

## FOCUS AREAS:

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**2023 for 2024**

**Department of Life and Consumer Sciences**

**Consumer Science**

Focus Area	Researchers in the focus area	Specialisation of researchers in the focus area	Profile of the researcher	Research project themes	Capacity per Researcher for 2024
<b>1.Consumer Education, Food Stuffs, Clothing and Nutrition behaviour (perception, attitudes, value and consumer decision making)</b>  <b>Contact person:</b> Prof E Kempen, <a href="mailto:kempeel@unisa.ac.za">kempeel@unisa.ac.za</a>	Prof E Kempen, <a href="mailto:kempeel@unisa.ac.za">kempeel@unisa.ac.za</a>	Consumer behaviour and decision making	Prof Elizabeth Kempen is a professor in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a PhD from The University of Liverpool. Her research focus is on Consumer behaviour and the drivers of consumer decision to purchase. Methodology expertise: Qualitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consumer behaviour and the purchase decisions in clothing or food products.</li> <li>2. Consumer behaviour in relation to indigenous clothing or foods.</li> </ol>	Masters: 1 PhD: 1
	Dr EA Symington, <a href="mailto:syminea@unisa.ac.za">syminea@unisa.ac.za</a>	Nutrition and health behaviour and practices during the first	Dr Symington obtained her PhD in Nutrition from the North-West University. She is	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maternal nutrition including dietary intake and nutrient status</li> </ol>	Masters: 1 PhD: 1

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		1000 days (pregnancy, infancy and young children)	<p>currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Science. Her research focus is health and nutrition during pregnancy and early life development.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Quantitative</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Infant and young child feeding practices</li> <li>3. Consumers' nutrition knowledge, their nutritional behaviour and nutritional status.</li> <li>4. Food consumption patterns of vulnerable groups – report on food behaviour and nutritional adequacy</li> </ol>	
	Dr M Strydom, <a href="mailto:strydm1@unisa.ac.za">strydm1@unisa.ac.za</a>	Clothing related consumer behaviour	Dr Mariette Strydom is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Science. She completed her PhD in Consumer Science at UNISA. Her research focus is small scale apparel product design and development with special interest in small scale production and related consumer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social and corporate responsibility and decision making relating to clothing products.</li> <li>2. Sustainable apparel consumer behaviour</li> </ol>	Masters: 1 PhD: 0

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			behaviour, as well as sizing and fit issues. Methodology expertise: Qualitative		
<b>2. Food product development, safety and quality assurance.</b> <b>Contact person:</b> <b>Prof FT Tabit:</b> <u><a href="mailto:tabitft@unisa.ac.za">tabitft@unisa.ac.za</a></u>	Prof FT Tabit, <u><a href="mailto:Tabitft@unisa.ac.za">Tabitft@unisa.ac.za</a></u>	Food processing & product development, microbial food safety and quality assurance	Prof Frederick T Tabit is a professor in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. He holds a Masters in Bio-and Food Technology from Lund University (Sweden) and PhD in Food Science from University of Pretoria (South Africa). Methodology expertise: Experimental research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of novel value-added food product with improved physio-chemical and sensory properties using indigenous food crops.</li> <li>2. Optimisation of food processing parameters</li> <li>3. Food safety knowledge of food handlers and the sanitary compliance of food processing and vending.</li> <li>4. Microbial Quality of food products and food contact surfaces.</li> <li>5. The hygiene status and incidence of foodborne pathogens on food</li> </ol>	Masters: 4 PhD: 2

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				<p>processing surfaces.</p> <p>6. Evaluation of the food safety and quality management systems in food processing facilities</p>	
	Dr Florence Malongane <a href="mailto:malonf@unisa.ac.za">malonf@unisa.ac.za</a>	Nutrition and food security, African indigenous foods, therapeutic nutrition with the focus on chronic disease of lifestyle and functional foods	<p>Dr Florence Malongane is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a PhD from the University of South Africa. Her research focus area is in food and nutrition security, nutrition and chronic disease of lifestyle and functional foods.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Quantitative</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nutrition and Food security in rural and urban poor population</li> <li>2. African indigenous foods and chronic diseases of lifestyle</li> <li>3. African indigenous foods as functional foods</li> </ol>	Masters: 1 PhD: TBA
	Ms NV Nkosi <a href="mailto:nkosinv@unisa.ac.za">nkosinv@unisa.ac.za</a>	Food quality assurance and safety	Ms Nelly Nkosi is a lecture in the Department of Life and Consumer Science. She	1. Food product development	Masters: 1 PhD: 0

