

SSAG

Society of South African Geographers

Newsletter 2025/2026



SSAG NEWS 2025/26

SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

FOREWORD

It is with great pride and joy that I welcome you to this edition of the Society of South African Geographers Newsletter.

The past year has been marked by remarkable achievements across our institutions, with students and staff alike demonstrating the vitality and relevance of our discipline. From the awarding of fellowships and international scholarships, to the successful completion of innovative MSc and PhD projects, to the recognition of excellence in teaching and research, to the mobility of both academics and students making their mark at national and international conferences these accomplishments remind us that geography in South Africa is thriving.

In a world increasingly defined by complexity and uncertainty, our work as geographers has never been more significant. Whether through advancing knowledge on climate change, disaster risk governance, urban transitions, or the intricate relationships between people and environments, our community continues to show how geography matters in shaping just and sustainable futures. The accolades highlighted in this newsletter are not only individual milestones, but collective markers of the strength and resilience of our discipline.

I encourage you to use this newsletter as a bridge across our geographical and sub-disciplinary divides. Let it be a space where we celebrate one another, learn from diverse approaches, and remain connected. In doing so, we ensure that our Society continues to be relevant, dynamic, and united in its pursuit of knowledge and impact.

President: Prof Zarina Patel, University of Cape Town, Department of Geographical and Environmental Science.



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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Prof. Adeline Ngie (VC), Prof. Livhu Nemakonde (PC)

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Campus	Name (Title, Initial(s), Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
MC	Prof LG Palamuleni	Professor	Applied Remote Sensing and Water Resources Management	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1054-6942
MC	Dr N Ayob	Senior Lecturer	GIS, Severe Weather and Climatology	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9616-6395
MC	Dr SQ Dlamini	Lecturer	Climate Change, Environmental management and Sustainability	
MC	Dr JH Drummond	Senior Lecturer	Socio-economic and spatial legacies within the African context	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7741-1391
MC	Prof C Munyati	Associate Professor	Environmental analysis, vegetation analysis using remote sensing	
MC	Dr L Myeni	Senior Lecturer	Climatology	
MC	Miss NC Nkosi	Lecturer	air quality, geomorphology, water-borne diseases, climate change, science communication	
MC	Mrs. N Van Gessellen	Lecturer	Aquatic Ecosystem Health and marine ecotoxicology	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8910-4727
VC	Dr DFS Ah Goo	Senior Lecturer	Urban regeneration, urban informality, sustainable livelihoods	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2610-9368

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NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Campus	Name (Title, Initial(s), Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
VC	Dr MD Belelie	Senior Lecturer	Climate Change, Air Quality, and Earth Observation	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0795-5910
VC	Dr DS Boshoff	Senior Lecturer	Fire science and fire events	
VC	Dr ME Dlamini	Senior Lecturer	Freshwater ecosystem ecology, remote sensing, GIS	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1241-2283
VC	Mr. E Hoffmann	Lecturer	GIS, hydrology, environmental impact studies	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6668-5116
VC	Prof A Ngie	Subject Chair; Associate Professor	GIS and remote sensing application in agriculture and urban climates	0000-0002-6185-198X
PC	Prof RP Burger	Professor	Atmospheric science and climatology	0000-0002-4359-4588
PC	Prof DP Cilliers	Professor	Environmental management, conservation planning, Spatial analysis	0000-0001-9777-0463
PC	Prof C Coetzee	Associate Professor	Disaster risk studies, disaster resilience, disaster risk governance and urban disaster risk	0000-0002-6460-1126
PC	Dr TC De Klerk	Senior Lecturer	Geographical information systems	

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Campus	Name (Title, Initial(s), Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
PC	Dr H Havenga	Senior Lecturer	Anthropogenic impact on storms, ambient air pollution, climatology, remote sensing, GIS	0000-0002-9238-0295
PC	Dr B Language	Senior Lecturer	Physical geography, geomorphology, atmospheric science, air pollution, climate change	0000-0002-9942-7930
PC	Prof LD Nemakonde	Professor, Head of Department: geography and Environmental Science (Potchefstroom)	Disaster risk governance, climate change adaptation, systems thinking, community resilience	0000-0002-6290-6129
PC	Prof C Roos	Professor	Environmental management, waste management, protected areas	0000-0002-6290-6129
PC	Dr NP Sibiya	Lecturer	Climate change adaptation, community resilience, rural and urban livelihoods	0000-0003-2604-6659
PC	Prof D Van Niekerk	Professor	Disaster risk governance, resilience building, complexity and complexity theory, anticipatory governance, building institutional capacities for disaster risk reduction, transdisciplinary disaster risk reduction	0000-0002-4571-4205
PC	Prof SJ Piketh	Professor; Director: School For Geo- And Spatial Sciences	Atmospheric science	0000-0002-2804-879X

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NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

Exciting Departmental News

- The subject group is pleased to report several notable achievements over the past period.

- Prof Claudine Roos and Prof Dirk Cilliers have both been promoted to the rank of Full Professor. These promotions recognise their contributions in research, teaching, and academic leadership, and reflect positively on the department's scholarly standing.
- Prof. Roos also achieved her NRF C2-rating.
- Prof Livhu Namakonde was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, during which he spent time from June 2025 – January 2026 in the United States at Georgia State University in Atlanta. This achievement strengthens international academic collaboration and enhances the subject group's global visibility.
- Further demonstrating excellence in teaching and learning, Dr Nisa Ayob was awarded the University Excellence Award for Teaching in 2025. This recognition reflects a strong commitment to innovative, student-centred pedagogy and impactful higher educational practice. Building on this achievement, Dr Ayob has been selected to participate in the National Teaching Awards, representing both the department and the university at a national level.

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

PhD

Chikuse, S. (2025) 'Geospatial approach to local multi-hazard assessment in Malawi: Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts'. Supervisor: Prof Dewald Vann Niekerk

Masego M Motsumi (2025) 'A framework to integrate indigenous knowledge into disaster risk reduction for building disaster resilience in the Northern Cape, South Africa'. Supervisor: Prof LD Nemakonde

Harper, C. (2025) 'Exploring waste management behaviour in Namibian protected areas through the theory of planned behaviour'. Supervisor: Prof Claudine Roos

Masters

Erasmus (Cilliers), A. (2026) 'A Critical Evaluation of Waste Management Integration in Namibia's Protected Area Management Plan'. Supervisor: Prof D Cilliers

Ndou, B. (2026) 'Exploring landowners' perceptions on the implementation of Alien Invasive Species Regulations'. Supervisor: Prof D Cilliers

Grobler, D. (2025) 'Characterizing LULC changes observed in a selection of the South African National Parks' buffer zones' (CUM LAUDE).
Supervisor: Prof D Cilliers

Wadzi, D. (2025) 'Elephant Movement Ecology on Communal, Commercial and Protected Areas in the Kunene Region, Northwest
Namibia'. Supervisor: Prof D Cilliers & M Hauptfleisch

Broekman, C. (2025) 'Utilising GIS as a tool for anticipatory governance: Mapping current and future flood risk in the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality' Supervisors: Prof C Coetzee & Prof D Cilliers

Twalo, NL. (2025) 'Evaluating the challenges and opportunities for economic diversification in a just energy transition in South African municipalities. A case of Emalahleni local municipality' Supervisor: Mr. T Meyer & Prof D Cilliers

Verster, R. (2026) 'Characterising protected area buffer zones' . Supervisor: Prof F Retief, Prof R Alberts & Prof D. Cilliers

Ramokotjo, G. (2025) 'Quality review of integrated waste management plans within Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, South Africa'. Supervisor: Prof Claudine Roos

Baleni, N. (2025) 'Exploring stakeholder perceptions of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) for household solid waste management in the City of Cape Town'. Supervisor: Prof Claudine Roos

Nguse, N. (2025) 'Exploring challenges and opportunities towards improving landfill compliance in KwaZulu-Natal'. Supervisor: Prof Claudine Roos

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Hons

Dominque Straub has been nominated for the SSAG Honours Research Report Award for the research report, titled *Investigating the Meteorological Dispersal and Deposition of Soil Nematodes.*

The report was awarded a final mark of 86 out of 100, thereby achieving distinction. The decision to award this distinction was unanimous, reflecting strong agreement on the quality and academic merit of the work. The report was also externally moderated, having been assessed ensuring the credibility and rigor of the evaluation process. The student was nominated on the basis of the originality, interdisciplinary character, and applied relevance of the study. The report addresses an underexplored question at the interface of climatology, soil ecology, and agricultural geography: the role of meteorological conditions in the upliftment, transport, and deposition of soil nematodes.

The study combines ERA5 reanalysis data with extracted meteorological variables, including CAPE, horizontal wind speed, and vertical wind speed, to evaluate the atmospheric conditions associated with nematode upliftment over Potchefstroom and the North-West University research farm, Piennarskamp. This is strengthened by field-based funnel-trap sampling and soil extraction work, which grounds the atmospheric analysis in observed site conditions.

The report demonstrates strong conceptual integration, sound methodological design, and clear analytical reasoning. It identifies seasonal windows of greater upliftment potential, quantifies threshold wind conditions associated with transport, and situates the findings within wider questions of soil health, agricultural risk, and ecological dispersal. The work is notable for addressing a novel problem with both scientific and applied significance, and for doing so through a well-executed combination of atmospheric and environmental research methods.

Link to departmental website.

https://natural-sciences.nwu.ac.za/geography-environmental-management/staff

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SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

Geography Unit, Department of Physical and Earth Sciences

Head/Chair of Department: Prof N. Chaukura (Mr M. Djeco is the Academic Unit Leader for the Geography Unit)

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Initial(s), Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	OCID ID
Prof. Mohamed A. M Abd Elbasit	Associate Professor, Director of the Arid Water Research Centre	Hydrology, soil and conservation, remote sensing and GIS, photogrammetry, arid environments	0000-0003-4762-3355
Dr M. Manjoro	Senior Lecturer	Soil erosion, water-sediment interface, GIS/ Remote Sensing applications, and water and environmental quality	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3553-9394,
Dr T. Mafame	Lecturer	Urban, Rural Geography and Human Planning	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4626-9967
Mr M. Djeco	Lecturer	Geospatial Urban Planning	https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1420-7772,
Dr J. Hlatywayo	Lecturer	Environmental resources management, environmental impact assessment, disaster management, water management	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4216-5105
Dr I. Mugudamani	Lecturer	Environmental and water sciences; environmental geochemistry and health; environmental chemistry	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0405-7488
Mr. A. Masana	Geography Technician	GIS, Remote Sensing applications	
Mr. P. Zwane	Geography Technician	GIS/Remote sensing application and hydrology	

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SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

Geography Unit, Department of Physical and Earth Sciences

Exciting Departmental News

Ass. Prof. Mohamed A. M. Abd Elbasit has been appointed as the Director of the newly established Arid Region Water Research Centre at SPU. Information about PhD and postdoc opportunities in the centre for interested candidates, are available on the following web site **https://www.spu.ac.za/index.php/arid-region-water-research-centre/**

The first PhD and MSc programmes have been approved. Potential candidates can now apply.

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

The first MSc and PhD programmes were accredited in 2026, so there are no students as yet.

Information of interest for prospective students

Undergraduate

- Three-year BSc with Geography specialization
- Four-year Bachelor of Environmental Sciences (specialization in Waste Management or Conservation Ecology or Environmental Remediation

Postgraduate

BSc. Honours in Physical Sciences (Geography) MSc and PhD opportunities available in the following research themes:

- Water Scarcity analysis
- UAV for soil erosion quantification
- Rainfall erosivity
- Water quality monitoring and modelling
- Satellite-based agricultural and rangeland water use monitoring
- Environmental monitoring and modelling
- Geospatial urban planning and modelling
- Predictive models for urban growth and infrastructure to simulate planning scenarios and supporting data-driven decision-making for sustainable urban development.
- Sediment-water nexus in arid environments.
- Environmental monitoring associated with mining environments
- Environmental Pollution Monitoring and Exposure Risk Assessment.
- Urban Geochemistry and Environmental Health.
- Water Quality, Treatment, and Public Health.
- Waste Management and Environmental Remediation.
- Environmental Chemistry and Pollutant Dynamics.

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Link to departmental website.

None. However, information about Geography staff can be found on the Faculty web site:

https://www.spu.ac.za/index.php/faculty-of-nas-our-team/

SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Name of the Department: Department Of Geography and Environmental Studies
Head/Chair of the department: Prof Manfred Spocter

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Prof Ronnie Donaldson	Professor	Urban social geography and tourism studies, South African city structure and changes, Tourism landscapes in the countryside, Residential desegregation in SA cities	0000-0002-6710-0220
Prof Gustav Visser	Professor	Urban geography; Tourism geography	0000-0002-8521-4459
Prof Manfred Spocter	Associate Professor	Histories of South African geography, Small-town geographies; Geographies of security; Geographies of naming	0000-0002-4040-3168
Dr Jan De Waal	Senior Lecturer	Climate change; Flooding risk assessment; hydrology; ecosystem services; water management	0000-0001-8034-7538
Dr Suzanne Grenfell	Senior Lecturer	Processes of sediment transport in rivers and wetland; Processes of wetland formation; Quaternary sedimentology of wetlands; Impact of climatic variability and climate change on geomorphic processes; Geomorphology of estuaries and coastal wetlands	0000-0002-9563-9370
Dr Kenwinn Wiener	Lecturer	Fluvial sedimentology; Nutrient Biogeochemistry; Palaeoecology.	0000-0002-7594-9697
Prof Adriaan Van Niekerk	Professor and Director of CGA	GIT, Spatial decision support systems	0000-0002-5631-0206
Dr Jaco Kemp	Senior Lecturer	Earth observation; synthetic aperture radar; photogrammetry.	0000-0002-7954-2093

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STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

List of staff and their areas of specialisation.

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Dr Erio Mashimbye	Senior Lecturer	Remote Sensing Geoinformatics; Agronomy	0000-0001-8045-0500
Dr Zahn Munch	Senior Lecturer	GIS; Spatial decision-making.	0000-0003-0691-7920
Prof Curtis Bailey	Lecturer	Spatial–statistical modelling of environmental and socio-ecological systems across spatial scales.	0000-0002-2907-1668
Dr Kyle Loggenberg	Lecturer	High-dimensional data in precision agriculture; Crop water stress detection; Proximal remote sensing	0000-0002-4954-3642
Dr George Olivier	Lecturer	Tracing of sediment sources; Analysis hillslope erosion; Development of erosion monitoring tools.	0000-0002-0299-282X
Dr Danie du Plessis	Director of CRUISE/ Senior Lecturer	Urban planning systems; Urban transformation; Spatial analysis; Modelling of cities and urban systems	0000-0002-1956-9729
Dr Herman Geyer	CRUISE/ Lecturer	Complexity theory; Urban systems; Economic geography.	0000-0002-5291-6382
Prof Samukele Ngema	CRUISE/ Lecturer	Spatial analysis of integrated human settlements and urban crime.	0000-0002-5844-884X
Dr Lodene Willemse	CRUISE/ Lecturer	Urban and human geographer.	0009-0005-9242-1754
Mr Garth Stephenson	Manager: CGA, GIS & EO Analyst	Geospatial R&D project management; GIS & EO analysis.	
Ms Rebecca Light	Junior Project Facilitator	Project coordination, Disaster risk, Human geography, Urban geography.	

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List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Mr Bradley Davids	Junior Technical Officer, GIS & EO Operator	Systems administration, GIS operations.	
Mr Luke Booysen	GIS & EO Operator	GIS analysis, Earth observation.	
Mr Anwar Pistorius	GIS & EO Operator	GIS analysis, Earth observation.	

Exciting Departmental News

Student awards

The Department awards three prizes at the Honours level to top achievers:

Best BA Honours student – Janneke van der Steenhoven
Best BSc Honours student – Reah Anandray
Best overall Honours Research Project (WA Nieman Prize) - Janneke van der Steenhoven

Visiting researchers

A number of researchers and friends of the Department visited during 2025.

