About Inside-out Outside-in South African Corrections Interest Group

The Inside-out Outside-in South African Corrections Interest Group was founded in 2013 as the brainchild of academics and students in the Department of Psychology, Unisa. At its conceptual stage, the group was founded with the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences about projects, organisations, research, theories and, most importantly, about principles underpinning community psychology relating to corrections either directly or indirectly. Two years later, the initiative has evolved to become a formal community engagement project within the Department of Psychology, Unisa. During the founding phase of Inside-out Outside-in, corrections related studies were primarily identified as part of social justice and inclusion research areas in the Department of Psychology. Subsequent to the birth of this initiative, there has been an increase in the number of Master’s and Doctorate students registering for corrections related studies. For 2014/2015 - within the Department of Psychology alone - there has been an increase of 53% in the number of M&D students who conduct corrections-related research.
Meetings with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS)

Inside-out Outside-in formally met with the DCS Management on January 7, 2015, at the DCS headquarters in the Poyntons Building, Pretoria. The meeting was attended by Unisa staff - including Eduard Fourie, Puleng Segalo, Martin Terre Blanche, Mbongiseni Mdakane, Carien du Plessis and Nonhlanhla Masinga - and DCS members including Chichi Sello, the Deputy Commissioner of personal wellbeing and wellness; Zengiwe Mtjekelo, Department of Counselling Services; and Zodwa Mosume from the Social Work Directorate. A number of issues were discussed to ascertain Unisa’s ongoing affiliation with the DCS. One of the issues discussed, among others, was the possible provision of placement opportunities for current Master’s Students. Furthermore, a possible collaboration between DCS and Unisa was discussed in order to partner and co-author different chapters in a book on psychological services and research in correctional services.

A second, follow-up meeting with the DCS took place on May 20, 2015. This meeting was interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral in that it was attended by representatives from various Unisa Colleges and Centres; representatives of the Community Engagement Initiative called Beyond Books Behind Bars; and representatives of the DCS.

Workshop presented by Sasha Gear

On January 28, 2015, Mbongiseni Mdakane and Carien Du Plessis (members of Inside-out Outside-in) attended the workshop titled, “In their boots: Staff perspectives on violence behind bars in Johannesburg” facilitated by Sasha Gear of Just Detention, at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits). Attending this workshop afforded the Inside-out Outside-in group the opportunity to meet with, and participate in an interview with US attorney, Jennifer Rae Taylor from Montgomery, Alabama. As a visiting researcher from the Equal Justice Initiative (www.eji.org), Jennifer partnered with the Wits Justice Project for several months, exploring the intersections between American and South African Criminal justice systems.

Visits and community engagement event at Zonderwater Correctional Centre

On March 10, 2015, Mbongiseni Mdakane was invited to be the guest speaker at a community engagement event at Zonderwater Correctional Centre A. Topics he covered in his presentation included, the process of successful adaptation while incarcerated; challenges of offender reintegration; as well
as the impact this has on family members and communities at large. The event was also attended by Professor Khalil Osiris and members of the DCS.

**Interview with You/Huisgenoot**

On March 11, 2015, Inside-out Outside-in members, Eduard Fourie and Mbongiseni Mdakane received an invitation from Media24 Lifestyle magazine, You/Huisgenoot to participate in an interview with journalist Hilda van Dyk. The popular magazine approached the Inside-out Outside-in members as a means to retrieve academic input on understanding friendships of high profile figures in correctional centres, and their long-lasting effects.

**SA Library Week Celebrations**

On March 24, 2015, Mbongiseni Mdakane was invited as guest speaker to attend the SA Library Week Celebration, hosted by the City of Tshwane Municipality. The event took place at the Refilwe Community Hall, and was attended by scores of community members, young School children, as well as correctional officers from Zonderwater Correctional Centre, Medium A. Offenders from Baviaanspoort and Zonderwater Correctional Centres were also scheduled to participate during the event, but never made it to the celebrations due to unforeseen circumstances. Mbongiseni’s presentation themed “The importance of reading while incarcerated” was prepared with these offenders in mind. The aim of the presentation was to motivate and encourage these offenders to partake in educational activities and to enlighten them on the important role education plays in their future release.

