

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES (2008)

The following is a list of major research projects underway or recently completed within the Department, grouped according to research cluster areas (while noting that some are cross-cutting). It is not a comprehensive list of all research activities in the Department, but gives an indication of current interests and areas of expertise.

Potential students are encouraged to consider the possibilities for aligning their own research interests with departmental research projects.

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, INCLUDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Poverty Alleviation and Social Security

This is a project being run by Jan Vorster which is analysing, inter alia, the South African government's biggest poverty alleviation programme, the incentive structures of social assistance grants, social security for women and children, teenage pregnancy, the disability grant and HIV/AIDS, the predicament of the foster care system, and kinship care and orphanhood. Prof Robert Walker from Oxford University, UK acted as an adviser on one of the projects. Activities include various presentations at conferences and preparation of papers, ongoing input into a national panel study on social assistance grants and an analysis of Social Pensions data (SOCPEN). Two research reports are available on the website of the Department of Social Development, one providing the first national profile of grant beneficiaries in South Africa. An article was recently published on the child support grant.

Pebbles Project: Community Interaction, Teaching and Research

This is a project involving Mr du Plessis in collaboration with Pebbles Project, an organisation in Somerset West working in the field of special needs education, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), youth issues and community development on wine farms in the Stellenbosch and Helderberg areas of the Western Cape. The initiative aims to showcase the integration of the scholarship of teaching and research within the community context. The teaching component was established in 2006 with a service learning partnership between Pebbles Project and the Department. This working relationship was expanded to include an Honours student's thesis work within the organization's scope of practice. A community development project has been established in 2008 on a wine farm community, which involves both a research component and a community development initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of life of this specific community. Apart from benefiting the specific community, the intention of this project is also to create more spaces for service learning and research collaboration.

An Ethnography of Organizational Complexity: Development Discourses in Rural Western Cape (NRF sponsored 2005-2007)

This project involves Prof van der Waal and Prof Robins, in collaboration with Frans Kamsteeg of Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, Netherlands and six postgraduate students through attached bursaries. Its focus is on housing, estate development, security, local development and identity in the Dwars River Valley outside the town of Stellenbosch. Theses and articles emanating from the project include An edited volume that includes student work is forthcoming.

THE SOCIOLOGY OF WORK

Transformation of the South African Wine Industry

This has been a major focus of Prof Ewert's research since 1997, which has resulted in a number of publications, in collaboration with local research partners and partners in France (INRA, Montpellier) and the UK (Oxford and the Universities of Manchester and Greenwich). These include Much of the research data has been fed back to the industry in the spirit of 'action research'.

Transformation of the Co-operative Wine Sector in South Africa and in Languedoc-Rousillon , France – a Comparative Study

Since 1999 Prof Ewert has been working closely with a research team at INRA, Montpellier, France, studying the responses of co-operative wine cellars in both settings to new pressures from the markets and changes in the local and international regulation regimes. This project has been most fruitful and has resulted in a number of collaborative conference papers and publications in international journals, including It has also included student exchanges at the Masters and PhD level. Some of the research has been funded by the South Africa-France academic exchange scheme.

'Quality' and Value Chains in Wine – a case study of the South African Wine Value Chain

In the 'private regulation' and 'governance' of Global Commodity Chains (GCCs) 'quality' standards play an important role. How these are defined and enforced by local and international 'lead firms' is the object of an ongoing study undertaken jointly by Prof Ewert and Stefano Ponte of the Danish Institute for International Studies in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Skills, Training and 'Quality' Production in the South African Wine Industry

Globally there is a trend away from the consumption of 'basic' wine towards 'quality' wine. South African growers and wine cellars have to respond to these market trends if they want to survive and remain competitive. In facing this challenge, the adoption and transfer of new and different vineyard practices are of key importance. How South African wine farmers and managers are responding to this challenge has been one of Prof Ewert's research foci over the last four years. Research has focused on intensive farm level investigation in several regions of the Cape wine industry and has involved several post-graduate students.