These include:

1. Prof Jarkko Saarinen - Oulu University (Finland)
2. Prof Marinus Otte – North Dakota State University (US)
3. Prof Michael Pretes - University of North Alabama (US).
4. Prof Gijsbert Hoogendoorn - University of Johannesburg (RSA)
5. Prof Magnfridur Juliusdottir - University of Iceland (Iceland)
6. Prof Jennifer Robinson - University College London (UK)
7. Dr Margot Rubin – Cardiff University (Wales)
8. Dr Adriaan van der Walt - University of the Free State (RSA)
9. Dr Laeticia Jacobs - National Department of Tourism (RSA)
10. Dr Lauren England – King's College (UK)

Coffee Talks

The Department also holds monthly Coffee Talks, an informal discussion with fellow staff members and research students concerning their latest research. A number of these events took place and can be viewed on the departmental social media channels.

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Exciting Departmental News

Social Media

The Department has an active social media footprint which features additional news, photos and many other events throughout the year. Follow our Facebook (Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Stellenbosch University | Stellenbosch | Facebook) or Instagram pages (@Geomaties|Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Stellenbosch University | Stellenbosch | Instagram) for the latest departmental updates.

Awards, Projects and Grants

Physical geographers in the department were awarded an Earth Systems Science Research Programme grant, one of the NRF's flagship research programmes that focusses on the interface between climate change and landscape processes. The research project, titled *South African Riverscapes at the Holocene–Anthropocene Transition* is a collaboration between scientists at the University of the Western Cape, the University of the Free State and the University of the Witwatersrand over the next three years.

Prof. Ronnie Donaldson is collaborating with Dr. Bongi Ndimande (University of Zululand), Musfiqah Majiet (University of the Western Cape), and colleagues from the Architecture Department at Hasselt University (Belgium) on an NRF-funded project examining the decline of cultural heritage in small towns and villages in South Africa and Belgium.

Prof. Donaldson is also collaborating with colleagues from Pecs University (Hungary), Qatar University, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar) on a Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation-funded project focused on reimagining rural spaces. This multidisciplinary initiative explores urban identity and cultural heritage in rural villages and small towns.

The Centre for Geographical Analysis

The Department houses the Centre for Geographical Analysis (CGA), a Type 1 Centre which provides a range of geospatial research, development, consulting and training services to the university, state entities and private industry. Recently completed work includes the National Water Use Quantification of Indigenous Forests Using Remotely Sensed Evapotranspiration Data project for the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa (WRC Report 3131/1/24)

Indigenous forests in South Africa are highly fragmented and diverse, which complicates their effective management. A need previously highlighted by the WRC was to better understand how environmental and topographic factors influence water use of trees at regional scales, particularly in regard to the impact of afforestation and deforestation on stream-flow reduction. This was addressed by using geospatial methods to improve indigenous forest types mapping, assisted by Prof Laco Mucina, and then extracted remotely, as well as among different plantation ages, remotely sensed evapotranspiration data per forest types under a range of environmental conditions (region, terrain morphology, soil and climate).

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Awards, Projects and Grants

This study was illustrated the value of using earth observation data in studying how water use varies among forest types, within the same forest type, regions, and over time. To our Knowledge, this finding is novel and a contribution to new knowledge.

This project builds on several similar projects for the WRC, including An Earth Observation Approach Towards Mapping Irrigated Areas and Quantifying Water Use by Irrigated Crops in South Africa (WRC Report TT 745/17) in 2018 and The Application of National Scale Remotely Sensed Evapotranspiration Estimates to Quantify Water Use and Difference Between Plantations in Commercial Forestry Regions of South Africa (WRC Report 2966/1/23) in 2023. Expanding this body of knowledge supports direct comparisons of water use between different land uses and improves methodological cost-effectiveness by incorporating remote sensing techniques.

GeoSmart and TerraClim

The Department, through the CGA, also acts as a commercial business incubator for various entities focused on spatial research, development and data creation. Two companies, GeoSmart and TerraClim, have been established to date through the Innovus Technology Transfer Office, utilising intellectual property developed within the Department.

Based on over a decade of research and development in terrain modelling, GeoSmart makes use of advanced space technologies such as earth observation and machine learning to provide cutting-edge geospatial and data-driven solutions to address the unique challenges of diverse industries. Their catalogue of products includes elevation data unmatched in South Africa in terms of resolution, accuracy and coverage: the 2 m Digital Elevation Model of South Africa (DEMSA2) and 5 m Stellenbosch University Digital Elevation Model of South Africa (SUDEM). GeoSmart consists of a team of three full-time staff, headed by Prof Adriaan van Niekerk.

TerraClim originated as an SA Wine (formerly Winetech) funded project in the CGA in 2018, and was established as a commercial entity in 2022. Based on workflows originally developed in the CGA, TerraClim acquires, standardised and cleans data from 1000+ weather stations around South Africa every day, which are integrated with high resolution elevation data (provided by GeoSmart) to model very-high-resolution climatic layers at a vineyard/orchard/field scale.

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Awards, Projects and Grants

The aim of TerraClim is to provide accurate, up-to-date climate data to aid farmers and the agricultural industry in seasonal (e.g. compliment phenology, canopy growth, ripening, yield development monitoring) and long-term decision-making (e.g. establishment of new vineyards/orchards/fieds). This data is disseminated to industry in a variety of products. TerraClim data packs and climatic reports have been developed for multiple wine producing areas in the Western Cape, including Hidden Valley, Paul Cluver, Bredekloof, Meerlust, Polkaidraai, Rupert and Rothschild, Lourensford, Ernie Els and others.

TerraClim has developed various online spatial decision support systems to deliver data to the industry through technology. One example, which has been adopted by Heineken Beverages South Africa, is the TerraClim Suitbility Tool. Client field and farm data is integrated into an online platform, which provides functionality to analyse climatic drivers of high-yield or top quality wine cultivars anywhere in South Africa.

In addition to SA Wine, TerraClim is an active presence elsewhere in the agricultural industry and research space, including engagements with SAWIS, Hortgro, Vinpro, PotatoesSA, Food for Mzanzi, SAMAC (Macadamias South Africa), Kiwi Connect, RasinsSA, the Agricultural Research Council and SU's Department of Viticulture and Oenology.

TerraClim consists of a team of fourteen full- and part-time staff, and is headed by former Departmental Postdoc, Dr Tara Southey.

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and their Supervisors

Surname	First name	Programme description	Supervisor
Molele	Annett	MA Geography and Environmental Studies	Prof. Donaldson
Cronje	Clarissa		Prof. Donaldson
Hickinbotham	Bryn		Dr Grenfell
Strydom	Jaime		Mr Bailey
Serfontein	Suzaan	MSc Geography and Environmental Studies	Dr Grenfell
West	Jonathan	MSc Geoinformatics	Prof. van Niekerk & Dr Southey
Kellerman	Rossouw		Drs Loggenberg & Kemp
Koegelenberg	Jurgen		Dr Kemp
Ngcobo	Siboniso		Drs Munch & Loggenberg & Mr Bailey
Loggenberg	Kyle	PhD Geoinformatics	Dr Munch
Maponya	Grace		Drs Mashimbye & Clarke
Ngcofe	Luncedo		Dr Kemp
Bessinger	Mariel		Dr Luck-Vogel
Kauki	Boniface	PhD Geography and Environmental Studies	Prof. Donaldson

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Information of interest for prospective students

Undergraduate

The human geography component of the Department explores human geography through world population dynamics, food resources, and the complex structures of global urbanisation. It examines the internal socio-economic fabric of cities, contrasting the global South and the global North while addressing housing, transportation, and post-apartheid South African transformation. Global environmental systems and resource depletion are analysed alongside tourism geography, highlighting ecotourism and sustainable destinations. Students engage with politico-geographical conflicts and practical mapping to understand the strategic development, cultural diversity, and pressing management challenges within our modern, urbanised world.

The environmental curriculum investigates climatic elements and atmospheric movement, focusing on South African weather phenomena like El Niño and droughts. It emphasises data analysis, synoptic maps, and environmental risks such as acid mine drainage. Additionally, it explores geomorphological changes in arid and coastal zones, alongside the physical processes of southern African rivers. Students examine human impacts on water resources and pollution, ultimately mastering environmental impact assessments and strategic management policies.

The Department provides a comprehensive foundation in geoinformation science and cartography, fostering essential spatial awareness to identify patterns across physical and urban landscapes. Students explore diverse data collection methods, including digital photogrammetry, remote sensing, and global navigation satellite systems, while mastering complex data modelling techniques like raster, vector, and topology.

The curriculum delves into the electromagnetic spectrum and satellite imagery, emphasising image enhancement, supervised classification, and accuracy assessment. Furthermore, the undergraduate course covers the technical intricacies of GIT processes, such as coordinate systems, map projections, and geodatabase management. By integrating spatial analytical operations, Geostatistics, and cartographic modelling, the programme prepares future geospatial data scientists to solve real-world problems. Ultimately, this module cultivates professional belonging by bridging the gap between theoretical earth observation principles and practical GIT applications, ensuring practitioners can navigate data quality standards, metadata, and modern workflows within the evolving field of geoinformatics and environmental geography.

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Information of interest for prospective students

Postgraduate

This post-graduate offerings focuses on the systematic study and resolution of human-environmental problems, urban/tourism phenomena, and spatial analysis using advanced GIT, remote sensing, and environmental modelling techniques. It covers diverse geographical disciplines, including physical, social, and urban geography, aimed at managing resources and addressing complex spatial challenges.

The urban and regional planning and GIT programmes offer pathways accredited by the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) or designed to meet the South African Geomatics Council requirements for registration as a Professional GISc Practitioner, respectively. These tracks blend rigorous academic theory with practical application, including coursework and substantial research components.

Candidates complete the post-graduate offerings by conducting independent, approved research to produce a dissertation, which can be pursued on a full-time or part-time basis. This structure prepares students for professional registration and roles in various fields of employment.

Link to departmental webpage:

https://www.su.ac.za/en/faculties/arts/departments/geography

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Department of Environmental and Geographical Science

Head/Chair of Department: Associate Professor Pippin Anderson

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Associate Professor Anderson, P.	Biogeography; landscape ecology; urban ecology; restoration ecology; social-ecological systems	0000 0003 3716 1206
Professor Eckardt, F.	Drylands; aerosols; deserts; geomorphology; remote sensing	0000 0003 0200 7110
Professor Hewitson, B.	Climate modeling; climate change; analysis methodologies	0000 0001 7546 4430
Professor New, M.	Climate change detection; climate processes; climate scenarios; impacts and adaptation	0000 0001 6082 8879
Professor Ramutsindela, M.	Borders; regions; land reform; transfrontier conservation	0000 0003 0918 5892
Professor Wynberg, R.	SARChI Research Chair in Bioeconomy; bio-politics and the biodiversity-based economy; social and environmental justice; agroecology; sustainable agricultural futures	0000 0002 2984 9759
Associate Professor Battersby, J.	Urban food security and nutrition; food systems governance	0000 0002 8045 1295
Associate Professor Patel, Z.	Sustainable cities; urban governance; urban knowledge(s); transdisciplinary theory and practice	0000 0002 5986 5653

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Dr Mbatha, P.	Marine and coastal governance research	0000 0001 7505 0330
Dr Sabela-Rikhotso, P.	Disaster risk science; environmental management	0000 0001 7852 8356
Dr Scheba, S.	Urban socio-material struggles; emancipatory futures	0000 0001 6856 9103
Dr von Holdt, J.	Air quality; urban and mining-affected areas; landscape change; soil formation and degradation	0000 0003 1303 6208
Dr Matikinca, P.	Climate change-driven variability in coastal carbonate chemistry (ocean acidification); climate change and social-ecological systems; climate adaptation	0000 0001 6317 4911
Dr Norton, M.	Environmental anthropology; marine governance	0000 0001 8672 3469
Ntombini, K.	Land reform in South Africa; property relations in Southern Africa post-1994; South Africa's agricultural history and transformation; South Africa's wine industry	0000 0002 1234 9205
Professor Abiodun, B.	SARChI Chair in Ocean and Atmospheric Modelling; Climate modelling	0000 0002 3878 0116
Professor Ziervogel, G.	ACDI Director; adaptation and vulnerability to global environmental change	0000 0003 4219 6809
Associate Professor Daya, S.	Director: Umthombo Centre for Student Success; food and ethics; cultural representations of cities in the Global South	0000 0002 4030 045X
Dr Greyling, S.	Urban governance; digitalisation and datafication practices; citizen-state encounters; temporalities of urban change	0000 0002 4348 627X

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Exciting Departmental News

Zarina Patel was inaugurated as a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (MASSAf) on the 30th October 2025 (See UCT News)

UCT through the SARCHI Bioeconomy Research Chair won the bid to lead a 4-year EU funded project comprising 8 partners and 5 southern African countries - the Research for Agroecology Network Southern Africa (RAENS) – a broad multi-actor research and learning initiative that connects researchers, educators and practitioners working to advance agroecology across the region.

PhD student Morgan Lee was awarded 3rd place in the National 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition held at the University of the Free State for her presentation titled: 'Locked-in:The Hidden Barriers to Sustainable Agriculture'.

At the 2025 conference of the Agriculture, Food & Human Values and Association for the Study of Food & Society, postdoctoral fellow Dr Brittany Kesselman received the 2025 Food, Culture & Society journal award for her piece "Transforming South Africa's unjust food system: an argument for decolonization".

UCT co-hosted (with UWC) the first national workshop of the Black Geographies Collective (https://science.uct.ac.za/department-egs/articles/2025-08-07-reimagining-geography-south-reflections-inaugural-black-geographies-collective-workshop)

EGS students won the best Honours student presentation (Philip Beynon) and Best Scientific Presentation (Dr Bavisha Koovarjee) at the National Association of Clean Air (NACA) Conference (https://science.uct.ac.za/department-egs/articles/2025-10-15-egs-researchers-shine-2025-naca-conference).

Professor Mark New was awarded the Mathieu Rouault Medal by the South African Society for Atmospheric Sciences (SASAS) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to climate and atmospheric sciences in Africa (https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2025-12-04-prof-mark-new-awarded-mathieu-rouault-medal).

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Supervisor	Thesis title
Dwayne Fernandes	Master of Science in Environmental & Geographical Science	Dr Piotr Wolski	Evaluation of future meteorological and hydrological drought in the Rufiji Basin
Takalani Rabakali	Master of Science in Climate Change & Development	Prof Mark New; Dr James Cullis	Assessing the sensitivity to climate change of the Berg River Voëlvlei Abstraction System, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Phumudzo Ragimana	Master of Science in Environment, Society & Sustainability (Dissertation with Distinction)	Dr Petra Holden; Prof Sheona Shackleton; Lutendo Mugwedi	Differentiated use and value of river and riparian ecosystem services and local perspectives on future safeguarding: A case study of the upper Mutale sub-catchment, Limpopo River Basin, South Africa
Natalie Murape	Master of Science in Climate Change & Development	Prof Mark New	Assessing the processes of determining adaptation finance needs: A comparative study of African NDCs
Gonzalo Hess Duran	Master of Science in Climate Change & Development	Dr Anna Taylor	Leadership strategies employed in the public sector for promoting urban climate transition: The case of Cape Town, South Africa

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Supervisor	Thesis title
Elana Scott	Master of Philosophy in Environment, Society & Sustainability	Dr Johanna von Holdt; Jennifer Broadhurst	Investigating the role of corporate social responsibility in post-closure gold mining strategies and the impacts on host communities and ecosystems in South Africa
Dineo Mogotsi	Master of Philosophy in Urban Studies	Associate Prof Warren Smit	'Sho't Left': Understanding the factors influencing public transportation mode choice with a focus on minibus taxis and MyCiTi in Dunoon, Cape Town
Emma Gelb	Master of Science in Environment, Society & Sustainability	Dr Marieke Norton; Dr Debbie Sparks	Climate change and tourism: The level of preparedness of tourism operators to the threat of climate change in the Greater Kruger area
Ngoia Lemos	Master of Philosophy in Environment, Society & Sustainability	Dr Phindile Sabela-Rhikotso	Investigating the capacity of cities to manage urban flooding disasters: A case study of Sumbe, Angola
Lwandile Lubobo	Master of Science in Environment, Society & Sustainability	Emeritus Prof Kevin Winter	Analysis of nature-based treatment of surface water runoff from an informal settlement t irrigate vegetables

