

College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

Research focus areas for 2021: School of Ecological and Human Sustainability - Department of Geography

Focus area	Researchers in the focus area	Specialisation of researchers in the focus area	Profile of the researcher	Research project themes	Capacity per researcher for 2021
Settlement and Human Social Dynamics	Prof SE Mini E-mail: minise@unisa.ac.za	Urban growth and Urban development ; Rural development; Spatial planning for Sustainable development	Prof SE Mini is a professor in the Department of Geography and holds a PhD from The University of Fort Hare. In his career he has been President of the South African Geographical Society and has graduated numerous M&D students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Spatial Development Planning 2. Spatial-Urban Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa 3. Smart-Cities for Sustainable Development. 4. African Urbanisation-African City 	PhD: 5 MSc: 5
	Mr S Tshabalala E-mail: tshabas1@unisa.ac.za	Urban geography and Human geography	Mr Tshabalala is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. He has just completed his Master's degree in Geography from the University of South Africa. His research focus is on urban	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban development (spatial and infrastructure) 	

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			geography, focusing on spatial and infrastructure development. Methodology expertise: Quantitative and qualitative studies research		
	Horn AC E-mail: hornac@unisa.ac.za	Rural and urban development	AC Horn is a professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a D Phil from the University of Pretoria. His focus areas include the geography of socio-economic change in South African cities and the spatiality of land history and land reform.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social geography 2. Urban and rural development 	
	Mr B Khanye E-mail: Khanyb@unisa.ac.za	Tenure in informal settlements	Mr Khanye is a junior lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds an Honours degree in Geography from the University of Johannesburg. His masters research focuses tenure informal settlements		
	Dr T Dirsuweit E-mail: dirtsutc@unisa.ac.za	Urban studies SMART Cities Gender studies Food security and Food Sovereignty	Dr Dirsuweit is a senior lecturer in Geography. She has supervised students for over 20 years and has extensive research experience. Dr Dirsuweit holds a PhD in Human Geography (2003) and a Master's in Education (2019) Methodological expertise: Qualitative Methods; Mixed Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spatial transformation 2. Urban ethics and social justice 3. Public participation 4. Public space 5. Gender and the city 6. SMART cities 7. Gender and space 8. Gender and food security 9. Food sovereignty 10. Urban food gardens 	PhD: 1 MSc: 1

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	Prof M Nicolau E-mail: nicolmd@unisa.ac.za	Rural development and Migration studies	Professor Melanie Nicolau is a professor in the Department of Geography. She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of South Africa. Her research focuses on migration studies as well as post-development geographies focussing on all aspects of poverty, inequality and sustainability. Methodology expertise: Qualitative or mixed methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Migration studies 2. Roots-driven initiatives to relieve poverty and inequality 3. Application of sustainable development goals and quality of life in rural and urban areas 	PhD: 1 MSc: 1
	Prof A Gunter E-mail: gunteaw@unisa.ac.za	Urban development	Prof Ashley Gunter is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He is an NRF rated scientist and holds a PhD from The University of Johannesburg. He has attracted over R7 million in grant funding over the last 6 years and is editor of the South African Geographical Journal. His research focus is on urban development through local economic development and housing. Methodological expertise: Qualitative Methods; Mixed Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Development 2. Local Economic Development 3. Low Cost Housing 	PhD: 2 MSc: 3
	Miss L Mulibana E-mail: mulibl@unisa.ac.za	Urban geography and Human geography	Miss Mulibana is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She currently holds a Master's degree in Geography and environmental management from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Her research is focused on urban geography; specifically looking at post-apartheid urban restructuring. Methodology expertise: Qualitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban development 2. Spatial transformation in South African cities 	

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	Prof NJ Kotze E-mail: kotzenj@unisa.ac.za	Urban geography	Prof Nico Kotze is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a DPhil from the University of Stellenbosch. His research focus is on South Africa housing problems and urban renewal. Methodology expertise: Qualitative and Quantitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban renewal in Johannesburg 2. Housing satisfaction and social housing in South Africa. 	
	Mr Kenneth Manuel E-mail: manuek@unisa.ac.za	Urban planning and governance.	Mr Manuel is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds an MSc Geography from the UNISA, a BSc Hon from Monash University and a Diploma from the University of Oxford. He is currently doing a PhD at Unisa. Methodology expertise: Quantitative and qualitative studies research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban governance 2. Refugees 	
Geomorphology	Prof DW Hedding E-mail: heddidw@unisa.ac.za	Landscape and climate interactions in the sub-Antarctic	Prof DW Hedding is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on geomorphology, weathering and climate change Methodology expertise: Quantitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geochronology of sub-Antarctic Marion Island using terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide dating 2. Aeolian processes and landforms on sub-Antarctic Marion Island 3. Responses of ground thermal processes to synoptic patterns and climate change. 	