Uneducated Labour and Skills Training in Viticulture: a Comparative Analysis of Training Strategies of Wine Growers in Selected New and Old World Wine Countries

This project involves research in a number of comparative settings where the labour 'situation' is similar to the one in the Cape wine industry, e.g. Chile , California , Spain and Greece . In all these contexts growers/producers make use of workers with rather little education – regardless of whether they are local people or migrants from North Africa, for example. The key question for this research project is: how do producers cope with these education and skill deficiencies? What do growers in Chile, California etc. do to make sure that the required knowledge gets transferred and implemented in the vineyard? Are they doing it differently or better than the average co-op farmer in SA?

New farmers and Empowerment in the South African Fruit Industry

Since the late 1990s key 'players' in the SA fruit industry have made concerted efforts to establish new farmers in the deciduous, table grape and citrus sectors. This has involved established companies with established markets and supply chains, the Department of Land Affairs and farmers and their workers. The empowerment concept mostly used has been that of 'equity sharing'. The research project has two legs: firstly, a baseline study of a sample of farms thus empowered and secondly, an intervention that uses the data to 'roll out' the project to a number of new farms, drawing on the lessons learned during the baseline study. The project is ongoing and may last several years.

From Afrikaner Empowerment to Black Empowerment: a Case Study of Black Economic Empowerment in South African Organizations Since 1994

This is the subject of Mr Xaba's doctoral research within the Department. The focus is on a major South African company that formerly played a major role in the economic empowerment of the Afrikaner community and is currently involved in implementing 'black economic empowerment'.

Masculinity, Migrancy and the Changing Organisation of Work

This is the broad field of study in which Mr Dubbeld's doctoral thesis (University of Chicago) is located. It involves an investigation of these issues in KwaZulu Natal and builds on earlier work on changes impacting on the stevedoring industry in the Durban harbour.

LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Popular Land Struggles, Elites and Nature Conservation in Transfrontier Conservation Areas in Southern Africa

This project is being run by Profs Robins and van der Waal in collaboration with colleagues at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, as well as with postgraduate students. It focuses on the Makuleke land claimant community and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in Limpopo Province. Publications include The project also involves supervision of a doctoral student, Lamson Maluleke, who is a community leader from Makuleke village.

Land, Memory, Reconstruction and Justice: Perspectives on Land Restitution in South Africa (with funding from the Ford Foundation)

This project is run by Prof Walker. It has involved collaboration with colleagues at PLAAS (UWC), HSRC, CEFOS (University of Goteborg , Sweden) and the University of Toronto . An International Conference on these themes was held locally in September 2006, which brought together leading researchers on land restitution from within and without the country, as well as government officials and NGOs. She is currently supervising a number of postgraduate students working, inter alia, on land restitution and land reform in Stellenbosch.

Prof Walker's book, *Landmarked* (Jacana Media and Ohio University Press, 2008) provides critical reflections on the origins, limited achievements and challenges of the land restitution programme in South Africa, as well as the complex and frequently contested meanings attached to land through the programme.

Critical reflections on the Environment and the Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage

This project of Prof Walker's is in the preliminary stages. It involves collaboration with colleagues at CEFOS (University of Goteborg, Sweden) Prof Walker's interest is on the conceptualisation of 'the public interest' in relation to the natural and cultural heritage represented by Protected Areas that are subject to land restitution claims, as well as the different understandings of nature informing debates on nature conservation, co-management, sustainable development and the environment.

HIV/AIDS, Women's Property Rights and Gendered Livelihoods

(with funding from Ford Foundation New York)

This project involves Prof Walker in collaboration with colleagues at the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), Washington, USA; Associates for Development (Kampala, Uganda); the Human Sciences Research Council, PLAAS (UWC), and the Newcastle research office of HEARD (UKZN). The research has involved two country-level studies of the intersection between stronger property rights for women and the prevention and/or mitigation of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. Primary research towards the South African study, with Prof Walker as project leader, was conducted in Amajuba District in northern KwaZulu Natal in 2006 and 2007. The initial study has been published as a research monograph (Women's Property Rights, HIV and AIDS & Domestic Violence, HSRC Press, 2008) while a follow-up study is under consideration.

