

Next Generation Professoriate Newsletter #5 October 2017

Once more unto Mont Fleur, dear Friends

Members of the Cohort gathered once again at Mont Fleur at the end of August. For some (a few) it was the first time they'd visited this beautiful place, but for many others (the veterans) it was an opportunity again to enjoy the view, the hospitality and cuisine and to write and think.



*Back (Left to Right): Lee-Ann Tong, Corrinne Shaw, Waheeda Amien, Sylvia Bruinders, Anwar Jardine, Busayo Ige, Frank Matose, Phumla Sinxadi, Bob Osano, Sedi Namane, Ameeta Jaga, Lebogang Ramma, Mantoa Motinyane-Masoko.
Front: Kate le Roux, Robert Morrell, Chun-Sung Huang
[Thanks to Chun-Sung for the Photograph]*



Michael Galant, Lebogang Ramma, Mantoa Motinyane-Masoko and Ameeta Jaga on the slopes above Mont Fleur.

In terms of writing productivity, the Retreat again scored highly amongst NGP members. Here are some reflections:

- I felt better after the meeting since it allowed me to pause and reflect on almost a year past.
- I did not get through everything on my list, but the time away was extremely productive. What I managed to do would not have happened without the time at Mont Fleur.
- This is to express my gratitude to Robert Morell, Nceba and the NGP programme for having afforded me the opportunity to join what was **my first experience** of a writing retreat.
- The ambience of the secluded and beautiful mountainy Mont Fleur allowed me to go a long way in completing the task that I had set out to do (write a protocol for a publication). The evening's quietness (with a belly full of warm & well-prepared sustenance's enjoyed with other amazing people) also allowed me to have conversations with myself, which I quite enjoyed doing. I came back from the retreat energised with an attitude of 'I can do this'!
- As usual the Mont Fleur organisation created an ideal environment for contemplation and writing.

The weather was glorious and a small band of the more energetic proceeded with Michael Galant up the mountain one evening. Michael is a store of local knowledge and the proteas were in full flower. A highlight was sighting orange breasted sunbirds (right) and sugarbirds but with the sun setting behind Lion's Head (below), the views were simply majestic.

Post-Script: Some night owls and party animals emerged in the evenings to play snooker and darts. Suspicion that the consumption of red wine might impair judgement, eye-hand coordination and language were found to have some grounds.



Achievements of NGP members

A list of 2234 South African academic writers was recently compiled using Google Scholar. Data was gathered in the second week of May 2017 of all South Africans with an H Index of 10 or more. These were arranged hierarchically. The project was conducted by Dr Isidro Aguillo and was funded by the Project ACUMEN European Commission 7th Framework Programme, Capacities, Science in Society 2010. The full report can be found at: <http://www.webometrics.info/en/node/145>

The report punts the value of Google Scholar (GS): “Google Scholar is a tool for setting up author profiles of individuals and their publications as covered by GS. There are many advantages in generating your own profile using GS. It is really very easy to use as you only need a Google account to start collecting your publications and the associated metrics. The system is very powerful and it guides you in every step offering candidate publications (with a very low error rate) and the possibility of merging, delete or adding records”.

“Google Scholar is a **free** very large bibliographic database that it is especially useful for bibliometric purposes as it provides the number (and lists all of them) of citations received by the items included. Its current size is over 200 million unique documents, (many of them with links to openly available full-text versions). This is almost three times the current coverage of the paywalled competitors like WoS/Clarivate or Scopus/Elsevier”.

You will know that I am a strong proponent of Google Scholar as a tool to measure one’s citations but also to make one aware of the impact of one’s work. In fact I expect all NGP members to have a Google Scholar profile. So I was delighted to see that ten of our members are in this list of well-published scholars. Congrats to all who are listed below and hope this spurs others on to keep writing and publishing.

	H Index	Total number of citations	Position (out of 2234)
Ed February	21	2418	650
Tolu Oni	17	1952	941
Freedom Gumedze	17	892	1011
Heather Marco	17	738	1038
Frank Matose	16	1061	1087
Sharon Kleintjes	16	673	1151
Deano Stynder	14	522	1424
Anwar Jardine	10	401	2071
Paul Barendse	10	381	2094
Zarina Patel	10	363	2113

