

Postgraduate Programmes



General information 2022

**Department of Sociology
& Social Anthropology
Stellenbosch University**

<https://www0.sun.ac.za/sociology/>
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University. We are a large and dynamic department encompassing two distinctive but related disciplines, that of Sociology and Social Anthropology. We offer separate majors in Sociology and Social Anthropology and a range of discipline-based courses, from Honours through to Doctoral studies. Our common focus is the study of society and social relationships in all their complexity. Under this broad umbrella, each discipline draws on its distinctive theoretical and methodological traditions to ground its research and analysis of social issues, as well as the training it provides its students. At the same time, the presence of the two disciplines supports exciting opportunities for innovative inter-disciplinary work.

We promote critical, creative and engaged scholarship and are committed to providing our students with a supportive and stimulating learning environment. Our aim is to produce graduates who can make a significant contribution to society in a wide range of arenas through their conceptual, analytical and research skills, as well as their ability to apply knowledge to practice.

Our postgraduate offerings encompass two main clusters, with interesting opportunities for multi-disciplinary exchange:

1. Discipline-based higher-degree programmes in both Sociology and Social Anthropology that provide students the opportunity to develop their conceptual, theoretical and methodological skills within each of these disciplines, as well as carry out advanced research and social analysis in selected areas;
2. Two new interdisciplinary Masters Degrees: an Mphil in Transdisciplinary Health and Development, and Masters in Public Sociology and Anthropology, that provide theoretical and professional training, as well as opportunities for advanced research.

Our location in Stellenbosch -- a university town on the interface between the oldest city in South Africa and a vast rural hinterland -- provides a unique setting from which to work. Major teaching and research areas within the Department include social theory; research methodology; work and livelihoods; feminism; gender and sexuality; governance and citizenship; education; religion; identity; culture and language; health and development; armed forces and society; poverty, inequality and development; land, the environment and society; social security and social policy; family studies and parenting and migration.

We trust that you will find this booklet informative. Please contact us should you require additional information or wish to discuss your options further within the Department.

Associate Professor Bernard Dubbeld
Chair of the Department

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Postal Address: Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

Stellenbosch University

Private Bag X1
Matieland, 7602
South Africa

Tel. no: +27 21 808 2420 (reception)

Address: Room 424, 4th Floor
Arts and Social Sciences Building,
Corner of Merriman Avenue & Ryneveld Street
Stellenbosch

Website: <http://www0.sun.ac.za/sociology/>

Language policy

The medium of postgraduate instruction within the Department is English, but Afrikaans-speaking students who wish to present their work in Afrikaans are accommodated.

2. POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR

For information on all the Department's programmes, contact the Department's Postgraduate Administrator, Mrs Genay Gabriels:

Tel. no: +27 21 808 2479

E-mail: genay@sun.ac.za

Other important University numbers

Admissions and registration: Tel: +27 21 808 4546; Fax: +27 21 808 3822

Student fees: Tel: +27 21 808 4913; Fax: +27 21 808 3739

Bursaries (Postgraduate): Tel: +27 21 808 4208; Fax: +27 21 808 2954

JS Gericke Library: Tel: +27 21 808 4385; Fax: +27 21 808 4336

3. PROGRAMMES

The official regulations of the University with regard to the postgraduate degree programmes in the Department can be found in the Calendar, Parts 1 and 4, at: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/search/Pages/results.aspx?k=yearbook>. There are important sections in both parts regarding the formatting of a thesis, formal requirements for the courses and the weighting of modules.

The Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology offers the following programmes:

- Sociology: Honours, Masters, PhD
- Social Anthropology: Honours, Masters, PhD

In collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Department is offering an Mphil degree in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies. Requirements include a course work and thesis component.

We also offer a Masters Degree in Public Sociology and Anthropology. Requirements include a coursework, internship and mini-dissertation component.

Details on both of these programmes can be found in Part II below.

In addition to the above, the Department offers short service courses designed to enhance professional training for people working in the fields of research methodology, government and tertiary education, policy formulation, and development. These short courses may be taken by the Department's postgraduate students to enrich their study programmes.

4. GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following sets out the minimum requirements that are taken into consideration. Please note that admission to any programme remains at the discretion of the Department even if the minimum educational qualifications are met. The Department may also require individual students to take supplementary modules if deemed necessary or appropriate to further their particular study programmes.

In exceptional circumstances where an applicant does not meet the general admissions criteria but has a promising record as well as a well-motivated reason for wishing to enrol in one of the Department's programmes, the Department may take into account relevant experience as well as evidence of the potential of the student to succeed in his or her chosen degree programme. Exceptional cases of this nature have to be fully motivated in accordance with University policies, including, where appropriate, its alternative admission requirements (see the section on Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning below). If potential students have any queries in this regard, please contact the Department.

Individual programme admission requirements for consideration of students

Honours

Admission requirements for Sociology or Social Anthropology include a major in an undergraduate B-degree with grade average of 65% or more in their major subject. Strong applications from students with undergraduate degrees with majors in cognate disciplines may be considered on their merits, taking note of Faculty requirements.

