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## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

### A GUIDE TO PROSPECTIVE DOCTORAL STUDENTS

#### Background

The Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the University of Stellenbosch offers a number of Doctoral programmes:

- D. Phil. in Sociology
- D. Phil. in Social Anthropology
- D. Phil. in Social Science Methods
- D. Phil. in Science and Technology Studies
- D. Phil. in Sociology of Development

This guide tells you how to go about to register and enroll for one of these programmes. Given that we receive numerous requests from prospective doctoral students, we would strongly advise you to read this guide carefully and follow the guidelines closely.

#### Do you qualify?

As a minimum qualification you have to be in possession of a Masters degree in the human or social sciences from any recognized university. In some cases, you need to be qualified in the discipline of Sociology or Anthropology on the masters level (i.e. for D. Phil. in Sociology and in Social Anthropology) but a Masters in a related social science may also be considered to allow you entrance into these or the other listed doctoral programmes. In case of the D. Phil. in Social Anthropology specifically the M. Phil. in Organisations and Public Cultures (from the University of Stellenbosch) will also serve as an entrance qualification. The D. Phil Sociology of Development has two M Phil modules in the associated M Phil as prerequisites.

For doctoral programmes in Social Science Methods and in Science and Technology Studies you have to be in possession of a Masters degree<sup>1</sup> (irrespective of the field) that is regarded as relevant for the particular degree.

The Department reserves the right to request additional background reading should we judge that your Masters degree is too far removed from the D. Phil. programme that you wish to enroll for.

### **The first step (Application form and CV)**

All prospective doctoral students must complete an application form to study at the US. The application form is available electronically at

[http://www.sun.ac.za/Internet/Admin/Student/Admissions/forms/Intro\\_applypostgrad.html](http://www.sun.ac.za/Internet/Admin/Student/Admissions/forms/Intro_applypostgrad.html).

Once you have completed the application form, submit it with the application fee and a completed curriculum vitae to one of the two post-graduate co-ordinators below:

- Kozette Myburgh ([kswart@sun.ac.za](mailto:kswart@sun.ac.za)) [Sociology, Social Anthropology & Sociology of Development]
- Marthie van Niekerk ([mvn3@sun.ac.za](mailto:mvn3@sun.ac.za)) [Science and Technology & Studies Social Science Methods]

### **The second step (Pre-proposal)**

Although some of our doctoral programmes has structured coursework components, the main element of the doctoral programme remains the doctoral thesis. The university will only register you as a doctoral student, once you have submitted a doctoral proposal and this has been approved by the various committees of the university.

In order to avoid wasting your time unnecessarily on the development of a proposal that is not acceptable to the Department, we have decided that all prospective doctoral students must FIRST submit a doctoral pre-proposal.

There are two main reasons for requesting a pre-proposal. First, we need to assess whether your interests coincide with the research expertise and interests of at least one member of the department. There is no point, we believe, in accepting a doctoral student, if we do not have an expert and experienced potential supervisor in the department. Second, this process allows us to identify the most likely supervisor(s) and to assign such a person to work with you on the final doctoral proposal.

**NB: It is highly unlikely that the Department will accept a prospective doctoral student if your pre-proposal shows that its focus is very far removed from the expertise available in the Department.**

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<sup>1</sup> A M. Tech from a South African Technikon is also accepted.

In order to assist you, in the development of the pre-proposal, we have included a list of the doctoral supervisors in the Department with their current research interests and projects at the end of this document.

The doctoral pre-proposal must comply with the following criteria:

- Working title of the doctoral thesis
- Indicate the motivation or rationale behind the proposed study
- Broad description of the research aims and objectives of the study
- The methodology of the proposed study
- An indication of the readings that you have already done or intend doing on the topic
- Maximum length: 2 pages

Once we have received your pre-proposal, it will be discussed at the next departmental meeting after which you will be informed (1) whether you have been conditionally accepted as a doctoral student; and (2) who the person in the department is with whom you should further correspond.

In some doctoral programmes (e.g. D. Phil. in Sociology of Development) it is required that the prospective candidate also present the pre-proposal orally to and meet with a panel in the department.

### **The third step (The doctoral proposal)**

Once you have received the go-ahead on the basis of the pre-proposal that you have submitted, you must now concentrate on developing a full doctoral proposal that meets the university guidelines. These guidelines are attached as [Appendix A](#) to this document.

