

Senior Researcher
 Centre for Complex Systems in Transition,
 School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
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HIGHER EDUCATION

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| 2012 | PhD (Philosophy), Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University
Title: <i>The Problem of Complexity: Re-thinking the Role of Critique</i>
(http://scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/71629) |
| 2008 | MPhil (Organisations & Public Culture), Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University |
| 2004 | MPhil (Media Ethics), Department of Journalism, Stellenbosch University |
| 2000 | BA (Communciation, Industrial Psychology), University of South Africa |

PRESENT POSITION

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| 2017– | Senior Researcher, Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University
National Research Foundation Rating (South Africa): Established researcher
(Category C) |
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PREVIOUS POSITIONS

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| 2015–2016 | Researcher, Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University
Co-PI for <i>Generating and disseminating scientific-, policy-, and regionally-relevant knowledge of social-ecological dynamics and transformations to enable stewardship toward sustainable development project</i> , ResDev/SwedBio funded Program |
| 2013–2014 | Project Co-Coordinator & Lecturer, Division of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University |
| 2009–2013 | Research assistant, Centre for Studies in Complexity, Stellenbosch University (Prof JH Hofmeyr) |
| 2007–2011 | Lecturing Assistant to Prof Paul Cilliers, Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University |
| 2001–2006 | International Office Manager, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University |
| 1993–1999 | Marketing and Communications Manager in the music and book publishing industry (private sector) |

RESEARCH FOCUS & PRACTICAL SKILLS

My research explores the philosophical and conceptual development of complexity and how a deeper understanding of the features and dynamics of complex adaptive (living) systems inform novel ways for engaging participatory and qualitative research methods and practical interventions in anticipating more equitable and ethical social-ecological futures.

I am interested in addressing the interconnected nature of social-ecological systems and the challenges they pose for creating more sustainable futures at the science-society interface. Hosting and facilitating transdisciplinary processes, designing participatory and interactive workshops and transformative spaces for knowledge co-creation and creating shared learning experiences and change processes have challenged me to connect and translate the theoretical assumptions of complexity thinking with a deeper understanding of the practical implications that such a worldview holds for informing new ways of doing and being-becoming in a world where human and natural systems are radically interconnected.

Practical skills: research & writing, teaching & training, student supervision, workshop/conference organisation, process design, group facilitation & presentation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2012–ongoing *Complexity Theory and Systems Thinking* module, PGDip & MPhil in Sustainable Development School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
- 2014–ongoing *Complexity Theory & Complex Systems* module, MSc in Sustainable Agriculture Faculty of Agri-Sciences, Stellenbosch University
- 2008–ongoing *Complexity Theory* module, MPhil. in Managing Complex Human–Ecological Systems Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town
- 2018 *Features and Dynamics of Complex Systems* module (<https://youtu.be/Pagfff4R7oU>) Transforming Development: the science and practice of resilience thinking. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) funded by GRAID, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden.
- 2018–ongoing *Complexity & Leadership Executive training course*: Comenius Leergangen, Groningen, The Netherlands
- 2016–2018 *Introduction to Systems Analysis* Southern African Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC) & IIASA (Austria)
- 2015–2017 *Systems Methods* module, Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management & Administration University of Stellenbosch Business School
- 2012–2016 *Complexity Theory & Complex Systems*, Transdisciplinary Summer & Winter Schools TsamaHUB, Stellenbosch University
- 2008–2009 *Philosophy of Culture 252* Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University
- 2011 *Deconstruction 344* Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University
- 2006–2014 *Medicine and Systems Thinking* module, MBChB (I–IV) Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University

PUBLICATIONS

SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES (link on [Google Scholar](#))

Published

23. Lindow, M., Biggs, R., **Preiser, R.** Exploring resilience capacities with food innovators: a narrative approach. *Global Sustainability* (accepted August 2020).
22. Mancilla García, M., T. Hertz, M. Schlüter, **R. Preiser**, and M. Woermann. 2020. Adopting process-relational perspectives to tackle the challenges of social-ecological systems research. *Ecology and Society* 25(1):29. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11425-250129>.
21. Hamann, M., Biggs, R., Pereira, L., **Preiser, R.**, Hichert, T., Blanchard, R., Warrington Coetzee, H., King, N., Merrie, A., Nilsson, W., Odendaal, P., Poskitt, S., Sanchez Betancourt, D. & Ziervogel, G. 2020. Scenarios of Good Anthropocenes in southern Africa. *Futures*: 102526.
20. Van der Merwe, S. E., Biggs, R. & **Preiser, R.** 2020. Sense-Making as an approach for Resilience Assessment in an Essential Service Organisation. *Environment and Decisions*. Online <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10669-019-09743-1>
19. De Vos, A., R. Biggs, and **R. Preiser**. 2019. Methods for understanding social-ecological systems: a review of place-based studies. *Ecology and Society* 24(4):16. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11236-240416>.
18. **Preiser, R.** 2019. Identifying general trends and patterns in complex systems research: an overview of theoretical and practical implications. *Systems Research and Behavioral Science*, 36:706–714. DOI: 10.1002/sres.2619 RESEARCH
17. Van der Merwe, S.E., Biggs, R., **Preiser, R.**, Cunningham, C., Snowden, D.J., O'Brien, K., Jenal, M., Vosloo, M.M., Blignaut, S., Goh, Z. 2019. Making Sense of Complexity: Using SenseMaker as a Research Tool. *Systems*, 7(2), 25. <https://doi.org/10.3390/systems7020025>
16. Kruger, H.K., Verhoef, A., **Preiser, R.** 2019. The Epistemological Implications of Critical Complexity Thinking for Operational Research. *Systems*, 7(1): 5. <https://doi.org/10.3390/systems7010005>
15. Van der Merwe, S., Biggs, R., & **Preiser, R.** 2018. Building social resilience in socio-technical systems through a participatory and formative resilience assessment approach. *Systemic Change Journal* 1 (1): 1–34.