MA

An Honours degree in Sociology or Social Anthropology (Equivalent qualifications, including Honours degrees in cognate disciplines, will be considered on their merits) with an average of 65% in previous degree studies. Demonstrated academic ability is generally required. The Department also needs to be in a position to offer the student supervision in his/her chosen field.

MA Public Sociology and Anthropology

Those applying should be in possession of at least a Postgraduate Diploma or an Honours degree on NQF level 8 in Sociology, Anthropology or a cognate discipline approved by the Department. An average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, with demonstrated academic ability and evidence of adequate English language and writing proficiency are required.

MPhil Transdisciplinary Health and Development

Studies by thesis

Students in possession of a postgraduate diploma in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies, a related social science Honours degree or diploma or a health sciences qualification on NQF level 8 with proven experience in social science research may apply for the MPhil by thesis only (879). All students should have an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, demonstrated academic ability and proficiency in English.

MPhil Transdisciplinary Health and Development

Studies by coursework

Students with a postgraduate diploma or Honours degree on NQF level 8 (with an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, demonstrated academic ability and proficient in English) or equivalent professional experience may apply for the MPhil by coursework (899).

Time frames for applying for admission

For all programmes, other than doctoral studies, applications are due on 30 November every year. The internal departmental process of conditional screening applications and selecting students takes place within two weeks of applications being received. Final confirmation is provided once marks are finalised. In the case of MA students, initial acceptance is conditional on the student completing a satisfactory thesis pre-proposal due by the end of the first term of the year of first registration (generally by the end of March).

Doctoral studies: Students may be admitted at several points during the course of the academic year in accordance with the process described in Section 5 below. The Department screens initial applications on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL)

Applicants who do not meet the standard admissions requirements, who were previously denied opportunities for higher education, and who can demonstrate that they have the ability to participate in a postgraduate programme at the appropriate level as a result of prior learning and relevant experience, may be eligible for special admission through the University's ARPL process.

More details of the ARPL procedure are available on the Faculty's website at <http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Arts/English> or in printed form from the Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

5.1 Honours and Masters

(Prospective PhD candidates, go to 5.2 below)

STEP 1

Take note of the closing dates for applications on www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies:

- International students: generally end of September of the year prior to the proposed year of registration;
- South African students: the Department requests applications by 30 November of the year prior to the proposed year of registration. However, depending on capacity, late applications might be considered.

Students should keep copies of all their correspondence with the University and the Department.

STEP 2

Apply via e-application at: www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies

OR

Request the form by mail from the Admissions Division of the University (not the Department): Admissions, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602.

NB: If the form is requested via mail, the following information must please accompany the request: Personal Information (Name and surname) and Contact information (Full postal or e-mail address).

OR

Collect the form from: The Enquiries Desk, Administration Building A, Stellenbosch.

OR

Request the form by telephone: +27 21 808-4515.

STEP 3

Complete the form.

STEP 4

Pay the Application fee. Please note: Application fees can be paid via the e-application process, by cheque, by postal order or by cash. The payments can be made personally at the University cashiers, or sent per mail. Cash payments must be made in person. The Department is not responsible for handling application fees.

STEP 5

Send the completed form and required application fee (or proof of payment) to:

Admissions, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602.

After receiving the application the University acknowledges receipt. Every applicant:

- Is notified by mail of the receipt of the application;
- Is assigned a unique number for identification purposes, your student number (if the University hasn't already given one to you); and
- Can check the status of his/her application on the web.

STEP 6

Complete the Departmental Postgraduate Information Form available from the Department's Postgraduate Administrator, Mrs Genay Gabriels (email: genay@sun.ac.za or telephone +27 21 808 2479). This form requests additional information from applicants that will be considered once the Department has received the application from Admissions.

STEP 7

Submit the Departmental Postgraduate information form to the Departmental Postgraduate Administrator, Mrs Genay Gabriels (email: genay@sun.ac.za).

STEP 8

The Admissions division sends the application to the Department for internal processing.

The application, together with the Departmental Postgraduate Information Form, is considered at a meeting of the Department's Postgraduate Committee (once every term and during the last term early November). At this point, the Department may require additional information from students. Once the Department has completed the assessment process, the results are submitted to Academic Administration. The University will then notify every applicant whether his/her application has been successful. NB: If the application form is incomplete it will be returned and the application will be delayed.

5.2 Prospective PhD candidates

General

Currently the Department screens applications for doctoral studies on a quarterly basis, generally in February, May, August and November of each year. In order to be considered for doctoral studies by the Department, applicants must:

- Have completed an MA/MSocSc degree in Sociology or Social Anthropology or a cognate discipline and obtained a grade of 65% or above;
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to advanced-level research that will make a contribution to the advancement of knowledge in their field;
- Propose a field of study in which the Department has supervisory capacity.

NB: It is highly unlikely that the Department will accept a prospective doctoral student if the draft proposal suggests that the proposed study is far removed from the research expertise within the Department.