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Supervisor	Thesis title
Karabelo Majela	Master of Science in Environmental & Geographical Science	Dr Johanna von Holdt; Dr Mbalenhle Mpanza	Investigating strategies for involving host mining communities in mine closure planning: Integrated stakeholder engagement in the West Rand, South Africa
Leah Ord-Armstrong	Master of Philosophy in Environment, Society & Sustainability	Dr Olivier Crespo	Investigating tagasaste's potential for agricultural climate mitigation and adaptation within the context of South Africa
Jody Thorburn	Master of Science in Climate Change & Development (with Distinction)	Prof Mark New; Prof Lara Dugas; Michaela Deglon	Attribution of anthropogenic climate change contribution to heat-humidity stress in low-income homes, Khayelitsha, Cape Town
Jana Basson	Master of Science in Climate Change & Development (Coursework with Distinction)	Dr Marieke Norton	Public perceptions of the ocean: A survey study in Kalk Bay, South Africa
Kamogelo Modimola	Master of Science in Environmental & Geographical Science	Associate Prof Pippin Anderson; Mashudu Nndanduleni	The relationship between soil seedbank and post-burn germination and testing the use of smoke treatment on critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos at Tokai Park, Table Mountain National Park, Cape Town

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Supervisor	Thesis title
Anna Whelan	Master of Philosophy in Climate Change & Development (with Distinction)	Dr Britta Rennkamp	Representation, advocacy and justice – the role of civil society organisations in South African climate governance
Thusego Setswammung	Master of Science in Climate Change & Development (Coursework with Distinction)	Dr Piotr Wolski	Projected hydro-climatological conditions of Gaborone Dam catchment area: Assessing Gaborone's water vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change up to 2090
Sofia Aguilar Flaschka	Master of Philosophy in Environment, Society & Sustainability (with Distinction)	Associate Prof Kirsty Carden	Understanding capacities for water resilience in Mexico City
Shannon Weaver	Master of Philosophy in Environmental & Geographical Science	Dr Jane Battersby	Hunger meets healthcare: Investigating the barriers to public healthcare access for food insecure patients in a low-resourced Cape Town suburb
Tamika Du-Pont	Master of Philosophy in Climate Change & Development (Dissertation with Distinction)	Dr Britta Rennkamp; Dr Marieke Norton	Exploring enablers and barriers to student engagement in university transitions in Africa: A case study of the University of Cape Town

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Supervisor	Thesis title
Tatiana Iversson Piazza	Master of Science in Environmental & Geographical Science	Emeritus Prof Merle Sowman	The role of women in the small-scale fishery sector in South Africa: The case of St Helena Bay
PhD Students			
Willem Stefaan Conradie	PhD		Mechanisms of observed spatial heterogeneity in rainfall variability over the Winter Rainfall Zone of South Africa
Alice Patricia McClure	PhD		Exploring the role of transdisciplinarity for expansive learning to navigate complex African urban climate risks
Ayodeji Steve Adesuyi	PhD		Regional dust emission thresholds from croplands in central South Africa

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Information of Interest for Prospective Students

The EGS department has been revising its undergraduate curriculum to work towards stronger integration of the physical, environmental and social aspects of our discipline with our courses. In 2025 the Department introduced a new first year course (EGS1007S Human and Physical Systems) which "presents fundamental environmental and geographical concepts from the fields of human and physical geography and explores the interconnections, flows and boundaries across these systems".

In 2026 our new second year curriculum was launched with two new integrated courses (EGS2016F Geographies Across Space and EGS2017S Geographies Across Time).

Link to Departmental Webpage

https://science.uct.ac.za/department-egs

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies

Head/Chair of the Department: Prof Thea Schoeman

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of Specialisation	ORCID
Prof. Clare Kelso	Climate and environmental history; rural livelihood vulnerability and sustainability	0000-0002-2206-9848
Prof. Thea Schoeman	Informal sector in waste management; recycling behaviour; e-waste; waste management; geography education	0000-0002-5831-4550
Ms Savannalee Hodgkinson	Pro-environmental practices	0000-0002-7812-1369
Ms Mulalo Rabumbulu	Quaternary geomorphology and applied environmental geomorphology in Southern Africa	0000-0002-2888-005X
Dr Bopaki Phogole	Environmental epidemiology; human–nature interactions; political ecology of energy	0000-0002-0872-6469
Prof. Gijsbert Hoogendoorn	Tourism geography	0000-0001-7969-7952

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UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

List of staff and their areas of specialisation.

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of Specialisation	ORCID
Dr Mahlatse Kganyago	Machine learning applications; image analysis; spectral analysis; land-cover/use mapping; retrieval of crop biophysical and biochemical variables; statistical and spatial modelling of landscapes	0000-0001-9553-0378
Prof. Solomon Tesfamichael	Applications of GIS and remote sensing to environmental and geographical resource assessment	0000-0001-9377-8193
Prof. Walter Musakwa	Conservation planning; human–nature relationships; ecosystem services; climate change; indigenous knowledge systems; sustainable development; livelihoods	0000-0003-2173-0072
Prof. Isaac Rampedi	Environmental assessments; environmental quality; sustainability of municipal solid waste management and recycling	0000-0002-1868-8486
Prof. Christopher (Chris) Curtis	Environmental change in aquatic systems	0000-0002-6597-2172
Prof. Lee-Ann Modley	Environmental management; sustainability; water resources	0000-0002-1224-0410

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List of staff and their areas of specialisation.

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of Specialisation	ORCID
Prof. Kristy Langerman	Environmental aspects of energy and air quality	0000-0003-0936-2051
Prof. Innocent Sinthumule	Transfrontier conservation; environmental conservation and society; border studies; land reform; political ecology; traditional ecological knowledge	0000-0003-0749-5782
Dr William Mushawemhuka	Climate change adaptation; biometeorology; assessment of heat stress in social spaces	0000-0002-3816-4575
Ms Lara Stockigt	Convergence of tourism and climate change	0000-0002-6383-1069
Ms Lindokuhle Mbokane	Environmental sustainability	0000-0002-0723-2459
Ms Inge Salo-Prins	People's experiences of living and working in cities using ethnographic research methods	No ORCID available

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Exciting Departmental News

Prof. Innocent Sinthumule published a book entitled 'Politics of land and conservation in the Dongola-Mapungubwe area'. The book was published in 2026 by Palgrave McMillan. This book brings together past and present empirical materials to examine the connections between past politics of land and conservation and contemporary land and natural resource conservation struggles in the Mapungubwe region, contending that addressing South Africa's vexed present requires fuller reckoning with its past.

Prof. Hoogendoorn and Senior Research Fellows, **Dr Hammett** and **Dr Masutha**, published a piece in the Conversation Africa.

The Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies **(GEMES)** offered a training and subject knowledge enhancement opportunity for Educators involved in the teaching of Geography at Matric level in the various high schools in the Moretele Local Education School Circuit. Staff members who offered lectures and represented GEMES department: Ms Mulalo Rabumbulu; Prof. Thea Schoeman, Prof. Tesfamichael, and Prof. Rampedi. GEMES department is gratefully acknowledged for the financial support in this school outreach initiative.

Prof. Thea Schoeman was interviewed by **Womanity-Women in Unity** on her career as an educator, researcher and women and how she ended up doing research in waste management.

The Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies at the University of Johannesburg was truly honoured to host the 2025 Student Conference on behalf of the Society of South African Geographers (SSAG). Over the three-day conference, we welcomed 264 delegates, both in person and online, representing 17 universities across South Africa. A total of 212 papers were presented through 38 vibrant sessions, showcasing the depth and diversity of student research in geography and related disciplines. The programme was enriched by two impactful keynote addresses, an engaging gala dinner, and post-conference field excursions that brought academic learning into real-world contexts. It was a privilege to create this space for students to present their work, connect with peers, and engage with the broader academic community. The energy, insights, and networks built here will no doubt continue to shape their journeys as future geographers

Phetoho Rasebechele, a PhD student in the University of Johannesburg's Department of Geography, Environmental Management, and Energy Studies, participated in the U21 School for Sustainable Policy Leadership program held at Lund University in Sweden. Collaborating with other PhD and Master's students from various universities worldwide, both from developing and developed countries, the program offered insights from leading policy experts. During the program, Phetoho led a team of four participants, out of a total of eight, in tackling a sustainability challenge. Their project won first prize and has the potential for real-world implementation.

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Exciting Departmental News

Prof. Isaac Rampedi has recently been invited to participate as an official member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) in the National Waste Management Strategy Review Project. The project involves a multisectoral review of the 2020 South African National Waste Management Strategy by the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

Dr Mahlatse Kganyago was a finalist in NSTF categories TW-Kambule Emerging Researcher Award and Agricultural Research Council Award.

Prof. Lee-Ann Modley was nominated in the Science Communication category by Triple E Awards — a global initiative that recognises outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship and community engagement in higher education. These awards highlight the evolving role of universities beyond teaching and research, celebrating impactful work in societal development.

Prof. Hoogendoorn, Prof. Sinthumule and Visiting Distinguish **Professor Bram Büscher** were awarded a grant from the Hering Stiftung (Germany) amounting to R4.2 million to support a three-year research project entitled Building Commons in the Eastern Cape Province.

Phetoho Rasebechele, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies, was awarded first place in the Municipal Energy Leadership Award at the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) Energy Awards 2026.

To enhance the professional competencies of secondary school educators, the Department of Geography, Environmental Management & Energy Studies in the Faculty of Science, developed a series of specialised short learning programmes (SLPs). Throughout 2025, four distinct SLPs were successfully offered, focusing on critical pedagogical areas: Mapwork, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Climatology, and Geomorphology. Participating teachers were awarded their official certificates at a formal graduation ceremony held at the UJ Auditorium.
A total of 142 teachers successfully fulfilled all criteria to complete the SLPs, with over a quarter (25.3%) of the cohort attaining distinctions in their respective fields of study.(https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-upskills-gauteng-geography-teachers-to-deliver-long-term-classroom-impact/)

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Moletsane, Moses	Master's	Career opportunities, perceptions and experiences of safari guides in the Kruger National Park, South Africa.	Prof. Clare Kelso; Co-supervisor: Prof. Julia Giddy (UJ)
Mzileni, Thokozani	Master's	Investigating sustainable options for end-of-life lithium-ion batteries in the South African context.	Prof. Thea Schoeman
Mazibuko, Ntombifuthi	Master's	An evaluation of the impact of energy poverty on students' educational well-being: A case of high school learners based in Soweto.	Prof. Thea Schoeman
Moyo, Tlhalefo	Master's	An evaluation of e-waste management practices in selected North West district municipalities, South Africa.	Prof. Isaac Rampedi; Co-supervisor: Prof. Thea Schoeman
Skalistiri Piki, D.	Master's	Consumers' sustainable food choices assessment: Comparing South Africa and Greece.	Prof. Thea Schoeman
Baloyi, Marvelous	Master's	Integrating indigenous and scientific knowledge to improve climate change adaptation strategies: Hlanganani South Circuit farmers' perspectives.	Ms Mulalo Rabumbulu

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Mathoho Murunwa	Master's	The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in the Uses and Conservation of Threatened Medicinal Plants: A case of Securidaca long pedunculata Frese in Thabazimbi Municipality, South Africa.	Prof. Kowiyou Yessoufou; Co-supervisor: Dr Bopaki Phogole
Ngamile, Sinesipho	Master's	Determining the sensitivity of Sentinel-2 data for mapping the spatiotemporal trends of water quality parameters in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, South Africa.	Dr Mahlatse Kganyago; Sabelo Madonsela (CSIR)
Molema, Talya	Master's	Monitoring wildfires in a Grassland Biome using RADAR and optical remote sensing – Mangaung Municipality, Free State.	Prof. Solomon Tesfamichael
Sokhela, Nontembiso	Master's	Assessment of the impacts of coal mining on vegetation and land degradation using GIS and Remote Sensing tools.	Prof. Walter Musakwa
Madlabane, Sibusiso	Master's	Understanding Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) in the City of Tshwane.	Prof. K. Yessoufou; Co-supervisor: Dr B. Phogole
Maluleke, Florence	Master's	The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on electricity generation load and emissions from coal-fired power stations in South Africa.	Prof. K. Yessoufou

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Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Mamabolo, Matlaleng	Master's	Contamination of groundwater by leachate plumes from coal fly ash: Matimba power station ash dump.	Prof. Chris Curtis
Matsokane, King	Master's	Advancing Invasive Species Mapping: A Multi-Sensor Remote Sensing Approach for Acacia Species in Cape Town.	Prof. Solomon Tesfamichael
Mbokane, Lindokuhle	Master's	Green Finance in South African Green Buildings: The Role of Financial Institutions.	Prof. L. Modley; Dr K. Ntakana; Mrs M.W. Reinink
Morutse, Nomfundo	Master's	Applying a spatially explicit model for assessing sediment retention and water supply and linking them to human well-being.	Prof. Walter Musakwa; Co-supervisor: Prof. L. Modley
Malatsi, Cynthia	Master's	Assessment of factors contributing to non-compliance with landfill permit conditions in the City of Tshwane.	Prof. Thea Schoeman
Maluleke, Janet	Master's	Benefits of wetlands and attitudes of peri-urban versus rural dwellers towards wetland conservation.	Prof. N.I. Sinthumule

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Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Moekela, Valery	Master's	Integrating Indigenous and local-based knowledge for drought monitoring with other knowledge systems to enhance small-holder farming.	Prof. Walter Musakwa; Co-supervisor: Dr N. Chanza
Phunge, Muwanwa	Master's	Designing a sustainable urban ecological restoration model using water quality and land use land cover change data in the Klip River, South Africa.	Prof. L.S. Modley; Co-supervisor: Dr D. Inos
Zozo, Nthabeleng	Master's	The contribution and challenges of wetlands to local community advancement: Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe.	Prof. Walter Musakwa; Co-supervisor: Prof. K. Gugerell
Ntuli, Bhekani	Master's	Techno-economic assessment for the adoption of battery electric buses: City of Johannesburg Metrobus fleet.	Prof. Kristy Langerman; Dr Francisco Posada
Senoamadi, Winnie	Master's	Life cycle assessment of battery electric buses in the City of Johannesburg.	Prof. Kristy Langerman
Kgasago, Thato	Master's	The impacts of load-shedding on energy stacking practices and energy poverty in households in Johannesburg.	Prof. Kristy Langerman

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Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Masilela, Ngcebo	Master's	A historical analysis of tourism development in Eswatini using Butler's Tourism Area Life Cycle.	Prof. G. Hoogendoorn; Co-supervisor: Prof. G. Visser
Moepi, Elizabeth	Master's	Understanding energy experts' perspectives of Eskom's unbundling project in South Africa.	Prof. K. Yessoufou
Motswagosele, Shirley	Master's	The solar system's effectiveness amidst constant power outages and high electricity tariffs in Gauteng.	Prof. K. Yessoufou
Kaka, Karabo	Master's	Evaluation of incentives for private investors to fund ecological restoration projects.	Prof. L.S. Modley; Co-supervisor: Mr J. Mahabir
Kandolo, Bahati	Master's	Using artificial intelligence to predict the conservation status of vascular plants in South Africa.	Prof. K. Yessoufou
Zungu, Lindokuhle	Master's	The role of informal waste pickers and their working arrangements in the City of Johannesburg.	Prof. I.T. Rampedi; Co-supervisor: Dr V. Ndou

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Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Hlatshwayo, Sphamandla	Master's	Linking nitrogen dioxide column density to socio-environmental variables using spatial analysis in South Africa.	Prof. S.G. Tesfamichael; Co-supervisor: Dr M.L. Kganyago
Luthuli, Minenhle	Master's	Investigating Independent Environmental Control Officers' audit reports on selected water infrastructure projects in South Africa.	Prof. K. Yessoufou
Moeti, Thabiso	Master's	Spatial accessibility of public healthcare facilities: City of Tshwane, South Africa.	Prof. S.G. Tesfamichael; Co-supervisor: Dr T. Mokhele
Rachuene, Kgwane	Master's	Perceptions, participation and socio-economic impacts of community-based ecological restoration.	Prof. L.S. Modley
Van Heyde, Kyle	PhD	Macro-plastic pollution within the Jukskei-Hennops-Crocodile River system: Identification, quantification and perceptions.	Prof. Chris Curtis; Co-supervisor: Prof. Thea Schoeman
Sameera Ismail	PhD	Environmental impacts of second home tourism in coastal areas: North Coast, KwaZulu-Natal.	Prof. Gijsbert Hoogendoorn

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Masters and Doctoral Graduations and Supervisors

Student	Degree	Title	Supervisor(s)
Maleka, Tebogo	PhD	Quantification, Particle Analysis and Identification of Microplastics in Wastewater Treatment Plants in Gauteng's Municipalities: A Critical Analysis.	Prof. L.S. Modley; Co-supervisors: Prof. R. Greenfield; Dr S. Muniyasamy (CSIR)
Rapholo, Maropene	PhD	Environmental Impacts and Perceptions of Illegal River Sand Mining: Susceptible River Catchments in Limpopo Province, South Africa.	Prof. I.T. Rampedi; Co-supervisor: Prof. F. Sengani (University of Limpopo)
Malapane, Olgah	PhD	Indigenous knowledge systems, ecosystem services and human wellbeing linkages within the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.	Prof. Walter Musakwa; Co-supervisor: Dr N. Chanza
Mufungizi, Andisa	PhD	Characterising the Nature and Implications of Shifting Ecosystems under Climate Change: A Study of Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.	Prof. Walter Musakwa; Co-supervisor: Dr N. Chanza
Peter, Sinethemba	PhD	Understanding the sustainability impact of clean technologies in low-income residential areas: The case of solar water heaters in Dimbaza township, South Africa.	Supervisors: Dr N. Kambule; Prof. K. Yessoufou; Co-supervisor: Prof. S. Tangwe (Cape Peninsula University of Technology)

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Information of Interest for Prospective Students

Undergraduate

The Department of Geography, Environmental Management & Energy Studies at the University of Johannesburg offers interdisciplinary BSc programmes designed to address pressing global environmental challenges. Each programme combines two complementary fields as majors, equipping students with integrated knowledge and practical skills.

