analysis of 128 newspaper articles, five CPF conflict prevention roles emerged: preventing vigilantism and xenophobia, addressing gang and gender-based violence, promoting safety infrastructure, and recognising crime's socio-economic roots. Challenges identified include resource limitations, mandate ambiguity, and safety risks. The study concludes that CPFs can serve as important local peace actors and that strengthening community policing with a conflict prevention mandate can enhance both safety and trust in South Africa.



R McGregor-Langley

Historical & Heritage Studies

The Maturation of a Nation: The African Mirror Newsreel and Imaging National Identity, 1913-1968

The African Mirror was a South African-produced newsreel and was one of the world's longest running newsreels from its inception in 1913 until its end in 1984. For a majority of its run-time the newsreel was the only means by which audiences could consume the news collectively, as well as visually. However, despite its long run-time, as well as the implication that this was, at one stage, the most accessible and most consumed form of visual news in South Africa, the newsreel has received very little scholarly attention. This research proposes to look at the first avatar of the newsreel: the African Mirror, which ran from 1910 to 1968, and trace how the newsreel framed national identity and a sense of South Africanness. The newsreel during this time period reflects a shifting discourse and representation of South Africans in connection to Europe via the umbilical cord of the Atlantic, to being a grown up nation (possibly in the wake of becoming a republic in 1961) that no longer needed the mother country. To do this the research will consider how Europe was initially imaged in the African Mirror and how these depictions gradually change from the years 1913 to 1968



Renè Sachs

English

“There is nothing on this ship for me’: Decolonial ecofeminism in Mohale Mashigo; cli-fi short stories

Climate fiction (or cli-fi) is often used as science fiction’s response to climate change through its use of futurist projections of a climate crisis world. While there is a growing body of African literary scholarship on ecological concerns, cli-fi scholarship remains dominated by the Global North. Nevertheless, African cli-fi authors have made critical contributions to the genre by reworking the conventions of cli-fi to explore the increasingly urgent issue of climate change through their portrayals of Africanfuturist, climate-change-inflicted Africa (See Iheka, 2018; Death, 2022; McBride, 2023). Specifically, a number of African women short story writers have speculated about the impacts of escape to a different planet as a response to climate crisis. These portrayals of neo-colonial interplanetary terraforming are often framed as racist, classist, and sexist. Using Mohale Mashigo’s *‘Untitled and Untitled’*, from her 2018 collection *Intruders*, as a case study, I argue that these Western ‘solutionist’s climate crisis are imagined as neo-colonial exploits that most profoundly impact African women. Mashigo’s protagonist, Bonolo, struggles with her new isolation away from a now-destroyed Earth as she is forced into a life of servitude and exploitation. The story’s focus on black women’s triple oppression, I suggest, opens up possibilities for developing a critique of such solutions by providing an Africanfuturist perspective on climate crisis, which calls for a decolonial, ecofeminist rethinking of climate change discourses.

Keywords: African cli-fi; African short stories; South African women’s writing; Mohale Mashigo; Decolonial ecofeminism.

T Nethonzhe

English

Fictionalising the collective self: strategies of representation in selected African novels

This study examines how contemporary African novelists represent "collective self" characters who navigate collective identity while maintaining individual autonomy. Through analysis of four post-2010 novels Lola Shoneyin's *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives* (2010), Unathi Magubeni's Nwelezelanga *The Star Child* (2016), Ayobami Adebayo's *Stay with Me* (2017), and Mohale Mashigo's *The Yearning* (2017), the research explores how these works challenge Western binary thinking that opposes individual freedom to community belonging. Using a decolonial theoretical framework drawing on Ng'g wa Thiong'o's "*decolonizing the mind*" and Achille Mbembe's research on African agency, this study reveals how characters exercise agency through strategic negotiation rather than outright rejection of communal structures. Close textual analysis examines narrative techniques including polyvocality, dual narrative structures, ancestral epistemologies, and spiritual symbolism that articulate the complex relationship between communal identity formation and individual subjectivity. Preliminary findings suggest these novels reimagine the collective self as a dynamic space where personal desires and community expectations coexist through negotiation and compromise. Rather than presenting binary oppositions, these works demonstrate how characters honour both individual aspirations and communal obligations, revealing innovative approaches to identity construction in societies experiencing rapid social transformation. This research contributes to contemporary African literary criticism by addressing a significant gap in scholarship regarding post-2010 fictional representations of interconnected individual and collective identities, offering new insights into evolving relationships between community and self in modern Africa.

Theme:
Alternate Views

**Alternate Views
(SESSION 3)**

GS Mills

"An ecosystem worth millions": sea-level ontologies and the oceanic weird in Mia Arderne's Mermaid Fillet

D Britz

"This is my rifle, this is my gun": Alienation and heteropatriarchal masculine performativity as a response to Kanarie (Olwagen 2018)

MH Booï

Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice through Student and Staff Perspectives: Insights for Teaching and Learning in Southern Africa.

C Singh

Released female economic offenders' perceptions of the economic offences rehabilitation programmes presented by the Department of Correctional Services

P Makhafola

An investigation into the experiences, strategies, and resources used by graduates in Gauteng in accessing remote work

Chair: Dr Dhee Naidoo



Gemma Mills

English

‘An ecosystem worth millions’: sea-level ontologies and the oceanic weird in Mia Arderne’s *Mermaid Fillet*

Mia Arderne’s debut novel *Mermaid Fillet* depicts a crime-ridden Cape Town in which mermaid fillet has become a hot commodity on the black market and menstrual rain fertilises and kills in equal measure. The coastal setting of the novel blurs the boundaries between the land and the ocean to create a space that is at once catastrophic and generative. Colonial incursion into South Africa saw a systematizing of nature which sought to sever the discursive links between the terrestrial and the aquatic. The focus shifted from coastal points of trade to the inland regions from which mineral resources could be extracted. This separation of the ocean from South African land has had a lasting impact on the country’s claim to ocean space and the conversation that takes place around it perhaps most vitally, the discussion surrounding climate change. This paper aims to investigate how the coastal and wet ontologies present in *Mermaid Fillet* (2020) complicate binarized views of land and sea. What does Arderne’s novel contribute to our understanding of what has been termed the oceanic weird? And how does the representation of trauma at sea-level challenge existing paradigms?



Danielle Britz

Drama

‘This is my rifle, this is my gun’: Alienation and heteropatriarchal masculine performativity as a response to *Kanarie* (Olwagen 2018)

This paper merges ethnography and film studies by examining selected white male Afrikaans-speaking Border War conscripts’ perceptions of the contemporary Afrikaans auto-ethnographic film, *Kanarie* (Olwagen 2018). This film is distinctive for its use of novel filmic techniques in depicting themes of homosexuality, while also offering a prominent representation of the SADF during the Border War. Employing the methodological approach of an audience reception study and positioning *Kanarie* (Olwagen 2018) as an ethnographic film-as-text, this paper investigates male Afrikaner conscripts’ memories of their experiences in the military to show how they attempt to construct and broadcast a specific form of masculinity. The film’s unfavourable representation of the military and Afrikaner nationalist ideology opposes participants’ mythologised and nostalgic memory of their wartime experiences. Participants’ conceptions of masculinity, influenced by the military’s praise for hyper-masculine behaviours during the height of Afrikaner nationalism, are most prominently evidenced by a phallocentric preoccupation with weaponry and heteropatriarchal masculine performativity. Through their responses to *Kanarie* (Olwagen 2018), it becomes evident that this form of masculinity is performative: a learnt behaviour, demonstrative, a way to embody an outdated heteropatriarchal masculinity and push back against modernisation in the ‘new’ South Africa - like wielding a wooden rifle.



Mpilo Booï

Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice through Student and Staff Perspectives: Insights for Teaching and Learning in Southern Africa.

Interprofessional education and collaborative practice are essential for preparing health sciences graduates to address the complex health challenges of Southern Africa, including the quadruple burden of disease. Despite strong global evidence, the perspectives of undergraduate students and academic staff in low- and middle-income countries remain underrepresented. Capturing these voices is vital for teaching and learning that strengthens collaboration, communication, and responsiveness to community needs.

This study examined the perspectives of students and staff on the implementation of interprofessional education and collaborative practice in undergraduate training. The University of the West of England Interprofessional Questionnaire was used for students, and an adapted version was used for staff. A cross-sectional survey, comprising both open-ended and closed-ended questions, was completed by forty-three students and forty staff members. Quantitative data were analysed descriptively and with non-parametric tests, and qualitative responses were examined through content analysis to identify perceived challenges, benefits, and beneficiaries.

Findings revealed complementary strengths and tensions. Students reported improved teamwork, communication, understanding of professional roles, and quality of care, and valued opportunities to contribute to shaping collaborative practice. Staff confirmed these benefits for graduate readiness but noted timetable clashes, organisational constraints, and concerns about professional boundaries.

Overall, the perspectives of both groups support interprofessional education and collaborative practice as a transformative approach to teaching and learning. Addressing the identified barriers through institutional support, timetable alignment, and curriculum innovation can enhance responsiveness to patients, families, communities, and health systems and strengthen collaborative healthcare in Southern Africa.



Celine Singh

Social Work & Criminology

Released female economic offenders' perceptions of the economic offences rehabilitation programmes presented by the Department of Correctional Services

Globally, economic crime has increased dramatically. In South Africa, approximately 45% of women are incarcerated for economic crimes, while female offenders in general make up less than 3% of the total inmate population. Despite the number of incarcerated female economic offenders, there are few gender-specific rehabilitation programmes developed to meet their needs. The current study aims to gain a better understanding of released female economic offenders' perception of the current economic offences rehabilitation programmes presented by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

A qualitative research study was conducted with released adult female economic offenders from two Community Corrections Offices within the Gauteng Region. An instrumental case study design was implemented with 15 released adult female economic offenders recruited through volunteer sampling. Data was collected through personal (face-to-face) and telephonic interviews using a semi-structured interview guide. The data were analysed using Braun and Clarke's reflexive thematic analysis.

All 15 participants were older women who received a good education, and the study comprised of participants from both low- and high-income paying jobs. The majority of the participants were single mothers, who had no criminal history and began offending at a later stage in their lives. Female economic offenders are not passive recipients of rehabilitation programmes presented by DCS. Rather, they are self-reflective, articulate, and aware of their needs, whereby they offer thoughtful critiques and actionable recommendations. Their lived experiences reveal that effective rehabilitation must be trauma-informed, gender- and need-specific, professionally delivered, and grounded in the realities of reintegration.



Puseletso Makhafola

Social Work & Criminology

An investigation into the experiences, strategies, and resources used by graduates in Gauteng in accessing remote work.

The Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with the increasing reliance on information and communication technologies (ICTs), accelerated a global shift toward more flexible and digitised work environments, with many workers and organisations adopting remote and hybrid work models to varying degrees. Previous studies on remote work have focused on employees already working and often neglected the inclusion of graduates entering the labour market.

This study aims to investigate how graduates living in Gauteng access remote work, the challenges they face when job searching for remote work, the resources utilised in seeking remote work and if they can utilise their social capital to access information about remote work.

The study employed a qualitative approach where twenty participants were interviewed using semi-structured interviews. Participants comprised of graduates in Gauteng seeking remote work who obtained at least an undergraduate qualification from 2019-2024. Preliminary findings suggest that graduates tend to access information about remote work opportunities from their friends and families rather than acquaintances. Using online search platforms resulted in few remote work listings, low response rates and misinformation about job listings. Majority of the graduates indicated being unaware of interventions put in place for aiding graduates seeking remote work opportunities. The findings may contribute to understanding how access to information plays in the experiences of graduates seeking remote work. Moreover, the research may guide higher institutions and companies on the inclusion of graduates, as active participants, in improving interventions for assisting graduates in South Africa with finding remote employment.

Keywords: Remote work, graduates, social capital

Theme:
Probing Narratives

Probing Narratives I
(SESSION 4)

TP Mabadzhabadzha

The representation of women's experiences of the genocide by four female Rwandan authors

TR Ramafi

In Their Shoes: An Exploration of the Social Experience of Young Black Mothers in a village setting of GaLuka

L.C. Jordaan

Raised by the Herd: Insights from African Elephants for the Support and Continuing Professional Development of Newly Qualified Social Workers in South Africa

C Requilet

Bartering used by female offenders in a South African correctional centre

E Watson

'I do, I do, I do': Wedding destination tourism: evaluating a new niche?