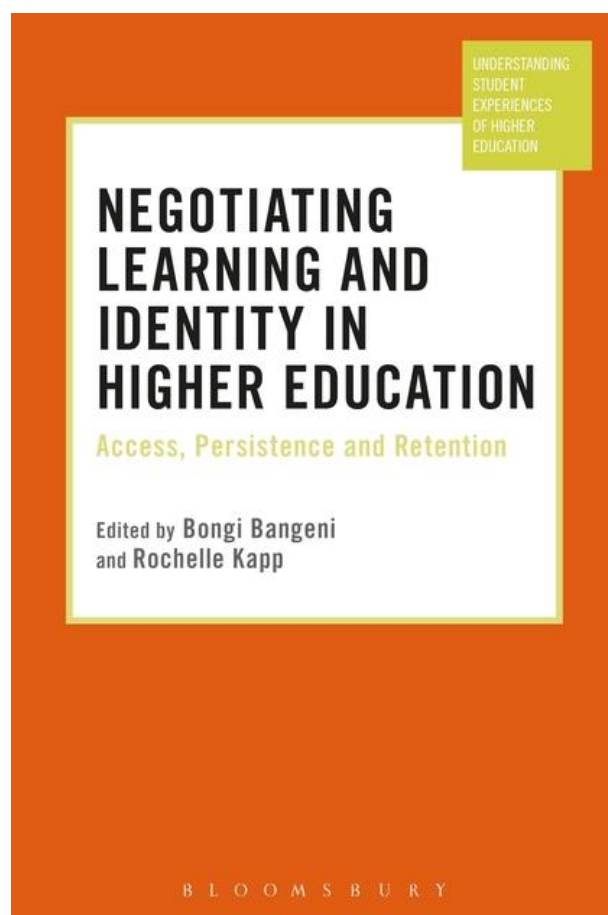
Author, Author!

Bongi Bangeni writes about Negotiating Learning and Identity in Higher Education

Bongi Bangeni and Rochelle Kapp have just edited a book, *Negotiating Learning and Identity in Higher Education* (Bloomsbury Press, 2017). Apart from co-editing the book, Bongi wrote or co-wrote six chapters! The NGP was very well represented in this achievement because Tracy Craig and Kate le Roux were also amongst the contributors.

The book describes and analyses the students' ambivalence as they straddle often conflicting discourses within their disciplines; within the institution; between home and the institution, and as they occupy multiple subject positions that are related to the boundaries of place and time. Each chapter also describes the ways in which the institution supports and/or hinders students' progress, explores the implications of its findings for models of support and addresses the issue of what constitutes meaningful access to institutional and disciplinary discourses.

While access to higher education has increased globally, student retention has become a major challenge. This book analyses various aspects of the learning pathways of black students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds at a relatively elite, English-medium, historically white South African university. The students are part of a generation of young black people who have grown up in the new South Africa and are gaining access to higher education in unprecedented numbers.

