

CENTRE FOR APPLIED ETHICS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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INTRODUCTION

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 functions in its own right, but most of the Centre's outputs are channelled via its five units, namely:

- the Unit for Bioethics,
- the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity,
- the Unit for Environmental Ethics,
- the Unit for Political and Social Ethics (also known as PROSPER: Promoting Social and Political Ethics Research), and
- the Unit for the Ethics of Technology (created in the course of 2021).

The main output of the Centre concerns teaching. Three postgraduate programmes resonate under the Centre, namely the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Applied Ethics, the MPhil in Applied Ethics, and the PhD in Applied Ethics. The PGDip is the feeder programme for the MPhil and the two programmes are offered in alternate years. In 2023, the MPhil programme was presented. It is noteworthy that the MPhil in Applied Ethics currently consists of four specialisation streams, each focusing on content that is specific to the given Unit's area of specialisation. There is no overlap between the teaching of the various Units, meaning that – in essence – four unique programmes are presented under the degree MPhil (Applied Ethics). In 2025, this offering will be expanded to five specialisation fields, to include specialisation in the ethics of artificial intelligence (under the newly established Unit for the Ethics of Technology).

1.1. Revised constitution and programme structure

The revised constitution of the Centre has been operational since 2019 and was adapted in 2021 with the approval of the Governing Body to accommodate the new Unit for the Ethics of Technology.

Plans to expand the structure of the current MPhil Programme to include a less research-intensive offering alongside the current 50% coursework – 50% thesis offering are still underway. The proposed changes to the yearbook have been delayed but we hope to finalise these changes in 2025.

1.2. New appointments

Prof Anton van Niekerk retired as the Director of the Centre for Applied Ethics in December 2023. Prof Minka Woermann was appointed as the new Director of the Centre from 1 January 2024, while retaining her position as Head of the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity. Dr Susan Hall succeeded Prof van Niekerk as Head of the Unit for Bioethics. Both have been intricately involved in the affairs of the two respective Units over many years.

In terms of the Constitution of the Centre, the appointment of these positions is not the outcome of a formal procedure of the Senate's Appointment Committee. The appointments are formally made by the Chair of the Philosophy Department and ratified by the Governing Body. (The reason for this is that the Centre remains part of the Philosophy Department; all permanent personnel of the Philosophy Department are *de facto* personnel of the Centre). The Centre and its units report via the A&SS Faculty Committee and Faculty Board to Senate.

2. PROFESSOR ANTON VAN NIEKERK'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTRE

Prof van Niekerk established the Centre for Applied Ethics in 1990 and served as its Director since the Centre's inception. Since 2023 marked his final year as Director, it is fitting to reflect on his immense contribution to the steady growth of the Centre over more than three decades.

In the introduction to the Annual Report of 1992, Prof van Niekerk remarked the following:

Anders as die ander twee sentra in ons Fakulteit, verteenwoordig die werksaamhede van die STE nog nie die sentrale belangstellings- en navorsingsvelde van die personeel van die Departement Filosofie nie. [*Contrary to the two other centres in our Faculty, the activities of the CAE do not yet represent the central interests and research fields of the staff of the Philosophy Department*].

Today ethics stands central to the research and teaching activities of the Department, the CAE has grown from three Units in 1992 to five Units, and all academic staff members of the Department are involved in the Centre (five of us as heads of units). This is a remarkable achievement, which is largely thanks to Prof van Niekerk's leadership and hard work.

Perhaps the most significant development in the first decade of the Centre's existence was the establishment of the MPhil programme in Applied Ethics in 1996 (which later split into the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied ethics and the MPhil and, later still, was expanded to include the PhD in Applied Ethics). As noted, these

teaching programmes stand central to the Centre's activities and have – over time – earned the Centre a sterling market reputation as, the country's original and foremost applied ethics Centre.

Prof van Niekerk's personal achievements in this first decade include his involvement in a task team to establish a National Institute of Ethics in South Africa (which has evolved into the highly successful and influential organisation, The Ethics Institute, based in Pretoria). Prof van Niekerk was responsible for drafting the founding document for The Ethics Institute and served as a board member and later as chairperson of the Institute. Also noteworthy is that both the founding director and the deputy director of the Ethics Institute were former students of the Department and Centre respectively.

In the next decade (the 2000s), Prof van Niekerk's involvement in applied ethics activities only increased in tempo. In 2001, Prof van Niekerk met twice with then-president Thabo Mbeki as the Centre Representative on a consortium of business leaders and academics. In 2003, he engaged with Mediclinic regarding a possible R100 000 annual sponsorship for the Bioethics Unit. This sponsorship (which was later increased to R200 000) kicked off in 2004 will continue to the end of 2024. Prof van Niekerk was also appointed to the governing boards of the Ethics Association of South Africa and the Board of the Centre for HIV/AIDs Management (and he has contributed to the MPhil teaching of this Centre since the inception of his board membership). During 2003, Prof van Niekerk also helped to establish the Tygerberg division of the Bioethics Unit, which later became an independent Centre (now Division), under the directorship of Prof Keymanthri Moodley (Prof van Niekerk however, also continued to serve on this Centre's board and to teach Medical Ethics to the MBChB students). From 2004 to 2006, he was elected to the executive committee of the International Research Ethics Network for South Africa, to the governing board of the Erasmus Mundus Programme, and as Director of Stellenbosch Hospice. From 2007-2010, Prof van Niekerk was elected as the Director of the International Association of Bioethics, as Chairperson of the Senate Research Ethics Committee, and as Associate Editor of the journal, *Public Health Ethics*.

During the early 2000s, Prof van Nierkerk's research achievements were also many and varied and include the award of a R800 000 grant for HIV/AIDS related research, which culminated in the edited publication, *Ethics and AIDS in Africa* in 2005 (and which was internationally republished in 2006), and his influential, *Geloof Sonder Sekerhede. Hoe kan ek nog Glo?* [Faith Without Certainty. How can I still Believe?] (also published in 2005).

Between 2011 and 2023, Prof van Nierkerk was appointed as a member of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee of ASSAf and appointed by the Minister of Health as a member of the National Health Research Ethics Council (which is the highest policymaking body for research ethics in South Africa). He was invited by

media group Network 24 to write a column every two weeks for *Burger*, *Die Beeld*, and *Volksblad*, on topical issues of his choosing, which earned him Excellence Awards as a thought leader of Stellenbosch University.

In 2016, SU honoured Prof van Niekerk with the Chancellor's Award for a career of research excellence (he received many research excellence awards over the years). Two significant research accomplishments during this period include the revision and republication of *Geloof Sonder Sekerhede* in 2014, and *Die Dood en die Sin van die Lewe*, published in 2017. The latter led to a series of television and radio interviews, and book reviews. In 2018, and perhaps most noteworthy of all, Prof van Niekerk also received the title of Distinguished Professor and was invited to continue his work at the University for another five years.

The Centre also grew and thrived alongside Prof van Niekerk's career as the years passed, and here only a few recent accomplishments will be mentioned. In 2015, a bioethics discussion event was instituted at the annual *Woordfees*. In 2019, the Department was externally evaluated by a panel of academics, and special mention was made of the high quality and quantity of the Centre's outputs. This was also the year that Unit for Social and Political Ethics was established, followed by the establishment of the Unit for the Ethics of Technology in 2021. And lastly, in 2021 the Bioethics Units received a once-off donation of one million rand from the Inge Lotz Foundation.

Prof van Niekerk's legacy doesn't just lie in what he has built over the years, but in the spirit of the department and the Centre. This spirit is typified by the excellence with which we do our work, and the way in which we engage one another and our students. We thank Prof van Niekerk for his profound impact on the Centre, its staff, and its students and we wish him all the best in retirement.

