CENTRE FOR APPLIED ETHICS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

1. **ABOUT THE CENTRE: GENERAL REMARKS**
   1. **What the Centre is: new development**

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 four units, viz. the Unit for Bioethics, the Unit for Environmental Ethics, the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity and – since 2019 - a Unit for Political and Social Ethics, better known as PROSPER: “Promoting Social and Political Ethics Research”. At the time of writing this report (June 2021), the possibility of creating a fifth unit – a Unit for Technological/Artificial Intelligence Ethics (eventual name yet to be decided) – is being investigated.

* 1. **Revised Constitution**

The revised constitution of the Centre has been operational since 2019.

* 1. **Succession Plan**

The current director (de facto founder) of the Centre, prof. AA van Niekerk, has been invited by Stellenbosch University to postpone his retirement until the age of 70. That will occur at the end of 2023, health permitting. It is necessary and important that the issue of his succession as director of the Centre be investigated in a rational and efficacious manner. Since:

* the Centre is a creation of the Philosophy Department (and not the other way round);
* all personnel of the Department are also personnel of the Centre, and
* the director of the Centre may facilitate the training of his successor, but cannot be part of the decision-making process for a successor,

the initiative for such a succession plan rests within the department. The Management Committee of the Centre therefore strongly advises that the Philosophy Department, if necessary in consultation with the Dean, take the required steps in this regard. The constitution of the Centre currently requires that the Chair of the Philosophy Department or his/her representative acts as director of the Centre. The management committee recommends that this matter be discussed in the department and that the committee be advised accordingly.

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. 1-9**

**Report of the Unit for Bioethics pp. 10-**

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

**Report of the Unit for Environmental Ethics: pp.**

**Report of the Unit Promoting Social and Political Ethics Research (PROSPER): pp.**

1. **GOVERNING BODY 2020**

Prof. **P Fourie** (Representative of the Centre for International and Comparative Politics; **chair of the Management Committe**e), Prof. **AJ Leysens** (Dean), Prof. **AA van Niekerk** (Director of the Centre and Head: Unit for Bioethics), **Prof. M Woermann** (Chair, Philosophy Department and Head: Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity), Prof. **JP Hattingh**, Head: Unit for Environmental Ethics (from 1 January 2021 replaced by prof. **HL du Toit**, new Head of the Unit for Environmental Ethics), **Prof. B.W. Watson,** representative of the Centre for Knowledge Management and Decision-making), Prof. **Mariana Kruger** (Representative of the Faculty of Medicine and 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), Mr **Martin Rossouw**, representative of the Centre’s main sponsor, prof. **Vasti Roodt** (Head of PROSPER) and prof. **Petrie Meyer** (Representative of the Faculty of Engineering).

In 2019, **prof. Pieter Fourie** acted as **chair of the Management Committee of the Centre**. The Director strongly recommends that he be re-appointed for a term of two years (i.e. until end of 2022).

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 refereed, accredited journals)**

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. “The Ethics of Responsibility: Fallibilism, Futurity and Phronesis”, ***Stellenbosch Theological Journal\****, vol. 6, no. 1, 2020:
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Building the future in the 21st century: In conversation with Yuval Noah Harari”, in: C. Jones & J. van den Heever: Building blocks of the future. ***Hervormde Teologiese Studies\*,*** Special Collection Building Blocks 2020, vol. 76, Issue 1: 1-10. [https://hts.org.za/index.php/hts/article/view/6058](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhts.org.za%2Findex.php%2Fhts%2Farticle%2Fview%2F6058&data=04%7C01%7C%7C4adef0621ec343ec266408d88d4c121b%7Ca6fa3b030a3c42588433a120dffcd348%7C0%7C0%7C637414705148245615%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gQC3btHITsBkTboBcuDCjyJb8pyRdH1ibsSaklrew1U%3D&reserved=0)

**3.1.2 Book Chapters**

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. 2020.“The Rorty – Habermas debate: a critical assessment”, in: A Malachowski (ed.): ***A Companion to Rorty***. Wiley, 2020. (Chapter 23), pp. 395-409.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. “What is the shape of future ethics?” in: J.A. van den Berg (ed.): ***Engaging the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Perspectives from Theology, Philosophy and Education. Bloemfontein: Sun Press,*** 2020, pp. 113-134.

**3.1.3 Other publications (indicative of the social impact of the Centre)**

From January 2019, prof. van Niekerk was invited by the Media Group *Netwerk 24* (as well as their newspapers *Die Burger, Beeld* and *Volksblad*) to write a column every two weeks on whatever he finds topical, particularly (though not exclusively) in relation to ethics matters. The articles below are a selection of these fortnightly columns written in 2020. The Centre for Applied Ethics was mostly indicated as Van Niekerk’s institutional affiliation.

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Oor die wonder van tyd”, ***Die Burger***, 7 January 2020, p. 11; (“Lewe is nie net gejaag na wind”, ***Beeld***, 7 January 2020, p. 18). [About the wonder of time; Life is not mere empty pursuit].
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Waar trek jy die (morele – ***Beeld***) streep?”, ***Die Burger*** & ***Beeld***, 21 January 2020, pp. 11 & 8. [Where do you draw the (moral) line?]
3. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Stop dadelik [nóú] alle ontgroening”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 11), ***Beeld*** (p. 8) & ***Volksblad***, (p. 7), 4 February 2020. [Stop all initiation nów]
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. “As jy hunker na wit diktatuur, verlaat liewer die land”, Interview with Willemien Brümmer (on 30th commemoration of Nelson Mndela’s release from prison), ***Netwerk 24***, 11 February 2020.
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Pad van selfvernietiging” ***Die Burger***, 18 February 2020, p. 11 (Is SA op tog van selfvernietiging?, ***Beeld***, p. 8), [Road of self-destruction]
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Basta met fieterjasies, apartheid was misdaad teen mensdom (Interview with Willemien Brümmer), ***Netwerk 24***, 18 February 2020. [To hell with particulars, apartheid was crime against humanity]

<https://www.netwerk24.com/Stemme/Aktueel/basta-met-fieterjasies-apartheid-was-misdaad-teen-mensdom-20200218>

