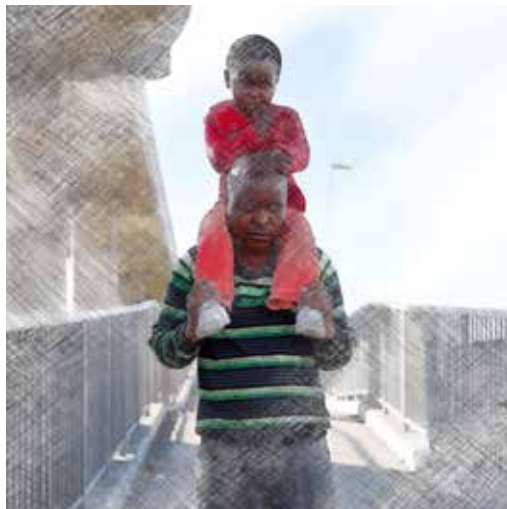


# *Unisa Institute for Social and Health Sciences*



**Thirty Years of  
Commitment to Science  
with Compassion in the  
Service of Community**

1986 - 2016



UNISA



university  
of south africa



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Social and Health Sciences*

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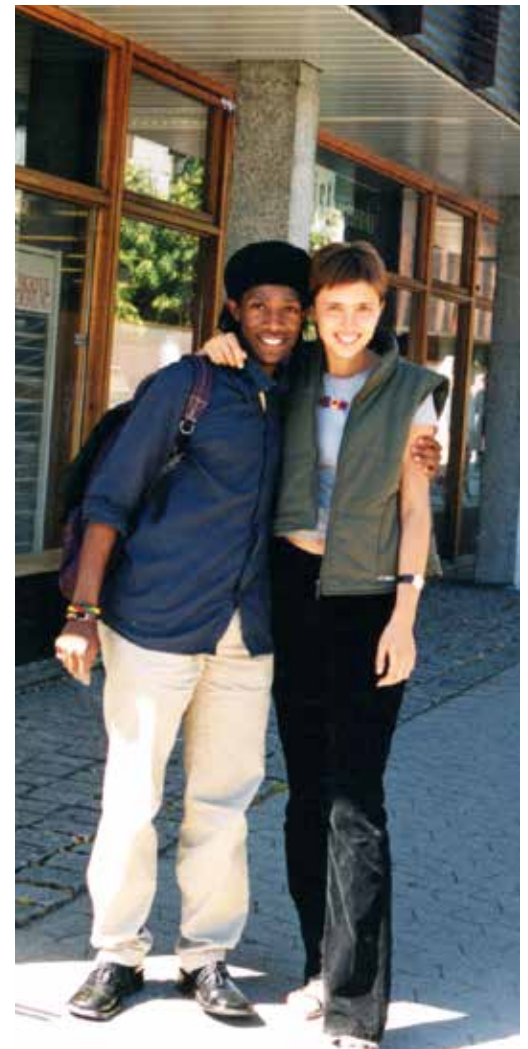




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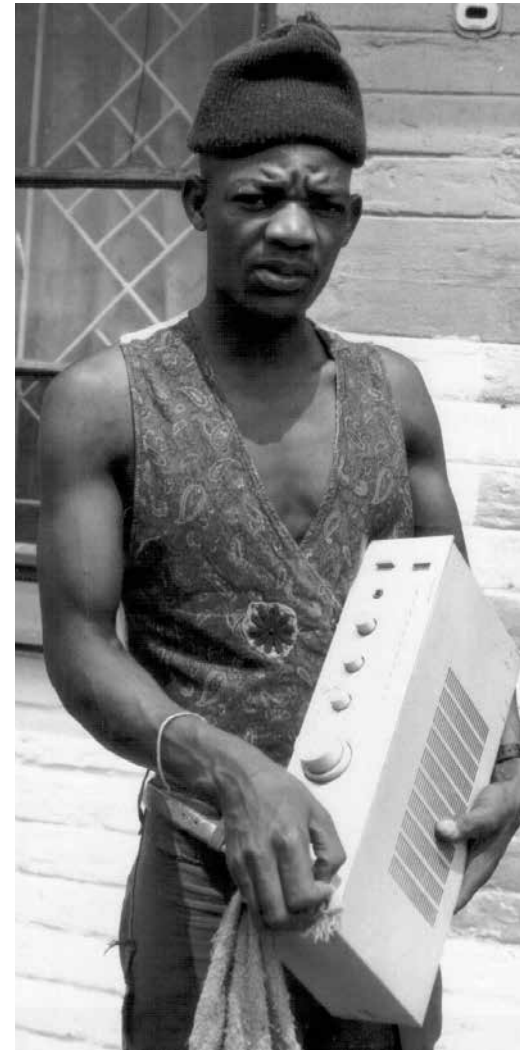




# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>ARTS</b>	Advanced Research Training Seminar	<b>NIMSS</b>	National Injury Mortality Surveillance System
<b>ASP</b>	African Safety Promotion (Journal)	<b>NIPR</b>	National Institute for Personnel Research
<b>ASSAf</b>	Academy of Science of South Africa	<b>NPO</b>	Non-profit Organisation
<b>CGS</b>	College of Graduate Studies	<b>NRF</b>	National Research Foundation
<b>CHS</b>	College of Human Sciences	<b>PI</b>	Principal Investigator
<b>Co-PI</b>	Co-Principal Investigator	<b>PoTT</b>	Programme on Traditions and Transformation
<b>COSATU</b>	Congress of South African Trade Unions	<b>SABS</b>	South African Bureau of Standards
<b>CPA</b>	Centre for Peace Action	<b>SAMRC</b>	South African Medical Research Council
<b>CPF</b>	Community Policing Forum	<b>SAPPRU</b>	Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit
<b>CSD</b>	Centre for Science Development	<b>SAPS</b>	South African Police Services
<b>CSIR</b>	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	<b>SciELO</b>	Scientific Electronic Library Online
<b>CVI</b>	Crime, Violence and Injury (Programme)	<b>STRI</b>	School of Transdisciplinary Research Institutes
<b>DHET</b>	Department of Higher Education and Training	<b>TAP</b>	Transdisciplinary African Psychologies Programme
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>TRC</b>	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
<b>EPVPP</b>	Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme	<b>UCT</b>	University of Cape Town
<b>HPCSA</b>	Health Professions Council of South Africa	<b>UEM</b>	University of Eduardo Mondlane
<b>HPU</b>	Health Psychology Unit	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>HSRC</b>	Human Sciences Research Council	<b>Unisa</b>	University of South Africa
<b>ICP</b>	International Conference on Psychology	<b>UWC</b>	University of the Western Cape
<b>ISHS</b>	Institute for Social and Health Sciences	<b>VIPRU</b>	Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit
<b>LPG</b>	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>MTSCP</b>	Masculinity, Tradition and Social Change Programme	<b>WIPE</b>	Wealth, Identity, Peace and Equality (Programme)
<b>NDoh</b>	National Department of Health	<b>Wits</b>	University of the Witwatersrand







# Message from Professor Mandla Makhanya

## *Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Unisa*

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Thirty years is really a short time in the life of any institution. Yet, as we mark the 30th anniversary of the Institute for Social and Health Sciences (ISHS), I am amazed by its many achievements and contributions both within the University of South Africa (Unisa) and beyond. As a flagship institute of the university, it personifies an illustrious history of community-engaged research and public-oriented scholarship.

Initiated as the Health Psychology Unit (HPU) within the Department of Psychology in the mid-1980s – a time of intense turbulence and revolt against colonialism – the Institute’s formative years were shaped by debates about the relevance and appropriateness of the Euro-American expressions of social and health sciences in Africa. In as much as its emerging research agenda and organisational formation were influenced by the political and epistemic debates of the time, the Institute’s group of young, emerging women and black academics vigorously engaged and contributed to the conversations; they acted with vision and had much to say about intellectual independence and the role of academics in a society marked by revolt and resistance.

Building on early and modest beginnings, over its 30-year trajectory the ISHS has successfully developed a formidable organisational structure and niche research programmes through partnerships with science councils like the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), and collaborations with continentally based and internationally recognised scholars. The ISHS and its partners in the SAMRC house a cohort of researchers who work as a collective to provide institutional and scientific

leadership in the areas of violence, injury and peace, and masculinity, traditions and social change. Many of those who worked as interns and emerging academics in the ISHS have graduated to assume leading positions in the academic, corporate and public sectors.

The ISHS is an enactment of resilience, versatility and collective leadership, despite the vagaries inherent to development funding, massive changes in the country (and globally) and the rapid marketisation of research and knowledge production.

The ISHS remains responsive to contemporary waves of intellectual and social decolonisation. Through its focus on violence, injury and peace, as well as masculinity, traditions and social change, it has much to contribute towards understanding the drivers and triggers of the diverse forms of violence that continue to mark the South African landscape. Its publication and postgraduate training and development record, as well as its richly textured work in marginalised communities, indicates that the ISHS remains a socially conscious and publicly engaged department of Unisa.

On behalf of Unisa, its council and management, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Institute and its team working within the Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit (VIPRU) and the Masculinity, Tradition and Social Change Programme (MTSCP). I also thank all those who served and continue to serve on its management board, and all who offered material, social and symbolic support for its work over its 30 years of engaged scholarship.

We look forward to the ISHS building on its legacy, to strengthen its scope of work and sustainability at a time of dwindling resources and intensifying social inequalities.

Congratulations to the ISHS and its team, associates, partners and supporters.

# Message from Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng

*Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, UCT*

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The occasion of the Institute's 30th anniversary and my own migration to the University of Cape Town (UCT) is a timely moment to reflect and comment on the ISHS, its people and its programmes.

On a personal note, I like and admire the people who constitute this formidable institute, which is a vibrant embodiment of publicly engaged research, scholarship and postgraduate training. During the time when I oversaw its strategic orientation in my capacity as Unisa Vice-Principal: Research and Innovation, I recognised it for its community-centeredness, social justice ethic and much more. The ISHS remains an exemplar of excellence when it comes to research institutes at Unisa. I am grateful for the warm friendship I shared with colleagues in the Institute, their hard work and their commitment to high-quality, engaged scholarship that makes a difference.

The Institute is recognised for so many things: it is a much sought-after partner in that it receives regular requests for collaboration from leading international academics and researchers; it is home to world-renowned visiting scholars and socially engaged emerging researchers; it is a demonstration site for solutions that speak to energy provision in poor communities; it is a training site for postgraduate students, as recognised by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA); and until recently – and for close on 15 years – it was a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaboration Centre for Violence and Injury Prevention Research and Training.

The Institute is an African resource through its role as a safe communities certification centre, and it continues to co-direct the SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU. The Institute has exemplified and continues to exemplify both influence and productivity through its research, postgraduate training, knowledge-brokerage, networking and community service activities.

Irrespective of where I may be located, I will remember the Institute as a scholarly and socially astute resource that holds all the partnership and institutional arrangements, along with the vision, collective leadership, research expertise and training capacities, of a centre of excellence. I congratulate the Institute for providing inspirational and wise leadership in the social and health sciences.

Finally, let me thank Unisa's executive management for the support given to the Institute – it is my hope that this will continue in the future. My hope is also that the conducive environment that has prevailed over the years at the Institute will be maintained for decades to come.



# Message from Professor Glenda Gray

## *President of the SAMRC*

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On behalf of the SAMRC, its executive management committee and board, I congratulate the ISHS on its 30th anniversary. Its long-standing association with the SAMRC has been integral to its three decades of research and development focused on injury and violence prevention and, more recently, peace promotion. The Institute has been home to the SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU for over 15 years. I am delighted to point out that the partnership, which dates back to the early 1990s, was actively supported by several of my predecessors, including professors Dereck Yach, Malegapuru William Makgoba, William Pick, Tony Mbewu, Ali Dhansay and Slim Karim. Their efforts helped to formalise, grow and deepen the SAMRC–Unisa collaboration.

As the SAMRC we feel honoured to have fostered the growth of the ISHS which, in many respects, serves as a national and continental resource. Through its work in the SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU, it has contributed significantly towards the public health prioritisation of violence and injury. As a national partnership, VIPRU houses the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS), which began as collaboration between the National Department of Health (NDoH), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the SAMRC and Unisa. NIMSS has registered 300 000 non-natural deaths since its establishment in 1999.

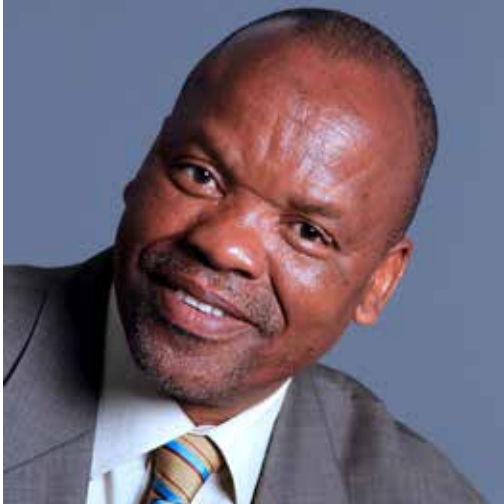
Currently, e-NIMSS as an automated system provides comprehensive data on non-natural deaths for the provinces of Gauteng and Mpumalanga. NIMSS has supported postgraduate research conducted in and outside of the SAMRC–Unisa partnership and produced empirical reports for decision makers at the city, provincial and national levels. VIPRU's work has helped shape a national framework for violence and injury prevention, as well as a framework for fire safety and emergency in the Western Cape. At a city level, the SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU has been working closely with the safety cluster in metropolitan Johannesburg to formulate public safety measures that can help inform policy, funding and programmatic decisions. At catchment community levels, over the 30 years VIPRU, as the flagship initiative of the Institute, has developed a suite of child and youth safety interventions which, once tested empirically, stand to make a formidable contribution towards reducing and preventing injuries and violence, and promoting peace in marginalised communities and beyond.

As a SAMRC–Unisa unit, the ISHS has enacted multiple forms of community-engaged research and served to demonstrate the many benefits of science council–university partnerships. We look forward to witnessing the growth of VIPRU as a hybrid science council–university unit over the next 30 years, as the epidemiology and contexts of injuries and violence assume new trends and forms.

# Message from Professor Lesiba Teffo

*Director, School of Transdisciplinary Research Institutes (STRI)*

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When I was invited to contribute a message, I recalled the Institute's migration from the College of Human Sciences (CHS) to the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) by virtue of a university management decision. While there may have been questions about the timing and processes involved in this directive, as I understand it the resolution was guided by a recognition of the synergies between the Institute's work and the focus of the CGS, as well as the Institute's contribution to research and postgraduate training and development throughout the years that it was located in the CHS and its predecessor, the Faculty of Arts, during the pre-merger period at Unisa.

So, as we celebrate the Institute's three decades of work aimed at supporting efforts that make a difference in the everyday experiences of marginalised and socially excluded people, especially in the African context, I wish to extend a special note of gratitude to the leadership of the CHS, in particular to the former Dean, Professor Rosemary Moeketsi, and her colleagues. The direction, support and championship extended to the Institute by the leadership of the CHS for over two decades made it possible for the Institute to enter the postgraduate space seamlessly, and to continue its intellectual exchanges and student mentorship work with CHS colleagues. The Institute's current twin foci on violence, injury and peace, and masculinity, traditions and transformation, as well as its tradition of community-engaged research were shaped in no small measure by its location in the college.

I take this opportunity to commend the Institute for the way in which it has created a home in the CGS, to the extent that the Institute is now an integral and formidable part of the college. The Institute, having demonstrated its scientific and social significance, continues to be an active citizen of the larger university, irrespective of changes in its institutional location over three decades. It started as a unit of the Department of Psychology and then matured as an autonomous institute in the CHS before joining the CGS. The ISHS has successfully grown through all the many institutional changes at Unisa and momentous developments in the country.

On behalf of the CGS I congratulate the Institute for having spearheaded publicly engaged scholarship that shapes the future service of humanity, and for establishing a strong continental footprint through a sophisticated network of collaborations and partnerships. We recognise the social import of the ISHS's public health-oriented research, undertaken in conjunction with its main partner, the SAMRC. We value the attention the Institute has accorded to decolonising research methodologies and affirming indigenous technologies that could meaningfully contribute to the socioeconomic development of African societies.

As the Institute celebrates 30 years of existence, it also hosted an international conference on community psychology along with a number of visiting researchers in 2016 – a mark of the global regard it enjoys. We in the CGS feel honoured to be associated with the Institute's achievements. We are committed to helping to ensure that ISHS continues to be both productive and influential. I invite colleagues in the Institute to harness their collective record and abilities to help realise the new development goals and Africa's new development agenda.

Pula!!!! Blessings!!!

# Message from Professor Tony Naidoo

*on behalf of the Institute Management and Governing Body*

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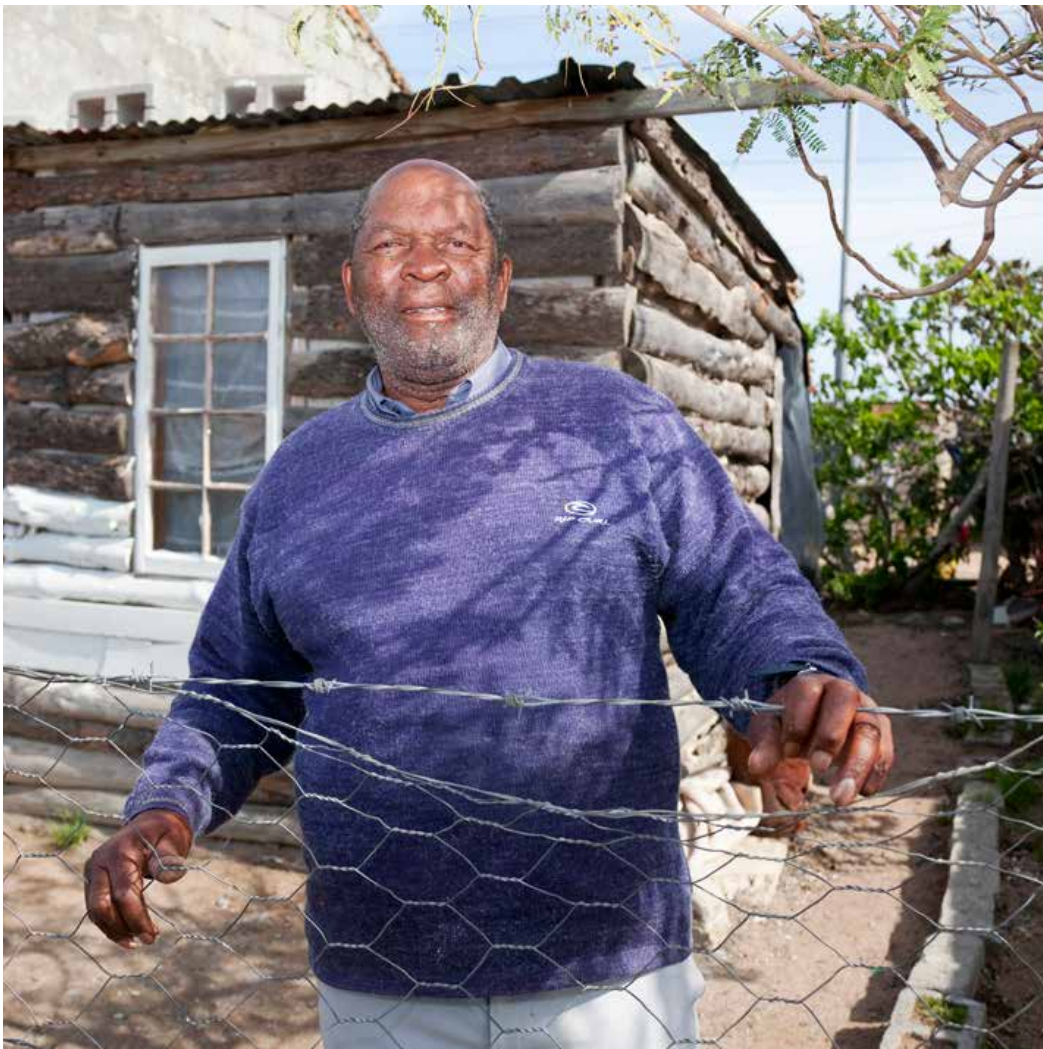


I write to express warm congratulations to Professor Mohamed Seedat and the staff, students and community partners of the ISHS on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

As a member of the governing board of the Institute over the past decade, I have been privileged to come to know the “psyche” and heartbeat of the ISHS – perhaps more intimately than others as a “comleague”, to use Professor Sandy Lazarus’ apt description for the confluence of comrade and colleague.

While the breadth of the Institute’s academic and professional footprint is clear to discern in its annual reports, as a community psychologist I continue to be heartened by the staunch commitment to critical scholarship and transformative community engagement that undergirds the agenda of the Institute. This is evident not only in the relevance of the research issues pursued, but also in the capacitation that is fostered with staff, students and community partners, and in the dissemination and translation of the findings into action and advocacy. This is not easily achievable, but clearly has become the foundational stone of the Institute’s mission and accomplishment. For me, this is a critical enactment of the call to relevance that guided the emergence of community psychology in our country’s liberation.

My best wishes on reaching this milestone. I laud the continued leadership provided by Professor Seedat, and the Institute’s staff and students.







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*Community-engaged  
Research*

# Birthing the Institute\*

Victor Nell (1935–2007), Founding Head, HPU

\* Victor Nell wrote a piece on the establishment of the HPU in 2007 for the ISHS's 21st anniversary, which is reproduced here.

*In 2006 our Institute celebrated its 20th anniversary. By my reckoning, it's actually the 21st anniversary, because the Institute's pre-history began in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1983.*

I had just completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Wisconsin, and I had a vision. The first half of the vision that I pictured to myself was a South Africa in which basic skills in brain injury diagnosis and treatment were taught in every university psychology course. The other half was that in every hospital in the country there would not only be a psychiatry department and a neurology department and a social work department, but also a psychology department, and that at least some of the psychologists on the staff would have basic neuropsychology training. When I got back to my little office in the psychology department at the University of South Africa, reality came crashing down on my head. "Brain injury?" said the hospital administrators I spoke to, "We don't get a lot of that here. Oh yes, we get a lot of car accident injuries, but the orthopods look after them. Neuropsychology? No, I don't think we need that here."

Well, I thought, if they don't recognise that brain injury is a huge problem (which, given South Africa's horrendous road accident rate, it certainly was), I would have to convince them. In those days I hadn't even heard the word "epidemiology," so the notion I came up with was plausible but in the end proved to be statistically useless. With support from the psychology department, I called a press conference to announce the launch of a National Register of Brain Injury.

Letters poured in from the wives and mothers of brain injury victims (in South Africa, as we later discovered, males' brain injuries outnumber females' by 5:1). I spent a year replying as kindly as I could to these cries from the heart. But kindness was no substitute for a referral to a rehabilitation unit, which simply did not exist in South Africa. But statistically, this information could not give any idea of how big the brain injury problem was in South Africa, particularly because the Register attracted a zero response from black communities, who had been bypassed by the initial publicity on the English and Afrikaans TV channels.

Now the polysyllabic new word that I could hardly pronounce crept into my life. I began talking to epidemiologists in Johannesburg who cautioned against over-ambitious projects and suggested that rather than trying to establish national statistics, I should get data for Johannesburg alone.

A couple of months later I attended an epidemiology conference where I met Derek Yach, a stocky man in glasses. Yes, said Derek, he'd do what he could to get funding support for a brain injury epidemiology study. I began to see a light glimmering at the end of the tunnel which soon grew brighter: to my great good fortune, Roelf Prinsloo was the Head of Psychological Research at the Human Sciences Research Council, a kindly fellow who at once understood the importance of what I wanted to do and made a tidy sum available – together with an accountant who was instructed to keep a close eye on me.

There were huge political and professional differences between Pretoria, where Unisa was located, and Johannesburg, and it seemed obvious to me that if I wanted this project to develop in a supportive medical climate, I would have to locate it in Johannesburg and do the epidemiology at the big Johannesburg hospitals I already knew well. The National Centre for Occupational Health in Hillbrow, which had taken over the old Wits (University of the Witwatersrand) Medical School, offered rent-free accommodation, and I advertised for a field worker.

There was now enough money to fund a field enumerator. Andrew Chiloane, a qualified nurse, became the first staff member of ... well, that was a good question, of what? I decided on a suitably harmless name, the Unisa Health Psychology Unit.

By now, my research hormones were flowing and the staff of the Unit grew rapidly: Brenda Radebe was recruited to do long-term follow up of patients we had seen in acute care in hospital and also to check the huge volume of autopsy files at the Johannesburg Magistrates Court to determine how many deaths from brain injury had occurred during our 12-months period. Digby Brown, who had just finished a thesis in neuropsychology, joined us as a statistician and researcher.