NB: In our experience, it takes the average doctoral candidate between 3 and 6 months to develop a proper doctoral proposal that meets the requirements of the university.

The doctoral proposal is a document that is interactively developed between you and your prospective supervisor with your supervisor given you continuous feedback until both of you are satisfied that it meets all the requirements. Once you have reached this stage, your proposal is submitted for review within the university system.

### **The fourth step (The review process)**

Your doctoral proposal essentially moves through three stages of review within the university system:

- I. [A departmental review committee](#). This committee consists of the head of the department of sociology and social anthropology, your supervisor(s), the chair of the

Faculty's research committee and another external expert. Where possible we request that doctoral candidates be present during the discussion of their doctoral proposal before this committee.

2. The Faculty Research Committee. Once the departmental review committee has approved it, it is forwarded to the Faculty Research Committee for assessment.
3. The Faculty Council. If the Faculty Research Committee approves the doctoral proposal, a recommendation to this effect is sent to the next Faculty Council meeting and subsequently goes for ratification to Senate.

The doctoral proposal may at any stage of this process be referred back to the candidate for changes and revisions.

### **The fifth step (Registration)**

You are finally registered as a doctoral student once your doctoral proposal has been approved by the Senate of the university.

The University of Stellenbosch allows doctoral students to register either during the first or the second semester of the academic year. In order for you to register during the first semester, your doctoral proposal normally has to enter the review process (Step 4 above) by the end of January at the latest. In order for you to be able to register for the second semester, your doctoral proposal has to be submitted by the end of March.

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## **SENIOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT**



### **Simon Bekker**

Simon Bekker is professor in Sociology. He acted as professor of development studies (Rhodes University), professor of Sociology (UNISA) and director of the Centre for Social and Development Studies (University of Natal). He made contributions as a visiting fellow at Oxford University and the Centre d'Étude d'Afrique Noire, France. He obtained a PhD (Sociology) from the University of Cape town.

### **Areas of specialisation**

Culture and society, sociology of development, urbanisation and migration studies.

### **Current research projects**

Identity studies in South Africa (The construction of identity in South Africa)

Migration in the Western Cape (Migration in South Africa)

Comparative study of cities in Africa and Southern Europe (Cities and their hinterlands)

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### **Joachim Ewert**

Joachim Ewert is a senior lecturer in Sociology. He was educated at the University of Stellenbosch where he obtained a DPhil (Sociology), specialising in the sociology of work. Before joining the department in 1989, he lectured Sociology at the University of the Western Cape. He has been a visiting fellow at St Peter's College, Oxford University.



### **Areas of specialisation**

Innovation in agriculture, skills development and training; labour relations, organisational restructuring, building of social capital.

### **Current research projects**

Impact assessment of codes of practise.

The transformation of viticulture - comparing the Western Cape, South Africa and Languedoc-Roussillon, France.

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### **Cornie Groenewald**

Cornie Groenewald is professor of Sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. He has been affiliated to this department as a full-time staff member since 1982. He lectured in Sociology at the University of Port Elizabeth, as well as the University of the Western Cape prior to this. He obtained a DPhil (Sociology) from the University of Stellenbosch.

#### **Areas of specialisation**

History of Sociology; Research Methods; Community Studies; Community Development; Rural and Urban Development; Socio-economic Surveys; Social Demography.

#### **Current research projects**

A community mobilization project and the design of a model for a 'total onslaught' against the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Development of a programme to advance the interest and chances of rural youth to follow a career path in rural industry.

Chronic poverty : Case studies. The description of recent examples of chronic poverty in and around Stellenbosch.

### **Andrietta Kritzing**

Andrietta Kritzing is professor in Sociology and obtained a DPhil (Sociology) from the University of Stellenbosch. She has lectured at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Stellenbosch.



#### **Areas of specialisation**

Sociology of work; social theory; gender studies, feminist theory and youth studies.

#### **Current research projects**

Images of Work: A Comparative study of Canadian and South African Youth (in collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Sociology, University of Stellenbosch and Prof Victor Thiessen, Department of Sociology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada and Frans van Aswegen, Department of Sociology, University of Stellenbosch).

Globalisation, Production and Poverty: Macro, Meso and Micro-Level Studies: a Comparative study between Kenya and South Africa (in collaboration with Dr Stephanie Barrientos, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, for the Department for International Development, UK).