14. **Preiser, R.**, R. Biggs, A. De Vos, and C. Folke. 2018. "Social-ecological systems as complex adaptive systems: organizing principles for advancing research methods and approaches". *Ecology and Society*, 23(4): 46. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-10558-230446>
13. Woermann, M, Human, O., **Preiser, R.** 2018. "General complexity: A philosophical and critical perspective." *Emergence: Complexity and Organisation* 1. <https://doi:10.emerg/10.17357.c9734094d98458109d25b79d546318af>.
12. Van der Merwe, S.E., Biggs, R. & **Preiser, R.** 2018. A framework for conceptualizing and assessing the resilience of essential services. *Ecology and Society* 23(2): 12. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-09623-230212>
11. Pereira, L. M., T. Hichert, M. Hamann, **R. Preiser**, and R. Biggs. 2018. Using futures methods to create transformative spaces: visions of a good Anthropocene in southern Africa. *Ecology and Society* 23(1): 19. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-09907-230119>
10. **Preiser, R.**, Pereira, L., Biggs, R. 2017. "Navigating alternative framings of human-environment responses for addressing Anthropocene challenges: variations on the theme of 'Finding Nemo'". *Anthropocene Journal*, 20: 83–87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2017.10.003>.
9. Bennett, E.M., M. Solan, R. Biggs, T. McPhearson, A.V. Norstrom, P. Olsson, L. Pereira, G.D. Peterson, C. Raudsepp-Hearne, F. Biermann, S.R. Carpenter, E. Ellis, T. Hichert, V. Galaz, M. Lahsen, M. Milkoreit, B. Martin-López, K. A. Nicholas, **R. Preiser**, G. Vince, J.M. Vervoort, J. Xu. 2016. "Bright spots: Seeds of a good Anthropocene". *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 14(8), 441–448. <http://doi.org/10.1002/fee.1309>.
8. **Preiser, R.** 2016. "A response to the dialogical hermeneutics of critical complexity thinking in Kunneman's re-framing of 'The political importance of voluntary work'". *Foundations of Science*, Special Issue: Meaningfulness, Volunteering, Citizenship, 21(2): 439–443. DOI 10.1007/s10699-014-9405-8.
7. Paul, S., Müller, H., **Preiser, R.**, Lima Neto, F.Bd., Marwala, T., De Wilde, P. 2014. "Developing a Management Decision-Making model based upon Complexity Perspective with reference to the Bee Algorithm." *Emergence: Complexity & Organization*, 16(4): online. (https://journal.emergentpublications.com/article_tag/volume-16-issue-4/).
6. **Preiser, R.**, Struthers, T., Mohamed, S., Cameron, N., Lawrence, E. 2014. "External stakeholders and health promoting schools: complexity and practice in South Africa", *Health Education*, 114(4): 260–270. <https://doi.org/10.1108/HE-07-2013-0031>.
5. **Preiser, R.**, Cilliers, P., Human, O. 2013. "Deconstruction and Complexity: A critical economy". *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 32(3): 261–273. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02580136.2013.837656>.
4. Audouin, M., **R. Preiser**, S. Nienaber, L. Downsborough, J. Lanz, and S. Mavengahama. 2013. Exploring the implications of critical complexity for the study of social-ecological systems. *Ecology and Society*, 18(3): 12. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-05434-180312>.
3. **Preiser, R.** 2012. Book review of "On the (Im)Possibility of Business Ethics: Critical Complexity, Deconstruction, and Implications for Understanding the Ethics of Business." *African Journal of Business Ethics*, 6(2): 156–158.
2. **Preiser, R.** 2010. "Observing representational practices in art and anthropology—a transdisciplinary approach". *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa*, 6(1): 57–72.
1. **Allen, R.** 2009. "Art activism in South Africa and the ethics of representation in a time of AIDS". *Critical Arts Journal*, 23(3): 396–415. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02560040903251209>.

BOOKS CO-AUTHORED & EDITED

3. Biggs, R., de Vos, A., **Preiser, R.**, Maciejewski, K., Schlüter, M., Clements, H. (eds.) Handbook: A guide to navigating methods for studying social-ecological systems. (in preparation, to be submitted to Routledge in 2020).
2. Cilliers, P. 2016. *Critical Complexity. Collected Essays*. **Preiser, R.** (ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter (Ontos). ISBN: 978-1-5015-1079-3.
1. Cilliers, P., **Preiser, R.** (eds.). 2010. *Complexity, Difference and Identity. An Ethical Perspective. Series: Issues in Business Ethics, Vol. 26*. Dordrecht: Springer. ISBN: 978-90-481-9186-4.