The next step was to launch a training programme for primary health care nurses that would enable them to identify and treat traumatic brain injury. This was the most ambitious plan yet, and I advertised for a qualified psychologist. There were two applicants, one of them a slender young man who had just graduated from the Clinical Psychology Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand. His name was Mohamed Seedat, and I liked him on sight.

In 1989, a good-sized South African contingent attended a psychology conference in Sydney, Australia, among them Ricky Mauer, who had moved from Unisa, where he'd been head of our department, to the Human Sciences Research Council. One sunny afternoon he came to sit next to me at a crushingly dull presentation, and whispered that our application to become an HSRC research unit had been successful, which meant a lot more money and top-echelon research status in the South African scientific community. Mohamed Seedat had meanwhile accepted a year's fellowship to Yale and thereafter gone on to work with a friend of his at a comprehensive community health centre in Boston. But the Unit continued to thrive, and sitting one afternoon in my office with Derek Yach and Digby Brown, I made a fateful remark: "Now that we've published our papers on traumatic brain injury in Johannesburg, I suppose this Unit knows more about trauma than anyone else in the country. Don't you think we should do something about it? How about trying to prevent violence?" Well, a seed was sown.

The Kellogg Foundation had become active in South Africa and I put together a hugely ambitious proposal for a violence prevention programme, and then got funding from the US Information Service to visit the States and pay a lobbying visit to Battle Creek, Michigan. The funding supported the formation of the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme which was later re-named the Centre for Peace Action. Zubeida Dangor, Kedibone Letlaka-Rennert, and Thandeka Mgoduso were instrumental – both in thought and action – in the formation of the Centre for Peace Action and in the development of the Kellogg grant application.

In November 1991 the grant came through and Mohamed Seedat who had returned from the States decided to return to the Unit. Two years later I stood down as Head and Mohamed took over, later becoming the first and founding Director of this Institute. In the late 1990s, our programmes were flourishing, and the political atmosphere in South Africa was changing. F.W. de Klerk made the historical speech that freed Nelson Mandela and democratised South African politics, and our affirmative action Unit was no longer the University of South Africa's favourite pariah, but a Beacon to the Future and a Shining Symbol of the university's reverence for all South Africa's people: this volte face was not an elevating spectacle, but certainly helpful to our development.

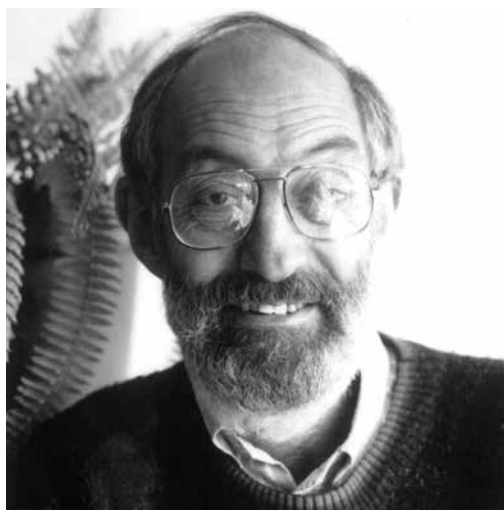
By now Alex Butchart had joined us to head a team working on an epidemiology of violence in Johannesburg, and a new set of influential publications appeared. We had clearly outgrown our status as a sub-unit of the Psychology Department, but the university had for financial reasons declared a freeze on the creation of new institutes, which enjoyed a very much higher level of funding and administrative support.

But quietly a Gang Of Three was at work (China of course had its Gang Of Four, but South Africa, as a much smaller and poorer country, could only manage three). The then Head of the Psychology Department, Eefke Beyers, the former Head, Wilhelm Jordaan, and Kerneels Plug, knowing that with the resignation of its Director, the Institute for Behavioural Sciences was about to close down, approached the university's management committee and persuasively suggested that our Unit step into the breach. Mohamed, Alex and I were summoned—nay, commanded—to a meeting with the Gang and told in words of one syllable that we would wish to become an institute. Of course, we leapt at this amazing opportunity – and eureka! Like a genie out of a bottle, the Institute for Social and Health Sciences was born and Mohamed Seedat was appointed as the first Director.



## Victor Nell

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Victor Nell was born on 15 September 1935, in Kwe, Zimbabwe. He pursued his undergraduate studies in psychology at Tel Aviv University in Israel from 1963–1964, and returned to South Africa to complete his BA Honours in Psychology at Port Elizabeth University (now the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) in 1968.

He completed an MA in 1975 and went on to obtain a doctorate in 1983. From 1982–1983, Nell did a post-doctorate in Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over his career as a researcher he held a number of prestigious positions, including that of Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury and Violence Prevention, and Director and founder of the Health Psychology Research Unit (now known as the ISHS), which initiated the first epidemiological study on traumatic brain injury in South Africa and is currently at the forefront of injury and violence prevention research.

Nell was one of the founding members and president (1995–1998) of the South African Clinical Neuropsychology Association. He remained on the executive committee until his death in 2007, having made significant contributions to the status, training and development of neuropsychology in this country.

In addition, Nell served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Primary Prevention and Neuropsychology Review*. In the course of his career, his numerous publications made immeasurable contributions to the fields of theoretical psychology, by focusing on narrative power, risk-taking and the evolution of social motives, neuropsychology, psychological assessment and occupational health, violence prevention and police accountability, and psychology, politics and public interest.

Behind all his eccentricities, Nell was a deeply reflective and caring individual. Much of his research was directed at supporting redress efforts in the mental health and social welfare sectors. He was moved – after immersing himself in writings on the psychology of oppression – to reject state violence and express disdain for the imperial project of militarisation the world over. As a prolific writer and voracious reader, he thought deeply about violence, evil and goodness. His writings dealt with health, safety, community, peace and the determinants of well-being.

Nell held many ideals and ambitions, and cherished liberal democracy. Even his detractors, who sometimes expressed annoyance with his inelegant public engagements, know that he was a compassionate and caring public-minded academic and member of South African society.

# Celebrating 30 Years of Community-engaged Research

*The year 2016 marks the ISHS's 30-year anniversary, the Institute having arisen in the context of a troubled period in South Africa and established itself on the margins as a social action outpost tolerated by mainstream academics.*

It has since become a valued community resource and a distinguished centre for innovative research and development. Not only does the ISHS do influential research, it also works to empower the disenfranchised and historically disadvantaged, and is committed to developing future generations of researchers. Because of the ISHS's proven ability to blend good scholarship with community engagement, it is regarded as a flagship programme by Unisa and demonstrates how university institutions – often regarded as distanced from the real world – can move into, and be in direct service of, disadvantaged communities. Two of the main programmes through which the Institute finds enactment are our social science platform and VIPRU.



# Formative Research Enactment

*The Institute's earliest enactment of community-engaged research started in the HPU.*

Organised around the traumatic brain injury study, the enactment involved the provision of psychological services to survivors of such injuries, the training of primary health care nurses to identify such survivors and make referrals to psychological services, as well as the development of norms for neuropsychological test batteries which would be appropriate and relevant for South Africa's diverse peoples. The work also focused on the neuropsychological effects of exposure to pesticides among farm workers in the Ceres region of the Western Cape. Throughout the aforementioned activities, the research assumed a community service orientation. At first these enactments were informed by a liberal impulse; the provision of research-based services to the vulnerable and unserved within disadvantaged catchment areas was, in part, a response to the findings of the study of traumatic brain injury and trauma in Johannesburg. The research was meant to make an empirical case for the provision of psychological services for the excluded majority within one of the country's largest primary health care systems.

All this represented laudable intentions given the political, health and social welfare contexts of the time, which were marked by major service-related disparities. However, the early public engagements, which spawned various multi-authored academic publications and conference presentations about the relevance and appropriateness of Euro-American forms of clinical and counselling psychology for South Africa and for blacks in particular, showed that more was required. The challenge was to go beyond making a case for service provision: issues of distributive and substantive justice – or what we today know as epistemic justice – had to be considered simultaneously. Larger struggles focused on overturning apartheid, growing critique of South African psychology and experiences derived from its formative research provided significant impetus for the Unit to think differently about its work.

Despite the evident discomfort and tensions, there was a gradual shift towards introspecting about psychology's founding epistemic principles and methods. The push to fulfil funding-related commitments and make good on "deliverables" posed many challenges, raising ethical and moral questions for an emergent entity that was not immune to socio-political developments in the country or the intellectual critiques raised by a small (yet assertive) national group that questioned the historical and contemporary positions and roles of the social and health sciences.

Notwithstanding the critiques of decontextualised psychology, the training of primary health care nurses serendipitously pointed to the disruptive and critical features of psychological enactments within hegemonic institutions, in particular health facilities that reproduced the apartheid authoritarian ethic and reduced black people seeking comprehensive health care to diseased bodies. The Unit's psychological enactments that centred on individual agency, emotions and social contexts, inadvertently challenged the narrow conceptions of health that reduced well-being to physical health.

# *Reflections on Being a Clinical Psychologist in a Slowly Transforming Context of South Africa in the Early Nineties*

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*Thandeka Mgoduso, Founder Member and Director, Ayavuna Women's Investments (Pty) Ltd.*

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and congratulations to the Unisa ISHS on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

My felicitations represent an opportune moment to reflect on my own association with the Institute, as well its valuable contributions to social transformation over the years. I joined the Unisa HPU and its Centre for Peace Action (CPA) in the early 90s, when the winds of change were beginning to gather momentum in South Africa. Needless to say there were many levels of tension in the country – in both non-profit agency workspaces and in academia – about ownership and the agenda of knowledge projects, as well as the hegemony of Western models of knowledge production.

In that environment of struggle and contestation I joined a diverse team of highly motivated clinical psychologists and other categories of community workers, who had their feet both in academia and in praxis, and were particularly focused on transforming psychology into a dynamic and liberating agent. Some of us in this team were very involved with the contextualisation and (to borrow from the current student movement) indigenisation of the teaching and practise of psychology. As a result, we immersed ourselves deeply in transformation work, with colleagues from other parts of the continent and like-minded practitioners from elsewhere in the world, exchanging ideas and concepts to ensure we used the spaces which we occupied to bring about transformation.

We worked in communities around Johannesburg, doing applied research and following through with social change-oriented interventions. The work we did in Eldorado Park in particular is an apt example of attempts to transform how research was to be conducted in a troubled society. We established and ran a women-centred clinic where psychological interventions were delivered. This was on the back of research we conducted, which indicated high levels of interpersonal violence in Eldorado Park, an under-served township of the greater Johannesburg.

There were no services to cater for survivors of violence; even in those instances where some semblance of services was offered, these were not women-centred. We established shelters for abused women, offering safety and security. In-depth psychological work was done to assist these women in responding meaningfully to the realities of their painful everyday lives. Within the therapeutic space of the shelter, women could focus on themselves and work towards achieving a centredness and becoming resolved to change their lives.

These interventions not only touched women but entire families, placing the focus firmly on patriarchal violence.

Central to the work of the CPA in Eldorado Park were our efforts to explore engaged and developmental ways of resolving conflict, recognising that violence is but a maladaptive assertion of one individual's power over another. It was very evident that violence only begets violence, and that there was a need to break that vicious cycle. It is therefore sad that, so many years down the line, under a very different dispensation, the issue of woman abuse and all that goes with it, has not been adequately addressed. Women still die at the hands of their loved ones. The position of women in society may have improved slightly, however in private and public spaces patriarchal tendencies continue to dominate. There are still deep wounds and anger in society, but the work that is being done by the Institute continues to have great relevance and meaning.

There were successes just as there were setbacks, which may be expected in the trajectory of any community-centred agency. What is very important is that the work started three decades ago has continued in different forms, thus the Institute must be commended for pursuing the very important goals of violence and injury prevention, and peace promotion.

I am very honoured to have been on this journey part of the way, and wish the Institute all the best in its undertakings. Its work is particularly poignant, given the current turmoil at institutions of higher learning, as well as in society in general. Let this work go from strength to strength. All the best for the future.



# Making Meaning of Our World as South African Academics



*Dr Kedibone Letlaka Rennert, Advisor and Senior Personnel Manager, International Monetary Fund*

We understood the power of knowledge production and we were no longer willing to be only subjects or passive bystanders.

It is amazing to reflect that we were newly minted young professionals 30 years ago, at the then HPU – a nerve centre of academic inquiry in the socio-political context of our time, the late 1980s. Intellectually agile, politically curious and demanding, we insisted on discovering how best to apply the social science knowledge and qualifications we had obtained to understand and explain the world we lived in and the things we saw impacting the various racial and socioeconomic groups in diverse South African communities. It was a dangerous, politically violent and highly charged time in our history as a country. We wanted our education to empower us to contribute by asking challenging questions and interrogating complex issues of poverty and oppression through high-quality research work, rigorous debate and publications. Understanding was not enough – we also sought to inform the development of policy and to ultimately shed light on those sites of struggle where the status quo, assumed practices and transformative interventions intersect.

## The Health Psychology Unit - The Early Years

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*Cheryl Zegers, Principal Consultant at Stanton Chase*

I was the first ever intern in Research Psychology at the Unisa HPU, which was then located in Hillbrow, Johannesburg.

The Unit was at that stage headed up by the renowned neuropsychologist, Prof Victor Nell. Colleagues included Digby Brown, Mohamed Seedat and Alex Butchart. Our offices were rudimentary and I was located in what used to be a bathroom in the top floor of the old Wits Medical School. We were surrounded by bottled body parts – mainly the blackened lungs of mineworkers – and the basement was rumoured to house cadavers. Nobody ever worked after dark, because it was an extremely “spooky” building. The Unit was involved in various projects, but mainly community psychology in Eldorado Park, community policing, HIV research, women’s issues and traumatic brain injury. We used to run neuropsychology assessment clinics at Hillbrow Hospital, and I recall the setting up of the women’s shelter in the south of Johannesburg. It was at that stage a pioneering field to be in; community and health psychology was cutting-edge thinking. I have at all stages in my career come back to the tremendous grounding I received at the HPU. On reflection, I realise how privileged I was to have participated in tremendous projects; I often refer to my days there and the knowledge I gained at a very real, practical and academic level.

# The Formative to Middle Years: Engagement as Challenge to Contestation

*The next big community-engaged research enactment occurred through the establishment of the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme (EPVPP), later renamed the CPA.*

The CPA, founded in 1990, operated in parallel to, but separately from, the HPU as the Unit's community-engaged service structure. Rooted in a community that was historically marginalised and disenfranchised by the apartheid state, the CPA epitomises a programme that works with a high-risk community and aims to enhance safety-related equity and justice. Within this broad framework, attention is particularly focused on the sub-groups most vulnerable to injury, namely residents of informal settlements, young mothers and youth, the unemployed, victims of violence and child labourers. While the physical structure has since closed down, the Institute maintains the CPA as a virtual entity focused on preventing injuries from violence and attending to the psychosocial well-being of its survivors. While the CPA is at the root of the community-engaged work done by the Institute, it has now evolved into the Institute's Ukuphepha Initiative.

This enactment represented a major transformative moment in how the then HPU understood and subsequently enacted community engagement. Even though the small HPU team was evidently sensitised to matters of both distributive and substantive justice, the Eldorado Park experience shows that there was still much to learn about university-public engagements and participatory research. The rationale and justification for the establishment of the EPVPP/CPA were informed first by the findings of the hospital-based epidemiological study conducted by Nell and his academic associates, and second by a small-scale community survey undertaken by Zubeida Dangor and her co-authors, that confirmed the need to respond to gender violence in the catchment community of Eldorado Park. Once the empirical rationale for a violence prevention programme had been established, Dangor, Thandeka Mgoduso and others, representing an emerging cohort of black psychologists, undertook the responsibility

of mobilising community support through a range of consultative discussions with activists, religious leaders and other community-based focal points. In the spirit of liberalised notions of democratic community engagement, a board of trustees was appointed and several working committees were established to help the EPVPP/CPA shape the content and focus of its planned anti-violence interventions. These included a focus on gender and youth violence and development, the stimulation of economic activity through small business development training, community policing, and the recovery and documentation of the area's social history. These comprehensively framed interventions, which followed the logic of prevention and community development, were meant to address the multiple determinants and complex social dynamics underlying interpersonal violence.



Here the EPVPP/CPA learnt that community engagement is a dynamic process – one that shifts from periods of consensus to deep reflection to praxis. Through this enactment, the university-affiliated academics and social activists learnt how the adoption of liberalised notions of consultation may reproduce academic dominance, and marginalise community voices and community assertions for meaningful and independent participation within university-initiated research programmes.

On 27 November 1992, the HPU was granted accreditation as an internship site by the Professional Board of Psychology and was granted space to train two research and two counselling psychologists. During 1992 and 1993, the first two interns at the Unit were Cheryl Cochrane (now Zeghers) and Vijay Jaggan. Cochrane's research focused on the study of somatoform disorder among mineworkers and an examination of how children who receive chemotherapy adjust to the social and intellectual demands of schooling. Jaggan, a counselling intern based at the CPA's Youth Centre, participated in a number of prevention programmes while being responsible for the CPA's once-a-week psychological distress clinic in Chiawelo, Soweto.

In March 1995, the HPU was recognised as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury and Violence Prevention. Resulting from this, between March and June 1995, Derek Smith, the CPA's Communication Officer, attended the WHO Safe Communities travelling seminar in the United States, and the 1995 Safe Communities Conference in Canada, which strengthened the CPA's research and service delivery capacity.

The formative to middle years of the Institute saw a continuation of research focusing on epidemiology. In 1992, this research was devoted to a qualitative study of illness and trauma. The work yielded two papers – one dealing with homicidal violence against African women and the other addressing events leading up to and including infant mortality (which was presented at the 1992 conference of the Epidemiology Society of Southern Africa). These papers were also the result of collaboration with UCT's Department of Forensic Medicine. This study saw a Dutch research intern, Jurgen Dorrenboom, successfully complete his Master's project dissertation in 1995 on the qualitative examination of the relationship between personal values, social identity and life experiences on the one hand, and intra-urban differentials in rates of interpersonal violence on the other, comparing matched groups of children in Eldorado Park and Chiawelo.

The study offered valuable theoretical and preventative insights into the problem of violence. The work led to collaboration with Jazzart, a Cape Town-based dance theatre company, which produced a piece called "Unclenching the Fist", aimed at raising awareness about violence risk factors.

The Rusthof and Nomzamo Safety Promotion and Resilience Study (Western Cape) was an initiative which sought to empower people and their communities to see violence not as an inevitable consequence of modern life, but as a problem which can be understood, resolved and changed. It took the novel approach of studying the resilience of communities in terms of how they deal with injury and violence, rather than investigating risk factors.

The Safe Schools projects which rolled out in both primary and high schools in Rusthof and Nomzamo, dealt with issues of safety in schools by following a participatory action research approach.



# Recollections of Volunteering at the Centre for Peace Action

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*Jennifer Albertyn, Board Member and Volunteer at the ISHS*

I have been a volunteer at Unisa's CPA since 1995. I am very thankful to be part of the Institute as a volunteer, and for the experience I have gained, especially in the field of community development.

Special thanks go to Jeminah (at that time Mtshali), Royal Lekoba and Oom Joe Moabi who were my mentors and the guides who helped me glean the vast experience I can lay claim to today. In particular, I thank Ashley van Niekerk who taught me how special our elders are to us, and for allowing me to participate in the research on this topic, which culminated in a book. Mildred Dreyer taught me about social service. I take my hat off to her for the patience she showed in dealing with the issues facing the Eldorado Park Women's Group. Last but not least, a very special thanks to Mohamed Seedat for the guidance and patience he showed Jeminah and me. Thanks, Big Man. I owe you.

While volunteering, I learnt to be more tolerant towards people in our community thanks to the training I received. During a trip to KwaZulu-Natal with Royal Lekoba and other volunteers we exchanged ideas on how to help eliminate poverty by training people and teaching them skills such as bead-making. Thanks to the Institute I was able to go to London for two weeks as part of a cultural exchange programme.

Once again, warm congratulations go to the Institute for reaching 30 years. Happy anniversary, Unisa ISHS! I am proud to be part of this wonderful occasion.



## Centre for Peace Action - The Early Years

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*Gerald Williamson, Director at Shaping the Learner*

The seven-year-old girl with the ponytail asked me if I worked for the Centre for Action. “Yes, I do,” I replied. “Well, my mother-child abused me!” This may sound humorous now... but it was in that moment that I felt the special impact of one of many anti-violence campaigns undertaken by the Unisa CPA.

I remember the early years of the CPA via simple yet powerful everyday anecdotes of hope and resilience. The social climate during the establishment of the CPA was turbulent. The territory was hostile and the future for many South Africans was uncertain. This was pre-1994 and South Africa was experiencing tumultuous political changes; ripping apart its gaseous belly of problems. The Unisa CPA was, at the time, spearheaded by leaders whose names today command healthy respect in many academic circles – there are too many to mention here. They did, however, have a vision of silent hope that inspired a new vocabulary in many circles of local life. Volcanoes of interesting words often sprouted forth from centre-related work; concoctions of concepts that flowed into the national discourse – among these were “community safety”, “civil ordering”, “community policing”, “child safety”, “injury and violence prevention” and “national injury and mortality surveillance”. Many of these ground-breaking initiatives found their way into the African lingua franca. Furthermore, it would be an injustice not to mention the extremely small offices we shared! Office space was hard to come by and we had to adapt to working from a local residence – very small workspaces, yet big enough to accommodate the spirit of the activist staff. It is in those offices that many life-changing initiatives were conceptualised during the early years of the Centre.

The creativity that informed the building of community ordering models and research was born out of the daily grind of working within a desperate political context, as well as the need for societal change. The CPA's bottom-up intervention programmes and the construction of community-led civil ordering and safety approaches which ensued were fairly novel. Initiatives were spearheaded by Centre staff whose own tenacity and resilience were only matched by the toughness of the context in which they had to carve out an influence here in South Africa and, later, on various international platforms.

As humble as it was, the many programmes piloted by the Centre really packed a great and influential punch, cross-pollinating many areas of our society as we know it today. The early years of the Centre saw collaborative efforts around curtailing road and pedestrian deaths, for example, translating into the first seeds of seatbelt safety interventions. Campaigns like "Arrive Alive" and "Drive Alive" had their origins in the old Hillbrow offices of the CPA, with stalwarts like Professor Victor Nell, Moira Winslow and others, now a matter of historical record. The concept of "community policing" (foreign at first) became central to the CPA's work in piloting the first Community Policing Forum (CPF), partnering with people like Clifford Shearing, renowned policing expert, London Police representative Peter Stevens and others. It was in pursuit of this new South Africa that the first community policing model emerged. During this time, CPA staff and others had their lives threatened, a car was set alight (we suspect by the police in the station yard) and the first CPF chairperson was almost killed in a related shooting incident!

The early years also saw fascinating ideas emerge, many of which influenced the national academic discourse around race, identity politics and class in an interesting fashion. Here again, the Centre found itself collaborating with a wide range of local and international partnerships. In a place like Eldorado Park, where the community tried to make meaning of issues around race, class and identity, debates were often robust and sometimes even dangerous.

The illustrious "*Bekgeskiedenis*", a local oral history project and CPA publication, is still fondly remembered by many as a fearless example of tackling issues around race, identity and meaning, attracting national television and press exposure, multiple times. Numerous schools-based violence and injury prevention programmes were also piloted at the CPA, many of which have influenced school culture as we know it today. Think "codes of conduct" and laws around corporal punishment – then think Unisa CPA.

Ground-breaking programmes – such as working with men who abuse, male identity, the prevention of woman abuse, small-business promotion and the building of the only known women's shelter at the time – were all part and parcel of the work of the Centre. There was a robust engagement by staff tasked with measuring, capturing, documenting and disseminating lessons, experiences and so forth. This was, of course, all in a day's work at the CPA. Finally, who would forget the then Rector of Unisa, visiting the CPA (the university's then most renowned and visible project) in a Casspir (Defence Force military vehicle), escorted by soldiers and police!

This compromised the embeddedness and trust that the CPA staff had worked tirelessly to forge with the local community. Needless to say, the community trust and relationship persevered regardless!

So, we salute every staff member, community partner and the multitude of people who constructed the legacy of the early years of the CPA. Each individual brought his or her uniqueness, blend of personality, skills and talent to the Unisa ISHS.

In hindsight, we are all bound by a common thread, a sense of humanity, forged within a place where we were always forced to reflect on the lives of those whom we came into contact with. I would venture to say that these reflections reminded us of who we really are. Many people have since moved on to different levels of societal service over the years, but you can bet your bottom dollar that their experiences at the Unisa CPA are forever etched in their memory and the memories of others!

