CENTRE FOR APPLIED ETHICS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

1. **ABOUT THE CENTRE**

The Centre for Applied Ethics (CAE) is an interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service institution of Stellenbosch University, based in the Philosophy Department. It reports to the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences. The Centre does work on its own, but also accommodates three units, viz. the Unit for Bioethics, the Unit for Environmental Ethics and the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity. It is foreseen that a fourth unit – a Unit Promoting Social and Political Ethics Research (PROSPER) will be created in the course of 2019.

The first part of this report deals with the general activities of the Centre as such. The reports of the different Units of the Centre follow this report. The report therefore has the following sub-divisions:

**General report of the CAE: pp. 1-6**

**Report of the Unit for Bioethics pp. 7-13**

**Report of the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity: pp. 14-18**

**Report of the Unit for Environmental Ethics: pp. 19-22**

1. **GOVERNING BODY 2018**

Prof. **AJ Leysens** (Dean), Prof. **AA van Niekerk** (Director of the Centre and Head: Unit for Bioethics), Prof. **JP Hattingh**, Head: Unit for Environmental Ethics, Prof. **P Fourie** (Representative of the Centre for International and Comparative Politics),Prof. **JP Smit**, Chairperson of the Philosophy Department, **Mr. C Maasdorp,** representative of the Centre for Knowledge Management and Decision-making), Dr. **S Hall** (Representative: Unit for Environmental Ethics), Prof. **WP Pienaar** (Representative of the Faculty of Health Sciences), Prof. **Adriaan van Niekerk**, (Representative of the Depts. of Psychology, Sociology, Geography and Environmental Studies, and Social Work), Prof. **K Moodley** (Representative of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law), **Dr. M Woermann** (Head: Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity), **Mr. Martin Rossouw,** representative of the Mediclinic Southern Africa, a key sponsor of the Centre, and Prof. **Daniel Malan**, representative of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa, situated in the US Business School, **Prof. Petrie Meyer**, representative of the Faculty of Engineering.

The Centre was officially audited by the University’s internal auditors early in 2018. This is the outcome of a random sample of such institutions annually audited by Stellenbosch Univesity. No feedback was received. There clearly is no problem in this regard

1. **RESEARCH**

(Under this heading, only activities that are not dealt with in the reports of the different Units of the Centre are reported. See also the reports of the Units).

**3.1 Publications and other research outputs**

* + 1. **Journal articles (\* indicates accredited journal)**

Van Niekerk, A.A. 2017. Geloof sonder sekerhede: perspektiewe op die gesprek met Ernst Conradie. *Stellenbosch Thelogical Journal*,\* 4 (1): 503-541.

* + 1. **Other publications (indicative of the social impact of the Centre)**

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Ons gewete: Huldeblyk aan Sampie Terreblanche”, *Die Burger*, 19 February 2018, p.11, also in: *Beeld*, 19 February 2018, p. 5. [Our conscience: obituary of Sampie Terreblance].
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Ons wag op die kaptein” (Ramaphosa eerste 100 dae), *Beeld*, 26 May 2018. [We wait on the captain]. pp. 16-17.
3. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Rugby se eindfluitjie?”, *Beeld* & *Netwerk 24*, 28 June 2018, p. 21.
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Helde: Madiba is dood en sal nie opstaan nie”, *Netwerk 24*, 19 July 2018. [Heroes: Madiba is dead and will not rise]
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Jou held nie my held nie” onderhoud met Willemien Brümmer, *Die Burger*, 25 July 2018, p. 11. [Your hero not my hero] [Also on *Netwerk 24* with heading: “Afrikaners moet nou nuwe helde kies”]
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Morele inbors geld China, maar óók SA”, *Beeld*, 28 July 2018. [Moral fibre expected from China, but also SA]
7. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Afriforum moet hom nóú aan gronddebat onttrek”, onderhoud met Willemien Brümmer, *Netwerk 24*, 22 Augustus 2018. [Afriform must withdraw from land debate now]
8. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Erger as ‘n nagmerrie”, *Beeld*, 25 September 2018, p. 13. [Worse than a nightmare]
9. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Nene: Ons is nog nie in ‘n morele paradys nie”, Interview with Willemien Brümmer about resignation of Nhlanlha Nene as Minister of Finance. *Netwerk 24*, 11 October 2018. [Nene: we are not yet in a moral paradise. Interview with Willemien Brümmer]
10. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “Om met vuur te speel”, *Die Burger* and *Beeld* (Forum article), 20 December 2018, p. 11. [To play with fire]
    * 1. **Publications in Press (for 2019)**

Van Niekerk, AA. 2019. The debate between Rorty and Habermas, in: A Malachowski (ed.): *The Cambridge Companion to Rorty*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**3.2 Presentations**