Chair: Dr Nisa Paleker



Tshilidzi Mabadzhabadzha

***Ancient & Modern Languages
and Culture***

The representation of women's experiences of the genocide by four female Rwandan authors: Mukasonga, Mukagasana, Mujawayo and Mairesse

This study examines the literary testimonies of four Rwandan women authors who survived the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, focusing on the narrative styles and techniques used by the authors, the roles women played during the genocide and the challenges they faced before, during, and after it. Although genocide narratives have been explored broadly, the representation of women's positionalities remains understudied. The central research question guiding this study is: How do four female Rwandan authors represent the range of lived experiences and positionalities of Rwandan women during the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda?

The project analyzes selected themes in *La fleur de Stephanie* and *Survivantes* by Esther Mujawayo, *La mort ne veut pas de moi* by Yolande Mukagasana, *La femme aux pieds nus* and *L'iguifou* by Scholastique Mukasonga, and *Ejo* by Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse. Through the use of comparative textual analysis, the study identifies thematic patterns such as gendered violence, objectification and dehumanisation, the danger of being beautiful, and the roles of women as victims, perpetrators, rescuers, and bystanders. The chosen theoretical framework, Literary Trauma Theory, enables a nuanced reading of how literature mediates the complex ethical, emotional, and psychological dimensions of survivor experiences.

By highlighting the voices of these four Rwandan women, this research contributes to Francophone genocide literature scholarship and broader discussions on the representation of trauma in post-conflict texts. The analysis highlights how literature preserves post-genocide memory and gives a voice to survivors, actively opposing the silence, denial and erasure that often follow such atrocities.



TB Ramafi

***Anthropology, Archaeology &
Development Studies***

In Their Shoes: An Exploration of the Social Experience of Young Black Mothers in a village setting of GaLuka

This study examines the social experiences of young mothers in GaLuka, a community within the Royal Bafokeng Nation. The research aims to understand how sociocultural factors such as upbringing, agency, support, and transition into adulthood contribute to their social experience and their access to the resources in their community, such as the local clinic and family support. This study used ethnographic methods of interviews and participant observation to reveal that the social experience of young black mothers in Luka is unique and contextual. GaLuka becomes an integral part of the process of understanding their social experience. This study found that communal support and familial support are major contributors to the experience of young mothers and that socially, it was beneficial to the social outcomes of their experiences. The findings of the study promote the necessity of exploring the individual realities of participants to understand their experiences of childhood, agency and adulthood in the context of Luka.



Leanne Jordaan

Historical & Heritage Studies

Raised by the Herd: Insights from African Elephants for the Support and Continuing Professional Development of Newly Qualified Social Workers in South Africa

Newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) in South Africa face significant challenges when transitioning into the workforce. Despite completing a four-year Bachelor of Social Work degree, they are often expected to be work-ready for complex, specialist roles, an unrealistic expectation that leaves many NQSWs feeling underprepared and unsupported. This reflects global concerns where NQSWs lack supervision, mentorship, and structured professional development during this critical phase.

This study explored the post-qualification support and development needs of South African NQSWs through a cross-sectional online survey (QualtricsXM), with 39 participants from diverse practice settings recruited via non-probability sampling. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and content analysis. Findings highlight critical gaps in early career support. NQSWs called for structured induction programmes, regular supervision, mentorship, and opportunities for specialist training essential for enhancing job satisfaction, professional confidence, and work retention.

The study draws on the metaphor of African elephant calves, nurtured within protective herds, to emphasise the need for collective care and multi-stakeholder responsibility in supporting emerging social workers. As elephant calves thrive through shared responsibility, NQSWs benefit from collaborative environments that promote resilience and professional growth.

Recommendations include developing a responsive, collaborative framework for NQSW support and continuing professional development, tailored to South Africa and other low- and middle-income countries. This involves clearer post-qualification pathways, strengthened organisational collaboration, and improved access to training and supervision.

The presentation offers evidence-based strategies to inform responsive post-graduate social work curricula and workplace interventions that better prepare NQSWs for practice realities



Carmen Requilet

Social Work & Criminology

Bartering used by female offenders in a South African correctional centre

Informal prison economies, such as bartering, arise when formal systems fail to meet the basic needs of offenders. Research on bartering has largely focused on incarcerated men, neglecting the gendered dimensions of informal trade occurring in female correctional centres. Female offenders face unique challenges such as inadequate access to hygiene products, healthcare, and gender-responsive programmes. These deprivations can be linked to the practice of bartering, which may emerge as a coping mechanism. Global studies link bartering to deprivation, but few address its gendered aspects locally. This study is the first of its kind in the Global South that explores how female offenders engage in bartering and what this reveals about systemic shortcomings in correctional settings.

Following an interpretivist paradigm, a qualitative research approach was followed. A collective case study design was implemented and volunteer sampling was used to recruit participants. Data were collected at a maximum security female correctional centre in Kwa-Zulu Natal through personal interviews with 10 female offenders and three correctional officials. Data was analysed using Braun and Clarke's Reflexive Thematic Analysis.

Findings show that bartering in this correctional centre can be seen as a currency of survival, forming an informal economy characterised by power hierarchies and exchanges of goods, services, emotional support, and protection. Although bartering is not allowed, it is unavoidable and a practice driven by systemic neglect. This creates complex social dynamics that blur formal rules, reinforcing inequality and dependency while highlighting gaps in institutional policy and resource distribution.

E Watson

Historical & Heritage Studies

'I do, I do, I do': Wedding destination tourism: evaluating a new niche?

Since the beginning of time people have been inspired to travel for different reasons and whilst travelling, participated in different activities. Considering the history of tourism it is apparent that it has also evolved with 'alongside travel', that is travel that is often combined with other activities or specific events. Due to the first Industrial Revolution, people had more leisure time and the opportunity to travel to places outside of their usual environment. This led to the development of the identifiable niche 'leisure tourism'. In the 21st century people had different motives and desires to travel, one of which is weddings. Wedding tourism (WT) has emerged in recent years in various parts of the world, becoming a new niche. WT falls under two broad categories namely, leisure tourism as well as events tourism. Weddings are usually private and special events where the bridal party and their guests gather to celebrate. Within WT, a sub-niche of wedding destination tourism (WDT) has emerged, where a couple and their guests travel to a new destination which one or both of the bridal couple have not visited before. This paper will critically evaluate WDT in the global North and global South to assess its characteristics and present a set of criteria applicable to the destinations. These criteria have the potential to be used as a benchmark to evaluate the prospects of WDT and consider them in a South African context. These criteria can also be aligned to the Butler area lifecycle.

Probing Narratives II

(SESSION 6)

MM Morrow

Photographing Afghan Women: A Study of Gender and Power in Steve McCurry and Jodi Bieber's Photography

DR Lotter

'They're Voting For Brains': Theatrical Soccer Masculinity in Drum magazine during the 1950s and 1960s

S Jenkins

Creating personal, artistic and collective encounters with the Bokgabo ba Mašela: Art of Textiles exhibition through performance

AC Schutte

"The Bird With the Word" - the Makings of Gil Scott-Heron's Oral Historiography

M Smidt

Red Tape: A history of the Allied medical infrastructure in the East African Campaign 1914-1918

Chair: Mr Hannes Engelbrecht



MM Morrow

Historical & Heritage Studies

Photographing Afghan Women: A Study of Gender and Power in Steve McCurry and Jodi Bieber's Photography

Abstract

This analysis uses the visual representation of Afghan women in Western Media through a comparative study of Steve McCurry's *'Afghan Girl'* (1985) and Jodi Bieber's *'Bibi Aisha'* (2010). Both images and photographers received international attention, shaping global perceptions of Afghan women and Afghanistan. By investigating theories of photography, gender and representation, it explores how each photographer's personal views and aesthetic choices influenced the final images.

The analysis incorporates interviews with McCurry and Bieber, in conjunction with their personal backgrounds, to highlight how these factors affected their professional approaches and treatment of subjects. In addition, the magazine articles that popularised each photograph are examined, with a specific focus on how editorial decisions and political motivations shaped the publication. Alongside this, the articles written about each respective image are analysed to highlight the relationship between visual and written narratives and how they work together in shaping the photograph's messaging and cultural impact.

These perspectives reveal how photography operates not only as an artistic tool but also as a vehicle to reinforce or contest Western stereotypes about Afghan women. Highlighting the links between gender, power and media in shaping visual narratives that support Western ideals of Afghan women.



Duncan Lotter

Historical & Heritage Studies

'They're Voting for Brains': Theatrical Soccer Masculinity in Drum magazine during the 1950s and 1960s

The interwar period birthed a style of football in South Africa which Peter Alegi coined as 'marabi football' which deviated substantially from the colonial game which enforced rigid tactical structures and rugged physicality which, therefore, restricted the ideals of self-expression. The informal and theatrical nature of disorganised marabi football gradually infiltrated into the structure of organised soccer within black urban areas and, as such, the elements of individualism and self-expression came to the fore, especially amongst African footballers in and around the Johannesburg area. Buoyed by the propagation of these theatrical elements in the black popular press, an identifiable theatrical soccer masculinity gained significant influence within the black soccer landscape during the 1950s and 1960s. Utilising Judith Butler's conception of 'gender performativity' and Raewyn Connell's conception of 'hegemonic masculinity', this paper focuses on the soccer reportage of Drum magazine during the 1950s and 1960s to identify constructions of theatrical soccer masculinities. Particular focus will be devoted to the most popular players of the era such as Eric Scara Sono and Kaizer Motaung, and the clubs they represented, notably the Orlando Pirates.

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Stephanie Jenkins

Drama

**Creating personal, artistic and collective encounters with the Bokgabo ba Ma:
Art of Textiles exhibition through performance**

This paper is exploring the museum theatre case study, 'Unwrapped', staged in the Bokgabo ba Maöela: Art of Textiles exhibition in UP Museums in September 2025. The performance explores how cloth and its derivatives, which form the basis of the artworks on display in the exhibition, can be used to connect student personal experiences and encounters with cloth (and by extension, encouraging the audience to also explore their personal memories) to the exhibition. The notion of a university museum, and the conversation it has between the university community (especially Drama students, in this case study) and the selected art works, is explored through fostering the personal connection with the artistic in the attempt to create a collective moment of sharing. The students left traces of themselves in the exhibition through both the performance and their own artworks and photographs created in the process of developing the performance work. The aim of the production is to add a layering by using performance as a means of encouraging embodied encounters (of both the students and the audiences) with the art works, which are in a continual dialogue with those looking at them, creating different responses and understandings. The performance contributes to this dialogue by providing insights not necessarily available in the exhibition at first glance, as well as incorporating the student responses as they contribute to the exhibition through their own artistic creations.



Aiden Schutte

Historical & Heritage Studies

‘The Bird with the Word’: the Makings of Gil Scott-Heron's Oral Historiography

Renowned jazz and blues spoken-word artist, as well as civil rights activist Gil Scott-Heron, was an individual whose name would most likely be found on the shelves of record stores. However, his contributions are far more than just musical. The marginalisation of musicians and their work from historical studies exists largely as a result of the disconnect between music and history within academia, a divide which has been the subject of newfound revision by cultural and social historians in recent years. Gil Scott-Heron, through his music and performance, captured and spoke to moments in history, both within his American context, and more globally as well. Through engaging Scott-Heron's music on both its oral and aural components, his music's value as a source of historical enquiry, which illuminates the marginalised history of African Americans, as well as the African diaspora globally, becomes manifest. The research, through reference to methodological approaches such as orality, aurality, soundscapes and sonic imaginaries, uses specific songs from Scott-Heron's discography as entry points into investigating various moments throughout American history between the 1960s and 1980s. It conducts a close analysis of the lyrics of these songs, their instrumentation, their performance, as well as their reception, and uses them as qualitative sources to examine the subaltern experience of the Black American community, and in so doing, illuminates the value of music as a source for both capturing histories from below, as well as studying them.