## The Cape Town Beginnings of the ISHS and VIRPU

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*Dr Samed Bulbulia, Community Intervention Coordinator / Public Health Researcher at Unisa ISHS and SAMRC VIPRU*

Twenty years of journeying with the ISHS has been an amazing and nostalgic association with academia and community connectedness and engagement. This is how it unfurled.

A group of overseas doctors returning from exile post 1994 decided to engage in community outreach initiatives in the Western Cape. Their organization was called the Health Development Institute (HDI), and since they secured some funding, decided to partner with an organization that engaged in community-based research, and implemented projects in low-income settings. This was the beginning of an interesting amalgamation of medically trained health professionals and the CPA which was attached to a non-governmental organization.

I remembered been interviewed by a panel of scholars for the position of program manager for the Institute in Cape Town. The work sounded challenging and exciting, and twenty years later, here I am, still engrossed and captivated by the Institute's dynamism, its organic evolution and growth as a leading centre of excellence in critical community psychology, African scholarship, and a renowned history of humanism and community engagement with disenfranchised communities in South Africa. We were a complement of five staff, three medical doctors, one educator, a receptionist and myself. I remember my induction week vividly at CPA, which was then housed at the Hillbrow hospital. The offices were abuzz with the sounds of researchers frantically typing away on their keyboards, and we got introduced to an amazing team of colleagues and the projects currently been implemented in Johannesburg.

Our first site visit was to three communities participating in the Three Neighbourhoods Study. Royal Lekoba, an amazing, loyal and passionate community activist, whose still with the Institute, was our guide and interlocutor. How about replicating this study in Cape Town asked Professor Mohamed Seedat who was the Director of CPA. This was the genesis of engaging with community-based participatory research in the Western Cape. Unfortunately, after two years of collaborating with the HDI on various projects and seminars, the funding ended, and the partnership was amicably dissolved.

To initiate the Three Neighbourhoods Study, we had to connect with three similar socio-demographically similar communities in Cape Town. We eventually decided to work with three communities in the Strand, Western Cape. Connecting and working with the residents from these informal housing settlements was challenging and humbling. The residents had a passion for learning and development, and were enthusiastic to be involved in the study. This was the beginning of a transforming life journey for me, and an endearing and sustained collaboration and partnership with the Institute and these communities.

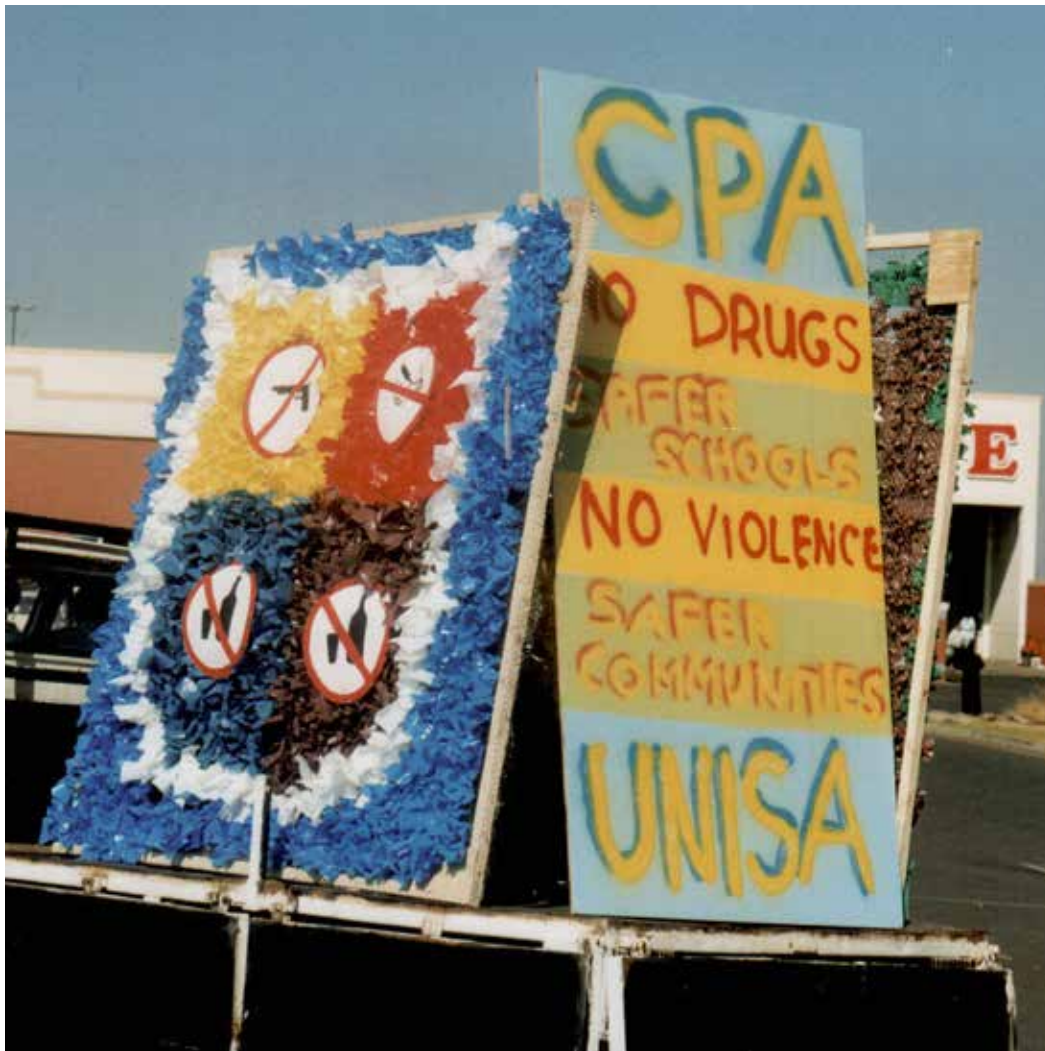
What piqued my interest is why some of the communities named themselves “Beverly Hills”, which are names usually associated with an affluent society in Hollywood, USA, and “Chinatown”. The name Chinatown was adopted because it reminded the residents of the lives of the peasants in China, and the hardships they endured, while their neighbours had some additional resources, e.g. more taps, and were therefore assigned the name Beverley Hills.

Meeting and working with the informal leaders was a refreshing and thought provoking experience. They had visions of hope, social justice and well-being for their communities. Afrikaans and isiXhosa were the spoken vernaculars, leaving me on occasion embarrassingly tongue-twisted, and I sounded hilarious to the communities. Over time, we were fortunate to have an office space in one of the communities, and this enhanced the Institute’s and my relationship with the residents. Also through our networks, we managed to secure an office space at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital, and later relocated to an office in a primary school. The Institute continued working with many remarkable social agencies and actors involved in the violence, injury, and peace sector over the years. It was amazing, enriching and rewarding for me, and the Institute working within this transdisciplinary context.

The ISHS unequivocally remains committed to its vision, mission and objectives which are grounded on the recognition of dynamic priorities, partnerships and location in Unisa, as an African university in the service of humanity, and a global African-centred Institute of excellence in the social and health sciences that seeks to commit science and compassion in the service of community. During the latter years, the Institute partnered with the SA-MRC’s VIPRU, and elevated their academic scholarship and citizenship, decolonizing epistemology, transdisciplinary research and critical contributions to community psychology and engagement which has been acknowledged in International, African and national fora.

The ISHS and its partner’s dedication to academic scholarship and citizenship, and community engagement initiatives are embedded in and affirmed by local communities, and in the African region. The ISHS leadership and its collective have engaged in research and community engagement with authenticity, creativity and integrity.

Working with communities has enriched my life. My time working at the Institute instilled in me humility, and the appreciation of co-learning and co-sharing of knowledges and experiences with colleagues and communities. Twenty years later, the Institute and VIPRU continue to weave an indelible impression and impact on my life. This is our collective journey in the pursuance of social justice, safety and peace and well-being for humanity. Being associated with and employed by the ISHS is a privilege, and I am thankful to work, feel and function within a sense of connectedness and belonging in this community. A colleague with excitement recently told me that, “If you want to do social research, the Institute is the place to be”. This was refreshing and affirming to hear, and I knew and felt, this is home, this is where I belong.







# Doing Community-engaged Research Differently: The SAMRC-Unisa Years

*Following the creation of the ISHS in 1997, the amalgamation of the HPU and the Institute for Behavioural Sciences, and the realignment of the EPVPP/CPA occurred.*

In 2001, the formalisation of the Crime, Violence and Injury (CVI) Lead Programme resulted from a formal partnership between Unisa and the SAMRC. The original research mandate was to improve the population's health status, safety and quality of life through a public health orientation aimed at preventing death, disability and suffering arising from crime, violence and unintentional incidents or injury – a continuation and refinement of Nell's original focus for the Institute. The enactments of community-engaged research shifted towards assuming a broader public orientation. While the research engagement at catchment levels continued (albeit in more complex forms), public engagement was extended to inform and influence health policy on violence prevention. The Unisa-SAMRC partnership (VIPRU) has proven to be an enduring collaboration.

## VIPRU

In 2010, the CVI Lead Programme was rebranded as the Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit (SAPPRU) and in 2014 as VIPRU. Within the CVI, the broader public-related engaged research began by utilising empirically produced data and knowledge-based publications such as policy briefs, the *Crime, Violence and Injury Prevention Review and African Safety Promotion: A Journal of Injury and Violence Prevention (ASP)* to inform national, provincial and city-level violence and injury prevention responses, policies, research and programmatic choices.

VIPRU is committed to data-driven prevention initiatives and transferable solutions for priority injury and violence-related issues.

VIPRU's current key objectives are:

1. Conduct transdisciplinary violence, injury and peace research
2. Contribute to contextually-sensitive prevention sciences
3. Cultivate innovations and technologies in support of research and knowledge applications
4. Build safety and peace promotion, and prevention expertise
5. Maintain demonstration initiatives to support research, capacitation and knowledge brokerage
6. Encourage the use of research to champion prevention and promotion policy

VIPRU currently finds enactment through a variety of projects, which include NIMSS and eNIMSS, the Community Demographic Injury Surveillance System, the Community Safety Index and the Ukuphepha Initiative.

VIPRU's work was preceded by a project undertaken in 1996: the Three Neighbourhoods Study aimed to generate epidemiological information for neighbourhoods that are representative of the three main housing types in Eldorado Park (informal housing, rented apartments, rented four-room houses) and to apply the data to the design and implementation of interventions focused on both injury-producing settings (e.g., informal settlements without shops, schools and electricity) and on particular problems (e.g., burns and pedestrian injuries).

The Three Neighbourhoods Study completed its pilot study in 1995 and entered its first intervention period in 1997. Data collection was completed in October 1996, and data capture by mid-November 1996. Cleaning and analysis were done by February 1997. Through this intervention, six injury fact books were created. Another level of intervention included connecting residents with agencies able to provide them with training skills relevant to injury prevention. The third level of intervention focused on using the information collected in the survey to put in place environmental and enforcement interventions.

# ISHS Intersections of Critical Public Health and Social Science



*Professor Ashley van Niekerk, Deputy Unit Director and Senior Specialist Scientist at SAMRC VIRPU and Unisa ISHS*

In March 1999, I joined the Unisa's ISHS as Safety Promotion Programme Research Manager. The ISHS had recently expanded its Safe Community programme to Cape Town, and I was pleased to join the small, dynamic group that had just started up there.

At that time the ISHS was known for its critical approach to psychology and social transformation. Its formulation of a critical perspective to psychology centred on the experiences, challenges and agency of South African communities, still largely marginalised despite the massive political upheavals of the 1990s. The ISHS, especially through the CPA, offered an important platform (one of a handful at the time) where the necessary engagement between community, scholars and programmers could materialise on the key definers of community life in this country.

This, and the interest of the ISHS in the rampaging violence and injury over this period (and their prevention), became defining features. In 2001, this was consolidated with the formalisation of the ISHS partnership with the SAMRC.

The ISHS has since successfully directed, with the SAMRC, the CVI Lead Programme and its successive iterations. I formally joined the CVI in January 2002, and since then have been involved with a range of its critical social and public health contributions, especially the conceptualisation of the complex causation of injury (burns, in particular), the multiple demands of effective injury prevention, and the application of initially apparently disparate methodologies in the advancement of safety promotion research.

The ISHS has subsequently offered manifold intersections through its programmatic and research work for fruitful mergers of critical public health and social science theoretical traditions and methodologies.

The location of multiple theoretical, research and methodological traditions is manifest in its community-focused injury and violence prevention work in South Africa and internationally. Such efforts have enabled critical scrutiny of the geneses of violence and injury, deepened the theoretical platforms for such study, while amplifying methodological rigour towards the unravelling of the complexities of violence and injury in democratic South Africa.

## *Reflections on my time with the ISHS*

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*Professor Sandy Lazarus, Contract Researcher at Unisa ISHS and SAMRC VIPRU*

My initial connection with the ISHS was as a board member. For a number of years I witnessed the excellent work being done by the staff of ISHS and the CVI unit. I was enormously impressed with the quantity and quality of the work, and the talent of the staff members presenting their work. I was truly grateful to be given a platform to contribute to the ISHS/CVI as a board member.

Alongside this direct connection with the Institute, I was also linked to the work of ISHS and CVI through serving on the grants committee of the SAMRC, and so was aware of the standard of the work in the context of the contributions of broader research council programmes and units.

I was proud that the ISHS/CVI work not only reflected an excellent quality, but also challenged the bio-medical dominance in the SAMRC. During the ten years I served on the SAMRC grants committee, I was aware that the ISHS/CVI contributed to a move towards a better understanding and valuing of more social science-oriented and community-engaged forms of public health research.

For the entire period of the ISHS's 30 years of life, I also worked directly with Professor Mohamed Seedat as a community psychologist. Together, and with others, we helped develop community psychology in South Africa and abroad, and published many articles and books that have advanced the development of a critical community approach to understanding and responding to the "person in context".

In 2006 the director, Professor Seedat, approached me to join the staff at the CVI. I have thus been employed, part-time, by CVI/SAPPRU/VIPRU from 2007 to date. The last ten years have provided me with a further and deepened opportunity to contribute to the organisation, and to the work of the Institute and unit. In particular, I have had the privilege of collaborating with Professor Seedat – as Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) – on a project in a low-income community in the Western Cape focused on spiritual capacities and religious assets to promote peace and safety, particularly among males. His invaluable support to this community-engaged research project has been welcomed by all of us in VIPRU and in the local community of Erijaville.

Given that the focus of the project is on the promotion of positive forms of masculinity to create safety and peace, Professor Kopano Ratele has also played a seminal part in developing theoretical understandings of masculinity and their role in both violence and peace.

The leadership provided by both colleagues, along with Professor Ashley van Niekerk, has served to bring about an enabling environment that supports creative and accountable research. It has thus been a pleasure to be one of the members of the "family" of staff in the VIPRU and the ISHS. Having worked in a number of other universities and research institutions, I am very aware of how special this space is for a researcher, and for me as a person. The "collective" culture of the organisation has created a hardworking yet relatively non-competitive environment where teamwork is valued highly. This is exceptional!

As I come to the end of my career, I am so grateful that my last years were spent with VIPRU/ISHS. I wish to use this opportunity to thank Professor Seedat in particular for the leadership he has provided and for giving me a chance to contribute to the best of my ability. Thank you!

# National Injury and Mortality Surveillance System

*Since its inception in 1999 as a partnership between Unisa, SAMRC, CSIR and the NDoH, NIMSS has arguably become a prime example of the public engagement work of using reliable, empirically produced injury mortality data to inform policy choices.*

As a flagship initiative of the VIPRU, NIMSS contains information about deaths in South Africa due to external causes such as violence and traffic-related incidents. Tracking this data is imperative for monitoring demographic, seasonal and socioeconomically related trends. The NIMSS provides comprehensive information about the “who, what, when and how” of injury and violence-related deaths, with data collated from existing investigative procedures at mortuaries, state forensic chemistry laboratories and the courts. All deaths due to external causes are included, thus allowing an overview of how the different categories of external cause (e.g., gunshots, burns) contribute to the profile of non-natural mortality in men, women and children in this country. The system has full coverage of the south of Gauteng (covering two major municipalities: the City of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni) and the entire province of Mpumalanga. This quality of information enables rigorous studies of all components of non-natural mortality, including victim profiling and the psychosocial context of violence.

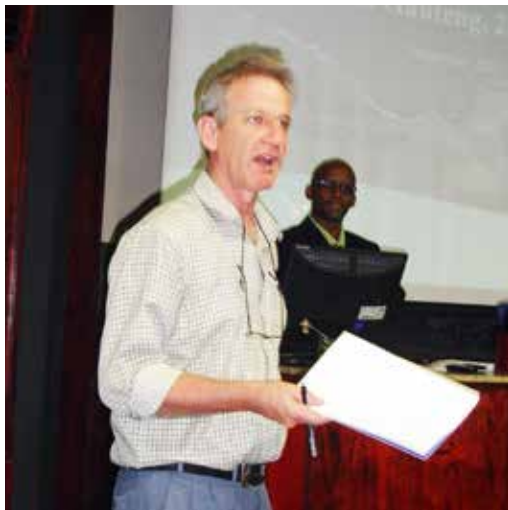
The second area of epidemiology research involved the completion of trauma research by means of a retrospective study of medico-legal reports concerning traumatic deaths – work which precedes the NIMSS.

Other avenues have, however, been explored and in January 1995 the Johannesburg Fatal Injury Sentinel Surveillance programme, which monitored the non-natural deaths of three mortuaries (Diepkloof, Johannesburg and Roodepoort), was implemented. For the period 2001 to 2005, NIMSS had full coverage of four cities, Johannesburg, Tshwane/Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban, and continues to have full coverage of Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni. NIMSS has had full coverage of the two provinces of Gauteng (excluding Pretoria) and Mpumalanga from 2006 to the present.

The NIMSS is currently at the stage of automation, with eNIMSS – an automated online platform – allowing for the collection of fatal injury data in the country to be centralised and standardised, and for it to be captured in real time and reported online. This results in timely, quality epidemiological data that can be used by local government and other relevant agencies to inform policy, interventions and funding allocations for the effective control and reduction of injuries.

The NIMSS database supports a number of projects, both within the Institute and outside of it. The Unit has, as one of its goals, the provision of access to NIMSS data to anyone who needs information on injury magnitude and patterns in South Africa. Given that it provides the most detailed information on injury and mortality in the country, the NIMSS makes an invaluable contribution to local violence and injury prevention initiatives.

The NIMSS has supported many doctoral and Master's studies, budget applications, and discussions and choices on violence prevention and thus remains a significant public-oriented research, programming and policy resource.



*The NIMSS has supported many doctoral and masters studies, budget applications and discussions and choices on violence prevention.*



*Sizakele Buthelezi*

Elderly homicide in Johannesburg, MA



*Dr Lu-Anne Swart*

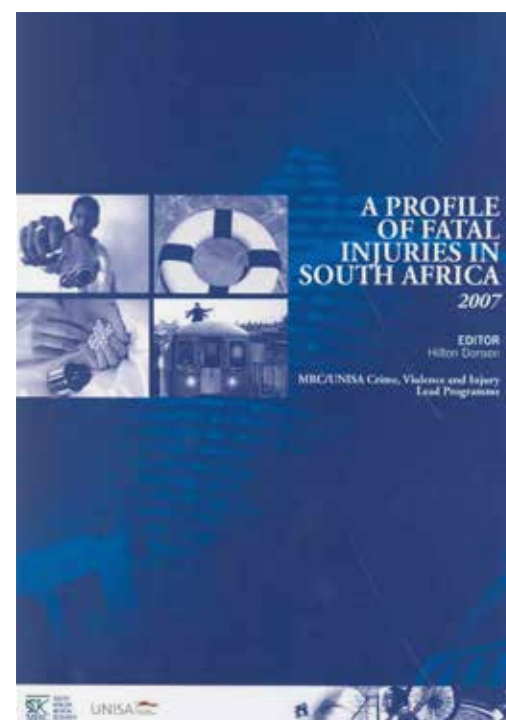
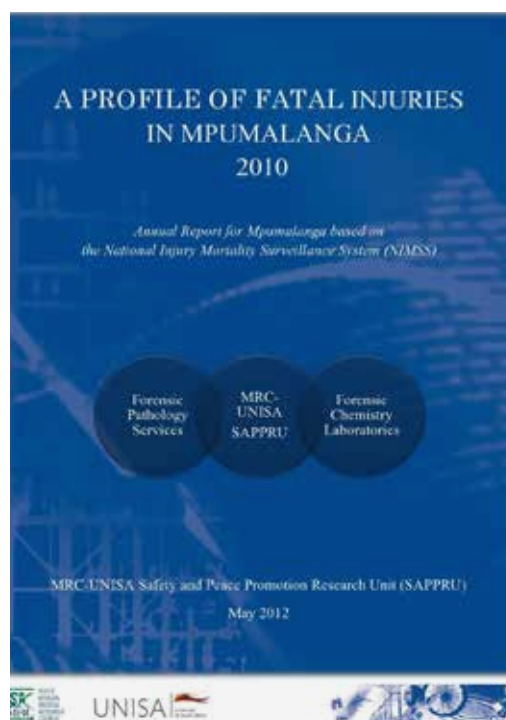
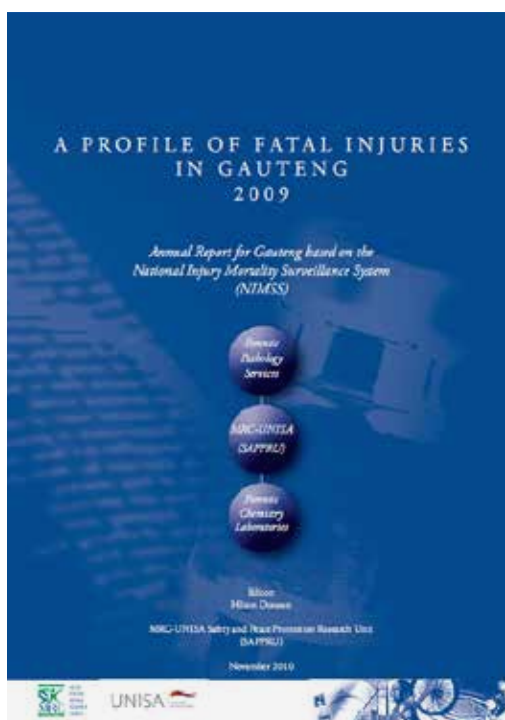
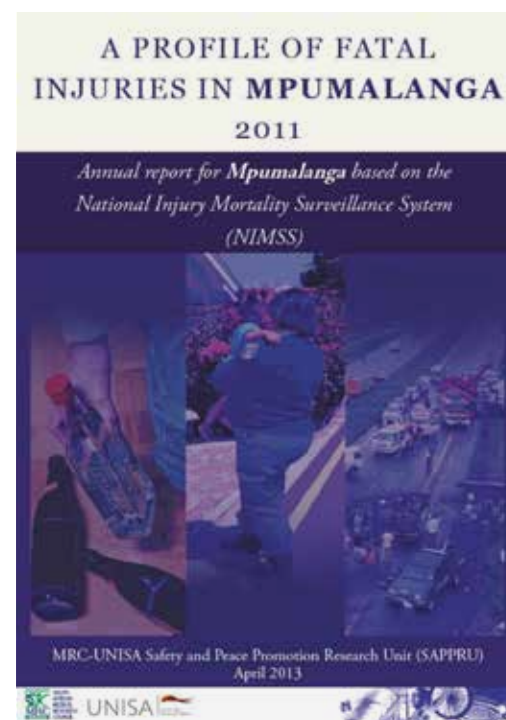
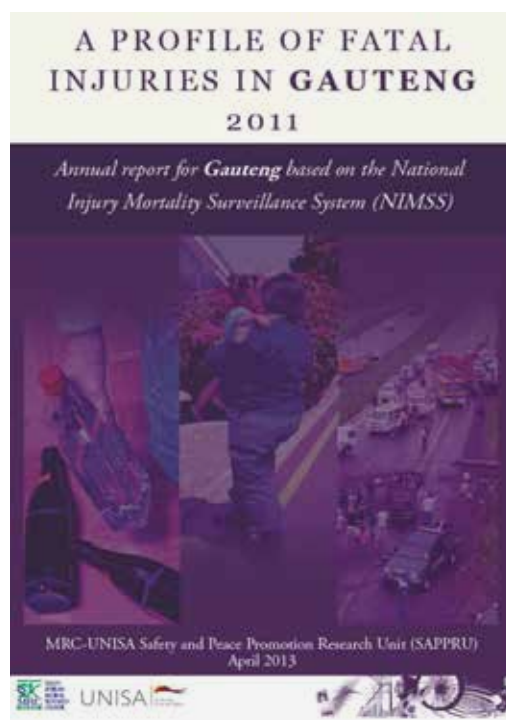
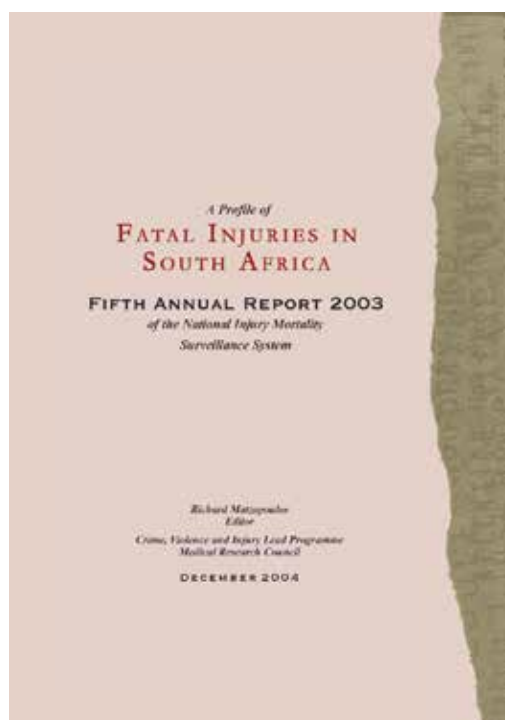
The nature, circumstances and socioenvironmental contexts of adolescent homicide victimisation in Johannesburg, DPhil



*Dr Samed Bulbulia*

Childhood pedestrian injury (0-14 years) in urban South Africa: Magnitude, neighbourhood risks, childhood development characteristics and urban design, DPhil





# History of Surveillance Work

*NIMSS originated from an idea to use magistrates' records to identify trauma-related deaths in the Johannesburg–Soweto area – a practice abandoned in 1992.*

The work changed focus and sought to examine whether the same information could be gained from medico-legal reports. Unfortunately, the most notable failure of the 1996–1997 period was that of the proposed Fatal Injury Sentinel Surveillance System, due to extreme delays in obtaining permission from the South African Police Services (SAPS) to proceed with data collection and the very poor quality of their extant information sources. However, this work finally found mobilisation through the NIMSS project in 1999.