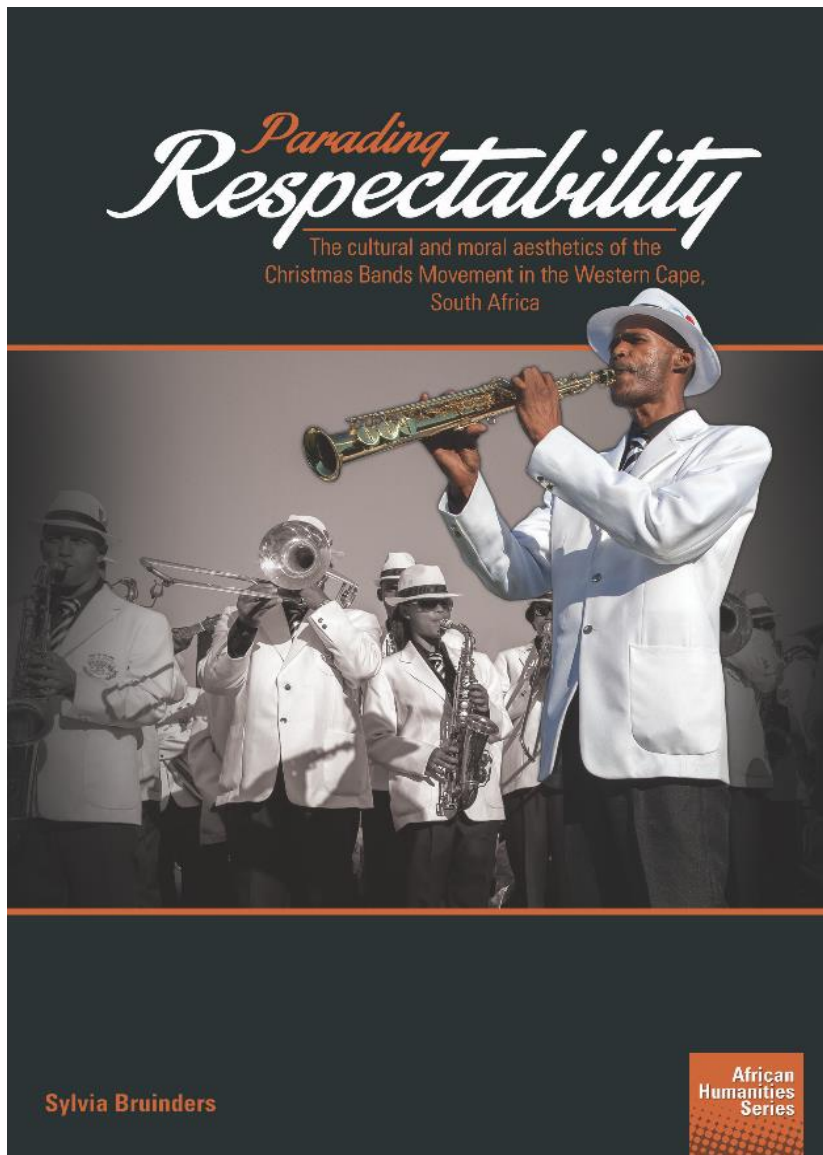


To capture the range of topics covered here are some chapter titles (with their authors). Students' Negotiation of Learning and Identity in Working Class Schooling (Rochelle Kapp, Elmi Badenhorst, Bongi Bangeni, Tracy S. Craig, Viki Janse van Rensburg, Kate Le Roux, Robert Prince, June Pym and Ermien van Pletzen); Three Mathematics Students Talk about their Transitions to and through their Undergraduate Degrees in the Sciences (Kate le Roux); A Longitudinal Account of the Factors Shaping the Degree Paths of Black Students (Bongi Bangeni) and Enabling Capabilities in an Engineering Extended Curriculum Programme (Tracy Craig).

For more on the book, see <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/negotiating-learning-and-identity-in-higher-education-978135000209/>

Another Author, Author!

Parading Respectability - Sylvia Bruinders reflects on Cape Town's Christmas Bands



Sylvia has just published her monograph, *Parading Respectability: The Cultural and Moral Aesthetics of the Christmas Band movements in the Western Cape* (UNISA Press, 2017). The Christmas bands are one of three parading practices in the city of Cape Town along with the Minstrels and Malay choirs. It is the least known of the three despite the fact that its reach is furthest in the Western Cape, into places like Mossel Bay and Ladismith.

Sylvia's research on the Christmas bands is significant for bringing this largely hidden cultural practice out of its relative obscurity. In order to study the bands "from the inside" Sylvia joined a band and performed with

them in their street parades and competitions. Later, the members recognised her musical expertise and insisted that she coach the band and conduct them at the annual competitions. "It is wonderful to have this research culminate in the monograph and I hope to continue my relationship with the bands and produce more community-focused projects in future", said Sylvia.

Dr Diane Thram (International Library of African Music, Rhodes University) praised Sylvia's book. "This book will fill a gap in existing scholarship. It has relevance to the humanities in Africa in general in its attention to the impact of colonialism and the attendant marginalization of this population group to the point that this tradition emerged as a vehicle to establish a semblance of 'respectability' in reactions to a negative stereotype'.

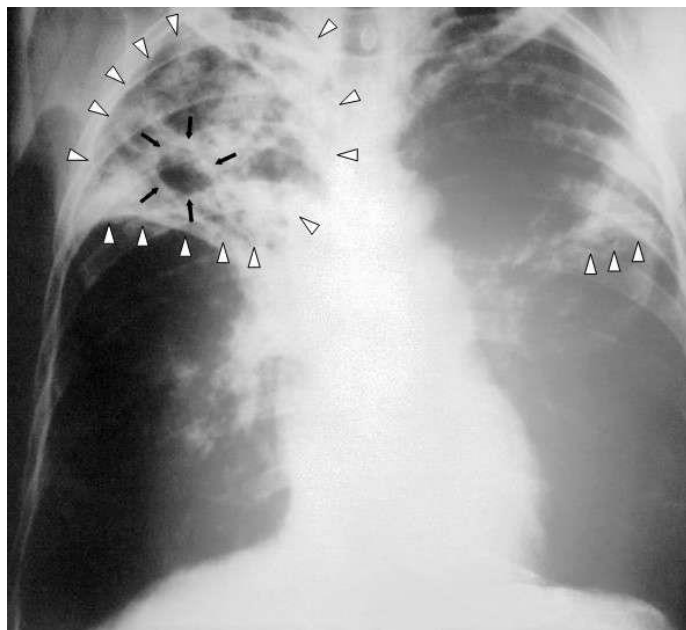
Joel Chigada's PhD student graduates



Joel Chigada recently graduated his first PhD graduate at UCT. In the picture above, Joel (far right) can be seen with Vice Chancellor Dr Max Price, newly graduated Dr James Lappeman and Dr Pragasen Pillay, co-supervisor. Joel said he was very pleased at Dr Lappeman's success particularly as the Marketing Section, in the School of Management Studies (Commerce Faculty), had not produced many doctoral graduates. He said he hoped to graduate one doctoral student per year as he concentrated his energies on increasing the research outputs of Marketing. "It was an ecstatic moment on the 14th of July when my first UCT doctoral student graduated."