HIV/AIDS, SEXUALITY AND SOCIETY

HIV and Globalisation (NRF-funded project)

This project is run by Prof Robins. Research partners include the School of Government, UWC, UCT's School of Public Health; the Development Resource Centre (DRC) on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability, a DFID funded research programme based at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), Sussex University. The DRC involves partners in Brazil, Mexico, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Angola, South Africa and the UK. The research focus is global social movements and local organizations such as Khululeka, a Cape Town-based support group for men living with AIDS. A number of publications in international journals have resulted from the research, while two post-graduate theses are being finalized as part of the project.

Chronic Poverty, Governance and HIV

This project involves Prof Robins. Research partners include Dr. Chris Colvin, of UCT's Department of Public Health and PLAAS (UWC). The research focus is the relationship between AIDS, poverty, citizenship and governance.

Map the Gap Project on HIV, Globalisation and Governance

This project involves Prof Robins with research partners from Middlesex University, Nelson Mandela Metro University, Rhodes University and Stellenbosch University.

Public Theology and HIV/AIDS in Mitchell's Plain

This project is being run by Mr Begg and is looking at the involvement of religious institutions and leaders in Mitchell's Plain in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS and Security

This project is being launched by Prof Heineken to examine the impact of HIV/AIDS on military recruitment. The SANDF is one of the few institutions that test potential recruits as part of their pre-employment selection. The value of this project is that it would enable us to profile the impact this disease is having on a cohort of young school leavers between the ages 18-22 across race, gender, level of education, region and parents education.

HIV/AIDS, Women's Property Rights and Gendered Livelihoods

(with funding from Ford Foundation New York)

See above.

GENDER STUDIES

Gender Differences in the Publication Productivity of South African Academics

This project is run by Dr H Prozesky and draws on Dr Prozesky's DPhil thesis (obtained in 2006 at SU). The study examines gender differences in publication productivity among South African scientists and identifies possible reasons for these differences. An existing bibliometric database is analysed to quantify gender differences in publication productivity, investigate changes in gender differences over time, control for relevant variables and investigate gender differences in co-authorship. An analysis of primary data collected from the CVs of and qualitative interviews with a selected group of highly productive academic women and men was undertaken to develop a more in-depth understanding of ways in which women and men's productivity is differentially affected by family responsibilities, non-research academic roles and gender-socialisation. Publications include "Gender differences in the journal publication productivity of South African academic authors", published in South African Review of Sociology, and " A career-history analysis of gender differences in publication productivity among South African academics" , published in the ISI-indexed Science Studies .

A Gender-Focused Bibliometric Analysis of Research in the Field of Invasion Biology, 1990-2005 (C.I.B. funded)

This project is being run by Dr Prozesky as part of her collaboration with the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Invasion Biology at SU. The project involves an analysis of 307 South African authors of 446 invasion biology-related papers published in 99 accredited journals over a period of 16 years (1990-2005) and a bibliometric analysis of the 446 papers and their source journals. It aims to provide a demographic and bibliometric profile of the field, drawing comparisons with national data (all fields) and comparing men and women in terms of key variables to test a selection of hypotheses.

Gender integration and Peace Support Operations (PSOs)

This project is being conducted by Prof Heinecken in collaboration with Mrs Noelle v/d Waag and focuses on the interface of race, class, gender, sexuality and war. With increasing numbers of women serving in the SANDF, "new" gender wars are emerging within the military around issues of masculinity and femininity, sexuality and deployment. At present the project is in the exploratory phase, focusing on the benefits of gender mainstreaming, what this means and the challenges women continue to face with regard to gender integration. The next phase is to interview both male and female peacekeepers regarding their experiences in the field. Flowing from this project is another, which will specifically address the impact of frequent deployment on family stress and breakdown.