Potential applicants are therefore encouraged to familiarise themselves with staff members' areas of research interest, by looking at their profiles on the [departmental website](#) and their publications.

They should also familiarise themselves with University admissions and fee policies via the [Postgraduate website](#) & [International Office](#) and consider carefully their funding requirements, including registration, living and research costs and how they will finance their research programme. International applicants should also take note of visa and other requirements, as well as the services offered to them by the University's Postgraduate and International Office.

Potential applicants are welcome to contact individual members of the Department and/or programme coordinators to discuss their ideas, with the understanding that no binding commitments can be entered into at this stage. If they wish to proceed with an application, they must do so in terms of the steps outlined below.

Applicants must prepare a 2-3 page preliminary proposal (the 'preproposal') for departmental screening AFTER they have applied formally to the University (steps 1 – 3 below). At the stage of submitting a preproposal for consideration they will be required to provide additional information if not already known in an academic capacity to the Department.

STEP 1: APPLY THROUGH THE CENTRAL STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Should the applicant wish to proceed with an application, s/he needs to make a formal application to the University (not the Department). The application form can be accessed via one of the following methods:

Apply via e-application at: www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies

OR

Request the form by telephone: +27 21 808-9111.

OR

Collect the form from The Enquiries Desk, Administration Building A, Stellenbosch.

Please note that the Department is not responsible for handling initial application forms or fees. Please address all questions about the initial admission process and fees to the University's Postgraduate and International Office.

STEP 2: PAY APPLICATION FEE AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO THE UNIVERSITY

Before the completed application form can be considered, the applicant must pay the University Application fee, either via the e-application process, OR by cheque or postal order OR by cash at the University cashiers. Note that cash payments must be made in person. If the student is not applying online, s/he must send the completed form and required application fee or proof of payment to:

Admissions, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602.

STEP 3: UNIVERSITY PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT & REFERRAL OF APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT

After receiving the application, the Admissions Division of the University will acknowledge receipt. If the applicant does not already have a student number, s/he is assigned a unique student number for identification purposes. The applicant is then able to check the status of his/her application on the University website.

The University does a preliminary assessment of the application to check that the applicant meets the official requirements for the proposed doctoral degree. At this stage, additional information/documents may be requested from the applicant before the application may proceed.

Once the application is in order, the University Admissions Division sends it to the Department for further processing.

STEP 4: PRELIMINARY DEPARTMENTAL SCREENING

The application is considered by the Programme Coordinator and/or Head of Department for compatibility with departmental entrance requirements.

If the application is unsuccessful, it is returned to the Admissions Division to inform the applicant.

If the application merits further consideration, the Department will request the applicant to send the following documents (if not already with the Department) to assess the applicant's capacity for advanced level research in an area where the Department has the necessary supervisory capacity:

1. The Department's Postgraduate Information Form, with the following attachments:
 - 1.1 A brief letter of motivation
 - 1.2 An academic CV
 - 1.3 If not a graduate of the Department, letters of reference from two academic referees recommending the applicant for postgraduate study;
2. An example of written academic work (e.g. research essay, assignment, academic article);

3. A 2 – 3 page draft preliminary proposal (guidelines below)
4. Any further information deemed necessary to complete the applicant's profile.

Guidelines for the preliminary proposal

The preliminary proposal should be approximately 2 – 3 typed pages and comply with the following requirements:

- Name, contact details of applicant, date and student number
- Working title of the doctoral thesis, indicating the broad focus of the proposed study;
- The motivation or rationale behind the proposed study;
- A broad description of the research problem as currently conceptualised, as well as the objectives of the study;
- A brief indication of the conceptual and/or theoretical framework that is provisionally proposed for the study, with the understanding that this may still be evolving;
- A broad description of the research methodology that is provisionally proposed for the study, also with the understanding that this may still be evolving;
- An indication of the readings that the student has already done and/or has identified as important for the study; and
- A brief statement about how the study will be funded, and if any difficulties are anticipated in this regard.

The requested information should be submitted to the Departmental Postgraduate Administrator, Mrs Genay Gabriels (email: genay@sun.ac.za).

STEP 5: QUARTERLY SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT

Once the requested documentation has been received it is considered in terms of both its academic merit and departmental supervisory capacity. This is done when the Department's Postgraduate Committee meets (generally in February, May, August and November).

If the application is unsuccessful at this stage, the Department informs the University's Admissions Division to inform the applicant accordingly. In some cases, the Department may also make its own recommendations concerning the proposed study and/or alternative options to the unsuccessful applicant, where this is considered appropriate, but this is in addition to the official University communication to the student.

If the application meets the requirements of the Department, the Department assigns the applicant a provisional supervisor and accepts the student as a prospective doctoral student.

Thereafter the provisional supervisor will contact the prospective student to begin work on developing a full doctoral proposal for admission to doctoral studies in terms of Faculty and University requirements. This proposal is developed under the guidance of the provisional supervisor identified by the Department.

Note: Under certain circumstances it is possible for a doctoral student to register for the PhD programme without a final proposal, if the Department is of the view that the proposal will definitely be developed and approved within the academic year, and its recommendation accordingly is approved by the Faculty Research Committee.