3. GOVERNING BODY 2023

Prof **M Kruger** (Chair: Governing Body of the CAE and representative of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences), Prof **AJ Leysens** (Dean: FASS), Prof **AA van Niekerk** (Director: CAE and Head: Unit for Bioethics), Prof **M Woermann** (Head: Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity and incoming Director: CAE), Dr **S Hall** (Chair: Philosophy Department and incoming Head: Unit for Bioethics), Prof **Vasti Roodt** (Vice-Dean of FASS: Teaching and Learning and Head: PROSPER), Dr **T de Villiers-Botha** (Head: Unit for the Ethics of Technology), Prof **HL du Toit** (Head: Unit for Environmental Ethics), Dr **D le Roux**, (FASS representative and representative of the Department of Information Science), Prof **K Rajaratnam** (Director and representative: School for Data Science and Computational Thinking), Dr **M Tadie** (Representative of the Faculty of Engineering), Prof **Nicola de Jager** (Representative of the Centre for International and Comparative Politics), Mr **M Rossouw**, (Mediclinic representative).



Prof M. Kruger

Chair: Governing Body



Prof . M. Woermann

Incoming Director: Centre for Applied Ethics

GENERAL REPORT OF THE CAE

1. RESEARCH

1.1. Journal articles

van Niekerk, A.A. 2023. An ethics of responsibility and the origin of morality. *Verbum et Ecclesia*. 44(1) #2924, <http://doi.org/19.4102/ve.v44/1.2924>

1.2. Book chapters

Van Niekerk, A.A. 2023. Die Dialektiek van Vaderskap”, in: C Jones (ed.). *Vaderskap*. Stellenbosch: Sun Media.

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. Centre for Applied Ethics was mostly indicated as Van Niekerk’s institutional affiliation.

- Van Niekerk, A.A. “Nicaragua en SA: Wat ‘veelvuldige verwonding’ aan ‘multiply wounded’ samelewings doen”, *Vrye Weekblad*, 6 January 2023. [What being a “multiply wounded society” does to countries like Nicaragua and South Africa].

Van Niekerk, A.A. 2023 opinion pieces for *Die Burger* en *Beeld*:

- “Ons lewe is ‘n proses in tyd” [Our life is a process in time].
- “Dis wat tyd regtig beteken” [This is what time really means].
- “Smuts was dalk verkeerd oor SA” [Smuts may have been wrong about SA].
- “Bot nood ons tot diep denke” [Chatbots compel us to thinking anew].
- “Uit leed se lesse is lyding verlig” [Out of grief’s lessons suffering is relieved].

- “Die droom mag nie sterwe nie” [This dream may not die].
- “Dit bedreig nie koshuiservaring” [This does not threaten residence experience].
- “Oneindige grens van die horison” Infinite border of the horizon].
- “Dit is waar die duiwel skuilhou” [This is where the devil hides].
- “Dialog volgens die Sokratese model” [Dialogue according to the model of Socrates].
- “Ons regering is bloot roekeloos” [Our government is simply reckless].
- “Hoe bewys jy God bestaan?” [How do you prove that God exists?].
- “Nie US se taak om taal te red”[Not the task of SU to save a language].
- “Is sekularisasie ons voorland?” [Is secularisation inevitable?].
- “Elke burger kan 'n verskil maak.[Every citizen can make a difference].
- “Wat laat mense dan verander?” [What then causes people to change?].
- “Wat is ons rol in hierdie “toeval?”” [What is our role in this co-incidence?].
- “Dié keurslyf hou ons in kringloop” [This straightjacket keeps us in circle].
- “Wie se kind sal jy red?” [Whose child will you save?].
- “Gewone mense’ kan boos wees” [‘Ordinary’ people can be evil].

2. TEACHING

Since 2022, Dr Palk has served as the course convenor and sole lecturer for the Philosophy and Ethics service modules which are compulsory for all third- and fourth-year engineering students. In 2023 the Engineering Faculty underwent their five-year audit by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). This audit required extensive preparation and a high administrative burden. Dr Palk was also required to attend an interview with the ECSA audit team during their site visit to the faculty given that her modules assess one of the Graduate attributes which must be passed in order to be licenced as an engineer in South Africa. The Engineering Faculty were notified in August 2023 of the successful outcome of this audit.

3. SPONSORSHIP

Mediclinic's highly appreciated sponsorship of R200 000 per year continued in 2023. We convey our sincere gratitude to Mediclinic Southern Africa for this precious contribution. We also note Mediclinic's decision to terminate this donation in 2025 due to cost pressures that have necessitated a review of all expenditure and donations. The focus on supporting the training of doctors have become a higher priority due to budget cuts by the National Department of Health.

As noted in the 2022 Annual Report, the Unit for Bioethics was very fortunate in being bestowed a substantial, once-off donation of R1 million by the Inge Lotz Foundation. The purpose of this endowment is to promote research in bioethics. After advertisement and interviews, a bursary of R250 000 per year for 2022 and 2023 was consequently made available to Ms Gaenor Michel, one of our very bright doctoral students. We again thank the Foundation, headed by Prof Jan Lotz, sincerely for this excellent contribution to our work.

REPORT OF THE UNIT FOR BIOETHICS

Compiled by Susan Hall

1. RESEARCH

1.1. Articles in peer-reviewed journals

- Obasa, A.E. & Palk, A.C. 2023. Responsible application of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. South African Journal of Science. 119(5/6). <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2023/14889>.
- Obasa, A.E, Botes, M. & Palk, A.C. 2023. Collective responsibility in the Time of Cholera Outbreak: the case of Hammanskraal. South African Journal of Bioethics and Law. 16(3): e1250. <https://doi.org/10.7196/SAJBL.2023.v16i3.1250>.

1.2. Articles in press

- Matshabane, O.P., Hartford, A., Ewuoso, C., Palk, A.C, Koehly, L.M., Stein, D.J., & De Vries, J. 2024 Advancing Neuroethics in Africa. South African Journal of Science. 120(5/6). <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2024/18180>.
- The Brussels Collaboration on Bodily Integrity (incl. Van Niekerk, A.A.). 2024. Genital Modifications in Prepubescent Minors: When May Clinicians Ethically Proceed? The American Journal of Bioethics. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2024.2353823>

1.3. Book chapters

- Staunton, C., Adams, R., Horn, L., & Labuschaigne, M. 2023. A Framework to Govern the Use of Health Data for Research in Africa: A South African Perspective. In: Zima, T. & Weisstub, D.N. (eds.). Medical Research Ethics: Challenges in the 21st Century. Springer: Cham.
- Van Niekerk, A.A. 2023. Ethics and Philosophy. In: K. Moodley (ed.). Bioethics, Medical Law and Human Rights: a South African Perspective (Revised 3rd edition). Pretoria: Van Schaik. 7-15.
- Van Niekerk, A.A. 2023. Ethics Theories and the Principlist Approach in Bioethics. In: K. Moodley (ed.). Bioethics, Medical Law and Human Rights: a South African Perspective (Revised 3rd edition). Pretoria: Van Schaik. 17-32.

- Van Niekerk, A.A. 2023. New and Emerging Biotechnologies in Healthcare in the 21st century. In: K. Moodley (ed.). Bioethics, Medical Law and Human Rights: a South African Perspective (Revised 3rd edition). Pretoria: Van Schaik. 325-340.

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

- Hall, S. Fair Treatment? Sex Verification and the Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification. 50th Conference of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS), 19-22 September 2023, Split Croatia.

1.5. Other Research Projects

Dr Susan Hall and Dr Chris Jones are in the process of collecting submissions for a Festschrift to be published in honour of Prof A.A. van Niekerk, the outgoing director the Centre for Applied Ethics and head of the Unit for Bioethics. A substantial portion of this volume will be dedicated to work in Bioethics. The expected publication date is 2025.

Dr Susan Hall and Dr Andrea Palk, together with colleagues at Warwick University, applied for funding to hold a series of workshops focusing on African Bioethics. This application was approved in 2024, and workshops will be held in Warwick and Stellenbosch in 2025 and 2026.