BOOK CHAPTERS

8. Biggs, R., Clements, H.S., **Preiser, R.**, Schoon, M.L. “Principles for Building Resilience in Social-Ecological Systems”. *Routledge Handbook of Social and Ecological Resilience* (submitted Aug 2018).
7. **Preiser, R.**, Woermann, M. 2019. “Complexity, philosophy and ethics.” In Galaz, V. (ed.). *Handbook on Global Challenges, Governance, and Complexity*. Cheltenham (UK): Edward Elgar Press, pp. 38–62.
6. Bohle M., **Preiser R.** 2019. “Exploring Societal Intersections of Geoethical Thinking”. In Bohle M. (eds) *Exploring Geoethics*. Cham: Palgrave Pivot, pp. 71–136.
5. Pereira, L., Bennett, E., Biggs, R., Peterson, G., McPhearson, T., Norström, A., Olsson, P., **Preiser, R.**, Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, C., Vervoort, J. 2018. “Seeds of the future in the present: exploring pathways for navigating towards ‘Good’ Anthropocenes”. In Elmqvist, T., Bai, X., Frantzeskaki, N., Griffith, C., Maddox, D., McPhearson, T., Parnell, S., Romero-Lankao, P., Simon, D., Watkins, M (eds). *The Urban Planet: Knowledge Towards Sustainable Cities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.327–350. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316647554>.
4. **Preiser, R.**, Woermann, M. 2016. “Introduction”. In Cilliers, P. *Critical Complexity. Collected Essays*. Preiser, R. (ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter (Ontos), pp.1–20.
3. **Preiser, R.**, Cilliers, P., Human, O. 2016. “Deconstruction and complexity: A critical economy”. In Cilliers, P. *Critical Complexity. Collected Essays*. Preiser, R. (ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter (Ontos), pp. 225–245.
2. **Preiser, R.** & Cilliers, P. 2010. “Unpacking the Ethics of Complexity: Concluding Reflections”. In Cilliers, P., Preiser, R. (eds.). *Complexity, Difference and Identity. An Ethical Perspective. Series: Issues in Business Ethics, Vol. 26*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 265–287.
1. Cilliers, P., **Preiser, R.** 2010. Preface: Why Difference. In Cilliers, P., Preiser, R. (eds.). *Complexity, Difference and Identity. An Ethical Perspective. Series: Issues in Business Ethics, Vol. 26*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. v–iv.

POLICY BRIEFS & POPULAR SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

20. Downing, A.S., Spijkers, J., Norström, A. & Preiser, R. 2020. Resilience and Sustainable Peace. GRAID Policy Brief. http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Resilience-and-Sustainable-Peace_GRP_GRAID_Background-Paper-2020.pdf
19. Hichert, T., Biggs, R., **Preiser, R.** 2019. Generating visions of Good Anthropocenes. The Manoa Mash-up Scenarios Methodology. CST Toolkit. University of Stellenbosch. <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/publication/generating-visions-of-good-anthropocenes-the-manoa-mash-up-scenarios-methodology/>
18. Van der Merwe, L., Biggs, R., and **Preiser, R.** 2019. Framework for Resilient Essential Services. Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, CST Toolkit. University of Stellenbosch. <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/publication/cst-policy-brief-framework-for-resilient-essential-services/>
17. Van der Merwe, L., Biggs, R., and **Preiser, R.** 2019. A formative resilient assessment approach. Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, CST Toolkit. University of Stellenbosch. <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/publication/cst-toolkit-a-formative-resilience-assessment-approach/>
16. **Preiser, R.** 2018. Complexity. In *Research at Stellenbosch University 100*. Stellenbosch: Division for Research Development, pp. 17–18. <http://console.virtualpaper.com/stellenbosch-university/research-1918-2018/>
15. **Preiser, R.** 2018. *Key features of complex adaptive systems and practical implications for guiding action*. CST Policy Brief. University of Stellenbosch. <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/publication/key-features-of-complex-adaptive-systems-and-practical-implications-for-guiding-action/>
14. **Preiser, R.** Biggs, R. Pereira, L., Drimie, S., Maciejewski, K. 2018. Annual Project report for grant agreement S004476 between “Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for Development” (GRAID) at Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) and the Centre for Studies in Complexity at Stellenbosch University (SU). Project period: 1 January–31 December 2017
13. Lindow, M., Biggs, R., **Preiser, R.**, Pereira, L. 2018. *Exploring resilience through the stories of food innovators in the Western Cape*. CST–GRAID Publication, Stellenbosch.
12. **Preiser, R.** 2017. Stellenbosch University. In Sturle H Simonsen (ed.). *Stockholm Resilience Centre Decennial Report*. Stockholm: Stokirk-Landströms AB, pp. 24–25. https://issuu.com/perlarsson/docs/suni_149_src_10_year-interaktiv-enk

