**School of Journalism and Media Studies**

**Introduction**

2021 was a productive year for the school of Journalism and Media Studies. Funding from the National Research Fund (NRF) has enabled staff and students to pursue valuable projects. Staff members and students (co) authored and published a total of five (5) book chapters and seven (7) SAPSI accredited journal articles. In addition to published research, staff members have delivered creative work and presented papers at national and international conferences. Notably, a special report on the South African government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic was produced in a collaborative effort between staff and PhD students. Continuing with the remote teaching model for most of the year granted novel opportunities for research and the organisation of a webinar series, as well as virtual conferences which brought together international and local guests to discuss various insights and issues around the field of journalism.

**Postgraduates / Graduations**

The School of Journalism and Media Studies graduated Bachelor of Arts, fifty-four (54) Bachelor of Journalism, five (5) Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, ten (10) Postgraduate Diploma in Media Management, six (6) Honours, and one (1) Master of Arts students. Postgraduates have been engaged in a variety of journalism and media studies projects. These range from a report on the South African government’s COVID response, to economics journalism and researching state capture.

**Distinguished Visitors / International Visits**

Dr Adjin-Tettey was invited to deliver two lectures at Bingham University, Nigeria. The first was held in June 2021 and explored gender ethics within the newsroom. The second was held in August 2021 where Dr Adjin-Tettey delivered a lecture on sustainable journalism. She was also invited to speak at the African Women in Media Conference – held virtually, but also in the United Kingdom. The theme of Dr Adjin-Tettey’s speech was Gender sensitivity in the long-term perspective: Sustainable journalism.

Dr Schoon was invited to be part of a panel of African Digital media scholars for the webinar Ethnographies and/of digital cultures in Africa funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and organised by Serena Stein, Wageningen University & Research, and Louisa Lombard, Yale University.

The School hosted the virtual launch of the report “Perspectives from Africa: Global Lessons for saving Journalism” with Professor Anya Schiffrin from Columbia University USA, Prof Harry Dugmore from University of the Sunshine Coast Australia, Dr Theodora Adjin Dame Tettey from Ghana and Mr Lumko Mtimde, Special Advisor to the Minister in the Presidency, SA. Another significant presentation was given by Mr Reg Rumney who shared his research, commissioned by SANEF, into COVID’s impact on the SA media sphere.

**Significant Research Aligned Events**

Dr Alette Schoon was involved in several research events over the course of 2021. She presented to a group of Yale University Anthropology students on ethnographies and digital cultures in Africa, and attended two international conferences: one coordinated by the International Association for Media and Communication Research, and another held in Finland where she discussed the relationship between journalism and algorithms. Dr Schoon was also selected to participate in an international project on developing the research potential of the Essay Film. This project was started in 2020 by Horizon and is based at the University of Lödz, Poland. Perhaps most significantly for our context, Dr Schoon produced and directed a sixty-five minute historical documentary titled: Intellectual Giants of the Eastern Cape. This was a co-production of the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University and the Hunterston Centre, University of Fort Hare.

Professor Lorenzo Dalvit was awarded funding by the NRF Competitive Programme for Rated researchers for a three-years' project on "Rethinking digital inclusion and (dis)ability in South Africa: a southern epistemological perspective".

Dr Adjin-Tettey published four articles and submitted a chapter for publication in addition to presenting papers at five conferences during 2021. She worked with Prof Anja Schiffrin at Columbia University to produce the report Saving journalism 2: Global strategies and a look at investigative journalism. She also worked on the Open Society Foundation-funded report News Provision and Consumption Habits Among Non-Elites Across the Global South.

PhD student Martina Della Togna participated in seminars and online workshops hosted by civil society organisations such as the Active Citizens Movement, using her experiences, research activities and activism to share insight into the role of Parliament in state capture. She has also been involved in the attempts to revise both whistleblower legislation as well as the oversight for the management of staff within Parliament.

PhD student Thandi Bombi was chosen in a competitive process to participate in a PhD-level Violence and Trauma course given by the University of Oslo’s journalism department. She and two other students from Wits and Sao Paolo University presented at the Safety Matters 2021 Conference at the University of Oslo and then again at the 72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference in 2022 in Paris.

PhD student Robyn Perros, whose thesis is focused on the memorialisation of death online, began collaborating with the Collective for Radical Death Studies, an international, professional organisation formed to decolonize Death Studies and radicalise death practice.

As a project group, Prof Anthea Garman along with PhD students and postdoctoral fellows worked on the country report on the SA Government’s responsiveness to the Covid pandemic as lead researchers and writers on the chapter on communications. PhD student Martina Della Togna – who has extensive knowledge of government departments and parliament as well as contacts within civil society organisations – acted as lead writer and managed the other researchers. This document has been presented to the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and to the National Planning Commission. It involved Della Togna, Prof Anthea Garman, postdoctoral fellow Dr Theodora Dame Adjin-Tettey and PhD student Thandeka Bukula. For the second edition in 2021 they were joined by PhD students Thandeka Gqubule-Mbeki and Julian Jacobs.

Dr Adjin Tettey and Prof Anthea Garman were also invited by the Fojo Media Institute based at Linnaeus University in Sweden to join researchers from Jonkoping University and Wits to work on a project on Sustainable Journalism in Sub Saharan Africa. Dr Adjin-Tettey set up all the interviews with journalists and was lead writer of the report which was launched at the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria in 2021. A network of journalists and media organisations has now been formed across the world to take the work further.

Sol Plaatje Institute and Highway Africa hosted a virtual panel discussion titled: Think Globally, Acting Locally: Sustaining South African Journalism in a post-Covid world on 18 March 2021. The international Highway Africa Conference was held (virtually) from 21 – 23 June 2021. It took a wide and close look at the impacts of media environmental factors, particularly platformisation, that are redefining the media and journalism landscapes in the ‘age of uncertainty and speed’.