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Apartheid wás [‘n – ***Volksblad***, p. 7] misdaad”. ***Die Burger***, 19 February 2020, p. 11 [“Apartheid nie volksmoord”, ***Beeld***, p. 11]. Interview with Willemien Brümmer. [Apatheid was a crime/not a genocide]
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Wen middelgrond terug!”, ***Die Burger***, 3 March 2020, p. 11. (Middelgrond verdwyn in SA, ***Beeld***, 3 March 2020, p. 8) [Bring centre back!]
3. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Drankverbod nie deurdink”, ***Die Burger***, 17 March 2020, p. 11. (“Drankverbod: US moet weer dink”, ***Beeld***, 17 March 2020, p. 8) [Liquor ban not thought through]
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Pes sal ons nie onderkry, ***Die Burger***, 31 March 2020, p. 15 (“Pes wat in de donker wandel, ***Beeld***, p. 8; “Pes sal ons nie onderkry”, ***Volksblad***, p. 9) [Pest will not conquer us]
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Sluit die afsluiting nou af”, ***Die Burger***, 14 April 2020, p. 11 (Also ***Volksblad***, p. 9 & “Die afsluiting van die afsluiting?, ***Beeld***, p. 10) [Lock down the lockdown]
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Risiko is nodig, president”, ***Die Burger***, 28 April 2020, p. 11 (“Cyril moet besef risiko in nodig”, ***Beeld***, p. 10) [Risk is necessary, mr President]
7. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Dlamini-Zuma en Cele moet besef ons is nie kinders nie”, Interview with Willemien Brümmer on ***Netwerk 24***, 4 May 2020. [Dlamini-Zuma and Cele must realise we are not children]
8. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Maskers van die vrees”, ***Die Burger***, 12 May 2020,p. 11(***Volksblad,*** p. 9; “Virus maak plek vir nuwe vrees”, ***Beeld,*** p. 8;) [Masks of fear]
9. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Veg om nuut te begin”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 11); ***Volksblad*** (p.9); “In rou gedompel deur Staliniste”, ***Beeld*** (p.8), 26 August 2020. [Fight to start anew; Drowned in grief by Stalinists]
10. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Om die dood te hanteer”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 11); ***Beeld***, (p. 9), ***Volksblad***, p. 9. 2 June 2020 [To handle death] (Forum article)
11. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Hou universiteite lewend”, ***Die Burger,*** 9 June 2020 (p. 11), (”Leer is meer as staar na skerm”, ***Beeld***, p. 8). [Keep universities alive; Learning is more than staring at screen].
12. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Humanity: the dialectic of achievement and failure”, ***Website of Philosophy Department***, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, 2020.
13. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Word wakker, Suid-Afrika”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 11), and ***Volksblad*** (p. 9), 23 June 2020. (“Uiteindelik ‘n stem van rede”, ***Beeld***, p. 8). [Wake up, SA; At last a voice of reason]
14. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Covid se tyd gaan verby”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 11); “Vir alles ‘n tyd, ook vir Covid 19, ***Beeld***, (p. 8), 7 July 2020. [Covid’s time will pass]
15. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Respek is al wat ons vra” 21 Julie 2020, ***Die Burger*** (p. 11); ***Volksblad*** (p. 9); “Behandel ons tog met respek”, ***Beeld*** (p.8). [Please treat us with respect]
16. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Voorbeeld van moraliteit”, ***Die Burger***, p. 11; “Piedt: ‘n beeld vaan moraliteit”, ***Beeld***, p. 8. 4 August 2020 [David Piedt: Example of morality]
17. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Veg vir hierdie vryhede”, ***Die Burger***, 18 August 2020, p. 11. (“Ons moet veg vir dié vryhede, ***Beeld***, p. 8; “Veg vir hierdie vryhede, ***Volksblad***, p. 7) [Fight for these freedoms]
18. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Onthou Andringastraat”, ***Die Burger***, p. 13, (Hoe billik is dit teenoor rektor? ***Beeld***, p. 8) 1 September 2020. [Remember Andringa Street; How fair is it to rector?]
19. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Bly weg vn doodstraf”, ***Die Burger***, 15 September 2020, p. 11 (“Moet doodstraf ingestel word?”, ***Beeld***, p. 8). [Stay away from capital punishment]
20. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Die mens nie outonoom?”, ***Die Burger***, 29 September 2020, p. 15 (“So is ons almal dubbele agente, ***Beeld***, p. 8) [Man not autonomous?; So we are all double agents]
21. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Moraliteit, etiek en reg verskil so”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 10) en ***Beeld*** (p. 8), 13 Oktober 2020. [How morality, ethics and law differ]
22. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Kan ‘homo civis’ in SA herleef?”, ***Die Burger*** (p. 9) en ***Beeld*** (p. 8), 27 October 2020. [Can ‘homo civis’ be resurrected in SA?]
23. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Nuwe Bybel is g’n ‘papierpous’”, 10 November 2020. ***Die Burger***, p. 10, , ***Beeld***, p. 8, “Ook nuwe Bybelteks is g’n ‘papierpous’ nie”, ***Volksblad***, p. 9. [New Bible is no “paper pope”]
24. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Ons nagmerrie moet nou wyk”, ***Die Burger*** (p.14) & ***Beeld*** (p. 12), 24 November 2020. [Terminate our nightmare]
25. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Tyd om Malema te begin glo…”, 8 December 2020, ***Die Burger***, p. 10; ***Beeld*** & ***Volksblad***, p. 8 [Time to start believing Malema]
26. Van Niekerk, A.A. “Om sonder God, met God te leef”. ***Die Burger***, ***Beeld***, 22 December 2020, p. 10 [To live without God, with God]
    * 1. **Publications in Press (for 2021)**

Van Niekerk, A.A. “Structural violence”, in C Jones. ***Violence: South African Perspectives***. Stellenbosch: Sun Media, 2021.

Van Niekerk, A.A. “Knowledge, science and rationality: In conversation with Wentzel van Huyssteen”. ***Verbum et Ecclesia\****. Ref number 2306. ISSN: 1609-9982, E-ISSN: 2074-7705, 2021.

**3.1.5 Completed Master’s Thesis**

Du Plessis, D. : *Is life to be taken seriously****?*** MA, March 2020, 104 pp. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk

**3.2 Presentations**

**At International Conferences**

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ethics of responsibility: fallibilism, futurity and phronesis*. Seminar on Ethics of Responsibility, hosted by Centre for Applied Ethics and Dawid de Villiers Memorial Lectures, STIAS, Stellenbosch, 17 January 2020.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Decolonisation as legitimate and appropriate value in biomedical research and teaching*. Invited as one of the Stellenbosch University speakers in an international online seminar.  The Africa Centre for Scholarship, in Stellenbosch University International division, co-hosted this seminar with the Durham University Research Methods Centre. It took place on 9 December 2020.

**At National Conferences and other events**

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Oor vallende bome en raaskop-filosowe*. Philosophy Café, Toyota SU Woordfees, 9 March 2020.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Robotte wat raas: Kunsmatige Intelligensie in God se wêreld*. Resonans Gespreksreeks, Toyota SU Woordfees, 12 March 2020,
3. **SOCIAL IMPACT**

As is usual, there were a number of occasions during which the director participated in radio and television programs. The following can be noted (in all cases, prof. van Niekerk participated or was interviewed):