M Smidt

Historical & Heritage Studies

Red Tape: A history of the Allied medical infrastructure in the East African Campaign 1914-1918

This dissertation investigates the various challenges faced by the Allied medical infrastructure during the East African campaign 1914-1918 where disease and logistical challenges resulted in higher mortality rates than combat itself. The research highlights the severe limitations faced by the Allied medical services, which were hampered by inadequate administrative coordination, insufficient medical supplies, disease management, logistical organization and the harsh environmental conditions of East Africa. The campaign, characterized by guerilla warfare against German forces in diverse terrains, exposed the limitations of the Allied medical services, which were strained by high casualty rates from tropical diseases such as malaria and dysentery. Through a detailed analysis of the medical administration, logistics, and the response to disease, the research reveals how the establishment of casualty clearing stations, field ambulances, and hospitals served as vital components in sustaining troop morale and fighting capability. Utilizing the concept of 'red tape' the research emphasizes the bureaucratic hurdles, resource allocation, and the adaptability of medical personnel under the harsh conditions of East Africa. Through archival research and an analysis of personal accounts, the research aims to provide an understanding of the medical infrastructure's role and its implications for the campaign's overall outcome.

Probing Narratives III (Section 8)

CMR Bleeker

Clippings of a netball team: A case study in conserving a private family archive of newsprint documenting the first South African female netball team (1959-1963)

W Cox

Drumming up miscegenation: M.K. Jeffreys and Drum magazine, 1959-1961

JCA Jamison

Three-phased transdisciplinary methodology: A novel application in family history writing

A De Ponte De Gouveia

Doctoring the Doctor

Chair: Mr CR Botha



CMR Bleeker

Historical & Heritage Studies

Clippings of a Netball Team: A case study in observing a private family archive of newsprint documenting the first South African female netball team (1959-1963)

This study aims to conserve the private family archive of the author's maternal grandmother, Martha Sussie' Estherhuizen. The family archive contains newsprint documenting the first female netball team in South Africa (1959-1963). The conservation of this newsprint is of great importance because it is most likely the largest and most intact collection of newspaper clippings specifically on South African female netball during this time. The popular perception of newsprint has been that it is an ephemeral and challenging material to conserve. However, this study attempts to demonstrate that newsprint, particularly in a family archive, can be catalogued, documented, and conserved using affordable and sustainable best practice conservation methods. As such, this study intends to catalogue, document, visually examine, and treat a selected sample of newsprint from this family archive using interventive and preventive conservation, and archival techniques. These techniques will include a provenance study, non-invasive visual examination, treatment plan, and storage solution. The treatment plan will involve standard paper conservation treatments such as dry surface cleaning, pH testing, paper relaxing, deacidification, resizing, and tear repair with the intention of stabilising the newsprint for long-term posterity. This case study will also implement an affordable and sustainable preventive conservation treatment and archival storage plan, tailored to a humid climate, using the fascicule system storage system for single-sheet materials. Therefore, this study will attempt to show that newsprint in a private family archive can be conserved and will provide a starting point on how this can be achieved in South Africa.

Wendy Cox

Historical & Heritage Studies

Drumming up miscegenation: M.K. Jeffreys and Drum magazine, 1959-1961

In the late 1950s and early 1960s a 'frail little old lady' dropped a depth-charge into the eternally troubled waters of the ever-evolving South African race-consciousness. In a series of five articles published in an exclusively non-white publication, the Drum magazine, archivist and activist, Marie Kathleen Jeffreys, probed the question: 'How white are the whites?'. Jeffreys's research into the ancestry of white families and presenting a counter narrative and archive in contrast to what was portrayed by politicians and the government at the time, embarrassed the racial purists and upset some South African families. The five Drum articles were widely read and spilled over into mainstream white media causing uproar with some hypersensitive, colour-conscious South Africans beating their chests and 'whites only' drums. The echoes of her drumbeat were seen by the apartheid devotees as tantamount to treason.

This paper considers one beat of M.K. Jeffreys's multi-faceted personal archive and research that stretched over more than three decades. It will illustrate how she was an unrecognised activist way ahead of her time.



Johanna Jamison

Historical & Heritage Studies

Three-phased transdisciplinary methodology: A novel application in family history writing

This paper introduces the concept of genealogetic biography as a transdisciplinary approach to augment the epistemology of both family history narratives and historical scholarship. This approach promotes an admixture between traditional genealogy and ancestral genetics; genetic genealogy and biographical writing; microhistories and macrohistory; social sciences methodology and natural sciences technology; and academic research and grassroots societal collaboration. Genealogetic biographical research applies a three-phased transdisciplinary approach. The discipline-based point of departure is genealogy, proceeding towards the integration of interdisciplinary genetic genealogy. The approach becomes progressively transdisciplinary with multidisciplinary contextual investigations related to the family of interest which finally culminates in a synthesised, critical family historical biography that integrates and interprets information and perspectives from multiple angles to form a cohesive unit. With genealogetic biography as the point of departure, probable future directions are envisaged: increased theorisation on traditional and genetic genealogy as a recognised discipline; extension of scholarly history and its sub-disciplines; and transdisciplinary research and education within the humanities and social sciences.



Alison De Ponte De Gouveia
Historical & Heritage Studies

Doctoring the Doctor

Cuba is a well-known nation, for its ties to communism, revolutions, missile crises and cigars however, Cuba is not limited to these aspects. My research aims to explore a hidden aspect of Cuba's global reach through the analysis of Cuban doctors within the Global South. In the 1960s with the rise of the Fidel Castro and his ties to the USSR, Cuba had been blocked from trade by the United States of America, with vast amounts of Cuban goods being banned from either exportation or importation. However, Cuba found another way to trade and participate in international diplomacy through the use humanitarian aid in the form of doctors to act as diplomatic entities, to aid the Global South in particular. My research aims to study Cuban medical internationalism and diplomacy through the lens of Cuban doctors. As a Venezuelan Latina living in South Africa, I have close ties to Cuban doctors which allows for me to have a deeper insight into their lived experiences, as well as access to Spanish sources from around the world that discuss Cuban medical internationalism and diplomacy. My research aims to reveal the inner workings of Cuban doctors and their role in the rehabilitation or destruction of the Cuban international perception.

Theme:
**Language, Voice &
Visibility**

Language, Voice & Visibility I
(SESSION 5)

KH Masule

Teaching phonological awareness to English second-language preschoolers through focused activities during shared book reading

FC Chapwanya

Really really happy: Intensifier usage in Zimbabwean English

E Coetzer

Classroom Communication Skills of Early Childhood Development Practitioners in a Low-Resourced South African Community

PNdlovu

Female voices claiming their space: Spotlighting Andile Gaelesiwe and Basetwana Kumalo writing famous selves in post-apartheid South Africa

Chair Dr Benny Motileng



Kabuba Masule

***Speech-Language Pathology
& Audiology***

Teaching phonological awareness to English second-language preschoolers through focused activities during shared book reading

The study aims to investigate whether teaching Phonemic Awareness (PA) and Phonological Awareness (PhA) to L2 preschoolers aged 5 years, 0 months to 6 years 11 months through focused activities during shared storybook reading would improve PA and PhA skills. This will be achieved using a quasi-experimental research design, with a pre-test and post-test approach, including a control and experimental group. After the pretest, a program constructed and adapted by the researcher from two published programs, Mihai et al (2015) and Gillon (2008), will be implemented with the experimental group over eight weeks. The programs by these authors were constructed to encourage flexibility in their application and allow for easy and tailor-made adaptation to various populations. After administering the instructional program, a post-test assessment of the PA and PhA skills of the participants in both the experimental and control groups will be conducted. To ensure that all participants in both groups benefit from the instruction, the teachers of these groups will be provided with the instruction program and instructed on how to apply it in class upon completion of the research project.

Research question: Would the focused activities introduced during shared storybook reading enhance the PA and PhA skills of L2 English learners aged 5 years, 0 months, and 6 years, 11 months?

Alternative hypothesis: The following alternative hypothesis is suggested: Teaching PA and PhA to L2 preschoolers aged 5 years, 0 months to 6 years 11 months through focused activities during shared book reading should improve these skills.



Faith Chapwanya

Afrikaans

Really really happy: Intensifier usage in Zimbabwean English

This paper explores the patterns and meanings of intensifiers used in Zimbabwean English (ZimE) to shed light on whether the intensifiers are being used in innovative and creative ways. This study thus aims to point out if intensifiers are used in the same manner as in other English varieties or if there are differing local expressions. A comparative analysis was done between ZimE, a second language variety of English, and British English (BrE), a first language English variety to determine whether there are variations between the two varieties. Sketch Engine software analysis tools were used to examine the ZimE data. Results show substantial differences in the frequency of intensifiers, with BrE registering higher occurrences in overall frequencies and in different spoken and written registers. The results show that ZimE speakers used a smaller lexical pool of intensifiers, with no attestation of awfully, tremendously, and scarcely in the ZimE corpus. There was evidence of reduplication of the boosters very, so and really, and the compromiser quite in both corpora. However, ZimE had higher frequencies of reduplication of the four intensifiers compared to BrE. The transfer of Shona reduplication patterns into ZimE could be the reason for the higher frequency of reduplication in ZimE. By studying intensifiers in ZimE, insights can be gained into how English language education can be adapted to suit local contexts and how language policies can be developed to promote linguistic diversity and social justice.



Esselee Maharaj

English

Classroom Communication Skills of Early Childhood Development Practitioners in a Low-Resourced South African Community

Background: Early childhood development (ECD) practitioners play a crucial role in supporting early language development through effective classroom communication skills. These skills help to create language-rich learning environments that are responsive to young children's language needs.

Objectives: This study aimed to describe the classroom communication of ECD practitioners in a low-resourced South African community by describing the learning environment (LLE), language learning opportunities (LLO), and language learning interactions (LLI).

Method: A quantitative, non-experimental, cross-sectional observational study was conducted. The Communication Supporting Classroom Observation Tool (CSCOT) was used to assess the LLE, LLO, and LLI. Descriptive analysis was used to summarise the participant demographics and frequencies observed CSCOT items.

Results: Resource constraints were noted in the LLE domain, particularly in the limited availability of labelled materials, defined learning areas, and books. In the LLO domain, most classrooms demonstrated frequent inclusion of children in activities, small-group work, and structured conversations with adults. However, structured peer conversations and interactive book reading were observed infrequently. In the LLI domain, child-oriented strategies were implemented frequently, while high support strategies occurred rarely.

Conclusion: Findings highlight both strengths and gaps in classroom communication practices among ECD practitioners in low-resourced contexts. While some child-oriented communication strategies were evident, higher-level strategies critical for fostering language development were used inconsistently. These results emphasise the need for targeted training and ongoing professional development to expand ECD practitioners' communication-supportive strategies.

Language, Voice & Visibility II
(SESSION 16)

CMR Bleeker

Clippings of a netball team: A case study in conserving a private family archive of newsprint documenting the first South African female netball team (1959-1963)

AM Rankwe

Living in township backrooms: a house or a home?

W Cox

Drumming up miscegenation: M.K. Jeffreys and Drum magazine, 1959-1961

JCA Jamison

Three-phased transdisciplinary methodology: A novel application in family history writing

A De Ponte De Gouveia

Doctoring the Doctor

Chair: Mr CR Botha



T Makanhiwa

English

Poetics and Aesthetics in the textualities of African migration: A study of selected post-2000 novels on migration.

This study adds to the broader scholarship on international migration by analyzing the practicality of poetics and aesthetics as tools that enunciate the persistent postcolonial condition of migrancy. Poetics and aesthetics in migration terms are novel ways of exploring the intricate relationship between literary form and the (re)production of identities, memory and history in transnational spaces. This perspective sheds light on how literary form and structure as laid down by post-2000 migrant writers in their quest to (re)narrate transnationalism can be used as important tools to scan change in international migration and its attendant politics of identity, memory, and history. It focuses on how the communicative features of the novel of migration illuminate our understanding of transnational migration in the post-2000 era where migration has increasingly become tied to politics and policy-making, thereby occupying a fundamental position in international or global relations. Adopting and adapting Boehmer's (2018) notion of postcolonial poetics, I conceptualize poetics (and aesthetics) of migration as not only literary forms and structures laid down by transnational writers, but also as those literary features laid down by non-migrant writers but which travel, in the sense that they are written, and which occupy transnational spaces. This study contributes to the scholarly debates on transnational migration in two key ways. First it expands our understanding of how transnational identities, memory and history continue to be fictionally (re)produced. Second, it argues that questions of form and structure are an important optic through which to understand the contemporary politics of transnational migration.