2. TEACHING

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 again successfully offered in 2023 and will, according to our schedule, again be offered in 2025.

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 online.

Prof Van Niekerk, Dr Hall and Dr Palk assist with the teaching of Medical Ethics to MBChB second and fifth-year students. Dr Hall also served as the academic advisor for fifth year MBChB student Tatenda Potera's elective portfolio.

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:

3.1. Completed Doctoral Dissertations

1. Heymans, S. Existentialism and Suicide: A Philosophical Analysis. PhD (Applied Ethics). December 2023. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. Van Niekerk.

3.2. Completed Masters Theses

1. Botman, K.P.M. Should SA Health Care Workers be Mandated to Receive the Covid-19 Vaccine? MPhil (Applied Ethics). December 2023. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. Van Niekerk.
2. Engelbrecht, S. An Ethical Analysis of The Reimbursement Requirements and Practices in Health Research in SA. MPhil (Applied Ethics). December 2023. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. Van Niekerk.
3. Joseph, C.A. On the Moral Permissibility of Active, Voluntary Physician-Administered Euthanasia. MPhil (Applied Ethics). March 2024. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. Van Niekerk.
4. Obasa, A.E. The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Settings. MPhil (Applied Ethics). December 2023. Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.
5. Odell, S. The Ethical Complexities of Palliative Sedation. MPhil (Applied Ethics). December 2023. Cum laude. Supervisor: Dr S. Hall
6. Seedat, S. Therapeutic Prevention of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Ethical Analysis and Proposal of a Bioethical Framework. MPhil (Applied Ethics). December 2023. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. Van Niekerk
7. Sehlabaka, G. Evaluating Ethics Compliance Challenges engendered by Strained Health Sector Systems in South Africa. MPhil (Applied Ethics). March 2023. Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.
8. Theron, S. Pornography Conceptualised as a Substance. MA (Philosophy). Graduation March 2023. Cum laude. Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.
9. Walter, S. A Framework for Compassionate Clinical Responses to Addiction. MPhil (Applied Ethics). March 2023. Cum laude. Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.

3.3. Continuing doctoral projects

1. Boitumelo Mokgatla The Next Frontier: Ethical Complexities of using Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare and Medical Research – A Botswana Case Study. PhD. Supervisor: Dr A.C. Palk (co-supervisor with Prof K. Moodley).
2. Franken, L. Morality and Immortality: Assessing the Ethical Implications of the Idea of Radical Life Extension. PhD. Supervisor: Prof A.A. van Niekerk.
3. Gray, B. Shared Decision-Making and Neo-Liberalism: The Origins and Unintended Consequences of Patient-Centred Care. PhD. Supervisor: Prof A.A. van Niekerk.
4. Kling, S. Models of Clinical Ethics Services in SA: a Critical Appraisal. PhD. Supervisor: Prof A.A. van Niekerk (co-supervisor with Prof K. Moodley).
5. Lotz, J. The National Health Dialogue: An Evaluation of the Moral Principles underlying the National Health Insurance Bill. PhD. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
6. Michel, G. Paternalism and Bioethics: Towards a Coherent Conception of Wellbeing. PhD. Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.
7. Rakotsoane, F. Bio-Banking in Sub-Saharan Africa: Potential Cultural Challenges, their Philosophical Underpinnings and Management. PhD. Supervisor: Prof A.A. van Niekerk.
8. Theron, S. Good Sex and Bad Sex: Investigating the Moral Epistemology of Sex. PhD. Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.

3.4. Continuing Masters projects

1. Botha, G. Morele Kwessies rondom Sub-Akute Sorg. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Prof AA van Niekerk.
2. De Villiers, M. Should a Clinician Discontinue Anti-Retroviral Therapy in Frequently Non-Adherent Adults? MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.
3. Domingo, A. The Ethics of Memory Editing in the South African Context. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr A.C. Palk.
4. Fouché, M. The Role of Race in Bioethics. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Prof AA van Niekerk.

5. Grantham, M. Ethical Concerns regarding Gender Assignment for Patients with Difference of Sex Development. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.
6. Hambira, R. How do people change behaviour? Supervisor: Prof AA van Niekerk.
7. Jooste, N. Withdrawing Feeds and Fluids in Neonates at the End of Life. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.
8. Kotze, C. Medically Assisted Dying for Serious Mental Illness. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.
9. Madaka, N. Public Health Policy in Resource Allocation: The role of Ubuntu 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. Malebane, M. 'Surviving' at the Margins: The Impact of Covid-19 on Vulnerable Groups in South Africa. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.
12. Marais, M. Supererogation: The Backbone of Emergency Care in South Africa. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.
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. Masitise, M. The Ethical Challenges of Brain-Computer Interfaces in Healthcare. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.
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. Mayet, S. Towards Ethically Grounded Shared Decision-Making in Anaesthesia: Integrating Principles and Practice. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr A. Palk.
17. Nel, J-G. Moral aspects of the practice of obtaining informed consent in paediatric clinical care: clinical care in a resource-constrained environment. Supervisor: Prof AA van Niekerk
18. Nkomo, P. An Evaluation of the Batho Pele Principles in Healthcare. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
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. Ramatsoma, H. A Case for Mandatory Reporting of Gender-Based Violence on Abused Women's Behalf. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.

21. White, L. Ethical Issues with regard to Gender Reassignment Surgery in Children. MPhil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr S. Hall.

4. OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIT

4.1. The Bioethics Discussion Group

We held three successful meetings of the Bioethics Discussion Group in 2023. Please see details of these meetings below:

- 23 March 2023: The Pursuit of 'Restrictive' Enhancement: A phenomenological argument (Sarah Gardner)
- 4 May 2023: The Rejection of the Wrongful Life Action: Reconsidering the Arguments (Gaenor Michel)
- 24 August 2023: The Ethical Complexities of Palliative Sedation (Shannon Odell)

4.2. Committee Membership

Dr Palk continues to serve as a member of the Africa Ethics Working Group (AEWG), comprising bioethicists from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. The AEWG is part of the NeuroGenE project (www.neurogene.org) which is led by Oxford University and funded by the Stanley Centre at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. This group focuses on the goal of addressing ethical issues associated with the collection of genetic samples on the NeuroGAP-Psychosis (Neuropsychiatric genetics in African populations) and NeuroDEV (Neurodevelopmental disorders in sub-Saharan Africa) projects. The group also serves as a platform to increase collaborative outputs between bioethicists and scientists from various African countries. Dr Palk attended a workshop in Oxford in May 2023 which was fully funded by the Psychiatry Department at Oxford University.

REPORT OF THE UNIT FOR BUSINESS ETHICS AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY

Compiled by Minka Woermann

1. INTRODUCTION

The members of the Unit are Prof Minka Woermann (Unit Head), Prof Deon Rossouw (Chairperson of the Banknote Ethics Initiative and Extraordinary Professor of Philosophy), Dr Schalk Engelbrecht (Chief Ethics Officer of KPMG and Research Associate) and Dr Liezl Groenewald (Chief Executive Officer of The Ethics Institute and Research Associate).

In 2023, Prof Woermann was on sabbatical and embarked on a doctoral dissertation in Visual Arts in February 2023. This dissertation was submitted for examination in October 2024. Prof Woermann's Centre activities were thus limited for the period under review.