- BSc (Life and Environmental Sciences in Geography and Environmental Management)
- BSc (Life and Environmental Sciences in Geography and Zoology)
- BSc (Life and Environmental Sciences in Geography and Geology)
- BSc (Life and Environmental Sciences in Geology and Environmental Management)
- BSc (Life and Environmental Sciences in Environmental Management and Zoology)
- BSc Extended in Life and Environmental Sciences
- There is also the BA Geography

Postgraduate

Honours

•Geography Honours Programme Information
•Energy Studies Honours Programme Information

Masters

•Master's Dissertation
•Masters Environmental Management
•Master's Energy
•Energy Studies Masters and Doctorate Application

Doctorate

• Doctorate Geography
• Doctorate Environmental Management
• Doctorate Energy Studies
• Energy Studies Masters and Doctorate Application

Short Learning Programme

• Risks and Socio-Environmental Sustainability (RSES) | NQF: | Credits | Course Coordinator: Prof. Lee-Ann Modley (Dr Bopaki Phogole, Course administrator: bopakip@uj.ac.za)

• Certificate in Geo-Informatics 1: GIS (S2GISQ) | NQF: 8 | 30 Credits | Course coordinator: Prof Solomon G. Tesfamichael (sgtesfamichael@uj.ac.za)

• Certificate in Geo-Informatics 2: Remote sensing (S2RSEQ) | NQF: 8 | 30 Credits | Course coordinator: Prof Solomon G. Tesfamichael (sgtesfamichael@uj.ac.za)

• Short Learning Programme in Applied GIS and Remote Sensing | NQF: 5 | 5 days | Prof S. G. Tesfamichael (sgtesfamichael@uj.ac.za)

Link to departmental website.

https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/science/departments-2/geography-environmental-management-energy-studies/

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The Department of Geography

Head/Chair of department: Prof Micheal Gebreslasie

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Staff member	Specialisation	ORCID ID
Prof Jemma M. Finch	Biogeography and Palaeoecology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6678-6910
Dr Ntombifuthi Nzimande	Green campus, waste management, natural disasters	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1218-2166
Dr Ahmed Fathima	Environmental management& policy, coastal zone management, and environmental conflicts	N/A
Dr Bass Orli	Human Geography	N/A
Dr Desai Sumaiya	Rural development, Land tenure issues, and Urban Issues	N/A
Prof Gebreslasie Michael	GIS and Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7015-6906
Prof Hill Trevor	Biogeography	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7015-6906
Mr Hlatshwayo Sizwe	GIS and Remote Sensing	N/A
Dr Pillay Srinivasan	Physical geography, water quality,	N/A
Dr Seiben Erwin	Wetland ecosystem services and Landscape ecology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7813-2586
Dr Mthembeni Mngadi	GIS and Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9854-203X

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INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

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UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Prof Lottering Romano	GIS and Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2381-4915
Dr Lottering Shenelle	Human Geography	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5514-6128
Mrs Morris Feroza	Physical Geography	N/A
Prof Mutanga Onisimo	SARChI Chair on Land use Planning	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7358-8111
Prof Narsiah Sagie	Geography of Development, Social and critical theory	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2874-7600
Prof Nel Adrian	Political Ecology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5924-9084
Dr Ngetar Njoya	GIS and Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1230-6683
Dr Nhlabathi Sibonakaliso	Urban Studies, Tourism Studies	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8918-3549
Dr Nkomo Sphumelele	Environmental Management	
Prof Odindi John	GIS and Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4934-1346
Prof Proches Serban	Biogeography, Biodiversity, and Ecology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3415-6930

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Exciting Departmental News

Dr Ntombifuthi Nzimande was awarded the 2025/2026 ARUA/Carnegie-Mastercard Early Career Research Fellowship.

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Zahra Omarjee. MSc. A Multi-proxy Palaeo-environmental Record for the Palmietrivier Wetland, Southern Cape: Insights into Holocene Fire, Vegetation and Climate Dynamics. Supervisors: Jemma Finch, Trevor Hill, Donovan Kotze.

Nozizwe Mtshali. MSc. Using Salt Marshes to Understand Long-term Sea Level Variability on the Berg River Estuary, West Coast, South Africa. Supervisors: Jemma Finch, Lauren Pretorius.

Nzuzo Nxumalo. MSS. Spatial assessment of land use dynamics in the Dolphin Coast, KwaZuluNatal: Bio-physical and socio-economic implications. Supervisors: Ntombifuthi Nzimande, Sifiso Xulu

Simangaliso Mnyandu. MSS. A Development of a Community-Driven Early Warning System as a Response to Extreme Rainfall Events using an Integrated Approach: A Case Study of Inanda, uMzinyathi and Umlazi. Supervisors: Ntombifuthi Nzimande, Ngetar Njoya

Information of interest for prospective students

Undergraduate

BSc (LES Stream): This three-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree, is achieved through a general Life and Earth Sciences (LES) stream with Geography and another discipline as major subjects.

BSc Environmental Science: This focused, three-year programme leads to a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree that specialises in Environmental Sciences.

BSc GIS and Earth Observation: This focused, three-year programme leads to a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree that specialises in the field of Geographic Information Systems and Earth Observation (GIS-EO).

Postgraduate

Master of Science/Masters of Social Science: These programmes are offered, whereby students engage in research under the supervision of an academic staff member. A minimum of a BSc/BSS Honours degree or equivalent must be achieved to be considered for this programme. This degree takes a minimum of one year.

Doctor of Philosophy: A Doctor of Philosophy programme is offered where students engage in novel research supervised by academic members of staff. This is typically three years of fulltime study and normally follows on from a Master of Science/Master of Social Science.

Link to departmental website.

https://agriculture-science.ukzn.ac.za/academics-2/?e-filter-0e1ccd4-post_tag=geography

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

Department Of Geography & Environmental Studies

Head/Chair of the Department: Dr Izelque Botha

List of Staff and their areas of Specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Prof Hector Chikoore	Meteorology and Climate Science; African Climate Risk	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2625-8881
Prof Marubini Ramudzuli	Human Geography	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2101-2209
Prof Inos Dhau	GIS and Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4286-8647
Dr Danitza Klopper	Atmospheric Science (Atmospheric Aerosols, Meteorological Processes & Dynamics); Human-Environment Interactions (Environmental Management, Waste Management)	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4286-8647
Dr Anzel De Lange	Meteorology, Air Quality	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6163-7767
Ms MC Mothapo	Applications of Geospatial Technologies, disaster risks and vulnerabilities	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9577-5324

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

List of Staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Dr Izelque Botha	Sustainability Science, Perception Studies, EIA & Public Participation, Co-creation and meaning-making in geographical contexts	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0655-8024
Mr Marks Sebaiwa	Environmental Science, Water Quality	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0388-6567
Mr Frederick Mashao	Applications of GIS & Remote Sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4621-8702
Ms Farina Lindeque	Air Quality, Sustainability Science and Transdisciplinary co-production of environmental knowledge and interventions for local sustainability challenges	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2221-8225
Ms Thendo Mugwena	Geoinformatics	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1856-5507
Ms Dimakatso Nkuna	Environmental Management, GIS and Remote Sensing, Water Quality monitoring, and Waste Management.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3294-8651
Dr Norman Mathebula	Community based natural resources management, waste management, EIA, disaster risk management	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9624-0276

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List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Ms Makhosazane Sithole	Migration and border studies, critical geography (feminist, political, economic, urban)	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2643-6326
Dr Zongho Kom	Human Geography	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3294-8651

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

MSc (Geography & Environmental Science)	
Chuene LP	Dissertation Title: "Investigating compliance with waste management strategies used in the construction sector within the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof JM Letsoalo, Co-supervisor: Prof MHN Mollel
Chuene TA	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluating of climate change influence on non-point source pollution in the Sand River catchment, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Dr RT Akanbi, Co-supervisor: Prof H Chikoore
Makhokha PM	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluation of simulated planetary boundary layer heights against radiosonde derived estimates for locations across South Africa" Supervisor: Dr A de Lange, Co-supervisor:
Kgoahla MA	Mini-Dissertation Title:"Analysing factors influencing the gross profit margin of informal food traders post Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic in Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof MM Mphahlele-Makgwane, Co-supervisor: Prof F Sengani, Dr RT Akanbi

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Lekganyane MA	Mini-Dissertation Title: "An evaluation of community perception on the Greater Letaba River as a source for sustainable livelihoods for the community of Mariveni, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof JM Letsoalo, Co-supervisor:- Dr N Mathebula
Mabale KL	Mini-Dissertation Title: "An evaluation of the impacts of urbanisation on Klip River wetland degradation, Johannesburg" Supervisor: Dr A Akanbi, Co-supervisor:Prof JM Letsoalo, Ms MG Montwedi
Mabale KL	Mini-Dissertation Title: "An evaluation of the impacts of urbanisation on Klip River wetland degradation, Johannesburg" Supervisor: Dr A Akanbi, Co-supervisor:Prof JM Letsoalo, : Ms MG Montwedi
Makgaretse KC	Mini-Dissertation Title: "influence of climate change on meteorological conditions affecting air pollution dispersion in South African air quality priority areas" Supervisor: Dr A de Lange, Co-supervisor:
Makoela VA	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Determining the effects of extreme weather on the water quality of the Middle Oliphant's Sub-Catchment in South Africa" Supervisor: Prof FI Mathivha, Co-supervisor: Prof H Chikoore
Mashala MJ	Thesis Title: "Understanding land use and land cover dynamics and their effects on the surface water resources at Letaba catchment in Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof T Dube, Co-supervisor: Prof KK Ayisi, Prof MR Ramudzuli
Makhokha PM	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluation of simulated planetary boundary layer heights against radiosonde derived estimates for locations across South Africa" Supervisor: Dr A de Lange, Co-supervisor:
Matcheke MS	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Investigating the livelihood dynamics of women in the peri-urban environment of Mankweng, Ga-Mothiba and Ga-Mothapo in the Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Ms I Botha, Co-supervisor: Prof MR Ramudzuli, Prof NC Davis

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

MSc (Geography & Environmental Science) Candidate's Details	Dissertation, Discipline and Supervisor(s)
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies	
Mkansi VH	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluation of seasonal climate change forecast systems for Southern Africa" Discipline: Geography Supervisor: Prof H Chikoore Co-supervisor: Dr RM Munyai, Prof FI Mathivha
Nkoe EB	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Modelling of water demand and supply to develop future management scenarios for Mokolo River catchment, Limpopo Province. Supervisor: Dr RT Akanbi, Co-supervisor: Prof I Dhau
Ramokgopa MV	Mini-Dissertation Title: "An investigation of the spatial distribution of waste dumps and community perceptions on illegal waste dumping in Mankweng Township, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof JM Letsoalo, Co-supervisor: Dr D Klopper
Sebone MW	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluating environmental practitioners' perceptions toward environmental impact assessment follow-up: lessons from filling station projects in Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Dr D Klopper, Co-supervisor: Ms I Botha
Thobejane MT	Mini-Dissertation Title: "The spatial distribution of asbestos and the community awareness and perception of asbestosis risk in Ga-Mathabatha, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Discipline: Geography Supervisor: Ms MC Mothapo Co-supervisor: Prof H Chikoore, Prof F Sengani

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UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

MSc (Geography & Environmental Science) Candidate's Details	Dissertation, Discipline and Supervisor(s)
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies	
Ramokgopa MV	Mini-Dissertation Title: "An investigation of the spatial distribution of waste dumps and community perceptions on illegal waste dumping in Mankweng Township, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof JM Letsoalo, Co-supervisor: Dr D Klopper
Rakoma TD	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Characteristics of the 2014-2016 drought and wildfire events and their impacts on the grassland biome of South Africa" Supervisor: Prof H Chikoore, Co-supervisor: Mr FM Mashao, Ms MC Mothapo
Tshivase T	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluating low-flow river dynamics impact on the aquatic ecosystem of the Nzhelele River Catchment in Limpopo Province, South Africa" Discipline: Geography Supervisor: Prof FI Mathivha Co-supervisor: Prof H Chikoore, Dr RT Akanbi
Sebone MW	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluating environmental practitioners' perceptions toward environmental impact assessment follow-up: lessons from filling station projects in Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Dr D Klopper, Co-supervisor: Ms I Botha

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UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

MSc (Geography & Environmental Science) Candidate's Details	Dissertation, Discipline and Supervisor(s)
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies	
Thobejane MT	Mini-Dissertation Title: "The spatial distribution of asbestos and the community awareness and perception of asbestosis risk in Ga-Mathabatha, Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Ms MC Mothapo, Co-supervisor: Prof H Chikoore : Prof F Sengani
Tshivase T	Mini-Dissertation Title: "Evaluating low-flow river dynamics impact on the aquatic ecosystem of the Nzhelele River Catchment in Limpopo Province, South Africa" Supervisor: Prof FI Mathivha, Co-supervisor: Prof H Chikoore : Dr RT Akanbi
Mashava TT	Title: Influence of climate change on meteorological conditions affecting air pollution dispersion in South African air quality priority areas Supervisor: Dr D Petja , Co-Supervisor: Prof K K Ayisi
Moropa T	Title: Public perception and opportunities and challenges on the use of biodegradable nappies. A case study of Ga-Dikgale village, Limpopo Province Supervisor: Dr N Mathebula , Co-Supervisors: Ms I Botha, : Ms F Lindeque
Maila C	Title: Investigating the feasibility of a community-based plastic recycling and repurposing initiative in Mamotintane community, Limpopo Province Supervisor: Dr N Mathebula, Co-Supervisors: Prof D Klopper : Ms F Lindeque

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

Information of interest for prospective students

Undergraduate

Bachelor of Science in Environmental & Resource Studies at the University of Limpopo

Program Overview: The BSc in Environmental & Resource Studies focuses on critical areas such as water resources management, biological resource protection, environmental impact assessment, sustainable agriculture, climate change and environmental health and safety. Students develop skills to assess human-environment relationships and understand the impact of economic and political trends on the environment.

Career Opportunities: Graduates can pursue careers in:

- Water resources management
- Biological resource protection
- Environmental impact assessment
- Sustainable agriculture
- Environmental Health and safety

Postgraduate

Honours Degree

The Bachelor of Science Honours in Geography provides advanced academic and research training. Core modules include Research, Philosophy of Geography, and Elements of Environmental Management. Students choose specialist modules such as Applied GIS, Advanced Natural Resource Ecology, and Applied Natural Resource Management. The program is offered full-time over one year.

Admission Requirements: Prospective students must meet the university's general admission criteria. Specific requirements for the program can be found on the university's official website or by contacting the admissions office.

The program emphasizes experiential learning and community engagement, particularly in rural communities.