**Meeting with Dr Julia Matetoa and Prof. Charl Cilliers from the Department of Corrections Management, Unisa**

On March 30, 2015, Eduard Fourie and Mbongiseni Mdakane met with Dr Julia Matetoa (COD: Department of Corrections Management) and Prof. Charl Cilliers, at Unisa’s College of Law (Brooklyn offices). The meeting was centred on the promotion of Inside-out Outside-in as a new the brainchild of the Department of Psychology, and on the possible collaboration between the two departments in the development of new short learning programmes.
The Mapping Project

Three of the MA Research Consultation (MARC) students of 2015 – Johanni Du Toit, Olebile Mosemanekgosi and Lontinah Nhabelaeng – were placed at Inside-out Outside-in for their work integrated learning practical placements. As part of their placement, they embarked on compiling a proposal for a mapping project that was planned by the Inside-out Outside-in titled, “Mapping community engagement initiatives, research studies, modules and short courses related to corrections within the context of Unisa”. Essentially, the project entails creating some form of map consisting of community engagement initiatives, research projects, modules and short courses relating either directly or indirectly to correctional systems or communities across all Unisa campuses and centres. This map will be uploaded onto the Inside-out Outside-in website, as resource for anyone interested in corrections related matter.

As part one of the mapping project, Johanni made contact and met with individuals within Unisa involved in community engagement initiatives and research studies relating to correctional facilities and communities. Some of the key role players Johanni met with included: Prof. Magano from Unisa’s Department of Inclusive Education, College of Education, who is the driving force behind the “Prison and Special Schools” community engagement initiative at Baviaanspoort Correctional Centre; Dr. Van Eeden from Unisa’s Department of Life and Consumer Science, College of Agriculture and Environmental Studies, who is head of the “Health and Life Skills Training” community engagement initiative at Pollsmoor Correctional Centre; and Dr. Stephens from Unisa’s Department of Psychology of Education, College of Education who is currently a post-doctoral fellow mainly conducting corrections related research. During 2015, we have obtained ethical clearance and received permission to conduct the project at Unisa.
Collaboration with Beyond Books Behind Bars

As part of Inside-out Outside-in's interdisciplinary approach and the resulting mapping project, Inside-out Outside-in has partnered with the Community Engagement project Beyond Behind Books Behind Bars (BBBB) from Unisa's Engineering and Technology (CSET), School of Computing (SOC), College of Science. The aim of the project is to distribute learning and reading material to communities inside correctional centres. To date, Inside-out Outside-in's collaboration with BBBB has resulted in Inside-out Outside-in donating over 150 books to the project. The aim of the distribution of these learning and other material, is to improve literacy and numeracy levels of offenders as part of their rehabilitation. In turn, this will assists in creating an awareness of the value of reading as a means to gain knowledge and to improve students' study and learning skills.

4th Southern African Students' Psychology Conference in June 2015

The presence of the Inside-out Outside-in group was palpable at the 4th South African Students’ Psychology Conference hosted by Unisa on the Polokwane Campus. Inside- out Outside-in hosted both a pre- conference workshop, as well as a symposium at the conference, and we were privileged to have taken part in both of these events.

Pre-conference Workshop

The pre-conference workshop, titled "Inside-out Outside-in: Community Engagement Initiatives and Doing Research In and Around South African Prisons", took place on Monday, 22 June, 2015. This workshop's main focus was on how the principles of community psychology can be applied to communities existing in and around correctional systems, with particular reference to how community engagement initiatives, programs and research from different disciplinary fields may be connected and dependent on each other without the role-players even realizing it. Essentially, the workshop was geared towards looking at various aspects of the world of corrections - ranging from understanding the ideological framework of incarceration; mapping the world of corrections; gaining access into the world of corrections; and ethical considerations. The workshop was facilitated by Eduard Fourie, Martin Terre Blanche, Mbongiseni Mdakane, Gali Katide, Johanni du Toit, Olebile Mosemanekosi and Zengiwe Nkhoeli-Mtjekelo. The workshop attendees comprised
members of the DCS, as well as local students and students from neighbouring countries who aspire to conduct prison-related research.