The life world of teenage girls and boys on commercial farms in the Boland (in collaboration with Frans van Aswegen, University of Stellenbosch).

Youth and gender role attitudes (with Frans van Aswegen, University of Stellenbosch).



### **Johann Mouton**

Johann Mouton is professor in Sociology and director of the Centre for Research into Science and Technology (CREST) at the University of Stellenbosch. He was trained as a philosopher, taught philosophy of social science at RAU before establishing the Centre for Research Methodology at the HSRC 1983. He was Executive Director of the Centre for Science Development at the HSRC before joining the US in 1994. He was Series Editor of HSRC Studies in Research Methodology and director of the HSRC Investigation into Research Methodology. He is the author of *How*

*to succeed in your masters and doctoral studies* (2001) and co-author of *The practice of social research* (2002). He was awarded the Stals-prize (from the Academy of Science) in 2001 for his contribution to interdisciplinary research.

### **Areas of specialisation**

Mapping the South African science and technology system, science policy, R&D studies, knowledge production and knowledge utilization in South African higher education, social science methodology interests, philosophy and sociology of science, methodology issues in programme evaluation, project management.

### **Current research projects**

Mapping the South African S&T system

The South African science system in transition

R&D evaluation and scientometrics

Beyond dichotomies: Indigenous knowledge systems

Modes of knowledge production and knowledge utilization

The history of science in South Africa

Models of technology transfer

The philosophy and sociology of science

Programme evaluation designs

### **Steven Robins**

Steven Robins is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the University of Stellenbosch. Having completed his PhD at Columbia University, New York, in 1994, he returned to South Africa. In 1995 he took up a position in the Department of Anthropology & Sociology at the University of the Western Cape. He has published on a wide range of topics including the cultural politics of land, development and identity in Zimbabwe and South Africa; the social uses of literacy; Holocaust memory and South African-Jewish identities; the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC); urban studies and most recently on citizenship and governance. His recent research is on globally connected NGOs and CBOs involved in AIDS and housing activism (forthcoming). He is currently editing a book entitled *Limits to Liberation: Citizenship and Governance After Apartheid* to be published by James Currey Publishers. He is also completing a manuscript *New Ethnicities After Apartheid: The cultural politics of land, memory and identity*. In 2002 he was a visiting fellow at the African Studies Centre, Leiden University.



### **Areas of specialisation**

Transnational NGOs and social movements; the socio-cultural dimension of HIV/AIDS; science, citizenship and governance; land and development issues.

### **Current research projects**

Research project on *Citizenship, Participation and Accountability* with the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex University, UK.

NRF and IDS Research Projects on *AIDS activism, citizenship and social capital*. These projects involve case studies of health citizenship and AIDS activism in the Western Cape with some comparative work in the Eastern Cape, and Mpumalanga.

Research on 'social capital', globalisation and housing activism. The research involves case studies of affiliates of the South African Homeless Peoples Federation (SAHPF) and the Slum Dwellers International (SDI).



### **Kees van der Waal**

Kees van der Waal is a professor in Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University since April 2002. He studied at the University of Pretoria and then at the RAU, where he obtained his doctorate based on a study of informal craft workers in two rural tribal areas. His work experience started at the cultural history museum in Pretoria, from where he moved into the academic teaching of anthropology at the University of Pretoria and the RAU. At the RAU he was also involved in the teaching of development studies. He has been a visiting fellow at the Institute for

Social Studies in The Hague.

### **Areas of specialisation**

Rural development, participation in development, participant observation, intra-household social relationships, rural livelihoods, institutional development.



### **Current research projects**

#### ***ETHNOGRAPHY OF A RURAL SETTLEMENT IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE***

A longterm study was started in 1986 in a rural settlement, near Nkowankowa in the former Gazankulu, as part of a larger research project at the RAU in Johannesburg. The aim was to understand the dynamics of the interaction between the contextual factors and local processes and conditions of life of a poor rural community. A methodological interest was the issue of the "unit of study", with reference to alternatives to former functionalist and "volkekundige" approaches. Several periods of fieldwork were spent in the settlement which led to a rich body of data about local events and relationships. The analysis of the data led to several further research foci, including the livelihoods of households, the impact of development interventions which affected the settlement, gender relations (especially with regard to violence against women), the processes of residential instability, and the development of institutions for local development planning.

