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| **Department** | Operations Management | |
| **Discipline** | Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Management | |
| **Broad Research Focus Area** | Disaster risk management and emergency preparedness | |
| **Note to students** | **The “Research Focus Area” is not your topic.**  You need to find a topic that is relevant to the area described above. Your research should not just be a repetition of issues already researched. Look at burning issues and topics that could make a difference in strategic safety and safety risk management. | |
| **Total Capacity for 2025** | 1Phd & 1 M Master’s |

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| **Supervision Team details:** | **Academic Profile** | | **Capacity** | |
| **Dr Cheryl Rielander**  Office: 012 429 2497  Email: rielacl@unisa.ac.za  ORCID  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4624-5033> | Cheryl Rielander is employed at Unisa as a senior lecturer in safety management in the Department of Operations Management. She was previously employed by the South African National Defence force (1983 – 2015). She has been involved in occupational health and safety in the medical environment since 1994. Cheryl is the author of a number of textbooks and textbook chapters in a series of safety management textbooks. Cheryl is registered with the South African Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (SAIOSH) as a graduate member.  Cheryl has completed her PhD in management studies with a focus on safety risk management. She holds a Master’s degree in Safety Management through Columbia Southern University (Sum Cu Laude). She also has extensive knowledge related to the field of health and holds several Diplomas in Nursing and a Certificate in Occupational Health Nursing which provides a unique perspective on the various disciplines in occupational health and safety. Cheryl completed various short courses relating to Occupational health and Hygiene. Other short courses that Cheryl completed in Safety Management includes SAMTRACK, assessors, moderators, and design and development courses to name but a few. | | | 1 PhD or  1 Master’s |
| **Mr John Mashala**  **[[1]](#footnote-1)(Contact person for this focus area)**  Office: 012 429 Office: 012 429 4166  Email: masjajj@unisa.ac.za  ORCID : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0975-8948> | **John Mashala** worked for 3M South Africa for 13 years in various departments. He subsequently joined Afrox where he worked for 4 years as a transport distribution planner. He further joined (TUT) Tshwane University of Technology as a Lecturer for 17 years in the Department of Operations Management. He earned his National Diploma at the then Technikon Johannesburg, B Tech Degree at Technikon Pretoria and (MTech) Masters degree in Technology at TUT. John taught Production Engineering: Industrial I, Production Planning and Control I and Operations Management I at TUT. He is serving as a co-supervisor for M Tech Degree student in Operations Management. He was a mentor lecturer to two part-time lecturers, lecturing at B Tech level. John has presented a paper in the Proceedings of the 2015 International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Dubai, UAE, March 3 – 5, 2015. In October 2016 he presented another paper in local conference in South Africa at (SAIIE27) South African Institute of Industrial Engineering Conference. He accepted an invitation to serve as deputy chairperson whose responsibility included doing quality audits for National Diploma in Operations Management and Management Services at University of Johannesburg. He has successfully facilitated fire evacuation drill in 2013 and 2014 respectively, in the Faculty of Management Sciences at TUT. He was voted the best Lecturer in the Department of Operations Management at TUT. He serves as (SGB) School Governing Body as a chairperson at Norkem Primary School. He is a Secretary of the Board of Ikhaya Lothando in Tembisa Gauteng, South Africa. He is currently working for University of South Africa (UNISA), where he is involved in Open Distance Learning. He is lecturing Safety Principles and Practice I and organizational effectiveness III. | |  | |
| **Mr Preshodan Naidoo**  Office: 012 429 2149  Email: naidoop@unisa.ac.za  ORCID : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6605-7929> | Preshodan Naidoo lectures in Safety and Operations Management. His field of expertise at the University of Johannesburg included management services, mathematics and statistics, quantitative techniques. His corporate experience includes working in the electrical, steel and food manufacturing industries. He successfully completed a MBL degree with the Unisa Graduate School of Business Leadership. He is a PhD candidate in the Department of Operations Management focusing on Safety and Wellbeing. | | |  |
| **Model of supervision** | Candidates will be allocated to a supervisor but will be required to work independently within the requirements of higher degree studies. Additionally, the candidate will have to present his/her work to a panel of academic at colloquia. Additionally, the candidate should submit his/her work to be reviewed by a blind peer review process. | | | |
| **Selection criteria: Master’s/Doctorate** | Refer to the qualification website for selection criteria. | | | |
| **Selection Procedure** | Refer to the qualification website for selection procedure. | | | |
| **Research scope** | Research in the field of emergency and disaster management will relate to:   * emergency preparedness, * explosives, * fire safety, * natural disasters, * man-made disasters, and * terrorism awareness.   The context of research in terms of these research focus areas will include individuals, teams, organizations, institutions, various collectives such as industries and countries, processes, safety interventions, safety concepts, safety theories, safety models, scientific methods and techniques, bodies of scientific safety knowledge and literature, and safety data or statistics. | | | |
| **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:**   * Reese, C.D., 2015. *Occupational health and safety management: a practical approach*. CRC press. * Glendon, A.I., Clarke, S. and McKenna, E., 2016. *Human safety and risk management*. Crc Press. * Jeremy. Stranks, 2016. *Health and Safety At Work: Key Terms*. Routledge. * Hollnagel, E., 2014. *Safety-I and safety–II: the past and future of safety management*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.. * Hodgetts, T.J.; Mahoney, P.F., Russel, and R. Castle, N. 2010. Disaster rules. Wiley: Blackwell. UK | | | |
| **Reading:**  **Research Methodology** | **This is a selection books on methodology. Further reading over and above these is essential:**   * Creswell, J.W. and Creswell, J.D., 2017. *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage publications. * Bryman, A. and Bell, E., 2015. *Business research methods*. Oxford University Press, USA. * Brannen, J. ed., 2017. *Mixing methods: Qualitative and quantitative research*. Routledge. * Saunders, M., Lewis, P. & Thornhill, A. 2016. *Research methods for business students*. Seventh edition. Boston, MA: Pearson Education. * Taylor, S.J., Bogdan, R. and DeVault, M., 2015. *Introduction to qualitative research methods: A guidebook and resource*. John Wiley & Sons. | | | |
| **Resources: Scholar community** | Scholarly reading will include peer reviewed and academic journal articles, applicable textbooks, as well as the latest legislative and regulatory requirements in the chosen field of study. It is also advised that students familiarise themselves with the resources provided by industry bodies, both national and international. | | | |
| **Potential M&D research focus area for M&D research projects** | | | | |
| **Unit of Analysis** | | **Research Focus** | | |
| **Emergency and disaster management** | | Suggested areas of focus in this field of study include the following: Emergency preparedness, explosives, fire safety, natural disasters, man-made disasters and terrorism awareness. | | |

1. Please note that consulting the research focus area leader is no assurance that your application will be approved. If, however, your application is approved, it is also not a guarantee that he/she will be allocated as your supervisor. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)