2. RESEARCH

Dr Engelbrecht

Industry Research

- "Ethics in Accounting: From Rules to Roles" in Accountancy SA (October 2023). Available at: Focus: ETHICS IN ACCOUNTING From rules to roles – Accountancy SA [Accessed: 19 September 2024]
- "Working from Home: The Insurance Considerations" in KPMG Insurance Survey 2023. Available at: insurance-survey-2023.low res.sml.pdf (kpmg.com) [Accessed: 19 September 2024]

General

- "Ethics for Jobhunters" in UCT Career Guide 2023. Available at: 2023 UCT Career Service Career Guide by UCT Careers - Issuu [Accessed: 19 September 2024]

Conference presentations

- “Making some other animals equal: On animal and corporate citizenship” at USB Corporate Governance Conference (12 December 2023)

Dr Groenewald

Book chapters

- Chapter for “Debates on Whistleblowing” to be published by Palgrave Macmillan

Opinion pieces

- Blowing the whistle Brandon-style – if you can, you will (September 2023)

Conference and other fora presentations

- Whistleblowing Brandon Style. Society for Industrial-Organisational Psychology of South Africa (Western Cape Regional Conference) Whistleblowing Management. Public Service Commission: Whistleblower Symposium
- Positives re WB & protecting oneself from retaliation. Institute of Accountants and Commerce – WC Regional Conference
- Blowing the whistle should not lead to banishment: Auditors are defenders of good governance. SAIGA 3rd Annual Conference Ethics & Governance (the Judge, the Bystanders and the Upstanders). WC Department of the Premier Annual Conference
- Ethics Officer Certification Programme and The Whistleblower House. Southern Africa Anti-Corruption Collective Action Forum 2023. How blowing the whistle can start or end the game. IoDSA at LeaderEX

Paper/article inputs

- Input to article that was published in the CGISA quarterly boardroom e-mag.
- Input to article published in Old Mutual Corporates B2B magazine MiNDSPACE
- Input to article that published in Business Day Empowerment

Prof Rossouw

Book chapters

- Towards Competent and Ethical Public Service, in Nkondo, M. and Khoza, R. (Ed). 2024. The South African Handbook of Agency, Freedom and Justice, Vol 1, pp. 356 – 371.

Industry Research

- The role of the Social and Ethics Committee vis-à-vis other Board Committees (for the IoDSA Social and Ethics Committee Forum's Guidance Paper)
- The role of the Social and Ethics Committee regarding ESG monitoring and reporting (for the IoDSA Social and Ethics Committee Forum's Guidance Paper)

Opinion pieces

- Can chatbots be ethical?
- Rules can also be used to shield people from ethical responsibility
- Private Sector Collective Action

Conference presentations

- 22nd Annual Conference of BEN-Africa
- Southern African Collective Action Forum

Surveys

- 2023 Social and Ethics Committee Trend Survey Report

Prof Minka Woermann

Book chapters

- Woermann, M. 2023. Towards an African business ethics: Past contributions and future challenges and possibilities. In J.O. Chimakonam and L. Cordeiro-Rodrigues (eds.). Key Concepts in African Ethics. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 279 – 294.

Conference presentations

- Corruption, Ubuntu, and Philosophy Coherence (panel discussion, BEN-Africa 2023).

- Monumental transformations and the re-membering of meaning. (Philosophy Colloquium, University of Fort Hare, 2023).

3. TEACHING

3.1. 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. Two week-long contact sessions were held, in which prominent business ethics themes and local business ethics challenges were addressed.

The specialisation programme is primarily lectured by Prof Woermann. Prof Rossouw also assists in this task, as does Dr Engelbrecht.

3.2. Additional teaching, facilitation, 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).
- Continued as lecturer of a section on Data Ethics for the modules Data Science 141, Data Science 214, and Data Science 344 (hosted by the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Stellenbosch).
- Presented at the following events:
 - "The Burden of Friendship" – Mediclinic Internal Audit Conference (17 January 2023)
 - "Moral Fitness for Accountants" – professional development session for SAICA members (13 March 2023)
 - Presented a guest lecture for accounting students at the University of Johannesburg (16 May 2023)
 - Participated in a panel on "Ethics in Insurance" at the Insurance Institute of South Africa's African Insurance Exchange (25 July 2023)
 - Presented a guest lecture on Business Ethics for MBA students at North-West University (28 July 2023)

- Presented a Guest Lecture for accounting students at the University of Stellenbosch (14 August 2023); Participated in a panel on “Traits, Tools and Tactics for Effective Ethics Management” at the annual Ethics Institute Ethics Officer Learning Forum (13 September 2023)
- Presented a webcast on “Accountants’ Ethics” as part of SAICA’s Ethics in Practice series on Global Ethics Day 2023 (18 October 2023)
- Presenter for “TEI Supporter Masterclass: An Ethical Perspective on AI” (17 November 2023)

Dr Liezl Groenewald

- Guest/international lecturer
 - Management Centre Innsbruck (Austria) (a privately funded Business School) – Masters students - Business Ethics
 - Management Centre Innsbruck (Austria) – Bachelor students (Winter and Summer School courses) –Applied Business Ethics.
- Radio and television interviews
 - SAFM: Non-Retaliatio Toolkit
 - eNCA: Death of Marumo Eric Phanye
 - RSG: Fair trade
 - eNCA: The Whistleblower House
 - KykNet: In gesprek met Lourensa Eckart: Beskerming van fluitjieblasers

Prof Rossouw

- Lectured on the Corporate Governance Certificate Programme at University of Johannesburg (2 intakes)
- Lectured on the Governance of Ethics Certified Director Programme of the Institute of Directors in South Africa (6 intakes)
- Lectured on the Social and Ethics Committee Programme of the Institute of Directors in South Africa
- Guest Lecture in Masters of Business Administration at Universidade Pedagogica in Maputu.
- Presentations
 - The evolution of the Governance of Ethics

Prof Woermann

- Presentation: AI ethics and Business Ethics (short course for Woolworths)

3. POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

- Graduated in 2023
 - Mushwana, G: 'Incentivising whistleblowing to combat corruption and improve governance: A South African perspective', MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis. Supervisor: M. Woermann.
- Submitted for examination in 2023 (graduation: 2024)
 - February, T.*: 'The refugee event: negotiating European identity, sovereignty and democracy'. MA (Philosophy), 100%, March 2024. Supervisor: M. Woermann
- Ongoing PhD supervision (M Woermann)
 - Wardle, D.
- Ongoing MPhil Applied Ethics supervision (M Woermann)
 - Shewell, D.
 - Van der Bank, S.
 - Rossouw, N.
 - Griffiths, C.
 - Jacobs, D.
 - Meyer, C.
 - Mnyongani, F.

5. SERVICE DELIVERY

5.1. Appointments and designations

Prof Rossouw retained professional designation as Chartered Director South Africa

5.2. 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

5.3. Committee membership and positions

Dr Engelbrecht

- Dr Engelbrecht is a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants' (SAICA's) Ethics Committee, and chair for the "Role & Mindset Working Group";
- As part of his role as Chief Ethics Officer, Dr Engelbrecht serves on KPMG South Africa's Public Interest, Social and Ethics Committee, and is a standing invitee to the Audit Quality Committee.

Dr Groenewald

- Advisory Board member of the Business Ethics Network of Africa
- Advisory Board member of Visslan (Sweden)
- EXCO member of the Business Ethics Network of Africa
- Council member: Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- Chairperson of Governance and Ethics Committee: Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- Chairperson of the Social and Ethics Committee Forum of the Institute of Directors SA
- Member of the King IV Committee
- Member of Inaugural Committee of the International Society for Military Ethics in Africa (Afro-ISME)
- Member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Ethics Committee
- 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
- Co-founding director of The Whistleblower House NPC

Prof Rossouw

- Serves on the following boards and committees:
 - Chairperson of the international Banknote Ethics Initiative
 - 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 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
- Non-executive director on the board of ATKV
- Chairperson of the ATKV Social and Ethics Committee
- Non-executive director on the board of Ethics Africa (NPC)
- Member of the King Committee Thought Leadership Workgroup
- Member of the Gauteng Ethics Advisory Council
- Member of the Nomination Panel of the South African Reserve Bank
- Member of the Local Government Ethical Leadership Advisory Committee

Prof Woermann

- Incoming Director of the Centre for Applied Ethics
- Coordinator of the Centre's Programmes
- Vice-Chair of the Social and Business Ethics Committee of Council, Stellenbosch University
- Advisor on Stellenbosch University's Transformation Policy (2023)

5.4. Examination, reviews, and moderation

Dr Engelbrecht

Examination

- Chembeya, EM. "Ethics of Governance: Exploring the role of non-executive directors in corporate sustainability performance", MPhil (Applied Ethics), Stellenbosch University, 2023.