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		Food product development	<p>holds a Masters in Consumer Science (Cum Laude). She is currently registered for PhD in Consumer Science in the University of South Africa. Her research focus area is on food product development and indigenous food crops. Her research interests include food quality assurance and food safety, nutrition education and food security.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Quantitative</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Food quality assurance and safety</li> <li>3. Consumer food products perception and attitude</li> </ol>	
	MS M Ngidi ngidimt@unisa.ac.za	Street food vendors perception relating to food safety practices, awareness and attitudes.	Ms Ngidi is a junior lecturer in the Department of life and consumer sciences. She is registered with the university of South Africa and is completing her post graduate certificate in education. She is also	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The perceptions of street food vendors relating to food safety practices, awareness and their attitudes.</li> <li>2. The effects of food safety knowledge, attitude and</li> </ol>	<b>Masters:</b> <b>PhD:</b> <b>TBA</b>

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			busy with her Master's with the university of Johannesburg. Her research focus is the perceptions of street food vendors relating to food safety practices, awareness and their attitudes.	practices on hotel competitive advantages	
	Ms. MN Rikhotso malulmn1@unisa.ac.za	Nutrition and Food security, Food safety practices and knowledge.	Ms Rikhotso is a lecturer in the Department of life and consumer sciences. She holds a Masters in Consumer Science from the university of South Africa. Her research focus is the areas of Nutrition and Food security, Food safety practices and knowledge of individuals and households.  Methodology expertise: Quantitative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nutrition and Food security for individuals and households</li> <li>2. Food safety knowledge and practices of individuals and households</li> </ol>	<b>Masters:</b> <b>PhD:</b> <b>TBA</b>
	Dr LL Mbuyane mbuyall@unisa.ac.za	Microbiological literacy and food	Dr Mbuyane is a senior lecturer in the Department of Life and	1. Evaluating the impact of microbiological	Masters:1 PhD: 0

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		safety knowledge practices	Consumer Sciences. She holds a BSc degree (majors Biotechnology and Biochemistry) from the University of Limpopo and pursued her postgraduate studies at Stellenbosch University where she obtained her BSc Hons, MSc <i>cum laude</i> and PhD degrees in Wine Biotechnology. Methodology expertise: Experimental research.	literacy in rural and urban areas on food safety as well as hygiene practices	
<b>3. Nutrition knowledge and consumption Patterns, Nutrition and food security</b> <b>Contact person:</b> <b>Dr EA Symington,</b> <u><a href="mailto:syminea@unisa.ac.za">syminea@unisa.ac.za</a></u>	Dr EA Symington, <u><a href="mailto:syminea@unisa.ac.za">syminea@unisa.ac.za</a></u>	Nutrition and health behaviour and practices during the first 1000 days (pregnancy, infancy and young children)	Dr Symington obtained her PhD in Nutrition from the North-West University. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Science. Her research focus is health and nutrition during pregnancy and early life development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maternal nutrition including dietary intake and nutrient status</li> <li>2. Infant and young child feeding practices.</li> <li>3. Consumers' nutrition knowledge, their nutritional behaviour and nutritional status.</li> </ol>	As mentioned before.

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			Methodology expertise: Quantitative	4. Food consumption patterns of vulnerable groups – report on food behaviour and nutritional adequacy	
	Mr R Mathye, <a href="mailto:mathyr@unisa.ac.za">mathyr@unisa.ac.za</a>	Nutrition education and practices, nutrition and food security, Food consumption patterns and behaviour.	Mr R Mathye is a Lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Pretoria and currently enrolled for a PhD in Nutrition at the University of South Africa. His research focus area is in food and nutrition security, nutrition and chronic disease of lifestyle.  Methodology expertise: Quantitative	1. Consumers' nutrition knowledge, their nutritional behaviour and nutritional status. 2. Food consumption patterns of vulnerable groups – report on food behaviour and nutritional adequacy The impact of nutrition education on the nutritional practices and knowledge of health care workers	Masters: 1 PhD: 0

Focus Area	Researchers in the focus area	Specialisation of researchers in the focus area	Profile of the researcher	Research project themes	Capacity per Researcher for 2024
				3. The impact of nutrition education on the nutritional practices and knowledge of health care workers 4. Food and Nutrition Security	
	Dr B van der Westhuizen; vdwesb1@unisa.ac.za	Obesogenic environments; Evidence informed decision making; nutrition leadership; salt reduction strategies	Bianca van der Westhuizen is a senior lecturer in Nutrition at the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She completed her Ph.D. in Nutrition at the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CEN), NWU. She is currently conducting research in public health nutrition focusing on the obesogenic environment of South Africa and how that affects the non-communicable disease profile of the country.	1. Assess the availability of healthy and unhealthy foods in consumer retail environments using geo-coding technology in South Africa 2. Assess the availability of healthy and unhealthy foods in community retail environment in South Africa 3. Investigating the use of evidence in nutrition policy formulation 4. Investigating the impact of leadership	Masters: 0 PhD: 1