11. **Preiser, R.** 2017. *Towards a relational & process ontology for understanding complex adaptive system dynamics*. Report on Workshop hosted from 10–12 October 2017, CST, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
11. Pereira, L., Coetzee, D., Hamann, M., Biggs, R., **Preiser, R.**, Hichert, T. “Incubating ideas on how southern Africa can manage the Anthropocene.” Article for *The Conversation*, January 5, 2017. Online: <https://theconversation.com/incubating-ideas-on-how-southern-africa-can-manage-the-anthropocene-69916>.
10. Hamann M., Biggs R., Pereira L., **Preiser R.**, Hichert T., Merrie A., Cloete D., Poskitt S., Loubser G., Salley R., Blanchard R., Coetzee H., Fioramonti L., Gomera M., Hermanus L., Johnson G., Johnson L., Karakashian A., Khan Z., King N., Mannetti L., Mbete. 2017. “Report on the Anthropocene Visioning Workshop”, 15–18 November 2016, Cape Town, South Africa. GRAID project workshop. <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Anthropocene-Visioning-Workshop-Report.pdf>
9. **Preiser, R.**, Biggs, R., Pereira, L., Drimie, S., Metelerkamp, L., Hamann, M., Maciejewski, K., Cloete, D. 2017. Annual Project report for grant agreement S004476 between “Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for Development” (GRAID) at Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) and the Centre for Studies in Complexity at Stellenbosch University (SU). Project period: 1 January–31 December 2016. <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CST-GRAID-2016-Report-FINAL-1.pdf>
8. **Preiser R.**, Hamann M., Biggs R., Pereira L., Hichert T. Research at Stellenbosch 2016. on Creating positive visions of the Anthropocene in Southern Africa. Online: http://www.myvirtualpaper.com/doc/stellenbosch-University/research_at_stellenbosch_2016/2017052901/-92
7. **Preiser, R.** Biggs, R. “Generating and disseminating scientific-, policy-, and regionally- relevant knowledge of social-ecological dynamics and transformations to enable stewardship toward sustainable development”. 2016. Final project report for grant agreement SU 481 6.1.1-0017-14 between the Resilience and Development Programme (SwedBio) at Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) and the Centre for Studies in Complexity at Stellenbosch University (SU). Project period: 1 October 2014–31 December 2015. http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/SwedBio-Grant_Final-Report.pdf
6. **Preiser, R.**, Hichert, T., Biggs, R. “Workshop report: PECS Science-Policy Dialogue on Opportunities for creating a Good Anthropocene in Southern Africa”, 8 December 2015.
5. **Preiser, R.**, Biggs, R. “PECS Science-Policy Dialogue explores different pathways towards creating good Anthropocene futures in southern Africa”. SAPECS News, 1 December 2015. Online: <http://www.sapecs.org/2015/12/pecs-science-policy-dialogue-explores-different-pathways-towards-creating-good-anthropocene-futures-in-southern-africa/>
4. Biggs, R., **Preiser, R.** “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes – A southern African Perspective”. Research at Stellenbosch 2014. Online: http://console.virtualpaper.com/stellenbosch_University/research_2014/2015-07-07/
3. **Preiser, R.** “Report on the Anticipation Colloquium”. *Association of Professional Futurists Compass*, July 2014, 9–11.
2. **Preiser, R.** Project Anticipation Online: http://www.projectanticipation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41:colloquium-explores-the-role-of-anticipation-as-an-alternative-way-to-engage-with-the-future-and-complex-problems&catid=25&Itemid=537
1. **Preiser, R.** “Wat is kompleksiteit?” Feature article for *LitNet Essays*, 3 April 2012. Online: <http://www.litnet.co.za/Article/wat-is-kompleksiteit>

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOP FACILITATION

- *Co-organiser*: “Exploring new research insights for funding, commissioning and social change in complexity”. *GRAID & USAID/Resilient Waters Dialogue Workshop*. Stellenbosch, South Africa, 23–24 January, 2020.
- *Invited Keynote Presenter*: “Conceptual and practical implications for understanding and navigating complex social-ecological systems”. *Conference for Complex Systems 2019*, Nanyang Technical University, Singapore, September 30, 2019.
- *Invited Keynote Presenter*: “Art-Science collaborations for re-imagining more sustainable social-ecological futures”. *ArtScience Museum*, Singapore, September 29, 2019.
- *Co-organiser*: *Becoming Anticipatory: Exploring systemic change practices and anticipation for a complex world’ Workshop*. London, UK, 5 September, 2019.
- *Invited Keynote Presenter*: “Variations on the theme of 'Finding Nemo'. Conceptual and practical implications for navigating uncharted territory in the Anthropocene”. *Systems Innovation* meeting, London, UK, 6–7 September, 2019.

