

## **SCHOOL OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Note: all email addresses are [name.surname@wits.ac.za](mailto:name.surname@wits.ac.za)

### **Psychology Department**

#### **Zaytoon Amod**

Prof. Zaytoon Amod's research interests include Psycho-educational assessment and making such practice relevant to the South African context. Her research interests include: Dynamic Assessment and Mediated Learning Experience; Promotion of preventive mental health, including school, parent and community support programmes; Emotional Literacy; Child and Adolescent Psychology and Psychiatry; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); Attachment; Early Childhood Education, and Inclusive Education.

#### **Katherine Bain**

Prof. Katherine Bain's research interests include psychodynamic theory, attachment theory and particularly the overlap between the two. While she has general interests in adult psychopathology and psychotherapy, she has special interests in motherhood, maternal sensitivity, the influence of culture on parenting and in parent-infant psychotherapy. Her most recent research projects include efficacy studies for early intervention programmes for high-risk parent-infant dyads. She is also interested in adult attachment, with specific reference to the intergenerational transmission of attachment.

#### **Colleen Bernstein**

Dr Colleen Bernstein's research interests include Sex Role identity, Work stress, Social Support and individual and organisational well-being. She is interested in supervising PhD topics on workplace bullying and individual and organisational well-being, the personality characteristics of bullying victims and perpetrators, and organisational characteristics that foster bullying.

#### **Sahba Besharati**

Dr Sahba Besharati is a neuropsychologist and Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). She completed a collaborative PhD in neuropsychology from Kings College London and the University of Cape Town (UCT) funded by a Common Wealth Scholarship, having previously trained in psychological research and clinical neuropsychology during her MA at UCT. Her research falls into the broad area of socialaffective neuroscience, where she draws on an embodied socialcognitive approach in the scientific understanding of the relationship between self-awareness and social cognition in infancy, childhood and using clinical populations (e.g. stroke and traumatic brain injury). Sahba research integrates neuropsychological testing, experimental psychology and neuroimaging methods to explore how neurocognitive abilities, neural mechanisms and the social environment work together for the development of self-awareness.

#### **Brett Bowman**

Prof. Brett Bowman has a background in critical psychology and public health. He is interested in violence, inequality, racism and sexuality. He is currently the Principal Investigator on a project aimed at better understanding the relationships between relative deprivation, inequality

and violence in enactments of violent property crime in South Africa and its intersections with inequality. Prof. Bowman is an NRF-rated researcher.

### **Jill Bradbury**

Prof. Jill Bradbury works at the intersection of narrative psychology, identity theory and cultural-historical psychology. She is interested in intergenerational processes of learning and change, particularly in contexts of socio-political transformation and global demands for social justice. She is the lead researcher on the NRF funded project, Youth Identities in South Africa focusing on diverse dimensions of relational identity construction, e.g., nationality, language, 'race', gender, sexuality and class. Professor Bradbury would be interested to supervise qualitative research projects exploring questions related to:

- Diversity and Identity Construction;
- Narrative, representation and life histories;
- Educational transformation and Social justice;
- Childhood and Youth;
- Consciousness, cultural memory and imagination.

Collaborative research links with international universities (University of Oldenburg, Germany; University of East London, UK; Manchester University, UK; City University of New York, USA; Vrije Universiteit, Netherlands) provide excellent opportunities for student exchanges.

### **Kate Cockcroft**

Prof. Kate Cockcroft is an NRF-rated researcher with research interests in the field of Cognitive Neuroscience. She is interested in the complex cognitive processes involved in learning, particularly memory, language, executive functioning and creativity. Her research investigates how these processes develop, and are assessed. Some of her current research projects explore the influence of bilingualism and multilingualism on working memory and other executive functions; the efficacy of a working memory intervention in improving and maintaining positive academic outcomes in children infected with HIV; the relationship between working memory functioning and creativity; and working memory measures as potentially less culturally and contextually biased assessments of cognitive functioning.

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kate\\_Cockcroft](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kate_Cockcroft)

### **Fiona Donald**

Prof. Fiona Donald conducts research into the broad areas of organisational behaviour and human factors. In terms of organisational behaviour, Fiona has conducted research into organisational change including mergers and acquisitions, and is also interested in work-life balance. She is interested in human factors in transport systems in particular. She has fifteen years' of experience as a postgraduate supervisor and previously worked in commerce and industry.