STEP 6: DEVELOPMENT OF A FULL RESEARCH PROPOSAL

At this stage the successful applicant is a prospective doctoral student. Full registration only follows after the formal doctoral research proposal has been approved by the Faculty and University, a process which should usually take no longer than six months to complete.

While the prospective doctoral student is not yet a fully admitted postgraduate student, s/he can be awarded a 'special registration' status pending the finalisation of his/her admission status, which will allow access to the library. This requires the provisional supervisor to recommend to the library accordingly. Students applying from outside South Africa can be registered as 'affiliated students' at the International Office.

The Faculty guidelines on the doctoral proposal can be obtained from the student's supervisor. These guidelines should not be regarded as a fixed template and the precise format of the final proposal will be guided by the nature of the study and determined in consultation with the supervisor.

It should be noted that departmental approval for the prospective student to prepare a formal proposal does not in itself guarantee admission to the doctoral programme. The preparation of a proposal should not take longer than six months to complete and if there is little evidence of progress within this period, the Department may withdraw its authorisation for the candidate to proceed with the development of a proposal.

Once the proposal is acceptable to the candidate's provisional supervisor, the supervisor arranges a Departmental Admissions Committee to review the proposal in terms of Faculty requirements. Where possible, the student will be asked to be present for the Admissions Committee meeting.

Once the proposal has been approved by the Admissions Committee (which may require several iterations of the document), the Department submits it to the Faculty's Research Committee for initial approval from where it proceeds to the University Senate for final approval. Once this has been achieved, the candidate is informed that s/he may register formally for the PhD programme with the University.

6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Various opportunities exist for financial assistance to support postgraduate studies. Students are expected to be proactive in finding funding opportunities and take responsibility in meeting all application requirements and deadlines. Registered and prospective students should consult the Postgraduate Bursary Office of the University for advice and further information on financial assistance, including opportunities and scholarships not listed here.

Faculty Graduate School Doctoral Scholarships

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has launched a Graduate School that is aimed at supporting doctoral candidates working on topics linked to selected research themes aligned to research programmes within the Department. Attached to this initiative is a scholarship programme for prospective doctoral students. This is advertised on an annual basis towards the end of the year preceding the first year of proposed registration in the programme. The number of bursaries available are dependent on funding.

The process of applying for admission to doctoral studies in the Department through the scholarship programme is handled, in the first instance, through the Graduate School office. More information is available from the [Graduate School website](#).

Stellenbosch University Bursaries

Stellenbosch University offers financial assistance to students as a contribution to the cost of postgraduate study. This assistance is based on:

- Academic merit; and
- Financial need.

Unfortunately, the University cannot guarantee any student sufficient financial assistance to cover all his/her study and living expenses. Students are advised to plan their finances carefully and to check whether or not they meet the basic requirements, such as academic merit, before applying for a bursary.

Students who completed their previous study at another university (i.e. not at Stellenbosch University) must attach a certified copy of their academic record to each bursary application they make. Applications must furthermore be recommended by the head of the Department or by the head's representative.

Information on available bursaries can be obtained from the Postgraduate Bursary Office via the [University website](#). A list of [options for financial assistance for international students](#) is available online. The Postgraduate Bursary Office (Division of Research Development) can be reached telephonically at +27 21-808 2907 / 2908 / 3896.

Please note: bursaries will only be paid into the student accounts of students who are accepted and who have registered for the programme.

NRF bursaries

Postgraduate students who are successful in their applications for admission are likely to qualify for consideration for bursaries from the National Research Foundation (NRF). Information as to the value of the assistance and the process and deadlines for application can be obtained from the [NRF website](#).

Departmental SP Cilliers Honours bursaries

The Department has established a limited number of bursaries, named after Prof SP Cilliers, a former Chair of the Department, to encourage students with demonstrated academic ability but who are in need of financial assistance to continue their studies at Honours level. Four bursaries are awarded per year. Calls for applications for the bursaries are announced by the Department during the second half of the year preceding the proposed year of study, with the final awards being made after students' successful completion of their undergraduate degree.

In awarding the bursary, the Department recognises that historical disadvantage in the form of institutionalised racial discrimination as a result of South Africa's history before 1994 is frequently, but not automatically nor exclusively, linked to current economic disadvantage.

More information on these bursaries is available from the Postgraduate Programme Administrator in the Department.

Other financial assistance from the Department

Funding may be available from individual staff or departmental research projects to support research on topics related to or falling under specific research projects. Students are advised to discuss such opportunities with their supervisors and the Postgraduate Programme Administrator.

There may also be opportunities for locally based students to work as part-time student/teaching assistants/tutors in the Department. Further details on such opportunities may be obtained from Ms Genay Gabriels (genay@sun.ac.za).

7. RESEARCH AREAS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

The following list indicates major areas of teaching and research expertise within the Department in which postgraduate research is specifically encouraged. This is not intended as either a comprehensive or a closed list of research areas and other topics that students wish to pursue will be considered on their merits.