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			<p>She also focusses on the salt reduction strategy in South Africa and monitoring it. Other research interest includes knowledge translation and how to bridge the gap between research and decision makers in terms of public health nutrition related problems. She is also passionate about nutrition leadership development in Africa. Her goal is to make her research useful. Methodology expertise: Quantitative</p>	<p>training on the nutrition landscape in Africa</p> <p>5. Monitoring the salt reduction strategy in South Africa</p>	
	<p>Mr SC Hlako <a href="mailto:hlakosc@unisa.ac.za">hlakosc@unisa.ac.za</a></p>	<p>Micronutrients</p>	<p>Mr Seemole Cedrick Hlako is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. He obtained his Master's degree in Public Nutrition from the University of Venda, his masters dissertation was titled</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Micronutrients particularly iodine</li> <li>2. Infant and young child feeding</li> <li>3. Nutrition and HIV and Aids</li> <li>4. Food fortification and nutrition</li> </ol>	<p><b>Masters:</b> <b>PhD:</b> <b>TBA</b></p>

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			Iodine status of lactating mothers and infants aged zero to six months in the Vhembe and Mopani District of the Limpopo Province, South Africa. Methodology expertise: Quantitative Research		
<b>4. 3D Body Scanning for Apparel, Health and Consumer Research</b> <b>Contact person:</b> <b>Dr K Pandarum,</b> <u><a href="mailto:pandak@unisa.ac.za">pandak@unisa.ac.za</a></u>	Dr K Pandarum, <u><a href="mailto:pandak@unisa.ac.za">pandak@unisa.ac.za</a></u>	Theme Group Leader, with 13 years of specialisation in 3D body scanning for apparel sizing and fit studies inclusive of developing standards for use in the clothing, textiles and in ergonomic applications.	Dr Pandarum is a Lecturer in the department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a PhD (Textile Science) from the Nelson Mandela University specialising in 3D body scanning in apparel and ergonomic applications; consumer apparel behaviour; cleaner production applications in the textile and clothing industries and, in clothing and textiles standards development both	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apparel, sizing and fit projects</li> <li>2. Apparel, consumer behaviour</li> <li>3. Cleaner production in the clothing and textile industry</li> </ol>	Masters: 2 PhD: 1

Focus Area	Researchers in the focus area	Specialisation of researchers in the focus area	Profile of the researcher	Research project themes	Capacity per Researcher for 2024
			nationally and internationally.  Methodology expertise: (mixed method) Quantitative and Qualitative		
	Prof Kempen, <a href="mailto:kempeel@unisa.ac.za">kempeel@unisa.ac.za</a>	Consumer behaviour and decision making	Prof Elizabeth Kempen is a professor in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a PhD from The University of Liverpool. Her research focus is on Consumer behaviour and the drivers of consumer decision to purchase. Methodology expertise: Qualitative research	1. Apparel, consumer behaviour projects	As mentioned before.
	Dr M Strydom, <a href="mailto:Strydm1@unisa.ac.za">Strydm1@unisa.ac.za</a>	Sizing and fit related consumer behaviour	Dr Mariette Strydom is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Science. She completed her PhD in Consumer Science at UNISA. Her research focus is small scale	1. Apparel, Sizing and Fit projects 2. Apparel, Consumer behaviour projects	Masters: 1 PhD: 0

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			<p>apparel product design and development with special interest in small scale production and related consumer behaviour, as well as sizing and fit issues. Methodology expertise: Qualitative</p>		
	<p>Dr L Truter, <a href="mailto:chrisl@unisa.ac.za">chrisl@unisa.ac.za</a></p>	<p>Apparel, Consumer behaviour</p>	<p>Dr Lorna Truter is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She obtained her PhD in Consumer Sciences from Unisa, and a Masters' degree in Open Distance Learning in 2019. Her research thus focusses on Consumer Behaviour, in general, but also more specifically on sustainable consumption and conscientious decision-making. Additionally, she focusses on ODeL</p>	<p>1. Apparel, consumer behaviour projects</p>	<p>As mentioned before.</p>

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			research, particularly decolonial research.		
	Ms M Makopo makopmmh@unisa.ac.za	Entrepreneurial behaviour of apparel small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) business owners	Ms Mirriam Makopo is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a Masters in Clothing Management, from the University of Pretoria. She is registered for a PhD in Consumer Science. Her research focuses on the sustainability of apparel small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), specifically that offer custom-made apparel, with specific focus on the entrepreneurial aspects (such as entrepreneurial orientation). Her interest is also with consumer behaviour related to SMMEs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apparel SMMEs owners' entrepreneurial orientation and coping strategies</li> <li>2. Apparel SMMEs customers' motivation for purchasing custom-made apparel.</li> <li>3. Consumer purchasing behaviour, preferences, and perceptions towards different categories of apparel (corporate wear/traditional wear/special occasion wear) offered by apparel SMMEs</li> </ol>	Masters: 1  PhD: 0