Palesa Molongoana

***Speech-Language Pathology &
Audiology***

The effect of a literacy-embedded music programme on phonological awareness and early literacy skills of multilingual learners from low-resourced settings

Children in low resourced settings in South Africa have the poorest reading levels, related to deficits in phonological awareness. Attempts to improve literacy skills across South Africa have not yielded desired results and more innovative approaches are needed. Studies have demonstrated that the use of music instruction can be used to improve phonological awareness and early literacy skills. These programmes have, however, been limited to mono- or bilingual settings, therefore more research is needed to determine how such music can facilitate phonological awareness in multilingual learners from high-risk settings. The study aimed to evaluate the pre-post effect of year-long exposure to a literacy-embedded music programme, the Literacy and Music Programme, on the phonological awareness and early literacy skills of young multilingual learners from low-resourced settings. A retrospective quasi-experimental study compared the abilities of 61 grade 1 learners in the experimental group to 23 grade 1 learners in the control group to determine the effect of the Literacy and Music Programme. The results will contribute to greater understanding of the effect music has on the literacy abilities of young multilingual learners, in low resourced settings.



Junitha Naidoo

Applied Languages

Strengthening doctoral academic writing: addressing synthesis within communities of practice

Doctoral academic writing is challenging. The academic community's assumption is that doctoral writers have mastered academic writing skills such as synthesis after several years of academic study, hence the minimal targeted academic writing support for doctoral candidates. This discussion identifies and examines an under-researched doctoral academic writing area, synthesis writing, that can be supported through doctoral communities of practice.

Research in doctoral writing pedagogy emphasises that synthesis writing is a vital but challenging skill. Instead of a mechanical over-reliance on patch-writing, quotations, and author-by-author summaries, synthesis writing demands critical interpretation through conceptual analysis, evaluation of theoretical frameworks, and analyses of academic debates with clear links between research material to design a new theory (syn-thesis). These higher-order synthesis skills mark doctoral students' progression from academic internship to scholarly leadership.

Research indicates that a much under-researched area, doctoral communities of practice comprising experienced academic mentors who offer expert writing guidance, could significantly enhance doctoral academic writing, especially in synthesising research. An investigation of the mentoring and guidance processes for synthesis writing practice within communities of practice may offer valuable insights into creating supportive academic writing environments in which doctoral writers are guided on synthesis practice.

In conclusion, by identifying and examining the challenges in doctoral synthesis writing, this study can contribute to the development of targeted interventions and support mechanisms within doctoral communities of practice to strengthen synthesis writing. In mastering synthesis writing, doctoral students become knowledge creators.

Keywords: Doctoral academic writing, synthesis, communities of practice

L Nephawe

Philosophy

Whose Intelligence Counts? A Critical Exploration of Linguistic and Cultural Bias in South African Cognitive Assessments

South Africa's multilingual and multicultural context presents complex challenges for psychological assessment in education. Despite eleven official languages, most cognitive assessment tools, such as the SSAIS, are developed in English or Afrikaans, disadvantaging learners whose home language differs. This linguistic mismatch risks misrepresenting learners' cognitive abilities and may lead to inappropriate placement in special schools, perpetuating educational inequity. Despite the ethical and developmental implications, cognitive assessment bias against speakers of underrepresented indigenous languages such as Tshivenda and Xitsonga remains largely unexamined in South African educational contexts. This qualitative study will use semi-structured interviews and focus groups with educational psychologists, psychometrists, and school personnel, alongside learner case studies. Thematic analysis will identify patterns of bias, ethical concerns, and contextual challenges. It is anticipated that the study will reveal systemic linguistic and cultural biases that compromise assessment validity, contribute to learner misidentification, and undermine equitable educational placement. Findings are expected to inform the development of culturally and linguistically relevant assessment tools, advancing fairness in educational psychology practice and aligning with national transformation goals.



Siphatisiwe Patricia Ndlovu

English

Female voices claiming their space: Spotlighting Andile Gaelesiwe and Basetwana Kumalo writing famous selves in post-apartheid South Africa.

This research explores how South African media personalities Andile Gaelesiwe's *Remembering* and Basetsana Kumalo's *Bassie: My journey of hope*; life writings depict personal experiences within a national space defined by gender inequalities. The research focuses on how the selected female famous selves navigate the burdens of visibility and gendered silencing in male-dominated spheres such as television, radio, and public advocacy. The paper reads the life-writings of famous/celebrity selves as a textual site of resistance through counter-narration to dominant portrayals of Black South African Womanhood in a male dominated South African society. The study uses the intersectionality and celebrity studies framework based on the works of Hill-Collins (2015), Tullman (2017), Marshall (2020) and Rojek (2001), among others, to analyse how Gaelesiwe and Kumalo centre life writing as a tool to claim moral and emotional authority in a society that often marginalises women's voices and their status as female public figures. Finally, the paper argues that the narrative voices of Kumalo and Gaelesiwe serve as a catalyst for broader conversations around gender violence and representation in post-apartheid South Africa, and mediate a form of self-fashioning that resists silencing.

Keywords: life writing, famous selves, gender silencing, South African womanism, post-apartheid South Africa.

Theme:
Finding the Future

Finding the Future (SESSION 7)

SA Bushell

Music That Silences Human Musicians: A Philosophical Critique of Music-Making AI Systems

T Edwards

Beyond the Screen: Player Engagement and Environmental Awareness in Video Games

PR Mohotloane

Translators' perceptions and attitudes towards Computer Assisted-Translation (CAT) tools

TS Denempont

The Influence of Social Media Algorithms on the Political Behaviour of Citizens: MK Party vs Trump 2016 campaign comparison

LH Buthelezi

Digital Democracy by Design: Backcasting Pathways to E-Voting in South Africa

CL Sanderson

Mass Destruction Mind Games: Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare's role in reshaping the history of the Second Gulf War

Chair: Prof Duncan Reyburn

SA Bushell

Philosophy

Music That Silences Human Musicians: A Philosophical Critique of Music-Making AI Systems

This dissertation investigates whether music generated by AI systems can be meaningfully situated within traditional philosophical aesthetic frameworks. Aesthetics, understood as the philosophical inquiry into the evaluation and understanding of art, provides the foundation for this study (Beardsley, 1958). The focus lies on a specific domain of the aesthetic complex: the ontology of music, which examines the nature of musical works and the properties that distinguish them from non-artistic objects (Bundgaard & Stjernfelt, 2015). Central to this investigation is whether AI-generated music can embody intentionality and emotional depth, both of which are considered essential to artistic creation. Drawing on the philosophical perspectives of Joseph Margolis and Richard Wollheim who stress intentionality, cultural emergence, and embodiment. This dissertation argues that music-making AI, while capable of producing structurally coherent music, lacks the capacity for genuine creative intention. Furthermore, the research explores the ethical implications of how AI systems, such as those developed by companies like Suno, are trained using human-created music, often without consent or recognition. This raises concerns of recognitional justice and calls for strengthened protections for human musicians' intellectual property. The research hypothesis asserts that music-making AI systems cannot produce works that meet the criteria of traditional aesthetic frameworks. Ultimately, the dissertation aims to demonstrate that the human element is indispensable in music creation and that AI should serve as a tool to support, not supplant, human creativity. It also contributes to broader ethical discussions surrounding generative AI and the need for fair labour and copyright protections in the digital age.



Taren Edwards

Music

Beyond the Screen: Player Engagement and Environmental Awareness in Video Games

Video games offer an interactive way to engage players with environmental issues, surpassing traditional media in immersion. While recent research has explored narrative and visual elements in fostering environmental awareness in gaming, little is known about the role of game mechanics (the roles, elements, and processes that define how a game works and what should be done to succeed), interactivity, and audio. Moreover, personality traits, such as openness and conscientiousness, may influence engagement with environmentally themed games, however, this relationship remains underexplored in existing research.

This doctoral study, grounded in a constructivist paradigm, will use a mixed-methods approach to examine how game features could affect a young South African adult's cognitive, emotional, and behavioural engagement with environmental themes. This presentation includes an overview of the study and a detailed discussion of the first phase of the research process, which consists of a literature overview and a content analysis of five environmentally themed games, using Ouariachi et al.'s (2019) framework to assess sustainability-related components. A comparative analysis will identify the most suitable game for further study.

The findings of this study will contribute to game-based environmental education by highlighting the role of audio and design in shaping environmental awareness, offering insights for game development and environmental communication strategies.

Puleng Mohotloane

Applied Languages

Translators' perceptions and attitudes towards Computer Assisted-Translation (CAT) tools

This study investigated the perceptions and attitudes of South African translators towards Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tools. The study's objectives included identifying common attitudes, preferences, and obstacles associated with translators' use of CAT tools in various circumstances and exploring translators' perspectives and expectations of the future of CAT tools, particularly in the South African translation industry.

To achieve these objectives, a qualitative methodology was employed to examine how translators engage with CAT tools, including their perceived benefits, limitations, and the challenges encountered during adoption. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire administered via Google Forms. The study involved ten professional translators as participants. The study found that while CAT tools are generally seen as beneficial for boosting productivity and ensuring consistency, there is a clear call for ongoing improvements to better address the specific needs of translators. These findings suggest a balanced view where technology supports human expertise, while also considering the unique challenges faced in the translation industry.

The research study suggests future CAT tool development should focus on usability, a collaboration between software developers and translators, and integration into translation training programmes. Recommendations include improving CAT tools' user experience that can manage cultural nuances in translation, encouraging collaboration between humans and machines, using AI and NLP for adaptive tools, and addressing specific African language needs, particularly in the South African context.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Attitudes, Perceptions, CAT tools, Consistency, South African translators, Translation technology and Translation memory



Tristyn Denempont

Political Sciences

The Influence of Social Media Algorithms on the Political Behaviour of Citizens: MK Party vs Trump 2016 campaign comparison

The AI algorithms which filter content across social media platforms limit the information shown to user and reinforcing their existing beliefs are problematic in the way that they influence voting behaviour. The algorithms create filter bubbles and echo chambers which contribute to the context collapse on social media. The foundation of the algorithms is to show users content aligned with their preferences. This paper offers a comparative case study between the Trump 2016 campaign and the MK Party 2024 campaign looking at the commonalities and differences in how each campaign used the X algorithm to their advantage. Using systems theory to analyse the interactions between the various elements of both the social media system and political systems in the USA and South Africa brings clarity to the motives of the actors in the two systems. Affective intelligence theory offers insight into the psychological aspect between the type of content and its influence on behaviour, with an emphasis on emotionally charged content having greater influence. By collecting and analysing X posts from both the Trump and MK Party campaigns, it is evident that the design and implementation of the existing X algorithm influenced voting behaviour in favour of both campaigns. This demonstrates the gravity of algorithmic influence on election outcomes. While there are numerous factors that contribute to voting behaviour and election results, this paper show the detailed workings and results of one of the newest components.



Londiwe Buthelezi

Political Sciences

Digital Democracy by Design: Backcasting Pathways to E-Voting in South Africa

South Africa's democracy is facing an electoral crisis with voter turnout dropping from 73% in 2014 to 58,64% in 2024 (IEC, 2024). Electronic voting (e-voting) promises to make the process more efficient but faces path-dependent institutional barriers, digital inequalities and collapsing public trust that the current process fails to address. These challenges mirror experiences across Africa, as evidenced when Kenya's Supreme Court nullified the 2017 presidential election results, citing irregularities in electronic transmission systems and inconsistencies between digital and manual records, highlighting the complex institutional dynamics that constrain electoral modernization (Odote, 2017). This study applies a normative backcasting approach to reverse-engineer a path towards introducing an e-voting system in South Africa by 2034, a path that dismantles the path-dependent institutional constraints (Robinson, 1990 & Dreborg, 1996). It analyses interactions between technological, legal, social and political systems shaping e-voting feasibility. The study conducted a thematic analysis of IEC reports, policy documents, and spatial data (StatsSA, 2023) and identified three prerequisites: (1) rural-digital infrastructure equity; (2) Electoral Act amendments enabling audit trails; and (3) trust-building through deliberative public engagement. By using backcasting as a tool for redressing apartheid-era spatial exclusions, the study prioritises sequenced interventions such as creating rural and peri-urban tech hubs as well as leveraging youth mobilization to overcome legislative inertia. These findings offer policymakers actionable steps for balancing security, accessibility, and trust in digital electoral transitions.