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	Prof DW Hedding E-mail: heddidw@unisa.ac.za	A comparative study on the weathering of basaltic fields: implications for landscape	Prof DW Hedding is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on geomorphology, weathering and climate change Methodology expertise: Quantitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape evolution of the Lesotho Drakensberg basalts 2. The geomorphology of the High Lesotho Drakensberg Mountains 3. Thufur development and degradation in the High Lesotho Drakensberg Mountains 	
	Mr AC Greyling E-mail: egreyla1@unisa.ac.za	Palaeo Geomorphology and GIS	Mr AC Greyling is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds MSc from the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on large landscape development and palaeo geomorphic landforms. Methodology expertise: Quantitative research and GIS/RS techniques.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drakensberg landscape development 2. Mass movements and large landslide in mountainous regions (Drakensberg) 3. Physical and chemical weathering of basalts and sandstones. 	
	Mr RL Anderson Email: a-nderrl@unisa.ac.za	Gully erosion & erosive rainfall	Ryan Anderson is a lecturer in the Department of Geography and teaches three courses of environmental sciences. He holds an MSc from University of Pretoria. His current research focus is on the impact of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gully erosion 2. Rainfall erosivity 3. Climate change impacts on soil erosion 	

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			climate change on soil erosion with particular focus on rainfall intensity and associated processes on gully erosion. Methodology expertise: Quantitative research		
Integrated Water Resource Assessment, Planning and Management	Dr A du Plessis E-mail: duplea@unisa.ac.za	Water availability, quality and risk	Dr Anja du Plessis is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a PhD from the University of Johannesburg. Her research focus is water availability, quality, scarcity and/or stress as well as future water related risks and opportunities. Methodology expertise: Qualitative and quantitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current and Future water availability and quality of surface water resources in southern Africa (surface and groundwater) 2. Perceptions and/or behaviour towards increased water stress and/or scarcity (domestic water resources). 3. Current and Future water related risks and opportunities within southern Africa (i.e. influence of climate change; possibilities of artificial wetlands and wastewater re-use). 	

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	Ms P Radingoana E-mail: Radinmp@unisa.ac.za	Water conservation Food security Waste management	Ms Radingoana is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She is currently doing a Doctoral degree in Environmental and Water Sciences at the University of the Western Cape. Her research is focused on urban geography; specifically looking at greywater reuse, rural/ food security and waste management. Methodology expertise: Mixed methods approaches.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water reuse 2. Food security 3. Waste management 	
Physical Geography	Dr SC Nenwiini E-mail: nenwisc@unisa.ac.za	Physical Geography	Dr SC Nenwiini is a senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a PhD in Geography from North West University. Her research focus is on climate variability and change, local scale seasonal rainfall characteristics – for operational purpose in light of natural resources management, agriculture, development and planning. Methodology expertise: Quantitative Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trends and variability assessment in local rainfall and associated time-varying climatological anomalies 2. Impacts of climate variation on local scale seasonal rainfall characteristics 	MSc: 2