Rape Surveillance Project (1994–1998): preceding NIMSS, this project sought to document all rapes presenting to district surgeons in the Johannesburg magisterial district. The aim was to establish an Epi-Info 6-based system for the routine monitoring of rapes reported to district surgeons in Hillbrow, Lenasia and Soweto. The endeavour was favourably received by the Johannesburg Safer Cities Project, which sought to use the findings as a guide for implementing its Victim Survey. The project resulted in a collaboration with the CSIR, which wished to use the data thus gleaned for environmental design projects aimed at securing existing buildings or creating safer buildings.

Evaluation of Gauteng's Medico-legal Services: emerging from recommendations in 2000 on the Rape Surveillance Project, this undertaking assessed the structure, process and outcome of after-care services for rape victims at all medico-legal centres in Gauteng by evaluating the availability, accessibility, quantity, effectiveness and acceptability of such services. These evaluations helped inform the development of services based on the principles of best practice. In addition, they established a benchmark for services which would consider the needs of both users and service providers, evaluation tools for assessing the quality of care at medico-legal centres, and best practice guidelines for the continued management, development and provision of quality services at medico-legal centres.



# Ukuphepha Initiative: Demonstrating African Safety

*Despite South Africa's recognition of the disproportionate levels of violence and unintentional injury in the country, and their catastrophic impact on communities and individuals, there have been few notable safety promotion demonstration programmes locally and elsewhere on the African continent.*

This underscores the absence of a critical mass of African-centred researchers and community-based infrastructure with a resultant under-development in the local science base and injury prevention sector.

The Ukuphepha (“safety promotion”) Initiative, started in 2010 and fully funded by Unisa’s strategic funding stream, has built on the many learnings gained through formative experiences in the Soweto primary health care system and the CPA. As such, Ukuphepha, being housed within VIPRU, represents a continuation of community-engaged research but with added complexity. This initiative targets safety promotion in a variety of spaces, amongst others, early childhood development (ECD) centres and the home, and focuses on a range of concerns, including the management of hazardous home appliances, protest violence and youth development. While some initiatives are aimed at concrete interventions, such as our Safe Stove Initiatives, others focus on the recovery of non-hegemonic voices, using visual methodologies such as Photovoice and digital storytelling.

The broad aims of this initiative are:

1. To initiate, implement, evaluate and maintain safety promotion demonstration programmes locally
2. To facilitate and convene an African-centred injury prevention and safety promotion group of scholars to generate African-centred knowledge and knowledge systems
3. To stimulate a network of injury prevention and safety promotion service-based agencies that will both draw on and act as resources to develop skills linked to technological improvement and innovation, and provide contextual relevance

While Ukuphepha was established fairly recently, it emerged from a long history of community interventions. Early projects which formed because of a focus on violence and injury prevention have now been formalised into the Ukuphepha Initiative. Some of these projects include:

The Small Business, Safety and Profitability Programme: this programme was developed in 1996 because unemployment and poverty are among the more prominent socio-environmental risk factors for violence. Job-creation programmes that enhance individual and family stability should therefore reduce incidents of violence. The general objectives of this project were to train participants in the basic management of small business enterprises, with a view to assisting them in establishing sustainable income-generating activities.

Community-based self-help groups: Towards the middle of 1998, an evaluation of the ISHS/CPA women's shelter recommended its closure as a formal project. Subsequently, a more proactive set of activities was implemented to promote the development of self-reliance, community resources, employment possibilities and income generation.

This was renamed in 2000 as Strengthening Community Support Systems and Alleviating Poverty. The activity groups comprised the following:

- Ukuthula (Peace) food garden
- Poultry farming
- Carpentry
- Four crèches
- Knitting project
- Sewing group

Community-based self-help groups, which were the precursors to several of our current projects, serve to inform how we do research in others. Based on the principle of promoting and developing self-reliance, community resources, employment possibilities and income generation, the work done by the ISHS focuses on creating a space in which communities can achieve sustainable change.

The activity group which focused on crèches is echoed in our Thembelihle: Countering Violence through Hope and Change Early Child Development project. The aim is to strengthen ECD centres in Thembelihle, south of Johannesburg, so that they function as safe and peaceful learning spaces that meet children's developmental needs and equip them with academic and socio-emotional skills in preparation for schooling.

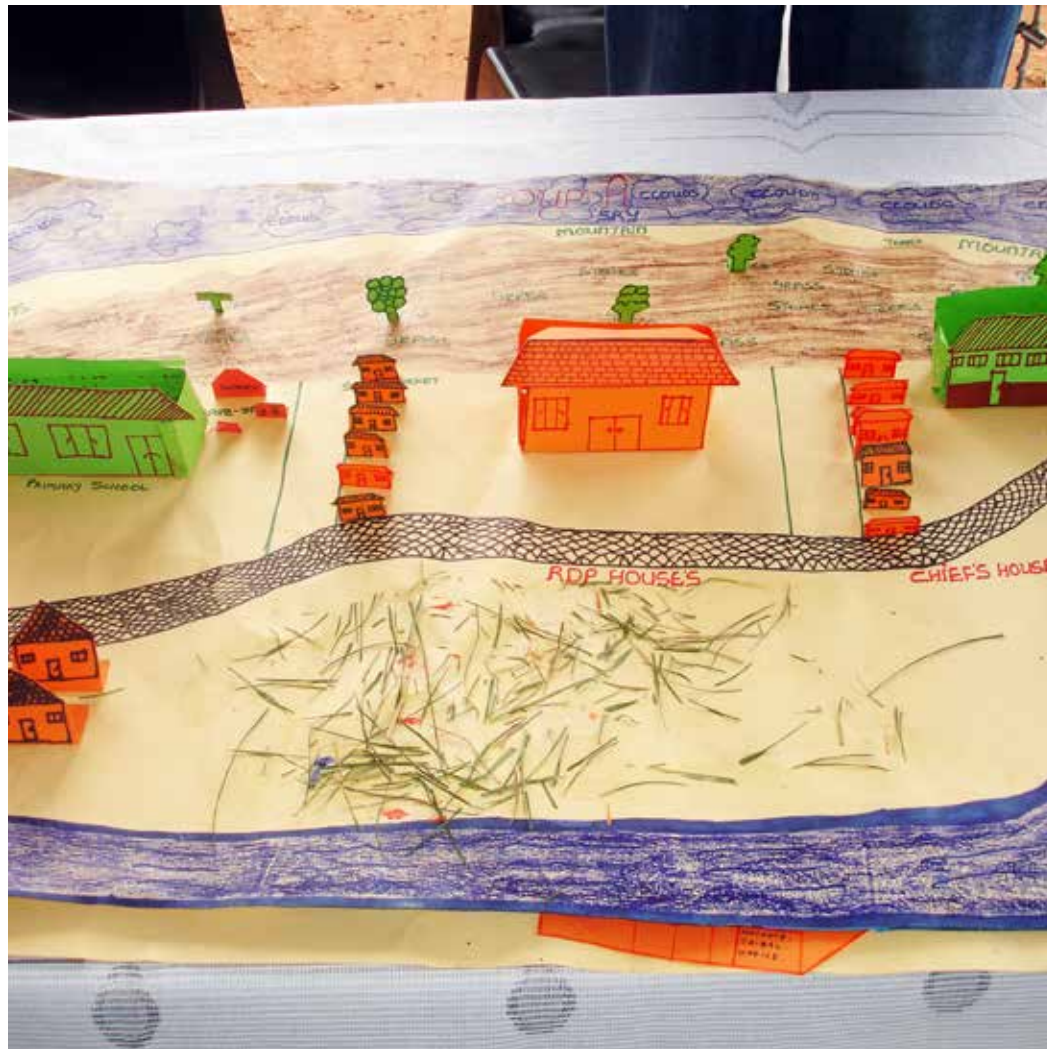
The CPA formed an after-school supervision group (1995–1996) to provide academic and psychosocial support to high school students experiencing academic and interpersonal difficulties at school. Confirming that such individuals were at risk (in terms of violence), 70 per cent of participants had either been victims or perpetrators of violence in a home, school or public setting.

The group met twice a week to engage in focus group discussions and structured homework supervision. Members who attended regularly were found to show improved academic performance and overall reported increased school attendance. Another youth intervention done by the CPA was Teenage Sexuality and Risk for Violence and HIV/AIDS.

This study was a comparison of school-going adolescents from low- to middle-income socio-economic backgrounds in Rio, Johannesburg and Baltimore, exploring teenage sexuality and risk factors for violence and HIV/AIDS. Talk Taboo Drug Intervention also dealt with youth, and injury and violence prevention.

This life-skills programme aimed to create spaces in the classroom for youth to speak about taboo issues, such as drug use. The aim of the study was to increase the life options of youth, build on their existing knowledge, and help them re-establish connections with their community in order to deal with these concerns.

The work with youth has continued through the Ukuphepha project via a variety of undertakings. Thembelihle: Countering Violence through Hope and Change: Youth Drama Forum is focused on participatory engagement with youth, and youth development. Participatory theatre is used to enhance learning, growth, a community spirit and positive youth development. Participatory theatre has proven to be a powerful approach in dealing with marginalised groups, demonstrating how drama facilitates the youth in making sense of their community and the world around them.



## *Good wishes from Slovo Park Community*

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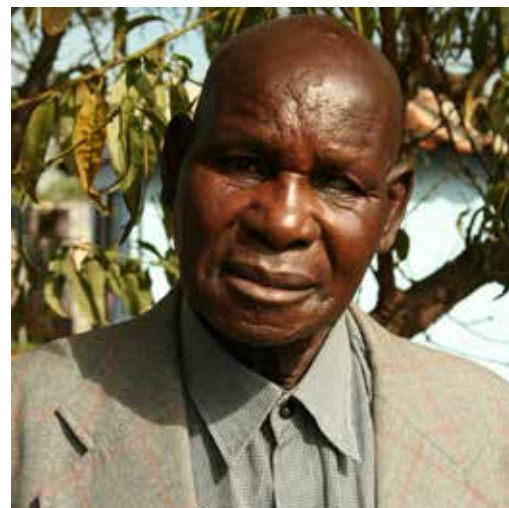


*Thomas Malatji, on behalf of the Slovo Park Community*

We would like to convey good wishes to the ISHS CPA (Unisa) for taking a united stand on safety and for operating in Gauteng for 30 years.

We congratulate Unisa's ISHS as it celebrates 30 years of enabling our community, our children and the elderly to live safe lives in their homes. We hope these programmes will not end with ISHS's involvement and its contribution to disadvantaged communities. We strongly believe ISHS will continue these programmes which aim to enhance and educate the community, and urge all at ISHS, under the leadership of Mohamed Seedat, to keep up the good work.

Let ISHS grow and bring more studies in the community!











## *Wishing a Happy 30th Anniversary*

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*Delive Segodi, on behalf of the Leshoko Day Care*

On behalf of everyone at Leshoko Day Care, I wish you a very happy 30th anniversary and thank you for your guidance and support for the ECD sector in Thembelihle.

All your hard work, support and guidance for the community of Thembelihle does not go unnoticed; even though we may not always be able to reward you, we know that God will surely reward you for us. You helped us tell our stories (Digital Stories) and shared them with the world (International Peace Symposium), and you have given us a platform to share the importance of early childhood education with the community of Thembelihle (Parents' Information Session). These are just a few of many journeys you've undertaken with us over the past three years, and for that we thank you sincerely!

Once again, happy anniversary ISHS, and may you go from strength to strength.

## Truly a “Centre for Peace Action”



*Gloria Modiselle, on behalf of Ekukhanyeni-Leseding Pre-Day Care*

Wow, I cannot believe it has been three decades already, since our first meetings when we were establishing BGATA to those early days of typing up constitutions of our ECD centres: all these events seem like they happened just yesterday.

It has been quite a journey and despite being a research centre, you have always been a “Centre for Peace Action.” Your peace action has truly been visible in various ECD centres, which previously worked in isolation, and with no sense of solidarity. Eventually, thanks to your intervention as peacemakers and shoulders to cry on, all that changed and we are now registered as an NPO (non-profit organisation) crèche forum and we are all pulling peacefully in the same direction.

If I may, allow me to take a moment to say “thank you” for the major roles you played to ensure that we meet the objectives and fulfil the vision and missions of our projects, and for your support programmes and highly necessary relevant skills trainings, which include:

- Child safety (CAPS) – “Prevention is better than cure”
- First aid (EMS)
- Basic ECD (SMILEY) – “Learning through play”
- Financial management
- Programme/theme planning
- Communication skills
- Parent/community involvement
- Networking with various stakeholders
- And, lest we forget, “Characteristics of a good teacher”.

There are countless examples. You even helped us access resources such as tables and chairs, teaching aids and carpets. Your monitoring also played a significant role: community members entrust us with their children and neighbouring schools recognise us for our good service. For being our pillar of strength and for standing like a rock behind us, we say: “The brain of a child is not an empty vessel to be filled, but a fire to be fuelled.” Unisa, you never fed us fish, but you taught us to catch it.

We salute you and we are proud of you. We promise to keep shining the light you gave us. We wish you many more years.

*Uma sinawe siya phambili asipheli amandla.  
HALALA Unisa SIFUFISELA OKUHLE.  
Thank you!*





1. LEGACY  
 2. DOCUMENT  
 3. COMM + UNITY  
 4. I SEE YOU → CHANGED PERCEPTION  
 5. ECD - YOUNGER GEN  
 6. UNITED EVEN IN DIFFERENCE  
 7. LEAD SIDE BY SIDE WITH COMMUNITY  
 8. EXEMPLAR / EXAMPLE



02

*The Critical Social Science Gaze:  
Roots, Iterations and  
Continued Expressions*



# Introduction

*The beginnings of the critical social science platform, which has undergone several iterations over the past 30 years, may be traced back to the community-engaged traumatic brain injury-related work in the Soweto primary health care system and the violence prevention initiative in Eldorado Park.*

The formative undertakings in Soweto and Eldorado Park produced a level of introspection that was resonant with the critical turn in psychology and with questions raised about the roles of intellectuals in the context of the larger anti-apartheid struggle.

The Institute's early collective gaze considered the relevance and appropriateness of Euro-American and excessively individualised forms of clinical psychology for African contexts marked by histories of colonialism and apartheid, and that hold certain sociocultural particularities. In the context of contestations around race, class and community, some of the formative HPU's grey literature, internal conversations and publications critically looked at the meanings and constructions of community, modes of academic and social representation, as well as interactions between power, race, gender, and research production and academic publications. There were strong interventions, in particular, by the then emergent group of black psychologists present in the Unit and its EPVPP/CPA to affirm and recognise the voices of marginalised communities in the research and development process.

The Institute started its gendered work with a focus on women and intervention (e.g., the women's shelter and the women's activity group). As the Institute progressed, its gaze on gendered work grew more critical.

Several projects focusing on women were undertaken in the early days of the Institute: women and family services, sheltering, women's leadership training and women in media. One of the early projects was the Women in Media: A Contributing Factor to Violence in Male-Female Relationships project, established in 1996, initiated by a research psychology intern, Ms Angela Gilchrist. The media represent one of the primary societal structures for maintaining patriarchal systems, with the mass media unobtrusively assisting in the social construction of gender by making its representation of the sexes appear natural or real. The aims of the aforementioned study were to demonstrate how images of women in the media are not necessarily reflections but constructions, which is one of the means by which the patriarchal order is maintained.

It is also through the means of this patriarchal order that men give themselves permission to commit gender-based violence. Representations of women in the media make a significant contribution to maintaining a patriarchal structure by representing and condoning female powerlessness. The Women and Family Services programme made provision for the sheltering and women's leadership programmes, amongst others. The former was run along the conventional route of providing a safe haven for women and children to escape from physically and emotionally abusive domestic relationships, in the hope that clients would be able to break the cycle of domestic abuse. The programme provided accommodation, counselling and support services, along with information, in addition to serving as a research unit investigating violence against women and children, with a view to creating more effective interventions and highlighting the nature of the violence through educational campaigns.

Women's Leadership Training, which began in May 1997, was structured along the lines of conventional leadership development programmes which can be adapted to suit the specific needs of women and people in contexts of extreme social and economic deprivation. The objectives of the project were to assist participants in recognising their own potential as leaders; to develop individual leadership styles and enable participants to take up leadership roles within their communities. Because violence against women is shaped by gendered power inequalities that subordinate them to men in the majority of social roles, it was assumed that teaching leadership skills to women would help to reduce violence, as they would be better able to negotiate their own roles and assert greater control over their own lives and bodies.

This early work sowed the seeds for the social science focus and, in particular, the critical research and academic traditions for which the Institute has come to be highly regarded. From the mid-1990s through the early 2000s, the critical tradition established firm and unmistakable roots and delivered two distinct interconnected branches of study.

Norman Duncan, Garth Stevens and colleagues introduced an analytical focus on the enduring influences of race and racism in post-1994 South Africa. Their writings moved beyond a romanticised take on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and offered a textured look at both subtle and overt forms of racism and the reproduction of social inequalities during the Nelson Mandela and early Thabo Mbeki eras. Stevens, Brett Bowman, Ashley van Niekerk and Shahnaaz Suffla (who was still with the University of the Western Cape [UWC] at that time) then produced a series of papers that continued the early reflective work of examining the transformation gains and failures in psychology.

Their writings, embodying a critical voice, interrogated the extent to which psychology had moved towards internalising matters of distributive and substantive justice at the levels of publication, research focus and teaching. This was, in part, resonant with earlier works by Martin Terre Blanche, Gerald Williamson, Zubeida Dangor, Thandeka Mgudoso and others; work that embodied resistance to the marginalisation of blacks and women in academic processes and knowledge creation. Some of Mohamed Seedat's and Martin Terre Blanche's work looked at the reproduction of social inequality within journals and institutions like the National Institute for Personnel Research (NIPR).

When Sandy Lazarus and Shahnaaz Suffla joined the Institute and VIPRU in the 2000s, their intervention work and writings reinvigorated the ideas of community agency, meaning-making and community-engaged research – ideas that were first etched into the Institute's psyche through the work in Eldorado Park. Their combined initiatives, together with the current community-based work of Naiema Taliep, Samed Bulbulia and Ursula Lau, including the project to mobilise spiritual capacities for youth violence prevention, Photovoice (intended to support youth social activism and safety) and the disruptive insertion of digital stories in building community-level peace, have consolidated the Institute's critical niche focus. These are exemplified in the range of publications, including those by Suffla and Lau.

# Reflections on my Time at the ISHS

*Professor Kopano Ratele, Professor at Unisa ISHS*



*I arrived at the ISHS in April 2007. During the previous decade I had been at UWC, where I met the women and men who planted the seeds for the direction which my life as a scholar would take.*

I had, however, become increasingly disillusioned with what I was seeing with respect to teaching students and UWC itself: burned out from teaching bigger and bigger classes with less support and fewer resources, I suppose. I like teaching, and often present guest lectures or multi-day workshops, but some of the enjoyment teaching can generate had begun to dissipate. I needed a break from the lecture hall.

I made a call to the head of the ISHS, Professor Mohamed Seedat. A position had been advertised months earlier, and I was not sure whether it had been filled. Professor Seedat was kind enough to take my call. Having read up on the ISHS and the SAMRC–Unisa CVI Lead Programme which Professor Seedat directed, I knew that their work focused on intentional and unintentional injury surveillance and prevention, that there was an interest in peace work, that the ISHS maintained an eye on how social and health sciences relate to society at large, and that many of the staff had trained as psychologists. My own interests relate to men, race, culture and sexualities, with a growing focus on men and violence. My hope was that there would be a fit between some of the ISHS's concerns and my own, and fortunately that proved to be the case.

From there was born what would become the MTSCP, a reconfiguration and clustering of some of the work previously conducted under various names. Between April 2007 and December 2015, the work grew and passed through several interesting phases: the cluster of work began life in 2007 as the Wealth, Identity, Peace and Equality (WIPE) programme, and in 2010, reflective of the ongoing push for change in the country as well as the desire to study social, political, cultural, scientific and intellectual traditions and transformation, it became the Programme on Traditions and Transformations (PoTT).

In its latest incarnation, the MTSCP, as the name says, has three foci: masculinity, traditions, and social change. These foci overlap. The projects under the Programme seek to look into and contribute to positive societal transformation by transforming the lives of boys, men and masculinity with an eye of just and healthy gender relations. The Programme is equally interested in traditions within a changing society and in different spheres like culture, universities, gender relations and sexual life – how they develop, are maintained, resisted, and change, and what they materialise in boys and men's lives.

In addition to supervising students, the MTSCP has hosted and mentored, in collaboration with the CVI, a number of young researchers as part of their internships. Some of these individuals have gone on to acquire further degrees and jobs in the ISHS, CVI and elsewhere. Notable are Dr Yaseen Ally, Lebohang Letsela, Chernelle Lambert, Dr Candice Rule, Dr Mandisa Malinga, Brittany Everitt-Penhale, Rebecca Helman and Josephine Cornell.

Between April 2008 and April 2009, I acted as Director of the Institute and the CVI while Professor Seedat was on sabbatical. Around the same time, in March 2009, my partner and I had a son. I had been commuting between Cape Town and Gauteng up to then, but my changed life circumstances meant that I needed to be in Cape Town.

On Professor Seedat's return, after some negotiations it was agreed that I would assume the newly created position of Co-Director of the CVI and work from the SAMRC offices. From 2009 to 2014, in addition to the work I led under the MTSCP, I filled the position of Co-Director of the then renamed SAMRC–Unisa SAPPRU. From 2014, the Unit was subsequently renamed as VIPRU, with Ashley van Niekerk as Deputy Director. I left on a short secondment to head the Centre of the Advanced Study of African Society between January and April 2016.

I am glad to have been part of the development, changes and achievements of the ISHS and VIPRU from 2007 to the present. There have been many highlights and just as many curveballs. However, each one of the moments has been a learning opportunity. Mohamed Seedat has placed his unmistakable stamp on the Institute. Mildred Dreyer, chief of staff, deserves a special mention: without her leadership and immense knowledge, I simply do not know how the ISHS would function. And to the rest of the ISHS and VIPRU colleagues and friends (past, present and still to pass through here) – it has been quite a road that we have walked together. Thank you for the memories so far. It has been a meaningful experience. As for the future ... in my view it looks mighty bright.