- *Invited panellist and workshop facilitator*: “Systems Thinking”. *Systems Innovation* meeting, Barcelona, Spain, 30–31 March, 2019.
- *Organiser*: Encounters with Complexity An inter-disciplinary dialogue on how the features of complexity inform new frameworks for research and practice. CST Colloquium, Stellenbosch, South Africa, May 10th 2019.
- *Invited workshop co-facilitator*: “Lepak Participatory Three Horizons Workshop for envisioning Continuity, Tension and Change”, with Tanja Hichert, 8th World Summit on Arts & Culture, International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 14-11 March 2019.
- *Co-organizer and Keynote Presenter*: “Key Features of Complex Adaptive Systems”. CST-GRAID & USAID Resilience Action Dialogue, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 14–16 November 2018.
- *Organizer and Keynote Presenter*: “Introduction to Complexity and Features of Complex Adaptive Systems”. CST-Comenius executive training workshop on Complexity & Leadership, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 5–9 November 2018.
- *Keynote Presenter*: “Defining six key organizing principles for a typology of general complex adaptive system features and dynamics”. *International Society for Systems Sciences*, Corvallis (Oregon), USA, 26 July, 2018.
- *Co-organizer and Keynote Presenter*: “Navigating The Complexity of Human-Environment Relations: Or Learning How To Shape The World Well”. *Princeton Centre for Theological Inquiry Symposium on Planetary-scale Thinking in Astrobiology, Ethics, & Sustainability Studies*, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, South Africa, 29–30 May, 2018.
- *Invited Presenter*: “Embracing Complex adaptive systems thinking: building competency for foresight strategies. CST Futures methods training workshop for the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAILA), Johannesburg, South Africa, 12 April 2018
- *Invited Panel Facilitator*: “Connecting Creative Foresight and Policymaking”. *Salzburg Global Seminar 593: The Shock of the New: Arts, Technology, and Making Sense of the Future*, Salzburg, Austria, February, 20–25, 2018.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Complexity, Systems Thinking & Anticipation”. DRIFT/IHS refresher course for African Sustainability Scientists, Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 14 November 2017.
- *Organizer and Keynote Presenter*: *Towards a relational & process ontology for understanding complex adaptive system dynamics Workshop*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, October 10-12, 2017
- *Co-organizer and Keynote Presenter*: “Complexity, Systems Thinking & Anticipation”. Futures Workshop hosted by the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST), Stellenbosch University, October 16, 2017.
- *Invited Keynote Presenter*: “Why complexity matters”. *Pan-African Congress of Integrative Medicine Conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, May 6, 2017.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Towards a paradigm of complexity”. *Adaptive systems & resilience thinking research stream lunch meeting*, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden, October 27, 2016.
- *Invited Presentation*: “A complexity perspective to the study of SES: Towards a mechanism-based understanding of SES as CAS workshop”, *Social-ecological systems as Complex Adaptive Systems - Implications for analysis and governance workshop*, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden, September 9, 2016.
- *Co-organizer and Keynote Presenter*: “Complexity thinking: a new paradigm”. *Resilience thinking and practice for development: Supporting sustainability transformations in southern Africa scoping dialogue*, Stellenbosch, August 4–5, 2016
- *Co-organiser and Keynote Presentation*: “Like finding Nemo: can there be a ‘good’ in the Anthropocene?” Co-presented with Laura Pereira at the *Anthropocene Dialogues Seminar Series*, Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST), Stellenbosch, February 22, 2016.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Learning to live together in a changing world: a philosophical reflection on postmodernism and beyond”. Invited keynote at *the Bank Windhoek Socratic Forum in celebration of UNESCO World Philosophy Day 2015*, Windhoek, Namibia, November 16, 2015.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Complexity thinking – some practical and normative implications for the study of social-ecological systems”. *Academic Lunch Hour Colloquium at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)*, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, March 24, 2015.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Introduction to Complexity Thinking”. *South African Sustainability Immersion Programme*, Sustainability Institute, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, February 2, 2015.
- *Organiser and Keynote Presenter*: “Complexity thinking and negotiating ethical decision making for the future”. Invited speaker at the *Anticipation: Complexity and the Future Colloquium*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, March 18th, 2014.
- *Invited Panellist*: “Theology & Science” session. *Theology on the Edge: Honouring John de Gruchy on his 75th birthday conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, September 3–5, 2014.

- *Invited Presentation*: “Introduction to complex systems and complexity theory”. *Macroeconomic Sector Analyses and Systems Dynamics Executive Training Course*, School for Public Leadership, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 12, 2014.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Complexity thinking – some practical and normative implications for the study of social-ecological systems”. *Stockholm Resilience Centre*, Stockholm University, Sweden, September 25, 2014.
- *Invited Keynote Presentation*: “Introduction to Complexity”. *SAPECS Winter School*, Sustainability Research Unit, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa, June 30–July 4, 2014.
- *Invited Keynote Presenter*: “Critical imperatives for engaging with complex socio-ecological systems”. *11th Savannah Science Network Meeting*, Kruger National Park, South Africa, March 3, 2013.
- *Invited Presentation*: “The Potential of Complexity Thinking in Approaching Wicked Problems in Business Management Practice – Focusing on the Relevance for Teaching and Research”. *University of Stellenbosch Business School Academic Lunch Hour Colloquium*, University of Stellenbosch, Bellville, South Africa, August 22, 2013.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Critical Complexity: Responding to the normative and critical implications that shape our engagement with complex systems”. *Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality, at the Institute for Water Research seminar*, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa Rhodes, April 25, 2013.
- *Respondent*: to the paper “The ethics of development-initiated group resettlement (DIGR), complex systems and an approach from ‘diagnostics’”, delivered by Prof Chris de Wet, *Anthropology Colloquium*, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa Rhodes, April 25, 2013.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Critical Complexity Thinking: Towards a Critical and Normative Interpretation of Complexity”. *Philosophy Seminar Series*, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa Rhodes, April 24, 2013.
- *Organiser and Keynote Presenter*: “Critical Complexity: The difference that makes a difference”. *Complexity Forum 2012 Conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, October 22–24, 2012.
- *Organiser and Presenter*: “Critical Complexity: re-thinking the role of critique”. *Paul Cilliers the human and intellectual legacy memorial seminar*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, December 8, 2011.
- *Invited Presentation* with Paul Cilliers: “An Ethics of Complexity”. *IPSU Winter School*, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, June 29, 2011.
- *Invited Presentation*: “The Media and Public Perceptions”. *Influenza – Unity in Complexity* seminar hosted by the Centre for Infectious Diseases, Stellenbosch University and the LHPG Western Cape Branch of the SA Veterinary Association, June 24, 2009.
- *Invited Presentation*: “Complexity and Culture”. *Workshop on Sustainability and Urban Farming Practices*, Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, March 2008.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL

- “Handling GeoEndowments Geoethically” poster presentation with Martin Bohle and Eduardo Marone in the special stream on Geoethics: ethical, social and cultural implications of geoscience knowledge, education, communication, research and practice at the *European Geosciences Union General Assembly*, Vienna, Austria, 7–12 April 2019.
- “Normative and practical implications for governing complex social-ecological systems”, oral presentation in the special stream on Geoethics: ethical, social and cultural implications of geoscience knowledge, education, communication, research and practice at the *European Geosciences Union General Assembly*, Vienna, Austria, 7–12 April 2019.
- “Applying a systems thinking paradigm to engaging with social-ecological problems: some practical and ethical implications”, Session presentation at the *Leverage Points 2019 International Conference on Sustainability research and Transformations*, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany 6-8 February, 2019.
- “Exploring Practical and Ethical Implications of Applying Systems Thinking to Real-world Problems”. Joint presentation with Woermann, M. *International Society for Systems Sciences*, Corvallis (Oregon), USA, 23–27 July, 2018.
- “Art and imagination in transformational processes”. Session chair and co-presenter at *Seedbeds of Transformation: The Role of Science with Society and the SDGs in Africa*, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, May 9–11, 2018.
- “Exploring futures methods for creating transformative spaces: visions of a good Anthropocene in southern Africa”. Session chair and co-presenter at *Seedbeds of Transformation: The Role of Science with Society and the SDGs in Africa*, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, May 9–11, 2018.

- “ARThropocene: Re-imagining Anthropocene Futures through Art-Science Collaboration”. Joint presentation with Hamann, M., Biggs, R. *Resilience 2017 Conference*, Stockholm, Sweden, September 20–22, 2017.
- “A complexity-based paradigm for studying social-ecological systems”. Joint presentation with de Vos, A. & Biggs, R., Folke, C. delivered at the *Resilience 2017 Conference*, Stockholm, Sweden, September 20–22, 2017.
- Pereira, L., Hichert, T., Hamann, M., Preiser, R. and Biggs, R. (2017). Re-imagining the future: A method with which to generate visions of a Good Anthropocene in southern Africa, *Resilience 2017 Conference*, Stockholm, Sweden, September 20–22, 2017.
- “Using Photo Elicitation and Photovoice In Development Settings For Knowledge Co-Creation Towards Transformation Practices”. Session chair and presenter at the *Resilience for Development Colloquium*, Johannesburg, South Africa, May 8–10, 2017.
- “Complexity- and Resilience Thinking Approaches for Creating Transformative Development Practices”. Session chair and presenter at the *Resilience for Development Colloquium*, Johannesburg, South Africa, May 8–10, 2017.
- “Ways of becoming: exploring how a relational theory of change could inform transitions research”. Paper delivered at the *International Sustainability Transitions conference*, Wuppertal, Germany, September 7–9, 2016.
- Finding Nemo: can there be a ‘good’ in the Anthropocene? Joint presentation with Pereira, L.M. Stoking the Anthropocene session, *4S/EASST conference*, Durban, South Africa, 31st August–2nd September 2016.
- “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes”. Joint presentation with Biggs, R., Pereira, L., Hichert, T. at the *15th International Winelands Conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, March 30–31, 2016.
- “Complexity and social-ecological systems: A conceptual exploration”. Joint presentation with de Vos, A. & Biggs, R. delivered at the *PECS 2015 Conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 3–5, 2015.
- “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes: A Southern African Perspective”. Joint presentation with Pereira, L., Biggs, R., Hichert, T. delivered at the *PECS 2015 Conference*, Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 3–5, 2015.
- “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes: A Southern African Perspective”. Joint presentation with Pereira, L., Biggs, R., Hichert, T. delivered at the *Transformations 2015 Conference*, Stockholm, Sweden, October 4–6, 2015.
- “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes”. Joint presentation with Pereira, L., Biggs, R., Hichert, T. delivered at the *World Social Science Forum*, Durban, South Africa, September 13–16, 2015.
- “Critical Complexity Thinking: Normative and ethical implications for understanding and engaging with complexity”. Paper presented at the *Modes of Explanation Discussion Conference*, Paris, France, May 22–24, 2013.
- “Deconstruction, Complexity and the possibility of Critique”. Paper delivered at the *Derrida Today Conference*, London, UK, July 19–21, 2010.
- “Art Activism in a time of AIDS”. Paper delivered at the international *Conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET)*, Cape Town, South Africa, July 2–4, 2008.
- “Syphilis and HIV in South Africa”. Joint paper with Preiser, W. & Van Zyl, G. Presented by W. Preiser at the *German–Austrian AIDS Congress*, Frankfurt, July 2007.