**At National Conferences and other events**

1. Van Niekerk, AA. *Two lectures on the Philosophy of History: 1. Critical Philosophy of History. 2. Speculative Philosophy of History*, UCT Summer School, Cape Town, 18-19 January 2018.
2. Van Niekerk, AA. *Kan ons sin maak van die dood*?, Two lectures at Stellenbosch Welgelegen Congregation, 18 + 25 February 2018. [Can we make sense of death?].
3. Van Niekerk, AA. *Question and answer session with Solly Benatar at: Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race Exhibition*, Cape Town, 11 March 2018.
4. Van Niekerk, AA. *Die dood en die sin van die lewe.* Lecture at Elardus Park Congregation, Pretoria, 16 March 2018.
5. Van Niekerk, AA. *Science, research and ethics*, Seminar for all PhD students, Faculty of Science, US, 16 May 2018.
6. Van Niekerk, AA. Conversation with Danie Strauss about *Die dood en die sin van die lewe*, Bloemfontein, Free State Culture Festival, 11 July 2018.
7. Van Niekerk, AA. *Art and meaning*. Opening address of Studio G and Village & Life Art Gallery in Bay Hotel, Kamps Bay, 27 July 2018.
8. Prof van Niekerk was also invited to attend a workshop in Pretoria dealing with the state of biosafety and biosecurity in Southern Africa, following from his participation in an earlier comprehensive research project on this issue.
9. **SOCIAL IMPACT**

As is usual, there were a number of occasions during which the director participated in radio and television programs; here were four TV interviews as well a six radio interviews. These dealt with diverse topics, such as the relation between faith, philosophy and ethics, the ethics of public resistance actions, death, euthanasia or assisted death, and the like.

The publication of Van Niekerk’s latest book, *Die dood en die sin van die lewe in* September 2017 continued to muster significant public attention. Apart from the television interviews and eight full-fledged discussions of the book that were published in 2017, the author was invited to give two lecture series (at events in Stellenbosch and Pretoria) as well as a full length interview about the book at the Free State Culture Festival.

Prof. van Niekerk was invited to be a member of an evaluation panel that rated the work of the Philosophy Department at the University of the Free State in August. In this connection he was able to share a lot about the teaching of ethics, which is increasingly practiced in that environment.

The director continued to serve on the Board of Directors of The Ethics Institute, although he, on own request, stepped down as chair. He will, in accordance with King IV Principles, not serve in this capacity longer than April 2019, when he will have been a member for 20 years (and chair for 14 of those years).

1. **OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE**

**5.1 Teaching**

**5.1.1** In 2018 we saw the fourth intake of the one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics students. This was a group of about 18 students. The program is running well and excellent feedback from the students was received. The rate of throughput can, however, improve. We do find that handling this ever-growing group of postgraduate students is becoming ever more demanding.

**5.1.2** Prof. van Niekerk was again asked to offer a four-hour session on philosophy and ethics in business, part of the Senior Executive Diploma Program of USB-ED. Very positive feedback was received from this.

**5.1.3** Prof. van Niekerk, Dr. Woermann and Prof. Smit again offered a complete module in the PG Dip (Future Studies) program at the Business School; ethics forms an integral part of this module. Very positive feedback was received about this contribution. At the same time, we were all quite surprised to note the significant increase in administrative work that tends to accompany this service course. The matter is due to be discussed in more detail in the department and Centre.

**5.1.4** Prof. van Niekerk was invited to offer a lecture series in the philosophy of history at the Summer School of UCT during January 2018.

**5.2 Ethics committees and services**

Personnel of the Centre serve as members of a variety of ethics committees/institutional review boards at Stellenbosch University and elsewhere.

5.2.1 Membership of, and service to, the following committees continued:

* Prof. van Niekerk is chair of the Senate Research Ethics Committee of Stellenbosch University – the policy making body of the University, which also appoints and accredits members of all the Research Ethics Committees of the University. This committee has, over the past few years, had to deal with a number of very difficult challenges, not least of which is the difficulty of soliciting personnel to serve on the required numbers of REC’s on campus. Some solutions, such as e.g. freeing up time of academics to act as chairs of these committees, are currently in the offing.

* Prof. van Niekerk, together with Prof. Roodt, was invited to serve on the task team for the reformulation and reconceptualization of Stellenbosch University’s values, in view of the future strategic planning of the university in their centenary year (2018). This invitation came in the aftermath of his presentation at the comprehensive strategic planning session at the beginning of 2017. These new values have been accepted and will become part of the University’s strategic plan in the course of 2018.
* Van Niekerk contributed to the comprehensive Heads of Argument document of Stellenbosch University in preparation for the court case about the position of Afrikaans as language of tuition at the university. This case was heard in September 2018, and comfortably won by the university. It was then taken on appeal, and judgment is due in August 2019.
* Prof. van Niekerk is a member of the governing board of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law (CMEL) in the FMHS.
* Dr. Woermann is a member of the Governing Committee for the Anticorruption Centre for Education and Research(ACCERUS), as well as the Centre for Corporate Governance at the Business School, Stellenbosch University.
* Dr Hall serves on the Ethics Committee of the Humaniora. Dr Hall has also been elected vice-chair of that committee.
* Dr Hall served as external member on the Governance and Ethics Committee, CPUT.

**5.3 Personnel**

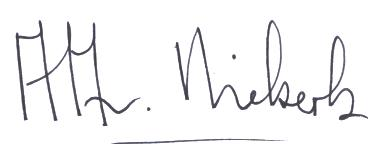
Ms Andrea Palk, temporary lecturer and research assistant to Prof. van Niekerk continued her invaluable work for the first semester in the Centre. She attained her PhD in 2018 with excellent results. As are the ways of academia, she applied for and was awarded an excellent Post-Doc Fellowship at UCT, where she has been working since 1 July 2018. We thank her sincerely for her excellent service over the years. She has been replaced by Mr Daniel du Plessis.