## *In Celebration and Solidarity*

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*Professor Shahnaaz Suffla, Specialist Scientist at SAMRC VIPRU and Professor Extraordinaire at Unisa ISHS*

It gives me great pleasure to extend congratulations to the Unisa ISHS, its Head, Professor Mohamed Seedat, and the rest of the team on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

This remarkable commemoration marks a moment of pride, recognition and achievement in the Institute's impressive history of scholarship, community engagement, social action, capacity building and untold other contributions to the academy, as well as the lives of the many communities and individuals who have accompanied it on its journey. And it has been no ordinary journey! Situating itself within socially relevant knowledge traditions and practices; embracing the values of justice, resistance and liberation; animating its work through the quest for excellence, innovation and critical imagination; and led by boldness of vision, the Institute has grown an African-centred narrative that has come to be respected and highly regarded by many in South Africa, on the continent and elsewhere in the world.

And when its critical voice and complexion have been met with opposition (especially from occupiers of power and privilege), the Institute has navigated these challenges with the consciousness and intelligence of the mature social actor it has come to be. With these same attributes, it has considered, and continues to consider, its identity and undertakings with reflexivity and candour.

I feel privileged to be associated with the Institute and the exceptional individuals who are a part of its chronicle. I found the Institute when, as a young, black woman psychologist in the 1990s, I was looking to counter the dislocations and discriminations of my time, and searching for habitations of relevance, belonging and connection.

While struggles and pursuits are interminable, the Institute remains for me a concurring and generative space, and an inspiring exemplar of the kind of scholar and practitioner I continue to strive to be. For this, I feel enormous gratitude to the colleagues and comrades with whom I have had the pleasure to work since my engagement with the Institute.

Once again, congratulations. My best wishes to the Institute as it continues to expand its horizons in the pursuit of epistemic and social justice. To the staff, and the many who are to come after us, I hope that our contributions are inspired by this history made, and stimulated by the history yet to be made.

# *The Institute as a Site of Knowledge Production, Epistemological Experimentation and Innovation*

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*Professor Garth Stevens, Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand*

It is with the utmost warmth and admiration that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Mohamed Seedat and all the staff at the Unisa ISHS, on this your 30th anniversary year. The fact that it has been three decades since the establishment of the Institute signals its continued import and relevance as a site of knowledge production, epistemological experimentation and innovation, applied research, community engagement, and training of a new layer of intellectuals, academics, researchers and practitioners.

It is also with immense gratitude that I proudly claim to be a part of this auspicious history, as a member of staff between 2000 and 2005. Joining the Institute was undoubtedly one of the most profound opportunities I have enjoyed, both personally and professionally. It was at the Institute that I was inducted into the world of socially utile research, encouraged to extend the boundaries of my intellectual curiosity, inspired to contribute to the building of a critical intellectual mass, and challenged to confront in all its guises the pernicious effects of social asymmetries on the most marginalised of society.

These formative experiences were of immeasurable value to me, and for that I am eternally grateful. Moreover, my experiences during this time were embedded in sets of personal relationships that always reaffirmed a common sense of humanity, within a collegial atmosphere where mentorship and the establishment of collaborative intellectual projects were always foregrounded.

I have no doubt that in the years since, this ethic has continued to stand as a central pillar for countless emerging intellectuals, academics, researchers and practitioners.

Let me therefore once again congratulate the Institute and all of its staff, and wish everyone well as they continue to reinvigorate the nature of knowledge production processes and their social relevance in South Africa, on the continent, and indeed across the globe.

## Commitment to “Science for Society”

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*Professor Brett Bowman, Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand*

As a former intern, researcher and senior researcher at the ISHS between 2000 and 2007, I would like to offer my most heartfelt congratulations on this, the 30th anniversary of its establishment.

Over the course of its life, the Institute has unquestionably contributed to advancing the social and health sciences internationally, enhanced South Africa’s research capacity through facilitating the development of social and health researchers, and brought this country to the cutting-edge of conceptualising, implementing and evaluating community-level interventions that are sensitive to the socio-historical challenges and possibilities that characterise many low-income populations.

Perhaps the most important mark of the success of the Institute is, however, defined by the many ways in which it has used its research to better the lives of the people in which it is embedded. In Johannesburg, the Lenasia office is a well-recognised resource for knowledge and capacity by the many people who enter through its doors or work side by side with its researchers and community practitioners in their everyday lives.

The Institute was also pivotal to my own personal development. It played a profound role in my approach to the study of the social world through its field-shaping infusion of human rights and social justice into the broader mandate of community-based research and intervention.

I will be forever grateful to the ISHS for providing me with this vision, and grounding my career through its commitment to “science for society”. I know that this sentiment is widely shared by all those researchers who have passed through its gates over the past three decades.

Once again, congratulations on reaching this important milestone in the life of the Institute. Given the impact of its work over the past 30 years, I have no doubt that the ISHS will continue to make an important contribution to social and health research that will benefit many in the years to come.

# Masculinity, Tradition and Social Change Programme

*One of the most recent iterations of the critical social science platform is the MTSCP led by Kopano Ratele, who joined the Institute in 2007.*

Attentive to the power of location in the enunciation of knowledge, projects conducted under the MTSCP are informed by a critical tradition perspective on the subject of boys, men and masculinity, as well as a critical masculinity studies perspective on the subject of culture and change.

The MTSCP is itself a reconfiguration of the work previously conducted under the PoTT, which emerged from the WIPE programme established in 2007. This programme, resonant with the preceding critical work conducted in the Institute, has an interest in the relevance and appropriateness of knowledge-making, knowledge and associated methodologies; the imperial and colonial roots of the mainstream social and health sciences; and class, race and gender biases in academic writings and society at large.

The MTSCP has three main thrusts:

1. Examine the development, propagation, resistance, and shifts of traditions (specifically socio-cultural, gender and sexual, intellectual, and scientific traditions), with specific interest on the problematic issue of boys, men, and masculinity in changing societies.
2. Grapple with the constructions of masculinity in the reproduction of and resistance against social injustice.
3. Contribute to the transformation, on the back of sound research and theory, of the lives and relationships with their own gender/sex and other genders and sexes.

The MTSCP pursues the following aims:

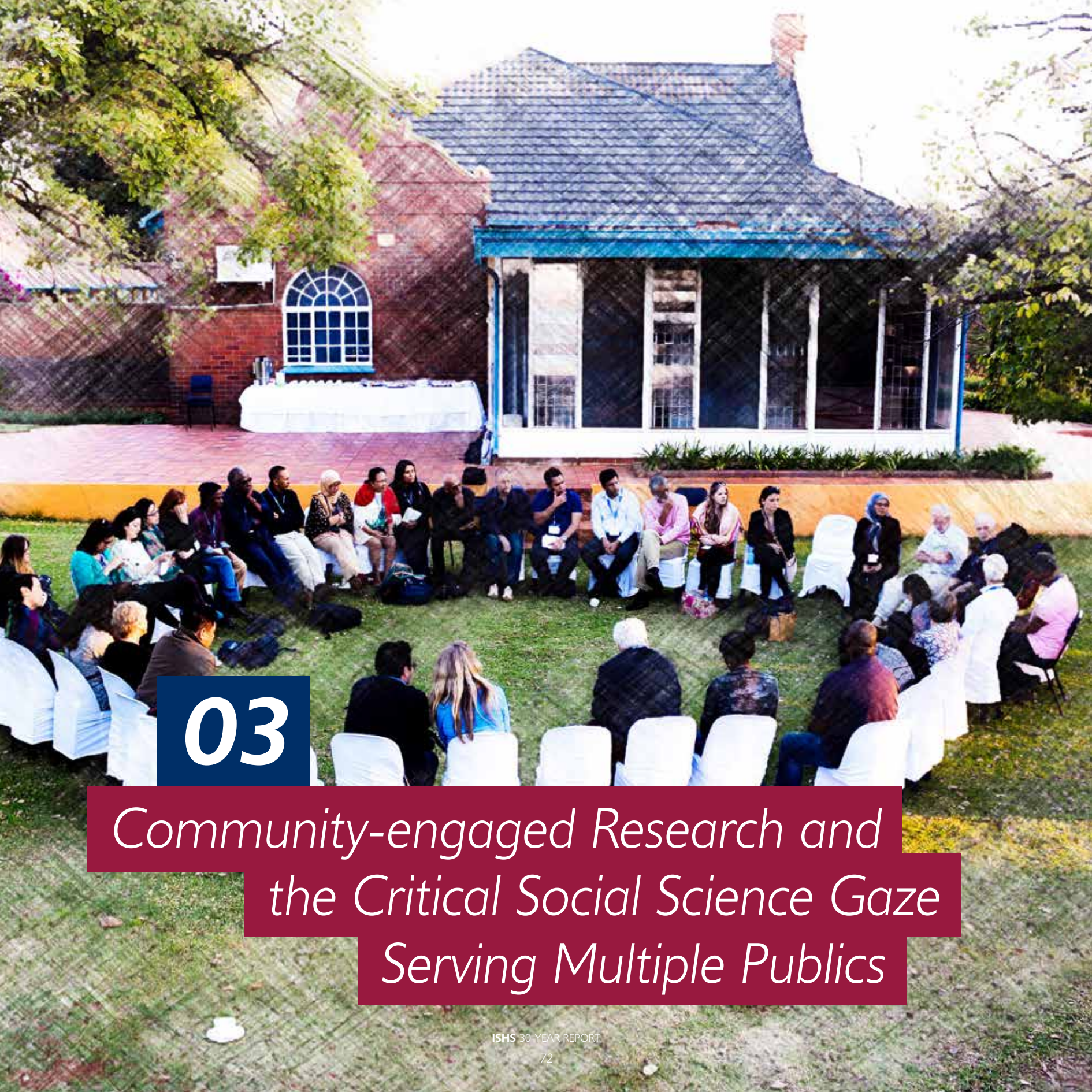
1. To contribute, through research, community engagement and social activism, to studies of and interventions into the ways in which gender and tradition, intersecting with class, race, sexuality and other socially salient categories, are co-constitutive of the lives of boys, girls, women and men

2. To collaborate on mutually beneficial, collaborative projects with gender activists, women's groups, queer thinkers, (pro)feminist scholars, teachers, other critical groups and individuals on projects pertaining to boys, girls, women, men, masculinity, femininities, tradition and culture
3. To attract Master's and doctoral students, postdoctoral candidates and interns to undertake work focusing on boys, men, girls, women, masculinities and femininities, tradition and culture
4. To develop and maintain a variety of platforms and vehicles with a view to sharing and disseminating news on work on boys, girls, men, women, femininities, masculinities, tradition and culture.

The work of this programme is best illustrated through the Changing Traditions and Gender Making and Expression Collaborative Project.







03

*Community-engaged Research and  
the Critical Social Science Gaze  
Serving Multiple Publics*

# *African Safety Promotion: A Journal of Injury and Violence Prevention*

*As a journal, the ASP has, since its inception in 2003, served as a forum for discussion and critical debate among academics, policy-makers and practitioners active in the field of injury prevention and safety promotion in Africa.*

ASP has, as such, contributed to shifting the epistemic site for the promotion and exchange of ideas on safety promotion and injury prevention to the Global South, being underpinned by theoretical and evidence-based approaches to the prevention and management of violence and injury.

Every year, the ASP receives about 25 submissions and publishes two issues, with key themes including injury epidemiology, studies on the risks to violence and injury, prevention analyses and theoretical perspectives on emerging issues. The journal's editorial board comprises experts from South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world, and is reconstituted every three years. The ASP was accredited by the South African National Department of Education in 2005.

In 2013, ASSAf's (Academy of Science of South Africa) committee on scholarly publishing in South Africa finalised its review, recommending that the journal remain on the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) list of accredited journals and join the evolving SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) South Africa platform.

ASSAf has indicated that "the quality of the articles seems to be good..." and "it would certainly be worthwhile to publicise and market this journal among health sciences university faculties within the country, region and continent to disseminate information and attract more submissions of articles". The ASP will seek to increase its visibility in Africa and globally through initiatives that include the maintenance of an open access system to recent issues, journal information and distribution campaigns, and through special issues which have special significance for the continent.



# Crime, Violence and Injury Review

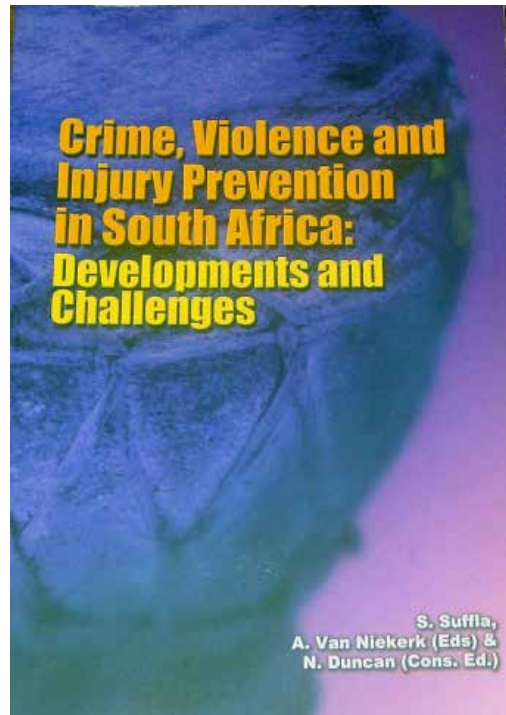
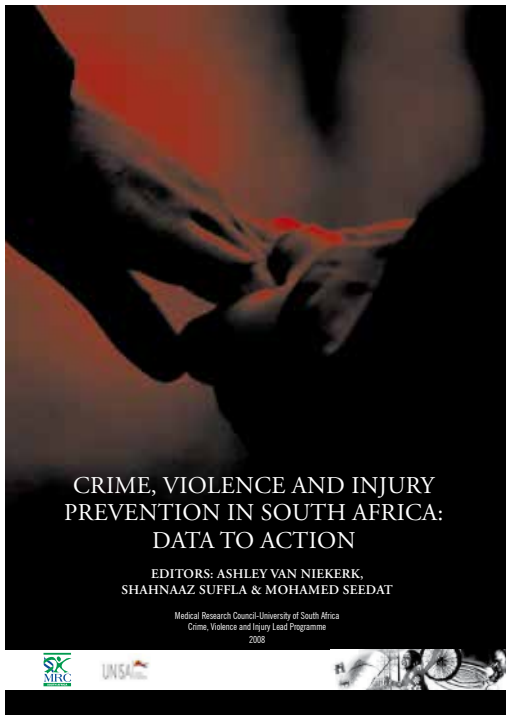
*This serial publication has provided comprehensive analyses of the South African crime, violence and injury sector.*

The reviews, which are grounded in critical public health and social science approaches, provide a comprehensive reflection on the current successes of and challenges to the South African crime, violence and injury research and prevention sector, with analyses of key developments and major emerging priorities. The review has been widely used as a resource for safety advocates from local government, community-based organisations, researchers, practitioners, funding agencies and students of psychology, education, health and social work, in consideration of innovative ways to translate empirically-produced South African and international information on what works into concrete injury prevention policies and practices.

The review has thus far involved three issues containing peer-reviewed chapters contributed by leading South African safety specialists. The first review, 'Crime, violence and injury prevention in South Africa: Developments and challenges' (Eds S. Suffla, A. van Niekerk and N. Duncan, 2004) focused on injury surveillance, gun-homicide, traffic fatalities, violence against women, burns and suicide, with a special call for further, developed analyses to enable safety policy changes in South Africa. The second review, 'Crime, violence and injury prevention in South Africa: Data to action' (Eds A. van Niekerk, S. Suffla and M. Seedat, 2008) offered several deepened analyses on unintentional injury and its prevention, specifically traffic injury, as well as intentional injury and the prevention thereof. This review reflected the growing recognition of injury as a public health concern and a mounting sectoral and public awareness of the causes, drivers and preventability of injury. The most recent review, 'Crime, violence and injury in South Africa: 21st-century solutions for child safety' (Eds A. van Niekerk, S. Suffla and M. Seedat, 2012) contributes to the knowledge platform required for consolidating South Africa's child safety research, prevention and advocacy efforts.

Topics covered in this review include unintentional injuries (e.g., pedestrian safety, burns, falls and lead poisoning) as well as intentional injuries and violence (e.g., child maltreatment, violence in schools, gang involvement, child safety in places of detention, suicidal behaviour, substance abuse, foetal alcohol spectrum disorders and the psychosocial effects of trauma). The three reviews have been well received.

The latter, for example, was launched through a number of institutions, including the SAMRC, the Psychological Association of South Africa's annual conference, the University of Stellenbosch's Department of Psychology, and the Western Cape Education Department, which has since co-hosted with the ISHS and VIPRU a series of Positive Behaviour symposia in 2013 and 2014. These have highlighted current child injury and violence concerns, and foreground strategies to assist educational authorities in the promotion of child safety in schools and surrounding communities. The symposia were attended by over 300 primary and high school principals from across the Western Cape, with the distribution to schools of over 500 copies of the Review.

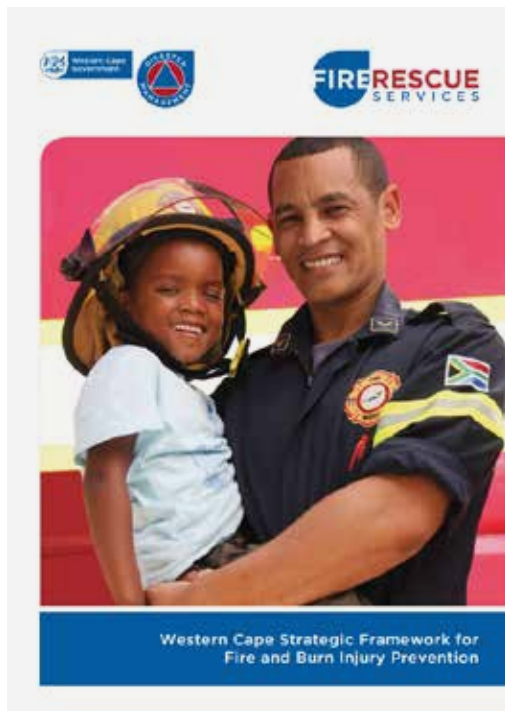


# Western Cape Burns Prevention Framework

*In response to the unprecedented levels of injury, disability and mortality caused by fires and burns, the SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU, in collaboration with the Western Cape government and other experts, developed and conceptualised the Western Cape Strategic Framework for Fire and Burn Injury Prevention.*

The Framework, developed in response to the prioritisation of multi-sectoral evidence-led programmes aimed at preventing fire and burn injuries in the Western Cape, seeks to target key environmental, social and behavioural factors which lead to fires and burns. The Framework emphasises the most common sites and affected populations in the Western Cape for fire and burn injury, while emphasising the promotion of supportive institutional factors.

*“...the Framework draws on the fact that burn injuries are not random, but predictable events that are preventable.”*

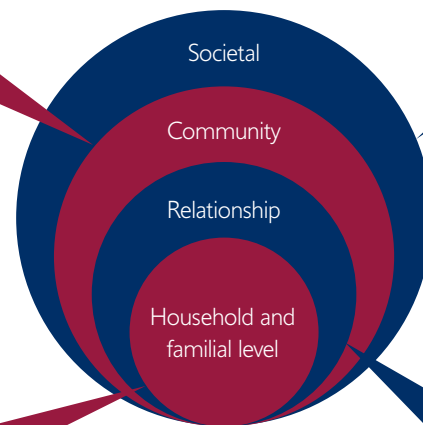


**Objective 1:** Promote selected poverty alleviation measures that target groups at risk for burns in informal settlements and backyard shack households.

Objective 4: Information strategy and systems based on the existing platforms.

Objective 5: Secondary interventions: community warning systems.

**Objective 3:** Human/behavioural interventions



**Objective 6:** Departmental alignment and focus on prevention

**Objective 2:** high-risk equipment management and control

Ecological alignment of the recommended interventions.

# Media

*The Institute uses the media to make its research accessible to all.*

Due to its wide reach, using the media in the service of community development is an important and efficient way to raise awareness. It also provides a platform to communicate to the public important research findings which would usually remain only accessible to academic audiences. Over the years, the Institute has engaged with various topics such as road traffic injuries, youth resilience, child safety, water safety, economic solidarity, changing traditions, sexuality, crime, race and youth engagement.

## Yes, boys can play with dolls

MINIATUR 13 Nov 2015, 07:00



## Month of love becoming one steeped in violence

THE STAR 125 February 2016, 2:54pm

Rebecca Helman and Kopano Ratele

Addressing everyday inequalities will help transform our society into a less brutal place to live in, write Rebecca Helman and Kopano Ratele.

February, the month of love, has been a violent month. Not only have violent protests sprung up at several universities, but Valentine's Day marked three years since Reeva Steenkamp was shot and killed by her boyfriend Oscar Pistorius.



## We owe it to the 1976 generation to do better

19 Jun 2015 17:00:00 South Africa, Johannesburg, Botswana



## Teaching men how to unlearn violent behaviour

BY NOKHOLELA MALHEIRE OCTOBER 09 2016, 06:11



### Related articles

- [Inmate violence at London's HMP Brixton](#)
- [South African courts limit partners](#)

MEN'S violence is a near universal phenomenon, but SA has one of the highest incidences of intimate partner violence in the world.

Violence like this has been learned. Men are often socialised into violence, and come to be violent because it is set up as a viable expression of their masculinity.

No violence can be unlearned.

According to the South African Medical Research Council, intimate partner violence — which may include physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse by a former or current partner — is one of the most virulent forms of violence experienced by women in SA.

It is said one in every four South African women will experience intimate partner violence at some point during her life. Each violence is primarily carried out by men.

The Domestic Violence Act provides sufferers of domestic violence with an instrument to prevent abuses. Despite this being progressive, accessible, and necessary legislation, it does little in the way of its commitment to "the eradication of domestic violence" due to its neglect of SA's socio-economic

## OPINION PIECE



## Mohamed Seedat: What are we burning?

By Mohamed Seedat

The outbreaks of violence associated with community protests have come to trouble the public imagination. The images of anger and fury made visible through the media have disturbed many South Africans, and perhaps rightfully so. The burning of public property, social disruption, and interpersonal acts of violence have raised questions about the meaning and purpose of this violence, as well as the motives of those who are held responsible for initiating violence and, in

## Why protesters turn to violence

CRIME & COURTS / 31 May 2016, 00:02am

Kamini Padayatchee

Durban - Desperate and marginalised communities which engage in protest action often become violent when provoked by militant, heavy-handed police.

This was one of the findings of a recent study presented at the sixth Internal Community Psychology Conference in Durban at the weekend.



# Conferences

*High-level conferences provide an important opportunity for networking with academics and practitioners within the violence and injury prevention field, and exchanging information and ideas.*

Over the past 30 years, the Institute has hosted and co-hosted a number of international and national conferences on topics such as community psychology, violence and peace.

Notable conferences include the 6th International Conference on Community Psychology in 2016, the 1st National South African Conference on Violence in 2016, the 14th International Symposium on the Contributions of Psychology to Peace in 2015, the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in 2006, and the International Safe Communities Conference in 1997. The ISHS and VIPRU were also actively involved in the 30th International Congress of Psychology, held in South Africa in 2012. Furthermore, many of the staff attend and present papers at conferences across the globe.

All too often conferences provide a space in which academics only communicate their research to other academics. However, the Institute has endeavoured to make conferences a space for community engagement. In enabling the participation of community members at conferences, the Institute has provided a platform for them to address leading academics, challenge research and critically evaluate the role of researchers within South Africa.



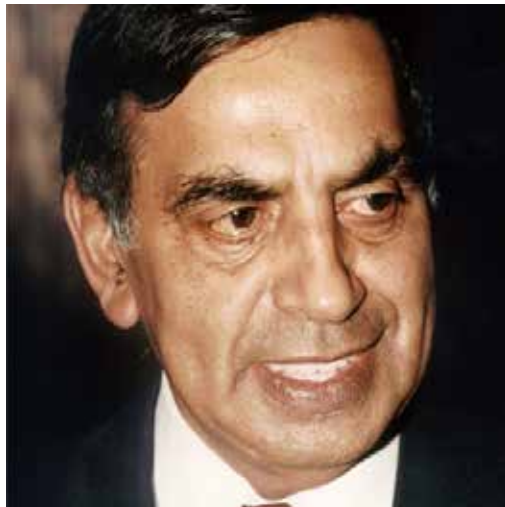


# The Annual Peace, Safety and Human Rights Memorial Lecture

*Inaugurated in 2006, the Annual Lecture, with the first address delivered by Chief Justice Pius Langa to approximately 1200 delegates and guests of the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, celebrates the legacies of the late Addulah Omar, democratic South Africa's first Minister of Justice, and Joe Moabi, who worked in the ISHS and was a member of the Pan African Congress.*

Drawing on the legacies of these noble South Africans, the lecture promotes dialogue between science and society.