NATIONAL

- “Ways of Becoming in the Anthropocene”. Paper delivered at the *Deleuze & Guattari & AFRICA Conference*, Cape Town, South Africa, July 15–16, 2015.
- “Exploring the implications of critical complexity for the study of social-ecological systems”. Joint presentation with M. Audouin, & S. Nienaber at the *Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS) colloquium*, Kirstenbosch, South Africa, April 15–16, 2013.
- “The problem of philosophy and the place of complexity”. Paper delivered at the *Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Conference*, Cape Town, South Africa, January 16–18, 2012.
- “Exploring the logic of complexity for researching social-ecological systems”. Joint paper with Audouin, M., Nienaber, S., Downsborough, L., Lanz, J., Mavengahama, S. Presented by S. Nienaber at the *2nd Conference of the Southern African Young Water Professionals*, CSIR ICC, Pretoria, South Africa, 3–5 July 2011.
- “Of Ruptures and Ruins: Rediscovering the role of Critique”. Paper delivered at the *Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Conference*, Hogsback, South Africa, January 19–21, 2009.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

MASTERS DEGREES

In Progress

- 2020– R. Mangundu (main supervisor). *Exploring simulation and role playing games as complexity and systems thinking based pedagogies for integrating sustainability in the teaching curriculums of the local universities of Namibia: Towards reimagining education for sustainable development*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
- 2019– M. Smith (main supervisor). *Exploring resilience thinking design processes of South African impact funds*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
- 2018– N. Mngqibisa (main supervisor). *Improved Municipal Planning in African Cities (IMPACT) for a climate resilient urban future*. School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University

Completed

- 2020 E. Mancebo (main supervisor). *Assessing new urbanism in the Municipal Urban Regeneration Programme (MURP), Bontebeuvel, Cape Town. A systems perspective*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
- 2018 S. Jardine (main supervisor). *Exploring connections between music and social-ecological system resilience*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School for Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
- 2018 E. Rickens (co-supervisor). *An analysis of the strategies, rhetoric and ethical implications of climate change denialism*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University
- 2018 T. Fouche (main-supervisor). *Exploring implications for Neuroethical frameworks informed by Complexity*. Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University
- 2017 M. Lindow (main supervisor). *Exploring Storytelling and Resilience-building in Complex Social-Ecological Systems*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University. *Cum Laude*
- 2017 P. Odendaal (main supervisor). *The place where poetics meet: Exploring the contribution of the InZync poetry sessions to socio-cultural transformation in Stellenbosch*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University. *Cum Laude*
- 2016 D. Gutsch (co-supervisor). *Social Entrepreneurship and its Values: A Complexity Perspective*. Karl-Franzens University Graz, Austria. *Cum Laude*
- 2014 C. Robertson (main supervisor). *Championing Explicit Ethics in Sustainability Transitions: Towards a Sustainable Food System in Stellenbosch*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University.
- 2012 W. van den Berg (main supervisor). *The meanings of sustainable community wellness in Grabouw*. Mphil Sustainable Development, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University. *Cum Laude*

PhD DEGREES

In progress

- 2019– A. Manyani (co-supervisor with Prof Reinette Biggs & Dr Lloyd Hill). Historical and conceptual development of Social-Ecological Systems (SES) research. Department of Sociology, Stellenbosch University.
- 2016– G. Ashton (co-supervisor with Prof Scott Drimie). *Examining South African agricultural development policy through the lens of complexity theory to enquire how agriculture can meet challenges of sustainability, resilience, job creation and food security*. School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University.

Completed

- 2019 L. van der Merwe (co-supervisor with Prof Reinette Biggs). *Resilience of Electricity Supply in South Africa*. School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University.
- 2017 D. Cloete (main supervisor). *Towards re-imagining the roles of change agents from a critical complexity perspective: An exploratory action research approach*. DPhil in Business Management Administration, Stellenbosch University.
- 2016 C. Marais (main supervisor). *Transformative collaborative governance relations towards sustainability: The case of the Stellenbosch River Collaborative*. DPhil in Business Management Administration, Stellenbosch University.

ACADEMIC & OTHER ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- Full member of the Club of Rome (2020–2025)
- Executive Committee member of the International Federation for Systems Research (2020–)
- Vice-President: Conferences for the *International Society of Systems Sciences* (2019–2020)
- Member of the *International Society of Systems Sciences* (2018–)
- Fellow of the *European School of Governance* (EUSG), Berlin, Germany (2018–)
- Member of the *Philosophical Association of Southern Africa* (since 2009).
- Member of the *Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC)*, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, 2009–2011. Reviewer of Human Health Research Ethics applications.