### **Dr Yvette Esprey**

Dr Yvette Esprey is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology and available to supervise qualitative research with a relational psychoanalytic theoretical lens, or a broadly psychodynamic lens. My particular interests are in identity and intersectionality (race, gender, sexual orientation etc)

in the context of psychotherapy, with a particular interest in the experience of the therapist. I am also interested in the experience of mothers of vulnerable children (disability, chronic illness), and in the experience of parents of transgender children.

### **Aline Ferreira-Correia**

Dr Aline Ferreira-Correia's research interests fall within the fields of clinical neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience. She has a special interest in the neuropsychology of movement disorders (e.g. Huntington's Disease, Huntington's Disease Like 2 and Parkinson's Disease) and epilepsy. Her research also focuses on the neuropsychology of the healthy brain, and how every-day experiences, such as bi/multilingualism, shape our cognitive functions. Within this area, and since psychometric assessment plays a significant role in neuropsychological work, Dr Ferreira-Correia is also interested in understanding the potential, limitations and parameters of cognitive testing in diverse contexts marked by inequality.

### **Tanya Graham**

Prof. Tanya Graham is an Associate Professor and counselling psychologist in the Department of Psychology, at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has a background in critical psychology, community psychology, public health and the application of psychoanalytic theory to social issues in South Africa. Her doctorate focussed on the study of power, ideology and marginalisation in community psychology knowledge production. She has published in the areas of community psychology theory, practice, training and knowledge production; social issues and conditions of adversity affecting children and youth; risk behaviour, violence and injury; and race and identity in post-apartheid South Africa. Her current research foci include various forms of social asymmetry and how these affect the mental health of individuals, groups and communities, as well as the professional training of psychologists for community intervention and therapeutic practice in the postapartheid era.

### **Clare Harvey**

Dr. Clare Harvey is a lecturer in the Department of Psychology, School of Human and Community Development, at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. She is also a practising clinical psychologist. For her doctorate, Dr. Harvey applied an intersubjective psychoanalytic lens to explore mothering in the face of childhood physical disability. Dr. Harvey's work has been published in leading local and international journals in the areas of disability and maternal studies. Dr. Harvey is interested in supervising qualitative doctoral research projects in the broad areas of disability, maternal studies, gender, marginalised identities and psychoanalysis. She is supportive of emerging scholarship and actively supports her students publishing and presenting their research.

### **Nicky Israel**

Dr Nicky Israel's research interests span a number of areas in cognitive, educational, and industrial/ organisational psychology. Specific topics of interest include: problem-solving and intelligence; innovation and creativity; teaching and learning (e.g. learning styles; motivation; factors affecting performance; academic development); graduateness; people in the workplace (e.g. work-family balance; employer attractiveness; workplace generations; OCB; CSR; job satisfaction; workplace performance); programme evaluation; research design; psychometrics and assessment; and general cognitive psychology.

### **Vinitha Jithoo**

Dr Vinitha Jithoo's research interests include Health psychology (including HIV and TB), Gender and identity, Marital & family systems, Child & adult psychopathology, Paediatric psycho-oncology. She has her PhD in Behavioural Medicine.

### **Peace Kiguwa**

Prof. Peace Kiguwa is currently lead researcher on the Ford Foundation funded project, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues amongst young women, focusing on diverse dimensions of relational identity construction with gendered and sexual identities and behaviour. She is also interested the social asymmetries of race, gender, class and sexuality as well as how social spaces are reconfigured relative to these identities. She would be interested to supervise qualitative research projects exploring questions related to diversity and identity construction; institutional identities and social space; race, gender, sexuality and their intersections in different spaces.

### **Sumaya Laher**

Prof. Sumaya Laher is a psychologist specializing in the field of psychological assessment. Her doctoral and subsequent research into personality, psychometrics and assessment is instrumental in pioneering the usage and interpretation of key instruments in South Africa. Prof Laher is the co-editor of "Psychological Assessment in South Africa: Research and Applications." She also contributes actively to research on indigenous knowledge systems with her work on traditional healing systems particularly those proposed by Islam, Hinduism and African approaches. Her work has been published in leading local and international journals in the field. Prof. Laher is supportive of emerging scholarship and plays an active role in getting students and staff to undertake and publish research. Prof Laher has projects in the area of personality assessment as well as in the area of cultural understandings of mental illness and would be open to discussing PhD topics in either of these areas. Prof. Laher is an NRF-rated researcher.