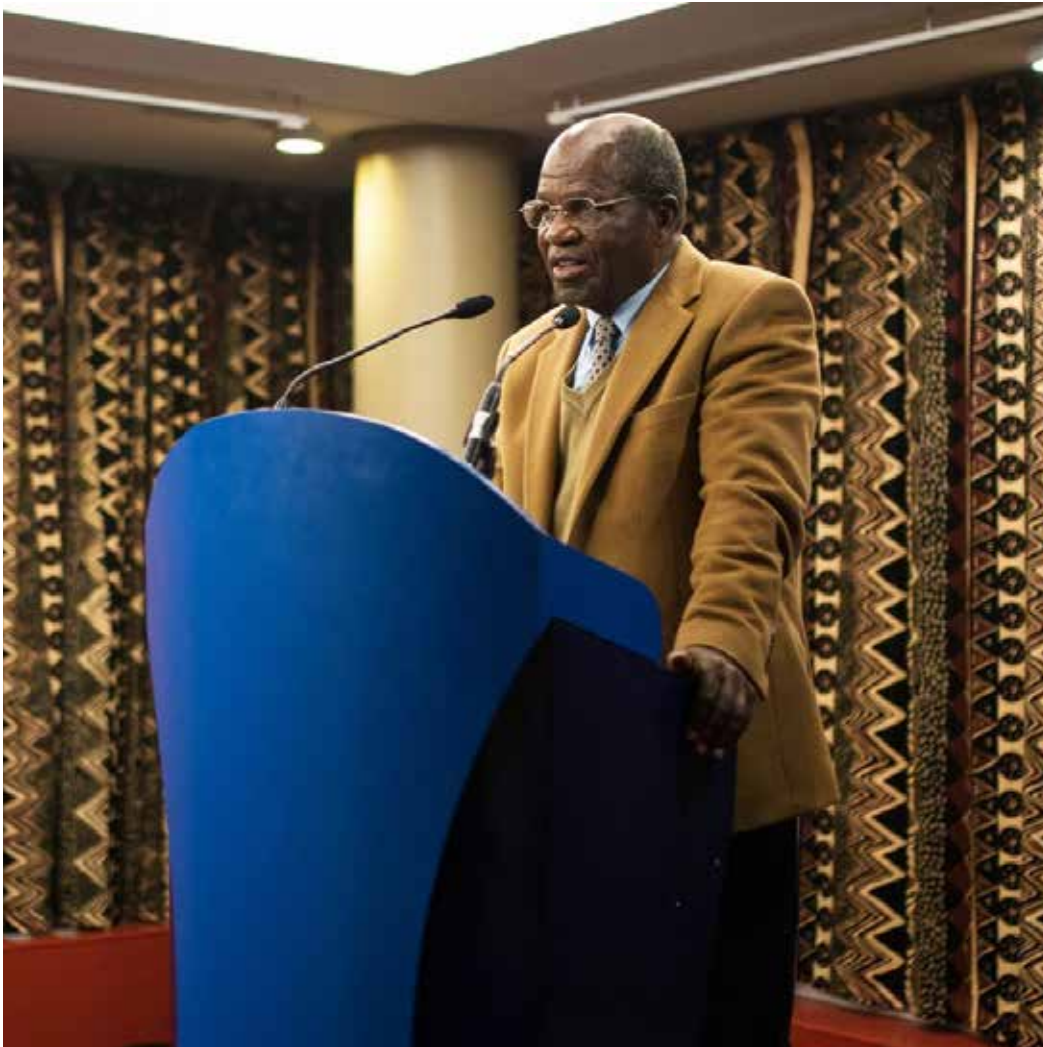
Both Omar's and Moabi's lives embody the struggle for peace and justice, and exemplify compassion, self-respect and dignity, despite the momentous struggles they faced. A vigilant and uncompromising position against inequality and oppression was adopted by Omar, and his legacy is a reminder to us not to become complacent in the battle against oppression and injustice, but to consistently renew our commitment to the cause of equality and freedom. This lecture has welcomed a number of iconic South Africans as guest speakers, including Zwelinzima Vavi (former COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] general secretary), Advocate Thuli Madonsela (the former Public Protector) and Zubeida Jaffar, a social activist, accomplished journalist and award-winning writer, to name a few.



*Addulah Omar (1934-2004)*



*Joe Moabi (1938-2011)*



# Compassionate Community Conversation and Lecture Series

*This forum, initiated in 2016, is one of the Institute's newest community engagement projects, and aims to provide information and knowledge products to the communities in which it operates.*

Experts from the field are invited to discuss topics relevant to the community. So far, the lecture series has examined ethics and transparency in community research, dolomite and what can be done about it, and gender, gender-based violence and the role of the Thuthuzela Care Centre.



Participants at the lecture, Ethics and transparency in community research, presented by Professor Fatima Castillo, University of the Philippines Manila on 19 May 2016.



Participants at the lecture, What is dolomite and why is it a hazard? And what can we do about the problem!, presented by Tony A'Bear from Geobear Consulting on 24 May 2016.



Participants at the lecture, Thuthuzela Care Centres (Turning Victims into Survivors), presented by Matilda Maroga from NPA on 7 September 2016.

# Policy Briefs and Fact Sheets

Perhaps one of the most integral goals of the Institute is embodied in the policy briefs and fact sheets which it issues.

Through the development and dissemination of such briefs it is possible to facilitate, influence, support and develop examples of good practice for primary injury prevention at the level of service delivery, planning and social policy. It allows the Institute to make its research available to government and other relevant stakeholders, in an accessible manner, to ensure that subsequent policies are evidence-led. These spaces are where it is possible for change to happen at a real-world level. The Institute's research has informed policy in multiple arenas: health and education, the substance abuse-injury nexus, paraffin safety and traffic-related injury.

POLICY BRIEF JANUARY 2016

**saMRC** advancing life

**UNISA** UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

## GENDER (INEQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICAN FAMILIES): A CALL FOR POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE EGALITARIAN GENDER RELATIONS IN THE HOME

Rebecca Helman and Kopano Ratele  
Institute for Social and Health Sciences, University of South Africa & Violence Injury and Peace Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council & University of South Africa

**BACKGROUND**  
Extremely high levels of violence and HIV/Aids have been documented in South Africa. Research has also demonstrated the ways in which particular notions of masculinity and femininity are intertwined with practices of violence and sexual risk. In particular, men and boys' adherence to versions of masculinity that privilege dominance, physical strength and high sexual activity and girls' and women's enactment of submissive and soft versions of femininity have been linked to these social epidemics (Bhana, Nomalwele & Nomalwele, 2011; Jewkes & Morrell, 2010; Patman, 2008). The family has been identified as an important site in which normative notions of gender are enacted, and therefore, through which children learn about gender. In light of this, a study was conducted to examine the ways in which problematic notions of gender are being reproduced within families, as well as the ways in which these notions are being challenged. Emerging from this study, this policy brief draws key insights and recommendations on promoting gender equality in families.

**METHODS**  
Eighteen families, from a range of different cultural and material backgrounds were interviewed in Cape Town. In order to be included in the study families needed to have at least one child between the ages of 6 and 17 living in the house. Families were recruited for participation in the study via two feminist social media platforms, a community-based organisation in a working-class suburb and church congregations in a middle-class suburb and an informal settlement. Parents (and in some instances, grandparents and other family members) and children were interviewed about the practices and meanings of gender within the context of their families.

**RESULTS**  
**Problematic notions of masculinity and femininity**  
In a number of families, both parents and children constructed men and women as essentially different from one another and as occupying different positions within the family. Women were

constructed as primary care givers, while men were constructed as providers, disciplinarians and authority figures within the household. This common theme is illustrated by the quotes from two of the mothers in the study:

*Esther (advised mother, middle-class suburb): You are the primary caretaker I don't care what anybody says. [...] If you make the decision to have children you must realise that ultimately [...] that child is ill, they don't want daddy. They want mommy.*

*Charmaine (single mother, Cape Flats): Sometimes I feel like job of his daddy was here now he would have listened [...] I would have my ways and he don't listen to my ways sometimes.*

Women were therefore made responsible for caring for children and other household "feminine" labour while men were exempt from this kind of work as well as being afforded control over their female partners and children. These notions of masculinity and femininity thus created clear and unequal divisions between men and women within the family.

Although in some families both parents and children drew on problematic notions of masculinity and femininity which serve to fix men and women in unequal ways within the family, there were also instances in which they drew on more egalitarian notions of gender and attempted to disrupt the binary between masculinity and femininity.

**Notions of gender equality**  
While some families drew on problematic notions of masculinity and femininity, in other families both parents and children challenged the notion that men and women are different from one another and should be treated differently or occupy different positions within the family. Through challenging problematic notions of gender men and women were positioned in more equal ways within the family. For example, both women and men were

**FACT SHEET**

**MRC UNISA**

## The 'Invisible' Father: INVESTIGATING THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ADOLESCENT FATHERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Rebecca Jacobs and Sandra Marais  
MRC-UNISA Safety and Peace Promotion Unit (SAPPUU)  
June 2013

Overview	Methodological challenges	Future Directions
<p><b>Overview of Research about Adolescent Fathers in SA</b></p> <p>There is a growing focus on teen fathers yet there is a dearth of research on adolescent fatherhood experience in South Africa.</p> <p>1. When studies on adolescent fathers do exist they tend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inferently use male-only samples,</li> <li>formulate their focus around the "experience" but use femininity sample</li> <li>generally be a theoretical,</li> <li>investigate the link between early fatherhood and negative life outcomes/experiences, such as negative employment or delinquency outcomes</li> <li>reflect contemporary media stereotypes</li> </ol> <p><b>Some South African Findings:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men's sexual debut is younger than women's.</li> <li>Adolescent fatherhood (both mothers and fathers) has been associated with:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low economic backgrounds,</li> <li>Lower educational attainment, and</li> <li>Lower employment opportunities than their children possess</li> </ol> </li> <li>In a context of poverty and limited alternatives, young fathers' sense of responsibility is mostly tied to their sense of masculinity, which is defined and achieved as follows:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual performance and the belief that men should be men or sexually vigorous</li> <li>Securing and maintaining sexual relationships are critical self-evaluations of success and peer group positioning</li> <li>Children fathers being a 'gangsta' and a 'playa'. God is to have many possessions (i.e. money and/or women).</li> </ol> </li> <li>They embrace their children for various reasons of which some are:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of paternity,</li> <li>The fact that one father played in their lives (whether adopted or present) it serves as motivation for a good father,</li> <li>Fear of consequences of denying child.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Sampling challenges:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the developing world, adolescent fathers are largely viewed as invisible. The lack of services for them makes them easily inaccessible for the recruitment into sexual health and well-being programmes, and for research purposes - hence limiting the amount and type of studies done.</li> <li>As a result, researchers investigate the role of young fathers through the eyes of the mother - relying on her partially regarding his role and involvement.</li> <li>Several studies in South Africa use adolescent female experiences as a proxy for all adolescent experiences (include male adolescents in samples).</li> <li>When paternity is not always claimed or acknowledged, those who are recruited via snowballing methods are usually only representative of fathers who acknowledge paternity.</li> <li>Coverf information of "gatekeepers" that protect, silence and/or exclude voices from research. Gatekeepers (i.e. members of institutions via which these fathers can be recruited) pose a challenge in the following ways:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researchers is dependent on these gatekeepers' goodwill for their particular selection of young men to recruit.</li> <li>Facilitating researchers still in busy agencies.</li> <li>The researcher doesn't have much control since a "hidden" process of assessment is used to determine the young man's suitability for recruitment.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Attrition is also noted as a challenge in research with adolescent fathers.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Areas to research regarding the 'invisible' adolescent fathers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More research is needed that focus on the perspectives of young fathers.</li> <li>Research is needed on fathers in the developing world that deny paternity.</li> <li>Need longitudinal studies that look at young men's involvement with their children over time.</li> <li>Longitudinal studies to investigate what the impact of neighbourhood and community factors on adolescent male sexual activity.</li> <li>Investigate how adolescents can be helped to "turn on" to sex education discussions to optimise information about contraception, pregnancy and relationships.</li> <li>Investigate the need to balance peer education, support and adult knowledge as a way to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discourage inaccurate information or unhelpful gender or cultural stereotypes,</li> <li>Promote equal responsibility for contraception and safety to be sex,</li> <li>Separate condom-use from trust and fidelity.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Investigate the role of adolescent fathers in multi-partner family (polygamy).</li> <li>There is also a need for a better understanding of paternal influences on adolescent male sexuality:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do father/male figures encourage sons to engage in coitus as a transitional behaviour into marriage?</li> <li>Do fathers want their sons to delay coitus?</li> <li>Does the father's management of encouragement and acceptance to experience sexual activity?</li> <li>Does the father figure encourage safe sexual practices (e.g. fidelity and consistent use of protection)?</li> <li>What effects do siblings and sibling relationships have on adolescent male sexual activity (e.g. older brothers)?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Continues on next page

**MRC POLICY BRIEF**

NOVEMBER 2009

## PREVENTING RAPE AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA: CALL FOR LEADERSHIP IN A NEW AGENDA FOR ACTION

South Africa faces a globally unprecedented problem of violence against women and girls, as well as men and boys, which is undermining our national development and hindering our achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. With rates of homicide, rape, and childhood and domestic violence well above those of comparable other countries, the problem of violence is undermining our nation's health and economic and social development. These high levels of violence are an enduring legacy of our colonial and apartheid past, driven by social dynamics formed during the years of racial and gender oppression, with systematic, institutionalised, under-education, rampant violence and destruction of normal family life. Preventing and reducing levels of violence has been a missing piece in the national transformation agenda. It needs now to be addressed vigorously as a cross-cutting national priority.

**THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM : RESEARCH EVIDENCE**

**Homicide**

- In 2007-8, the South African Police Service (SAPS) recorded 18 447 homicides, the great majority are deaths of young Black men
- South Africa's rate of violent death for men (113 per 100 000) is eight times the global average (18 per 100 000)
- Whether directed against women or men, violence in South Africa is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men
- In 1999 there were nearly 3000 female homicides, giving an overall female homicide rate (2.7 per 100 000) six times higher than the global average (0.2 per 100 000)
- In 2000 there were 624 homicides of children under 5, representing nearly 1 in 200 child deaths. In fact, this rate is twice the rate for low and middle income countries<sup>1</sup>

**Domestic Violence**

- The murder of women by husbands and boyfriends is an extreme consequence of partner violence. Half of women homicide victims are killed by their male intimate partners<sup>2</sup>
- Over 40% of men report in research interviews being physically violent to a partner<sup>3</sup>
- And 40-50% of women report having been victims<sup>4</sup>
- A notable feature of violence is often also sexual and emotional, and it usually occurs in a broader context of relationships marked by controlling behaviours by men and a pervasive sense of fear among women.

**Rape**

- In a research study, 28% of men reported having perpetrated rape<sup>5</sup>
- Rape mostly starts in the teenage years, three quarters of men who rape do so for the first time before the age of 20<sup>6</sup>
- Men are also rape victims, about one in 50 men (1.5%) has been raped by a man<sup>7</sup>

**Violence against children**

- Almost all children are subject to physical violence at home. More than one in four experience harm in childhood when this occurs daily or weekly. Abuse, both and other experiences are often used. Frequently children are injured<sup>8</sup>
- More than a third of girls have experienced sexual violence before the age of 18, in unwanted touching, forced sex or being raped/abused in one way or another<sup>9</sup>
- 40% of victims who report rape to the police are girls under 18, and 15% are under the age of 12<sup>10</sup>
- 15% of children report times in their lives when one or both parents were too drunk to care for them, and one in ten children experience emotional abuse, neglect or witness violence against their mothers at home<sup>11</sup>

**Witnessed exposure of children to violence. Prevents anti-social behaviour**

- Almost all children are subject to physical violence at home. More than one in four experience harm in childhood when this occurs daily or weekly. Abuse, both and other experiences are often used. Frequently children are injured<sup>8</sup>
- More than a third of girls have experienced sexual violence before the age of 18, in unwanted touching, forced sex or being raped/abused in one way or another<sup>9</sup>
- 40% of victims who report rape to the police are girls under 18, and 15% are under the age of 12<sup>10</sup>
- 15% of children report times in their lives when one or both parents were too drunk to care for them, and one in ten children experience emotional abuse, neglect or witness violence against their mothers at home<sup>11</sup>

**Why and social inequality are key drivers of violence? South Africa is arguably the most inequitable country in the world**

Research shows that income inequality (measured in the Gini coefficient), low economic development and high levels of gender inequality are strong predictors of rates of violence across countries<sup>12</sup>. South Africa has the worst income inequality and the highest level of homicide based in one study of 63 countries<sup>13</sup>. Unemployment, particularly male youth unemployment, is a consistent correlate of homicide and assault<sup>14,15</sup>

Poverty and unemployment are barriers to men and women accessing traditional sources of well-being, status and respect, inequality in access to wealth and opportunity results in feelings of loss and frustration, which are channelled into anger and frustration, and violence is often used to gain the sought after respect and power, whether through violent robbery, rape, fighting between men, severe punishment of children or violence against partners<sup>16</sup>. Whilst the middle classes are often most vocal about the problem of violence, the overwhelming majority of victims are found among the working classes and the poor.

**Relevant ideas of method: Emphasized gender hierarchy and competition between men**

South Africa's income from across the racial spectrum are used to see themselves as superior to women and might that men should be tough, brave, strong and respected<sup>17</sup>. Heavy drinking, carrying weapons and a readiness to defend honour with a fight are often seen as markers of manhood. The violence that ensues between men often has very serious consequences. With most men perceiving that women should submit to control by men, physical and sexual violence is used against women to demonstrate male power, and thus teach women "their place", and to enforce it through punishment<sup>18,19</sup>. This gender inequality legitimises male violence over women, as well as being accompanied by the use of such violence.

**Witnessed exposure of children to violence. Prevents anti-social behaviour**

- Almost all children are subject to physical violence at home. More than one in four experience harm in childhood when this occurs daily or weekly. Abuse, both and other experiences are often used. Frequently children are injured<sup>8</sup>
- More than a third of girls have experienced sexual violence before the age of 18, in unwanted touching, forced sex or being raped/abused in one way or another<sup>9</sup>
- 40% of victims who report rape to the police are girls under 18, and 15% are under the age of 12<sup>10</sup>
- 15% of children report times in their lives when one or both parents were too drunk to care for them, and one in ten children experience emotional abuse, neglect or witness violence against their mothers at home<sup>11</sup>

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04

*Capacitation, Training  
and Development*

# Introduction

*The Institute has contributed to the capacitation and development of next-generation researchers and thinkers across the African region, in respect of community-based injury prevention and safety promotion delivery.*

Each year we create spaces for postdoctoral, doctoral and Master's candidates to undertake relevant studies and internships in the Institute.

While some students, interns and researchers stay on at the ISHS, many go on to occupy prestigious and influential positions on both the local and the global stage. Locally, these former staff members occupy spaces at several of South Africa's most prominent universities, influencing agendas of social change at a tertiary level. Others occupy positions in organisations. Most of all, previous students, interns and researchers of the ISHS have maintained a dedication to social justice and continue to work as agents for change, looking back at their time with the Institute as a pivotal starting point.

Several initiatives focusing on the capacitation of community-based safety promotion workers have been successfully pursued over the past three decades. The capacitation of communities allows for the development and application of diverse knowledge-creation modalities and conceptual innovations within the sector, by engaging communities as researchers, performers and agents of social change.

# Postgraduate Studies

*The ISHS is dedicated to mentoring and developing future generations of researchers, especially those who have been historically marginalised.*

The training and development of new scholars is part of the Institute's tradition, having trained postgraduate students since the inception of the HPU. The focus of furthering scholarship at the ISHS is not solely academic, but requires students to undertake research, community engagement and social activism.





# Post-doctorates

*Post-doctorates afford individuals with a doctoral degree an opportunity to continue mentored research and training, in order to obtain the necessary skills to pursue their chosen career path.*

Over the past three decades, the Institute has hosted two post-doctoral researchers: David Kimemia and Louis Botha.

Post-doctoral researchers develop their own projects within the Institute, but also work on other projects conducted by the Institute as a whole. In 2014, Botha undertook a post-doctorate in the MTSCP, focusing on the use of change laboratories in a South African school setting.

Kimemia began his post-doctorate in September 2015. His work is situated in VIPRU, with a specific focus on burn prevention. The Safe Stove Intervention, in which he is involved, was piloted in Jackson, an informal settlement that does not have access to electricity. The intervention specifically targeted families with children younger than seven years of age, and consisted of a burn prevention curriculum that included training and demonstrations of the safe use of a South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)-approved stove. Currently, Kimemia is evaluating the safety and social impacts of these stoves.

# My Post-doctoral Fellowship Experiences at ISHS

*Dr David Kimemia, Senior Scientist SAMRC VIRPU and Unisa ISHS*



*My background is in environmental management, with a special interest in investigating promising means of expanding access to clean, safe and healthier household energy.*

I joined the Unisa ISHS in September 2015 as a post-doctoral fellow to pursue research on burns and fire prevention in urban informal settlements.

The safety aspect of energy poverty is a critical area of research that has not featured prominently in the work of environmentalists or energy experts. Thus, a post-doctoral chance to join a multidisciplinary team on safety research offered a good opportunity to make a difference. At the ISHS, energy safety research is tackled in a comprehensive manner, from imparting education on the safe use of domestic fuels and appliances, to the promotion of clean, safe energy technologies.

Hence, the work that is starting on demonstrating feasible, safe energy technologies to communities is a practical and natural progression in the intervention domain.

At the ISHS I met a team of dedicated researchers who are committed to promoting safe, empowered communities. The warm welcome I received helped me to settle in, and I immediately became involved in ongoing research activities. Over the past year I participated in a follow-up study on safe paraffin stove interventions; the testing and characterisation of faulty in-use paraffin stoves; and the design of safe, alternative energy demonstration projects, both as a team member and lead researcher.

During my post-doctoral fellowship I participated in several community discussion forums and project meetings that cut across all the Institute's thematic areas. As such, the experience and exposure I gained went beyond my research niche. I have also benefitted in terms of career development through the various skills training courses organised by the Institute.

I thank the Institute Director, my supervisor and colleagues for an interesting and fruitful year of post-doctoral fellowship.

# Internships

*Internships have been part of the Institute's tradition since its accreditation with the HPCSA in 1992.*

The Institute has trained some of the leading minds and practitioners in clinical, counselling and research psychology. Internships at the Institute are about more than just offering the requisite experience, but are very much focused on developing next-generation activist scholars. The social justice orientation of the internship not only provides intellectual development, but also a grounding in real-world everyday experiences which transcend a pure academic focus.



## Reflections on my Internship

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*Feroza (Mohamed) Kaldine, counselling psychologist in private practice*

My internship at the ISHS 16 years ago introduced me to a psychology that was very different from that into which I had been socialised during my under- and postgraduate studies. This “new” psychology, with its emphasis on social justice, was strangely familiar. It contained theories, concepts and reflections which gave voice to some of my own experiences, observations and concerns which had gone unacknowledged and unappreciated by my education in psychology up to that point. For this I am eternally grateful.

The ISHS's national and international interdisciplinary collaborations in service of the common good greatly inspired my work as a Community Psychology lecturer at the University of Johannesburg and, in particular, my work as community engagement representative of our department. The community-based projects I was tasked to undertake in collaboration with members of the Eldorado Park community and the Thembelihle informal settlement during my internship left an indelible impression on me.

I was both humbled and empowered by these community members' tenacity, resilience and resourcefulness despite the many social and material challenges they faced – and continue to face. I would often return to these communities with my students to show them what is possible if we work with, rather than for, communities.

The diversity of theoretical inclinations amongst the group, which included me (a Rand Afrikaans University graduate), my two fellow interns (Wits university graduates) and our supervisor, greatly enriched my internship experience. Psychotherapy supervision, project supervision and case presentations with these three individuals were both challenging and interesting, and it was a privilege I will forever cherish.

My internship at the ISHS afforded me the opportunity to straddle the world of ideas and academia, acknowledging the realities of the everyday existence of some of my fellow countrymen and women.