Symposium
The pre-conference workshop was followed by a conference symposium, once again, hosted by Inside-out Outside-in.

The symposium, titled “Inside-out Outside-in: Prison studies and communities”, took place on Wednesday, 24 June, 2015, and was composed of five presentations by individuals either conducting research studies, participating in community engagement initiatives or individuals merely interested in corrections related issues.

The interdisciplinary symposium was aimed at synthesizing the diverse work conducted by students, scholars and practitioners in the hope of gaining an integrated understanding of the systems of corrections in South Africa. The line-up of presenters included:

1. Johanni Du Toit
   Title of Paper presented: A Comparison of Scores on a Psychological Assessment of Executive Functioning between White-Collar Prison Inmates and Non-inmates

2. Olebile Mosemanekgosi
   Title of Paper presented: The lived experiences of fatherhood among male inmates in prison

3. Lontinah Nchabeleng
   Title of Paper presented: Young adult male ex-offenders’ experiences of the transition from incarceration to the estranged family: The study of Sekhukhune area, Limpopo province

4. Mboniseni Mdakane
   Title of Paper presented: Comparing the Educational Attitudes of Maximum Security Offenders with Medium Security Offenders in Zonderwater Correctional Centre “A” and “B”

5. Edna Freinkel
   Title of Paper presented: Rehabilitation through education

The audience members who attended the symposium were also a diversity of individuals from various disciplinary fields. These included university students and lecturers, as well as professionals working in the field of corrections.
Visit to Verona by Puleng Segalo

Puleng Segalo represented Inside-out Outside-in when she visited Verona, Italy between 13 and 15 July 2015. She met with the members of Alteritas - Interazione tra i popoli (interaction among peoples), a group whose focus areas include a Participatory Research (PAR) project in collaboration with detainees at a correctional facility in Verona.

National Forum for DCS Psychologists

Inside-out Outside-in was invited to attend the DCS Psychology Indaba, held at Leeuwkop Correctional Centre on 14 and 15 September 2015. The forum was attended by various DCS psychologists, as well as BPsych representative, Vhuhwavo Nekhavhambe and Inside-out member, Mbongiseni Mdakane from the Department of Psychology at Unisa. During the forum, Mbongiseni gave a personal account on successful rehabilitation as well as the social reintegration of ex-offenders. This included information on challenges encountered by ex-offenders reintegrating into society.

Unisa’s School of Social Sciences Conference

Unisa’s School of Social Sciences Conference took place on 2 and 3 September, 2015, at Kgorong Building, Muckleneuk Campus. The Inside-out Outside-in group was involved yet again by hosting a symposium titled, “Towards an integrated understanding of the correctional system”. The symposium took place on September 2, 2015, and six individual papers were presented.
The rationale for hosting this symposium originated from the observation that correctional research seems loosely coordinated and overly discipline-bound. Consequently, it is insufficiently integrated with the existing body of interdisciplinary knowledge around prison related studies. In an attempt to fill this gap, this symposium sought out to acknowledge the interdisciplinary nature of the diverse work being done by various scholars in the social sciences and humanities at Unisa. The line-up of presentations includes:

1. Johanni Du Toit & Olebile Mosemanekgosi  
   *Title of Paper: Mapping community engagement initiatives and research studies in and around South African prisons*
2. Lontinah Nchabeleng  
   *Title of Paper: Ex-offenders experiences of social reintegration*
3. Mbongiseni Mdakane  
   *Title of Paper: Defying the odds of recidivism: Ex-offenders’ narratives of desistance*
4. Mbongiseni Mdakane, Eduard Fourie & Martin Terre Blanche  
   *Title of Paper: How to Approach a Community Engagement Initiative: Towards developing a set of guidelines*
5. Christina Landman  
   *Title of Paper: Alternative visions of incarceration*
6. Sibulelo Qhogwana  
   *Title of Paper: A narrative analysis of the experience of female prisoners rehabilitation in maximum security prisons in Gauteng*

As a whole, the symposium turned out to be a great reservoir of insight and influential knowledge on which one may constantly reflect back on and learn. The most enjoyable aspect of the conference and the symposium was its interactive nature. Both presenters and audience were able to share and exchange ideas.