* ***Monitor***, RSG, interview with Anita Visser on genocide, apartheid, FW de Klerk and crimes against humanity. 17 February 2020.
* ***Monitor***, RSG, interview with Anita Visser & Gustav Greyling on AI and history of the future. Toyota SU Woordfees special broadcast, 10 March 2020.
* ***Sondagjoernaal***, RSG, interview with Lizelle de Bruin about communication in time of COVID 19 pandemic, 19 April 2020.
* ***Radio Pretoria FM***. Interview with Elsje van Jaarsveld about philosophical aspects of COVID 19 pandemic, 21 April 2020.
* ***Monitor***, RSG. Interview with Anita Visser and Gustav Greyling about the significance of Freedom Day during the COVID 19 Lockdown, 27 April 2020.
* ***Spektrum***, RSG. Interview with Suzanne Paxton about a stifling intellectual climate, as discussed by Harper Magazine’s “A letter on justice and open debate” (Edition: 7 July 2020). Broadcast on 8 July 2020.
* ***Uit ‘n ander hoek***, RSG. Interview vir Jean Oosthuizen. Difficult questions about the alleged “providence of God”. 19 July 2020.
* Netwerk 24 Podsendings, ***Netwerk 24***. Gesprek: Wie kry die laaste ventilator? 21 July 2020. [Who gets the last ventilator?]
* ***Radio Pulpit***, Discussion of claim to “life after death”. Facilitator: Jannie Pelzer. 2 August 2020.
* ***Prontuit*** (on KykNet TV), interview with Kabous Meiring on death and the process of grieving.
* Interview with Kobus Bester TV Programme. The year 2020 in review. ***You Tube***. [https://youtu.be/dgLBl8e1Qgc](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FdgLBl8e1Qgc&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cd6af97e2f8c1480ce6c108d89f5bed7b%7Ca6fa3b030a3c42588433a120dffcd348%7C0%7C0%7C637434564702927521%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=JP8UOoUl%2FVXKVCrXfS%2BwZ3UVmR8rFwg9hONnD0pfgQY%3D&reserved=0), 11 December 2020.
* Interview with John Maytham on ethics of Covid vaccine distribution, ***Cape Talk***, 30 December 2020.

1. **TEACHING**

In 2020, the Centre again offered the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics. The first two week session was offered in the usual manner with the students (a record number of 25) attainting intensive lectures for two weeks. Then came COVID 19 at the end of March, with the result that the offering of the second lecture series, in early Augus (t, had to be transformed into an inline mode of instruction. We luckily had, at that stage, some experience of online teaching to our undergraduate students. The online mode of delivery is hardly entirely satisfactory in an academic context, but nevertheless proceeded quite well and with few serious glitches. (The pattern was to use Teams for the offering of Power Point Slides, with added opportunities for questions and discussion.) The MPhil offering for the first lecture series in 2021 had the same format. We hope to move to face-to-face teaching in the second MPhil lecture series in August 2021. Overall, we were quite satisfactory with the performance of the PG Dip students’ assessments. Twenty eight (28) students were accepted into this program, of which 24 graduated.

Prof. Woermann, Prof. Smit and Dr. Hall 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.

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

**6.1 Seminar on Ethics of Responsibility**

On 17 January 2020, the Centre hosted a day seminar at STIAS together with the Dawid de Villiers Trust on the topic of the *Ethics of Resonsibility*. Proff. Anton van Niekerk and Etienne de Villiers, the two organisers of the seminar, together with a number of other acclaimed academics, delivered papers and/or responses to papers. One of these participants was the internationally acclaimed prof. Hans Huber of the Goethe Institute in Berlin, Germany. Most of these papers were published later in 2020 in a special edition of the accredited Stellenbosch Theological Journal. The seminar was generally rated as a significant success. The Centre carried half of the costs of the day. About 25 people were invited and attended.

**6.2 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.

**6.2.1 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.

In the course of 2020, the infamous issue of the controversial “article” was brought to a satisfactory conclusion with the support of the SREC.

The most challenging issue in the field of research ethics during 2020 was the continuance of research on human subjects in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic. This matter commanded most of the time spent in meetings of this committee.

* Prof. van Niekerk is a member of the governing board of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law (CMEL) in the FMHS.
* Prof. van Niekerk concluded his service as member of the Committee for Biosafety and Biosecurity of ASSAf - the Academy of Sciences of SA. His last meeting in this committee was on 25 February 2020. He received a letter of sincere appreciation for serving on this committee for more than 10 years and actively participating in the writing of a voluminous report on the state of biosafety and biosecurity in SA.
* 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 as vice-chair of Research Ethics Committee for Social, Behavioural and Education Research (REC: SBE).
* Dr Hall served as external member on the Governance and Ethics Committee of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

**6.2.2 Visitors to the Centre in 2019**

The following scholar visited the Centre and delivered guest lectures in the course of 2019:

* Prof. Jan van der Dusen of the Free University in the Netherlands visited the Centre and delivered a lecture on 18 February 2020. He is an expert on the work of the English philosopher R.C. Collingwood.
* Due to the travel and social gathering restrictions brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic, no other scholars visited the Centre in 2020.

**6.2.3 Personnel**

The Centre is privileged that dr Andrea Palk, who completed a Post Doc Fellowship at UCT, was appointed as a lecturer in the Philosophy Department in the course of 2020. As a former temporary lecturer and research assistant in the Unit for Bioethics, shewill add considerable value to the functioning of the Centre.

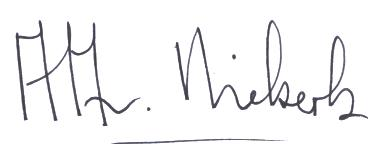
Ms Sarah Gardner was in 2020 appointed as a research assistant in the Centre and Unit for Bioethics.

Prof. van Niekerk was invited to serve on the committee for the appointment of the new Chair of the Philosophy Department at the University of Pretoria. Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem was consequently appointed after an online interview with the committee.

1. **Sponsorship**

Mediclinic’s highly appreciated sponsorship of R200 000 per year continued in 2020. Assurance was also given that the sponsorship will continue in 2021. We thank Mediclinic, 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. PP Fourie Prof.. A.A. van Niekerk

Chair: Governing Body Director: Centre for Applied Ethics

**UNIT FOR BIOETHICS**

### Annual Report 2020

**1. RESEARCH**

**Completed research projects**

1. *Decolonisation as legitimate ideal in biomedical research (AA van Niekerk)* Article in accredited journal published.
2. *What is the shape of future ethics? (AA van Niekerk)* Book chapter published
3. *A utilitarian argument for developing new genetic technologies in an African context, with special reference to Kenya.* (T Obengo). PhD project completed; candidate graduated in April 2020. 150 pp.
4. *Who’s morality, who’s burden? Family planning, international development and grandstanding*. (R Thetard) MPhil (cum laude) completed, March 2020, 182 pp.
5. *Human embryonic stem cell research in transplantation and regenerative medicine: A principlist assessment*. (D Kidha Kidha), MPhil (cum laude) completed March 2020, 137pp.
6. *Is life to be taken seriously?* MA (cum laude) completed, March 2020, 104 pp.
7. *Building the future: In conversation with Yuval Noah Harari* (AA van Niekerk) Book chapter published.

**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, S Gardner)
2. *The morality of the idea of unlimited longevity*. (L. Franken)Work on this PhD project is progressing well.
3. *Bio-banking in Sub-Saharan Africa: potential cultural challenges, their philosophical underpinnings and management*. (F Rakotsoane), PhD project (interrupted for one year).
4. *Shared decision-making and neo-liberalism: the origins and unintended consequences of patient-centred care.* (B Gray). PhD project.
5. *What will a future ethics look like*? (AA van Niekerk)
6. *The ethics of responsibility* (AA van Niekerk)
7. Models of clinical ethics consultation services in SA: a critical appraisal (S. Kling; PhD project)
8. **RESEARCH OUTPUTS**
   1. **Articles in peer-reviewed journals; (\*) indicates accredited journals**
9. Ewuoso, C. 2019. ‘Addressing the Conflict between Partner Notification and Patient Confidentiality in Serodiscordant Relationships: How Can Ubuntu Help?’ *Developing World Bioethics*\*. Early view online version available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/dewb.12232>
   1. **Book**

De Roubaix, M. 2020. *Hoop, heling en harmonie: Dink nuut oor siekte en genesing*. Cape Town: Penguin, 312pp.