Masculinity, Migrancy and the Changing Organisation of Work

See above.

HIV/AIDS, Women's Property Rights and Gendered Livelihoods

See above.

CONFLICT, SECURITY AND THE ARMED FORCES

The Management of Diversity within the South African Armed Forces

Numerous projects are currently being conducted by Prof Heinecken in collaboration with colleagues from the South African Military Academy, WestPoint (USA) and the International Sociological Association's Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution Group. This project examines the challenges associated with the management of diversity within the South African armed forces, looking specifically on how the former enemy forces were integrated, the impact of affirmative action, racism, gender equity and the effectiveness of the various diversity programmes which have been introduced. This project is currently being expanded to examine the importance of cultural diversity training for peace support operations within the African continent.

The Civil-military gap

This project involves Prof Heinecken and was initiated by the International Sociological Association's Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution working group. Nineteen countries took part in this study. The findings have been written up and published in the book Cultural Differences between the military and parent society in democratic countries, edited by Guiseppe Caforio (Date and press). A similar study is underway in collaboration with Westpoint (USA), to compare the attitudes of military and civilian students to a range of military issues.

Military Unionism and outsourcing

Like the private sector, armed forces have adapted their organizational and force structures to become more flexible and deployable. As civilian and military employment practices have merged, so the phenomenon of military unionism has increased. A comparative project initiated by Prof Heinecken and Mr Richard Bartle (Cranfield University) looked at developments in this regard in 12 different countries. A current study is examining the impact of outsourcing on the military profession.

Traveling Models of Conflict Management in Africa

(Volkswagen Foundation 2007-2009)

The South African part of this project is led by Prof van der Waal; the larger project involves collaboration with research partners from Halle, Germany (University and Max Planck Institute) and five African universities; it also involved one doctoral student in the Department. The focus of the local study is on community policing in Stellenbosch Municipality, as a travelling model of conflict management, and its link to development.

HIV/AIDS and Security

See above.

Gender integration and Peace Support Operations (PSOs)

See above.

URBANISATION, GOVERNANCE AND NEW URBAN FORMS

African Cities (GDRI)

(NRF and French Government sponsored)

This is the title of a four-year research programme being run by Prof Bekker, in collaboration with the Center d'Etudes 'Afrique Noire (CEAN) at the University of Bordeaux in France and a large network of French and African academics. The programme draws together a wide number of studies on African cities, including on local government; informality and formality in basic needs provision; collective urban identities, and capital cities. From within the Department Prof van der Waal, Prof Robins, Mr Xaba and a number of postgraduate students are involved.

Xenophobia, Investment and the State: Comparative Study of Economic Xenophobia and Citizen's Perceptions in Selected Cape Town and Johannesburg Locations

This is a study by Mr Xaba within the 'African Cities' programme. It involves a study of the position of Somali immigrants.

The socio-economic impact of RDP/ state housing in the Western Cape

This project originated from contract research by Jan Vorster for the Department of Local Government and Housing in the Western Cape Province. The impact of housing projects on beneficiary households is considered in terms of the economic situation of households, social capital and participation in the property market. A research report is due by the end of the year. A master's student participates in the project and will most probably complete his thesis based on data from the project.

CULTURE, RELIGION AND LANGUAGE

Cultural Politics and Language in South Africa (NRF sponsored 2007-2011)

This project is being run by Prof Robins and Prof van der Waal with postgraduate students through attached bursaries. Its focus is on the Afrikaans language and music as expressions of changing Afrikaner identities in a globalised and democratic South Africa. Activities have included a seminar on the 'De la Rey' song phenomenon by Antjie Krog, an Honours research project, a paper in preparation on interpretations of the 'De la Rey' song, and fieldwork on language issues at Stellenbosch University. Another output is a chapter on the notion of Bantoe in a book project on Afrikaans lieux de memoire.