**PsySSA Conference September 2015**

Inside-out Outside-in members were once again key contributors at PsySSA’s annual conference. As part of the symposium titled, “*Notions of community and community engagement in psychological work in low resource settings*” chaired by Prof. Ronelle Carolissen from the University of Stellenboch, the Inside-out Outside-in Group presented two papers on community engagement initiatives. These were, “*How to approach a community engagement initiative: Towards developing a set of guidelines*” presented by Mbongiseni Mdakane, Eduard Fourie and Martin Terre Blanche and “*Mapping community engagement initiatives and research studies in and around South African prisons*” presented by Johanni Du Toit and Olebile Mosemanekgosi.
Important events for 2016

We will continue with the projects and initiatives listed in the annual report and will embark on a few new ventures:

New Voices in Psychology: Special Issue

Invitation for Contributions to a Special Issue: Corrections (Prison) communities

Due dates:
- Abstract submission: 30 March 2016 (maximum 300 words)
- Manuscript submission: 31 July 2016 (maximum 5000 words)
- Please visit www.newvoicesinpsychology.co.za for more details

We would like to invite submissions for a 2016 special issue of New Voices in Psychology on corrections (prisons) research. This special issue is intended to highlight and appreciate research and community engagement initiatives in and around corrections. We invite contributions in the form of theoretical manuscripts, empirical studies, book reviews, DVD and film reviews, photo essays, interviews, reflections and poems.

Examples of possible themes could include:

- Research on South African and international social integration programmes for former offenders.
- Accounts of life in a correctional centre and life after release.
- Experiential accounts of life as a correctional officer.
- Narratives of public figures who were in a correctional centre or under house arrest.
- The interrogation of how ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ are constructed in newspaper reports about correctional services.
- Topics related to forensic psychology (for students already engaged in forensic work).
- Topics related to families and communities of (ex) offenders.
- Topics related to spirituality and incarceration.

For any enquiries about the special issue and for submission of contributions, please contact Mboniseni Mdakane at emdakam@unisa.ac.za or Khonzi Mbatha at mbathk@unisa.ac.za.
INVITATION TO JOIN INSIDE-OUT OUTSIDE-IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN CORRECTIONS INTEREST GROUP AT THE ICCP 2016

Inside-out Outside-in Southern African Corrections Interest Group will be taking part at the 6th International Community Psychology Conference to be hosted in Durban, South Africa, 27-30 May 2016. The conference theme is “Global Dialogues on Critical Knowledges, Liberation and Community”.

We seek to collaborate with scholars, developing scholars as well as intersectional role players doing work in the world of corrections to participate with us during this conference.

**Types of Presentations**

- Oral presentations
- Posters
- Symposium
- Roundtable discussion

Please let us know if you are interested

Send an email to: fourime@unisa.ac.za with your working title and your preferred type of presentation by the 10 December 2015.

For more information on the conference visit: [www.iccp2016.co.za](http://www.iccp2016.co.za)
Thank you

The Inside-out Outside-in South African Corrections Interest Group would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the role players that participated and assisted us in the launch of new initiatives, hosting events, attending and presenting at conferences and discussions during 2015.

From the team
Eduard Fourie, Carien Du Plessis, Mbongiseni Mdakane, Gali Katide, Khonzi Mbatha, Martin Terre Blanche, Puleng Segalo, Masefako Gumani, Johanni du Toit, Olebile Mosimanekgos, and Lontinah Nchabeleng

---

INSIDE-OUT OUTSIDE-IN SOUTH AFRICAN CORRECTIONS INTEREST GROUP

For more on these, and other events, please visit our website at insideoutoutsidein.co.za