Prof. van Niekerk was, in October 2018, surprised by the bestowal on him of an Excellence Award as a “thought leader” of Stellenbosch University, particularly with reference to his contribution to communicate academic issues to the broader public through the media.

1. **Sponsorship**

Mediclinic’s highly appreciated sponsorship of R200 000 per year continued in 2018. We thank them, as always, very sincerely for this precious contribution. Without it, the Centre (particularly the Unit for Bioethics) can hardly continue its work on the current scale. We trust that this invaluable contribution will continue in future.

**We convey our sincere gratitude to Mediclinic Southern Africa, and specifically ask their representative on the Governing Committee, Mr. Martin Rossouw, to convey that gratitude to Mr. Koert Pretorius, CEO of Mediclinic Southern Africa and his entire management team and Board of Directors.**



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Prof. WP Pienaar Prof.. A.A. van Niekerk

Chair: Governing Body Director: Centre for Applied Ethics

**UNIT FOR BIOETHICS**

### Annual Report 2018

**1. RESEARCH**

**Completed research projects**

1. *The philosophical and ethical significance of death* (AA van Niekerk)
2. *Ethics and the biotechnology revolution of our time.* (A.A. van Niekerk, S. Hall, A. Palk). Van Niekerk was also invited to write a comprehensive book chapter on the new biotechnologies and their relevance for the African context for a new book on *Justice-based* *Ethics: Challenging SA Perspectives* (Ed. C Jones). The chapter has been submitted and accepted and the book appear at the end of 2018. (See book chapter outputs)
3. *Human Life Invaluableness: an emerging African biomedical principle.* (F Rakotsoane & AA van Niekerk). An article was written on this subject and published in an accredited journal (*SA Journal of Philosophy*) in the course of 2018.
4. *Issues in patient-physician relationships.* (AA van Niekerk, S. Hall, A Palk) Series of presentations for CDP training for Mediclinic health care officials.

**Ongoing projects**

1. *Ethical problems related to newer developments in genetic reproductive technologies, with special reference to human enhancement and transhumanism.* (AA van Niekerk, S Hall, A Palk, L. Franken)
2. *Decolonisation as legitimate ideal in biomedical research (AA van Niekerk)* A paper was delivered and developed as an article which was submitted to and accepted by an accredited journal. It will appear in 2019. (See publications in press)
3. *The morality of the idea of unlimited longevity*. (L. Franken)Work on this PhD project is progressing slowly.
4. *The moral problem of double loyalty in occupational medicine* (G. Grobler) Work on this PhD project is progressing rapidly; the candidate will graduate in December 2019.
5. *Bio-banking in Sub-Saharan Africa: potential cultural challenges, their philosophical underpinnings and management*. (F Rakotsoane), PhD project.
6. *Shared decision-making and neo-liberalism: the origins and unintended consequences of patient-centred care.* (B Gray). PhD project.
7. A utilitarian argument for developing new genetic technologies in an African context, with special reference to Kenya. (T Obengo). PhD project.
8. **RESEARCH OUTPUTS**
   1. **Articles in peer-reviewed journals; (\*) indicates accredited journals**
9. De Roubaix, M. 2018. What should I tell my patient? Disclosure in anaesthesiology: difficulties, requirements, guidelines and suggestions, *Southern African Journal of Anaesthesia and Analgesia\**, 24:1, 1-8, DOI: 10.1080/22201181.2018.1432252
10. De Roubaix M, et al. 2018. Ethical challenges in developing an educational video to empower potential participants during consent processes in HIV cure research in South Africa. *Journal of Virus Eradication\**. 2018 Apr 1;4(2):99-102.
11. De Roubaix, M. 2018. Human guinea pigs? The ethics of undergraduate and postgraduate student involvement in medical training in South Africa. July 2018 DOI: 10.7196/*South African Journal of Bioethics and Law*\*.2018.v11i1.0061.
12. De Roubaix, M. et al. 2018.The psychology of “cure” - unique challenges to consent processes in HIV cure research in South Africa. December 2018. *BMC Medical Ethics*\* 20(1) DOI:10.1186/s12910-019-0348-z
13. Ewuoso, C. O. 2018. ‘Beneficial Coercion in Psychiatric Care: Insights from African Ethico‐Cultural System. *Developing World Bioethics’*, 18 (2): 91-97.
    1. **Book chapters**
14. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. “The new biotechnologies: Nirvana, or Prometheus and Frankenstein? Ethics and the biotechnology revolution of our time”, in: C Jones (ed.): ***Justice-based ethics: challenging South African perspectives***. Johannesburg: AOSIS, 2018: 31-59. URL: <https://books.aosis.co.za/index.php/ob/catalog/book/77>
    1. **Publications in press (for 2019)**
15. Ewuoso, C. & Hall, S. 2019. ‘Addressing the Conflict between Partner Notification and Patient Confidentiality in Serodiscordant Relationship: How can Ubuntu Help?’ *Developing World Bioethics*.
16. Lenk, C. & Hall, S. 2019. ‘Access to health care in emerging and industrialised nations: A comparison between South Africa and Germany’. In: Steger, F. (Ed.), *Diversität im Gesundheitswesen*. Freiburg: Alber.
17. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2019. “Is ‘decolonisation’ a legitimate and appropriate value in biomedical research and teaching?” Accepted (5 November 2018) for publication in ***South African Journal of Bioethics and Law\****, vol. 12 (1), 2019.
    1. **Papers read at international conferences**
18. De Roubaix, M. Revisiting Informed consent in Anaesthesiology. SASA International Conference, CICC, 4-8 April 2018.
19. De Roubaix, M. Professionalism in Anaesthesiology Practice: three propositions*.* SASA International Conference, CICC, 4-8 April 2018
20. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2018. Can the (biomedical) sciences be decolonized? 13th World Conference of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics – Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Jerusalem, 27-29 November 2018.
    1. **Papers delivered at national scientific conferences and/or other meetings**
21. Hall, S. *The moral significance of distinctions in bioethics*. GP Refresher Course: Louis Leipoldt Mediclinic, 16 August 2019 & Constantiaberg Mediclinic, 18 October 2019.
22. Van Niekerk, A.A. *The ethics of assisted death*. Panel discussion of F Van Zyl Sabbert Discussion Series, Woordfees, 7 March 2018.
23. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ethics and the genetic manipulation of embryos*. Science Café, Woordfees, 7 March 2018.
24. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Question and answer session with Solly Benatar at: Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race Exhibition*, Cape Town, 11 March 2018
25. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Is ‘decolonisation’ a legitimate and appropriate vale in the research enterprise*? 7th Annual ARESA Seminar, Spier, Stellenbosch, 25 May 2018.
26. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ethical issues in the relationship between doctors and patients*. Mediclinic Conferences, Panorama clinic, Parow, 14 April 2018, Stellenbosch Mediclinic 24 May 2018 and Vergelegen Mediclinic, Somerset West, 21 June 2018.
27. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Member: Panel discussion of Euthanasia*, Van Zyl Slabbert Institute of Youth Leadership, Stellenbosch, 25 July 2018
28. Van Niekerk, A.A. *From Hippokrates to Helsinki: The ever-changing landscape of biomedical ethics*. Key Note speaker at Conference of SA Society of Anaesthesiologists (SASA), UCT, Cape Town, 4 August 2018.
29. **TEACHING**
    1. The Unit takes, first and foremost, responsibility for the post-graduate teaching of bioethics in the MPhil (Applied Ethics) Program, as well as the doctoral program in bioethics. The MPhil was offered in 2017, and will again be offered in 2019. A group of 15 students were admitted, many of whom completed the PG Dip in Applied Ethics, also offered by the Centre. In the meantime, the supervision of a number of students’ dissertations continues (see below).
    2. Prof. Van Niekerk annually teaches a module on ethical issues relating to HIV/AIDS in the Postgraduate Diploma and MPhil programmes of the Centre for AIDS Management in the Workplace in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. The lectures for this program are currently offered at a summer and/or winter school, as well as via satellite transmission.
    3. Prof. van Niekerk, seconded by Dr. Hall, assists with the teaching of Medical Ethics to MB ChB second as well as fifth year students.
    4. Dr. de Roubaix took responsibility for organising both SASA conferences (the one international) that took place in 2018
30. **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