* 1. **Book chapter**
  2. **Publications in press (for 2021)**

Van Niekerk, A.A. “Intersex rights and human rights” (with B Earp et al - The Brussels Collaboration on Bodily Integrity). ***The*** ***American Journal of Bioethics***, 2021. In Press.

* 1. **Papers delivered at scientific conferences, seminars and/or other meetings**

**International**

Prof. van Niekerk was/is invited as a key-note speaker to the 16th Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation, to be held at Spier, district of Cape Town, in December 2020. Because of Covid this event had to be postponed twice that time, and will now occur in December 2021.

**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 2019, and will again be offered in 2021. A group of 12 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).

1. 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.
2. Prof. van Niekerk, seconded by Dr. Hall, assists with the teaching of Medical Ethics to MB ChB second as well as fifth year students.
3. **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:

* 1. **Completed Doctoral Dissertations**

1. T Obengo: *A Utilitarian Assessment of the Relevance of Genetic Therapies for HIV-AIDS in Africa, with Special Reference to the Situation in Kenya*. PhD, 150 pp. April 2020. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk
   1. **Completed Masters Theses**
2. R Thetard: *Who’s morality, who’s burden? Family planning, international development and grandstanding*. MPhil (cum laude), March 2020, 182 pp. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
3. D. Kidha Kidha, *Human embryonic stem cell research in transplantation and regenerative medicine: A principlist assessment*. MPhil (cum laude), March 2020, 137 pp. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
4. D. Du Plessis: *Is life to be taken seriously?* MA (cum laude), March 2020, 104 pp. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
5. H.E. Potgieter: *The* *Authenticity of Informed Consent in Anaesthesia:*

*Ethical Reflection on the Dilemma of Informed Consent in Anaesthesia*. (cum laude) March 2020, 145 pp. Supervisor: Dr. M. de Roubaix.

1. MGM van Niekerk: *Moral problems associated with paediatric deafness*. MPhil, December 2020, 106 pp. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk
2. M Moolman: *Allowing the aged autonomy to act or abstain: ethical considerations related to invasive medical procedures in the elderly.* MPhil, December 2020, 115 pp. Superpvisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
   1. **Continuing doctoral projects**
3. Franken, L. *Morality and immortality: assessing the ethical implications of the idea of radical life extension*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
4. Nyamadzawo, E. *Health Technology Assessment: applied and professional ethics perspectives*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
5. Kling, S. *Models of clinical ethics services in SA: a critical appraisal*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk; Co-supervisor: Prof. K Moodley.
6. Gray, B. *Shared decision-making and neo-liberalism: the origins and unintended consequences of patient-centred care*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk
7. Rakotsoane, F. *Bio-banking in Sub-Saharan Africa: potential cultural challenges, their philosophical underpinnings and management*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk (Interrupted for one year)
8. Heyman, S. *Moral perspectives on suicide*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.

**4.4 Continuing Master’s projects**

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. Lotz, J. *Ethical issues related to perinatal hypoxicischemic injury.* MPhil. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
10. 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.
11. Mafanya, A. *Informed consent issues in Eastern Cape*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
12. Makola, N. *Moral issues in public health*. Supervisor: Dr. N Barsdorf.
13. Mapukata, M. *The role of nurses in end-of-life care*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.
14. Mashele, T.S. *An exploration of ethical challenges related to the management of drug resistant Tuberculosis in South Africa.* Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
15. Maswanganyi, J.V. *An exploration of the plausibility of human rights and communitarian approaches in guiding public health interventions.* Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
16. Michel, G. *On the moral permissibility of ‘wrongful life’*, Supervisor: Dr S Hall
17. Mkumbuzi, J. *A moral issue in dental therapy*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.
18. Mphelo, D. *Voluntary ceding of autonomy.* Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
19. Munkanda, W. The nurse educator’s perpective on ethics in nursing education: A Namibian case study. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
20. Ogunyinka, R. *Paternalism in Medical Ethics: An Evaluation.* Supervisor: Dr. S. Hall.
21. Patel, F. *The nature of the moral obligation underlying global bioethics*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
22. 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.
23. Rossouw, L. *Obtaining informed consent from vulnerable research participants in a disadvantaged SA community*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
24. Seedat, S. *Therapeutic prevention of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Ethical analysis and proposal of a bioethical framework*. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
25. Verwey, H. Enhancement as a legitimate goal of medicine: Understanding enhancement and therapy in the context of human wellbeing. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.

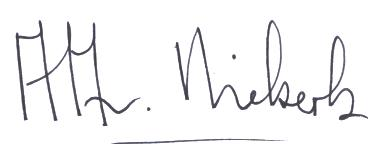
**5.OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIT**

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

The Unit has, with a sponsorship by Dr Edwin Hertzog and the Mediclinic Group, staged a bioethics event at the Woordfees for the past five years. In 2020 the topic was *Ethical concerns in the use of artificial intelligence in medicine*. The speaker was dr Susan Hall, and the event was facilitated by prof. van Niekerk. The attendance was a full house.

**6.2 The Bioethics Discussion Group**

Because of COVID 19, the Bioethics discussion group could not function during 2020.



**Prof. AA van Niekerk**

**(Head: Unit for Bioethics)**

**16 June 2020**

**UNIT FOR BUSINESS ETHICS AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

1. **RESEARCH (please note that some of these publications have been reported on in previous years as ‘forthcoming publications’)**
   1. **Dr Schalk Engelbrecht (Research Associate)**