Prof Rossouw

Peer review

- Journal of Business Ethics

Prof Woermann

Examination

- Koekemoer, G.M.: Race as a complex system: The persistence of race as a primary driver of contemporary social relations and beneficiation, PhD, Nelson Mandela University, January 2023.
- Pheiffer, A. 'An ethical analysis of mandatory Covid 19 vaccination policies on South African corporation', MPhil (Applied Ethics), Stellenbosch University, March 2023.

- Shapiro, R.J. 'The impact of organisational culture, unconscious bias and person-organisation fit on employee selection decisions during recruitment', MPhil (Applied Ethics), Stellenbosch University), March 2023.

Peer review

- Reviewer for a book chapter for The Philosophy of Violence: An African Perspective

REPORT OF THE UNIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Compiled by Louise du Toit and Johan Hattingh

1. INTRODUCTION

The members of the Unit are Prof Louise du Toit (Unit Head and Professor of Philosophy), Prof Johan Hattingh (Professor Emeritus of the Philosophy Department), Dr Almas Mazigo (Research Fellow of the Unit, and Senior Lecturer in the Department of History, Political Science and Development Studies at the Dar Es Salaam University College of Education), Dr Tristen Taylor (Research Fellow of the Unit, and freelance journalist-activist covering environment, politics and corruption in Africa and Europe), Dr. Leanne Seeliger (Research Fellow of the Unit, and environmental ethics consultant).

2. RESEARCH

2.1. Research Outputs

2.1.1. Publications (peer-reviewed)

1. Mazigo, A., Mwita, E., Machumu, M., Mayenga, J. 2023. Unlocking and supporting community-led climate actions in the coastal communities of Tanzania. Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate, Working Paper Series No. 20. ISSN 2754-0308. https://www.climate-uni.com/_files/ugd/f81108_68ffe262c122483ea3f6646726c14ddc.pdf
2. Mazigo, A.F. 2023. 'Perspectives on persistent flooding of the Msimbazi Valley in Dar es Salaam viewed through a governance lens', Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19480881.2023.2244401>.
3. Du Toit, Louise, with Ephraim Meir, Ed Noort and Wolfgang Palaver (eds.) 2023. Nonviolence and Religion. Basel: MDPI.
4. Huysamer, Julia and Louise du Toit. 2023. 'Non-binary gender in African person-hood?', South African Journal of Philosophy (2023), 42:3, 246-260, DOI: 10.1080/02580136.2023.2273029.

5. Du Toit, Louise and Charla Smith. 2023. 'On Thinking About Interpersonal Violence and the Impotence of Force', *South African Journal of Philosophy* (2023), 42:1, 24-36, DOI: 10.1080/02580136.2023.2211825.
6. Du Toit, Louise, Meir, Ephraim, Noort, Ed, and Palaver, Wolfgang. 2023. 'Introduction to the Special Issue of Religions, "Nonviolence and Religion"'.
7. Du Toit, Louise & Coetzee, Azille. 2023. 'Watery Hauntings: A glossary for African Philosophy in a Different Key', *Philosophy & Rhetoric* (2023) 56 (1), pp. 51–75; <https://doi.org/10.5325/philtrhet.56.1.0051>
8. Du Toit, Louise. 2023. 'African Conceptions of Human Dignity, and Violence Against Women in South Africa', in (eds.) Motsamai Molefe and Christopher All-sobrook *Human Dignity in an African Context*. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, Springer, 155-185.
9. Du Toit, Louise. 2023. 'Reading International Rape Law from the South', in (eds.) Kate Gleeson and Yvette Russell *New Directions in Sexual Violence Scholarship: Law, Power and Change*. London: Routledge.
10. Hattingh, J.P. 2023. 'Taking Moral Responsibility for Climate Change by Cities', book chapter in *The Routledge Handbook of Applied Climate Ethics*, edited by Donald A. Brown, Kathryn Gwiazdon, and Laura Westra. London: Routledge.
11. Seeliger, L. 2023. *The Ethics of Adaptive Collaborative Water Governance on the Cape Flats Aquifer*. Water Research Council Report No. 3069/1/23 ISBN 978-0-6392-0389-8.

2.1.2. Manuscripts in press and under review by the end of 2023

1. Mazigo, A.F., Mwajjande, F., Nguluki, I.M. & Mkombozi, M. 'Swahili wisdom for shaping development evaluation practices', *African Evaluation Journal*. [forthcoming]
2. Mazigo, A.F. 'The Swahili evaluation approach: Content and guidance for doing development evaluation', *African Evaluation Journal*. [forthcoming]
3. Kuboja, B. N., Mazigo, A. F., Ibengwe, L. J., & Katikiro, R. E. 'Legal and Regulatory Framework for Small-Scale Fisheries in Mainland Tanzania: Practical Realities and Opportunities', in: Nakamura, J., Chuenpagdee, R., Jentoft, S. (eds) *Implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines*. MARE Publication Series, vol 28. Springer, Cham, (pp. 381-406). [forthcoming]
4. Mwangosi, J.D. and Mazigo, A.F. 'Whose Interests Do University Dress Codes Serve? Debating Evidence from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania', *Journal of Humanities*. [under review]

5. Du Toit, Louise. 'From Natal to the Transvaal: Women in the frontlines of the Satya-graha march of 1913', Oxford Handbook on Peaceful Assembly. [forthcoming]
6. Coetzee, Du Toit, Gouws. 'White Women and Anti-Racism in the Post-colony of South Africa', Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, volume 49, number 3, Spring 2024, pp. 609-631. [forthcoming]
7. Smith, Charla and Du Toit, Louise: "Show us how much it hurts": a relational-processual approach to redistributing shame after rape. Towards nuanced, effective activism', Gender Questions. [forthcoming]
8. Smith, Charla and Du Toit, Louise: 'A New Gender Politics of Affect: redistributing fear, anger and vulnerability', (Philosophical Papers) [under review]

2.1.3. Conference papers

Prof. Louise du Toit:

1. "A phenomenology of grieving for the more-than-human", (UJ Philosophy departmental online seminar; 1 March 2023)
2. "Narrating Rape: revisiting the tension between victimhood and agency"; Narrating Rape conference at SU Theology Faculty; 17 March 2023; collaboration with author and theologian Cas Wepener
3. "Troubling the War/Peace Distinction from a decolonial and feminist perspective"; Innsbruck conference; 24 April 2023.
4. "The Haunting of the Ghost of the Black Man" Presented at Vienna conference; 26 April; at UCT HUMA; 30 August and at Aberystwyth University Department of Law, 29 November 2023 (i.e., three presentations of the paper in this year).
5. UCT Law Women's Month Seminar: 10 August 2023: "Male Victims of Sexual Violence" (invited by Reema Nunlall of the Department of Criminology)
6. Leiden University Seminar: "Violence Visible and Invisible: towards a political ontology of violence"; 24 November 2023

Prof Johan Hattingh

7. "Reflections on UNESCO's Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change, with reference to Public Health", on-line Panel Presentation in a UNESCO and WHO Seminar for Asia-Pacific National Bioethics Committees, Manila, 29 November 2023.