### **Malose Langa**

Prof. Malose Langa is an Associate Professor in the School of Community and Human Development, Psychology, at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. His research interests include risk-taking behaviours amongst the youth and their role in politics, substance abuse and addiction, trauma of collective violence and the psychology of men (masculinity) in post-apartheid South Africa. He is interested in supervising PhD students in the area of violence and masculinities.

### **Carol Long**

Prof. Carol Long is an Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand and a practicing clinical psychologist. She received her Master's degree from the University of Cape Town and her PhD from the University of Cambridge. She has been extensively involved in training clinical psychologists at Wits. She has published in local and international journals, including for example the International Journal of Psychoanalysis, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Psychoanalytic Psychology, Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society, Psychology of Women Quarterly and Feminism and Psychology. She has published a book entitled Contradicting maternity: HIVpositive motherhood in South Africa and is previous editor of

Psycho-analytic Psychotherapy in South Africa. Her recent publications include papers on psychoanalytic theory and practice, on motherhood and on the relationships between gender and race. She is interested in studies of identities, particularly marginalized identities, and in psychoanalytic theory as it relates to the practice of psychotherapy, to psychopathology and to the South African context.

### **Maria Marchetti-Mercer**

Prof. Maria Marchetti-Mercer holds an MA in Clinical Psychology and a D Litt et Phil in Psychology from the University of Johannesburg (previously RAU). She has been involved in the training of family therapists for over 20 years and her particular field of expertise is the Milan School of family therapy. She is an NRF-rated researcher. She has a particular interest in the professional development and identity of therapists in training and uses genograms and family sculpting in her work. Her areas of research are the professional training of clinical psychologists and family therapists, family murder and violence and most recently the impact of emigration on South African family life. Her recent research has focused on the use of technology in transnational families. She works mainly from a qualitative perspective.

### **Simangele Mayisela**

Dr Simangele Mayisela, is a Senior Lecturer and Educational Psychologist in the Department of Psychology, School of Human and Community Development, at the University of the Witwatersrand and a Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa, SSRC doctoral Fellow. She is currently lecturing Psychoanalytic psychotherapy and play therapy at Masters level and Cognitive Psychology at undergraduate level. She obtained her PhD from the University of Cape Town, through which she undertook to investigate inter- and intra- psychological processes involved in the perpetual manifestation of corporal punishment in South African schools. Her research interests are embedded in the appropriation of the Psychoanalytic and the Cultural Historical Activity Theory as epistemological frameworks in exploring nuances of intergenerational violence and trauma to understand dysfunctional psychological manifestations in children, adults and in marginalised communities. With her background in teacher education at the Wits School of Education, she has further interest in studies linked to educational psychology, inclusive education and research ethics.

### **Karen Milner**

Prof. Karen Milner's research interests are: Occupational health psychology, specifically workplace health promotion, employee wellbeing, stress and engagement. Social/societal innovation: Understanding methods and processes associated with social innovation.

### **Nkululeko Nkomo**

Dr Nkululeko Nkomo is a senior lecturer in the Department of Psychology. His areas of research interest are broadly in critical social and health psychology. He prefers supervising research projects pursuing questions of discourse, affect and lived experience in engagement and textually.

### **Michael Pitman**

Dr Michael Pitman has research interests that lie at the intersection between psychology, philosophy and neuroscience. He has published papers on consciousness, the philosophy of

psychopathology, psychoanalysis, free will, agency, and teaching and learning. His current research interests include: the philosophy of psychopathology (mind-brain relations in mental disorders, the nature of mental illness, DSM-5 changes and controversies); sensory sensitivity and differential susceptibility to environment; psychology of music (musical imagery, background music and cognitive performance, emotional responses to music); sound (ontology of sound, fundamental frequencies, auditory illusions); imagination (imagination in agency, imagination in cognition and development); epistemic cognition; and experiencesampling methodologies.

(ResearchGate Profile: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael\\_Pitman2](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Michael_Pitman2) ) researcher.