Several postgraduate students were involved in, or are still, conducting research on topics that are of direct interest to the activities of this Unit. The details are as follows:

**4.1 Completed Doctoral Dissertation**

Palk, A. *Moral Bioenhancement: An ethical and philosophical investigation.* PhD, March 2018, pp. 257. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.

Dr Palk was awarded a Consolidoc Post-doctoral fellowship on the completion of his dissertation.

* 1. **Completed Masters Theses**

1. Abdool, Z. Evidence, truth, reality and power: A Foucauldian analysis of the ethics of testing and using novel medical devices. December 2018, Supervisor: Dr. M. de Roubaix.
2. Coetzee, T. *An Ethical Analysis of the 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa.* MPhil (Applied Ethics), University of Stellenbosch. December 2018. Supervisor: Dr. S. Hall.
3. De Vaal, C. *Raising ethical issues in the dead: An exploration of ethical challenges in forensic medicine.* March 2018. Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
4. Fourie F: *A decent minimum health care in the SA context*. MPhil, March 2018, 102 pp. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
5. Kooverjee, Y. *Ethical considerations in the prevention of childhood obesity*. Supervisor: Dr Lyn Horn. (Completed: degree will be conferred in December 2019 due to an unforeseen delay.)
6. Mantovani, B: *Morality and freedom: a critical investigation of the relatedness of morality and freedom, and its significance for the moral justification of the practice of biomedical moral enhancement*. MA. March 2018. 100 pp. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
   1. **Doctoral projects in progress**
7. Ewuoso, O.C. *Information management in physician-patient interaction: towards a new approach*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.
8. Franken, L. *Morality and immortality: assessing the ethical implications of the idea of radical life extension*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
9. Grobler, G. *To serve two masters? A moral analysis of the conflict of interest in the profession of occupational physicians*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
10. Kling, S. *Models of clinical ethics services in SA: a critical appraisal*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk; Co-supervisor: Prof. K Moodley.
11. Gray, B. *Shared decision-making and neo-liberalism: the origins and unintended consequences of patient-centred care*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk
12. Obengo, T. *A utilitarian assessment of the relevance of genetic enhancement therapies for HIV-Aids in Africa, with special; reference to the situation in Kenya.* PhD Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
13. Rakotsoane, F. *Bio-banking in Sub-Saharan Africa: potential cultural challenges, their philosophical underpinnings and management*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk

**4.4 Master’s projects in progress**

1. Adams, S. *Moral challenges in the management of HIV positive children*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall
2. Biyela, I.M. *People living with disabilities’ competition for employment and career advancement: moral perspectives*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
3. Botha, G. *Morele kwessies rondom sub-akute sorg*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk
4. Davids, R. *Sedation and analgesia in the intensive care unit in South Africa- is it a synonym for euthanasia?* Supervisor: Dr M de Roubaix
5. Fouché, M. *The role of race in bioethics*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk
6. Hambira, R. *How do people change behaviour*? Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
7. Harbor, O. *Shades of Competence: An Exploration of the Competence Element of Informed Consent.* Supervisor: Dr. S. Hall.
8. Kheswa, S. *An Ethical Analysis of Dental Bleaching*. MPhil. Supervior: Dr. S. Hall
9. Madaka, N. *Public Health Policy in Resource Allocation: The role of Ubunthu Ethics in redressing the resource disparity between public and private health care in SA*. Supervisor: Dr Lyn Horn.
10. Mafanya, A. *Informed consent issues in Eastern Cape*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
11. Makola, N. *Moral issues in public health*. Supervisor: Dr. N Barsdorf.
12. Mapukata, M. *The role of nurses in end-of-life care*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.
13. Mashele, T.S. *An exploration of ethical challenges related to the management of drug resistant Tuberculosis in South Africa.* Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
14. Maswanganyi, J.V. *An exploration of the plausibility of human rights and communitarian approaches in guiding public health interventions.* Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
15. Mkumbuzi, J. *A moral issue in dental therapy*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.
16. Moolman, M. *Ethical considerations related to invasive medical procedures in the elderly*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk
17. Ogunyinka, R. *Paternalism in Medical Ethics: An Evaluation.* Supervisor: Dr. S. Hall.
18. Patel, F. *The nature of the moral obligation underlying global bioethics*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
19. Photo, M. *The effects of the SA Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act on health care workers in South Africa*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
20. Potgieter, H. *The moral issues involved in obtaining consent from patients in duress, awaiting surgery.* Supervisor: Prof. M de Roubaix.
21. Rossouw, L. *Obtaining informed consent from vulnerable research participants in a disadvantaged SA community*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
22. Seedat, S. *Therapeutic prevention of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Ethical analysis and proposal of a bioethical framework*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
23. Thetard, R. *Morele kwessie rondom volhoubare gesondheidsverwante ontwikkelingswerk in Afrika, met spesiale verwysing na Malawi*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk
24. Van Niekerk, MGM. *Ethical issues related to cochlear implants*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk

**5. SOCIAL IMPACT**

Prof. van Niekerk was invited to serve for a further term on the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee of the Academy of Sciences of SA (ASSAf), of which he is also a full, elected member. He was earlier responsible for the ethics part of a comprehensive research program on biosafety and biosecurity in SA, spearheaded by this committee.

**6. OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIT**

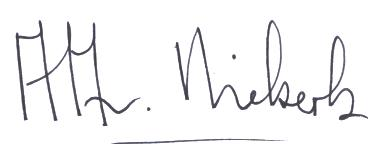
**6.1 Bioethics at the SU “Woordfees”**

The Unit/Centre has, with a sponsorship by Dr Edwin Hertzog and the Mediclinic Group, staged a bioethics event at the Woordfees for the past four years. In 2018 the topic was ethical issues related to transplantation surgery. The special guest was Dr. Susan Vosloo, renowned heart surgeon from Chris Barnard Memorial Hospital in Cape Town. She spoke to a packed audience, and responded to a dialogue in which Prof. van Niekerk also participated. A highly stimulating discussion was offered. This event has become part and parcel of the Woordfees and will continue in future.

**6.2 The Bioethics Discussion Group**

As in the past, the discussion group on bioethics continued in 2018. The following presentations and discussions took place:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker | Topic | Date |
| Dr Gily Coene (Vrije University, Belgium) | Unmaking a multicultural dilemma: a critical reflection on recent bio-ethical debates on male circumcision in Europe. | 15 March 15:30 |
| Dr Chris Verster (US) | The Life Esidimeni Tragedy and deinstitutionalization: A failure of implementation or implementation of a failed concept? | 12 April 15:30 |
| Dr Ciara Staunton (University of Middlesex, UK) | Emerging principles of good governance for genomic and bio-banking research in Africa. | 17 May 15:30 |
| Prof. Jan Lotz (Stellenbosch University) | The prevalence of negligent behavior of medical staff towards women in labour in the public sector. | 11 October 2018 |
| Dr Malcolm de Roubaix (Stellenbosch University) | Human guinea pigs? The ethics of undergraduate and postgraduate student involvement in medical training. | 25 October 2018 |



**AA van Niekerk**

**(Head: Unit for Bioethics)**

**12 June 2018**

**UNIT FOR BUSINESS ETHICS AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

1. **RESEARCH**
   1. **Dr Schalk Engelbrecht**

Author of op-ed: ‘Social media winning battles for ‘everyman’, but beware’, *Business Day*, 18 January 2019.

On the basis of this Op-ed, which critically discusses the manner in which consumers express moral outrage and exercise power through social media, Dr Engelbrecht was invited to partake in a panel discussion on social media, organised by Tim du Plessis.