* Opinion pieces
* “GBV and #MenAreTrash: Men should be seen and not heard”, Daily Maverick (Opinionista), 5 February 2020. Available at: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2020-02-05-gbv-and-menaretrash-men-should-be-seen-and-not-heard/ [Accessed: 7 June 2021]
* “Ethics and Covid-19: How to be good at the end of the world”, Daily Maverick (Opinionista), 15 April 2020. Available at: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2020-04-15-ethics-and-covid-19-how-to-be-good-at-the-end-of-the-world/ [Accessed: 7 June 2021]
* “The future of statues (and the statues of the future)”, Daily Maverick (Opinionista), 14 June 2020. Available at: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2020-06-14-the-future-of-statues-and-the-statues-of-the-future/ [Accessed: 7 June 2021]
* “Mourning during Covid-19: My mother is not a universal”, Daily Maverick (Opinionista), 9 July 2020. Available at: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2020-07-09-mourning-during-covid-19-my-mother-is-not-a-universal/ [Accessed: 7 June 2021]
* “Accounting Ethics: Why Character Matters”, Mail & Guardian, 1 October 2020. Available at: https://mg.co.za/special-reports/2020-10-01-accounting-ethics-why-character-matters/ [Accessed: 7 June 2021] – Also published in Accountancy SA (October 2020), Available at: http://magazine.accountancysa.org.za/publication/?i=675826 [Accessed 7 June 2021]
  1. **Ms Liezl Groenewald (Research Associate)**
* Opinion pieces
  + Citizens can help prevent graft through integrity and ethical choices, Oct 2020, Business Day.
  + Call to deal successfully with corruption in South Africa, Jan 2021, The Citizen.
* Handbook
  + Groenewald, L. 2020. Whistleblowing Management Handbook. Pretoria: The Ethics Institute.
  1. **Prof Deon Rossouw (Extraordinary Professor)**
* Handbook
* Rossouw D. & Van Vuuren, L. 2020. Code of Ethics Handbook. Pretoria: The Ethics Institute.
* Journal article
* Rossouw, G.J. 2020. The ethics of governance and the governance of ethics in the King Reports. *Journal of Global Responsibility*, 11(2): pp. 187-196.
  1. **Prof Minka Woermann (Unit Head)**
* Journal articles
  + Woermann, M. 2020. Postcolonial thinking and modes of being with others. *Etica & Politica / Ethics & Politics*, 22(3): 833-848.
  + Woermann, M. and Sanni. J. 2020. Ethnic and racial valorisation in Nigeria and South Africa: How Ubuntu may harm or help. *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 39(3): 296-307.
  + Mancilla-Garcia, M., Herz, T., Schlüter, M., Preiser, R., Woermann, M. 2020. Adopting process-relational perspectives to tackle the challenges of social-ecological systems research. *Ecology and Society*, (25)1: art. 29.
* Textbook chapter
  + Woermann, M. 2020. The components of ethical business. In P.J. Smit, M. Vrba and T. Botha. Management Principles 7th ed. Juta.
* Opinion pieces
  + Coordinator of the COVID-19 Reflection Series of the Philosophy Department, SU (July 2020)
    - Woermann, M. 2020. Challenging the hard distinction between the public and the private spheres in the time of Corona. COVID-19 Reflections Series, Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University. July 2020

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 2021. There was again a lot of interest in the Business Ethics stream of the MPhil Programme. The total number of students accepted into this programme for 2021 is 11.

In 2020, the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics was again offered. Prof Woermann and Prof van Niekerk assumed responsibility for the administration of this Programme. Despite some technical glitches regarding the migration to online learning, the Programme was concluded successfully.

* 1. **Undergraduate teaching:**
  + Philosophy and Ethics 314 (approx. 320 students) (Prof Hattingh);
  + Philosophy and Ethics 474 (approx. 250 students) (Prof Hattingh).

In 2020, the Philosophy and Ethics modules was reduced from a semester to a term, at the behest of the Engineering Faculty.

* 1. **Additional teaching and public engagements**
* **Dr Engelbrecht**
  + Continued as a lecturer for the short course “Practice and Fraud Risk Management” aimed at students in Forensic Accounting (a course presented by North-West University for the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners).
  + Developed and delivered a study unit on Data Ethics for the module Data Science 141 (hosted by the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Stellenbosch).
  + Was invited as a guest speaker / lecturer at the following events:
    - School of Accounting, Stellenbosch University – “Ethics & Accounting” (pre-graduate guest lecture), 5 March 2020
    - College of Accounting, University of Cape Town – “Ethics & Accounting” (pre-graduate guest lecture), 2 March 2020
    - Anti-intimidation & Ethical Practices Forum, “Professionals: In the front line on the fight against Corruption” (panel discussion), 23 July 2020
    - NWU Business School Think Tank, “The Political Will to Combat Corruption” (panel discussion with Mr Popo Molefe, Adv Dali Mpofu, Ms Pauli van Wyk, Dr Schalk Engelbrecht), 23 July 2020
    - Faculty of Law, North-West University, “The Consequences of Commerce: Business Ethics and the apocalypse” (pre-graduate guest lecture), 13 October 2020
    - Santam Fraud Week, “The Importance of Ethics” (guest speaker, online staff training), 27 October 2020
* **Ms Groenewald**
  + Guest/international lecturer
    - University of Applied Sciences, Management Centre Innsbruck (Austria) – Masters students – Whistleblowing.
    - University of Applied Sciences, Management Centre Innsbruck (Austria) – Bachelor students – Business Ethics and Applied Business Ethics.
    - Nelson Mandela University Business School - Applied Business Ethics (once off – not annual)
  + Conferences/forums
    - Unisa – Ethics Conference, May 2021, Whistleblowing and the whistleblower.
    - Chief Audit Executive Forum – Western Cape Government, Treasury, Whistleblowing Management.
  + Panels
    - Panel moderator: EuroISME 10th Annual Conference: Narratives in Urban Warfare
    - Panel moderator: BEN-Africa NMU Business School Strategic Conversation
    - Panellist: Whistleblowing – USB Alumni Fireside Conversation
    - Panellist: Whistleblowing – Coalition for Organisational Integrity
  + Radio interviews
    - Cathy Mohlahlana: SAFM: The Talking Point: “Is it enough for corporates to repay moneys they received from organisations that was involved in State Capture – with reference to McKinsey and Transnet”
    - Cathy Mohlahlana: SAFM: The Talking Point: Ethics in society
    - Smile 94.7: Dealing with corruption
    - Lynette Francis-Puren: Praat Saam – x5 – business and societal ethics related topics as well as ethical leadership
* **Prof Rossouw**
  + Lectured on the Corporate Governance Certificate Programme at University of Johannesburg.
  + Presented a guest lecture to students and staff at Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya
  + Made presentations at the following events:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Event |
| Beyond ethical compliance: the challenge of building ethical culture in organisations | Institute of Directors Webinar |
| Business Integrity: The Power of Collective Action | Launch of Coalition for Organisational Integrity (Mozambique) |
| Codes of Ethics | Launch of Nigeria IoD Codes of Ethics (Nigeria) |
| Collective Action for Advancing Business Integrity in Mozambique | Oil, Gas and Energy Forum of Coalition for Organisational Integrity (Mozambique) |
| Conflicts of Interest | Coalition for Organisational Integrity (Mozambique) |
| Ethics in a time of crisis | SAICA Leadership Series |
| Governance and/of Ethics | PWC Leadership Development Seminar |
| 2020 Social and Ethics Committee Trend Survey | Institute of Directors Webinar |
| King IV Practice Note on Social and Ethics Committees | Institute of Directors Webinar |

* **Prof Woermann**
  + Taught in the PGD Programme in Future Studies, Institute for Future Studeies, University of Stellenbosch Business School.

1. **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

In 2020, there were approximately 19 active MPhil thesis projects and one active PhD dissertation project (Liezl Groenewald) within the Unit.

Two of these thesis projects were concluded during 2020, and the students received their degrees in March 2021:

* Khubana, M.I.: ‘Crisis, opportunity & virtue: the role of virtue ethics in corporate crisis management’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), March 2021. Supervisor: A. Hartford
* Dall, Y.: ‘Incentives, Virtues and Big Data Organisations’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), University of Stellenbosch, March 2021. Supervisor: J.P. Hattingh.