Masters Degree:

The Master of Science in Geography focuses on advanced research and specialized knowledge in areas such as climatology, geomorphology, environmental management, GIS application, air quality and urban studies. The interdisciplinary nature of the programme allows masters candidates to study various aspects of human-environment interactions and allows for the adoption of a wide range of methodologies. Students engage in independent research projects. Admission requires a relevant NQF8 four year or Honours degree. The degree is offered as a full-time programme.

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PhD

The Doctor of Philosophy in Geography involves extensive research aimed at contributing new knowledge to the field. Candidates must have a relevant Masters degree and demonstrate sufficient knowledge in their area of study. The program emphasizes original research and the development of innovative solutions to geographical challenges. The degree is offered as a full-time programme.

Contact Information: For more details, reach out to the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies

Email: GAES@ul.ac.za
Phone: (+27) 15 268 3756

Link to departmental Website:

https://www.ul.ac.za/faculty-of-science-and-agriculture/school-of-agriculture-and-environmental-science/department-of-geography-and-environmental-studies/

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Head/chair of Department: Prof Gladman Thondhlana

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Dr Botai Joel	Extraordinary Lecturer	Atmospheric modelling, remote sensing	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4355-0662
Prof Breetzke Gregory	Associate Professor	Geography of crime (GIS)	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0324-2254
Dr Chirima George	Extraordinary Lecturer	Geoinformatics	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5784-033X
Dr Claassen Marius	Extraordinary Lecturer	Environmental science, ecology	
Prof Coetzee Serena	Extraordinary Professor	Geoinformatics (spatial data infrastructures)	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8683-8047
Dr Coetzer Kaera	Senior Lecturer	Environmental science, applied ecology	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5176-7859
Dr Cooper Antony	Extraordinary Lecturer	Geographical Information Science (GISc) theory and applications	
Prof Davis Nerhene	Associate Professor	Human geography (land reform)	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5059-5423
Prof Dougill Andy	Extraordinary Professor	Environmental science	

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Dr Adeleke Adedayo	Lecturer	Geoinformatics (geodesy, surveying)	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4783-0576
Prof Dyson Liesl	Associate Professor	Meteorology	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2931-8824
Dr Engelbrecht Christien	Extraordinary Lecturer	Meteorology	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2513-2889
Dr Feig Gregor	Extraordinary Lecturer	Environmental science	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5285-4783
Dr Gregory JJ	Lecturer	Urban Geography (urban and neighbourhood change)	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5649-380X
Prof Garland Rebecca	Professor	Air quality, atmospheric composition, and impacts	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1855-8622
Dr Hansen Christel	Senior Lecturer	Geomorphology, applied GIS	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7510-2720
Prof Haussmann Natalie	Associate Professor	Bio-geomorphology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0314-0266
Prof Archer Emma	Professor	Sustainable agriculture/ biodiversity and climate; drylands	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5374-3866
Prof Beckedahl Heinz	Extraordinary Lecturer	Geomorphology, wetland studies	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0393-7731

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Dr Beraki Asmerom	Extraordinary Lecturer	Meteorology	
Dr Bopape Mary-Jane	Extraordinary Lecturer	Meteorology	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2111-4595
Dr Katumba Samy	Lecturer	Geoinformatics	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6530-7690
Mr Kruger Andries	Extraordinary Lecturer	Meteorology	
Dr Lander Faye	MAEASaM Project Manager	African Archaeology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5122-5141
Prof Landman Willem	Professor	Meteorology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9475-6655
Dr Loubser Michael	Lecturer	Geomorphology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7554-8121
Prof Ndarana Thando	Professor	Meteorology	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4408-8983
Laven Naidoo	Extraordinary Lecturer	Geoinformatics	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7091-0566
Mrs Pretorius Erika	Senior Technical Assistant	Geoinformatics	
Dr Qabaqaba Mcebisi	Research Assistant	Multi-sensor remote sensing for natural resource management	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3446-719X

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Prof Ramoelo Abel	Extra ordinary Professor	Geo-information Science (remote sensing), earth observation	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9917-9754
Dr Rautenbach Victoria	Extraordinary Lecturer	Cartography, Geoinformatics (GIS), Databases, Human-computer Interaction	
Mrs Robinson Dandalene	CFES Administrator	Administration CFES	
Dr Selomane Odirilwe	Senior Lecturer, CFES Director	Food systems sustainability; Social-Ecological systems; Environmental/Agricultural economics; Ecosystem Services	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6892-4221
Dr Sibolla Bolelang	Senior Lecturer	Geoinformatics	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1916-4289
Adv Snijman PJ	Extraordinary Lecturer	Environmental Law	
Dr Snyman Lourens	Senior Cartographer	Geospatial Information Services	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5715-8904
Dr Sweijd Neville	Extraordinary Lecturer	Meteorology	
Prof Thondhlana Gladman	Professor/Head of Department	Conservation & Society, Urban sustainability	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6141-3314

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank/ Position	Area of specialisation	ORCID
Prof Tsele Philemon	Associate Professor	Geoinformatics (remote sensing)	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0765-7905
Mrs Van Aardt Corné	Departmental Administrator	Human Resources and Finance Administration	
Dr Van der Merwe Barend	Lecturer	Applied AI, Aeolian Geomorphology, Morphometrics	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9908-0295
Dr Van der Merwe Renier	Researcher	Settlement Archaeology, Geospatial Information, 3D-modelling	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0464-0593
Dr Van Deventer Heidi	Extraordinary Lecturer	GIS, geomorphology, freshwater ecosystems	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7854-2155
Mrs Wilkinson Sandra	Departmental Administrator	Student administration	
Prof Wright Caradee	Extraordinary Lecturer	Public health, geography	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9608-818X

Exciting Departmental News

A comprehensive list of news items is available on our website at https://www.up.ac.za/geography-geoinformatics-and-meteorology/news/

MSc and PhD graduations and supervisors and topics

A comprehensive list of all postgraduate students and a link to the UP dissertation and this repository is available at:
https://www.up.ac.za/geography-geoinformatics-and-meteorology/article/2753845/postgraduate-students

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Doctor of Philosophy

2025

De Villiers Colette (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Thesis : Satellite and UAV technology for mapping rainfed maize cropland in the South African Landscape Supervisor : Prof JG Chirima, External co-supervisor : Prof SG Tesfamichael (University of Johannesburg), External co-supervisor : Dr ZO Mashaba-Munghemezulu (Agricultural Research Council), External co-supervisor : Dr C Munghemezulu (Agricultural Research Council)
Katumba Samy Kabangu (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Thesis : Spatial statistical analysis and modeling of poverty and racial residential segregation in Gauteng, South Africa Supervisor : Prof SM Coetzee, Co-supervisor : Prof IN Fabris-Rotelli, External co-supervisor : Prof A Stein (University of Twente, Netherlands)
Laldaparsad Sharthi (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Thesis :Stakeholder perspectives on governance challenges for addresses in South Africa and transformative ways forward Supervisor : Prof SM Coetzee; Co-supervisor : Prof NC Davis
Maisha Thizwilondi Robert (specialising in Meteorology)	Thesis : Modelling eThekwini heat islands under climate change Supervisor : Prof T Ndarana, External co-supervisor : Dr MM Bopape (National Research Foundation), External co-supervisor : Prof FA Engelbrecht (University of the Witwatersrand)
Masilela Mthobisi Delisa (specialising in Geography and Environmental Science)	Thesis : The morphology and genesis of the Gobholo Granite Cave System, Eswatini Supervisor : Prof HR Beckedahl
Mogano Kgaogelo (specialising in Geography and Environmental Science)	Thesis : A spatio-temporal analysis of animal and human rabies in northern South Africa between 1998 and 2022 Supervisor : Prof JG Chirima, Co-supervisor : Prof CT Sabeta

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Phakula Steven (specialising in Meteorology)	Thesis : Atmospheric predictability over southern Africa on sub-seasonal to seasonal time-scales Supervisor : Prof WA Landman, Co-supervisor : Dr CJ Engelbrecht
Snyman Lourens Fourie (specialising in Geography)	Thesis : Evaluating data classification methods for choropleth maps in South Africa: A usability study Supervisor : Prof SM Coetzee, Co-supervisor : Prof IN Fabris-Rotelli
Qabaqaba Mcebisi (specialising in Environmental Management)	Thesis : Towards the development of a national woody canopy cover product and uncertainty analysis using passive and active remote sensing data Supervisor : Dr PL Tsele, Co-supervisor : Prof M Cho, Co-supervisor : Prof A Ramoelo, External co-supervisor : Dr L Naidoo (Gauteng City-Region Observatory)
Ramotubei Teke Solomon (specialising in Meteorology)	Thesis : Numerical experimentation on the mechanisms and processes of the inter-tropical convergence zone meridional shift: seasonal context Supervisor : Dr AF Beraki, Co-supervisor : Prof WA Landman, External co-supervisor : Dr MJ Mateyisi (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)
Zwane Nosipho Ntombani (specialising in Meteorology)	Thesis : Climate change impacts on the nexus between water, energy and food resources: the cases of Narok County in Kenya and Vhembe District Municipality in South Africa Supervisor :Dr OJ Botai, External co-supervisor : Prof T Mabhaudhi (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
Qabaqaba Mcebisi (specialising in Environmental Management)	Thesis : Towards the development of a national woody canopy cover product and uncertainty analysis using passive and active remote sensing data Supervisor : Dr PL Tsele, Co-supervisor : Prof M Cho, Co-supervisor : Prof A Ramoelo, External co-supervisor : Dr L Naidoo (Gauteng City-Region Observatory)

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Doctor of Philosophy

2025

Nduku Lwandile (specialising in Geography and Environmental Science)	Thesis : Assessing the potential use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle remote sensing data for advancing field-scale wheat crop monitoring approaches Supervisor : Prof JG Chirima, External co-supervisor : Prof AM Kalumba (University of Fort Hare), External co-supervisor : Dr ZO Mashaba-Munghemezulu (Agricultural Research Council), External co-supervisor : Dr W Masiza (Agricultural Research Council), External co-supervisor : Dr C Munghemezulu (Agricultural Research Council)

Master of Science

2025

- Booysen Amogelang (specialising in Environmental Management)
- Botha Jacques (specialising in Environmental Management)
- Carrim Aqeelah (specialising in Environmental Management)
- Patel Zeenat (specialising in Environmental Management)
- Phasha Abishag Galekae (specialising in Environmental Management)
- Ratlhagane Tshepiso Jane (specialising in Environmental Management)
- Sebothoma Busi Pearl (specialising in Environmental Management)

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Master of Science

2025

Carter Warren Shaun (specialising in Environmental Management)	Dissertation : Quantifying the air quality benefits of a waste collection offsetting intervention in the Vaal Triangle Area Priority Airshed – a study based on dispersion modelling analyses Supervisor : Dr GT Feig
Grundling Renée Elizabeth (specialising in Environmental Management)	Dissertation : Anthropogeomorphological wetlands in South Africa: a proposed classification system with Gauteng as a case study Supervisor : Dr MJ Loubser, Co-supervisor : Prof HR Beckedahl
Oosthuysen Xander (specialising in Environmental Management)	Dissertation : Impact of ozone on maize and soybean production across the highveld of South Africa Supervisor : Prof RM Garland
Apleni Philani (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Dissertation : Quantifying rate of change in wetland ecosystem functional groups of the Maputaland Coastal Plain with remote sensing Supervisor : Dr H van Deventer, Co-supervisor : Dr PL Tsele, External co-supervisor : Dr L Naidoo (Gauteng City-Region Observatory)
Benadie Ruvé (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Dissertation : Preserving location privacy: An evaluation of geomasking for point locations in varied settlement typologies of the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (South Africa) Supervisor : Mr LF Snyman, Co-supervisor : Prof SM Coetzee, Co-supervisor : Dr V Rautenbach
Goso Lukho (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Dissertation : Assessing the biodiversity, threat status and protection levels of Africa's rivers using geospatial methods Supervisor : Dr H van Deventer, Co-supervisor : Dr CD Hansen, External co-supervisor : Dr L Smith-Adao (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)

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Master of Science

2025

Mkhize Yoliswa Nosipho (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Dissertation : Early detection of weeds in maize farms using Sentinel-2 data: exploring spectral discrimination and biomass modelling approaches Supervisor : Prof A Ramoelo, Co-supervisor : Prof M Cho, External co-supervisor : Dr S Madonsela (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)
Ragimana Mutakusi Bashian (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Dissertation : Improving land use and land cover monitoring by integrating optical imagery and synthetic aperture radar in fragmented rural landscapes around Nandoni Dam, Limpopo Province, South Africa Supervisor : Prof A Ramoelo
Ramafikeng Montseng Alphoncina (specialising in Geoinformatics)	Dissertation : A web-based decision support tool for multifarious local renewable energy systems: a case of Atlantis Town, Western Cape Supervisor : Dr AK Adeleke
Fourie André Ruben (specialising in Meteorology)	Dissertation : Influence of the El Niño - Southern Oscillation on the southern Atlantic Ocean and southern African climate variability Supervisor : Prof WA Landman, Co-supervisor : Prof T Ndarana, External co-supervisor : Dr MH Barnes (Monash University, Australia)
Nkabinde Donald Khulu (specialising in Meteorology)	Dissertation : The dynamics of Rossby wave breaking in the Southern Hemisphere Supervisor : Prof T Ndarana
Ntele Moahloli Phillip (specialising in Meteorology)	Dissertation : Supporting adaptation to climate change through optimized maximum temperature seasonal climate forecasts in southern Africa Supervisor :Prof WA Landman, Co-supervisor : Prof ERM Archer

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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Master of Arts 2025

Ruiters Christopher Dillon (specialising in Environmental Science and Society)

Information of interest for prospective students

Undergraduate

Geography studies the relationship between people and places, focusing on environmental impacts and vice versa. It includes field trips, lab work, and experiments, connecting to ecology, anthropology, zoology, and botany. Environmental Science examines human impacts like resource use, pollution, and climate change, seeking sustainable living methods. Environmental Scientists ensure compliance with laws and develop strategies to minimize damage. Key topics covered in the BSc Geography and Environmental Sciences degree include human-environmental interactions, theories of human geography, environmental geomorphology, GIS, environmental sciences, city structure, process geomorphology, introductory GIS, geographic data analysis, and remote sensing. Students can choose from seven majors, five in natural sciences and two in social sciences.

Geoinformatics, geographic information science or geospatial data science, focuses on collecting, storing, processing, analyzing, visualizing, interpreting, and distributing geospatial information. This data is captured remotely via satellites or drones using photography or radar. Students learn programming, spatial analysis, machine learning, visualization, data ethics, and governance, and training with state-of-the-art technology for future careers.

With advancing geospatial technologies and increasing data volumes, job opportunities are abundant. Key topics include geographical information systems, geoinformatics, spatial analysis, remote sensing, geometrical and space geodesy, and geoinformatics projects. The BSc Geoinformatics programme is accredited by the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC). BSc Geoinformatics graduates meet the academic requirements for registration as a Geomatics Technologist in GISc (GTg GISc).

Meteorology studies atmospheric phenomena over various time scales, focusing on the atmosphere's physics, chemistry, and dynamics. It examines the atmosphere's effects on the earth's surface, oceans, and life, aiming to understand, simulate, and predict these phenomena. Meteorology provides crucial information for weather and climate impact mitigation, benefiting society, the economy, and the environment. Key areas include severe weather warnings, applications in aviation, maritime industries, and climate change predictions. During our undergraduate degree, students will be exposed to topics ranging from programming to physical, dynamic, satellite, mid-latitude, polar, and tropical meteorology.

For more information:
https://www.up.ac.za/geography-geoinformatics-and-meteorology/article/20918/academic-programmes

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Master of Arts 2025

Postgraduate

Geography and Environmental Science graduates from UP find employment in various organizations, including environmental consulting agencies, universities, CSIR, ARC, DFFE, the Council for GeoSciences, SANBI, SANAP, WWF, EWT, South African National Parks, private reserves, EMI - Green Scorpions, high schools, and SAEON. In addition to a research project, students focus on topics ranging from environmental assessments to applied geomorphology, environmental change, advanced GIS, and advanced remote sensing. Lecturers specialize in sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, climate, drylands, environmental science, ecology, human geography, urban geography, bio-geomorphology, applied AI, and physical computing.