Dr Engelbrecht was an invited panellist on the topic of “Ubuntu and project management” at the PMSA Annual Conference in November 2019.

He presented on ethics at the following conferences:

* “Ethics and the Commercial Forensic Practitioner” at the annual Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners (ICFP) Conference;
* “Professional Pitfalls” at the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Regional Conference (Gauteng).
  1. **Prof Deon Rossouw**

Author of: *The Social & Ethics Committee Handbook, 2nd ed.,* Pretoria: The Ethics Institute.

Editor, and co-author, of the textbook: *Ethics for Accountants and Auditors, 4th ed.,* Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

Aside from his many public engagements as CEO of The Ethics Institute, Prof Rossouw edited and critically reviewed the fourth edition of *Ethics for Accountants and Auditors.* Chapters were extensively revised on the basis of user feedback, and the new edition of this popular textbook offers a sophisticated overview of both business ethics and professional ethics topics relevant to accountants today.

* 1. **Dr Minka Woermann**

Dr Woermann has two areas of specialisation in the field of business ethics, namely developing a complexity-inspired readig of business ethics and producing scholarship on business ethics in an African context.

In light of this, her 2018 research contributions were as follows:

1. *Complexity and Business Ethics /Applied Ethics*

Author of peer-reviewed book chapter: ‘Complexity and the normativity of law’ in J. Murray, T. Webb, and S. Wheately (eds). *Complexity Theory & Law: Mapping an Emergent Jurisprudence*. London / New York: Routledge, 234 – 250.

Co-author of forthcoming book chapter (with R. Preiser): ‘Conceptual and practical implications for understanding and engaging with complex adaptive systems’ in V.G. Rodriguez (ed.). *Global Challenges and Complexity*. Cheltenham (UK): Edward Elgar Publishing. (The focus of this chapter is specifically on the governance of complex socio-ecological systems).

Co-author of submitted journal article (with M. Mancilla-Garcia, T. Herz, M. Schlüter and R. Preiser): ‘A process perspective for addressing key challenges of social-ecological systems research’. *Nature* (accepted for review).

Speaker: ‘Complexity and Leadership Course’, hosted by the *Centre for Complex Systems in Transition*. This course was presented to a group of Dutch c-suite executives, deans, and high ranking public officials. The topic of Dr Woermann’s presentation was a complexity-inspired reading of Business Ethics.

1. *Africa and Business Ethics*

Author of peer reviewed book chapter: ‘Business ethics in Africa’ in E. Heath, B. Kaldis, and A. Marcoux (eds). *The Routledge Companion to Business Ethics.* London / New York*:* Routledge, 624 – 640.

Author of book chapter (on invitation; submitted): ‘Towards an African Business Ethics: Past contributions and Future Challenges and Possibilities’ in L.C. Rodrigues (ed.) and J. Chimakonam (eds). *Key Issues in African Ethics.* London: Bloomsbury.

1. *Other*

Co-author of textbook (with D. Rossouw (ed.), L. Kretzschmar, F. Prinsloo. K. Sander, J. Siebrits, L. van Vuuren and P. Vorster): *Ethics for Accountants and Auditors, 4th ed.,* Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

1. **TEACHING**
   1. **Postgraduate teaching**

The primary task of the Unit’s staff is to assume responsibility for the post-graduate teaching of Business Ethics in the MPhil (Applied Ethics) Programme. This Programme will resume in 2019.

There has been an exponential increase in the enrolment figures for the Business Ethics stream of the MPhil Programme, which attests to both the excellent reputation of the Programme, but also the increasing market demand for business ethics education.

Due to capacity constraints, we were forced to cap the 2019 intake (29 students were enrolled), and we were thus unable to accommodate all applicants (in excess of 50). We also appealed to the Dean for funding for external supervision, which was granted as a once-off measure.

In future, we shall need to screen applicants more stringently so as to avoid over-extending, and potentially compromising the quality of our offering.

The Business Ethics stream is administered and taught by Dr Woermann, with assistance from Prof Rossouw and Dr Engelbrecht. The blend of practice-based insights and academic inputs ensures the relevance of this offering.

* 1. **Undergraduate teaching:**
  + Philosophy and Ethics 314 (approx. 320 students) (Dr S. Hall; Dr D.J. Louw);
  + Philosophy and Ethics 474 (approx. 250 students) (Dr S. Hall; Dr D.J. Louw).

In 2019, the Philosophy and Ethics modules will be reduced from a semester to a term, at the behest of the Engineering Faculty.

* 1. **Additional teaching**
* Dr Engelbrecht lectured as part of a short course on “Practice and Fraud Risk Management” for the North-West University (aimed at students in Commercial Forensic Practice).
* Dr Engelbrecht was invited to present guest lectures as follows:
  + “The Basis of Trust: Ethics & the Forensic Investigator” at North-West University for undergraduate students in Forensic Accounting;
  + “Predictably Unethical: Ethics & the Role of the Internal Auditor” at North-West University for pregraduate students in Internal Audit;
  + “Ethics and Fraud Risk Management” at the University of Pretoria for post-graduate students in Forensic Accounting.
* For purposes of skills development for boards of directors, Dr Engelbrecht presented at a series of Audit Committee Forums on “Who is responsible for ethics?”.
* Dr Woermann again taught in the PGD Programme in Future Studies, Institute for Future Studies, University of Stellenbosch Business School (subjects: complexity thinking and business ethics).
* As part of the preparation for a Philosophical Retreat for Business Executives, Dr Woermann twice presented a talk on the topic, ‘What is the Good Life?’ – once to a group of USB MBA students, and once to a group of academic staff and business executives.

