

Prof Ronél Ferreira

Prof Ronél Ferreira is Head of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Pretoria. She holds a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Pretoria. She was appointed at the University of Pretoria in July 2001 and is currently Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education. She is also the Research Theme Leader for **Facilitating behaviour change for improved health and well-being** in the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Well-being at the University.

Her research focus areas are psychosocial support within the context of vulnerability, psychological well-being of children and communities; HIV&AIDS, asset-based psychosocial coping, and the use of action research in combination with intervention-based studies that could improve community-based coping and facilitate community development and well-being. Ronél is involved in various research projects, some of which involve international affiliations. Her research accomplishments are signified, amongst others, by being a rated researcher at the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) and the recipient of the Samuel Henry Prince Dissertation Award of the International Sociological Association (2009), as well as the University of Pretoria Young researcher award (2009) and the Education Association of South Africa (EASA) Young researcher award (2007).

Prof Ferreira continuously strives to incorporate academic service-learning (community engagement) with both her research, and teaching and learning activities. She actively aims to involve postgraduate students in broad research projects and joint publications. Ronél has successfully supervised/co-supervised 23 master's students and 3 PhD students to completion of their studies. She has published 16 articles in peer reviewed journals and 12 chapters in scholarly books. She has recently co-authored a scholarly book which will be published in 2012. She has also made contributions at 26 national and international conferences.

She can be contacted at ronel.ferreira@up.ac.za