Students enrolled in the BScHons Geoinformatics programme must complete a research project, and are exposed to topics ranging from spatial statistics and geodesy, advanced geospatial data, and advanced GIS to geospatial data and services and advanced remote sensing. Lecturers specialize in geoinformatics, the geography of crime, GIS theory and applications, remote sensing, earth observation, cartography, databases, human-computer interaction, applied AI, physical computing, geomorphology, and freshwater ecosystems. The BScHons Geoinformatics programme is accredited by the South African Geomatics Council (SAGC). BScHons Geoinformatics graduates meet the academic requirements for registration as Geomatics Professional in GISc (GPr GISc).

Many South African government tenders and job descriptions require such professional registration.

Graduates of the BScHons Meteorology conform to all the requirements for a meteorologist according to the definition of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Technical Regulations. The curriculum covers seasonal climate modelling, numerical modelling applications, radar and mesoscale meteorology, climate change, and a research project. Students can specialize in dynamic meteorology, boundary layer meteorology, cloud dynamics, advanced weather forecasting, atmospheric composition and air quality. Lecturers specialize in air quality, atmospheric composition and impacts, seasonal forecasting, severe events, and dynamic meteorology modelling.

Link to departmental webpage
https://www.up.ac.za/geography-geoinformatics-and-meteorology or www.up.ac.za/ggm

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of Geography

Head/Chair of the Department: Dr S. Tshabalala

List of staff and their area of geographical specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank / Position	Area of Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Prof Gunter, A	Professor	Economic Geography; Geography of Education	0000-0002-0993-0955
Prof Hedding, DW	Professor	Geomorphology	0000-0002-9748-4499
Prof Nicolau, MD	Professor	Post-development Geography; Sustainable community development; SDGs in the global South	0000-0001-6532-9657
Prof Schmitz, PMU	Professor	Forensic geography, GIS, Crime mapping and analysis	0000-0001-5836-290
Prof Smit, HAP	Professor	Environmental Geography; Physical Geography	0000-0003-1684-6337
Prof Xulu, S	Professor	Remote Sensing; GIS Applications	0000-0003-0849-0967
Prof Du Plessis, A	Associate Professor	Integrated water management	0000-0002-8875-758X
Prof Ndou, N	Associate Professor	GIS, Remote Sensing, Water resource monitoring, Crop monitoring	0000-0001-6456-4487
Dr Anderson, RL	Senior Lecturer	Physical Geography; Geomorphology	0000-0002-8433-327X
Dr Carow, S	Senior Lecturer	Spatial analysis, cartography, GIS/RS, food insecurity, spatial thinking	0000-0003-0799-5779
Dr De Jager, AE	Senior Lecturer	People-resource interaction, urban greenspace, tourism, teaching & learning	0000-0003-1852-6791
Dr Dirsuweit, T	Senior Lecturer	Food security, Urban studies, Gender and the city	0000-0002-0700-4085
Dr Greyling, AC	Senior Lecturer	Geomorphology	0000-0001-9460-5825

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

List of staff and their areas of Specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank / Position	Area of Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Dr Thamaga, KH	Senior Lecturer	Remote Sensing; GIS Applications	0000-0002-2305-9975
Dr Lombard, A	Senior Lecturer	Renewable energy; Rural development	0000-0002-1393-0595
Dr Maboya, ML	Fixed Term Lecturer	Paleogeomorphology	0000-0002-9582-4752
Dr Nenwiini, SC	Senior Lecturer	Physical geography, Climate change, rainfall variability	0000-0002-3928-9935
Dr Sibiya, LD	Lecturer	SDGs, Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Migration Governance, ESD	0000-0002-6989-1505
Dr Tshabalala, S	Senior Lecturer	Urban Development, Governance, Spatial Development	0000-0002-4496-2987
Dr Radingoana, MP	Senior Lecturer	Food security, Water security, Greywater reuse, Waste management	0000-0002-0615-7477
Dr van Vuuren, L	Senior Lecturer	Urban Geography, Public Space, Urban Events, Environmental Geography	0000-0002-8997-8288
Mrs Khotoo, A	Lecturer	Energy studies, Sustainability	N/A
Ms Lotz, CE	Technical Assistant	Environmental degradation; Rehabilitation	N/A
Mrs Mashau, SJ	Lecturer	Gender, Poverty, Indigenous Knowledge	0000-0002-0937-9980
Mr Mbhamali, TW	Lecturer	Atmospheric Sciences	0000-0002-9067-6973
Ms Motene, S	Lecturer	Geomorphology and GIS	0000-0002-8047-0912

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List of staff and their areas of Specialisation

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank / Position	Area of Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Ms Mothapo, MV	Lecturer	Stakeholder engagement, Wildlife management, GIS	0000-0001-5995-0594
Mr Mukhuba, F	Fixed Term Lecturer	Political geography, Municipal demarcation	0009-0001-4079-8032
Ms Mulibana, L	Lecturer	Urban planning/development	0009-0007-2232-7601
Ms Pienaar, R	Lecturer	Sustainability	0000-0002-0163-3171
Mr Ramasunga, P	Junior Lecturer	Rural settlements and land use	0009-0004-9692-2719
Mr Schoeman, R	Lecturer	Greenwashing, Green Building, Sustainability, Urban Geography	0000-0002-8955-9761
Ms Mphaphuli, MP	Adjunct Lecturer	Precision Agriculture, GIS, Remote Sensing, ML	0000-0002-0004-6872
Ms Mahlangu, NP	Adjunct Lecturer	GIS, Remote Sensing, Wetlands, Cloud technologies	N/A
Mr Moswane, MM	Adjunct Lecturer	Greywater, Sustainability, Green Circular Economy	N/A
Mr Muofhe, TP	Adjunct Lecturer	Climatology	0000-0002-3843-4002
Mr Mbambo, S	Adjunct Lecturer	Plankton ecology, Oceanography, Fisheries, Waste management	0000-0002-9155-9373
Mr Matsane, W	Adjunct Lecturer	GIS, Remote Sensing, Risk assessment, Vegetation, EIA	0000-0003-1090-8103
Dr B Duri	Postdoctoral Fellow	Urban Transport	N/A

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List of staff and their areas of Specialisations

Name (Title, Surname, Initials)	Rank / Position	Area of Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Dr Z Kom	Postdoctoral Fellow	Sustainable Development Goals	N/A
Dr K Qonono	Postdoctoral Fellow	Environmental Geography	N/A
Dr SB Mthembu	Postdoctoral Fellow	Chemistry (Analytical/Physical/Polymer)	0000-0003-0266-7370
Dr MM Motsumi	Postdoctoral Fellow	N/A	N/A
Dr ST Owolabi	Postdoctoral Fellow	N/A	N/A
Dr MJ Mashala	Postdoctoral Fellow	Remote Sensing	N/A
Dr Markus Breines	Academic Associate	Migration Studies	0000-0001-7570-9354
Prof Elri Liebenberg	Honorary Professor	Cartography	0000-0002-5832-5727
Prof Rudi Pretorius	Honorary Professor	Sustainable Development, SDGs, ODeL	0000-0002-0269-2173

Administrations	
Ms Maepe, M	Administrative Officer
Mrs Manala, B	Administrative Officer
Mr Thenga, L	Administrative Officer

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Exciting Departmental News

The following staff completed qualifications in 2025/2026:

- Dr LD Sibiya completed a PhD at the University of Zululand.
- Dr A Lombard completed a PhD at Stellenbosch University.
- Dr ML Maboya Completed a PhD at Oxford University.
- Dr AC Greyling Completed a PhD at the University of South Africa.
- The development of these mostly younger staff will deepen the academic expertise and increase capacity in the department going forward.

Promotions

- Prof. A. Gunter promoted to the acting Deputy Dean in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.
- Dr SC Nenwiini was promoted to the acting Head of Teaching and Learning, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.
- Dr S Tshabalala promoted to Senior Lecturer and the acting Chair of the Department of Geography.
- Dr SP Carow promoted to Senior Lecturer.
- Dr AC Greyling promoted to Senior Lecturer.
- Dr RL Anderson promoted to Senior Lecturer.
- Dr L. Van Vuuren from fixed term to permanent Senior Lecturer.
- Mr Mbhamali from a fixed term to a permanent Lecturer.
- Ms MV Mothapo from a fixed term to a permanent Lecturer.

New Staff

- Dr LD Sibiya rejoined in 2025.
- Dr ML Maboya joined in 2025.
- Dr KH Thamaga joined in 2025.
- Prof. N. Ndou joined in 2025.
- Prof S Xulu joined in 2025.
- 21 Adjunct lecturers joined in February 2026
- 3 Postdoctoral fellows joined in 2026

Staff Achievements

- Dr R Anderson_ Appointed as the Council member and secretary of the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) 2026/2027
- Dr AC Greyling_ Appointed as the President-elect of SAAG
- Prof DW Hedding_ Appointed as the treasurer of SAAG

Grants

- Prof DW Hedding: SANAP Grant, National Research Foundation, 2024-2026, R1.5 million (Co-Investigator).
- Prof Anja du Plessis: WRC Project Grant, Collaborative Partners: Stellenbosch University (Lead Organisation), University of KwaZulu-Natal, and University of South Africa, 2025-2029, R1.5 million (Co-Investigator).
- Prof A Gunter (PI) and Dr Leani Van Vuuren (Co-I): British Academy Grant: Next-Gen 2025-2026 R750 000.

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Grants

Dr KH Thamaga: The development and application of a SuperCeasar model for hydro-geomorphic modelling to support reliable prediction of flooding and subsequent erosion. Water Research Commission (WRC). R 2 495 000 [2025 – 2027].

Dr KH Thamaga: Predictive Modeling of Water Availability Dynamics in Southern Africa: A Data-Driven Approach for Sustainable Water Resource Management. Water Research Commission (WRC). R 1 500 000.00. [2025 – 2027].

Dr KH Thamaga: Integrating Innovative Nature-based solutions for resilient Aquatic Ecosystems [INNAQUE]. RASMUS-EDU-2025-CBHE-STRAND-2. Erasmus +. Amount: € 88,598.00 (R 1 815 491,51) [2025 – 2027].

Dr KH Thamaga: Bathymetric of reservoirs in Southern Africa. NRF. R2 200 000.00. [2023 – 2026].

Dr KH Thamaga: Evaluation of remote sensing as a multidisciplinary approach for wetland monitoring, Eastern Cape. NRF Thuthuka. Amount: R 260 000.00. [2024 – 2026].

Events

Prof R Pretorius: International Student Symposium on the SDGs (18-19 Nov 2024), and Research in progress workshop (20 Nov), hosted by the Department of Geography of Unisa in participation with the other two DiTTS project partners, namely the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW, Germany) and the University of Passo Fundo (UPF, Brazil).

Keynote Address at the Symposium - Global Sustainability Education: Innovations in Digital and International Teaching, HAW Hamburg, Germany, 1-2 December 2025. Co-presentation - Pretorius, RW, and Nicolau, MD. 2025 "Digital sustainability education at African Higher Education Institutions."

Prof Anja du Plessis: Attended Council for a Built Environment Annual Colloquium – Invited by Deputy Minister Zikalala of Public Works and Infrastructure, to engage about the Water Resource Management Research group and current involvement in task teams etc., related to the country's water challenges (10 December 2025).

Prof Gunter, Dr Van Vuuren, Dr Maboya, Ms Mulibana and Dr Lekunze (University of Aberdeen) presented a set of workshops at the University of Fort Hare, the University of Venda and Walter Sisulu University on grant writing and international partnerships. In partnership with the British Academy the workshops lead to award of 3 sets of seed funding to these institutions to work on international collaborative projects.

The Department of Geography hosted four (4) Geography lecture series and 1 African scholar lecture in 2025: Lecture Series 1(2025): The imperative of the border studies approach in Human Geography by Professor Innocent Moyo, University of Zululand.

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Exciting Departmental News

2025/2026 Editing

Dr LD Sibiya: Reviewer for the International Journal for Sustainability in Higher Education - Since 2025, Reviewer for the Discover Sustainability journal - Since 2025.

Dr Humphrey Thamaga - Guest Editor for Land for the special issue on "Land Use and Land Cover Change Analysis in Dynamic Landscapes."

Prof A Gunter – Special guest editor of the British Journal of Educational Technology with a special section focusing on 'Internationalisation at a Distance.'

Dr Andrea Lombard: Reviewer for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews since 2019, Reviewer for Environmental Education Research since 2019, Reviewer for the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education since 2020, Reviewer for the South African Geographical Journal since 2025.

Prof A Gunter – Special guest editor of the British Journal of Educational Technology with a special section focusing on 'Internationalisation at a Distance.'

Dr Andrea Lombard: Reviewer for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews since 2019, Reviewer for Environmental Education Research since 2019, Reviewer for the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education since 2020, Reviewer for the South African Geographical Journal since 2025.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

2025/2026 MSc and PhD graduations

Candidate	Qualification	Topic	Supervisor
MSc and PhD in Geography			
L Van Vuuren	PhD	Borrowing Parks: an analysis of organized events and attachment to urban parks, Johannesburg	Prof. A. Gunter
P. Mugagade;I	MSc	Assessing the impacts if Eyethu coal mining activities on the surrounding communities: township, Emalahleni municipality Mpumalanga province (Sole supervisor: to graduate June 2026) a case sudy of Vosman.	Dr Radingoana MP
S. Alakram	MSc	An analysis of beach and dune erosion along the coast of Richards Bay, South Africa: Implications for the management of consequent shoreline changes (Sole Supervisor Graduated University of South Africa; June 2026)	Prof. DW Hedding
C. Weiss	MSc	Hydrological modelling on Sub-Antarctic Marion Island using the SWAT model (Co-supervisor Graduated University of the Free State; April 2026)	Prof. DW Hedding
AC Greyling	PhD	Geomorphometric assessment of the Drakensberg Escarpment and Lesotho Highlands: Implications for landscape development and evolution (Sole supervisor: Graduated University of South Africa; May 205)	Prof. DW Hedding
Z Kabase	PhD	Long-term trends in extreme daily temperature and precipitation on sub-Antarctic Marion Island from 1950 to 2020 (Co-Supervisor: Graduated from the University of Fort Hare; April 2025)	Prof. DW Hedding

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

2025/2026 MSc and PhD graduations

Candidate	Qualification	Topic	Supervisor
MSc and PhD in Geography			
TS Shakela	MSc	Flood analysis in part of Cuvelai-Etosha basin (CEB) of Northern central Namibia to map natural drainage patterns, inundated zones and identify susceptible localities based on topography, using remote sensing and GIS, concentrating on the Oshakati & Onwediva.	

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Strengths

Undergraduate

The Department of Geography at UNISA offers a dynamic and flexible undergraduate programme designed for students across South Africa and beyond through our comprehensive Open Distance e-Learning (ODeL) model. Our undergraduate curriculum blends foundational geographic theory with practical skills in spatial thinking, sustainability, environmental analysis, and urban development. Students are introduced to both physical and human geography, allowing for a broad understanding of the interrelationships between people, places, and the environment.

A key strength lies in our commitment to contextual relevance. Our modules incorporate African case studies and themes, equipping students with knowledge that is both globally informed and locally grounded. We prepare graduates to critically analyse challenges such as urbanisation, climate change, resource management, and sustainable development. Students benefit from the integration of GIS (Geographical Information Systems) tools throughout the programme, building skills that are increasingly in demand across government, NGO, and private sectors. Our teaching emphasises analytical and research capabilities, supported by innovative assessment and online support.

UNISA's inclusive access model allows students from rural and urban contexts to study at their own pace, supported by experienced academic staff and digital learning platforms. This makes our undergraduate geography programme a compelling option for students seeking flexibility without compromising academic rigour.

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Undergraduate and Postgraduate information

Postgraduate

Our postgraduate programmes offer rich opportunities for advanced study in geography, with a focus on African issues and global relevance. Honours, master's, and doctoral degrees allow students to deepen their expertise in areas such as urban development, environmental change, geomorphology, education geography, spatial analysis, migration, rural development, and sustainability.

A defining strength of postgraduate geography at UNISA is our strong research ethos. Students are guided by experienced supervisors who are actively engaged in internationally recognised research. Our projects are often embedded in real-world contexts, encouraging critical inquiry, methodological innovation, and policy relevance.