1. **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**
   1. **Completed PhD projects**

* Andrade, J.A.: ‘Am I my brother’s keeper? Poverty, supererogation and infinite responsibility’, PhD (Philosophy), December 2018. Supervisor: Dr M. Woermann.
  1. **Completed MPhil projects (*cum laudes* indicated with an asterisk)**
* Smit, A.T.\*: ‘Management as communicative action: Habermasian perspectives on the quest for responsible management education’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, March 2019. Supervisor: Dr M. Woermann.
* Marais, A.F.\*: ‘A critical evaluation of the justification of discrimination in risk underwriting in the life insurance industry in South Africa’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, March 2019. Supervisor: Dr M. Woermann.
* Horwitz, J.: ‘Exploring the Ethics of Outsourced Labour in Post-Apartheid South Africa’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, March 2019. Supervisor: Dr M. Woermann.
* Hoepfl, K.\*: ‘Conceptualising ecological sustainability: Issues, values and challenges’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, March 2019. Supervisor: Dr M. Woermann; co-supervisor: Prof J.P. Hattingh.
* Douglas, T.S.: ‘Towards inclusive and responsible technological innovation systems’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, March 2019. Supervisor: Dr M. Woermann
* Botha, S.: ‘Bridging the gap: Towards ethical consumerism’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, December 2018.

1. **SERVICE DELIVERY**
   1. **Designations**

* Ms Groenewald continued in her position as President of the Business Ethics Network Africa (BEN-Africa) and as chairperson of BEN Africa’s EXCO.
* Dr Engelbrecht participated in the GIBS Think Tank to develop a South African version of the “Ethics Barometer” – an instrument for measuring “ethics” within organisations.
  1. **Awards**
* Dr Woermann applied for a *Consolidoc* (i.e. a six-month post-doctoral position) on behalf of her recently graduated student, Dr Andrade. The *Consolidoc* was awarded, and during the first semester of 2019, Dr Andrade will convert his PhD manuscript into a book monograph to be published by Springer.
* Dr Woermann received the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence.
  1. **Representation on editorial boards**
* Prof. Rossouw continued to serve on the editorial boards of the following journals: Journal of Business Ethics; African Journal of Business Ethics; Turkish Journal of Business Ethics.
  1. **Committee membership**
* Dr Woermann continued to represent the CAE on the governing committees of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa; University of Stellenbosch Business School (since 2012).
* In her capacity as a business ethicist, Dr Woermann also continues to serve on the Board of the NPO, HOPE Cape Town (HIV Outreach Prevention and Education), which is affiliated with the Tygerberg campus of Stellenbosch University.
  1. **Examination, reviews and moderation**
* Dr Engelbrecht acted as internal examiner of two MPhil (Applied Ethics) theses*.*
* Dr Woermann acted as:
  + External examiner of a PhD candidate from the University of Oulu Business School, Finland.
  + External moderator for the ‘Business Ethics’ Masters module at St Augustine College of South Africa (2017).
  + Internal moderator for the ‘Ethics and Governance’ Masters module, presented by the Centre for Corporate Governance; University of Stellenbosch Business School (since 2013).

**UNIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

1. **Research** 
   1. **Research Outputs**
      1. **Publications**
2. Charles Mpofu, Thabiso John Morodi, Johan Petrus Hattingh, 2018. Governance and socio-political issues in management of acid mine drainage in South Africa. **WATER POLICY**, Volume 20, Issue 1. Available Online 31 August 2017, wp2017068; DOI: 10.2166/wp.2017.068
3. Mpofu Charles, Morodi Thabiso John, and Hattingh Johan Petrus, 2018. A Case Study of Stakeholder Perceptions of the History, Management, and Decision-Making Approaches About Acid Mine Drainage in South Africa**. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**. Vol. 11, No. 2. Available online December 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2017.0024>
   * 1. **Other publications**
4. Seeliger, L., Horn, A. and Kloppers, W. 2018. Breede River environment plan taking shape. Popular article published in *Water Wheel*, a publication of the Water Research Council.
   * 1. **Conference papers**
5. Hattingh, JP. Climate change ethics in the context of a national policy response to climate change: The case of South Africa, **Day Seminar on Ethics and Climate Change in Africa**, Department of Philosophy, University of Johannesburg, 7 September 2018.
6. Hattingh, JP. Preliminary thoughts on climate change ethics education and its possible modalities in global, regional, national and sub-national contexts, paper read at the **6th Conference of the International Association of Ethics Education**, 3-5 October, Spier Hotel, Stellenbosch, South Africa