- Social theory (sociological and anthropological traditions and the practice of social theorising)
- Research methodology (theories of social research; ethnographic, interview, focus group, survey, SPSS, mixed methodologies)
- Work and livelihoods
- Sexuality and Gender
- Governance and Citizenship
- Education
- Religion
- Identity, Culture and Language
- Conflict, security and military studies
- Environment and society, including environmental sociology, nature conservation and Land and land reform in South Africa and internationally
- Social security and social policy
- Gambling

Academic staff and their specific areas of expertise are listed in section 8 below. More information on the research profile of individual staff members as well as current and recent research projects can be found on the Department's website. The Department welcomes interaction with prospective and current students around their research interests and ideas. Students should feel free to contact individual staff via e-mail to take such discussions forward.

Departmental seminar programme

The Department hosts a weekly lunch-hour seminar programme, at which visiting and local scholars and experts in a wide range of fields are invited to present and debate their research and writing. All postgraduate students who are resident in the Department are expected to attend and participate in the seminar programme; opportunities are also created for students to present their work-in-progress at both open and closed (departmental) seminar sessions.

8. STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT

Academic staff (areas of specialisation)

Associate Prof Bernard Dubbeld (Sociology: Critical Social Theory; Capital and Labour; Governance and citizenship; Co-PI: Indexing Transformation)

Dr Claire-Anne Lester (Sociology: Transitional Justice; Social Justice and Transformation; Legal Sociology; Critical Social Theory; Discourse and Ideology)

Jacob du Plessis (Sociology: Community development; the state and development; health and education; ICTs and development; teaching sociology practice).

Dr Khayaat Fakier (Sociology: Sociology of work; social reproduction and migrant households; social protection)

Prof Dennis Francis (Sociology: Queer theory, Sexualities, Gender, Youth and schooling, connecting the arts and anti-oppressive research, teaching and activism)

Prof Lindy Heineken (Sociology: Armed forces and society; gender, security and development; changing nature of work and employment relations; political sociology).

Dr Lloyd Hill (Sociology: Language; the sociology of knowledge; research methodology).

Dr Efua Prah: (Social Anthropology: Refugee geopolitics, Migration, 'Children and Childhood studies', 'Sexual and Reproductive Health', Medical Anthropology, Race Theory of the South'.

Prof Steven Robins (Social Anthropology: Citizenship and governance; public anthropology; social movements; anthropology of development; PI: Indexing Transformation)

Dr Shaheed Tayob (Social Anthropology: Anthropology of Religion, Islam, Ethics, Food, Consumption, Economy, Human-Animal Relations, Social Change).

Associate Prof. Ilana Van Wyk (Social Anthropology: Religion, Money, Gambling, Christianity, South African Anthropology, Precolonial money instruments, matric farewells)

Prof Cheryl Walker - SARChI chair in the Sociology of land, environment and sustainable development (Land reform; land and identity; sociology of the environment; women, development and gender; the politics and ethics of research).

Dr Handri Walters (Social Anthropology: The politics of knowledge, historicised anthropology, material culture, spectres of race.

Jantjie Xaba (Sociology: Industrial sociology; work organization, restructuring, retrenchments; black economic empowerment, technology, labour unions; diversity; informal economy).

Emeritus Professors

Prof Simon Bekker (Sociology: Urbanisation; migration; identity).

Prof Cornie Groenewald (Sociology: Demography; sociology of development; community development).

Prof Andrietta Kritzing (Sociology: Industrial sociology; sociology of work; gender).

Prof Kees van der Waal (Social Anthropology: Language, culture and identity; the anthropology of development; anthropology of South Africa; the ethnographic research method).

Ass Prof Rob Pattman: (Sociology: Social identities with a focus on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, young people, education, HIV/AIDS, qualitative and self-reflexive research practices).

Extraordinary professors and associate professors

Prof Marja Spierenburg (Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) (Associate Prof).

Prof Edward Kirumira (Professor of Medical Sociology and Director of STIAS-Stellenbosch Institute for Advance Study, fellow of the Uganda national Academy of Sciences (FUNAS)

Research fellows

Dr Bram Büscher (International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, The Hague, The Netherlands)

Dr Davide Chinigo

Prof Thomas Cousins, (Associate Professor in the Social Anthropology of Africa with a Tutorial Fellowship in Human Sciences at St Hugh's College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom)

Professor Brenda Chalfin (Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida and Director of the Center for African Studies, as well as being a Faculty Affiliate at the Center for International Business Education and the School of Natural Resources and the Environment).

Dr Ilse Eigelaar-Meets (Director, SOREASO (Social Research Solutions), South Africa.

Dr Michaela Marcatelli (Post-doctoral research fellow in the SARChI Research Chair in The Sociology of Land, Environment and Sustainable Development)

Dr Lindsey Reynolds (Population Studies and Training Centre, Brown University, United States of America)

Professor Peter Redfield (Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, United States of America)

Dr Tim Hart (Senior Research Manager, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa)

Dr Patricia Hamilton (Thomas Coram Research Unit, Social Research Institute, University of London).

