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**10 April 2018**

## **UCT's Psychology Department to host discussion on a global research initiative to address violence against children**

**12 April 2018 | 13:00-14:00 | Room 2A, Psychology Department, PD Hahn Building, Upper Campus, UCT**

Approximately one billion children worldwide are victims of violence and abuse every year. The consequences are devastating and include poor neuro-cognitive development, emotional problems, externalising behaviours, substance use, and poor physical health including a shorter life expectancy.

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Psychology Department will host a seminar titled 'Evidence for Better Lives – A Global Research Initiative to Address Violence against Children'. The seminar will be addressed by Professor Manuel Eisner, who is a Wolfson Professor of Criminology at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge.

In the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations have called on the world community to eliminate violence against children. In response to this call, an international and interdisciplinary consortium of leading researchers has launched a research, capacity building, and policy impact initiative called Evidence for Better Lives.

This includes the launch of a unique birth cohort study of 12 000 children born in the same year across eight project sites in low and middle-income countries. In his talk Prof Eisner will present an overview of the study. He will explain how it will provide answers to questions on exposure to violence and child development that will help to develop more effective intervention and prevention strategies.

### **Notes to Editors**

Prof Eisner is a criminology professor at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He is also the director of the Violence Research Centre. In his research he tries to overcome the traditional disciplinary boundaries in our thinking about the causes and prevention of violence. His work therefore spans research on the long-term trends in

violence during human history, macro-level comparative work on why societies differ in levels of violence, scholarship about the dynamics that link child and adolescent development to aggressive behaviour, and experimental work on preventive interventions in schools and families.

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**Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department**

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