**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT: 2024**

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| **FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**  **AND DISASTER (RISK) MANAGEMENT** | |  | | |
| **Department** | | Public Administration and Management | | |
| **Discipline** | | Public Administration | | |
| **Research Focus Area** | | **Environmental Governance and Disaster (Risk) Management** | | |
| **Research scope** | | The research within this area focuses on good environmental governance within a public sector. The management of both slow and fast-onset disasters as well as the climate induced disasters in the South African and African context will be studied under this focus area. The government officials’ capabilities (in different spheres of government and other public agencies) in the processes of planning, management and implementing the disaster risk management principles will be dissected by students. Disaster management and adaptations plans/strategies, and best practices including the indigenous knowledge management systems will be investigated. | | |
| **Capacity for 2024** | | PhD (7) and Masters (7) | | |
| **Potential M&D research foci** | | | |
| The effects of good environmental governance in the sustainable development of South Africa | | | |
| The impact of climate change and natural disasters on vulnerable populations in developing countries | | | |
| Assessing transformative capacity for adaptation planning and implementation that works for the urban poor | | | |
| Analysing institutional change in environmental governance: a multisector perspective | | | |
| Good governance and its violations: A local level policy implementation for disaster-risk-reduction | | | |
| The application and the effectiveness of the disaster management cycle at a local government level | | | |
| Supply chain risks in humanitarian relief operations: A South African can study | | | |
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| **Supervision Team details:** | **Academic Profile** | | **Capacity** |
| Prof BS Ngcamu1 **(Contact person for this focus area**  Office: NS Radipere Building 4-111  Email: ngcambs@unisa.ac.za  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1507-7583>  "https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Kf0FJR4AAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao" | Professor Bethuel Sibongiseni Ngcamu holds two PhDs in education and public management. He started his career as a geography teacher in a secondary school and joined the eThekwini Municipality as a Consultant to the City Manager on Research and a Management Advisor where he managed a myriad of projects and conducted change management interventions. Prof Ngcamu is currently an Associate Professor: Public Administration and Management at the University of South Africa. He is the former Head of Department: Public Management and Leadership at the Nelson Mandela University. He has authored and co-authored more than 50 publications including peer-reviewed journal articles, book, book chapters and peer reviewed conference papers on governance and disaster risk management in South Africa and beyond. He has won various best researcher awards at different universities. | | 5 Masters and 5 PHDs |
| Prof Mapula Nkwana  Office: Nkoana Simon Radipere Building 4-104  Email: [Nkwanm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Nkwanm@unisa.ac.za)  ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9733-6966>  Google Scholar:  <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=yrjN30wAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao> | Hunadi Mapula Nkwana is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration and Management at the University of South Africa. She holds a Doctor of Administration degree in Public Administration from the University of Pretoria (UP) with a thesis titled ‘A *multisectoral public policy framework for food security in South Africa*’. She completed her Masters, Honours and undergraduate degrees specialising in Public Administration and Public Management. Her research area is focused on public policy formulation and implementation specifically with regard to the achievement of food security in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has presented papers at both national and international conferences and published book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed accredited journals. | | 1 Masters and 1PHDs |
| **Dr Xolile C Thani**  Office: AJH van der Walt Building 4-102  Email: thanixc@unisa.ac.za  ORCID : <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1579-941X>  Institutional repository links:  [Thani, X](http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/21644/browse?value=Thani%2C+X&type=author) ; [Thani, X.C.](http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/21644/browse?value=Thani%2C+X.C.&type=author); [Thani, Xolile Carol](http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/21644/browse?value=Thani%2C+Xolile+Carol&type=author) | Xolile Thani is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Administration and Management. She joined Unisa in 2007 as an academic assistant. She obtained her MA in Public Administration cum laude. In 2018, she obtained her DLitt et Phil in Public Administration with a thesis on an interpretive phenomenological study of the methodological preparedness of doctoral candidates in Public Administration. She has published and co-published scholarly articles in accredited journals. | | 1 PhD  1 Master |
| **Model of supervision** | Candidates will be allocated to a supervisor but will be required to work independently within the requirements of higher degree studies. | | |
| **Selection criteria: Master’s/Doctorate** | In addition to the admission criteria contained in the myChoice brochure, potential students are required to prepare a **five-page** expression of interest essay describing the following:  1. Suitable topic aligned to a focus area  2. Introduction and background ((½ page)  3. Problem statement ((½ page)  4. Brief literature review (1 page)  5. Research questions and objectives  6. Research Methodology (½ to 1 page)  7. Motivation for the study (½ page)  8. Contribution to the discipline (½ page)  9. List of references  Use of recent literature is compulsory. Sources should not be older than 5 years. | | |
