**School of Journalism and Media Studies**

**Annual Report 2019**

**Professor Larry Strelitz**

**Head of School**

**Professor Anthea Garman**

**Deputy Head of School**

Postgraduates and Graduation

The School graduated 54 Bachelor of Journalism, 49 Bachelor of Arts, 7 Honours, 10 Masters, 7 Postgraduate Diploma, 22 Media Management Diploma, four Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Journalism and three Doctor of Philosophy candidates. The postgraduates were engaged in a variety of journalism and media studies projects, ranging from health and economics journalism to critical analyses of social media in the global South and more.

Distinguished Visitors/International Visits

The School hosted its first-ever symposium on Digital Media Methods for media researchers. It was organised by Prof Harry Dugmore and Dr Alette Schoon and welcomed 15 delegates from six institutions who joined staff and postgraduates from the School. Keynote speakers included Prof Jean Burgess and Prof Axel Bruns from the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane; Prof Tanja Bosch from the University of Cape Town; Mr Marco Konopacki from the Institute of Technology and Society RIO, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Mr Indra de Lanerolle from the University of the Witwatersrand; and Prof Wisdom Tettey from the University of Toronto. The symposium’s focus was to discuss ways to study digital media that work for the African continent which is characterised by inequality and great diversity of access and use.

Prof Lynette Steenveld was granted funding to host a seminar series as part of the Mellon Foundation’s 30th anniversary. A range of discussions and performances was held, drawing artists, poets, musicians and thinkers from the global South. Some notable performances included the following: *Black Milk of Morning* performed by South African poets Dolla Sapeta and Lesego Rampolokeng, and Palestinian poet Ghayath Almadhoun; Angolan musician and instrument maker, Victor Gama, presented *tectonik: TOMBWA* (this multimedia music performance focused on the story of Augusto Zita N’Gonguenho’s attempt to write about the anthropology of colonialism in the 1980s using non-western and scientific methods); Zimbabwean artist Richard Mudariki and curator Thandazani Dhlakama presented *Five Bhobh Conversations* (featuring 29 artists from Zimbabwe and presenting a social commentary in code about life in the country); the Makhanda Black Kolective presented Ukuzihlambulula from an anti-humane world: dreaming liberated spaces, praxis and knowledges from the other side of the line; and Cape-originating film artists Kino Kadre presented Dreaming Cinema Scenarios Inside Community. Also for the 30th anniversary series, lectures were given by prominent voices of Southern epistemologies: Orof Ravi Sundaram, delivered a lecture on pirate modernity and digital media; Prof Yusuf Sayed spoke on social justice, social change and a decolonial curriculum in South Africa; Prof Catarina Gomez presented a post-colonial analysis of the experience of Portuguese colonialism in Angola, and Prof Boaventura de Sousa Santos spoke on how to re-found democratic conviviality.

Significant Research Aligned Events

In celebration of their 25 years in South Africa the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, launched a special programme to support the next generation of investigative journalists. In partnership with Prof Anton Harber from the Journalism Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand, five fellows spent a semester at Rhodes University in the Grocotts Mail newsroom working on five investigative projects based in the Eastern Cape. They were mentored by Ms Sue Maclenna, Prof Harry Dugmore, Prof Anthea Garman, Mr Rod Amner, Mr Ryan Hancocks and Mr Shepi Mati. The Open Society also renewed a grant to Prof Harry Dugmore for a second edition of his study Paying the Piper: The sustainability of the news industry and journalism in South Africa in a time of digital transformation and political uncertainty.

From the Mellon-funded Media, Digitality and Sociality project, Mr Eugene Paramoer organised a very successful week-long filmmaking workshop in Bonteheuwel, one of Cape Town’s gang-ridden Cape Town. This is related to the action-research process for his doctoral thesis and was also a community-based event that was highly appreciated by the participants. Masters student Ms Binwe Adebayo Adebayo presented the paper “Towards a convivial approach to the Global South Being and Belonging” at the Millennium Conference at the London School of Economics.