PLANNING COMMITTEES FOR WORKSHOPS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- Host and organiser of the CST 'lockdown' Online Webinar series: "Complexity & Resilience insights in a time of transition", March–December 2020, <http://www0.sun.ac.za/cst/videos/lockdown-webinars/>
- Member of the Organising Committee for the Colloquium on "Resilience for Development: Assessment Methods and Transformation Practices", 08–10 May, Johannesburg, South Africa (2017). www.resdev2017.org
- Member of the Planning Committee for the *Anthropocene visioning workshop* from 15–18 November, Cape Town, South Africa (2016).
- Organiser for *Re-imagining the Anthropocene workshop* co-hosted with the Sustainability Institute on 4 October, Stellenbosch, South Africa (2016).
- Member of the Planning Committee for the *Applying Resilience Thinking and Practice towards sustainable development pathways in Africa* workshop from 4–5 August, Stellenbosch, South Africa (2016).
- Member of the *Anthropocene Dialogues* seminar series Organizing Committee, CST, Stellenbosch University (2016-ongoing).
- Member of the Planning Committee for the *PECS2015 Conference* on 'Social-Ecological Dynamics in the Anthropocene' hosted from 3–5 November in Stellenbosch, South Africa (2015), www.pecs2015.org
- Member of the Organising Committee, SAPECS workshop on *Policy-Science Dialogue* Cape Town, South Africa (2015).
- Member of the Organising Committee, SAPECS workshop on *Urban transformations in the Anthropocene*, Cape Town, South Africa (2015).
- Member of the Organising Committee, SAPECS workshop on *Transformation and the Good Anthropocene*, Stellenbosch, South Africa (2014).
- Member of the Organising Committee, *Centre for Studies in Complexity Colloquium* (since 2009).
- Member of the Organising Committee, NRF Funded *Complexity Forum*, South Africa, 2012–2014.

PROJECT/RESEARCH GRANT COORDINATION

- Project lead for "Web-based Training for Transformative African Futures" on the "USAID/Southern Africa's Resilient Waters Program". Grant allocated to Stellenbosch University (Centre for Studies in Complexity/CST). Project period 2018–2023.
- Co-Investigator with Prof R. Biggs of the "Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for development (GRAID)" project. Grant agreement #S004476 between Stockholm University (Stockholm Resilience Centre/SRC) and Stellenbosch University (Centre for Studies in Complexity/CST). Project period: 1 November 2015–31 December 2019.
- Co-Investigator with Prof R. Biggs of the "Generating and disseminating scientific-, policy-, and regionally-relevant knowledge of social-ecological dynamics and transformations to enable stewardship toward sustainable development" project. Grant agreement #SU 481 6.1.1-0017-14 between the Resilience and Development Programme (SwedBio) at Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) and the Centre for Studies in Complexity at Stellenbosch University (SU). Project period: 1 October 2014–31 December 2015.
- Project Co-Coordinator with Prof L. Dudley of the EU Framework 7 "ARCADE Health Systems Services Research" project at the Division of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University from 2013–2014.
- Convenor for Western Cape node, NRF Funded *Akili Young Scientists Facilitation Committee*, 2010–2011.

EDITORIAL & REVIEWS

- Member of the Netherland Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) assessment committee for grant proposals on the project “Complexity and Creative Industry: Grip on Transitions and Resilience” (2019).
- Editorial Board Member: *Systemic Change Journal*
- Journal Subject editor: Philosophy for *Emergence: Complexity & Organisation*; *Systemic Change Journal*
- Regular peer-reviewer for scholarly journals and grant agencies: *Communication, Culture and Critique*; *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa*; *Southern African Journal of Philosophy*; NGTT (*Dutch Reformed Theological Journal*), *Ecology & Society*; *Theory, Culture & Society*; *Knowledge Organisation*; *African Journal of Business Ethics*; *The Belmont Forum*; *LitNet*
- Regular Examiner of Masters and PhD theses/dissertations and external moderator for several post-graduate degree modules.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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| 2019 | Co-recipient of the Ecological Society of America’s Innovation in Sustainability Science Award for best peer-reviewed paper published in the journal <i>Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment</i> during the past five years, exemplifying leading-edge work on solution pathways to sustainability challenges. |
| 2018 | MDPI Systems Journal Award for the Most Innovative Keynote Contribution to the International Society for the Systems Sciences (ISSS) conference 2018, Oregon, USA. |
| 2018 (Feb) | Salzburg global seminar fellow , Session 593: <i>The Shock of the New: Arts, Technology, and Making Sense of the Future</i> (Austria) |
| 2014 (May) | Institute for development studies , Sussex University & ESRC Scholarship (UK), STEPS Summer School on <i>Pathways to Sustainability & Social Justice</i>
DAAD Scholarships (German Academic Exchange Service) (Germany) |
| 2000 (SS) | University of Marburg, exchange student in German as Foreign Language |
| 2003 (WS): | University of Leipzig, exchange student in Journalism and Media Ethics |
| 2004 (SS): | University of Mainz, <i>IPP Summer Academy in Media and Performance Studies</i> |
| 2006 (SS): | University of Giessen, visiting post-graduate student at the Giessener Graduiertenzentrum Kulturwissenschaften (GGK) |
| 2008 | Udo keller foundation , <i>Forum Humanum</i> Fellowship (Germany) University of Tübingen, <i>Forum Scientiarum Summer School</i> on Complexity, Reductionism and Emergence. |
| 2006–2008 | National Research Foundation (NRF) Scholarship (South Africa) Postgraduate bursary for MPhil study related to the research project “AIDS activism and Social Capital in South Africa”, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University |