**1.2 Current Research**

1. Prof. Johan Hattingh is continuing with his research in different areas of environmental ethics, focusing on the interface between, and overlap of environmental ethics, climate change ethics, and development ethics.
2. Dr. Leanne Seeliger, Research Fellow of the Unit for Environmental Ethics works in the area of water ethics, and the ethics of sense of place.
   1. She received funding from the Water Research Commission for a two-year research project on the topic of *Water Issues in Ethical Perspective: A pilot study in the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA)*. Work on this project, including fieldwork in Philippi started in May 2018.
   2. Dr. Seeliger also prepared a research project in collaboration with international partners on the topic of *Restoring Ethical Water Management in South African Townships: A Pilot Project in Khayamandi*. This project did start in July 2018.
3. Prof. Louise du Toit is continuing with her research into environmental philosophy (or ‘philosophy of nature’) in which she focuses on environmental issues from a humanities’, and more specifically, from a phenomenological perspective. In this regard the field of traditional ‘environmental ethics’ is broadened to incorporate fundamental philosophical questions related to fields such as epistemology, metaphysics, ontology, and theology.
4. Dr. Tristen Taylor held a Postdoc for 2017-18 with Prof. Louise du Toit as host, working “Toward an African Eco-feminist Approach to Women, Environment, Development and Poverty”.
5. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**
   1. **Doctoral Projects Completed**
6. LYAKURWA, M.F. *Towards an approach to environmental ethics responsive to environmental challenges on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro*. Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. Co-supervisor: Dr. Sirkku Hellsten, Philosophy Section, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Docent of Social and Moral Philosophy at the University of Helsinki. (Graduated in April 2019.) Dr. Hellsten sadly passed away during the course of 2018 when Mr. Lyakurwa was in the final stages of his dissertation.
   1. **Ongoing Doctoral Projects**
7. CRUISE, A.J. Conserving the wildness of being: An ethical critique of the domestication of wild animals.PhD (Philosophy). Supervisor: Prof. Louise du Toit. (Expected date of graduation: December 2019.)
8. HAGAN, K. Non-human life and the development of superintelligence: Moral challenges and responsibilities. PhD (Applied Ethics). Supervisors: Dr Susan Hall and Prof Johan Hattingh.
   1. **Master’s Projects Completed**
9. SEWPERSHAD, P. *Environment, ethics and religion: Can religious philosophies enhance environmental ethics?* MPhil (Environmental Management), University of Stellenbosch. December 2018. Supervisor: Dr Susan Hall.
10. RICKENS, E.W. *A critical analysis of the discursive strategies for circulating climate change denial.* M.Phil. (Sustainable Development) (in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences). Supervisor: Prof. J.P. Hattingh. (Graduated: April 2019).

**2.4 Ongoing Master’s Projects**

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1. MOSWANE, M. *The Land Ethic applied*. MPhil (Environmental Ethics). Supervisor: Dr. Susan Hall.
2. VAN DER MERWE, C. *The contribution of corporate environmental codes of conduct to sustainable development in the mining sector.* Supervisor: Dr. Susan Hall.
3. OLIVIER, J. *Fragility of Natures on the Civic Threshold* (M.Phil Environmental Ethics). Supervisors: Proff. Louise du Toit and Johan Hattingh.
4. STEYN, A. *African relational environmentalism: An application to the smallholder agricultural sector of Sub-Saharan Africa*. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr Susan Hall. [Submitted for examination in March 2019].

**2.5 M.Phil in Environmental Management**

Prof. Hattingh is member of an interfaculty Programme Committee that has launched a MPhil Programme in Environmental Management in January 2001 (which has since then been adapted to a Postgraduate Diploma Programme in order to comply with University stipulations about postgraduate programmes. Departments participating in the programme are Philosophy (Environmental Ethics), Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Public and Development Administration, Public Law, and Conservation Ecology. Since December 2002 a steady stream of students graduated from this progrLouisam.

Within the framework of this programme Prof. Hattingh, Prof. Du Toit and Dr Hall took responsibility for a module in Environmental Ethics in various years.

**2.6 M.Phil. in Sustainable Development**

In February 2003 the Sustainability Institute under the leadership of Prof. Mark Swilling and Ms. Eve Annecke launched an innovative MPhil Programme in Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Department of Public and Development Management of the University of Stellenbosch. Having been part of the team planning the Programme, Prof. Hattingh is currently one of the co-teachers in the module on Leading Transitions and Socio-ecological Ethics. This module was taught again in 2018.

**2.7 Membership of Editorial Boards**

1. Prof. Hattingh currently serves on the Editorial Board of *Journal for Ethics Education* (This is a Springer online journal that was recently established by Prof. Henk ten Have, Director of the Center for Healthcare Ethics, Duquesne Universiteit, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was invited to become member of Editorial Board in 2011, and the Journal was established in 2012.)

**2.8 Research Fellows**

1. Dr. Leanne Seeliger: Water Institute, Stellenbosch University.
2. Dr. Almas Mazigo: Department of History, Political Science and Development Studies, Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**2.9 Other activities**

*Prof Johan Hattingh*

1. Served on a NRF Panel to assess applications for two SARCHI Chairs on Waste and Climate Change. (January 2018)
2. Review a Springer manuscript on bioethics in Africa: *African Perspectives on Ethics for Healthcare Professionals.* (Editors: Nico Cronjé, Willem A Hoffmann, and Jo-Celene de Jongh). (345 pages and 19 chapters)
3. Present a three-day workshop for the Department of Philosophy at Chancellors College, University of Malawi, on the general topic of Empirical Methods in Applied Ethics. Fifteen students and 4 staff members attended. (11-13 September 2018)
4. Convenor and participant of a UNESCO Panel on the Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change and Ethics Education at the 6th Conference of the International Association of Ethics Education, Spier Hotel, 4 October 2018.

Johan Hattingh, Louise du Toit, Susan Hall, Leanne Seeliger

15 April 2019