2.1.4. Popular Articles

Dr. Tristen Taylor

1. Darf man Oktopusse noch essen?, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 December 2023
2. A perfect storm for a nuclear accident is brewing at Koeberg, Business Day, 6 December 2023
3. The wisdom of Motlanthe shows in his cool approach to drug legalisation, Business Day, 17 November 2023
4. Dugački pipci jednog biznisa, Vreme, 8 November 2023
5. Caught in Mauritania and eaten in Japan, the common octopus is being fished out, Daily Maverick, 7 November 2023
6. The dead hand of the Iraq war lies over all our chaos, Business Day, 26 October 2023
7. Bossen voor banden, De Groene Amsterdammer, 6 September 2023
8. Europe's far-right is storming to power, Business Day, 4 September 2023
9. The masses vote for grants, Business Day, 4 August 2023
10. When the 'strangers' came – Chinese rubber giant 'destroys' rainforests, indigenous lives in Cameroon, Daily Maverick, 11 July 2023
11. Europas Gier nach Gummi, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 7 July 2023
12. Ramaphosa's quixotic quest and the coming Third Congo War, Business Day, 20 June 2023
13. Ugandan thoughtcrime and SA home affairs bigotry, Business Day, 3 April 2023
14. Das traurigste Statussymbol der Welt, Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 March 2023
15. Van Guinee via Servië naar Nederland: Gevleugeld smokkelwaar is goud waard, Trouw, 8 March 2024
16. In just 10 months El Salvador eradicated gangsterism, at a price, Business Day, 28 February 2023
17. Trafficked from Serbia: How birds from Guinea end up in European pet shops, Daily Maverick, 15 February 2023
18. Papagaji vredni kao kokain, Vreme, 8 February 2023 [Winner of Dejan Anastasijević Annual Award for Investigative Journalism]
19. How to fix the SA defence sector: abolish it, Business Day, 26 January 2023
20. Woe to the ANC, Business Day, 10 January 2023

2.2. Current Research

1. Prof. Johan Hattingh (former Head of the Unit) 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) continues with his participatory action research in the coastal communities of Somanga and Songosongo in Tanzania, focusing on community-led initiatives for coral and reef restoration, mangrove restoration, and climate awareness campaign to deconstruct and construct the sustainability ethics of the Indigenous coastal people.
3. Dr Almas Mazigo (Research Fellow of the Unit) continues his research on Indigenous and African-Rooted Evaluation Approaches, focusing on empirical validation of the Swahili evaluation approach.
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. From 2020 to 2023, Dr Leanne Seeliger was working on a research project in the PHA entitled The Ethics of Adaptive Collaborative Water Governance on the Cape Flats Aquifer: A Case Study in the Philippi Horticultural Area. (Funded by Water Research Commission, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Department of Agriculture). She is the principal researcher and project manager for this 4-year project that employs 31 workers to restore the canals in the PHA in the farmlands and residential areas of the Philippi Horticultural Area.
6. From 2021 to 2025, Dr Leanne Seeliger is a researcher on the DIVAGRI research project that focuses on Revenue diversification pathways in Africa through bio-based and circular agricultural innovations. Working in Lynedoch, Stellenbosch, she is focused on creating the communities of practice and learning practice alliances among small farmers that will test the impact of seven bio-based technologies on the productivity of farmers.
7. Prof. Louise du Toit (Head of the Unit) 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. Her research finds expression in undergraduate (Critical Social Theory) and postgraduate (Environmental Ethics as part of a PGD in Environmental

Management at the School for Public Leadership, and as a free-standing MPhil degree) teaching and supervision (see supervision section of this report).

8. Dr. Tristen Taylor (Research Fellow of the Unit) won the 2023 Dejan Anastasijević Annual Award for Investigative Journalism (Serbia) for his investigation into the smuggling of songbirds from Guinea to the EU via Serbia. His main focus in terms of public philosophy this year are defending democracy and uncovering unsafe practices and structures in South Africa's nuclear power station (see opinion articles). Furthermore, he is currently conducting a large investigation (South Korea, Chile and Norway) into the overfishing of krill. During 2024, he will be visually capturing traditional cultures in Benin (Feb. 2024), Togo (Feb. 2024), Ethiopia (Oct. 2024) and South Africa (July 2024). He will publish in both South African and international media. He publishes in Business Day, Christian Science Monitor, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Sunday Times, Mail & Guardian, Daily Maverick, Financial Times, Africa Confidential, Trouw, BBC and De Groene Amsterdammer.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES

3.1. Ongoing Doctoral Projects

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. 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).
4. NAIDOO, K. Homo instrumentum: the black subject of neoliberalism (Supervisor: Prof Louise du Toit. Co-supervisor: Prof Robin Celikates, Freie Universität Berlin). Proposal accepted during 2023.
5. VOSLOO, J. Exploring Black feminist geographies of Johannesburg in conversation with Senzeni Marasela and Katherine McKittrick. (Supervisor: Prof Louise du Toit. Co-supervisor: Prof Stella Viljoen, Visual Arts, SU.)
6. LOUW, J. Contributions of African philosophy in philosophical counselling: Groundwork for new theory and practice. (Supervisor: Prof Louise du Toit. Co-supervisor: Dr Dirk Louw.)

7. CALITZ, V. Recognising alternative structures of intimate life. (Supervisors: Prof Louise du Toit and Prof Vasti Roodt.)
8. WOLFENDEN, J. African Prema-culture: A comparative analysis of Vedic and African ethics' contribution towards a Good Anthropocene. (Supervisors: Prof Louise du Toit and Prof Rika Preiser, Centre for Sustainability Transitions.)
9. HANSEN-COUTURIER, M. (Re-)Turning to Wounds: Sexualized Abuse in Christian Context, PhD in Systematic Theology. This candidate is enrolled at the Protestants Theologische Universiteit (PThU), Amsterdam (NL). The promoter from PThU is Prof. Heleen Zorgdrager. Co-promoter Prof Louise du Toit.

3.2. Master's Projects Completed in 2023

1. WOLFENDEN, J. Bhakti as Environmental Ethic: Assessing the Religious Vedic Tradition of Bhakti-Yoga as a Potential Environmental Ethic. (M Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Louise du Toit. Graduated cum laude April 2023.
2. FOURIE-BASSON, W. Towards a renewed philosophy of nature in the West: making sense of our place in the world in conversation with Pierre Hadot. (MPhil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Louise du Toit. Graduated cum laude December 2023.
3. DEN BESTEN, LM. A Story of the Scoliotic Body: Reimagining the posture of philosophy with Adriana Cavarero and Feminist Disability Theory. MA (Philosophy) Supervisor: Louise du Toit. Graduated cum laude December 2023.
4. UYS, H. Framed and Caged: Theorising the Vulnerability of Animal Bodies Before the Law. Note: this is not an MA that was completed, but rather an LL.M thesis that was successfully converted in the course of 2023, to a LL.D. Supervisor: Prof Henk Botha, Law Faculty; Co-supervisor: Louise du Toit. Student also won the Chancellor's Medal at the December 2023 graduation ceremony.
5. CHEMBEYA, EM. Ethics of governance: Exploring the role of non-executive directors in corporate sustainability performance. (M Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh. Graduated December 2023.
6. TJIHARUKA, 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. Graduated December 2023.