#### ***"PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT" AND "INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT"***

On the basis of an ethnographic study in the Limpopo Province, a study was done of the concept and process of "participation in development" as it was promoted by the development literature. Local-level organisations and development interventions were studied as processes over time. The contradiction between the ideal and the practice of participation was analysed. In a further step, the idea of "institutional development" was studied and linked to the way in which the organisations in a rural settlement, the traditional authority structures and the evolving local government structures were articulated. The ward system in local government structures and its ability to accommodate the developmental needs on the local level is a further issue to be studied.

#### ***LABOUR RELATIONS***

Together with Tina Uys (Sociology, the RAU) an intervention was made in a labour relations conflict in a higher education institution. The intervention was documented and is being analysed with regard to the processes that led to the conflict and the responses to it. A methodological issue that forms part of the research is whether the modification of the nominal group technique was successful for use with illiterate workers.

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## Appendix A

### GUIDELINES FOR DOCTORAL SUBMISSIONS

This document contains the general guidelines that must be followed for the submission of such applications in the Faculty of Arts.

#### Requirements for doctoral proposals

##### B.1 Title and Promotors (co-promotors)

The title of the dissertation must be concise but informative. The names of the promotor and co-promotor (if any) must also be clearly stated.

##### B.2 Problem Statement and focus

Doctoral study preferably concerns research undertaken with the intention of solving an existing and clearly formulated problem. The precise nature of the problem must be clearly formulated, taking into account, in particular, the meaning of the central concepts posed in its problem statement. The problem statement should be stated in not more than a single paragraph, and should formulate the focal point of the dissertation concisely, intelligibly and clearly.

##### B.3 Preliminary study

Doctoral study is intended to produce a new and unique contribution to knowledge. An indication must be provided under this heading of the way the proposed research deviates from, or adds to, existing knowledge in the field of enquiry. It is, therefore, essential to mention, in broad outline, other studies that have already been undertaken in the field, if this is possible and if indeed any exist.

In addition the candidate may mention under this heading his/her research experience or other academic background, relevant to the proposed study (for example, a Master's [or other] degree or other research/training in a related topic).

***NB The candidate need provide references only to works cited under this heading or explicitly in the rest of the doctoral proposal.***

##### B.4 Goals, theoretical points of departure/premises and hypothesis(es)/research questions

Although the statement of the problem poses the central question addressed in the dissertation in a concise and focused form, this heading offers the opportunity, if necessary, of formulating the goals more systematically. Assumptions and/or points of departure on which the research will be based and the theoretical framework(s) within which the research will be undertaken are also, as far as possible, stated under this heading, and provisional hypotheses, where relevant, formulated.

## **B.5 Methodology and approach**

Candidates must clearly state what methods they intend using to address and attempt to solve the proposed problem. They should indicate their familiarity with possible controversies that exist in their field of research regarding the methodology in question. In the case of quantitative empirical research details must be provided of the manner in which data will be collected and analysed, possibly with examples of questionnaires or references to standard or newly developed measuring instruments.

If the study is of an inter- or multidisciplinary nature, this must be clearly stated. Candidates should then give an account of the questions that methodologically problematise such an undertaking, and indicate how such problems can/will be overcome.

## **B.6 Plan of research and scheduling of time**

Candidates must give an explanation under this heading of the different phases through which the research will pass, and how these phases are linked logically and systematically. Preferably, they should provide clear indications, by formulating a provisional table of contents of the proposed dissertation, that they have a systematic and logically coherent and progressive plan of action for the project.

Candidates must also indicate the deadlines for the completion of each of the identified phases of the research. These deadlines should clearly indicate when the research is likely to be completed. Promotors and candidates should, as far as possible, use the time schedule to monitor the candidate's progress.

## **B.7 Impact**

The expected impact of the research should be indicated briefly under this heading: for example, in what respects it makes a new contribution to the discipline, how it confirms or challenges conventional views, how it contributes to the current debates and/or what consequences the implementation/application of the new knowledge in society might have (if this is relevant).

## **B. 8 Connection with the doctoral programme(s) of the department**

An indication should be given here of the way the proposed research is related to or is part of the doctoral programme(s) offered by the department (according to the *Jaarboek /Calendar*).

**Submissions must not be longer than 2000 words.**

**Faculty Board of Arts**

**September 2000, amended 6 February 2002**