A further six students submitted on 1 March 2021, and will receive their degrees in December 2021:

* Cornelissen, S.: ‘Transnational business corporations, human rights, and global justice’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), December 2021. Supervisor: M. Woermann.
* Dube, X.: ‘An assessment of the relationship between integrated reports and environmental, social and governance disclosures in the mining sector in South Africa’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), December 2021. Supervisor: M. Woermann.
* Makhura, P.: ‘A critical analysis of whether ethics and compliance functions should be combined or separated in organisations’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), December 2021. Supervisor: M. Woermann.
* Martin, M.R.: ‘Bitcoin Versus Fiat Currency: An Ethical Perspective’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), December 2021. Supervisor: J.P. Smit.
* Sefako, J.M.: ‘Towards responsible leadership within the South African National Parks’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), December 2021. Supervisor: M. Woermann.
* Seshoka, M.D.: ‘Blind loyalty in organisations: contributing factors and preventative measures. A theoretical analysis’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), December 2021. Supervisor: M. Woermann.

1. **SERVICE DELIVERY**
   1. **Appointments and designations**

* Ms Groenewald continues as President of the Business Ethics Network Africa (BEN-Africa) and as chairperson of BEN Africa’s EXCO.
* Prof Woermann was appointed as a member of the core expert team for developing a Code of Conduct for Stellenbosch University(August 2020 to September 2021).
* Dr Engelbrecht was appointed as an Extraordinary Associate Professor at North-West University’s School of Accounting Sciences (from 1 January 2020).
  + This is a teaching post; his research continues to be accredited to the Centre.
  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 and positions**
* **Dr Engelbrecht**
  + Dr Engelbrecht is a member of the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners (ICFP) Standards Committee, developing the attribute- and professional standards for members of the Institute.
  + As part of his role as Chief Ethics Officer, Dr Engelbrecht serves on KPMG South Africa’s Public Interest, Social and Ethics Committee as well as the Audit Quality Committee.
* **Ms Groenewald**
  + Advisory Board member – BEN-Africa
  + EXCO – BEN-Africa
  + Council member – CPUT
  + Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee – CPUT
  + Member of Council HR Committee – CPUT
  + Member of Council Senior Appointment Search and Selection Committee - CPUT
  + Member of Council Honorary Award Committee – CPUT
  + Cahir of Special Task Team of CPUT Council
  + Member of Inaugural Committee of the International Society for Military Ethics in Africa (Afro-ISME)
  + SA representative on global ISO technical working group on whistleblowing – ISO 37002
  + SA representative on global ISO technical working group on the governance of organisations – ISO 37000
  + SA representative of global ISO Technical Working Group 309 – Communication Advisory Group (this is the group responsible for advising on the communication methods/activities for ISO37000, 37001 and 37002
* **Prof Rossouw** 
  + Serves on the following boards and committees:
    - Executive director on the board of directors of The Ethics Institute
    - Member of the King Committee on Corporate Governance of South Africa
    - Chairperson of the Social and Ethics Committee sub-committee of the King Committee on Corporate Governance of South Africa
    - Chairperson of the Social and Ethics Committee Forum of the Institute of Directors
    - Chairperson of the SAIPA Social and Ethics Committee
    - Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Business Ethics Network of Africa
* **Prof Woermann**
  + Continues as a member of the Social and Business Ethics Committee of the Council of Stellenbosch University.
    - She also attended the Social and Ethics Committee (SEC) workshop; presented by The Ethics Institute, STIAS, 9 March 2020.
  + Prof Woermann continues to represent the CAE on the governing committee of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa; University of Stellenbosch Business School.
  1. **Examination, reviews and moderation**
* **Dr Engelbrecht**
  + Examination
    - Dall, Y.: “Incentives, Virtues and Big Data Organisations”, MPhil (Applied Ethics), University of Stellenbosch, March 2021.
  + Peer Review
    - *Business Ethics: A European Review*
* **Ms Groenewald**
  + Chief reviewer of Rossouw, D. and van Vuuren, L. 2020. Code of Ethics Handbook. Pretoria: The Ethics Institute
* **Prof Woermann**
  + Examination
    - Philipp. F.: ‘Shared values as organising principles in complexity’, PhD, UCT Graduate School of Business, April 2020.
    - Bawa, K. ‘From self to citizenry: an exploration of the construction and destruction of trust when a police officer rapes’, MA (Philosophy), March 2021.
    - van der Merwe, C.J. ‘An evaluation of the contribution of corporate environmental codes of conduct to sustainable development in the mining sector’, MPhil (Applied Ethics), March 2020. .
  + Moderation
    - Masters’ module in Visionary Leadership and Change Management, Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management, University of Johannesburg (2020).
  + Peer review
    - Reviewer for a NRF research rating (2020).
    - *South African Journal of Philosophy* (2020).

Compiled by Prof Minka Woermann

8 June 2021

**UNIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

1. **Research** 
   1. **Research Outputs**
      1. **Publications**

Mazigo, AF. (2020), Leadership during pandemics: The real test, *Journal of Development Policy Review* 1(1&2), pp 45-53, <https://ojs.indrastra.com/index.php/jdpr/issue/view/39/20>

Mazigo, AF. & Hattingh, JP. (2020), Using insights in Sen’s capability approach to overcome design and execution challenges in empirical development ethics research. *Etikk i praksis-Nordic Journal of Applied Ethics*, 1-21, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5324/eip.v14i1.3311>

Seeliger, Leanne. (2020) Water Issues in Ethical Perspective: A case study in the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) Report to the Water Research Commission, Water Institute WRC Report No. 2852/1/20 ISBN 978-0-6392-0180-1 August 2020. Obtainable from Water Research Commission Private Bag X03 GEZINA, 0031 [orders@wrc.org.za](mailto:orders@wrc.org.za) or download from [www.wrc.org.za](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wrc.org.za%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C60c5c27b993a4deb7bfa08d925c2aa56%7Ca6fa3b030a3c42588433a120dffcd348%7C0%7C0%7C637582340270132252%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Z0LGRKFtah5JWlIP1HRMBCDEJeW5lG0yvpW8Xvcxab4%3D&reserved=0).