### **Andrew Thatcher**

Prof. Andrew Thatcher is Chair of Industrial/Organisational Psychology and PhD coordinator for the School of Human and Community Development. He is an NRF-rated researcher. His primary research interests are in the areas of psychological factors in the adoption and use of sustainable technologies (specifically social cognitive theory and affective design). He is also interested in supervising research projects that deal with human factors in sustainable development. Specific project details include affect in the design of sustainable technologies, assessing wellbeing and productivity in green buildings, and the theoretical development of human factors and sustainable development. Social Work

### **Social Work Department**

#### **Nkosiyazi Dube**

Dr Nkosiyazi Dube is a Mellon Scholar, a fellow in the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) and a lecturer in the Department of Social Work in the School of Human and Community Development at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg – South Africa. His research interests are in the broad field of Social Development, with a specific focus on Social Protection, Social Security – formal and informal, Youth and Development, Poverty alleviation strategies – Stokvels (ROSCAs), Children and HIV/AIDS, and Children in Residential Care Settings. He also has an interest in Informal Networks and Health Promotion.

#### **Priscilla Gerrand**

Dr Priscilla Gerrand is a social worker who obtained her undergraduate degree at the Nelson Mandela University, her MA degree (Community Development) at the University of Johannesburg and PhD degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has extensive experience working with children in need of care and protection. She engages in supervising research students on both an undergraduate and postgraduate level and regularly reviews research proposals for the Human Research Ethics Council (Medical) at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has published articles based on research findings in accredited scholarly journals. Her particular areas of interest relate to child adoption, child protection and social work intervention strategies on both a micro and macro level.

#### **Busisiwe Nkala-Dlamini**

Dr Busisiwe Nkala-Dlamini, has been involved in a number of HIV prevention studies, from vaccines to microbicides, with expertise in the effective establishment of community

engagements in new research sites. Passionate about teenage and adolescence (boys and girls) research and program development, which includes HIV management, sexual and reproductive health services, socio-behavioural research, parental involvement in teenagers' sexual and reproductive health issues, teenage pregnancy prevention and management. Her current work aims to translate the knowledge from her PhD on historical and socio-cultural factors' contribution to teenager sexual and reproductive health problems including services and families. She is involved in international collaborative interdisciplinary research projects investigating teenage and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and services.

### **Thobeka Nkomo**

Dr Thobeka Nkomo's research interests and supervision are in spirituality and health, ethics and values specifically related to culture competency and sensitivity, disabilities, HIV and AIDS. She is a registered social worker, and she joined the University of the Witwatersrand as a lecturer in 2015. Dr Nkomo teaches ethics and values, disability, coordinates field instruction, and she is involved in collaborative research projects. Prior to her appointment in the University of Witwatersrand, she worked and practiced as a social worker both in Public and Private sector. She is a registered member of the South African Association for Social Workers in Private Practice (SAASWIPP) and Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI). Thobeka Holds a PhD in Social work.

### **Roshini Pillay**

Dr Roshini Pillay is a lecturer in the Social Work Department at the University of the Witwatersrand. She was a member of the NRF Project of Emerging Technology (2012-2013) and a member of the NRF Project on Participatory Parity (2014-2016). Her research interests fall in the areas of meso practice/ group work, social work education and Occupational Social Work. I am interested in how students learn and how educators teach and facilitate. I am of the opinion that affect, plays a role in the teaching and learning process.

### **Edmarie Pretorius**

Prof. Edmarié Pretorius joined the University of the Witwatersrand in 2008 and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work. She holds a PhD and supervises honours, master and doctoral students. She teaches on under and postgraduate levels and coordinates the MA in Social Development. Since 2008 she has been involved in different collaborative research projects. Her research interests include social and community development, poverty, HIV and AIDS, management and supervision and social work in school settings.

### **Motlalepule Nathane-Taulela**

Dr Tlale Nathane-Taulela is a qualified Social Worker and Lecturer in the department of Social Work at the University of the Witwatersrand. She holds a PhD (Social Work) from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has extensive experience in working with community based organizations in the field of child protection; genderbased violence and youth development. Her research interests are fatherhood, father absence, female labour migration, female-headship, African perspectives of fatherhood and decolonization.

## **Speech and Audiology Department**

### **Kim Coutts**

Dr. Kim Coutts worked in the public health sector for 10 years. She was the HOD of the Speech Pathology and Audiology Department at Helen Joseph Hospital from 2008 to 2018. Her PhD, which she received in 2017, focused on the ecological validity of the different dysphagia assessment methods used in South Africa. Her main areas of research interests include adult dysphagia (practice patterns, decision making and food security), assessment and management of patients with tracheostomies including head and neck cancer as well as rehabilitation in the critical care settings. The primary focus of research is to ensure improved access to services and that it is contextually relevant.