CL Sanderson

Historical & Heritage Studies

Mass Destruction Mind Games: Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare's role in reshaping the history of the Second Gulf War

Despite pre-war United Nations investigations to the contrary, the claim that Saddam Hussein's Iraq had been producing and stockpiling Weapons of Mass Destruction played a crucial role in the decision by the United States to invade in 2003. Yet after several investigations confirming the absence of WMDs, the argued threat these weapons could have posed still plays a crucial role in the arguments in favour of military intervention, as well as the imaginations of those who have produced dramatizations of this conflict. This research intends to highlight one of these dramatisations, the 2007 videogame Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare, and discuss how it and other media like it has the potential to skew the historical debate on the Second Gulf War. This game, which presents a fictional stand in for Iraq, presents the players with a story that champions the actions of the American interventionists, as well as the counterfactual of Hussain having and using WMDs. By looking at how the game presents its story, its popularity, and psychological studies on subliminal messaging in videogames, this research will demonstrate the potential that games like Call of Duty to have in shaping future political and historical discourses.

Theme:
Values & Norms

VALUES & NORMS

(SESSION 10)

M Oosthuizen

Fallen Angels: The symbolic value of abject children in Emily Brontë's
Wuthering Heights

S Khumalo

Embodied Purification and Liminality in Ritual Transformation: A
Comparative Study of the 41-Day Initiation in PGM XIII.1-343 and Zulu
Ukuthwasa Using Tambiah's Multiple Orderings of Reality

AM Cloete

Empathy and social action: The spatial reality of resistance in N.K.
Jemisin's 'The City We Became'

DCI Ekup-Nse

A critical analysis of the conceptions of patriotism and their implications
for Protest violence in Democratic States

E.C Moliwa

Wearable souvenirs?: Appropriation versus appreciation in the South
African fashion tourism industry

GM Kenyonga

The influence of subjective norms on women's attitudes and use of pre-
exposure prophylaxis for HIV among women in Kampala, Uganda

Chair: Dr Khanyisile Maphalala



Michaela Oosthuizen

English

Fallen angels: the symbolic value of abject children in Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*

This presentation offers a look at a chapter from my PhD dissertation. The chapter focusses on Emily Brontë's '*Wuthering Heights*'. My dissertation, as a whole, investigates the symbolic value of what I term the 'unromantic', 'abject' child figure, an idea largely derived from Julia Kristeva's seminal work on the Abject. It looks at how this figure is represented in a number of Victorian novels and specifically: how the abject child is placed in juxtaposition to the Romantic child (an ideal of childhood which was popularized by the Romantic poets). It investigates how that juxtaposition causes the children to function as symbolic literary devices that subvert Victorian expectations about proper childhood. It is argued that the chosen authors deliberately used child characters in the selected texts - children who were anti-romantic and anti-redemptive. They did so to both challenge the status quo of Romantic childhood (which often ignored the abject suffering of real Victorian children) and to present a subversion and blending of both polarities. The idea is that this subversion and blending produces a new idea of childhood which does, as the poets argued, contain the seeds of redemption for a fallen adult world but this, without rejecting and alienating the Other. Indeed, contrary to Romantic ideals, the study argues that abject qualities become vital to the child figure's potential for inspiring reform and redemption.



Sihe Khumalo

***Ancient & Modern Languages
and Culture***

Embodied Purification and Liminality in Ritual Transformation: A Comparative Study of the 41-Day Initiation in PGM XIII.1-343 and Zulu Ukuthwasa Using Tambiah's Multiple Orderings of Reality

This comparative study examines the 41-day initiation ritual in the Eighth Book of Moses (PGM XIII.1-343) and the Zulu Ukuthwasa tradition using Stanley Tambiah's theory of Multiple Orderings of Reality. Challenging colonial hierarchies that privilege Greco-Roman "rationality" over African epistemologies, the paper argues that both rituals constitute sophisticated systems of ontological, epistemic, and performative transformation. The Eighth Book of Moses enacts a vertical cosmology, where the initiate ascends through ritual discipline (fasting, sacred speech, and talisman-making) to achieve union with the syncretic deity Sabath. In contrast, Ukuthwasa operates within a horizontal ontology, where ancestral spirits (amadlozi) call individuals through illness and dreams, demanding relational purification, communal apprenticeship, and embodied attunement to heal as sangomas.

Methodologically, the project adopts a decolonial lens, treating PGM XIII.1-343 as a philosophical text (analysed philologically) and Ukuthwasa as lived theory (studied through collaborative ethnography with sangomas). Tambiah's framework reveals how each ritual orders reality differently: the Eighth Book of Moses prioritises scribal secrecy and causal efficacy, while Ukuthwasa centers participatory knowing and ancestral reciprocity. The study critiques universalist models of liminality, demonstrating instead how ritual transformation is culturally specific, whether toward theurgic mastery or communal accountability.

By placing these traditions in dialogue, the paper critiques the myth of ritual irrationality and advocates for epistemic pluralism. It calls for classical and religious studies to engage African cosmologies as coexisting theoretical systems, not ethnographic curiosities. Ultimately, the research underscores decolonisation as methodological praxis, calling for curricula and scholarship that honour diverse ways of world-making.



Aaron Cloete

English

Empathy and social action: The spatial reality of resistance in N.K. Jemisin's '*The City We Became*'

The characters within N.K. Jemisin's *The City We Became* embody both the personal lived experiences of the disenfranchised groups they belong to and the physical space of the city of New York. This representation of a character that is at once Person and Space allows for empathy to be expressed not just on the personal level but the spatial. This paper hopes to showcase how this dual reality of the characters within the text creates a passage for empathy to be utilized as a tangible tool for engaging with and critiquing embedded systems of oppression. This will be done by examining how the characters within '*The City We Became*' act within their lived environments and incorporate aspects of spatial identity within themselves in order to fight back against systemic wrongs that seek to homogenize and destroy both their personhoods and their spaces. This paper will present a reading embedded within empathy theory that aims to showcase how reading 'City' through an active engagement with the characters as entities capable of inciting empathy can allow for the social action present within the given text to be utilized as a coherent critique of oppressive social structures within lived spaces. The development of empathy with both the personal and the spatial will be argued to represent a mechanism by which social critique can occur within intersubjective paradigms.

DCE Ekup-Nse

Historical & Heritage Studies

A critical analysis of the conceptions of patriotism and their implications for Protest violence in Democratic States

Protest has become a ubiquitous and unconventional means of public political participation. To deal with this protest revolution, governments across the globe have intensified repressive protest responses for regime security. This trend features significantly even in democratic states where protest is legitimate. The repressive protest responses by governments often meet fierce resistance from the protesters, thereby resulting in very intense protest violence. ACLED Explorer (2025) reports that between 2018 and 2024, protest violence resulted in over 18,068 fatalities globally. While existing scholarship, policy frameworks, and advocacies continue to emphasise protest as a human right that should be respected locally and internationally, this approach does not sufficiently address the underlying conceptions that inform protest repression, which often lead to protest violence. This study, therefore, identifies ambivalent conceptions of patriotism as a key contributor to protest violence. Hence, three questions direct this research focus: (1) What are the conceptions of patriotism in the context of protest? (2) How do conceptions of patriotism contribute to protest violence? (3) How can conceptions of patriotism be harmonised to prevent protest violence? This study adopts a qualitative research methodology and obtains data from primary and secondary sources. The primary data will be drawn from spates of protests in Nigeria (End Sars in 2020), South Africa (the July 2021 Unrest), and Kenya (2024 Anti-Finance Bill), and is grounded on the theories of constitutional patriotism and complementary reflection.



Ethani Moliwa

Historical & Heritage Studies

Wearable Souvenirs?: Appropriation Versus Appreciation in the South African Fashion Tourism Industry

The incorporation of heritage, cultural and traditional elements into fashion designs on offer in the South African tourism industry have become commonplace as of late, where 'wearable souvenirs' have become increasingly popular specifically amongst international visitors to the country. This inadvertently leading to the commodification and commercialisation of some South African heritages, cultures and traditions on offer on the proverbial souvenir product line. However, how this is viewed (positively or negatively) by the broader tourism and fashion industries have largely remained unresearched and underexplored. This allowing for an unique transdisciplinary research lacuna to open up ñ that this study looks to investigate from a distinctly global South point of view.

This study set forth to emphasise how South African cultural materials, particularly clothing, is more of an expression of identity, than adornment. Thus, the significance of implementing authenticity and accurate representation when it comes to heritage and culture in the fashion tourism domain at a local level is analysed and appraised. The commodification and commercialisation of South African culture has been found to provide economic growth, and has likewise been able to elevate the South African cultural identity's internationally. However, it could be detrimental when tourists that are not knowledgeable regarding these South African constructs, consume inaccurately represented material culture ('wearable souvenirs'). The latter is to be investigated by way of considering South African traditional clothes and/or fashions as components of the tourism industry and the souvenir product-line. Keywords: fashion tourism, wearable souvenirs, cultural representation, authenticity, South Africa.



Grace Mary Kenyonga

Sociology

The influence of subjective norms on women's attitudes and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV among women in Kampala, Uganda

Abstract

The use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is hailed for preventing HIV infections among high-risk groups. The government of Uganda, through its Ministry of Health, began providing PrEP in 2017, targeting high-risk groups, including women. Despite the proven efficacy of PrEP in preventing new HIV infections, the number of women using PrEP is still low. The attitudes and expectations of important people in women's circles regarding a desired behaviour, and in this case, PrEP use, influence the decisions women make regarding its use. The support of important people in women's lives encourages women to use PrEP, while the lack of their support leads to a decision not to use it. Women who decide to use PrEP without the approval and support of important people do so in hiding, which leads to missing doses and low adherence. Eight in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants, and 12 focus group discussions were held with women. Improving PrEP usage by women calls for the involvement of all people in their social circles in the sensitisation drives for PrEP enrolment. Increased awareness of PrEP among people who matter to women will create a positive attitude that promotes and supports PrEP use.

Theme:
Beyond the Plate

Beyond the Plate

(SESSION 11)

ND Mordaunt

Cultivating belonging: Invasive plant removal as a mechanism of indigenisation in Pretoria, South Africa

O Sithole

Integrating Mobile Cart Traders into the Transition Towards Sustainable Urban Food Systems

NH Mncwabe

Understanding Food Systems from Below: Indigenous Practices, Resilience, and Community-Led Approaches to Food Sovereignty in Umbumbulu, South Africa

M.S Motena

Tronk cuisine: Food and socio-culture in the twentieth century

GMG De Freitas

“Chicken or beef” Flight Attendants Navigating More Than Meals

U Funde

Beneath the flames: The social and cultural emergence of the braai

Chair: Dr Dhee Naidoo



Nathan Mordaunt

***Anthropology, Archaeology &
Development Studies***

Cultivating belonging: Invasive plant removal as a mechanism of indigenisation in Pretoria, South Africa

This study examines the perceptions of two different groups – selected white, suburbanite South Africans residing in Pretoria, and selected volunteers who are members a South Korean new religious movement (NRM) operating in Pretoria – concerning their engagement in the removal of invasive plant species at selected nature reserves in Pretoria, as well as the motivations informing their involvement therein. Methodologically employing primarily semi-structured interviews and participant observation, this study investigates the use of invasive plant removal as a mechanism of indigenisation (and thus belonging) by participants within the context of a post-apartheid South Africa in which the continued search toward a redefined societal equilibrium has resulted in new conceptualisations of belonging, autochthony and alienness. While the study is centred on belonging within the framework of a perceived indigenous/invasive binary, abandonment by the State of the reserves and the surrounding city emerges as a catalyst in the involvement of these groups in environmental volunteerism in general. This state neglect has provided opportunity for third-party entities to not only affirm or establish a part of identity, but also to attempt to address societal ails relating to security, service delivery, and poverty. Furthermore, in the case of the NRM participants, the engagement in environmental activities acts as an attractant for potential recruitment and serves as a material expression of their beliefs. Participants attempt to restore a sense of order, ecological and/or divine, in a manner aligned with their respective ethe and, in doing so, sow the seeds of unexpected entanglements and flourishings.