We welcome students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, and our distance learning format offers the flexibility needed for working professionals or those in remote locations. UNISA fosters independent scholarship while providing structured academic support, workshops, and access to digital research resources.

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Strengths

Our department has a strong record of supervision and publication, with many of our postgraduates contributing to national and international research outputs. Our graduates emerge with strong analytical, writing, and project management skills that are valued in academia, government, civil society, and industry.

UNISA's postgraduate geography programme provides a supportive and stimulating environment to explore these topics.

Link to departmental webpage

https://www.unisa.ac.za/site/corporate/default/Colleges/Agriculture-&-Environmental-Sciences/Schools,-departments,-centres-&-units/School-of-Ecological-and-Human-Sustainability/Department-of-Geography

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Department of Geography

Head?Chair of the Department: Dr Adriaan van der Walt

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Name, Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Prof Samuel Adelabu	Professor	Remote sensing and GIS applications to vegetation, urban development, water analysis, land use and land cover changes, ecological assessment, climate change, disaster risk analysis, agricultural production, semi-arid and mountain environments etc.	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9362-9948
Prof Jay Le Roux	Professor	Land degradation assessment, mapping and monitoring, specifically in spatial modelling of soil erosion risk. Sediment transport and hydrological connectivity, using hydrological models, such as soil and water assessment tools, GIS and remote sensing techniques from catchment to national scale.	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5660-2666
Prof Tom Okello	Professor	Biogeography, Health and Medical Geography, Economic Geography, Tourism Geography, Regional Geography, Environmental Planning / Environmental Impact Assessments, and Climate Change	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6874-5015
Dr Melissa Hansen	Senior Lecturer, Subject Head Qwaqwa	Political ecology, environmental politics, conservation, spatial development, development studies, sustainability science, society and environment and environmental governance.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8632-3331

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

Department of Geography

Dr Adriaan van der Walt

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Name, Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Dr Adriaan Van der Walt	Senior Lecturer, Academic Head of Department	Biometeorology and climatology, specifically the influence and impact of climate variability on the human and animal population, as well as extreme temperature event impacts and drivers thereof. Geographic information systems, including the mapping and geospatial application on climate variability and influences.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6102-2524
Mr Solomon Zondo	Lecturer	Vegetation ecology, mountain environment, climate change, natural resource management, rangeland science and landscape.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5917-3235
Ms Moleboheng Pherane	Lecturer	Environmental humanity, Urban ecology and societal dynamics, human and migration flows, human marginalisation, wetland degradation, and indigenous knowledge systems.	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5790-7090
Dr Regis Musavengane	Senior Lecturer	Land governance and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) in the context of political ecology, particularly related to tourism geographies and rural communities that rely on communal resources for their livelihoods. His work spans across shared resources, conservation, collaborative governance, environmental justice, minority inclusion, climate adaptation and resilience building.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5276-7911

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

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List of staff and their areas of Specialisation

Name (Title, Name, Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	ORCID ID
Dr Elizabeth Rudolph	Senior Lecturer	Process geomorphology and fieldwork techniques in data collection. Geomorphological mapping and landscape analysis. Dating techniques in earth surfaces processes and denudation rates (e.g. cosmogenic nuclide exposure). Glacial and peri-glacial geomorphology in particular sub-Antarctic Antarctic and high mountain environments. Education and communication in Geography, including the use of Virtual Reality technology.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3823-3278
Dr Marike Stander	Lecturer	Sediment provenance, sediment geochemistry, environmental management and monitoring.	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1228-0479
Dr Pululu Mahasa	Lecturer	Water demand management, medical waste management and aeolian geomorphology.	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1502-9554
Dr Sanele Mbambo	Lecturer	Sustainable human settlements and Urban development and Transformation.	https://orcid.org/0009-0004-6299-030X
Dr Katlego Mashiane	Lecturer	Biodiversity conservation, Geospatial analytics and spatial modelling.	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5676-9554
Ms Eldalize Kruger	Lecturer	Environmental management and monitoring, environmental awareness and education.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2499-1502
Dr Kgaogelo Mogano	Lecturer	Remote sensing and GIS in natural resource modelling and monitoring, geospatial health, land degradation, wetland studies, and bush encroachment	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9419-5328
Ms Ntebohiseng Sekhele	Lecturer	Climate change, montane rural communities and conservation conflicts.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1773-2908)

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Name (Title, Name, Surname)	Rank / Position	Specialisation(s)	
Dr Kholeka Mtshali	Lecturer	Urban ecology and urban sustainability, climate adaptation and climate resilience within urban spaces, social cohesion in relation to spatial planning and fragmentation, quality of life assessments within urban spaces.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5893-8638

Exciting Departmental News

Dr Kholeka Mtshali gave a plenary talk at the 6th National Global Change Conference, hosted by the University of Mbombela from 1 – 4 December 2025. Her talk was themed "Building resilient communities in the face of increasing natural disasters", which explored how climate-related shocks are no longer future risks; they are our present reality.

The Department of Geography has signed two new memorandums of understanding with WildTrust (South Africa) and the Local Initiatives Development (LID) Agency (Zimbabwe). These collaborations aim to expand on collaboration in biodiversity conservation, environmental resilience, and community development across Southern Africa. The partnerships will support postgraduate funding, field-based research, and international collaboration – creating meaningful opportunities for students advancing research aligned with the National Agricultural Strategy. (see more information at https://ufsweb.co/4rSqofL)

Dr Elizabeth Rudolph and Dr Marike Stander were both part of the organising committee for the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) Biennial Conference, which was held in Oudtshoorn from 15-18 July 2025.

Mr Colby Weiss (MSc) and Lefa Morake (PhD) were both awarded the best student presentation award at the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists biannual conference, held in Oudtshoorn in July. Lastly, Dr Stander was elected as President of SAAG for the 2025-2027 term.

Dr Regis Musavengane was invited to serve as a member of the African Working Group of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography and Sustainability. This opportunity will represent the department at an international level and foster further collaborations.

Dr Elizabeth Rudolph was awarded a French Ministry Research Fellowship (Make Our Planet Green Again 2025) in collaboration with Drs. Vincent Jomelli from the CNRS-CEREGE and Guillaume Delpech from the Geosciences Paris-Saclay Université.

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Exciting Departmental News

Dr Elizabeth Rudolph was invited to give a keynote address at the upcoming International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) Conference, to be held in New Zealand in February 2026.

Prof Jay le Roux was invited to serve on the editorial board of the International Soil and Water Conservation Research Journal.

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and Supervisors

Masters graduations:

Nosipho Ndima- Geospatial analysis of urban public green spaces: A case of Bloemfontein City. Supervisors- Prof Samual Adelabu and Dr Colbert Jackson.

Doctoral graduations:

Kholeka Mtshali (PhD). Assessing the role of Urban Ecological Infrastructure in Adapting to Climate Change Impacts: A case of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa. Supervisors- Dr Adriaan van der Walt and Prof Abraham Matamanda.

Information of interest for prospective students

Our undergraduate and postgraduate students are exposed to the following:

Cutting-Edge Programmes:

Offers diverse qualifications — BSc Environmental Geography, BSc Geography Specialisation, and BA with Specialisation in Geography. Postgraduate studies explore fields like Urban Geography, Environmental Sustainability, Urban Ecology, and Climate Adaptation and Resilience.

Real-World Experience:

A third-year excursion module takes students out of the classroom, offering hands-on exposure to both physical and human geography research. Fieldwork opportunities prepare students for careers in research, policy-making, and environmental management.

Tech-Driven Skills:

Strong focus on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing, essential tools for environmental analysis, urban planning, and disaster management. Access to modern software and technologies used by industry leaders.

Ethics and Impact:

The Geographical Ethics module equips students to tackle real-world ethical dilemmas, fostering responsible research and practice.

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Information of interest for prospective students

Research Opportunities:

Postgraduate students engage in impactful research projects on climate change adaptation, urban inequalities, and the role of ecological infrastructure in cities such as Bloemfontein and Johannesburg. Strong focus on comparative climate governance studies between metropolitan municipalities.

Industry and Community Links:

Collaborations with local municipalities, environmental organisations, and NGOs ensure research has practical, real-world applications. Opportunities for students to work on projects addressing community-specific environmental and social issues.

Support and Development:

A dynamic teaching and research environment with one-on-one postgraduate supervision. Skills development workshops and academic writing support are tailored to both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The Department of Geography at UFS is expanding its regional and international footprint through newly signed partnerships with WildTrust and the Local Initiatives Development Agency.

These dynamic collaborations open up *real-world opportunities* for postgraduate students to engage in cutting-edge work in biodiversity conservation, environmental resilience, and community development across Southern Africa.

Through these partnerships, students can benefit from:

- Access to postgraduate funding opportunities
- Hands-on, field-based research experiences
- Cross-border collaboration and international exposure

This is your chance to be part of impactful research that not only advances academic knowledge but also contributes to sustainable development and aligns with key national priorities, including the National Agricultural Strategy.

Link to departmental website.

http://www.ufs.ac.za/geography

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UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Department of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies

Chair/Head of Department: Prof Paida Mhangara

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Staff	Specialisation(s)	ORCID
Prof Paida Mhangara	Head of School, land-atmosphere interactions, machine learning for land cover characterisation and advanced remote sensing modelling for land cover monitoring.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0594-6626
Prof Elhadi Adam	Use of remote sensing techniques and machine learning algorithms in monitoring vegetation	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3626-5839
Dr Iqra Atif	The applications of advanced GIS and Remote Sensing for geospatial and numerical modelling of geohazards, climate change and its impact on natural resources for sustainable development and management.	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2345-7065
Dr Simoné Dahmns-Verster	Ecotoxicology, environmental science, water pollution, freshwater ecology, zoology, water science, land contamination.	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5488-6263
Prof Francois Engelbrecht	Director of the Global Change Institute. Climatology, climate modelling and climate futures	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9189-6556
Prof Mary Evans	Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dating, 4IR technology and the circular economy, climatology and atmospheric processes, water and sanitation, agricultural science, science education	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1164-9932
Prof Jennifer Fitchett	Biometeorology: climatology, tourism and climate change, phenology, climate and health, and palaeoclimatology	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0854-1720
Prof Stefan Grab	Historical climatology, climate change, environmental change, geo-hazards, geomorphology, mountain environments	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7678-1526

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Department of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies

Prof Paida Mhangara

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Staff	Specialisation(s)	ORCID
Prof Jasper Knight	Climate and environmental change, geomorphology, and landscape resources	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2035-9056
Dr Nzalalemba Serge Kubanza	Environmental management and sustainability, with a specific focus on sustainable solid waste management in Sub-Saharan African cities, with an emphasis on South African and Congolese cities	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0039-4399
Dr Tumelo Mathe	GIS and remote sensing applications	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5258-5632
Dr Raeesa Moolla	Hotspot monitoring and modelling of urban-scale air pollution and its impact on human health	https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8049-1660
Dr Sarita Pillay Gonzalez	Critical and urban geography, including the relationship between state and real estate and how this shapes cities, and the political economy of post-apartheid and Global South cities.	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2718-2150
Prof Craig Sheridan	Utilising the toolboxes available to solve water problems in South Africa, including sewage, grey water, industrial and mine water treatment and the provision of potable water for society.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5913-3428

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Prof Paida Mhangara

List of staff and their areas of specialisation

Staff	Specialisation(s)	ORCID
Dr Cletah Shoko	Remote sensing, GIS, Geospatial modelling, surface hydrology, spatial ecology	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4222-3539
Prof Mulala Simatele	Environmental management, governance and sustainability, environmental impact assessments and environmental monitoring systems, coastal and marine resource management and sustainability, climate change adaptation.	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2161-1586
Dr Alex Wafer	Urban informality; infrastructure and citizenship; science and society; knowledge co-production in an era of global crisis	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5059-1852
Natanya Alexander	Senior Administrative Officer	
Mpho Gegana	ICT Technician	
Khanyo Ngubo	Finance Officer	
Thandizwe Nsimbi	Senior Technician	
Mpho Thobejane	Procurement Officer	
Sindiswa Tilane	Postgraduate Administrator	
Wendy Phillips	Cartographer	

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Exciting Departmental News

The new BSc and BSc Honours in GIS and Remote Sensing curriculum was accredited by the South African Geomatics Council.

Prof Jennifer Fitchett was appointed an Honorary Professor of the University College London Department of Geography, effective from 1 January 2026. She has been appointed as the Head of Postgraduate Studies and Researcher Development at the University of the Witwatersrand from 01 October 2025.
She has been elected Vice-President of the International Society of Biometeorology.

Dr Ariel Prinsloo, a postdoctoral fellow in the School of GAES, won third prize at the South African Mountains Conference in 2025. She has been elected as a Regional Councillor of the International Society of Biometeorology.

Prof Mary Evans and Dr Daria Semikolennykh (a postdoctoral fellow in the School of GAES) are part of a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research team who were awarded the Copper Grand Challenge funding by the Rio Tinto Centre for Future Materials.

Prof Elhadi Adam was promoted to the rank of Full Professor.

Drs Raeesa Moolla and Cletah Shoko were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Mukhtaar Waja, a PhD Candidate at the University of the Witwatersrand, had the opportunity to present his doctoral research at the ENBEL 2025 Conference on Climate Change and Health in Tallinn, Estonia.

His research critically examines the published literature on the relationship between climate and mental health, identifying key limitations that may affect the reliability of existing findings.

Mukhtaar's presentation drew on findings from interviews he conducted with healthcare practitioners, who offered practice-based insights into research in this field, including its methodologies, data inputs, and statistical assumptions.

The presentation highlighted a notable disconnect between real-world clinical contexts and the way these complexities are captured in the literature.

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Mulivhuweni Mphaphuli	Estimating leaf chlorophyll content of crops using multispectral remote sensing and machine learning models	Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc (Coursework and Research Report)	Khumbelo Mulondo	Air pollution prediction with satellite imagery; deep learning approach	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Luphumlo Masiza	Spectral discrimination of Arundo donax L. and Phragmites australis (Cav.) grown under control and accumulation of heavy metal conditions	Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Yonela Thungana	Exploration of high-resolution multispectral UAV imagery for non-destructive estimation of chlorophyll content in lemon leaves	Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Likwa Sithole	Classification of informal settlements using novel object- based machine learning algorithms and drone imagery, Slovo Park, Johannesburg, South Africa	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Napoleon Rampyapedi	Destructive estimation of canopy chlorophyll content in smallholder crops using UAV and Sentinel-2	Prof Elhadi Adam
Doctor of Philosophy	Dineo Mokgehle	Examining the climate sensitivity of tourists in South Africa using TripAdvisor: a big data approach through web-scraping	Prof Jennifer Fitchett
Doctor of Philosophy	Stephen Kasere	Perspectives on the impacts of the fast-track land reform programme on wildlife conservation and management in Zimbabwe	Prof Danny Simatele
MSc(Dissertation)	Sakhile Mkhize	An integrated approach to evaluate the ecological risk of toxic metals in the Krugersdorp Nature Reserve of South Africa	Prof Mary Evans; Dr Khuliso Masindi

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
MSc(Dissertation)	Dennis Masola	Mapping and estimation of biophysical and biochemical characteristics of Soyabeans using multi-source and multitemporal remote sensing data	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara
Doctor of Philosophy	Awo Quartey	University curriculum development for hospitality management programmes: a perception from the South African hospitality industry	Dr Richard Adom; Prof. Danny Simatele
Doctor of Philosophy	John Nyawali	Role of edible insects in food security and livelihoods in Mumbwa District, Central Province, Zambia	Prof Jasper Knight
Doctor of Philosophy	Ariel Prinsloo	Quantifying climate suitability for tourism in Reunion Island	Prof Jennifer Fitchett
Doctor of Philosophy	Mutuza Mupenda	Social and entrepreneurial networks in the cross-border fish trade between the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa	Dr Alexander Wafer
Master of Science (Dissertation)	Nomfundo Shoba	Transitioning towards water-sensitive resilient cities in urban South Africa: a study of Gauteng, Johannesburg	Ms G. Maree; Prof. A.Thatcher; Prof C.Sheridan; Prof Danny Simatele
MSc(Dissertation)	Kamogelo Mohuli	Evaluation of sanitation conditions in rural communities toward the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 6 in Limpopo province, South Africa: a mixed methods approach	Prof Mary Evans; Dr Khuliso Masindi
Doctor of Philosophy	Phathutshedzo Eugene Ratshiedana	Integrating remote sensing and smart-field-based approaches for assessing irrigated crop water use in arid environments	Prof Elhadi Adam; Dr Johannes Chirima
Doctor of Philosophy	Tasha Smith	Investigating the role of mesoscale eddies on heat and carbon in the South Atlantic Ocean	Prof Francois Engelbrecht