### **Victor de Andrade**

Dr Victor de Andrade is an audiologist who lectures in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of the Witwatersrand, supervises students from the university on their clinical placements, and works in the University Speech and Hearing Clinic. He has published in scholarly journals and has presented at both national and international conferences. His particular areas of interest relate to socio-cultural and contextual aspects of deafness, auditory diagnosis and rehabilitation of deafness, noise in learning environments, and the phenomenology and experience of deafness, including thirdparty disability. Victor has worked in a variety of settings and contexts in South Africa and abroad.

### **Karin Joubert**

Dr Karin Joubert, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, has a background in Audiology (including Public Health Audiology), Augmentative Alternative Communication and Speech Therapy. Her primary research focus is in the area Public Health Audiology as it relates to the prevention, early identification and management of otologic and hearing problems across the lifespan. Specific areas of interest include: (i) the development of contextually-relevant health information material and training programmes on ear and hearing care; (ii) epidemiological studies on otologic and hearing problems in the rural areas of South Africa (including TB); (iii) prevention of ototoxicity in patients diagnosed with various strains of TB; and (iv) providing an evidence-based model for the inclusion of audiological services as part of integrated health, child and community care in South Africa.

### **Amisha Kanji**

Prof. Amisha Kanji is a Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research interests are within the field of paediatric audiology (with special interests in early hearing detection and intervention-EHDI and risk factors associated with newborn and infant hearing loss within developing countries). She also has an interest in electrophysiology as well as communication in audiology consultations.

### **Katijah Khoza-Shangase**

Prof. Katijah Khoza-Shangase is a Full Professor in Speech Pathology & Audiology with a focus on growing evidence around Preventive Audiology. Preventive healthcare, where preventive audiology is located, consists of measures taken for disease prevention. Hearing



function can be affected by a number of factors; including lifestyle choices, environmental factors, genetic predisposition, burden of disease, as well as other causes. Most often, hearing impairment can be prevented; and/or its consequences minimized through preventive measures. Such prevention requires carefully deliberated anticipatory actions that can be categorized as primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention (prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation). Prof. Khoza-Shangase's research focus "Preventive Audiology: An African Perspective", in line with the South African re-engineered primary healthcare strategy; aims to provide evidence-based perspectives grounded in an African context on preventive audiology, with a specific focus on primary and secondary prevention in audiology; with her own research and her students' research (at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels) covering the following areas:

- Recent advances in early detection assessment measures across the lifespan (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention-EHDI; Occupational Noise Induced Hearing Loss -ONIHL; Ototoxicity, Vestibulotoxicity, etc.)
- Audiological monitoring: ototoxicity and/or vestibulotoxicity
- Audiological intervention within preventive care
- Barriers and/or facilitators to preventive audiology
- Contextual factors influencing implementation of preventive audiology
- Monitoring and evaluation factors in preventive audiology
- Policy and legislation in the implementation of preventive audiology strategies
- Preventive audiology in culturally and linguistically diverse contexts. Prof. Khoza-Shangase's publications linked to this work continues to be the main audiological evidence from developing countries, and can be viewed here

<https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=YXYy8IIAAAJ&hl=en>

Prof Khoza-Shangase is ranked 2nd at Wits, 3rd in South Africa, 3rd in Africa, 3rd in BRICS, and 90th Globally on the 2023 World Scientist and University Rankings.

### **Khetsiwe Masuku**

Dr Khetsiwe Masuku is a Speech Language Pathologist and a lecturer in the department of Speech Pathology and Audiology in the School of Human and Community Development, University of Witwatersrand. Dr Masuku holds a PhD in Severe Disability and a Masters in Public Health. Her research interests include disability rights, specifically the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); policy studies; deafblindness; supporting caregivers of persons with disabilities; and experiences of persons living with stroke and aphasia.

### **Sharon Moonsamy**

Prof. Sharon Moonsamy is a Speech Language Pathologist and Audiologist, and an Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her professional experience is gained from varied contexts in the fields of health, education, private practice and higher education. Her cross-field research interests include: Speech Pathology/Education/Cognitive Psychology/Neuropsychology. The areas of language, cognition, literacy and learning in paediatric and adolescent individuals are her main focus, completing a doctorate at the University of the Witwatersrand, in these domains.