Oscar Sithole

***Anthropology, Archaeology &
Development Studies***

Integrating Mobile Cart Traders into the Transition Towards Sustainable Urban Food Systems

The 'food systems' concept has gained significant attention in recent years, especially following the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit in 2021. Food systems thinking is used to analyse and understand how food is grown, processed, distributed, and consumed. The food system concept is now widely used to shape how solutions to hunger and food insecurity are framed and implemented. The growing focus in the food system discourse has drawn attention to the important role of informal food markets in the Global South. Transforming food systems is now seen as essential to achieving sustainable development. However, less attention has been given to how food systems transformation looks like at the local or micro level. This article presents a grounded example of how ordinary people, specifically mobile street traders using hand-drawn carts, contribute to transforming urban food systems in South Africa. The findings are based on ethnographic fieldwork with 23 cart traders selling fresh produce in Soshanguve Township and other selected urban areas in Gauteng Province. The research shows that cart trading is an inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient practice. It provides convenient access to affordable and nutritious food for the urban poor. Cart traders are an important node in the food system that consistently supply fresh produce to marginalized urban neighborhoods ñ which have become hotspots of food insecurity. This research highlights the role of small-scale and often overlooked actors in the corporate dominated food systems.



Njabulo Mncwabe

***Anthropology, Archaeology &
Development Studies***

Understanding Food Systems from Below: Indigenous Practices, Resilience, and Community-Led Approaches to Food Sovereignty in Umbumbulu, South Africa.

This study examines food systems from below, focusing on the experiences of agroecology farmers in Umbumbulu, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Current food systems often isolate communities from their sources of food and production environments, with powerful corporate actors influencing the availability, accessibility, and acceptability of foods. This dynamic has led to the erosion of communities' food sovereignty the right to control their own food systems' and has contributed to increased food insecurity. While considerable theoretical and practical knowledge exists regarding the resilience of local food production and smallholder distribution systems, the processes underpinning their success remain inadequately documented. Employing a qualitative research design, including focused group discussions and in-depth interviews, this study explores local agricultural practices, knowledge systems, socio-economic dynamics, and resilience strategies. Using thematic analysis, key themes are identified from the collected data, shedding light on how farmers navigate socio-economic challenges and promote sustainability. Ultimately, this research contributes to ongoing debates on alternative food systems by highlighting the potential of community-led approaches to foster sustainability, resilience, and food sovereignty within South Africa's evolving agricultural landscape.



Steven Motena

Historical & Heritage Studies

TRONK CUISINE: Food And Socio-Culture In The Twentieth Century

This paper examines prisoners' food and social culture in South African prison institutions, which shaped the 'Tronk Cuisine' concept in the twentieth century. Tronk cuisine can be understood as a style of uniquely preparing convicts' food, and it involves colonial and apartheid ingredients, beliefs, ideologies and social settings for consumption as a cultural norm. The study investigated what form of nutrition was supplied (or denied) to offenders, and what kind of discourses accompanied food cultures within colonial and apartheid prison institutions. The paper draws from the archival records such as prison legislations, parliamentary debates and newspaper articles to interpret and analyse the dark heritage of prison institutions. The findings reveal how diet was manipulated as a form of oppressive system, meanwhile offenders used hunger strikes as a resistance mechanism. Moreover, the dark histories of 'Tronk Cuisine' consist of concepts such as Gastro-Politics, 'Tronk Food Pyramid' and 'Tronk Culinary Arts'. Finally, the paper proposes that these historical findings should be preserved by forming part of the prison tourism narrative in South Africa.



Grace De Freitas

Historical & Heritage Studies

‘Chicken or beef? Flight Attendants Navigating More Than Meals

This proposed paper sets out to investigate the role of flight attendants in promoting global tourism. Historically their role was essentially one that focused primarily on safety and was dominated by men. Over time this has transformed to include a more gender diverse demographic with changing responsibilities. This paper argues that their role forms a central part in shaping the experiences of travellers, yet they are often marginalized. Reviewing how flight attendants are perceived and expected to act liberates their largely unexplored potential of being cultural and travel ambassadors. Through a mixed method analysis, using both web pages in the public domain and the distribution of questionnaires to a range of different airline companies, this research sets out to analyse the training practices, policies, and initiatives related to tourism promotion which are incorporated in the training of flight attendants. The potential contribution of flight attendants in promoting tourism will be appraised so as to provide insights into the critical role these front-line workers could play in one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the world.



Unathi Funde

Historical & Heritage Studies

Beneath the flames: The social and cultural emergence of the braai

The braai stands as a potent symbol of collective heritage, said to transcend racial and cultural boundaries, in South Africa's post-apartheid drive to create symbols of national heritage. Thus, the braai is vested with a shared sense of national identity. However, a historical tracing of the braai's social significance reveals its social and cultural emergence to be embedded in the Afrikaner nationalist fervour of the 1930s. The braai became a symbol of Afrikaner identity and pride during the 1930s, a period marked by political consolidation and cultural revival rooted in ethnonationalism. The paper looks at how the braai transcended mere culinary practice to embodying not only a sense of Afrikaner identity during this period, but also a larger white identity beyond the 1930s. Furthermore, the paper discusses the braai's transformation in post-apartheid South Africa, where it has evolved into a unifying cultural phenomenon that bridges diverse South Africans. By analysing these shifts, the study contributes to a broader understanding of food as a critical site for negotiating identity, power, and social cohesion in South Africa's complex cultural and historical landscape

Theme:
New Identities

New Identities

(SESSION 12)

M Mogoboya

Silenced, sexualised and stereotyped: South African media representations of black women's bodies, circa 1800s-1990s

MC Hlabano

A "queer-topia": LGBTQIA+ tourism in South Africa beyond Johannesburg and Cape Town

SJ Blunden

Examining the representation of asexuality in select examples of visual culture

Chair Mr CR Botha



Motlatjo Mogoboya

Historical & Heritage Studies

Silenced, sexualised and stereotyped: South African media representations of black women's bodies, circa 1800s-1990s

This research traces the visual representations of black women in South African media in the period 1800s-1990s. As part of a larger doctoral study, the research traces the historical origin and evolution of discourses and depictions of black women's bodies. Existing scholarship has identified three tropes associated with black women and their bodies. These are the naked female of the National Geographic, or what is colloquially understood as the 'Jezebel aesthetic', the sexless 'mammy savage aesthetic' and the more dignified primitivist trope of the 'noble savage aesthetic'. The doctoral research engages more specifically with African feminism's attempt to engage with these tropes and representations. While the larger doctoral study focuses on South African media representations and how African feminists have attempted to engage with this representation in a larger historical time frame, for the purposes of this presentation, I am focusing only on the noble savage aesthetic trope.



Hlabano Mzingaye

Historical & Heritage Studies

A 'Queer-topia': LGBTQIA+ Tourism in South Africa beyond Johannesburg and Cape Town

LGBTQIA+ tourism is a niche market segment that was introduced to the travel sector with the hope of promoting holiday options for queer tourists in destinations that are accepting and/or respectful of this community's rights, along with their tourism wants and needs. Although LGBTQIA+ tourism is visible in many places around the world, there remains a lacuna for this distinct touristic perspective scholarship in Africa. Across almost all continents, there is visible queer - [tourism] capital(s), yet Africa to date appears to lag in some 'in-your-face' representation. South Africa, for its part, claims to be the frontrunner for queer acceptance on the continent. It is debatable if this extends beyond the recognised, acknowledged and prideful destinations of Johannesburg and Cape Town. This study engages with the United States of America, Spain, Brazil and Thailand as international best practice examples to see how these countries receive and advertise themselves to LGBTQIA+ patrons, and how successful they are in 'shaping' and producing their LGBTQIA+ tourism destination images, beyond urbanised centres of contemporary/liberal cultural practice. The study aims to elevate South Africa's local LGBTQIA+ scene to the national and/or global tourism stage through the design of a tourism model that will inform a LGBTQIA+ destination image for the country overall, which can then become a permanent feature going forward. This transdisciplinary qualitative study will analyse tourists' experiences, behaviours and opinions, aiming towards a future where LGBTQIA+ tourists can travel to whatever country without fear of homophobic, racist and/or xenophobic prejudice, repercussions or prosecution.

SJ Blunden

Visual Arts

Examining the representation of asexuality in select examples of visual culture

This study explores the sexual orientation known as asexuality. Asexuality is defined as an identity that encompasses the little or lack of sexual attraction that some individuals experience.

Asexuality is not understood to be a disorder, but is contextualised as an identifier that falls under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. Asexuality remains a marginalised sexual orientation: one that is often stereotyped, pathologised and stigmatised. The purpose of this study is critically to analyse the representation of asexuality in visual culture, such as in television characters and on social media platforms.

By means of a sex critical reading, the representations of asexuality are critiqued and analysed using queer theory and asexual theory. In this study I investigate a sample of television series. I maintain that through a large assortment of representations of asexuality, an increased visibility of asexuality on the small screen allows for the understanding and acceptance of asexuality as a unique sexual orientation.

In this study I also conduct a comprehensive examination of user-generated representations of asexuality that are found on social media platforms. In addition, this study identifies and examines three recurrent tropes that are reiterated through the online self-representations of asexuality. These user-generated representations explore asexuality is heterogeneity and seek to give insight into how the public, the asexual community as well as the LGBTQIA+ community perceive asexuality. Thus, these online representations of asexuality establish asexuality as a valid sexual orientation, one that exists amongst heterosexual and LGBTQIA+ orientations.

Theme: Innovation

Innovation

LM Tladi

Strengthening Intergenerational Relationships Between Adolescents and Older Adults Through Mobile Phone Use: An Intervention Study in South Africa

L Jordaan

Capitalising on fear?: Developing a serial killer tourism attraction in South Africa

C le Roux

Co-creating with materials: a practice-led approach to experimental printmaking

Chair: Dr Oscar Eybers



Lesedi Mosenngwe Tlati

Psychology

Strengthening Intergenerational Relationships Between Adolescents and Older Adults Through Mobile Phone Use: An Intervention Study in South Africa

In the past, older people transmitted knowledge and wisdom to adolescents; however, the transfer of intergenerational knowledge has declined, weakening relational bonds and increasing the division between generations. The proposed study aims to strengthen intergenerational relationships between adolescents and older adults through a community-based intervention programme designed to improve relational well-being. It will address the generational division that arises from urbanisation, technological advancements, and transforming family structures. The study will integrate Self-Interactional Group Theory (SIGT) and the Relational Well-being model to provide in-depth insights into interaction and communication dynamics, as the generations engage in an intervention. The study will take place in Mamelodi township in Pretoria, involving adolescents aged 15-19 and older adults aged 60 and above. It will employ qualitative participatory action research with four phases: One: Mmogo-method, Two: Intervention programme, Three: Focus group discussions, Four: World cafe. Adolescents will assist older adults in learning to navigate and use mobile phones for a range of activities as part of the intervention. Data analysis will include visual and thematic analyses. The study holds the potential to increased knowledge, improved communication, and digital literacy. Additionally, the study aims to strengthen intergenerational relationships, reduce age-related stereotypes, and promote well-being. Furthermore, the research aligns with the growing calls to prioritise future generations and intergenerational governance as essential to sustainability efforts.



Louisa Jordaan

Historical & Heritage Studies

Capitalising on fear?: Developing a serial killer tourism attraction in South Africa

Dark tourism in the form of battlefield, ghost, and township tourism is prevalent in South Africa, but this market segment in general is still underperforming by most socio-economic indicators at present. This masters dissertation delves into the feasibility and viability of creating a serial killer tourism niche in South Africa as a sub-set of this dark tourism domain. This as the country is amongst the top three nations with the highest number of recorded/known serial killers. This dissertation examines and evaluates how the establishment of said attraction will improve the economic performance of the tourism sector in South Africa, if at all possible.

Thus, the research conducted in this dissertation sets forth to analyse and interpret the possibility of creating a serial killer tourism attraction in the form of a museum, using international dark tourism attractions as a means of benchmarking best practice. Furthermore, this museum will function as an educative and commemorative space first and foremost for the victims, and subsequently for their murderers. A case study-based research methodology within a qualitative research design to conceptualise and contextualise 'serial killer tourism' as considered above will similarly be deployed.

This transdisciplinary investigation thus sets forth to historically and contemporarily consider dark tourism in the country. Other notions considered in this dissertation will include: ethics, community responses, awareness campaigns, safety, victimhood, criminal profiling, as well as touristic experiences as it pertains to the envisaged niche of 'serial killer tourism' in South Africa.