<b>5. Sustainable Apparel Enterprises Contact person: Dr M Strydom, <a href="mailto:strydm1@unisa.ac.za">strydm1@unisa.ac.za</a></b>	Dr M Strydom, <a href="mailto:strydm1@unisa.ac.za">strydm1@unisa.ac.za</a>	Apparel product development and fashion entrepreneurship	Dr Mariette Strydom is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Science. She completed her PhD in Consumer Science at UNISA. Her research focus is small scale apparel product design and development with special interest in small scale production and related consumer behaviour, as well as sizing and fit issues.  Methodology expertise: Qualitative	<b>Apparel product design and development:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apparel SMMEs:</li> <li>2. entrepreneurial orientation,</li> <li>3. motivational factors</li> <li>4. Creativity and innovation in apparel product development</li> <li>5. Sustainable apparel product development, production and consumption</li> <li>6. Consumer behaviour with regards to custom-made apparel</li> </ol>	As mentioned before.
	Prof E Kempen, <a href="mailto:kempeel@unisa.ac.za">kempeel@unisa.ac.za</a>	Consumer apparel and textile purchasing behaviour	Prof Elizabeth Kempen is a professor in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a PhD from The University of Liverpool. Her research focus is on Consumer behaviour and the drivers of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apparel SMMEs</li> <li>2. Apparel product development</li> </ol>	As mentioned before.

			<p>consumer decision to purchase.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Qualitative research</p>		
	<p>Dr L Truter, <a href="mailto:chrisl@unisa.ac.za">chrisl@unisa.ac.za</a></p>	<p>Consumer perception, attitudes, value and consumer decision making relating to sustainable clothing consumption</p>	<p>Dr Lorna Truter is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She obtained her PhD in Consumer Sciences from Unisa, and a Masters' degree in Open Distance Learning in 2019. Her research thus focusses on Consumer Behaviour, in general, but also more specifically on sustainable consumption and conscientious decision-making. Additionally, she focusses on ODeL research, specifically decolonial research.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Quantitative research</p>	<p>Apparel, consumer behaviour projects</p>	<p>As mentioned before.</p>

	<p>Ms M Makopo makopmmh@unisa.ac.za</p>	<p>Entrepreneurial behaviour of apparel small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) business owners</p>	<p>Ms Mirriam Makopo is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a Masters in Clothing Management, from the University of Pretoria. She is registered for a PhD in Consumer Science. Her research focuses on the sustainability of apparel small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs), specifically that offer custom-made apparel, with specific focus on the entrepreneurial aspects (such as entrepreneurial orientation). Her interest is also with consumer behaviour related to SMMEs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apparel, entrepreneurial behaviour of SMMEs owners</li> <li>2. Consumer purchasing behaviour, preferences, and perceptions towards different categories of apparel (corporate wear/traditional wear/special occasion wear) offered by apparel SMMEs</li> </ol>	<p>As mentioned before.</p>
	<p>Dr K Pandarum, <a href="mailto:pandak@unisa.ac.za">pandak@unisa.ac.za</a></p>		<p>Dr Pandarum is a Lecturer in the department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She hold a MSc. (Textile Science) from the Nelson Mandela University and her</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apparel, sizing and fit projects</li> <li>2. Apparel, consumer behaviour</li> <li>3. Cleaner production in the clothing and textile industry</li> </ol>	<p>As mentioned before.</p>

			<p>Honours Masters and PhD qualifications were obtained in 3D body scanning in apparel and ergonomic applications;  consumer apparel behaviour;  cleaner production applications in the textile and clothing industries and, in clothing and textiles standards development both nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: (mixed method)  Quantitative and Qualitative</p>		
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6. Hospitality Management, Accommodation management, Accommodation Operations	Ms R Motlogelwa motlor@unisa.ac.za	Small Accommodation Establishments (SAEs) grading and quality management	Ms Reba Motlogelwa is a lecturer in the Department of Life and Consumer Sciences. She holds a Master's in Hospitality Management from Tshwane University of Technology. She is currently registered for a PhD. She holds a PGCE from The University of South Africa. Her research focus is small accommodation Establishments grading and quality management.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Perceptions of small and medium size accommodation managers regarding star grading (TGCSA)</li> <li>2. Quality management in the accommodation sector</li> <li>3. Customer service in hotels</li> <li>3. <b>Accommodation operations</b></li> <li>4. Hospitality education</li> </ol>	Masters: PhD: TBA
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>Masters: 17</b> <b>PhD: 8</b>