Dr Gavin Williams, (Emeritus Fellow, St Peter's College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom)

Administrative staff

Mrs Genay Gabriels (Departmental student officer; Postgraduate Administrator)
Genay@sun.ac.za

Ms Keziah Maher (Administrative Officer) Keziah@sun.ac.za

Mrs Marinice Walters-Kemp (Departmental Officer) Marinice@sun.ac.za

II. PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1. Honours in Sociology or Social Anthropology

The Honours programme offers students a firm foundation in the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of each of the two disciplines on which further postgraduate work can be built.

Students interested in careers as academics, researchers, social and policy analysts, planners, developers, consultants, social workers, human resource managers, communications, government and NGO officials will all benefit, as will individuals with a general interest in deepening and broadening their understanding of society and social dynamics.

The programme aims:

- To develop theoretical insight concerning social relations, social institutions, and the dynamics of social change;
- To develop rigorous conceptual and research skills;
- To deepen understanding of social dynamics within the southern African region using a comparative perspective; and
- To encourage students to develop their individual areas of research interest and expertise.

Programme design

The programme is designed as a residential programme for full-time study, involving regular class meetings and seminars as well as time for individual reading and research. It takes a minimum of a year to complete. Research projects are usually handed in for examination by mid-December, meaning that successful students will graduate at the following March graduation ceremony.

The two disciplines run parallel with integrated classes at particular points. Students obtain either the degree BA Honours in Sociology or the degree BA Honours in Social Anthropology depending on their undergraduate major and their selected area of specialisation.

The Honours programme consists of an induction programme and four modules. The induction programme may involve a group exercise such as a departmental field trip as well as various orientation sessions.

Two compulsory modules cater for the theoretical and methodological foundations of the relevant disciplines, i.e Sociology and Social Anthropology.

The third compulsory component comprises an elective on 'Selected themes' presented in the 3rd term. Electives vary from year to year, but students choose one theme from areas such as: development studies; the sociology of work and innovation; HIV/AIDS and society; land, environment and society; culture, identity and gender; and governance and citizenship.

Finally, for the fourth term, students focus on their research projects on an area of interest.

In summary, the programme looks as follows:

- Module 1: Sociological/Social Anthropological theory;
- Module 2: Sociological/Social Anthropological research;
- Module 3: Selected themes
- Module 4: Research project, under supervision;

Assessment

Assessment is continuous involving essays, seminar participation and examinations. Students obtain a mark for every module completed. Students are also expected to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Department through, for instance, attendance of the weekly departmental seminar.

In cases where a student's average for the programme as a whole is borderline in terms of the class of the degree (for instance, the student has an average of 74%, just short of the 75% required for a cum laude pass) the Department may request the student to participate in an oral examination to determine the final mark.

The research project

The research project is examined by an internal examiner and moderated externally. Students choose their topics in consultation with the Department and work under the supervision of a member of the academic staff. The final project report is expected to be in the region of 10 000 – 12 000 words (maximum 15 000 words), excluding references.

For more information go to

<http://blogs.sun.ac.za/sociology/students/postgraduate/>

Programme co-ordinators

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2. MA in Sociology or Social Anthropology

The MA programme offers students the opportunity to develop a structured research programme on a selected topic at a more advanced level than the Honours programme and drawing on the theoretical and methodological traditions within the disciplines of either Sociology or Social Anthropology.

The programme is an essential step along the career path of academics and researchers. Completing an MA is of benefit to those who desire to work as social analysts, planners, developers and consultants, as well as to those working professionally in specific fields such as government, health, development, education, the environment, social policy, gender programming and the media.

Students are expected to develop and demonstrate the conceptual and research skills necessary for the study of society and human relations at an advanced level, while deepening their knowledge of and insight into society. Focus is given to deepening the student's grasp of the theoretical and methodological foundations of Sociology or Social

Anthropology as well as ability to apply sociological or social anthropological theory, analysis and research methodology in a selected field of study.

Programme design

Candidates obtain a MA degree in either Sociology or Social Anthropology primarily by research thesis. The programme involves a minimum of one year fulltime study, although a period of 18 months to two years is more common and students are urged to budget their time accordingly. Arrangements can be made for part-time study.

In the first semester of registration the student must define their research topic and develop a suitable research proposal to guide the research in consultation with a designated supervisor. A guide for the development of a Masters proposal is available from the Department.

In support of this work students attend an orientation programme and take one module (871) intended to: (1) provide a general induction to the MA programmes, staff members' research interests, the student-supervisor relationship, the examining process, departmental progress reporting requirements, ethics approval processes, as well as the technical requirements of a research proposal and writing a MA thesis; and (2) deepen the student's intellectual engagement with the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research and research design at this level.

Once the module is completed and a suitable research proposal has been developed, the students are expected to begin their research. This is normally by the start of the second semester of their first year of registration. The final output is a research thesis of approximately 40 000 words (excluding references and appendices). Technical requirements are set out in Section 5.7 of the University Calendar.

The option of undertaking a pure research thesis without taking the support module may be considered under exceptional circumstances, upon motivation to the programme co-ordinator.