From the NRF-funded Licence to Talk project, doctoral student Ms Martina della Togna and MA students Banathi Mqoboka and Juliet Witi attended the opening of the Sixth Democratic Parliament in Cape Town and the civil society workshop organised by Parlywatch. The social media data they gathered from the hashtag #SONA2019 was presented at the annual South African Communication Association conference at the University of Cape Town. They also wrote journalistic articles arising out of their research on "Putting the people first in the people's parliament" for the Daily Maverick and The Journalist. Della Togna was also invited to present her doctoral research at an Eastern Cape roundtable focused on the relationship between civil society and provincial legislatures.

Research Seminars

During 2019 the School invited authors, filmmakers, and academics to speak at weekly research seminars: Dr Siphiwo Mahala, author of *When a Man Cries*, *Yakhal Indoda*, *African Delights*, *Red Apple Dreams* and the play, *The House of Truth*, talked about creative production and his work as an author and Drum scholar, playwright, and filmmaker; Dr Bev Ditsie gave students a masterclass in documentary filmmaking; Dr Elizabeth Thomas, from the Hunterstoun Institute, who collaborated with Dr Alette Schoon in the production of a series of documentaries on land in the Tyhume Valley, talked about the project; Prof Tally Palmer ran a workshop on the intersections between the social and the ecological; Dr Omotayo Omitola spoke on intertextuality in blogs; Mr Paul Wessels spoke about the paradox of teaching creative writing; Dr Ian Seiborger presented on political discourses in the tabloid Daily Sun; photographer Bonile Bam from the Market Photography Workshop spoke to students; Prof Lynda Spencer talked about the Urban Connections in African Popular Imaginaries project; Dr Siphokazi Magadla, reflected on the use African languages in teaching and assessment; Mr Will Stevens, Deputy Consul-General and Public Affairs Officer for the US Consulate spoke on US diplomacy, current global issues and journalism; Makhanda estate agency owner Mr Richard Gaybba made a case for strengthening and supporting community journalism and the need for Grocott’s Mail; and doctoral student Michela Oosthuizen shared her research on addictive messages that stimulate a consumer culture.

Books/Chapters/Monographs

**Boshoff, P. and Prinsloo, J.**

**Boshoff, P.** and **Prinsloo, J.** (2019) Gender and sexuality in the media. In: Iqani, M. and Chiumbu, s. (eds.). *Media Studies: Critical African and Decolonial Approaches.* Cape Town: Oxford University Press. P.195-214. ISBN: 9780190443535.

**Buthelezi, S.M.N.** and **Dalvit, L.**

**Buthelezi, S.M.N.** and **Dalvit, L.** (2019) Exploring how mobile phones mediate bonding, bridging and linking social capital in a South African rural area. In: Mutsvairo, B. and Ragnedda, M. (eds.). *Mapping the Digital Divide in Africa.* Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. p.195-214. ISBN: 9789462986855.

**Dalvit, L.**

**Dalvit, L.** (2019) Mobile phones and visual impairment in South Africa: experiences from a small town. In: Ellis, K., Goggin, G. and Haller, B. (eds.). *Routledge companion to disability and media*. New York: Routledge. p.285-294. ISBN: 9781315716008.

**Prinsloo, J.**

Peek, B. and **Prinsloo, J.** (2019) NINE Learning and teaching: reflections on an environmental justice school for activists in South Africa. In: *Environmental Justice, Popular Struggle and Community Development*. UK: Policy Press. p.135-152. ISBN: 9781447350859.

**Schoon, A.**

**Schoon, A.** (2019) Hip Hop as a valorising practice. In: Haupt, A., Williams, Q., Alim, H.S. and Jansen, E. (eds.). *Neva Again: Hip Hop Art, Activism and Education in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. Cape Town: HSRC Press. p.237-250. ISBN: 9780796924452.

Concerts, Exhibitions, Performances, Workshops, Events

**Schoon, A.**

**Schoon, A.** and de Lanerolle, I. Workshop. The Izolo Diary Method. *The First African Digital Media Research Methods Symposium.* Rhodes University, Makhanda. South Africa. 7 June 2019.