| **Selection Procedure** | Refer to the qualification website for selection procedure. | | |
| **Reading:**  **Subject Field** | **This is a selection of articles and/or recent books in this research focus area. ‎Further reading over and above these is essential:**   * Ngcamu, B., 2022. Climate change and disaster preparedness issues in Eastern Cape and Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. *Town and Regional Planning*, *81*, pp.53-66. * Ngcamu, B.S. and Chari, F., 2020. Drought influences on food insecurity in Africa: A Systematic literature review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *17*(16), p.5897. * Rana, I.A., Asim, M., Aslam, A.B. and Jamshed, A., 2021. Disaster management cycle and its application for flood risk reduction in urban areas of Pakistan. *Urban Climate*, *38*, p.100893. * Chatiza, K., 2019. Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe: An analysis of policy implications for post-disaster institutional development to strengthen disaster risk management. * Atanga, R.A., 2020. The role of local community leaders in flood disaster risk management strategy making in Accra. *International journal of disaster risk reduction*, *43*, p.101358. * Zuccaro, G., Leone, M.F. and Martucci, C., 2020. Future research and innovation priorities in the field of natural hazards, disaster risk reduction, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation: A shared vision from the ESPREssO project. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *51*, p.101783. * Rajabi, E., Bazyar, J., Delshad, V. and Khankeh, H.R., 2022. The evolution of disaster risk management: historical approach. *Disaster medicine and public health preparedness*, *16*(4), pp.1623-1627. * Shah, A.A., Shaw, R., Ye, J., Abid, M., Amir, S.M., Pervez, A.K. and Naz, S., 2019. Current capacities, preparedness and needs of local institutions in dealing with disaster risk reduction in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *International journal of disaster risk reduction*, *34*, pp.165-172. * Rodela, R. and Gerger Swartling, Å., 2019. Environmental governance in an increasingly complex world: Reflections on transdisciplinary collaborations for knowledge coproduction and learning. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, (2), pp.83-86. * Busayo, E.T., Kalumba, A.M., Afuye, G.A., Ekundayo, O.Y. and Orimoloye, I.R., 2020. Assessment of the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction studies since 2015. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *50*, p.101906. * Enqvist, J.P. and Ziervogel, G., 2019. Water governance and justice in Cape Town: An overview. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Water*, *6*(4), p.e1354. * Chasek, P.S. and Downie, D.L., 2020. *Global environmental politics*. Routledge. * Brenton, T., 2019. *The greening of Machiavelli: the evolution of international environmental politics* (Vol. 4). Routledge. | | |
| **Reading:**  **Research Methodology** | **This is a selection books on methodology. Further reading over and above these is essential:**   * Brennan, M. & Letherby, G. 2017. Auto/biographical approaches to researching death and bereavement: connections, continuums, contrasts. *Mortality*. 22(2):155–169. DOI: 10.1080/13576275.2017.1291604. * Mouton, J. 2022. *How to succeed in your Master’s & Doctoral Studies: A South African guide and Resource Book*. Pretoria: Van Schaik * Wessels, J.S., Pauw, J.C. & Thani, X.C. Eds. 2014. *Reflective Public Administration: Context, Knowledge and Methods*. First edit ed. Pretoria: Unisa Press. * Yin, R.K. 2018. *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. 6th ed. Los Angeles: SAGE. * Zongozzi, J.N. and Wessels, J.S. 2016. [Variables Influencing Case Study Research Design in Public Administration: A Conceptual Framework](http://hdl.handle.net/10500/21242). *Administratio Publica*, 24(2):212-233. * Zongozzi, J.N. and Wessels, J.S. 2017. [Case studies in South African Public Administration: A review of Master’s dissertations form 2005 to 2012](http://hdl.handle.net/10500/23462). Journal of Public Administration, 52(1.1): 260-273. * Braun, V. & Clarke, V. 2012. “Thematic analysis”. In H. Cooper (Ed.), *APA handbook of research methods in psychology* (Vol. 2), pp. 57–71. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. * Creswell, J., and Poth, C. N. 2018. Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches (4th ed.). SAGE Publications. * Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S. 2018. The SAGE handbook of qualitative research (5th ed.). SAGE Publications. * Sekaran, U. 2003. Research methods for business: A skill-building approach (4th ed.). New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons. | | |
| **Resources: Scholar community** | * Academy of Science of South Africa and ASSAf (2010) *The PHD Study: An Evidence-based Study on how to meet the demands of High-level Skills in an Emerging Economy*. Pretoria. Available at: <http://www.pan.org.za/node/8639> * African Union Commission (AUC). <https://au.int/en/organs/commission> * Ethics within global perspective: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/ethics-office/> * National Development Plan 2030. <https://www.gov.za/issues/national-development-plan-2030> * Singapore Statement: <http://www.singaporestatement.org> * The Public Administration Theory Network. <http://www.patheory.net> * UK Research Integrity Office: <http://www.ukrio.org/> * US Department of Health and Human Sciences, Office of Research Integrity: <http://ori.dhhs.gov/> * IPCC, Masson-Delmotte V, Zhai P, Pörtner HO, Roberts D, Skea J, Shukla PR, Pirani A, Moufouma-Okia W, Péan C, Pidcock R, Connors S, Matthews JBR, Chen Y, Zhou X, Gomis MI, Lonnoy E, Maycock T, Tignor M, Waterfield T (eds) (2018) Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special. * IPCC (2001) Climate change 2001: synthesis report; a contribution of Working Groups I, II, and III to the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge * IPCC, (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Global Warming of 1.5 Deg Celcius: Summary for Policymakers. 2018. * IPCC, Summary for policymakers. In: Edenhofer, O., Pichs-Madruga, R., Sokona, Y., Farahani, E., Kadner, S., Seyboth, K., Minx, J.C. (Eds.), Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. 2014. | | |