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Teaching and Learning in Geography	Prof R Pretorius E-mail: pretorw@unisa.ac.za	Education for sustainability (EfS)	Prof Rudi Pretorius is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD and MBL from Unisa and a MSc from UP. His research focus is primarily on education for sustainability and the application thereof in geography and environmental related study fields in higher education. Methodological expertise: Qualitative research; reflective research; integral theory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable development applications in higher education 2. Scholarship of teaching and learning in geography 3. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields 	PhD: 1 Or MSc: 1
	Dr T Dirsuweit E-mail: dirtsutc@unisa.ac.za	Social Justice and education Gender and Education Adult Education	Dr Dirsuweit is a senior lecturer in Geography. She has supervised students for over 20 years and has extensive research experience. Dr Dirsuweit holds a PhD in Human Geography (2003) and a Master's in Education (2019). Methodological expertise: Qualitative Methods; Mixed Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender and Education 2. Socio-spatial issues in education 3. Education for sustainable development goals (gender and cities) 4. Social justice and adult education 	
	Ms A de Jager E-mail: dejageae@unisa.ac.za	ODL in geography in higher education	Ms Anna de Jager is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a MA from Unisa. Her studies at Unisa towards a PhD is nearing completion. Her research focus is primarily on engaged teaching and learning in Geography and ODL. Methodological expertise: Qualitative research; mixed methods research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields 	
	Ms S Carow E-mail: sanetpc@unisa.ac.za	GIS in geography in higher education	Ms Sanet Carow is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds an MSc in Geoinformatics. Her research interests concern various dimensions of teaching and learning GIS, and its integration with geography. Methodological	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields 2. GIS education in other African countries (specifically at higher education institutions) 	

			expertise: Integrated teaching; curriculum design	3. Geography/GIS education in secondary schools in South Africa 4. Applications of GIS in various fields	
Prof A Gunter E-mail: gunteaw@unisa.ac.za	Education in Africa	Prof Ashley Gunter is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He is an NRF rated scientist and holds a PhD from The University of Johannesburg. He has attracted over R7 million in grant funding over the last 6 years and is editor of the South African Geographical Journal. His research focus in ODeL is on education in Africa and its impact on the transfer of knowledge Methodology expertise: Qualitative research	1. International Distance Education and African Students 2. Decolonising Peace Education	PhD: 1 MSc: 2	
Mr C Vlok E-mail: vlokac@unisa.ac.za	ODL in geography in higher education	Mr Chris Vlok is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Stellenbosch. Methodological expertise: Quantitative research; qualitative research	1. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields		
Prof M Nicolau E-mail: nicolmd@unisa.ac.za	Re-curriculation of university geography	Professor Melanie Nicolau is a professor in the Department of Geography. She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of South Africa. Her research focuses on establishing a university geography curriculum that is more aligned to the principles of indigenous and sustainable sciences and that is relevant to the everyday lives of the geography graduate. Methodology expertise: Qualitative or mixed methods	1. Incorporation of sustainable development into the university geography curriculum 2. Africanisation of the university geography curriculum 3. Indigenous science and geography	Master: 1 Doctoral: 0	
Ms A Khotoo E-mail: khotoa@unisa.ac.za	ODL in geography in higher education	Ms Anisa Khotoo is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a MA in Geography from The University of Johannesburg. Methodological expertise: mixed method research	1. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields		

	Mr R Anderson E-mail: anderll@unisa.ac.za	ODL in geography in higher education	Mr Ryan Anderson is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds a MSc in Geography and is busy with his PhD. Methodological expertise: quantitative research	1. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields	
	Ms A Lombard E-mail: lombae1@unisa.ac.za	ODL in geography in higher education	Ms Andrea Lombard is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds an MA degree in Geography and Environmental Studies and is currently completing her PhD focusing on the socio-economic evolution of renewable energy in rural areas.	1. ODL applications in geography and environmental related study fields	1 MSc 1 PhD
Accessibility, location and allocation analysis	Prof P Schmitz E-mail: schimpmu@unisa.ac.za	Geographic Profiling, Forensic Geography,	Prof Schmitz has a PhD in Geography from the University of Johannesburg. He has participated in several accessibility, location and allocation analysis projects while at the CSIR. The projects ranged from locating offices for the Department of Home Affairs to optimal locations for fire brigade stations in the City of eThekweni based on fire types. He currently has two master's students looking into primary health care access and water accessibility. Latter ranges from tap inside the house to walking to water points using CSIR red book norms and standards.	1. Any accessibility, location and allocation analysis	1 MSc
Economic Geography (with a focus on socio-economic development)	Ms A Lombard E-mail: lombae1@unisa.ac.za	Evolutionary Economic Geography Socio-economic development Renewable energy development	Ms Andrea Lombard is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds an MA degree in Geography and Environmental Studies and is currently completing her PhD focusing on the socio-economic evolution of renewable energy in rural areas.	1. Renewable energy development 2. Rural development 3. Socio-economic development	2 MSc 1 PhD