Content of the research thesis

The specialisation area of a student depends on the interest of the student and the availability of lecturers to supervise the particular topic. Students are urged to familiarise themselves with the research specialisations of staff in the Department and to explore opportunities to link their MA studies to on-going research programmes within the Department. However, the Department also welcomes well-motivated ideas and proposals from prospective students on other topics, provided that the necessary expertise is available to offer sound supervision.

Assessment

The thesis is worth 180 credits and is examined by both an internal and an external examiner in accordance with university rules.

Programme co-ordinators

Social Anthropology:

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MA in Public Sociology and Anthropology

The MA in Public Sociology and Anthropology is a coursework masters linked to an applied internship component. The programme strives to educate, train and develop a new generation of South African and African social researchers with the necessary skills to allow them to engage critically, astutely and sensitively with important issues of social transformation, putting them in a better position to inform decision makers, clients and the general public about social problems. The applied component aims to provide students with some exposure to the work environment in order to develop the graduate attributes that 'better fit' the changing economic situation and societal developments. The programme is aimed at students who intend to become practitioners, social researchers, development planners, programme implementers, policy analysts, advisers and the like.

Programme design

The MA degree in Public Sociology or Public Anthropology requires successful completion of compulsory modules on Research Design and Ethics, Sociological and Anthropological theory, an elective linked to an internship component and a mini-thesis. The programme involves a minimum of one-year fulltime study, although a period of 18 months to two years is more common. Arrangements can be made for part-time study.

In the first semester of registration the student must complete the required modules and internship component. Students start working on their thesis from the first term with their appointed supervisor. The modules are structured to support the development of the proposal, research and the writing up of the thesis and the student is expected to work on the thesis throughout the year. The internship component should take place in the second half of the second semester. The internship is linked to an elective and research topic, and consists of a minimum of five weeks (200 hours work experience). The fourth term is devoted to the thesis with the aim of completion within a minimum time frame of one year. The final output is a research thesis of approximately 20 000 words (excluding references and appendices). Technical requirements are set out in Section 5.7 of the University Calendar.

Content of the research thesis

Ideally, the research specialisation area of a student is aligned with the internship component. For this reason, it is imperative that students begin this programme with a clear vision of their research interests and topic, or select one of the topics identified by the lecturers based on their research specialisations and interests.

Enquiries

Programme Co-ordinator: Prof Lindy Heinecken

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MPhil (TRANSDISCIPLINARY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)

This new MPhil degree programme is hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology in collaboration with the Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (Division of Community Health) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The purpose of the programme is to develop students' capacity to investigate and think critically about a range of questions concerning health and development broadly conceived. By working across diverse perspectives that transcend disciplinary boundaries, we seek to develop new methods, concepts, and practices to address the complex linkages between health and development in contemporary South Africa.

The MPhil programme requires a minimum of one year of study. Depending on their training, students can register for one of two options for the MPhil degree.

The MPhil by thesis (879) requires the writing of a thesis containing the results of independent research on a research problem. Additional course work supporting the development of a research proposal is required of all candidates. Once the proposal is approved by the programme committee, students begin research, analysis, and writing.

The second option (899) requires the completion of four modules and a research assignment. Students who want to follow the programme over a period longer than a year can, in consultation with the programme coordinator, enrol for those modules they want to follow in a particular year.

Admission Requirements

Candidates in possession of a postgraduate diploma in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies, a related social science honours degree or a health sciences qualification with proven experience in social science research on NQF level 8 (with an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects and demonstrated academic ability) may apply for the MPhil by thesis only (879).

Students with a postgraduate diploma or honours degree on NQF level 8 in an alternate field (with an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects and demonstrated academic ability) or equivalent professional experience may apply for the MPhil by coursework (899). An average of at least 65% with demonstrated academic ability is required for both options.

All applicants are encouraged to consult the programme coordinator to work out the most appropriate course of study.

It is important for students and supervisors to keep regular contact, with a substantive meeting or set of communications between student and supervisor every 4 – 6 weeks, or more frequently by mutual arrangement.

It is also important for students to appreciate that academic staff have many other commitments and to plan their programme accordingly, especially when it comes to meeting university procedures and deadlines around submitting their work for examination. A rough rule of thumb is that staff can be expected to provide feedback within three weeks of receipt of material from their students, unless otherwise negotiated. When it comes to the final draft of the thesis, students should be prepared to present their completed draft for final review by their supervisors no later than four weeks before the official submission date to the Postgraduate Examination Office, if they wish to meet that deadline. The Department encourages the negotiation of an individual supervisory contract between supervisor and student at the start of the supervisory relationship.

Content of the research thesis

The specialisation area of a student depends on the interest of the student and the availability of lecturers to supervise the particular topic in either the Faculty of Health Sciences or the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Students are urged to familiarise themselves with the research specialisations of staff affiliated with the programme in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies, and to explore opportunities to link their thesis to on-going research programmes. However, the Department also welcomes well-motivated ideas and proposals from prospective students on other topics, provided that the necessary expertise is available to offer sound supervision.

