



SBL Research Focus Areas

Building leaders who go beyond



A review of current research focus areas and internal discussion suggested 4 focus areas



Research focus area 1: Responsible Leadership in Practice

Focus area: Responsible Leadership in Practice

Description of the focus area:

This focus area focuses on leaders in business or public sector organisations and how leadership is practiced in these organisations.

Research sub-areas:

- Business ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility (Prof Nicolaidis)
- Corporate and Public Sector Governance (Prof Monyamane)
- Innovative human behaviour and corporate entrepreneurship (Dr Hind)
- African leadership (Prof Grobler)
- Strategic processes and practices (Prof Venter)
- Strategic Marketing in practice (Mr Visser)
- Leadership and Organisational Behaviour (Prof Steyn, Prof Henning)
- Women in Leadership (Prof Mnguni)

Motivation for the focus area

- It ties together a number of existing research focus areas
- It draws on existing strengths such as YALI and a strong academic contingent and research interests in strategy and leadership
- It contributes to the following Agenda 2063 goals:
 - Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
 - Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
 - Engaged and Empowered Youth



Research focus area 2: Sustainable livelihoods

Focus area: Sustainable livelihoods

Description of the focus area:

This focus area is dedicated to contribute to sustainability in general and to our better understanding of sustainable economies, industries, businesses and management practices.

Research areas:

- Finance and financial management in Africa (Prof Tshehla)
- Strategic management (Prof du Toit)
- Project management (Prof Rwelamila)
- Supply chain management (Mr Ncube)
- Quality and operations management in Africa (Prof Ramphal)
- Sustainability marketing (Prof Purushottam)
- Entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship (Prof Kele)
- Environmental management accounting and leadership (Prof B van der Poll)

Motivation for the focus area

- It ties together a number of existing research focus areas
- It draws on some existing strengths such as YALI
- It contributes to the following Agenda 2063 goals:
 - Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
 - Transformed Economies
 - Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities



Research focus area 3: Intra-Africa trade and investment

Focus area: Intra-Africa Trade and Investment

Description of the focus area:

This focus area focuses on South Africa's place on the continent and globally. It is dedicated to contribute to the improvement of intra-African trade and investment and to our better understanding of Africa and South Africa's role in the developing world.

Research areas:

- African and global economies and markets (Dr Muchara)
- Trade and investment in Africa
- African capital markets
- Business at the bottom of the pyramid (Prof Kele)

Motivation for the focus area

- It ties together a number of existing research focus areas
- It contributes to the following Agenda 2063 goals:
 - Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence



Research focus area 4: Digital transformation and Innovation

Focus area: Digital Transformation and Innovation

Description of the focus area:

This focus area focuses on the ICT revolution and how concepts like artificial intelligence, the fourth industrial revolution, and the Internet of things are changing industries, businesses and business practices.

Research areas:

- ICTs for the Modern Business (Prof JA van der Poll)
- ODeL in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Motivation for the focus area

- Although the SBL does not currently have significant strengths in this area, it is an important niche area that is central to our role as a leading ODeL business school.
- It contributes to the following Agenda 2063 goal:
 - Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation



Next steps

- Approval of research focus areas
- Refinement of research focus areas
- Implementation of research focus areas