### **Nomfundo Moroe**

Dr Nomfundo Moroe's research interests include: Tinnitus, Deaf Culture studies, family dynamics and experiences of hearing children born to Deaf parents, Deafness and South African Sign Language, hearing loss and Deafness, occupational and environmental noise induced hearing loss, Deaf-blind population, role of audiologists in different sectors and provision of audiological services to learners with special educational needs.

### **Anniah Mupawose**

Dr Anniah Mupawose is a Speech Language Pathologist, and a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research interests are cognition, language and literacy - in pre-schoolers and school age children, and dyslexia. She has also conducted research in the area of HIV and AIDs in children and adults focusing on neurodevelopment, cognitive – linguistic abilities and perceptions pertaining to caring for individuals with HIV and AIDs. She has supervised research in the area of fluency disorders focusing on narratives from the perspectives of the individuals who stutter, employers and communication partners. Another area of interest is a holistic approach to investigating how self-esteem impacts upon academic performance.

### **Joanne Neille**

Dr Joanne Neille completed her PhD in 2013, which explored the lived experiences of adults with disabilities living in a rural area. Joanne's research interests involve the application of qualitative methodologies to study lived experience. She is particularly interested in the fields of adult and childhood disability; rural development and accessibility of healthcare, education and public services; and early intervention among children with neurological impairment.

### **Liepollo Ntlhakana**

My research interests include occupational audiology assessment and making such practices relevant to the South African context. My research interests include: audiometry medical surveillance programs; raising awareness for hearing healthcare in various occupational settings where noise is a problem, as well as in any other settings where excessive noise exposure is a risk factor; Epidemiology of occupational hearing loss; Efficiency of mhealth tools for the early identification of occupational hearing loss; Exploring teaching and learning methods at UG; Scholarship of teaching and learning for students in Institutions of Higher Learning.

### **Dhanashree Pillay**

Dr Dhanashree Pillay is an Audiologist who has worked in rural KZN and has been involved in the Red Cross Air Mercy Service outreach programs within Northern KZN. She is a board member of the PADI (People for the Awareness of Disability Issues) organisation in South Africa and she is a member of the Standards Division at the SABS (South African Bureau of Standards) where she is involved in the writing up of policies and procedures. Dr Pillay has published in scholarly journals and has presented at both national and international conferences. She is a reviewer for Speech Pathology and Audiology journals. Dr Pillay's research interests focus around the areas of: Amplification, Spirituality, Religion, Traditional beliefs and practices, Sports Medicine and Noise.

### **Ben Sebothoma**

Dr Ben Sebothoma is a lecturer in the department of speech pathology and audiology. His area of research interest include 1.) understanding middle ear mechanics, 2.) prevention, identification, and intervention of middle ear pathology across life span; 3.) and Educational audiology

### **Jaisheeka Seedat**

Dr Jaishika Seedat is a senior lecturer in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She completed her PhD in 2013, which explored knowledge translation in the area of dysphagia. She is particularly interested in evidence-based practice and conducting research that is relevant and feasible for resource-constrained contexts, hence knowledge translation. Her fields of interest include adults with dysphagia, neurological impairment and degenerative neurological conditions. Multi-disciplinary teamwork and inter-professional training and collaboration are also of interest.

### **Jennifer Watermeyer**

Prof. Jennifer Watermeyer is an Associate Professor in Speech Pathology and Audiology. Jennifer is the Director of the Health Communication Research Unit (HCRU) in the School. The HCRU is a multidisciplinary research group which aims to use interdisciplinary, qualitative research to address social, cultural and linguistic complexities of health, illness and disability. Jennifer's research focuses on interactional analysis of cross-cultural healthcare encounters, cultural understandings of illness, patient experiences of health care, interpreting practices in healthcare contexts, developing communication skills training programmes for healthcare teams, studying communication practices across a variety of health professional contexts (e.g. emergency medical calls, TB care, audiology consultations), and patient experiences of living with stroke and aphasia. Jennifer is an NRF Rated Researcher and has published widely both locally and internationally. The HCRU does not officially offer a PhD programme in Health Communication, although Jennifer is available to supervise/co-supervise topics across disciplines that align with the focus of the Unit.

<https://www.wits.ac.za/hcru/> <https://goo.gl/FCfctt>