Other Publications

International Visits

Peer-Reviewed Subsidy-Earning Journal Research Publications

**Dugmore, H.**

Draper, C.E., Tomaz, S.A., Bassett, S.H., Harbron, J., Kruger, H.S., Micklesfield, L.K., Monyeki, A., Lambert, E.V., **Christie, C.J.**, **Dugmore, H.** and et al. (2019) Results from the Healthy Active Kids South Africa 2018 Report Card. *South African Journal of Child Health (SAJCH)*. 13 (3). p.130-136.

**Malila, V.**

**Malila, V.** (2019) Beyond Watchdog Journalism: Media and Social Accountability in South Africa. *African Journalism Studies*. 40 (1). p.91-106.

**Nyaungwa, M.** and **Garman, A.**

**Nyaungwa, M.** and **Garman, A.** (2019) Speaking to power through newspaper editorials in Zimbabwe. *Journal of African Media Studies*. 11 (1). p.51-64.

**Prinsloo, J.**

**Prinsloo, J.** (2019) Editorial: Gender and the economy in post-apartheid South Africa. *Agenda: a Journal About Women and Gender*. 33 (4). p.1-2.

**Prinsloo, J.** (2019) Editorial. *Agenda: a Journal About Women and Gender*. 32 (4). p.1-2.

Peer-reviewed Proceedings

Research Papers Presented at Academic/Scientific Conferences (Non-peer-reviewed Proceedings)

**Boshoff, P.**

**Boshoff, P.** ‘Let them eat grass’: pastors vs the people in South Africa’s Daily Sun. *International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)*. Facultad de Ciencias de la Información, Complutense University, Madrid. Spain. July 2019.

**Boshoff, P.** ‘It’s our law now’: social belonging and ‘People’s Justice’ in the Daily Sun. *SACOMM (South African Communications Association)*. University of Cape Town, Cape Town. South Africa. August 2019.

**Boshoff, P.** ‘Take this, you monster!’ Vengeful women in South Africa’s Daily Sun tabloid. *International Association for Media and Communication IAMCR (International Association for Media and Communication Research) Research Conference.* Complutense University, Madrid. Spain. July 2019.

**Boshoff, P.** Becoming subjects: A social semiotics approach to researching digital self-representation. *African Digital Media Research Methods Symposium*. Rhodes University School of Journalism and Media Studies, Grahamstown. South Africa. June 2019.

**Dugmore, H.**

**Dugmore, H.** Misinfodemics - Upacking the Core Narratives of Multinational Drink Companies Online Marketing Campaigns Aimed at Young People in Developing Countries. *Association of Internet Researchers Conference*. Brisbane. Australia. October 2019.

**Garman, A**.

**Garman, A.** State Capture and Journalism Capture. *IAMCR*. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid. Spain. July 2019.

**Garman, A.** Unnatural: writing in precarious times. *IALJS*. State University of New York, Stony Bridge, Port Jefferson. USA. May 2019.

**Garman, A.** Tie me up. Tie me down. Writing with Constraint. *The Australasian Association of Writing Programs*. University of Technology Sydney, Sydney. Australia. November 2019.

**Garman, A.** Walking the abyssal line with double consciousness: a way to educate for freedom? *IAMCR*. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid. Spain. July 2019.

**Garman, A.** Unnatural: Writing in precarious times. *Literature and Ecology Colloquium*. Amazwi South African Museum of Literature, Grahamstown. South Africa. September 2019.

**Isaacs De Vega, T.J.**

**Isaacs De Vega, T.J.** Media Accountability in Context. *RU 2019 PG Conference*. Rhodes University, Makhanda. South Africa. August 2019.

**Schoon, A.**

**Schoon, A.** African personhood and the promises of new media: understanding the digital media practices of the hip-hop artists of Makhanda. *International Association of Media Researchers Conference 2019 Preconference Era or Error of Transformation? Assessing Afrocentric Attributes to Digitalisation*. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid. Spain. July 2019.

**Schoon, A.** Not just sitting at home: The dignity of backyard digital media technology. *International Association of Media Researchers Conference 2019*. Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid. Spain. July 2019.

**Schoon, A.** An Introduction to the DigiMethods Symposium. *The First African Digital Media Research Methods Symposium*. Rhodes University, Makhanda. South Africa. June 2019.