Freedom Gumedze: part of a team from South Africa and Canada studying the safety and effectiveness of corticosteroids for treating tuberculous pericarditis.

Freedom has provided his statistical expertise as part of a Cochrane Review initiative hosted by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The team (including Charles Wiysonge (Stellenbosch) and Bongani Mayosi (Dean of Health Sciences, UCT)) came together to review treatments for heart disease caused by TB.



Tuberculosis (TB) infection of the pericardium, the membrane around the heart, is not common but can restrict the function of the heart and is fatal in some cases. Current treatment involves doctors prescribing anti-TB drugs for six months, draining fluid from the pericardium or removing it in some situations, and in some cases corticosteroids are prescribed to reduce inflammation. However, there has been some concern that steroids have the potential to cause harm to patients with HIV, a common TB co-infection.

The review authors included seven trials, six looking at the use of corticosteroids and the other at different treatments. All trials were based in sub-Saharan Africa and included 1959 participants in total. “Given the seriousness of TB pericarditis it was important that we were able to assess the effectiveness of using corticosteroids as a treatment,” said Professor Charles Shey Wiysonge, Director of Cochrane South Africa and lead author of the review, “it was also especially important to look at their safety in cases of HIV coinfections, as there has previously been an impression that treatment could cause a rise in HIV-related cancers.”

The review authors found that in people without HIV, corticosteroids drugs may reduce the number of people dying overall by 20%, as well as probably reducing deaths from pericarditis, although the confidence intervals include the possibility of both large beneficial effects and small increases in harm. The results also show that in HIV-positive patients, corticosteroids may reduce constriction of the pericardium membrane, but the confidence intervals include the possibility of both large beneficial effects and small increases in harm.

For more on this story see:

*Wiysonge CS, Ntsekhe M, Thabane L, Volmink J, Majombozi D, Gumedze F, Pandie S, Mayosi BM. **Interventions for treating tuberculous pericarditis**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD000526. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000526.pub2.(link is external)*

<http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/news-events/news/interventions-for-treating-tuberculous-pericarditis>

Kampala, Lisbon and Paris – Zarina Patel is all over the place!

Zarina has just completed a hectic bout of travelling between attending meetings and presenting papers. At the end of August she visited Makerere University as an expert, invited by SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency), to address issues of transdisciplinary research training. The theme of this workshop was 'Leading integrated research for Agenda 2030 in Africa (LIRA 2030)'. LIRA is a research grant programme and a collaboration between the International Council of Science Unions (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). The overall goal of the Programme is to increase the generation and use of new, integrated, policy-relevant scientific knowledge needed to address complex sustainability challenges in Africa.



*Kampala delegates show their support for Trans Disciplinary research.
[Photo Credit: Katsia Palavets (ICSU)]*

The theme of the 2017 call is 'Advancing the implementation of SDG 11 on cities in Africa'. In Kampala, I worked with four urban and Transdisciplinary (TD) experts in mobilising and facilitating the knowledge of 32 principal investigators from across the African continent whose pre-proposals were selected by LIRA 2030. Zarina said that this meeting exposed her to a range of new networks from the PIs to the programme collaborators. She has now been invited to be part of a team that will conduct a five year evaluation of LIRA's programme.

In Lisbon Zarina presented a paper with Saskia Greyling at the African Urban Planning International Conference, hosted by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, and International Planning History Society. The title of their paper was: 'Local Responses to Global Agendas: Learning from experimenting with the urban SDG in Cape Town'.

To finish off her jamboree, Zarina was invited to Paris by the CNRS (the French National Centre for Scientific Research) to give a seminar on Southern Cities. She had an audience of scholars from many disciplines and was engaged vigorously in a long bout of discussion after the seminar



Zarina on the Seine. [Photo credit: Stephen Berrisford]

CTC v Chiefs

And Finally. The cohort was once again present at the Cape Town Stadium to witness the Citizens against Kaizer Chiefs. There was a large crowd which was noisy and got noisier once Kaizer Chiefs had scored. The game ended 2-0 to Chiefs. Nothing for the home faithful to cheer about, but Chiefs were deserved winners. During the course of the game, the editor was caught in an embarrassingly passive moment by an avid local snapper.



Robert Morrell
Editor