* + 1. **Conference papers**

1. HATTINGH, JP. Droughts, Cyclones and Locusts: Reflections on Climate Change Ethics in Africa. Keynote address at the **African Regional Conference of National Ethics & Bioethics Committees** held at Mombasa, Kenya, 12- 14th February 2020, jointly organized by UNESCO and the National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation of Kenya.
2. HATTINGH, JP. Reflecting on the past 20 years of the ethics of environmental policy in Africa and the transformational possibilities for business in meeting these challenges through CSR, Social Impact and Corporate Citizen Programmes. **Business Ethics Network Africa (BEN-Arica) Annual Conference**, on-line panel discussion, 6 November 2020.
   1. **Popular Articles**

*Dr. Tristen Taylor*

“Xu Zhangrun: China’s persecuted voice of democracy”, Sunday Times, 27 December 2020

“Crime, Corona, Copper and Trouble in Zambia”, OZY, 30 October 2020

"The gangsters who made a president", Business Times, 16 August 2020

"Police brutality is government policy", Mail & Guardian, 10 July 2020

"Abolish the army", Financial Mail, 9 July 2020

"They survived centuries of elephant onslaught. Now climate change is killing these iconic baobabs", Mongabay, 29 May 2020

"Gangs of the Copperbelt", Africa Confidential, 28 May 2020

"In just two months we have veered towards tyranny", Sunday Times, 24 May 20

"The story of SA’s biggest power plant, and its little town", Mail & Guardian, 29 April 2020

“For his sake and ours, Ramaphosa has to find the cold courage for a bloody purge”, Sunday Times, 02 February 2020

"Forget the market or the state, we'll save ourselves from this ruin", Sunday Times, 05 January 2020

**1.3 Podcasts**

*Dr. Tristen Taylor*

“Rooibos Tea - South Africa's Indigenous Peoples Reclaim Their Birthright”. Flighted on Cultural Survival's network of +1100 indigenous radios stations, Dec. 2020.

Link

<https://rights.culturalsurvival.org/rooibos-tea-south-africas-indigenous-peoples-reclaim-their-birthright>

*Prof. Johan Hattingh*

“Covid 19 and Environmental Ethics”. Produced for the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, April 2020, and published on the UNESCO website. Also available on Youtube.

Links:

<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-provides-ethical-frameworks-covid-19-responses>

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&ei=UTF-8&p=covid+19+and+environmental+ethics&type=E211US826G0#id=1&vid=6ea2820dd79b22f680aada19d4368ed3&action=click>

**1.4 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. Almas Mazigo (Research Fellow of the Unit) is the Principal Investigator (PI) of a research project that won a **Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Transregional Planning Grant** to conduct planning activities necessary to establish a Transregional collaborative research project on the topic of *Transformative Social Innovations in the Governance of Small-scale Fisheries in the Indian Ocean Region*. Members of this Transregional collaborative research team are Dr Almas Mazigo (DUCE, Tanzania) (PI), Prof Johan Hattingh (SU, South Africa) (Co-PI), Prof Kyoko Kusakabe (AIT, Thailand), Prof Mohammad Islam (SAU, Bangladesh) (Co-PI), Ms Sariaka Rakotondrazafy (Madagascar), Prof Sunil Santha (TISS, India), Dr Julius Mngumi (DUCE, Tanzania) and Prof Moenieba Isaacs (UWC, South Africa).
3. Dr. Almas Mazigo is the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) of the research project that won a **UDSM Competitive Research and Innovative Grant** to conduct research on *Climate Change Management Practices of Coastline Communities in Tanzania*. He is collaborating with Dr Emiliana Mwita, Dr Julius Mngumi and Dr Doroth Mosha of Dar es Salaam University College of Education. They have completed the first phase of data collection and analysis.
4. 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. In 2020 she received further funding from the Water Research Commission to the value of R1.3 million in total for three years until 2022 to continue her studies on water justice. (In 2019 she completed a two-year research project on the topic of *Water Issues in Ethical Perspective: A pilot study in the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA)*.
5. 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.
6. Dr. Tristen Taylor (Research Fellow of the Unit) is busy with a major six-month corruption investigation into EU funds (€1.114 billion) meant to go to the ecology of the Danube Delta in Romania.

1. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**
   1. **Doctoral Projects Completed**
2. CRUISE, AJ. *The Value of Being Wild: A Phenomenological Approach to Wildlife Conservation.* PhD Philosophy, March 2020. Supervisor: Prof Louise du Toit.
   1. **Ongoing Doctoral Projects**
3. 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.
4. THOLE, A.: *Rethinking Water and Sanitation Technologies in Informal Settlements: A Socio-Ecological Case Study in Enkanini, Stellenbosch* (Supervisor: Dr Leanne Seeliger, Stellenbosch University, Department of Philosophy; Co-supervisor Prof Shayne Jacobs, Conservation Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture)
5. MORRIS, K: *Using "Problem Representation" as a Means of Unpacking the Politics of Policy-Making and Implementation in the Philippi Horticultural Area*. (Supervisor 1:  Dr Ubanesia Adams-Jack Supervisor 2 Dr Jana Fried Coventry University & Stellenbosch (Dual Programme), United Kingdom Co-supervisor: Dr Leanne Seeliger, Stellenbosch University, Department of Philosophy)
   1. **Master’s Projects Completed**
6. VAN DER MERWE, C. *The contribution of corporate environmental codes of conduct to sustainable development in the mining sector*. Supervisor: Dr. Susan Hall.

**2.4 Ongoing Master’s Projects**

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1. OLIVIER, J. *Fragility of Natures on the Civic Threshold.* (M.Phil Environmental Ethics). Supervisors: Proff. Louise du Toit and Johan Hattingh.
2. VAN ROOYEN, M. *An investigation of environmental and biosafety research ethics committees*. (M.Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
3. NTJIRAUKA, D. *Farming is Business: Rethinking Intensive Cattle Farming on Communal Land in the District of Aminuis, Namibia.* (M.Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
4. GEVERS, N. *Environmental Ethics and the Mining Industry in South Africa: Moving Beyond Compliance and Sustainability*. (M.Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
5. ROZANI, A. *Ethical considerations in mining with a focus on child labour.* (M.Phil Environmental Management) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
6. MOODLEY, N. *Water Service Delivery in an Informal Settlement: A case study of Municipal Governance in Stellenbosch*. (Supervisor: Dr Leanne Seeliger, Stellenbosch University, Department of Philosophy, Co-supervisor Dr Jantjie Xaba, Stellenbosch University, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology)
7. NHLAPO, T: *Adaptive Collaborative Water Governance and Digitalisation: Is it an Enabler? Possibilities, Perils and Pathways of Participatory GIS in the Philippi Horticultural Area*. (Supervisor: Prof Helen de Klerk, Department of Geography, Co- supervisors Dr Leanne Seeliger, Department of Philosophy, Stellenbosch University; Dr Zahn Munch, Department of Geography, Stellenbosch University).

**2.5 M.Phil. in Environmental Management**

The MPhil Programme in Environmental Management was launched 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), Geography and Environmental Studies, Public and Development Administration, Public Law, and Conservation Ecology. Since December 2002 a steady stream of students graduated from this programme.

Within the framework of this programme Prof. Hattingh, Prof. Du Toit took responsibility for this 15-credit module in Environmental Ethics in 2020, completing the teaching in a face-to-face format in February, just before the first lockdown in response to Covid 19.

**2.6 Postgraduate Diploma 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 (also converted into a Postrgraduate Diploma Programme) 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 August 2020, in a fully on-line format because of Covid 19 restrictions.

**2.7 Membership of Editorial Boards**

1. Prof. Hattingh currently serves on the Editorial Board of *Journal for Ethics Education* (This is a Springer on-line journal that was 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.
3. Dr. Tristen Taylor, freelance investigative journalist and environmental activist.

**2.9 Other activities**

*Prof. Johan Hattingh*

1. Continues to collaborate with the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris and the Regional Office of UNESCO for Southern Africa in Harare on the Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change (adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2017).

