

College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

Research focus areas for 2020: Department of Geography

Focus area	Researchers in the focus area	Specialisation of researchers in the focus area	Profile of the researcher	Research project themes	Capacity per researcher for 2020
HUMAN AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS GEOGRAPHY	Prof SE Mini minise@unisa.ac.za	Urban growth and Urban Development; Rural Development; Spatial Planning for Sustainable Development	Prof SE Mini is a full Professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD degree from the University of Fort Hare. Methodology expertise: Qualitative and Qualitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Spatial Development Planning 2. Spatial-Urban Development in Post-Apartheid South Africa 3. Smart-Cities for Sustainable Development. 4. African Urbanisation-African City 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 3 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students
	Prof AW Gunter gunteaw@unisa.ac.za	Urban Development	Prof Ashley Gunter is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD from The University of Johannesburg. His research focus is on urban development through local economic development and housing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban South Africa 2. Pro-Poor LED 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 2 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 5 Students

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			Methodology expertise: Qualitative research		
	Prof AC Horn hornac@unisa.ac.za	Urban, Rural and Environmental Geography	Prof Andre Horn is a professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a DPhil from the University of Pretoria. His focus areas include the geography of socio-economic change in South African cities, the desegregation of schools, and the spatiality of land history and land reform. Methodology expertise: Qualitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historiography of Pretoria/CTMM 2. Geography of post-apartheid socio-economic change in the City of Tshwane 3. Desegregation of schools (various scales) 4. Geography of land history in the former Transvaal province 5. Land reform in South Africa 6. Arsenic contamination of soil and water 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 5 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 3 Students
	Prof MD Nicolau nicolmd@unisa.ac.za	Migration studies	Prof Melanie Nicolau is a full Professor in Geography. She holds a PhD from the University of South Africa. Her research focuses on achieving more sustainable living for people living in the global south with specific applications in the region of Southern African and in Ethiopia.	Rural and urban migration in Africa, focussing applications in Ethiopia and Southern Africa <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socio-economic impact of migrants in host countries 2. Socio-economic impact of migrants to their areas of origin 3. The social, political, economic causes and impact of xenophobia. 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 student MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 1 Student
	Prof MD Nicolau nicolmd@unisa.ac.za	Roots-Driven Sustainable Socio-Economic Change in the Global South	Methodology expertise: Quantitative and qualitative studies research	Post development geography related to creation of a better quality of life and the reduction of poverty in rural areas of the global South with specific focus on the Southern African region and Ethiopia in the following areas of application: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participatory rural appraisal, sustainable livelihoods approach and community 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 student MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 1 Student

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> asset mapping as tools to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life in rural communities 2. Sustainable food security and indigenous knowledge systems 3. Post development theory and its link to human and social capital and wealth creation 4. Environmental awareness and responsibility in rural areas 5. Gender and women empowerment. 	
	Prof NJ Kotze kotzenj@unisa.ac.za	Urban Geography	<p>Prof Nico Kotze is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a DPhil from the University of Stellenbosch. His research focus is on South Africa housing problems and urban renewal.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Qualitative and Qualitative research</p>	<p>Urban problems related to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. urban renewal in Johannesburg 2. housing satisfaction and social housing in South Africa 	<p>PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 4 students</p> <p>MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 3 Students</p>
	Ms AE de Jager dejageae@unisa.ac.za	Urban greenspaces Tourism development	<p>Ms Anna de Jager is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a MA from Unisa, and her studies at Unisa towards a PhD is nearing completion.</p> <p>Methodological expertise: Qualitative and mixed methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban greenspaces 2. Sense of Place 3. Tourism development 4. Urban conservation. 	<p>MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students</p>

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	Dr T Dirsuweit dirtsutc@unisa.ac.za		<p>Dr Teresa Dirsuweit has 20 years of experience in tertiary teaching and research. She held an associate professor position at the University of the Witwatersrand until 2016 and currently holds a senior lectureship position at UNISA. She completed her doctorate at the University of the Witwatersrand and her post-doctorate at the Maison des sciences de l'homme in Paris. Her main research areas include urban studies and gender and space.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Qualitative Quantitative Discourse Analysis GIS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Geography 2. Cultural Geography 3. Gender 4. Food Studies 5. Political Geography 6. Education 	<p>PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 2-3 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 4-5 Students 7 PG students</p>
APPLICATION AND USE OF GEO-INFORMATION SYSTEMS	Prof PMU Schmidt	GIS, forensic geography, logistics	<p>Prof Peter Schmitz is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He previously worked at the CSIR on a wide range Geographic Information System projects ranging from forensic applications to designing bulk water supply and sewer systems. He is currently involved in researching the impact of TNT and RDX on plants for detection purposes, data logistics,</p>	<p>Geospatial analysis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food security and fortunateness 2. Forensic Geography 3. Research on impact of explosives for detection of landmines, ammunition caches and explosive remnants of war 4. Geo-intelligence <p>Any other interesting geospatial analysis</p>	<p>PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students</p>