3.3. Ongoing Master's Projects

1. GEVERS, N. Environmental Ethics and the Mining Industry in South Africa: Moving Beyond Compliance and Sustainability. (M Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
2. MOODLEY, N. Water Service Delivery in an Informal Settlement: A case study of Municipal Governance in Stellenbosch. Supervisor: Dr Leanne Seeliger.
3. 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.
4. BRAND, O. Our Nature of Nature: The Normative Implications of an Eco-phenomenological Outlook. (MA Philosophy) Supervisor: Prof Louise du Toit
5. GXAVU, A. The Green Economy and its Implications for Social Justice in South Africa. (MPhil Environmental Management) Supervisor: Prof Louise du Toit
6. SMITH, SL. Rational Compassion Reconsidered: Unpacking Martha Nussbaum's Perspective on the Role of Empathy and Rationality in Animal Treatment. MA (Philosophy) Supervisor: Louise du Toit.
7. SIMPSON, C. Let's talk about sex: the power and politics of women's pleasure. MA Philosophy. Supervisor: Louise du Toit; Co-supervisor: Dr Charla Smith.
8. CHASELA, P. Existentialist Freedom: Reconsidering Sen's "Development as Freedom" through a black existentialist lens. MPhil Social and Political Ethics. Supervisors: Louise du Toit and Vasti Roodt.
9. BALENI, S. The Legacies of Violence on the Black Body: a phenomenological inquiry. MA Philosophy. Supervisor: Louise du Toit; Co-supervisor Dr Veeran Naicker (AVReQ).
10. DE VILLIERS, A. Vergil and the land: Georgic wonder and ethics of place. (M Phil Environmental Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
11. PAYNTER, CJD. The Transformative Potential of The Feminine Principle: A Post Qualitative Inquiry into the Aura Valley Programme of Be The Earth Foundation. (M Phil Sustainable Development). Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh. Co-supervisor: Prof. Rika Preiser. Research Anchor: Eve Annecke.
12. LEATHERBY, C. Exploring Ways of Being in Action with the World. How joyful practices can support burnout in environmental activism. (M Phil Sustainable Development). Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh. Co-supervisor: Prof. Rika Preiser.
13. SMIT, CC. A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Blue Economy with Specific Reference to South Africa. (M Phil Environmental Management). Supervisor: Prof. Johan Hattingh.
14. BRUCE, R. The Monstrous Feminine and the Abjection of Nature. MA Philosophy. Supervisor: Louise du Toit.

3.4. PGDip and MPhil in Environmental Management and PGDip in Applied Ethics

The MPhil Programme in Environmental Management was launched in January 2001. Since then, it has been adapted to a Postgraduate Diploma Programme preceding the MPhil, in order to comply with University stipulations about postgraduate programmes. This PGD programme is offered annually. 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, around 30 annually. From time to time, MPhil students in Environmental Management do their theses in Environmental Ethics and are supervised by our staff members. See supervision list in this report.

Within the framework of this PGD Environmental Management programme, Prof. Hattingh and Prof. Du Toit took responsibility for teaching and assessing the module in Environmental Ethics in 2023. Prof. Workineh Kelbessa of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia presented a guest lecture on African Contributions to Environmental Ethics, which was very well received by the students.

3.5. Membership of Editorial Boards

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. Prof Hattingh was invited to become a member of Editorial Board in 2011, and the Journal was established in 2012.

Prof Du Toit currently serves on the editorial boards of Philosophy and Rhetoric

(https://www.psupress.org/Journals/jnls_pr.html), Gender Questions

(<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Colleges/Human-Sciences/Schools,-departments,-centres,-institutes-&-units/School-of-Social-Sciences/Department-of-Gender-and-Sexuality-Studies/Gender-Questions>),

Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology (<https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ripj20>), and De Uil van Minerva (<https://openjournals.ugent.be/deuilvanminerva/>).

3.6. Other activities

Prof. Johan Hattingh:

1. Continues to collaborate with the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris and Regional Offices of UNESCO on the Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change (adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2017). Prof Hattingh was the President of the Ad Hoc Expert Group that drafted this Declaration.
2. Was invited to participate in the Emerging Scholars Accelerator Programme (ESAP) of the University of the Free State during the course of 2023 and 2024, specifically as mentor of a senior lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Classics working on the topic of Environmental/Eco-philosophy. The aim of this programme is to support young promising scholars on the path towards a professoriate.

Prof Louise du Toit:

3. Acted again as reviewer for fellowship applications at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.
4. Supervised an Honours research essay by Hugo Uys, November 2023, "What 'This' Might This Be?: Posthuman Feminism and the Trouble with Making Sense of This World"; 92%.
5. Supervised an Honours research essay by Robin Bruce, November 2023, "Slow Reading to Recognize and Address Slow Violence Done to Nature"; 70%.
6. Served on Subcommittee A of the Research Committee of Senate, including as vice-chair.
7. As part of the Critical Social Theory third-year module in the Philosophy syllabus, taught a section on Environmental Justice.
8. Gave a talk at the Filosofiekafee at the Woordfees. Also, hosted two conversations in the Ongehoord discourse series at Woordfees.
9. Served on the advisory board of AVReQ, the Centre for the Study of the Afterlife of Trauma and the Reparatory Quest, at SU. Participated in an AVReQ research seminar on new directions in Ubuntu thinking, with visiting scholar John Brewer, from Queen's University, Belfast.
10. Participated as a mentor in a Mellon-funded project for the advancement of African Philosophy in South Africa. Co-published with one of the mentees.

Dr Almas Fortunatus Mazigo:

11. Between April 2022 and June 2023, Dr Mazigo led a participatory action research team in the designing and implementing the project to restore corals and mangroves along the Indian Ocean coast in Tanzania. The team comprised four university researchers, two postgraduate students and 39

members of Somanga village in Kilwa District, Tanzania. By 30 April 2023, the team had planted and cared for 6,918 corals at Mwambafisi and 17,735 mangroves in an area of 10 hectares of coastal land in Somanga bay.

12. Dr Mazigo continued to support the Institute of Directors in Tanzania (IoDT) and Uongozi Institute in strengthening capacities of current and prospective board directors of companies in Tanzania. He facilitated Corporate Governance Ethics, Business Ethics, and Leadership Ethics modules of the regular and tailored trainings organized by the IoDT and Uongozi.

REPORT OF THE UNIT FOR THE ETHICS OF TECHNOLOGY

Compiled by Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha

1. INTRODUCTION

The members of the Unit are Dr Tanya de Villiers -Botha (Unit Head), Dr Fabio Tollon (Research Associate), Dr Niël Conradie (Research Associate), Ms Lize Alberts (Research Associate), Dr Filippos Stamatiou (Postdoctoral Fellow; appointed in December 2023) and Dr Nathan Walker (Research Associate; appointed September 2024).

2. RESEARCH

Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha

Opinion pieces

- “Risks and limitations of ChatGPT and Bing Chat”, News 24, 28 February 2023
- “SA lags behind on AI policy and legislation”, News24, 8 December 2023

Industry Research

- Developed an AI and Data Ethics Framework for Standard Bank South Africa, in collaboration with the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking

Conference presentations

- Participated in panel discussion: “Impulse Session: Global Perspectives on AI Ethics” at The Responsible AI Forum 2023 conference, Technical University of Munich, 13 September 2023
- Conference paper: “LLMs, chatbots, and online search. What could possibly go wrong?” The Responsible AI Forum 2023 conference, Technical University of Munich, 13 September 2023

Policy

- Presented a talk, “AI in Higher Education in South Africa: Some Ethical Considerations” for the Council on Higher Education 25th Anniversary Dialogue Series, Dialogue 1: Research Colloquium on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education, Johannesburg, 11 May 2023
- Developed my CHE presentation into a paper for their publication, Kagisano, which will appear in 2024
- Developed online guideline: “Large Language Models: Ethical Considerations” (Narrated PowerPoint distributed to FASS and SU staff on the nature of LLMs and their possible impact on learning and assessment)

Workshops

- Contributed to a workshop on Ethics and Biases in Machine Learning with the School for Data Science and Standard Bank, 25 May 2023
- Presentation: “Large Language Models: Ethical Considerations”, FASS Workshop: AI and assessment: pitfalls and next steps, 31 May 2023
- Presentation on AI squared webinar series: AI and student assessment, Centre for Learning Technologies, SU. Online, 18 September 2023
- Presentation: “Bias in AI”, CIRCoRe: Race, Human Categorisation and Science meeting, 29 November 2023

