

Prof Wilhelm Jordaan

Extra-Ordinary Professor



Contact Details:

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Brief Bio

Wilhelm J. Jordaan is a graduate from the universities of the Free State, Stellenbosch and UNISA. He joined UNISA in 1969 and was appointed head of the Department of Psychology in 1987. He served in this capacity until 1995 when he was appointed Vice-Dean of the Arts Faculty. Since his retirement in 2000 he has been involved in the Masters and Doctoral Programmes in Leadership, Performance and Change as well as other postgraduate programmes of the Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management, University of Johannesburg. Since 2003 he has been serving as Extra-Ordinary professor in the University of Pretoria's Department of Psychology and is currently involved in the Department's Honours course and the Masters Course in Research Psychology. Before entering academia professor Jordaan was a journalist for Media-24. He is married to professor Jackie Jordaan. They have four children and eight grand children.

Research interests

His specific fields of interest are the philosophy of science underpinnings of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodologies in the human sciences and the relationship between "folk psychology" and psychology's formal body of knowledge. In the past 26 years the latter interest has found practical expression in more than 1600 popular-scientific publications in newspaper columns, articles in magazines and in books and in a satirical column in the Research Bulletin of the HSRC. Compendiums of his newspaper columns have appeared in two books and he has written a volume of poetry. One of the books he has co-authored (People in Context) was prescribed at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels at 12 South African universities and training colleges.

Supervision of Students

PhDs: 10 completed at UNISA (Psychology and Philosophy)
UJ (Industrial Psychology and People Management) and UP (Psychology)

Masters: 2 completed at UNISA (Psychology)

Current: 1 PhD (almost completed: UP)

Selected publications

Text books

Jordaan, W., Jordaan, J. & Nieuwoudt, J.M. 1975. General Psychology, a psychobiological approach. Isando: McGraw-Hill (Responsible for about 60% of the book's content. Book also had an Afrikaans version)

Jordaan, W. & Jordaan, J. 1984. Man in context. Isando: McGraw-Hill. (Responsible for about 70% of the book. Book also had an Afrikaans version with various reprints).

Jordaan, W. & Jordaan, J. 1998. People in context. Johannesburg: Heinemann. (Responsible for about 70% of the book. Book also had an Afrikaans version with various reprints)

Chapters in books

Jordaan, Wilhelm. 2008. Onthou om te onthou/vergeet om te vergeet. In *Die genesing van herinneringe*. Jordaan, W, van Vuuren R., Veldsman, D, Vos. C & Thesnaar, C. Protea: Pretoria.

Jordaan, Wilhelm. 2007. Erotiek en seksualiteit – van stereotipering tot deelnemingsmistiek. In *Liefde is die grootste*. C. Vos & D Human (reds.). Protea: Pretoria.

Jordaan, Wilhelm. 2006. Die ABC van duisend warm woorde. In *Gesprek sonder grense – huldigingsbundel ter ere van Johan Degenaar se 80ste verjaarsdag*. D. Hertzog, E. Britz & A Henderson. H&B Uitgewers: Stellenbosch.

Jordaan, Wilhelm 2004. Teologiese denke in Afrikaans. In *Afrikaans – lewende taal van miljoene*. FIJ van Rensburg (red.) Van Schaik: Pretoria.

Jordaan, Wilhelm. 2002. Jou meditasiemat of my fengshui-bed? Ons eksperimente met alternatiewe vorms van spiritualiteit. In *Die Nuwe Hervorming*, Piet Muller (Red.) Protea: Pretoria

Jordaan W J. 2001. The smell of fried onions and other stories: A case study in a narrative understanding of multicultural competence. In *Culture in retrospect*, A.P.J. Roux & P.H. Coetzee, Unisa Press: Pretoria.

Jordaan, W.J. 1998. University as therapy. In A.L. Dick, R.C. Grabe, J. Heidema, A.P.J. Roux & L.J. van Niekerk (Eds.), *Unisa distinctive university of our time*. Interdisciplinary Discussion Forum, University of South Africa: Pretoria.

Jordaan, W.J. 1994. Towards a psychotheology of reconciliation. In C. W. du Toit (Ed.) *Sociopolitical changes and the challenge to Christianity in South Africa*. Miscellanea Congregalia, 48. Pretoria: Unisa Press.

Jordaan, W. J. 1989. Understanding societal stress and coping behaviour in the South African context. In *The Bible and Stress*, P. G. de Villiers (Ed.), Miscellanea Congregalia, 35. Pretoria: Unisa Press.

Peer reviewed articles

Jordaan, W & Harper, S. (2009) Towards a green world-view. *SA Journal of Environmental Education*

Jordaan, W. J. 2007. Geloofsverskille: waar kom hulle vandaan en wat maak ons met hulle? *Verbum et Ecclesia*, 28 (2), pp.442-467.

DS Stephen & W.J. Jordaan. (2006). English language proficiency as a likely predictor of academic performance of first year human resources management students at Technikon Natal. *South African Journal of Industrial Psychology*.

Jordaan, W. J. 1996. Postmodernisme en die huwelik. *Praktiese Teologie in Suid-Afrika*, 11,,2, 1-15.

MM Sutherland & WJ Jordaan (2006). Factors affecting the retention of knowledge workers. *South African Journal of Industrial Psychology*

Jordaan, W.J. 1996. The language of violence. *Communicatio*, 22, 2, 80-81.

Jordaan, W.J. 1993. Cognitive science: From information processing to acts of meaning, *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 12,4, 91-102.

Jordaan, W.J. 1989. What to we do before we do theory. *South African Journal of Psychology*, 19,2, 53-64.

Jordaan, W, & Jordaan, J. 1981. Meta-teorie: 'n Sesde 'krag' in die sielkunde. *Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Sielkunde*, 10, 28-41.

Courses taught

- Introductory Psychology (UNISA)
- Personality Psychology – undergraduate and postgraduate: UNISA
- Systematic Psychology - undergraduate and postgraduate: UNISA
- Masters and Doctoral Programme in Leadership, Performance and Change: Industrial Psychology and People Management, University of Johannesburg
- Honours Course (Theories and Paradigms): University of Pretoria
- Masters Research Psychology Course (The philosophical grounding of qualitative methodology): University of Pretoria
- Masters programme in practical theology (Human Relationships): University of Pretoria

- Masters programme in electronic engineering: biomedical engineering (Human Systems): University of Pretoria.

Awards/memberships/professional registration

- Awarded bursaries from Media-24 for undergraduate studies at the Free State University
- Appointed visiting professor in psychology at the Johannes-Wilhelms Universität at Münster, Germany in 1977-1978
- Recipient of a Pro Excellenti award of the UNISA Council (2000)
- Appointed editor of two national psychology journals (South African Journal of Psychology and the South African Psychologist)
- Appointed member of Committee of Scientific Editors (Bureau of Scientific Publications)
- Invited to deliver key note addresses at two international conferences on qualitative methodology (1995 and 1998)
- Was registered as a research psychologist until retirement in 2000