Enquiries

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Efua Prah

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3. PhD in Sociology

Candidates with a good Master's degree in Sociology or a cognate discipline, as well as a strong commitment to advanced-level research that will make an authoritative contribution to sociological knowledge within their chosen field of study, are invited to apply.

Procedures for applying, including the process leading up to the approval of the research proposal within the Faculty, are set out in Part 1, Section 5.2 above.

The programme involves independent and original research, leading towards the writing of a dissertation on an approved topic, as developed in an approved research proposal and under the supervision of a supervisor and, where appropriate, a co-supervisor. The minimum length of time to complete the programme once the proposal has been approved in terms of Faculty requirements is two years, although in practice many students take longer.

Additional structured work, including participating in selected postgraduate modules in other departmental programmes (for instance, modules on research methods or on sociological theory) may be required of the candidate, in support of his or her individual research programme. This will depend on the nature of the dissertation and the evaluation of the supervisor, and will be negotiated with each student individually.

For more details on doctoral programmes in the Department, see section 8 below.

Programme co-ordinator

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5. PhD in Social Anthropology

Candidates with a good Master's degree in Social Anthropology or a cognate discipline, as well as a strong commitment to advanced-level research that will make an authoritative

contribution to social anthropological knowledge within their chosen field of study, are invited to apply.

Procedures for applying, including the process leading up to the approval of the research proposal within the Faculty, are set out in Part 1, Section 5.2 above.

The programme involves independent and original research, leading towards the writing of a dissertation on an approved topic, as developed in an approved research proposal and under the supervision of a supervisor and, where appropriate, a co-supervisor. The minimum length of time to complete the programme once the proposal has been approved in terms of Faculty requirements is two years, although in practice many students take longer.

Additional structured work, including participating in selected postgraduate modules in other departmental programmes (for instance, modules on research methods or on social theory) may be required of the candidate, in support of his or her individual research programme. This will depend on the nature of the dissertation and the evaluation of the supervisor, and will be negotiated with each student individually.

For more details on doctoral programmes in the Department, see section 8 below.

Programme co-ordinator

Prof Steven Robins

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6. PhD studies in the Department: General provisions

Successful PhD students are expected to demonstrate both mastery of the theoretical and conceptual framework(s) relevant to their chosen field and the methodological expertise that is required to carry out research at doctoral level. They must be able to think in a critical, rigorous, and innovative way and to communicate the results of their research through their dissertation effectively and in compliance with appropriate academic norms and standards, including around the presentation of data and the use of references and sources.

Duration

The minimum period of registration for a doctoral programme is two years. In practice most students expect to take three to four years to complete their thesis, due to time needed for fieldwork and also where they are combining their studies with other responsibilities.

Participation in the intellectual life of the Department

Doctoral students are encouraged to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Department, as far as possible. This includes participation in the Department's Postgraduate Research Forum (an opportunity for informal discussion among postgraduate students on research issues that meets on a quarterly basis through the year) and the Department's general weekly seminar programme.

Students may be asked to present their work to the Department in the form of seminars from time to time.

Format of the dissertation

The recommended length of the doctoral dissertation is approximately 80,000 - 85,000 words (200 – 250 typed pages). University requirements in terms of formatting and general layout as well as submission are set out in the Higher Degrees section of Part 1 (General) of the University Calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their dissertation meets University requirements.

Examination of the dissertation

Once completed, the dissertation is examined internally and externally, according to the policies and requirements of the University. Examination usually involves a panel of three suitably qualified experts in the field (one internal to the University and two from outside the University).

An oral examination of the thesis is included as part of the final evaluation, under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University.

Conferences and publications

Students are encouraged to participate actively in academic workshops and seminars and to present their work at national and international conferences. Financial support towards such activities may be available from the Department and/or Faculty, depending on the availability of funds and upon motivation by the student, generally with the support of the supervisor.

Students are also encouraged to explore opportunities to publish aspects of their research as articles in academic journals during the course of the study. Once the doctorate has been awarded its publication as a monograph is also strongly recommended.

Supervisory relationship

It is important for students and supervisors to keep in regular contact (we suggest a substantive meeting or set of communications between student and supervisor every 4 – 6 weeks, or more frequently by mutual arrangement). It is also important for students to appreciate that academic staff have many other commitments and to plan their programme accordingly, especially when it comes to meeting university procedures and deadlines for submitting work for examination.

When it comes to the final draft of the thesis, students should be prepared to present their completed draft for final review by their supervisors no later than four weeks before the official submission date to the Postgraduate Examination Office if they wish to meet that deadline. The Department encourages the negotiation of an individual supervisory contract between supervisor and student at the start of the supervisory relationship.

The Department reviews individual student progress on an annual basis by means of a Progress Report that is completed by both the student and his/her supervisor. This Report affords both students and supervisors an opportunity to reflect on the academic progress of the individual student and to identify any issues or problems requiring attention, including

from the side of the Department. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress may result in the Department not recommending that a student be allowed to re-register for the programme the following year.