Popular talks

- Radio interview on AI ethics, Radio 786, 23 March 2023
- Radio interview on AI ethics, Cape Talk, 2 May 2023
- Two-part radio interview on “Wat is Kunsmatige Intelligensie” for Pretoria FM’s “Ek wil weet”-programme, aired 21 June and 1 August 2023
- Radio interview on AI ethics, RSG, 28 September 2023
- Interview on AI ethics, RSG (online streaming from the Wordfees), 9 October 2023
- Part of Wordfees Resonans-Gespreksreeks panel discussion, “Wanneer bars die Kunsmatige intelligensie borrel?”, 13 October, 2023
- Delivered talk on AI ethics to the Socratic Society of Oude Westhof Retirement Village, 7 November 2023

Dr Fabio Tollon

Doctoral dissertation

- AI, Agency, and Responsibility. From New Technologies to Old Problems, and Back Again
<https://pub.uni-bielefeld.de/record/2987436> (defended in 2023, published in 2024)

Publications

- Tollon, F. (2023). Free Will as An Epistemically Innocent False Belief. *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, 19 (2), A2-15. <https://doi.org/10.31820/ejap.19.2.2>
- Tollon, F. (2023) Reactive agency and technology. *AI Ethics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43681-023-00366-6>

Conference presentations

- 'Does Blaming Robots Make Them Responsible?', South African Conference for Artificial Intelligence Research, Muldersdrift, South Africa, 4-8 December 2023.
- 'Artificial Systems: Entities or Agents?', Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (SOPhiA), Salzburg, 6-8 September 2023
- 'Free Will as an Epistemically Innocent Delusion', 4th Munich Graduate Conference in Ethics, Munich, 6-7 July 2023
- 'Responsibility Gaps: Old Wine in New Bottles', IACAP 2023, Prague, 3-5 July 2023.
- 'Does AI Undermine Forward-Looking Moral Responsibility', Tech Ethics eXchange Northeast, Harvard, 18-19 May 2023

Invited talks

- 'Responsibility Gaps and Technology: Old Wine in New Bottles', INTERACT! Group, Ruhr University Bochum, 17 May 2024
- 'AI Ethics Panel', Boston Computational Club, 7 October 2023
- 'An Affordance Account of Value Embedding in Technology: Why Good Intentions are Not Enough', Cambridge NLP Seminars, 3 March 2023
- 'Does AI Undermine Forward-Looking Responsibility?', UCT Department of Philosophy Seminar, 1 March 2023

Dr Niël Conradie

Research Article

- Conradie, N. H. (2023). Autonomous Military Systems: collective responsibility and distributed burdens. *Ethics and Information Technology*, 25(1), 20

Conference presentations

- Presented “Gaming the Numbers” at “Rethinking Policy, Expertise and Trust” PERITIA Conference at the University College Dublin, 23-25 March 2023
- Presented “Gaming the Numbers” at the “Dual Use and Misuse of Research Results” Workshop at the Research Center Jülich, 17-21 July 2023
- Presented “Gaming the Numbers” at the “Trust, Hope, and Rationality” Conference at Lund University, 25-26 August 2023

Lize Alberts

Presentations

- Presentation “Dark and Anti-Patterns in Social Interfaces”, Google TL/UXR internal group, 10 September 2023
- Presentation “Dark and Anti-Patterns in Social Interfaces” Google-Cambridge University Reading Group on Conversational Agents, 13 September 2023
- Workshop participant in Google’s “Techno-Moral Scenarios for Responsible Innovation” workshop, 17 – 19 October 2023

3. TEACHING

Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha

Additional teaching and public engagements

- Invited to introduce Prof. John Dupré for his lecture, entitled “Human processes”, at STIAS, 23 February 2023
- Guest seminar, MPhil Business Ethics, 10 February 2023
- Guest seminar, MPhil Social and Political Ethics, 27 July 2023

- Guest seminar, CREST PGDip in Research Administration and Management, 26 September 2023
- Short Course “Introduction to Data and AI Ethics”. Offered to two separate sets of corporate clients during 2023, in conjunction with the Data School for Data and Computational Thinking (coordinator and presenter)
- Short Course “Introduction to Data and AI Ethics” weekly online lectures, 5 May – 2 June 2023

4. POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha

Masters graduated in 2023:

- James Smith, “Nowhere to Hide: An ethical evaluation of how big data aggregation violates privacy (and what we should do about it)”, cum laude
- Fred Knoetze, “The Deliberate Design Argument for the Predictive Success of Science”, cum laude

Masters ongoing

- Jani, Brink, “Brain transplants: Some Philosophical Considerations”
- Sam Timson, “How Much Consciousness is Enough? On the Importance of Consciousness Testing”
- Charl Marais, “A Philosophical Analysis of Autism Spectrum Disorder”

PhD ongoing

- Johan May, “On the Role of Philosophy of Technology in the Anthropocene era: A Stieglerian Perspective”
- Ivan Bock, “Virtue Ethics and Moral Psychology: Defending Virtue Ethics and the Development of Virtuous Dispositions Against Character and Moral-Skill Scepticism”

5. SERVICE DELIVERY

Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha

Committee membership and positions

- Co-chair: Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Organising Committee
- Committee member: CIRCoRe (Race, Human Categorisation and Science Workstream)
- Participated in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Teaching Forum

- Academic Appointments Committee member (Lecturer: Information Science Department)

Examination, reviews, and moderation

- Peer Review
 - Litnet
 - Utilitas
 - SACAIR 2024 conference
 - OASIS Books

Examination

- Two Honours theses for the University of Johannesburg
- MA thesis, B. Meintjies (Stellenbosch University)
- MA thesis, L. Ten Besten (Stellenbosch University)
- PhD thesis, AF Akpan (University of Pretoria)

Moderation

- Philosophy and Ethics 314
- Philosophy and Ethics 414

Module development

- Developed an MPhil in the Ethics of AI which has been approved and which will be offered from 2025

Memberships

- Member of the Global AI Ethics Consortium of the Institute for the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Technical University of Munich

Dr Fabio Tollon

Peer Review

- International Journal of Technoethics
- AI & Society
- AI and Ethics
- Science and Engineering Ethics
- Journal of Medical Ethics

- Philosophy and Technology
- Minds and Machines
- Topoi
- Journal of Value Inquiry

Conference organisation

- 2023: 3rd ETEG Workshop Series, with keynote by Deborah Johnson

Dr Conradie

Peer review

- Philosophy & Technology
- Ethics and Information Technology
- Human-Machine Collectives
- Erkenntnis

Module development

As a contributor to the BMBF-funded project “BridgingAI” helped to develop and produce the Ethics of AI component of the massive open online course (MOOC) entitled BridgingAI. The purpose of this MOOC is to provide a publically-facing educational platform that seeks to provide students with relevant AI competencies, regardless of the discipline studied.

Other general activities of the unit

- Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha appointed Lize Alberts as a Research Associate in the Unit for the Ethics of Technology, CAE. Ms Alberts is currently doing her PhD in computer science at Oxford University and is a student researcher at Google. Her research focusses on ethical human-computer interfaces.
- Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha obtained Sub-committee A funding to appoint Filippos Stamatiou as Postdoctoral Fellow in the Philosophy department and the Centre for Applied Ethics. He obtained his PhD from the University of Copenhagen and will work on a project on responsibility in AI.
- Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha and researchers from the Open Africa Institute obtained a FASS Research Support Grant for a collaborative project, “Improvising Music with NAO, the Robot”.
- Dr Tanya de Villiers-Botha continued to liaise with the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking, Stellenbosch University and ties between the School and Unit have strengthened. The School

generously granted Mr James Smith a scholarship, which enabled him to complete his Master's degree on data privacy.

- Ms Lize Alberts worked as a Student Researcher at Google in on agentic LLM evaluation and personalised (context-sensitive) alignment, 17 July – 20 October, 2023

REPORT OF THE UNIT PROMOTING
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ETHICS
RESEARCH (PROSPER)

Compiled by Prof Vasti Roodt