## Reflections on my Early Career

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*Dr Sherianne Kramar, Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand*

I started working at the Unisa ISHS in 2010 as an intern and stayed on thereafter as a junior researcher. The ISHS was fundamental in shaping my career and my journey as a young South African researcher. Both the actual structure of the institution and the nature of the researchers who belonged to the Unit have a distinct mentoring and facilitative character which is geared towards producing enthusiastic and committed young academics. The opportunities provided to publish, share ideas, present at both national and international conferences, engage in community-based research and practise a wide array of research-based skills were central to my personal development in the social science field.

While the workload often seemed insurmountable, this was always imbedded in long nights sitting in hotel conference rooms with colleagues and peers, our stomachs full and our minds being stirred by debates about key social issues in South Africa and beyond.

This sense of community and family which is inherent in all of the projects, meetings, workshops, conferences and daily activities at the ISHS was key to our successes in the community engagement activities in which we participated, in various contexts.

My personal achievements at the ISHS included publishing and presenting papers, attending conferences, organising campaigns, analysing and presenting mortality data, and developing assessment and intervention manuals aimed at child safety. However, these are not the memories I hold dear. Rather, it was the moment when we watched Broadlands Park community members identifying their previously unacknowledged assets and taking responsibility for the safety of their children.

Or the moment when the children in the community expressed such excitement because we had managed to organise a fun day for them. Or the many moments when we hosted extremely stimulating “think tanks” that changed the way I perceive the world. Or the moments when we would sit back at the end of the year, together with our partners in Cape Town, and celebrate everything we had produced as a means to change the structure of an often oppressive South African society.

I have no doubt that now, in its 30th year, the ISHS is looking back over three decades of excellent academic achievements and success in transforming communities and celebrating key moments in its history. I wish the ISHS continued reasons to celebrate in the future and will always value our ongoing partnerships in various areas of work.

## Reflections on my Internship

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*Bronwyn Sheriff, Masters of Science Health / Medical Psychology, King's College London*

As a research psychology intern at Unisa's ISHS during 2010, I found the programme immensely challenging and rewarding, and ultimately achieved significant professional growth from it. I was fortunate enough to work alongside many talented emerging and established researchers, including staff from the SAMRC. The superlative group of scholars I was exposed to constantly inspired me and taught me imperative skills.

Professor Seedat's tutelage helped me develop conceptual and methodological expertise in addition to building my confidence by believing in my potential.

From the outset, Professor Seedat ensured I was always well supported in my professional development through continuous training and he treated me as a capable and competent researcher by providing many opportunities where I could take the lead on various research and community-based initiatives.

Noteworthy highlights included presenting research papers at the 16th South African Psychology Congress and the 2nd Hong Kong–United Kingdom Brain, Behaviour and Mind: From Science to Service Conference. Additionally, the most memorable community engagement events were the International Day of the Older Persons luncheon, Mainstreaming Safety and Peace Promotion at Unisa, and 16 Days of Activism for no Violence against Women and Children. Some of the most insightful training courses which exposed me to multidisciplinary and international academics were the International Colloquium for Safety,

Peace and Health Promotion Research and Praxis; Making Traffic Safety a Reality – Injury Control and Traffic Safety Training Course, as well as the Call to Bring People to Research: Community-Based Participatory Research Workshop. None of these activities would have been possible without the unwavering support of the superb Unisa ISHS administrative staff, whom I still remember with such fondness.

Reflecting on my 12 months with the Unisa ISHS, these highlights only represent a fraction of the community-based activities, workshops, training courses and research projects I was privileged to be involved in. The Unisa ISHS's internship programme is exceptional and I am honoured to have been chosen to be a part of its outstanding contributions to health, safety and peace promotion in South Africa.

## *Reflections on my Three Years at Unisa ISHS*

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*Deborah Isobell, PhD student, the Department of Psychology, the University of the Western Cape*

My work at the ISHS over a period of three years left an indelible mark on me as a researcher, but also personally. I first arrived at the institute as a Master's research intern, and quickly came to realise that it would offer me more than the standard office-based practical exposure, given its community-centred, participatory orientation to research.

While having to contend with the community dynamics that inevitably arise when working closely with disenfranchised groups, and having to negotiate the expectations imposed on researchers (all legitimate challenges), I also experienced the rewards of this work first hand. Highlights for me include accounts of how our research changed peoples' lived experiences and promoted safety, peace and health; cleaning the grounds of a community clinic with youth from the local community; and being the only project at a community engagement seminar to include community members as co-presenters. For me, the research agenda and approach of the ISHS reinforced my responsibility as a researcher, which is to be an agent of social change.

# Academic Associates

*The ISHS and VIPRU have several established academic associates who work on a range of projects hosted by the Institute.*

From early in the history of the Institute, a number of visiting professors from all over the world have engaged with its work and staff. Recent guests include Professor Shrikant Bangdiwala and Professor Daniel Christie.

Professor Bangdiwala has been a consistent presence at the Institute over the past three years (2014–2016). Apart from providing statistical and methodological support on various projects, he has assisted students with their postgraduate studies, in addition to hosting workshops and co-authoring several ISHS journal articles. Since 2015 we have also hosted Professor Christie, an eminent, highly regarded peace psychologist. His contributions, which are rich and valuable, encompass a range of theoretical, research, writing and training outputs, including scientific and intellectual support.





## Reflections on my Collaboration with the Unisa ISHS



*Professor Shrikant Bangdiwala, Statistics Director, Population Health Research, McMaster University, Canada*

The ISHS's flagship programme, VIPRU, is recognised worldwide. This attracted me, since it provides a platform for research and postgraduate training in the social and health sciences and focuses on a key societal problem in many countries. As a statistician working in injury and violence prevention, I was delighted to be invited to collaborate with the Institute's various research areas and to be involved with doctoral students.

My experience at the ISHS and VIPRU has been career enhancing. It has allowed me to have dedicated time to finalise statistical methodology aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of multi-component, dynamic and complex community-based interventions implemented in non-classical experimental study designs. Collaborating with excellent and thoughtful colleagues has enhanced my ideas and helped in developing the methodology, which I now eagerly anticipate testing with real data from South Africa. The collaboration has also created new ideas, such as the development of a community safety index, and I look forward to continued collaboration with the ISHS as we jointly develop such a useful methodological tool.

Aside from the methodological work, the best part of the experience has been getting to know the staff of the ISHS and VIPRU, both in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Highly trained, motivated, dedicated and very friendly, they have added immeasurable benefits to my periodic visits. They also are deeply committed to community involvement and I have learned from them the pleasure of such work. The work of the ISHS and VIPRU, and more importantly, the staff's care in doing their work and undertaking research, are unique and a valuable asset not only for South Africa, but for our global society.

## Reflections on my Collaboration with Unisa ISHS

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*Professor Daniel Christie, Professor at Ohio State University*

My second two-month appointment as a visiting researcher with Unisa's ISHS has made it possible to begin launching a number of collaborative research projects and initiatives.

Most of my time has been organised around the completion of an edited volume, *Enlarging the scope of peace psychology: African and world-regional contributions*, along with work on a second volume provisionally entitled *Community, liberation and public engagement: beyond formulaic method* (both with Mohamed Seedat and Shahnaaz Suffla). I have presented workshops and public lectures on the contributions of psychology to peace, with an emphasis on peace promotion and violence prevention. When requested, I serve as a resource person for doctoral students who want to more fully integrate peace, as a transdisciplinary set of processes, into their research. Among ongoing initiatives is an effort to develop a conceptual model and indices for VIPRU that view the prevention of unintentional harm and the promotion safety through a social justice lens.

## *Reflections on my Collaboration and Ongoing Involvement with the Unisa ISHS*

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*Dr Rod McClure, Division of Analysis, Research and Practice Integration (DARPI), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

I have had strongly collaborative, ongoing involvement with the ISHS since 2008. Between 2010 and 2013, I held an adjunct position with the Institute and still serve on the editorial board of the ASP journal. My work with the faculty, staff and students of the Institute has been a formative influence on my public health career.

What started as occasional interaction in areas of common interest soon grew into a long-standing academic relationship that has developed my perspective and my approach to the prevention of violence and injury. The papers I have co-authored with members of ISHS staff have been among my most important contributions to the field.

The ISHS makes a critically important contribution to both its local community and global communities, because of its unique understanding of the injury problem and the value of community-led solutions. Few academic injury units in the world demonstrate such an effective commitment to community development approaches to the prevention of injury. Few match the ISHS in terms of the extent to which its community relationships are spontaneously validated by members of the communities with which it is involved. The learning environment created by the ISHS staff and students, in concert with the community, provides a powerfully supportive context for the generation of new ideas, approaches and original knowledge. Their collective outputs are forging directions for sustainable improvements for injury-related health in populations throughout Africa and beyond.



05

*African Footprint*

# Introduction

*One of the primary objectives of the Institute is to grow global collaborations through its commitment to the development of Africa-centred knowledge*

Over the years, the Institute has hosted national, regional and international researchers and practitioners.

Partnerships with academic institutes across the continent, such as the University of Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), are essential for the Institute's development and research goals. It affords an opportunity to strengthen ties between different countries within the domain of technology, research, teaching, scholarship, academic exchange and African knowledge production. It is also an enactment of the Institute's commitment to the development of injury prevention and safety promotion research units across South Africa and the African continent at large. The Institute's current South African and African Safety and Peace Network includes linkages with colleagues from Mozambique, Egypt, Uganda, Zambia and Eritrea. These collaborations have resulted in not only our staff facilitating and attending training across the continent, but also in the ISHS becoming a site which hosts international practitioners, researchers and students.

# Growing Critical Thought

*The ISHS is committed to not only growing young researchers and academics within South Africa, but all over the continent and the world.*

The 30th International Conference of Psychology (ICP), held in Cape Town in 2012, hosted two events in which the ISHS was centrally involved and which advance this aim: the Emerging Psychologists' Programme and the Advanced Research Training Seminars (ARTS).

For the former, the ISHS and SAPPRU (now VIPRU) hosted 22 emerging psychologists from around the world, which included a site visit to its community-based projects in the Strand, Western Cape, with presentations by community research teams and staff from the ISHS and SAPPRU. ARTS is a biennial programme for emerging scholars from low- to middle-income contexts. Professors Mohamed Seedat and Sandy Lazarus were the convenors of one of the three ARTS offered. Their Seminar was entitled 'Research as Praxis: Action and Theory-Making and Application in Community Psychology Research'.

Other work done within this arena involved training in Palestine. Birzeit University's Community Psychology Department, under the auspices of its convenor, Dr Ibrahim Makawi, in partnership with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Lillehammer University College, hosted the International Community Psychology Conference: Global Perspectives, Local Practices at Birzeit University from 13–15 May 2013. The conference provided a platform and an opportunity for critical discourse on praxis based on the interconnectedness and dialectical interplay between academic research and applied practice, and between theory and community intervention towards social justice and liberatory social change. The conference programme integrated a pre-conference workshop titled Community Psychology Research as Praxis: Your Life and Living in the West Bank. Using the modality of Photovoice, the workshop was facilitated by Professor Mohammed Seedat, Shahnaaz Suffla and Umesh Bawa, over two days with a group of 20 dynamic and exuberant scholars who engaged with criticality and reflexivity on pertinent contextual lived realities within a colonial and occupied context.

# Visiting Fellows and Demonstration Site

*The Institute has hosted academics from Zambia, Norway, France, Belgium and the United States, as well as young academics from Unisa. Over the years, the ISHS has collaborated with Monash University in Australia, Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, worked on a research project with colleagues in Memphis (United States) and UCT, UEM (based in Maputo, Mozambique), Suez Canal University (Ismalia, Egypt) and the University of Port Said (Port Said, Egypt), among others.*

The ISHS and VIPRU have a particularly long-standing collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine at UEM. As part of its academic citizenship, the Institute has hosted many Mozambican fellows undertaking their Master's in Public Health. The SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU (at that stage SAPPRU) formalised the relationship with UEM in July 2010.

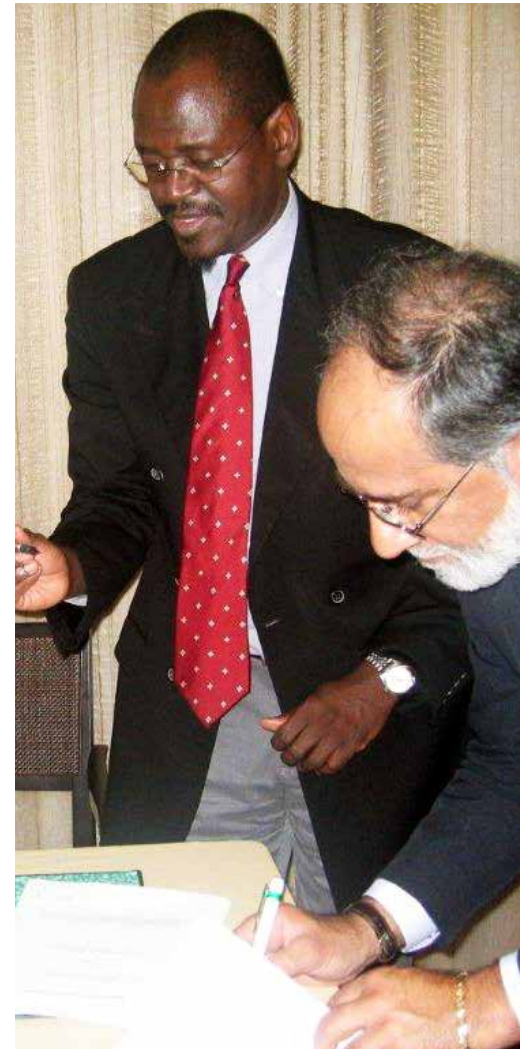
In 2013, Mohamed Seedat, Ashley van Niekerk and a former colleague, Anesh Sukhai, travelled to Eritrea at the request of the Eritrean Minister of Health, to conduct training on child protection and a situational analysis of the Eritrean government's injury prevention and safety promotion response.

The visit included briefing meetings with senior-level government officials representing the ministries of health, labour and human welfare, education, public works, and transport as well as engagements with the WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which financially supported the visit. Site visits were also undertaken to Halibet Hospital, the College of Health Sciences at Asmara University, and local services and departments of fire and emergency, police and urban development.

An injury prevention and safety promotion training course was held from 8–9 October 2013, attended by 48 participants, mostly from the health sector. The course, which mainly focused on road traffic and violence-related injuries, had an explicit focus on the contextual priorities for Asmara. Feedback from the participants showed that the course was very informative and beneficial to their work.

Among the highlights was a dinner meeting hosted by the South Ambassador to Eritrea, Iqbal Jhazbhay, a former Unisa professor. He lauded the Unisa delegation's work and pointed out that the visit resonated with growing South African–Eritrean economic and educational exchanges.

The formalisation of at least 13 years of academic collaboration between Unisa's ISHS and VIPRU, and Egyptian researchers based at the universities of Suez Canal and Port Said resulted in memoranda of understanding being signed in 2012.







# Cooperation between Eduardo Mondlane University and the University of South Africa

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*Professor Mohsin Sidat, Professor at Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo*

We are content to be a part of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Unisa ISHS, with whom we have a very productive and long-standing collaboration which contributed to the establishment, in 2010, at UEM, of the Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Unit (also known as *Kutwanana*).

Since its establishment, the Unit has carried out research, training and capacity development with the continuous support of the ISHS. Its training and capacity-building activities have benefited a diverse group of Mozambicans, from researchers to community activists. Several community extension programmes were also implemented to promote a culture of improved community safety and well-being in selected suburban areas of Maputo City. The long-standing experience of the ISHS in community-based interventions is fundamental to the success we have been observing in the development of community safety and well-being in intervention communities. This unit has played a fundamental role in promoting the three main elements of UEM's vision and mission, namely training, research and extension. Thus, we are greatly appreciative of the collaboration we have with the ISHS and look forward to strengthening that bond for the continued mutual benefit of our institutions.

# Cooperation between the Pedagogical University and the University of South Africa

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*Dr Boia Efraime Junior, Psychotherapist and Professor at the Pedagogical University, Mozambique*

Our collaboration with the ISHS has provided us with important learning opportunities in community-centred intervention development, violence prevention and peace promotion.

The experience gained through this collaboration has allowed us, in Mozambique, to enrich our projects, particularly in terms of our psychosocial rehabilitation work with former soldiers in the aftermath of the civil war; later on through the prevention of child sexual abuse in public schools and currently in the prevention and reduction of direct and structural violence.

Looking forward to another 30 years of successful collaboration!



# Strengthening Regional Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Delivery Systems

*Over the years, the ISHS has offered various training opportunities to communities, government officials, stakeholders and staff.*

These opportunities have not been restricted to South Africa, but have also been offered in several African countries. Training workshops have, for example, focused on fostering collaboration; creating networks and building organisations; improving data dissemination, research and intervention implementation skills; community-based participatory research methodologies and their implementation; as well as other safety and injury prevention topics.

In 2013, the WHO's Violence and Injury Prevention unit organised a regional training workshop on child safety facilitated by Ashley van Niekerk, Lu-Anne Swart and Dave Meddings from WHO Geneva. The workshop was attended by 14 participants (all senior officials in health, transport, social development and other sectors relevant to the prevention of child injury) from six African countries: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Liberia, Namibia, Sierra Leone and South Africa.



## *Cooperation between Suez Canal University and the University of South Africa*

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*Dr Hesham El-Sayed, Pediatrics and Clinical Epidemiology Fellow and Former Head of Pediatrics and Family Medicine Departments, Suez Canal University, Ismailia*

I congratulate you and your Unisa team on 30 years of success and wonderful contributions to African and global efforts aimed at the establishment of peace and the prevention of injury.

The collaboration between Suez Canal University and Unisa is a successful example of how working together can have a significant impact on global efforts aimed at injury control. Using different methods, starting from community-based efforts to targeting children as the focus of our endeavours, has proven to be a successful approach.

We hope we can continue our collaboration in support of our great cause of having peace and safety in our communities and globally.

Thank you for this great opportunity. We look forward to many future collaborations.



# *Multi-country Photovoice Project on Youth Representations of Safety*

*The project, located within the child-centred component of the Ukuphepha Initiative, seeks to explore and elicit young people's representations of safety and peace in their communities, both in terms of risks and assets.*

The project aims to 1) enable youth to record and reflect their representations of safety by focusing on things, places and people, 2) promote critical dialogue and knowledge about safety through small and large group discussions of photographs, and 3) develop participants' sense of agency and activism in relation to safety promotion.

The highlights of this project included a photo exhibition, book launch and children's conference hosted in 2014. The ISHS used the occasion of the 2014 annual Unisa Research and Innovation Week, held in Pretoria from 3–7 March, to unveil the results of this unique and pioneering endeavour. Project participants and collaborators from five countries contributed to the events. A multi-country photo exhibition, titled *My Voice in Pictures: African Children's Vision of Safety*, was held at the Unisa Art Gallery. Opened by Unisa's Vice-Principal of Research and Innovation, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, the exhibition showcased a collection of photographs taken by young people participating in the project. The exhibition offered a unique visual portrayal of the participating youths' social worlds, shared the voices and stories behind the photographs, and provided a platform for celebrating their knowledge and agency. A photo book based on the children's photographs, eponymously titled, was launched at the exhibition.







# Reflections on the Multi-country Photovoice Project: Zambia

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*Debbie Kangombe, Young Women's Christian Association, Lusaka, Zambia*

I congratulate Unisa's ISHS on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

As I look back on my association with the Institute, I feel a sense of accomplishment in that I have expanded my professional network and learned much about community-based research through our partnership.

In particular, my participation in the Institute's Multi-country Photovoice Project, as a member of the Zambian research team, has been enormously valuable in several respects, and has afforded me an opportunity to engage with and appreciate the Institute's expertise in participatory action research. The work of the Institute has inspired me in my own efforts to improve the lives of Zambian youth. I hope to continue my interactions with the ISHS in the future, as it grows its collaborations and contributions on the African continent.

## Reflections on the Multi-country Photovoice Project: Uganda

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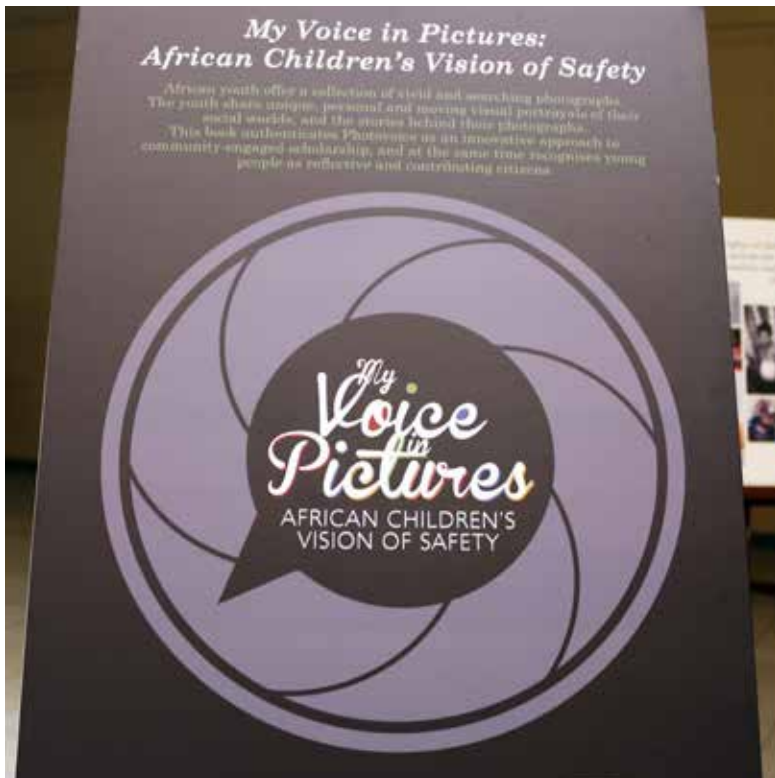


*Jerome Nsajju, Program Officer at the Injury Control Center, Uganda*

I warmly congratulate the ISHS on its 30th anniversary.

As a former staff member of the Injury Control Centre – Uganda, I have had the pleasure of working with the Institute's team over a number of years, with my most recent collaboration centred around the Multi-country Photovoice Project on Youth Representations of Safety, translated in one of our local Ugandan dialects as *Edoboozi Ly'ekifaananyi*.

The ISHS leadership comprises a team of astute, innovative and generous individuals who truly care about the well-being of the people of Africa. This is evident in the Institute's timely, relevant and quality research, which echoes the call for the inclusion of those voices that often go unheard and that supports community assets. I remain impressed by the Institute's commitment to promoting safety and peace in countries on the continent and the many unique contributions it continues to make as Africa strives to flourish. May the ISHS live to burn many more candles as we celebrate 30 years of its existence.





**06**

*A New Wave of  
Researchers and Research*

# A Tribute

Professor Mohamed Seedat, Director ISHS Unisa



*“And yet, after seeing everything I’ve decided that home, wherever that may be, is the place for feelings of peace. And if I can be at peace with myself then that is the most important thing. I think travelling teaches one that. It teaches you that the grass may be greener on the other side, but that basically most of us are happiest wherever we feel at home.”*

*(Ben Okri, The Age of Magic, 2014)*

Institutions are created, strengthened and sustained on the contributions of committed social actors who sometimes tend to work in confluence and at other times in contest with each other. The ISHS owes its three decades to the energies of confluence and contest that many people have brought to its space, both individually and collectively.

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, I pay tribute to all those who made the Institute their insurgent intellectual home for different periods of time. Whether in confluence and/or in conflict, many dedicated women and men shaped the vision, identity and trajectory of the Institute. The people whom I recognise here have embodied the Institute’s mission to commit science and compassion in the service of humanity, in different ways. Following a recent iteration of the mission, it would be more accurate to say that those who found -and continue to find- a home in the Institute have created a space for insurgent compassionate enactments of scholarship, research, training and community engagement.

All of them have done much more than what I may remember and recognise them for in this space. The early pioneers – Victor Nell, Zubeida Dangor, Thandeka Mgoduso, Kedibone Rennert-Letlaka, Digby Brown, Edison Williams, Alex Butchart, Johan Kruger, Bukelwa Selema and Nonhlanhla Radebe – helped lay the foundations for the Institute’s interrelated focus on health and social sciences. Whereas the traumatic brain and injury epidemiological studies and neuropsychological work helped set the public health focus, efforts at developing prevention interventions introduced the foundations for critical social science perspectives.

Even though these pioneering women and men were sometimes locked in contest with each other over matters of race, gender, patriarchy and representation, as well as the meanings and modes of knowledge creation, they individually and collectively imagined a body of intellectual work that was different from the one that many of us were schooled in and resisted. The intellectual work they imagined was obviously influenced by their own respective positionalities and their immersion (or lack thereof) in struggles for social justice. They introduced a necessary idealism that was underpinned by different ideas of publicly engaged research, scholarship and social justice.