Protestantism and the Spirit of Apartheid : A Weberian Analysis of the Religious Roots of Racialist Nationalism in South Africa , 1652 to 1948

This is the subject of Mr Begg's PhD dissertation, which he is doing through the University of Toronto.

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND TEACHING

Service Learning Capacity Building Programme at Stellenbosch University

Mr du Plessis is running this project as an institutional capacity-building program for service learning in collaboration with the Division of Community Interaction at SU and CHESP, a division of the Joint Education Trust (JET). The aim of the programme is to develop academically based teaching and learning in the community context. The programme involves the development of SU staff capacity to implement service learning programs across various subjects and faculties and to explore and foster possibilities for research in the context of community interaction localities, linking it with the professional work of staff members. Collaboration is extensive and involves many individuals across faculties and from different national and international tertiary institutions and organizations. A new partnership has been established with a university in China and the next conference will be in China in 2008. Various publications, including a book on service learning are in the pipeline.

HEQC Teaching Large Classes Research Project

Mr du Plessis is involved in this project which started in 2006 and is collaborative effort between the CTL (Centre for Teaching and Learning) and participating departments across various faculties at SU. The project is funded by an HEQC Competitive Grant. The aim of the project is to address the issue of teaching large classes with the following objectives: to pilot a collaborative and research-based approach towards the professional development of lecturers teaching large first year modules; to implement innovative approaches towards improving teaching and learning of key large first year modules at the University; to demonstrate the value of lecturers and educational advisors working together to solve educational challenges.

Pebbles Project: community interaction, teaching and research

This initiative involves Mr du Plessis in collaboration with Pebbles Project, an organisation in Somerset West working in the field of special needs education, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), youth issues and community development on wine farms in the Stellenbosch and Helderberg areas of the Western Cape. The initiative aims to showcase the integration of the scholarship of teaching and research within the community context. The teaching component was established in 2006 with a service learning partnership between Pebbles Project and the Department. This working relationship was expanded to include an Honours student's thesis work within the organization's scope of practice. A community development project has been established on a specific wine farm community in early 2008, which will involve a research component and a community development initiative which will aim to enhance the quality of life of this specific community. Different local, national and international stake-holders will be involved in this initiative. Apart from benefiting the specific community, the intention of this project is also to create more spaces for service learning and research collaboration.

THE SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE

The “knowing-doing” gap in Invasion Biology

This bibliometric project, conducted in collaboration with Prof Karen Esler and Dr Gyan P. Sharma from the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, is aimed at determining (1) the extent to which the literature on invasion ecology contributes to implementation of knowledge generated, by addressing management, policy, and/or social issues; and (2) the scale of focus (global, regional, or local) of invasion ecology papers, particularly those that attempt to bridge the knowing-doing gap. Analysis is conducted at two scales – a global one looking at popular search engines of four well-known publishers, and the ISI Web of Science SCI database. At the second scale the focus is narrowed to South Africa – one of three regions outside USA where researchers producing highly cited papers in invasion ecology are well represented.

Promoting South Africa's Antarctic Legacy: A Platform for Social Sciences, Law and Humanities Research

An NRF extraordinary grant has been awarded for this project, which will be undertaken by a team consisting of Prof S. Chown (principal investigator, SU), Mr J. Cooper (UCT), Judge A.J. Hoffmann (UP), Dr S. Swart (SU), and Dr Prozesky. Dr Prozesky's contribution lies in determining whether, and to what extent, the demographic composition of producers of SANAP-related papers has changed over the years. An existing bibliometric database of papers produced in SANAP will form the basis for the

collection of data on this archive, and will be used in the context of other archival approaches to determine the gender and race of the authors of the papers.

Gender Differences in the Publication Productivity of South African Academics

See above.

A Gender-Focused Bibliometric Analysis of Research in the Field of Invasion Biology, 1990-2005

See above.