

# Bernhard Jakobus (Ben) van der Merwe

## Education and Qualifications

**2009-2010** University of Pretoria, M. Phil (Workplace Ethics). (Cum Laude)

I am interested in looking at the ways in which the highly structured Anglo-Saxon models of ethical compliance have failed to curb the corruption and unethical practices, which have had such a profound effect on the world economy. My specific interest lies in the manner that different cultures inform and influence the understanding and application of business ethics. This is related to my interest in the possibilities surrounding qualitative stakeholder engagement and the role it plays in the governance of organisations.

**2006-2008** University of Stellenbosch, BA Honours (Philosophy).

This included a dissertation on the importance of personal privacy and the ways in which current legislation could be enhanced to offer the individual a sufficient basis and ability to protect his personal information. Modules included postmodern approaches to law, Philosophy of religion, Hermeneutics and psycho analytics, the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche, the philosophy of Michel Foucault.

**2003-2007** Stellenbosch University. BA (PPE) Political Science, Philosophy and Economics.

Other subjects include Business Management, Marketing and Sociology.

**1997- 2001** Paarl Boys High School

Maths, Science, Accounting.

## Work Experience

**2011 November – Present**

University of Pretoria, Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership: Senior Researcher and Lecturer in the Department of Business Management.

Responsible for the Mphil in Responsible Leadership . This includes the coordination of the course, as well as the development and teaching of the modules on Business in Society as well as Responsible Leadership.

Responsible for the development and teaching of the Contemporary Management and Leadership module for the Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated Reporting.

Responsible for the coordination , content development and teaching of the SAICA Thutuka Module on Responsible Leadership, presented at all the Universities currently hosting the SAICA Thuthuka scholarship programme.

Review of articles for various Journals on topics related to corporate social responsibility, stakeholder engagement, ethics and corporate governance.

Part of the team responsible for the establishment of the Leadership for Africa research project. Seeking to discover the key enablers and disablers for leadership for sustainability across ten African countries.

### **2009 (October- 2011 November )**

University of Pretoria, Centre for Business and Professional Ethics: Manager

Responsible for the management of centre-related activities. These include developing, organising and presenting training programs and involvement in the following:

- Globe Ethics survey on the state of Business Ethics globally.
- Anti-Corruption Capacity Building for the Botswana Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime
- Development of an E-learning course for the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants.
- Annual Anti-Corruption and Professional Ethics Roundtable for the Public Sector.

### **2010-2011**

University of Pretoria, Department of Philosophy: Guest Lecturer

Assisted in the lecturing duties related to the module BPE 210 (Ethics for Accountants and Auditors)

### **2009 (July–Dec)**

University of Pretoria, Department of Philosophy: Assistant Lecturer

Assisted in the administration and lecturing duties related to the module BPE 251 (Business ethics). Involved in the examination, moderation and marking of tests and assignments and the provision of academic support to students enrolled for the said module.

### **Skills**

- Management and facilitation of training and consultation projects.
- Organising conferences and events.
- Excellent command of Afrikaans and English - written and spoken.
- Fully computer literate: usage of word processing and spreadsheet software.

### **Research Interests**

- Systems- and complexity theory and the manner/s in which the “soft systems” approach can assist in problem solving and strategizing
- Organisational Culture
- Integrated Reporting
- Responsible Leadership
- Corporate Governance in Africa
- Technology and Culture
- Human Rights as a normative framework in the Global Business context