From the late 1980s through the early 1990s, from within the pioneers the emerging group of black psychologists and community workers claimed a space as insurgent voices. They inserted an assertive presence and helped the Institute entrench the ideals of intellectual independence and democratic knowledge-making into its institutional psyche. They drew attention to the workings of class, racial discrimination and ideology, as well as the deliberate and inadvertent reproduction of dominance in the health and social sciences and the academy. Zubeida Dangor, Kedibone Letlaka and Thandeka Mogoduso, in particular, courageously resisted patriarchy and its many manifestations at a time when the major focus for activist researchers was on matters of racial oppression. Martin Terre Blanche, Gerald Williamson, Derek Smith, Sam Louw, Lerato Seseli, Pearl Cannel and other women and men of substance in the then CPA added to the emergent dynamic quest for epistemic justice. Williamson's astute organising and partnership-building skills and intuitive capacities, Smith's analytical expertise, and Terre Blanche's creative disruptive energies together helped broaden the meaning of violence prevention, community centeredness and participation. Their repeated reminders about the creative place of marginalised communities as knowledge agents continue to manifest as a freethinking spirit in the Institute and its various programmes.

Ironically, that freethinking spirit emerged within the HPU, established by the bold Nell as a space for work on the epidemiology of injuries in the Johannesburg–Witwatersrand area, the development of South African norms for neuropsychological testing, and the training of primary health care nurses to identify the signs of traumatic brain injury. Bukelwa Selema, a trained psychiatric nurse, brought elegant insights to training work in Soweto.

The traumatic brain injury and neuropsychological work, and the Three Neighbourhood Study led by Alex Butchart, were among many early initiatives that helped the Institute's predecessor, the HPU, define its formative health sciences focus. Nell, who was inspired by liberal democratic values and a strong commitment to giving expression to psychology's human welfare ideals, would have found the Institute's 30-year trajectory both serendipitous and exciting. We posthumously honour him for his generative moves.

The early health psychology focus assumed a very definitive public health orientation with the establishment of the NIMSS and other related surveillance systems focused on the injury–substance abuse nexus and non-fatal injuries, as part of a partnership between Unisa, the SAMRC, the CSIR and the NDoH. The NIMSS, jointly led by Alex Butchart (Unisa) and Margie Peden (SAMRC), was subsequently steered across different periods of time by Richard Matzopoulos, Anesh Sukhai and Hilton Donson respectively, all of whom were responsible in one way or another for coordinating the system and producing annual and customised reports. Today the NIMSS, which has undergone various changes and a process of automation (necessitated by resource considerations and developments in the sector) sits in the SAMRC–Unisa VIPRU as a public health resource and is managed by Karin Pretorius, Roxanne September, Nancy Hornsby and Luanne Swart. Most of these people kept the NIMSS on course despite the threat of derailment.

Ashley van Niekerk and the present team have elaborated on the early injury surveillance and epidemiological focus to include community-engaged studies on the development and evaluation of injury and violence prevention interventions. Under van Niekerk's leadership, the public health focus currently finds substantial animation through an analytical-critical turn in VIPRU. Van Niekerk, a National Research Foundation (NRF)-recognised burns prevention research specialist, has placed VIPRU on the cutting edge of research dealing with the correlates of childhood burn injuries and the burns–energy deprivation nexus. Together with post-doctoral fellow, David Kimemia, and others, he has enabled the emergence of third-stream research dealing with the development and evaluation of a range of safe energy technologies.

Luanne Swart, who entered the Institute as a volunteer at least 20 years ago, and Shahnaaz Suffla, Professor Extraordinaire at Unisa who migrated from UWC into this space, produced research on adolescent homicides and strangulation respectively, to consolidate VIPRU's niche research contributions on violence prevention. Building on formative epidemiological work, our current team has turned its analytical gaze towards the social determinants of injuries and implementation research meant to enrich violence and injury prevention and peace promotion at local, city, provincial, national and regional levels. Thanks to these collective efforts, VIPRU is making substantial contributions to the implementation sciences concerned with violence and injury prevention. Shahnaaz Suffla's critical orientation has helped to shape collective efforts that increasingly find cross-disciplinary articulations of violence and injury prevention.

Van Niekerk, Suffla and Swart, along with their SAMRC and Unisa colleagues, must be recognised for working collaboratively to deepen this formidable and versatile partnership which was formalised in 2001 as the CVI Presidential Lead Programme.



Notwithstanding attempts by detractors consumed by an insatiable appetite to entrench privilege, the vagaries of funding patterns and changing institutional priorities, the support of successive executive managers and leaders at both Unisa and the SAMRC – including Mandla Makhanya, Barney Pityana, Narend Baijnath, Tinyiko Maluleke, Mamokgethi Phakeng, Max Döckel, Rosemary Moeketsi, Greg Cuthbertson, Lesiba Teffo, Michelle Havenga, Glenda Gray, Slim Karim, Mohamed Ali, Niresh Bhangwandin, William Pick, Tony Mbewu and Malegapuru William Makgoba – enabled this partnership to succeed through to its current fourth cycle (2014–2018).

Wilhelm Jordaan, Eefke Beyers, Cornelius Plug, Marinus Wiechers and Anthony Melck, who occupied the seats of headship in the Unisa Psychology Department, the deanery and executive management respectively in the pre-1994 Unisa, supported the Institute in its formative and youthful days when exclusionary practices were the norm. We thank them for breaking the boundaries and encouraging modes of community-engaged research.

Following on the early black psychologists' insurrectionist efforts, in the mid-1990s the critical tradition was expressly amplified by the contributions of Garth Stevens and Brett Bowman, both of whom currently hold professorships at Wits, and Norman Duncan, one of the present vice-principals at the University of Pretoria. Stevens, Bowman, Duncan and Tanya Graham, who represent formidable critical voices in the social sciences and psychology in particular, elaborated on a service and reflexively oriented scholarship during their tenure at the Institute. Some of their work, conducted under the auspices of the Institute's critical science platform, resonated with the critical voices that the early cohort of black academic activists introduced and so helped sustain the critical and reflexive space that Kopano Ratele, Sandy Lazarus and Shahnaaz Suffla entered into to enact variations of socially just research.

Ratele, who joined the Institute in 2007 about 16 years after the early gender struggles of the black psychologists, placed issues of gender and knowledge traditions on the research agenda through the MTSCP and the more recently formalised Transdisciplinary African Psychologies Programme (TAP).

We recognise and appreciate Ratele for re-igniting and bringing fresh conceptual insights to work that deals with the intersections of patriarchy, gender and race, and for building a network of vibrant and engaged scholars – a network that has enabled Lebohang Letsela, Candice Rule, Chernelle Lambert, Mandisa Malinga, Brittany Everitt-Penhale, Rebecca Helman, Josephine Cornell and others to enact scholarship that resonates with historical and contemporary calls for gender and social justice. All this work deepens the critical traditions that reverberate with the contributions of the Institute's intellectual predecessors, many of whom have found homes elsewhere but continue to work collaboratively with us.

This insurrectionist space would not exist without the contributions of my long-time colleagues, mentors and friends, Sandy Lazarus and Samed Bulbulia. Bulbulia abandoned his passion for pharmacy and Lazarus added more hours to her days to help us understand and internalise the meanings of community centeredness. Together with Royal Lekoba and the late Oom Joe Moabi, they helped the Institute and all its preceding iterations to obtain social and academic relevance and recognition within communities located far from the centres of traditional power and resources. Lazarus, Bulbulia, Lekoba and Moabi (who was the perfect diplomat) showed us the wisdom of conducting participatory research across our health and social science platforms.

Bulbulia and Lekoba continue to bring an unmatched artfulness to community-engaged research, which I am sure will bring smiles to the earlier champions of this craft, like Williamson and Moabi, Aunty Gerty Ntaka, Gail Alexander, Gail Wyngaard, Candis Hamilton, Eva Joseph, Mbali Maboane, Anisa Mills, Pakiso Molena, Nzwakie Motingoe, Derrik Myanisa and Shahana Rasool.

Shahnaaz Suffla, Ursula Lau and Naiema Taliep have enacted disruptive practices despite their structured and order-establishing work habits; inspired by feminist and critical intellectual and activist traditions, they have animated organised disruption through Photovoice, digital storytelling and other participatory research approaches. Suffla has joined with Lau and Taliep to insist that the Institute remain a reflexive space, supportive of justpeace, and subaltern voices and practices. We like all of this.

As an HPCSA-accredited internship training site, the Institute has been home to a school of research and counselling psychology interns, many of whom have stayed on to grow into contributing researchers who earned their doctorates. Brett Bowman, Sherianne Kramer, Sarah Mackenzie, Salla Atkins, Willem Odendaal, Ursula Lau, Yaseen Ally, Hawabibi Laher, Loni Baadjies, Joanne Gouveia, Milliscent Mabunda, Najuwa Arendse, Bronwyn Sherriff, Chernelle Lambert, Candice Rule, Taryn Amos, Guillermina Ritacco, Naiema Taliep, Ghouwa Ismail, Shilela Pinkie Nkadimeng, Shaida Haffajee, Masindi Nethavkani, Sinusiso Masuku, Chris van der Walt, Belinda Bode, Angela Gilchrist, Lana Kirkby, Minja Milovanovic, Rizwana Roomaney, Fadzisai Makonyonga, Marinda Kotze, Mandisa Malinga, Deborah Isobell, Ayanda Simelane, Tasneem Hassem, Bianca Dekel, Megan van Gesselleen, Chandelle Scorgie, Nicole Scullard, Nicholas Malherbe, Josephine Cornell, Rebecca Helman, Refiloe Makama and Abigail Simons are among those who felt overwhelmed during the first part of their respective internships, but left an indelible impression characterised by curiosity, passion and intellectual vibrancy.

We thank them all for selecting the Institute as their internship home, and more. In particular, a special note of recognition goes to Vijay Jaggan who began as a counselling psychology intern, grew the counselling services in various catchment communities in the south of Johannesburg, coordinated the community policing training work, and then identified and negotiated the office space that the Institute occupies today on the outskirts of Lenasia and Lawley.

Jaggan and Moabi oversaw the renovations of the dilapidated structures and the additional construction so that we can continue enjoying a space that has been home to the Institute's people throughout its various iterations since 1996.

Lucie Laflamme (Sweden), Dinesh Mohan (India), Geetam Teewari (India), David Fryer (Scotland/Australia), Shrikant Bangdiwala (USA), Olive Kobusinyge (Uganda), Hesham El-Sayed (Egypt), Enas Elsheikh (Egypt), Mohsin Sidat (Mozambique), Rod McClure (Australia), Daniel Christie (USA), Fatima Castillo (Philippines), Leif Svanstrom (Sweden), Robert Ekman (Sweden), Manoranjan Mohanty (India), Diana Ekman (USA/Sweden) and Siew Fang Law (Australia) are among the many academic associates who found us worthy of collaboration and friendship. They raised the international visibility and standing of the Institute, and of VIPRU in particular.

We also appreciate those who supported our tenure as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Injury and Violence Prevention (formerly a Centre for Science Development/National Research Foundation research unit). These statuses helped us understand and value the importance of our purpose and direction as an Africa-centred university and science council research group. The many meaningful research partnerships and friendships we continue to enjoy with Mozambican colleagues, Eunice Jetha, Catia Taibo, Marcelina Xai Xai, Isalia Licenca and Pedro Mutambe; Zambian peers, Debbie Kangombe and Royter Choongo; Ugandan injury prevention workers, Mable Nakitto and Jerome Nsajju; and Egyptian public health researchers, Hesham El-Sayed, Enas Elsheikh, Hannan El Gammal, Abeer Hagra and Ghada Attia, have allowed the Institute to express its Africa-centred commitments.

Shahnaaz Suffla and Umesh Bawa require special mention for making the Africa-focused work a delight. Their convictions and willingness to innovate have earned the Institute its African identity.

Over the years there have been those who volunteered their time to serve on our management and governing board to offer policy and strategic oversight, as well as caution, guidance and encouragement. Professor Tony Naidoo, Dr Natalie Mayet, Nazira Cachalia, Anne Duiker, Ruwaiyda Halim, Dr Shan Naidoo, Dr Ahmed Vally, Dr Trevor Smith, Rueben Ratseke, Thomas Malatjie, Jenny Albertyn, Max Maisela, Professor Louis Maloma, Professor Ricky Synders, Professor Letitia King, Johan Muller, Dr RAM Saloojee, Mrs Nandi Mayathula-Khoza, Andronika August, Dr Badrish Modi, Dr Ebrahim Hoosen, Brenda Weimer, Aubrey Harris, Nosipho Brandeo, Riyaz Noorbhai, Dr Eric Buch, Sister de Grange and Cordelia Magezae were among the many who contributed to the social and academic mandate of the Institute.

The Institute and its VIPRU are today home to a new generation of emerging scholars who are enabled to move between the social and health sciences in a spirit of enquiry, as they search for further innovations that speak to the human rights, health and safety issues of the 21st century. Nicholas Malherbe, Sarah Day, Refiloe Makama, Mapula Mochudi, Kasia Venter, Josephine Cornell and Rebecca Helman are contributing and cutting-edge thinkers in a cross-disciplinary research team that continues to look at, amongst others, the intersections between violence, energy, citizenship, identity and power; manifestations and foundations of African psychologies; and decolonising approaches to well-being, peace and safety.

From its inception, the Institute has owed its development and growth to a core that may be conventionally described as being responsible for support and administrative functions. Two people in particular have demonstrated the centrality of a managerial leadership that goes beyond concerns about sound management and organisation.

Mildred Dreyer has actioned and continues to action a work ethic that is accompanied by passion, commitment, unmistakable critical-minded loyalty and unmatched versatility. Whenever we needed compassionate and critical direction, leadership and advice, she volunteered more. Gail Barton, who provided administrative leadership and managerial structure during our formative days, helped build the organisational foundations of the HPU. Led by Dreyer, Anthony Phaahlamohlake, Tumelo Mashaba, Jeminah Mtshali, Annelise Krige and Bongile Sikhakhane continue to help us remain responsive to the many institutional administrative protocols. We thank them and their predecessors, Lyndsey Lourie, Victor Peteke, Emmanuel Kasala, Babsy Mathebula, Lenah Mautjana, Sandra Gertze, Louise Carls, Modise Lebese, Robyn Lewis and Madeleine Breda. Their individual and collective contributions have helped the Institute and its VIPRU to live and thrive.

I feel deeply honoured to be among all these women and men who prompted me in many ways to consider and re-consider my own ideas about transformative and social justice-oriented research. They taught me about the value of service, the importance of exercising emotional labour and patience; especially when detractors intensify their efforts to derail one, they offered friendship and collegiality, and most importantly they allowed me to stay in my post without staging a coup – even though there were many justifiable moments to do so. I thank all those – named and unnamed – who helped the Institute to reach 30 years.

# Transdisciplinary African Psychologies Programme

*The latest iterative initiative to emerge under the critical social science platform is the Transdisciplinary African Psychologies Programme.*

TAP understands African psychologies as covering all areas which mainstream Western psychology covers, but from an African-situated decolonising approach, as well as areas not investigated or neglected by Western psychology. As a transdisciplinary, decolonising programme, TAP is interested in identifying points of convergence between the disciplines of psychology and those that study Africa and Africans. TAP is the formalisation of a space to bring about a dedicated and specific Africa-centred study of the intersectionalities related to power, race, identity, gender, violence, community, the collective psyche and much more. It builds on the traditions of criticality, compassion and centeredness that the Institute has come to be known for over the past three decades.

TAP, in fulfilling its aims and objectives, seeks to:

1. Develop decolonising transdisciplinary African-situated psychologies.
2. Undertake work informed by African-situated decolonising psychological insights.
3. Understand how Africa is studied, hailed, constructed and consumed in psychology as well as how psychology is taught, studied, practiced and used in Africa and by Africans.
4. Create and disseminate a variety of materials and tools related to transdisciplinary African-situated decolonising psychologies.

TAP does this by:

- Contributing through research, community engagement, and social activism to the development of transdisciplinary decolonising African-situated psychologies.
- Collaborating with others on mutually beneficial, collaborative projects on transdisciplinary African-situated decolonising psychologies.
- Attracting Master's and doctoral students, post-doctoral candidates and interns to undertake work in areas of interest to TAP.
- Developing and maintaining a variety of platforms and vehicles with a view to sharing and disseminating news on work on decolonising transdisciplinary African-situated psychologies.

Within South Africa, psychology has been dominated by Western thought, with African psychologies and decoloniality featuring as afterthoughts or subjects to take on the side.

Little work has been done within the discipline of psychology within South African universities to critique and decolonise the Western ideologies present in the curriculum. With the advent of the #feesmustfall protests, there has been an increased focus on curriculum transformation.

Through TAP, which is an exciting iteration of the critical science gaze at the ISHS, the Institute endeavours to decolonise the discipline of psychology and provide space for marginalised knowledges and voices to disrupt and reconstitute the discipline.



# Current Masters and Doctoral Students

*The Institute has a new group of young researchers which are bringing in a new wave of scholarship which will shape the future structure and character of the Institute. A common ideological thread through each of these students' work is social justice.*

This group also represents the transforming face of academia and disrupts white-male dominated knowledge production. Their doctoral and masters research draws on innovative methods, which changes the traditional way in which research within social sciences is done and thought about (e.g. Photovoice, documentary making, critical feminist geography). The Institute looks forward to the next thirty years, which will be shaped by the disrupting and reconstituting of community psychology.



# Energy Demonstration Project

*Dr David Kimemia, Senior Scientist at SAMRC VIRPU and Unisa ISHS*



*The energy demonstration project showcases innovative, passive and renewable energy technologies that are feasible for low-income urban communities. The work done by Kimemia is echoed in the recycling project (1995–1996), which aimed to run a recycling centre for paper and aluminium cans as a means to generate income for the Unit's youth centre and for members of the community who contribute material.*

The demonstration site is situated on the ISHS compound. The different energy options that are set to be researched and demonstrated to the community include:

- Cool coatings: this option demonstrates the use of special paint to achieve thermal comfort in a standard shack (simple home constructed of sheets of corrugated iron and timber)
- Solar home system: a solar kit is used to provide all electrical energy requirements in a dwelling (i.e., lighting, fridge, TV/radio and cell phone charging)
- Biogas: an anaerobic digester utilising cow dung and sewage waste is set up on the demonstration site, and is used to power a two-plate stove, heater and generator
- Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG): a two-plate LPG stove and gas cylinder are demonstrated as safe, clean cooking alternatives
- Ceiling insulation: the use of inexpensive ceiling material will be tested and demonstrated as a thermal efficiency measure (minimisation of heat loss and gain)
- Fire retardants: these help to slow down a fire, thus granting the home owner useful lead time to douse the blaze or to escape

The aim of the demonstration is to prove that renewable energy initiatives work, and to offer an interactive medium of knowledge transfer between the researchers and the community.



# Looking forward to the next 30 years



*Sarah Day, Researcher at Unisa ISHS*

## What matters is not to know the world but to change it – Frantz Fanon

I feel deeply privileged to be located at the ISHS at a time when it is looking forward to new ways of thinking about and doing research.

During my time as a student and before working at the Institute, I had existed within a discipline that remained uncritical of itself and had come from a Western epistemological framework which privileges whiteness and masculinity. Subjects such as critical psychology were relegated to the margins, inhabited a small quarter block in my third year or occurred in isolated pockets. For much of my academic career, talk of social justice could only occur if it did not disrupt or reconstitute academic norms.

When I left university, I thought I only had three options: becoming an academic, working within social research or going into market research. All of these somehow represented distant ivory towers to me. I chose social research in the hope of creating more meaning in my own life.

Although I had many ideas about what a social research institute did (after all, I had read all about it in a textbook), I had had very little experience of spaces that balanced working towards addressing the needs of communities, genuinely engaging with their struggles and, most importantly, being accountable to those communities; nor had I been in a space which prioritised authentic and critical dialogue around social justice. Previously, psychology had been constructed as an entity which acts on individuals and communities through interventions and knowledge production.

The first task I received after arriving at the Institute as a junior researcher on 1 March 2016 was to assist with the compilation of this 30th anniversary report. This task disrupted my way of knowing how academic institutes function. Over the past 30 years, the ISHS has occupied a space which advocates for social justice. As the Institute matured, it became increasingly critical of its own role within academia and through this has managed to blend scholarship and activism by successfully moving from research on to research with, for and by communities.

Methodologically, the Institute prioritises ways of doing research which elucidate systems of power and construct spaces in which new ways of knowing and doing can be created.

Shahnaaz Suffla, my colleague and doctoral supervisor, used the words of Fanon (featured earlier) at the opening ceremony of the 6th International Conference on Community Psychology, held in South Africa in May 2016, and followed them with the encouragement to change the world, and disrupt and reconstitute the identity of community psychology. I believe that that is what the Institute has done and will continue to do: it has changed the lives of the communities in which it works, the lives of its staff and, hopefully, the greater academic community.

When I started working at the Institute, I had no idea that the people I worked with would become friends, comrades and colleagues, and that together we would all push for transformative justice. I am excited to witness the continued role of the Institute in South Africa's transformation and am thankful I can play a small part in it. I wish the Institute all the best for the next 30 years and beyond.





# *Visions for the Future*

Within the next decade, I hope that the ISHS will continue to push for relevant, contextually sensitive and innovative research as well as intervention strategies.

I believe the Institute can, and will, expand its reach throughout South Africa and beyond. I am excited by the kinds of visual research methodologies, such as Photovoice and collaborative video, being utilised to produce work within the Institute. In this regard, I hope that such work will continue to push boundaries and challenge the manner in which traditional academic research is practised.

– Nicholas Malherbe

I think in a few years the balance between research and intervention will have changed.

I feel like the Institute will remain a platform for addressing social justice issues. By continuously working with the community of Thembelihle, the interventions and projects initiated in and with that community will be translated to other communities, with Thembelihle serving as a model.

– Refiloe Makama

I see the ISHS continuing as a frontrunner of participatory research focused on social change and action.

I see its work and approach infiltrating policy and other institutions. I see myself learning through the ISHS's journey by being continuously challenged to become increasingly aware of the ways in which we still need to be transformed.

– Kasia Venter

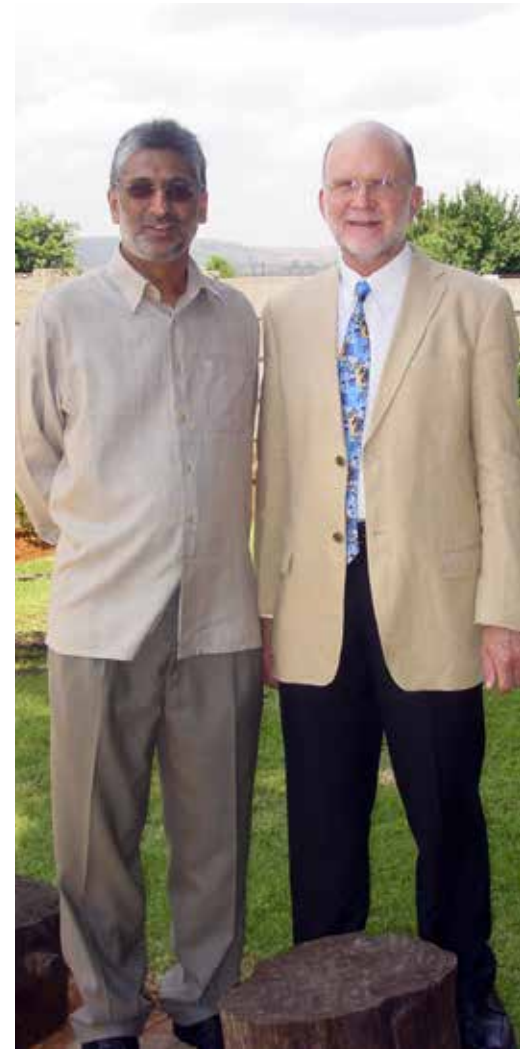
May the Institute continue to disrupt and reconstitute the social sciences!

– Sarah Day

To honour and build on the knowledge traditions of my collectives to make meanings that matter, engage philosophies and practices of liberation, disobey and resist when rebellion is the path, value and celebrate the margins, remain an eager learner of the ones who truly know, and be inspired by the wisdoms and makings of my companions.

To do this well. With imagination. And in the spirit of the historical and envisioned legacy of the Unisa ISHS and its VIPRU, as a knowledge pioneer of the times.

– Shahnaaz Suffla













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