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
Doctor of Philosophy	Nduduzo Ngxongo	Climate change risk and adaptation strategies among tourism operators in eThekwini, South Africa	Prof Jennifer Fitchett
MSc(Dissertation)	Abonga Mata	Evaluating the use of mid-infrared spectroscopy in predicting soil carbon, nitrogen contents, and soil texture in varying South African soil samples	Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc(Dissertation)	Moloko Makoeng	A comprehensive assessment of sanitation conditions and malodour impacts among households in Hammanskraal	Prof Mary Evans; Dr Khuliso Masindi
MSc(Coursework and Research Report)	Takshita Pursooth	Comprehensive contributions of the informal sectors in solid waste management systems: a case study of Central Johannesburg	Dr Nzalalemba Kubanza
MSc(Coursework and Research Report)	Jackie Hlomuka	Improving solid waste management in a coal mining organisation: a case of Mafube coal	Prof Mary Evans; Mrs Duduzile Modiba
MSc(Coursework and Research Report)	Victor Loate	Evaluation of the implementation of the first-generation Waterberg - Bojanala priority area air quality management plan (AQMP)	Prof Mary Evans
MSc(Coursework and Research Report)	Jamie Muungani	The net zero agenda in South Africa: perspectives on the role of institutional frameworks and policy in the net zero transition	Prof Danny Simatele
MSc(Coursework and Research Report)	Keabetsoe Motebang	Spatial prediction and evaluation of net primary productivity in Lesotho using advanced geospatial models	Dr Iqra Atif

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Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Zanele Guvakuva	Livelihoods and natural resource management in fast-track lithium mining in Arcturus rural community in Zimbabwe	Dr Regis Musavengane
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Zolile Duma	Exploring students' attitudes and perceptions of environmental sustainability at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	Dr Alexander Wafer
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Liam Lamberton	Assessing the current and future distributions of two invasive species in the Inkomati water management area, South Africa	Prof Cletah Shoko
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Obvious Manyere	Investigating the effectiveness of rock mulching and fungcoal? technologies at the tip micro pit of Kromdraai section of Khwezela colliery, Thungela resources in South Africa	Prof Stefan Grab
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Tjedu Moyo	Perspectives on the implications of climate change on maternal health in Mangwe District, Ward 14 of Zimbabwe.	Prof Danny Simatele
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Rozeena Ramlall	Assessment of policy frameworks and regulatory mechanisms for the development of a hydrogen economy in South Africa	Dr Memory Reid
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Kenford Mayere	Understanding the spatiotemporal patterns of cholera incidence in Malawi using a geospatial approach	Dr Iqra Atif; Prof Elhadi Adam

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Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Thapelo Phashe	Phytoremediation of chrome mine tailings using Vetiver grass and Moringa Biostimulant	Prof Danny Simatele; Prof Luke Chimuka
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Nonhlakanipho Hlongwane	Challenges of solid waste management in rural areas: a study of Nkomo Village, Greater Giyani Municipality, Limpopo	Dr Nzalalemba Kubanza
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Cher Petersen	Landslide susceptibility using support vector machines (SVM) and random forest (RF) machine learning approaches: a case for the Durban 2022 flood event	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara; Dr Laven Naidoo
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Drashti Naik	Integrating Sentinel-1 SAR imagery and GIS analysis to assess urban infrastructure damage and accessibility in Gaza City: a principled approach to geoscience	Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Kutlwano Taole	Development of a GIS-based interactive border cave model using structure from motion photogrammetry techniques	Dr Iqra Atif; Prof Dominic Stratford
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Swelihle Sibiya	Investigating temporal and spatial patterns of wildfire emissions in Capricorn district, Limpopo Province, South Africa	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara
Doctor of Philosophy	Nadya Bhagwan	An evaluation of the extent to which South African energy companies leverage Industry 4.0 technologies to improve efficiencies in comparison with China and Germany	Prof Mary Evans
Doctor of Philosophy	Surprise Mmotong	Education for an emerging green economy in South Africa: perspectives on skills development in water resource management; a study of Johannesburg	Prof Danny Simatele



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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Neo Vincent Modise Mongala	Towards a reformed mining cadastre in South Africa through the assessment of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara
Doctor of Philosophy	Mkateko Marilele	A critical analysis of the environmental and social impacts of human settlement development projects in Gauteng, South Africa: a study of the City of Ekurhuleni	Dr Nzalalemba Kubanza
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Mmankedi Raditlhalo	Investigating the use of Planet Scope and Google Earth imagery for estimating population in Pretoria's Woodlands informal settlements to address spatial gaps in social and demographic data	Dr Dorman Chimhamhiwa; Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Cyprian Shangase	Mapping and monitoring the _Seriphium plumosum_ encroachment in the rangelands of KwaZulu-Natal using Landsat Earth observation data	Prof Cletah Shoko; Dr Jolene Fisher
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Prudence Mamello Khomo	Flood susceptibility modelling using geo-analytical hierarchy process (G-AHP) approach in Khartoum, Sudan	Prof Elhadi Adam; Dr Iqra Atif
MSc(Course work and Research Report)	Siyabonga Zikhali	Estimating biophysical variables of the winter wheat crop using multispectral remotely sensed data	Prof Elhadi Adam

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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
MSc(Dissertation)	Cebisa Sihlali	The impacts of the fifth industrial revolution on employment in the gold mining sector in South Africa	Prof Danny Simatele
MSc(Dissertation)	Celeste Dekker	The development and use of a GIS model to map Mozambique tilapia pond aquaculture site suitability for the Limpopo province of South Africa	Prof. Danny Simatele; Dr Mary-Jane Thaela-Chimuka
MSc(Dissertation)	Lubanzi Dlamini	Comparing the performance of mobile and static LiDAR in detecting underground rock deformation	Dr Muhammad Mahboob; Dr Iqra Atif; Prof Elhadi Adam
MSc (Dissertation)	Dylan Butler	A comprehensive environmental assessment of the Braamfontein Spruit and surrounding tributaries in Northern Johannesburg in 2023 and 2024	Dr Simone Dahms-Verster; Prof Craig Sheridan
MSc(Dissertation)	Nikita Bullah	Using machine learning to identify the spatial extent of acid mine drainage from gold mining activities in Gauteng, South Africa	Dr Iqra Atif; Dr Muhammad Mahboob
MSc(Dissertation)	Treasure Makhanye	Persistent power outages in Daveyton township: unveiling their nature, impacts, and socio-spatial distribution	Dr Sarita Pillay
MSc(Dissertation)	Alexi Marinaki	The impact of southwest Indian Ocean tropical cyclones on transient weather conditions in Reunion	Prof Jennifer Fitchett
MSc(Dissertation)	Mamahludisa Mthembu	Multi-hazard risk perception: a case study of two informal settlements in Mamelodi township, Pretoria	Prof Jasper Knight
MSc(Dissertation)	Lindokuhle Nsibande	An assessment of environmental risks associated with metal pollution in the Vaal River, South Africa	Dr Simone Dahms-Verster



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MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Degree	Student	Title	Supervisor(s)
Master of Science (Dissertation)	Rhulani Hlungwane	Assessing perceptions of environmental management in the construction industry: a case study of construction companies in the Gauteng Province	Dr Nzalalemba Kubanza
Master of Science (Dissertation)	Raphael Mongare	Spatial modelling of tsetse fly (Glossina _spp.) and animal African trypanosomiasis across Kenya	Prof Elhadi Adam; Dr Elfatih Ahmed
Master of Science (Dissertation)	Cassia Holtz	Exploring shifts in the threshold for reporting on extreme temperature events over the past century in South Africa	Prof Jennifer Fitchett
Master of Science (Dissertation)	Tamiranashe Kuwaza	Exploring heatwaves and urban heat islands: Implications for water resource availability in Gauteng Province, South Africa	Prof Paidamwoyo Mhangara
Master of Science (Dissertation)	Kagiso Thobejane	Assessing the effectiveness of green infrastructure in urban areas - for mitigation of climate change-induced extreme events in South Africa: a case study of the Johannesburg CBD	Dr Nzalalemba Kubanza

Information of interest for prospective students

Undergraduate
We offer undergraduate degrees, a BA and a BSc in Geography and Environmental Studies, as well as a BSc in Geospatial Sciences. Our courses are wide-ranging, exciting and relevant to contemporary issues in South Africa and the world.

Postgraduate
We offer research Master's (by dissertation) and PhD in Geography. We also have taught Master's programmes of interest: MSc in GIS and Remote Sensing and MSc in Environmental Science. The School attracts students from South Africa and the southern African region, but we also host students from other African states as well as North America, Europe and Asia. Our students regularly attend local and international conferences and frequently publish their work in local and international journals.

Link to Department Webpage
https://www.wits.ac.za/gaes/

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Chair/Head of Department: Dr. FM Murungweni

List of Staff and their areas of specialisation

Name (Title, Initials, Surname)	Area of Specialisation	ORCID ID
Dr FM Murungweni (HOD)	Geoinformation and RS applications, Ecological restoration & Climate change impacts.	**0000-0002-4742-0139**
Dr. NV Mudau	Development geography & Waste management	N/A
Dr. RB Munyai	Climate Change, weather Systems, Disaster Risk Management	N/A
Dr. KH Netshisaulu	Population and demography, GIS and Remote Sensing, Climate adaptation	0000-0001-7291-0829
Dr. F Dondofema	GIS, Remote sensing, Spatial Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology, Aquatic Ecology, Water Resources Management, Rangeland ecology	N/A
Ms. MG Maponya	Geoinformatics (applied in ecology, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction).	N/A
Dr. E Kori	Geomorphology (soil erosion, geodiversity, and geomorphological mapping).	N/A

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Geographers' Specialisations Within the Department

Name (Title, Initials, Surname)	Area of specialisation	ORCID ID
Dr. T Nelwamondo	Economic geography (focusing on the spatial distribution of economic activities, informal activities, and their impacts on the environment), Tourism geography (sustainable tourism and development), Settlement geography (Dynamics within both rural and urban settlement systems).	N/A
Mr. MS Muthige	Climate Sciences	N/A
Ms. M Tshikosi	GIS, Remote sensing, Project management and data analysis, GIS software's integration, Demographic and population	N/A
Mr. T Mohomi	Climate Sciences, Disaster Risk Management, GIS and Remote Sensing	N/A

Exciting Departmental News

Grace Maponya has successfully obtained a Doctorate in Geoinformatics from Stellenbosch University on 24th March 2026.

Rendani Bigboy Munyai has successfully obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Geography (Climatology) from the University of South Africa in October 2025.

On the 3-5th September 2025, two students, Thandeka Siluma and Kagiso Moteke, had the privilege of attending the South African Society for Geographers (SSAG) Conference at the University of Johannesburg, as part of academic development and exposure to current research in geography and environmental sciences.

The conference brought together researchers, academics, and students to exchange knowledge on multiple geography disciplines, discuss emerging challenges, and explore innovations within the field. The conference programme included keynote addresses, oral presentations, poster sessions, and panel discussions.

University of Venda

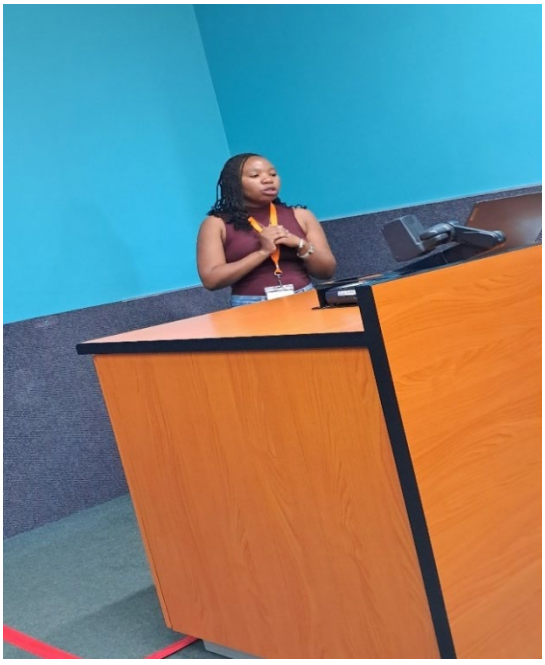
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UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Exciting Departmental News





Pic: Thandeka Siluma (Left) and Kagiso Moteke (Right) during their research presentation at the conference.

MSc and PhD graduations, topics and supervisors

Dr. NV Mudau co-supervised a PhD student who graduated during the May 2025 graduation: Magosha TA; Thesis Title: Evaluation of public participation process in environmental impact assessments of selected development projects in the Vhembe district of South Africa.

Nwanamidwa Pfarelo successfully completed her master's in Environmental Sciences (Geography) in September 2025. Her dissertation topic was: Effectiveness of Flood Adaptation Actions and Plans in Vhembe District Municipality, South Africa. Supervised by Prof. NS Nethengwe and Dr. ME Mugari.

Link to Departmental Webpage

https://www.univen.ac.za/faculties/science-engineering-and-agriculture/geography-and-environmental-sciences/

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MEMBERS AFFILIATED WITH SSAG NOT WORKING IN GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENTS

Parliament of the Republic of South Africa: Content Advisor for the Portfolio Committee on Tourism

Dr Phillibert Sibusiso Khuzwayo

Email Address: Skhuzwayo@parliament.gov.za

Exciting News:

I have PhD in Geography specialising in tourism policy and planning from the University of Zululand. I have been supporting the Portfolio Committee on Tourism in Parliament since 2012. During this period, I have identified gaps in scholarly publications pertaining to tourism governance in South Africa. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of1996) outlines the tourism as a concurrent function. Part A of Schedule 4 of the Constitution lists tourism as a functional area of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence. Part B of Schedule 4 lists local tourism as a local government competency. The concurrent nature of the tourism function presents challenges that can only be addressed through cooperation and collaboration amongst the three spheres of government. The challenges in the tourism sector emanate from the dereliction of the constitutional mandate by some speres of government. There have also been a number of governance issues at the Department of Tourism and South African Tourism, with the latest developments being Proclamation R297 of 2025 to probe allegations of maladministration, corruption and irregular procurement. These matters should be researched and published. I am available for co-authoring papers on tourism governance in South Africa.

PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NamibGeoVista GeoConsult & Imaging CC (owner), PO Box 80849, Windhoek, Namibia
Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Dept of Geo-Spatial Sciences and Technology (affiliated as adjunct faculty prof)

Dr Ingrid Ursula STENGEL (Dr.rer.nat)

Email Address: ingrid@namibgeovista.com
whatsapp only: +49 176 8599 3247

Exciting News:

Ongoing project work: Geoscientific consulting, image processing, and detailed, tailored mapping services, based on satellite and airphoto imagery, drone imaging, and field work.

Research: Regional geology / geomorphology / drone and satellite image mapping in conjunction with international palaeontological research teams. Geomorphology / landscape history. Aeolian processes.

List of Publications:

Brandt M. Gibson, **Ingrid Stengel**, Zakeus Nghishidulu, Peter R. Liberty, Ajani Bissick, Andrea Boscaini, Joshua H.F.L. Davies, Galen P. Halverson, Frederick J. Hilgen, Bianca Spiering, Patricia Vickers-Rich, Marc Laflamme, New Swartpuntia occurrence found within the Aar Member, Gondwana Research, Volume 138, 2025, Pages 186-191, ISSN 1342-937X, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gr.2024.11.002. (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1342937X24003113)

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SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS

Department of Human Science Teaching, Sol Plaatje University

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ORCID:	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1743-6452
Research interest:	Geographical experiences, lived experiences relevant to Geography, geographical consciousness & environmental education.

Full name:	Dr Thulasizwe Mkhize
Current affiliation:	Department of Human Science Teaching, Sol Plaatje University
Email address:	Thulasizwe.Mkhize@spu.ac.za
ORCID:	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7910-9724
Research interest:	Geography, Social Sciences and GIS education