Caitlin le Roux

Visual Arts

Co-creating with materials: a practice-led approach to experimental printmaking

This practice-led study investigates the relationship between artist and material in experimental printmaking, reimagining creative responsibility as a shared phenomenon among all agents involved in artistic practice. Grounded in posthumanist and new materialist theories, it explores human material relationships as relational and participatory, examining the entanglement of human and material agents within creative environments and challenging anthropocentric views of processes, materials, and tools. Drawing on Karen Barad's (2007) agential realist ontology and Lambros Malafouris' (2008) material engagement theory, agency is reimagined as an emergent property of engagement rather than an attribute of the human subject. Donna Haraway's (2016) notion of becoming-with further informs a view of artworks as manifestations of growing relationships between artist and material. Accordingly, the study posits that creative agency extends beyond the human artist, acknowledging the active roles of materials and environments in co-creation.

An explorative printmaking approach emphasising tactile engagement and responsiveness to materials guided this study. Informed by Bolt's (2004) participatory methodology, the artist, materials, tools, and environment are approached as co-responsible elements in practice. By relationally engaging with materials and tools found in domestic and studio contexts, their participatory roles are made visible through mark-making and surface impacts. The outcomes were presented in an exhibition of eight print series, foregrounding the creative agency of an artist's tools materials, environment, collective.

This study broadens understandings of shared creative agency in art practice, proposing a more responsible approach to materials and a decentralisation of the human artist through relational creative practices.

Theme:
Social (In) Justice

Social (In) Justice
(SESSION 14)

JJ Maasz

Socioeconomic risk factors in incarcerated youth offenders with language disorders: A scoping review

DT van Wyk

Privileging the Mgerezi: a socially progressive subject

GB Wysoke

The psychological impact of loadshedding on older persons in residential facilities: Implications for gerontological social work

Y Pedzisa

The Role of Social Workers in Providing Services to Unaccompanied Refugee Children in the City of Tshwane, Pretoria

SP Shai

The experiences of Newly Qualified Social Workers' readiness in providing services to families and children in Gauteng.

Chair: Dr Eddie Cottle



Johan Maasz

***Speech-Language Pathology
& Audiology***

Socioeconomic risk factors in incarcerated youth offenders with language disorders: A scoping review

Purpose: Research on the risk factors for incarcerated youth offenders with language delay is limited due to a dearth in literature. This scoping review aimed to explore the socioeconomic risk factors in youth offenders with a language delay.

Method: A scoping review protocol was developed and executed across five electronic databases. Data sources were deduplicated, screened, charted, and appraised. Synthesis was conducted using descriptive statistics and qualitative content analysis. Initially, 787 sources were identified of which 16 (1993-2024) were analysed.

Result: Thirteen sources investigating language delays among youth offenders (81.25%) discussed results related to socioeconomic risk factors. Eleven risk factors were identified, with the most frequent being illicit substance use ($n = 6$, 46.2%), dropping out of school ($n = 4$, 30.8%), coming from low-income communities ($n = 3$, 23.1%), and residing in foster care ($n = 3$, 23.1%).

Conclusion: This review identified a dearth of literature on diverse contexts and demographics, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Despite significant variability and inconsistency in the measurement of risk factors, a number of risk factors among youth offenders with language delays were identified. The need for further research on risks and its associated impact in offending behaviour and for standardised risk factor measurement in this population is evident.



Trevor van Wyk

***Speech-Language Pathology &
Audiology***

Privileging the Mgerezi: a socially progressive subject

South Africa is on the verge of multiple intersecting crises. On the one hand, there is a crisis of waste. It has been reported that of the 55 million tonnes of general waste produced in South Africa in 2017, only 11% was diverted from landfills (DEFF, 2018), and Johannesburg's four remaining landfills have a maximum of three years until they are filled to capacity (Qukula, 2022). On the other hand, South Africa is also faced with a deepening crisis of work. As the poverty rate for employed individuals is close to 20% (Lilenstein et al 2018) - and with rising unemployment being a structural feature of South Africa's economy - wage labour has increasingly lost its potential as a vehicle for social mobility and inclusion. At the heart of these two intersecting crises are South Africa's abagerezi (hustlers) who collect 80 - 90% of South Africa's used recyclables annually (Maleka & DeWet, 2020). Based on ethnographic data in the form of observations and in-depth interviews, this paper suggests that the mgerezi can be seen as a socially progressive subject. Without romanticizing the precarious conditions experienced by the abagerezi or framing their labour as a silver bullet to social problems, the paper suggests that they have facilitated the development of various socio-ecological relationships which have largely acted as a buffer against the aforementioned crises.

Keywords: crises, waste, unemployment, mgerezi



Gabriella Wysoke

Social Work & Criminology

The psychological impact of loadshedding on older persons in residential facilities: Implications for gerontological social work

Loadshedding has had an undeniable biopsychosocial impact on the South African population. The present study aimed to determine the psychosocial impact of loadshedding on South African older persons (aged 60+) living in public and private Gauteng-based residential facilities, and to delineate guidelines for gerontological social work. Quantitative research utilising a cross-sectional survey design and non-probability sampling was undertaken. The research was underpinned by a conceptual framework combining the ecosystems theory, biopsychosocial perspective, and Androff's framework for rights-based practice. Data was collected through face-to-face surveys with 68 (N=68) older persons at five facilities. Indicators of psychological well-being were stress (PSS-10), anxiety, resilience (BRS), and coping (brief COPE). Descriptive and inferential statistics were calculated. Based on the PSS-10, respondents experienced moderate stress (M=17.7) and symptoms of anxiety during loadshedding, while they demonstrated 'normal' resilience (M=3.7) as per BRS. Coping, as measured through brief COPE, signalled acceptance (M=6.9), self-distraction (M=5.9), religion (M=5.2), and humour (M=4.7) as the most common coping strategies utilised during loadshedding. The results suggest that loadshedding has a negative psychological impact on older persons in residential facilities, i.e., moderate perceived stress, frustration, irritability, and restlessness. These effects may be mediated by resilience and coping mechanisms such as acceptance, self-distraction, religion, and humour. Recommendations will be offered to provide individual microsystemic psychosocial support, support groups in the mesosystem, and advocacy in the exosystem to ensure the biopsychosocial well-being of older persons. Services should promote the dignity of older persons, ensure their participation, and be transparent.

Y Pedzisa

Social Work & Criminology

The Role of Social Workers in Providing Services to Unaccompanied Refugee Children in the City of Tshwane, Pretoria

Globally, the migration of unaccompanied refugee children is a growing phenomenon. In South Africa, this trend has necessitated a critical examination of the social work services available to these children and the effectiveness of the interventions. This study examines the experiences of social workers in serving this vulnerable population, the barriers they encounter, and their recommendations for enhancing service delivery. Drawing upon a human rights-based approach, this qualitative research employed semi-structured interviews. The findings reveal that unaccompanied refugee children receive a range of social work services, including assessments, basic needs fulfilment, documentation assistance, and psycho-social support. The study also highlights significant barriers hindering effective service provision by social workers, such as challenges related to the documentation of refugee children, the implementation of relevant laws and policies, language differences, limited material resources, systemic limitations within the welfare system, and a perceived lack of specialised experience among some social workers. Despite these barriers, social workers reported positive outcomes in certain cases, and the interviewees provided suggestions for improvement, emphasizing the need for structured and increased collaboration among stakeholders, government involvement and accountability, and the provision of training for social workers on refugee issues.



Seboke Prudence Shai

Social Work and Criminology

The experiences of Newly Qualified Social Workers' readiness in providing services to families and children in Gauteng.

Transitioning from university into the professional workplace is challenging for newly qualified social workers (NQSWs). With a growing number of NQSWs entering the field, it is crucial to evaluate their experiences, to enhance academic programmes and workplace support systems. Research shows that many NQSWs lack sufficient organisational support necessary for effective service delivery to children and families. Collaborative efforts between NQSWs, senior social workers, and multidisciplinary teams within and outside organisations, as suggested by the Theory of Collaborative Advantage (TCA), are essential for overcoming challenges and maximising outcomes. This qualitative study explored NQSWs' readiness to provide services to children and families in Gauteng using an interpretivist paradigm and instrumental case study design. Seven participants were selected through purposive sampling, interviewed using semi-structured interviews, and analysed through thematic analysis. Findings revealed that NQSWs perceive readiness as possessing both knowledge and skills in social work, and their experiences involve both positive and negative experiences with service users. Challenges identified included workload management and the need for more supportive organisational initiatives. Recommendations emphasise organisational support for training in critical areas like court proceedings, accessible workplace structures for disabled employees, and manageable caseloads. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are recommended to enhance curricula by integrating practical aspects such as foster care services and court procedures. Continuing professional development through seminars and workshops is also recommended to strengthen NQSWs' competencies. Future research should expand on these findings with a larger, representative sample across various social work sectors, focusing on effective support structures during the university-to-workplace transition.

Theme:
Time & Transformation

Time & Transformation

(session 15)

M Louw

Echoes of Decay: Analysis of the deterioration and conservation of five shipwreck bells from the Iziko Maritime Archaeology Collection

J Harris

"We're not Monsters" A Two-Fold Discourse Analysis of the Role of Israel's Language in Shaping Reality and Facilitating Injustices

LOS Makalima

Humanities' Credibility Crisis: A Re-Reading of Hans-Georg Gadamer's Wahrheit und Methode in a Post-truth, Non-human and Post-human Complex

RJ van Besouw

"Tranquil in the Face of Death": Time and Apocalypse in Emily St John Mandel's Station Eleven and Sea of Tranquility

GA Madwatte

Artifacts of Time, Care, and the Remaking of Life at a Disability Home in Pretoria

Chair: Dr Mpho Thivase



Marise Louw

***Speech-Language Pathology &
Audiology***

Echoes of Decay: Analysis of the deterioration and conservation of five shipwreck bells from the Iziko Maritime Archaeology Collection

This research examines the deterioration pathways of five historic ship bells and develops tailored conservation treatments for each: the Brederode (1780), Fame (1817), Abercrombie Robinson (1825), Sir Henry Pottinger (1846), and Hermes (1899). Combining XRF spectroscopy and visual analysis, the study identifies the alloy compositions and corrosion morphologies of each bell. A provenance study then reconstructs the environmental mechanisms behind deterioration patterns. Finally, drawing on both compositional data and deterioration histories, the dissertation proposes treatment regimens for each bell. Two main environmental contexts emerged: atmospheric exposure and submerged conditions, each with distinct deterioration mechanisms.

Submerged at a deep depth and partially buried, the Brederode experienced fewer environmental stressors, contributing to its adequate condition, compared to the Fame, where harsh conditions at Sea Point caused fracturing and heavy corrosion. XRF analysis of the Fame fragments indicates layered corrosion dominated by tin dissolution. The Abercrombie Robinson and Hermes bells were exposed to mild agricultural and indoor atmospheres, respectively, causing less severe corrosion, compared to the Sir Henry Pottinger bell exposed to a much more aggressive marine atmosphere at the Table Bay Harbour. Hence, the Abercrombie and Hermes bells showcased stable patinas, while continuous pitting afflicts the Pottinger bell.

The research contributes to heritage conservation within South African maritime archaeology by examining bells from maritime contexts. It demonstrates the efficiency of a combined approach to analyse deterioration phenomena on bronze artefacts and inform conservation treatments.



Jason Harris

Philosophy

‘We’re not Monsters’: A Two-Fold Discourse Analysis of the Role of Israel’s Language in Shaping Reality and Facilitating Injustices

Emerging from the reporting of events concerning the humanitarian crisis within Palestine, one can see depictions of agents and events which betray a violent project built upon dehumanization and self-vindication. 18-year-old Israeli soldiers are described as ‘girls’, while a 4-year-old Palestinian child is called a ‘Young Lady’. While Palestinians are said to be ‘dying’, Israelis are described as ‘being killed’. In many instances, Israeli political, military, and religious officials, as well as many Israeli citizens (notably not all), have described Palestinian children as something beyond children, something that requires killing for the safety and longevity of Israel and its people. In a social, political, and cultural paradigm which sanctifies the child and perceives them as innocent, how can perceptions of children, which necessitate their death, be produced? I aim to understand and detail the discourse that incites Israel's will to kill Palestinian children and justifies that killing itself. This discourse prescribes the ‘truth’ that Israel subscribes to in terms of the necessity to kill Palestinian children. I propose to demonstrate how Israel is able to get away with killing by analysing the discourse (nature of Israel’s discourse) it uses to justify killing, and in doing so, I aim to reveal or at least give an idea of how discourse can make the inconceivable conceivable and even conscionable (show the power of Israel’s discourse).