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			<p>food insecurity and fortunateness.</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Descriptive, quantitative and quantitative analysis, cartography.</p>		
	Mr AC Vlok vlokac@unisa.ac.za	Participatory GIS in Rural Communities	<p>Mr Chris Vlok is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds a Master's degree in Geography from the University of Stellenbosch.</p> <p>Methodological expertise: Quantitative research; qualitative research</p>	GIS and Remote Sensing in solving real world problems of a spatial nature.	MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 1 Student
GEO-MORPHOLOGY PROCESS AND LANDFORM INVESTIGATION	Prof DW Hedding heddidw@unisa.ac.za	Landscape and climate interactions in the sub-Antarctic	<p>Prof DW Hedding is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD from the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on geomorphology, weathering and climate change</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Quantitative research</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geochronology of sub-Antarctic Marion Island using terrestrial cosmogenic nuclide dating 2. Aeolian processes and landforms on sub-Antarctic Marion Island 3. Responses of ground thermal processes to synoptic patterns and climate change. 	<p>PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 student</p> <p>MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students</p>
		A comparative study on the weathering of basaltic fields: implications for landscape		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landscape evolution of the Lesotho Drakensberg basalts 2. The geomorphology of the High Lesotho Drakensberg Mountains 3. Thufur development and degradation in the High Lesotho Drakensberg Mountains 	<p>PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 student</p> <p>MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students</p>

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	Mr AC Greyling egreyla1@unisa.ac.za	Palaeo Geomorphology and GIS	Mr Carel Greyling is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds MSc from the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on large landscape development and palaeo geomorphic landforms. Methodology expertise: Quantitative research and GIS/RS techniques.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drakensberg landscape development 2. Mass movements and large landslide in mountainous regions (Drakensberg) 3. Physical and chemical weathering of basalts and sandstones. 	MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students
	M RL Anderson anderrl@unisa.ac.za	Climate Change and impacts on soil erosion	Mr Ryan Anderson is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds an MSc from the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on the impact of climate change on soil erosion with focus on rainfall intensity and associated processes. Methodology expertise: Quantitative research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gully erosion 2. Rainfall erosivity 3. Climate change impacts on soil erosion 	MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	Dr A du Plessis duplea@unisa.ac.za	Water availability, quality and risk	Dr Anja du Plessis is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a PhD from the University of Johannesburg. Her research focus is water availability, quality, scarcity and/or stress as well as future water related risks and opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current and Future water availability and quality of surface water resources in southern Africa (surface and groundwater) 2. Perceptions and/or behaviour towards increased water stress and/or scarcity (domestic water resources). 3. Current and Future water related risks and opportunities within southern Africa (i.e. influence of climate change; 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 3 Students

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			Methodology expertise: Qualitative and quantitative research	possibilities of artificial wetlands and wastewater re-use).	
IMPACT OF LOCAL CLIMATE VARIABILITY, LOCAL SEASONAL RAINFALL, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	Dr SC Nenwiini nenwisc@unisa.ac.za	Climate variability and change, local scale seasonal rainfall characteristics	Dr Shandukani Nenwiini is a senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a PhD in Geography from North West University. Her research focus is on climate variability and change, local scale seasonal rainfall characteristics – for operational purpose considering natural resources management, agriculture, development and planning. Methodology expertise: Quantitative Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate variability and change 2. Local scale seasonal rainfall characteristics and the impact on natural resources management, agriculture, development and planning. 	PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 2 students MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2 Students
TEACHING AND LEARNING IN GEOGRAPHY	Prof RW Pretorius pretorw@unisa.ac.za	Education for sustainability (EfS)	Prof Rudi Pretorius is an associate professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD and an MBL from Unisa, and an MSc from UP. His research focus is primarily on education for sustainability and the application thereof in geography and environmental related study fields in higher education.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable development applications in higher education 2. Scholarship of teaching and learning in geography 3. ODeL applications in geography and environmental related study fields 	Masters: 2 PhD: 2

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			<p>Methodological expertise: Qualitative research; reflective research; integral theory</p>		
	Ms A de Jager dejageae@unisa.ac.za	ODEL in geography in higher education	<p>Ms Anna de Jager is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds a MA from Unisa. Her studies at Unisa towards a PhD is nearing completion. Her research focus is primarily on engaged teaching and learning in Geography and ODeL</p> <p>Methodological expertise: Qualitative research; mixed methods research</p>	ODEL applications in geography and environmental related study fields	MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 1 Student
	Ms S Carow sanetpc@unisa.ac.za	GIS in geography in higher education	<p>Ms Sanet Carow is a lecturer in the Department of Geography. She holds an MSc in Geoinformatics. Her research interests concern various dimensions of teaching and learning GIS, and its integration with geography</p> <p>Methodological expertise: Integrated teaching; curriculum design</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ODeL applications in geography and environmental related study fields 2. GIS education in other African countries (specifically at higher education institutions) 3. Geography/GIS education in secondary schools in South Africa. 	MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 1 Student
	Mr C Vlok vlokac@unisa.ac.za	ODEL in geography in higher education	Mr Chris Vlok is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography. He holds a Master's degree in	1. ODeL applications in geography and environmental related study fields	MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 1 Student

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			<p>Geography from the University of Stellenbosch.</p> <p>Methodological expertise: Quantitative research; qualitative research</p>		
	<p>Prof AW Gunter gunteaw@unisa.ac.za</p>	<p>International Distance Education in Africa</p>	<p>Prof Ashley Gunter is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. He holds a PhD from The University of Johannesburg. His research focus in ODeL is on international distance education in Africa and its impact on the transfer of knowledge</p> <p>Methodology expertise: Qualitative research</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Distance Education and African Students (IDEAS) 2. OERs and Refugee integration into host communities 	<p>Masters: 2 PhD: 1 PHD (GEOGRAPHY): 1 student MSC (GEOGRAPHY): 2Students</p>