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

1 June 2021

**UNIT FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ETHICS (PROSPER)**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**1. OVERVIEW**

2020 was the first year of operation of the Unit for Social and Political Ethics, known under the acronym PROSPER (PROmoting Social and Political Ethics Research). The Unit focuses on ethical issues relating to social norms, public policy, the functioning of public institutions, economic systems, the obligations of the state towards citizens, the obligations of citizens towards one another, and the collective obligations of members of society towards culturally and/or geographically distant others. PROSPER aims to deliver innovative research and teaching on these and related ethical questions, and to provide a platform for public engagement on ethical issues that affect our social and political lives.

The research programme of the unit includes, but is not limited to, the following focus areas:

* Our ethical responsibility for what we know and for what we do with this knowledge, including ethical issues surrounding the impact of technology on our access to information.
* Conceptual ethics: the adequacy of the ethical concepts by means of which we reason about political and social issues.
* The ethics of immigration and the problem of xenophobia.
* The ethics of reparations for past injustice: who owes what to whom?
* The ethics of resistance: when is it justified to resist the laws of a democratic society and what are the legitimate forms of such resistance?
* The ethics of institutions: how should we design social and political institutions so that they promote virtuous action on the part of those whose conduct it regulates?

While the COVID pandemic has put paid to a number of initiatives for 2020, PROSPER has had a successful first year.

**2. RESEARCH**

**2.1 Publications**

**2.1.1 Journal articles**

Cilliers, J. 2020. 'Review: *Agringada: like a gringa, like a foreigner* (Tariro Ndoro)'. *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde*, 57(2): 120-122.

Hartford, A. 2020. “Complex Akrasia & Blameworthiness,” *Journal of Philosophical Research*, Volume 45, November 2020, pp. 15- 33

Hartford, A. 2020. “Hello Fridge,” *Kenyon Review,* Volume 42, 2.

**In press:**

Hartford, A. “Fellow Strangers: Physical Distance and Evaluations of Blameworthiness,” *Journal of Value Inquiry* (submitted in 2020; now forthcoming)

**2.1.2 Book chapters**

Hartford, A. 2020. “Risk & Responsibility”. In: S de Beer (ed.), *Risk,* Sara de Beer. A4 Books.

**In press:**

Roodt, V. “Why Nietzsche is Not a Political Thinker.” Invited contribution to the volume: *Nietzsche and Politics*, ed. M. Ruehl. Berlin: De Gruyter. (Accepted in 2020. Publication delayed to 2021 due to Covid)

Roodt, V. “The Near, the Far and the In-between”. In A. Gouws & O. Ezeobi (eds.). *Covid Diaries*. Imbali Academic. (Accepted in 2020. Currently in press.)

**2.2. Conferences and symposia**

Cilliers, J. 2020. “Adding Up To More'” Documentary screening and panel discussion on invitation at *The 24h Conference on Global Organized Crime,*organised by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC).

Cilliers, J. 2020. “Social Justice and Unconscious Bias: Xenophobia.” Panellist on invitation at the *Social Justice Cafe webinar*, organised by the Law Trust Chair in Social Justice, SU.

Cilliers, J. 2020. “The role of women in community resilience initiatives.” Panellist on invitation at the *Gender and Organized Crime* *webinar*, organised by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC).

*Note: A number of initiatives for 2020 were cancelled due to Covid: Prof Roodt’s keynote at the international conference: “Nietzsches Zukunft. On the Futures of Nietzsche-research”, a planned international workshop on demandingness at STIAS, an international exchange with Dr Ezster Kollar of RIPPLE at the University of Leuven, and the Philosophy Retreat for Business Executives.*

**3. TEACHING**

**3.1 Undergraduate teaching in 2020**

V Roodt: Introduction to Philosophy 114

V Roodt: Political Philosophy 364

**3.2 Postgraduate teaching:**

V Roodt: Philosophy Honours: Conceptual Engineering

V Roodt: (i) Moral Values and Value Conflict and (ii) Theories of Justice in the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics

**3.3 Curriculum development**

New MPhil specialisation in Social and Political Ethics. First intake in 2021. Syllabus available upon request.

**4. POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

**4.1 PhD projects**

**4.1.1 Graduated in 2020**

J-A Cilliers: *Stories of Us and Them: Xenophobia and Political Narratives* (Supervisor: V Roodt)

**4.1.2 Submitted in 2020, graduating in 2021**

E Phiri: *In Defence of the Public-Private Distinction With Regard To Sexual Orientation: Zambia as a Case Study* (on track for graduation in March 2021) (Supervisor: V Roodt)

**4.1.3 On-going**

P Komu: *Being Harmed and Harming: Government Responsibility for Inadequate Healthcare* (submitting in August 2021 for graduation in December 2021). (Supervisor: V Roodt)

**4.2 MA/MPhil projects**

**4.2.1 Graduated in 2020**

N Pschorn: *Civil Disobedience as a Democratic Practice* (cum laude) (Supervisor: V Roodt)

I Khubana. *Corporate Crisis Management and Virtue Ethics* (Supervisor: A Hartford)

**4.2.2 On-going**

H Froneman: *Post-Truth Politics and Democratic Deliberation* (submitting September 2021 for graduation in December 2021; supervisor: V Roodt)

D Suter. *Beyond Ressentiment: An Exploration of the Relationship Between Resentment, Punishment and Forgiveness* (submitting September 2021 for graduation in December 2021; supervisor: V Roodt)

J Seynhaeve. *The Ethics of Privacy* (submitting September 2021 for graduation in December 2021; supervisor: V Roodt)

G Michalakis. *The Ethics of Expropriation: A Roadmap for Policy in South Africa* (submitting in November 2021 for graduation in March 2022)

Z Sonday. (Submitting September 2022; supervisor: A Hartford)

J Burgman (Submitting September 2022; supervisor: A Hartford)

S Theron (Submitting September 2022; supervisor: V Roodt)

**5. SOCIAL IMPACT**

**5.1 Opinion pieces**

Cilliers, J. 2020. “Covid-19 is an opportunity to make our circles bigger.” *Mail & Guardian*, 31 July.

Hartford, A. 2020. “On Lying and ‘Bullshit’”, *Sunday Times*, March 2020.

**5.2 Interviews**

Roodt, V. Interview on COVID19 and Rawls’s theory of justice on the One-Eyed Man Podcast (April 2020)

**5.3 Talks**

Roodt, V. “Equality, institutions and stokvels: in search of moral justification for social policy.” Invited talk at the Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University, 16 July 2020.

**6. ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Prof Roodt:

* Member of the editorial board of the *Tijdschrift voor Filosofie.*
* Reviewer for *Theoria*, *SA Journal of Philosophy*
* Reviewer for the *Fonds Wetenschappelijke Onderzoek Vlaanderen*
* Internal examiner of MA thesis: J Vosloo
* Internal examiner: MA thesis: L Alberts
* External examiner of MA thesis: O Mogomotsi (UCT)
* Member of the Programme Renewal Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
* Convenor of the PPE programme

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**Prof Vasti Roodt**

**Head: Unit for Social and Political Ethics (PROSPER)**

**8 June 2021**