Luvuyo Makalima

English

**Humanities' Credibility Crisis: A Re-Reading of Hans-Georg Gadamer's
Wahrheit und Methode in a Post-truth, Non-human and Post-human Complex**

BACKGROUND: Could there be anything anyone can still learn from Gadamer's long forgotten *Wahrheit und Methode* in deliberations on the present credibility crisis of the humanities in the global dominance of the natural sciences and technology? The global rise of post-truth, non-human, and post-human intellectual developments, have only further trivialized the credibility of the humanities, and could be said to have rendered humanities worthless as a domain of disciplines of inquiry. There is perhaps, no greater philosopher of the humanities since Gadamer, and his *Wahrheit und Methode* remains the blueprint of philosophy of the humanities. This paper explores whether there is anything that can still be learned from this forgotten text, about humanities and their credibility crisis. **METHODOLOGY:** This re-reading, reception and re-appropriation of *Wahrheit und Methode*, is an exercise of a reflective praxis of a dialogical interchange between phenomenology and dialectic, in the fashion of Gadamer himself, with a rhetorical reading method. **RESULTS:** *Wahrheit und Methode* defends the humanities against their domination by the natural sciences and technology. It also establishes their credibility in relation to the natural sciences and technology. Furthermore, it suggests the framework of engagement between the humanities and the natural sciences and technology. **CONCLUSION:** Gadamer's forgotten *Wahrheit und Methode*, could still be an important text in the restoration of the humanities from their credibility crisis in the contemporary post-truth, non-human, and post-human context of knowledge production.



Rebecca van Besouw

English

‘Tranquil in the Face of Death’: Time and Apocalypse in Emily St John Mandel's *Station Eleven* and *Sea of Tranquility*

Emily St John Mandel's novels *Station Eleven* and *Sea of Tranquility* both concern post-apocalyptic scenarios caused by pandemics. The first was published in 2014, while the second was published in 2022, after the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper argues that *Station Eleven* and *Sea of Tranquility* both use narrative temporal structures that influence the novels' depictions of hope in the face of catastrophic events. Both novels employ cyclical narrative structures, in which time is not experienced as a linear series of events, but rather a process of beginnings and endings that are influenced by human perspective. This cyclical structure is drawn from ancient apocalyptic myths in which the end of the world can be seen as a 'revelation' or unveiling of a new paradigm. These novels employ non-linear structures, multiple perspectives, and an exploration of the ways in which art persists throughout time in order to ultimately comment on the nature of time within post-apocalyptic narratives. In this way, *Station Eleven* and *Sea of Tranquility* allow space for optimism in a genre that has long been used primarily as an examination of humanity's failings, and make the case for post-apocalyptic literature to celebrate the achievements of humanity while still looking forward to a hopeful future.



Gwaha Madwatte

***Anthropology, Archaeology &
Development Studies***

Artifacts of Time, Care, and the Remaking of Life at a Disability Home in Pretoria

Drawn from my ongoing doctoral fieldwork in Pretoria, South Africa, this contribution explores how individuals living with mental, intellectual, and physical disabilities at a disability home are reconstructing their lives after experiencing tragic events in the past. I examine the concept of temporal relationality, illustrating how the past, present, and future are intertwined. Within the framework of that relationality, I show how these periods are interconnected through what I refer to as "artifacts of time"; which include material items such as photographs, degree certificates, wedding rings, souvenirs, gifts, gym equipment, etc. I aim to demonstrate how the socio-material world of the residents in the disability home triggers memories and serves as a bridge between various phases of life, and how this relationality has implications for care by evoking specific emotional states. Through these artifacts, memory, place, and time are in constant negotiation, allowing individuals to recreate their lives in the present while reimagining their future.

Poster presentations

**Poster presentations during lunch
(DURING LUNCH)**

KI Seichokelo

Global Genealogical Tourism: A potential root/route for the preservation of cultural heritage

EA Ajayi

Beyond survival: A cross-national lens on quality of life and resilience among older persons in Nigeria and South Africa

SM Viljoen

Afrikaans Huistaal-onderwysers in die Senior Fase se taal houdings teenoor Standaard afrikaans: 'n Persepsie studie by enkele skole in Kaap sprekende gemeenskappe

LN Sabwe

Exploring the experiences of South African digital content creators in South Africa

M Masha-Sambo

Towards the design of a collaborative academic literacy teaching and learning framework for a Faculty of Health Sciences at a South African university

D Prinsloo

Unique morphological and syntactic constructions in Gariep afrikaans: A usage-based construction grammar perspective



M Masha-Sambo

Applied Languages

Towards the design of a collaborative academic literacy teaching and learning framework for a Faculty of Health Sciences at a South African university

This study seeks to design and propose a collaborative academic literacy (AL) teaching and learning framework for the Faculty of Health sciences (FoHS) at a South African university. The Unit for Academic Literacy (UAL) at the focus university offers academic literacy modules to various faculties within the university. Many of these AL modules are designed in isolation by the UAL, with minimal collaboration often occurring at the module design phase where faculties inform the UAL of the academic literacy needs required by them. Thereafter, there is minimal ongoing collaboration. Drawing on Vygotsky's social constructivism and Nyamnjoh's concept of incompleteness as a framework for conviviality, this study adopts a qualitative, interpretivist paradigm with a Collaborative Action Research Design (CAR). The study investigates FoHS students' academic literacy needs, their ability to apply first-year AL skills as they progress with their studies, and lecturers' perceptions of current AL offering and attitudes towards a collaborative approach. Data will be collected through document analysis, questionnaires, focus group interviews, and the Delphi technique to build consensus among AL and disciplinary lecturers. By involving lecturers as co-researchers, the study aims to collaboratively create a framework that integrates AL into disciplinary teaching, which will reduce siloed practices and foster ongoing collaboration between AL and FoHS. The anticipated outcome of the study is a contextually relevant, collaborative framework that strengthens AL teaching, enhances student success, and offers insights that may be transferable to other faculties



Lisa Sabwe

Sociology

Exploring the experiences of South African digital content creators in South Africa

This study aims to examine the experiences of South African digital content creators on social media platforms. It explores how content creators navigate challenges with monetization and algorithmic biases, and the pressures of staying authentic to their craft in a non-western environment. It utilizes theories such as the Culture Industry derived from Western Marxism and Foucault's theory of discipline, power and surveillance. The research aims to fill the gap in literature on South African digital content creators as there is limited research addressing the challenges around content and earning opportunities encountered by South African content creators.

It draws on ten semi-structured interviews with South African digital content creators, from different parts of South Africa and possess different kinds of content niches. The interviews are analyzed using thematic data analysis to determine different themes in their experiences. The groundwork findings of this study proposed is that South African digital content creators endure different forms of monetization and algorithm biases on the social media platforms they operate on while trying to build an authentic and loyal community with their audience and to also cater to their demands of what content they wish to consume. This research contributes to the important understandings of authenticity, creativity and success in South Africa's digital space.



Deone Prinsloo

Afrikaans

Unique morphological and syntactic constructions in Gariep afrikaans: A usage-based construction grammar perspective

This study investigates the unique morphological and syntactic constructions of Gariep afrikaans (also known as Oranjerivier afrikaans), a lesser described but significant vernacular (user's variety) of Afrikaans spoken in the Northern Cape, southern Namibia, Namakwaland, and surrounding areas. While interest in Afrikaans varieties has grown, research on Gariep afrikaans has largely relied on isolated texts and anecdotal observations, with no comprehensive corpus available for systematic analysis. To address this research gap, the study has two objectives: first, to compile a written corpus of Gariep afrikaans; and second, to analyse constructions identified as distinctive to this variety from a usage-based Construction Grammar (CxG) perspective. These include features such as double plurals (boekiese), reduplicated diminutives (bietjietjie), innovative possessive structures (hy se kos), and the loss of gender distinctions in pronouns (hy for both male and female referents).

The study adopts a corpus linguistic methodology to investigate these forms in relation to Standard Afrikaans, integrating quantitative analysis with qualitative interpretation. This framework enables an analysis of form and meaning across morphological and syntactic levels, highlighting the structural richness of Gariep afrikaans and its significance within the broader Afrikaans language landscape. The anticipated contribution is twofold: the development of a novel written corpus to support future research, and a systematic descriptive account that offers a template for the documentation of other under-described Afrikaans varieties. It may also contribute to ProVARIA (the Project on Variation in Afrikaans). Ultimately, the project advances the broader understanding of Afrikaans varieties and its sociolinguistic contexts.



Sumare Viljoen

Afrikaans

Afrikaans Huistaal-onderwysers in die Senior Fase se taalhoudings teenoor Standaardafrikaans: 'n Persepsiestudie by enkele skole in Kaapssprekende gemeenskappe

This study investigates the language attitudes of Afrikaans Home Language teachers in the Senior Phase towards Standard Afrikaans in Cape Afrikaans-speaking schools.

Existing literature suggests that speakers of Cape Afrikaans often experience Standard Afrikaans as exclusionary. It remains unclear whether this perception is widespread within the broader speech community or limited to reference made by academics. Such exclusion may foster negative perceptions of Standard Afrikaans, but evidence is largely anecdotal due to limited empirical research. Studies on language attitudes in regulated spaces (like schools) remain underexplored in South Africa, and no comprehensive research has addressed attitudes toward different varieties as mediums of instruction in Afrikaans schools.

This study aims to determine (1) teachers' perceptions of Standard Afrikaans, (2) their understanding of the term Standard Afrikaans, (3) whether a renaming or broadening of the standard variety would influence these perceptions, and (4) their expectations regarding such broadening. Theoretically, the study is situated in applied sociolinguistics, particularly language planning and language attitude research. Data will be collected via questionnaires using the direct method of language attitude research, and both quantitative and qualitative analyses will be employed to answer stated research questions.

The study is valuable to the Language Commission, as it informs the codification of the standard variety. It may also contribute to ProVARIA (the Project on Variation in Afrikaans) as a model for similar studies on other varieties. Furthermore, the findings may support language planning, curriculum development, and the determination of learner outcomes, enhancing understanding of language attitudes in educational contexts.



Elizabeth Ajayi

Social Work & Criminology

Beyond survival: A cross-national lens on quality of life and resilience among older persons in Nigeria and South Africa

In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), older persons often live in contexts characterised by precarity, challenging their quality of life (QoL). Contrastingly, resilience factors may play a critical role in mediating or improving QoL. Adopting a socio-ecological resilience lens, this study examined the levels of QoL and resilience, and the predictive influence of resilience on older persons' QoL in Nigeria and South Africa.



Agnes Motsidisi Rankwe

Sociology

Living in township backrooms: a house or a home?

In post-apartheid South Africa, township backrooms have become a ubiquitous yet overlooked urban housing. These small rental units are usually situated in a formal housing yard offer affordable accommodation but exist within complex dynamics of landlords, tenure precarity and community life. This study explores how backroom tenants understand and experience 'home' while sharing the landlord's yard. Academic discourses tend to focus on housing supply and shacks communes thus leaving the lived experience and emotional worlds of the tenants under-researched. Guided by Hazel Easthopes's theory of home, which understands home as a socially and emotionally charged place, this qualitative study employs in-depth interviews with tenants in a Gauteng township.

Emerging findings suggest that home is less about the physical dwelling and more about the psychosocial and emotional relationships people form with space. For some, backrooms offer a sense of safety and rest but for others, living on another's property precludes any sense of home. Despite these differences, a consistent theme emerges, ownership and control are central to the meaning of home. This study reveals how township backrooms are experienced not merely as rentals, but as contested spaces of belonging and autonomy, offering fresh insights into housing, identity, and the meaning of home in urban South Africa.



Kagiso Seichokelo

Historical & Heritage Studies

Global Genealogical Tourism: A potential root/route for the preservation of cultural heritage

Abstract:

Visiting family, friends, and relatives is not a new social practice, but the quest for personal heritage has increasingly become one of the motives for travel. This practice is known as genealogical tourism or 'roots tourism', a global phenomenon where individuals, particularly those in the developed world, travel back to their ancestral villages or homes in search of their heritage and personal pasts through genealogy and family history research. This proposed paper will focus on the origin and global growth of roots tourism as a niche form of heritage tourism and how it can contribute to cultural heritage preservation. With the adoption of a comparative research methodology, this paper will consider how roots tourism has evolved by assessing three case studies located in the Global North, Global South and the Global East, namely: Ireland, Ghana and China respectively. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to consider how roots tourism has enhanced individual personal identities and evaluate the extent to which this promotes the preservation of cultural heritage in these specific regions.