**Professor Jeanne Du Toit**

**Head of School**

**Dr Priscilla Boshoff**

**Deputy Head of School**

Books/Chapters/Monographs

**Dalvit, L.**

**Dalvit, L.** (2021) The voice of the voiceless? decoloniality and online radical discourses in South Africa. In: Karam, B. and Mutsvairo, B. (eds.). *Decolonising Political Communication in Africa*. New York: Routledge: Taylor and Francis. p.207-223. ISBN: 9780367544300.

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

Zinn, D., Raban, M., Luck, J., Latolla, N., Kubashe, N.C., **Isaacs De Vega, T.J.**, Champion, E. and Biggs, L. (2021) Uzifozonke: Healing the Heart of Curriculum in a South Africa University (in Curriculum Theory, Curriculum Theorising, and the Theoriser). In: Fomunyam, K.G. and Khoza, S.B. (eds.) *Curriculum Theory, Curriculum Theorising, and the Theoriser: The African Theorising Perspective*. Leiden: Brill. p.15-37. ISBN: 9789004447936.

**Isaacs De Vega, T.J.** (2021) Contextualising Journalism and Media Studies: An approach to Decolonising Education in South Africa. In: Rodny-Gumede, Y., Chasi, C., Jaffer, Z. and Ponono, M. (eds.). *Decolonising Journalism Education in South Africa: Critical Perspectives*. Pretoria: UNISA Press. p.100-120. ISBN: 9781776150953.

**Ndlovu, N.**

**Ndlovu, N**. 2021. ‘A nation that laughs together, stays together’: Deconstructing humour on Twitter during the national lockdown in South Africa.’ In Mpofu, S. (ed.) *Digital Humour in the Covid-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from the Global South*. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan. p. 191-212. ISBN: 978-3-030-79279-4

Tshuma, B., Tshuma, L. and **Ndlovu, N.** 2021. ‘Humour, Politics and Mnangagwa’s Presidency: An analysis of readers’ comments in online news websites.’ In Mpofu, S. (ed.) *The Politics of Laughter in the Social Media Age: Perspectives from the Global South*. Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan. p. 93-112. ISBN: 978-3-030-81969-9

Concerts, Exhibitions, Performances, Workshops, Events

**Chatikobo, T.**

**Chatikobo, T.** Conference coordinator. Sol Plaatje Institute/Highway Africa webinar series “Our Futures, Our New Normals”. *Thinking Globally Acting Locally*. Online. March 2021

**Chatikobo, T.** Conference coordinator. Highway Africa conference. Online. June 2021

**Garman, A.**

**Garman, A.** Panel member.The English Association (UK) discussion on Decolonisation and Discomfort. *The English Association (UK) discussion on Decolonisation and Discomfort*. Online. 18 June, 2021

**Garman, A**. Panel member. The South African National Editors’ Forum webinar. *Building an Ethical Framework for SA Journalism*. Online. 21 April 2021.

**Garman, A**. Webinar co-host. *Perspectives from Africa: Global Lessons for Saving Journalism*. Columbia University. Online. April, 2021.

**Rennie, G**

**Rennie, G**. Presenter. *This Mortal Body* colloquium. *Lines Land Slant*. University of the Western Cape. April 2021.

**Schoon, A**.

**Schoon, A**. Documentary. Presented at the Zanzibar International Film Festival and the Karoo Writer’s Festival, Cradock.  *Intellectual Giants of the Eastern Cape*. 2021.

**Schoon, A**. Panel member. *Ethnographies and/of digital cultures in Africa webinar*. Yale University, USA. 2021

**Schoon, A**. Panel member. *The Essay Film Studio*. University of Lödz, Poland. 2021

Creative Writing

**Garman, A.**

**Garman, A.** (2021) When I get out I will. In: Schonstein, P. (ed.). *Love in the time of Covid*. Cape Town: African Sun Press.

**Garman, A.** (2021) This is the perfect time to get creative. In: Schonstein, P. (ed.). *Love in the Time of Covid*. Cape Town: African Sun Press.

**Rennie, G**.

**Rennie, G**. (2021) Poem. *Memo to the Eastern Cape*. Awarded 2nd Prize in the English Open Category of the Poetry in the McGregor Competition.

**Rennie, G**. (2021) . Ever After. (Magdala Award winner.) In: Schonstein, P. (ed.). *Love in the Time of Covid*. Cape Town: African Sun Press.

Distinguished Visitors

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**T Adjin-Tettey**. Bingham University, New Karu, Nigeria. *Lecture on Gender as an ethical norm: Integrating gender into newsroom practices to positively shape public discourse*. June 2021.

**T Adjin-Tettey**.  Distinguished Expert Series, Bingham University, Nigeria, 28 August 2021, New Karu, Nigeria. *Lecture on “Meeting the agenda 2030: What is the role of sustainable journalism?”* August 2021.

**T Adjin-Tettey**. African Women in the Media Conference 2021, Virtual, United Kingdom. *Conference speaker on the theme: Gender sensitivity in the long-term perspective: Sustainable journalism.* December 2021.

Other Publications

**Garman, A., Della Togna, M., Adjin-Tettey, T. and Bukula, T.**

**Garman, A.**, **Della Togna, M.**, **Adjin-Tettey, T.** and **Bukula, T.** (2021) South African Covid 19 Country Report: Communication . In: Burton, S. (ed.). *South African Covid 19 Country Report*. Pretoria: Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Peer Reviewed Non-Subsidy-Earning Journal Research Publications

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** (2021) Covid-19 compelling governments to listen? Evaluating traces of listening to public opinion in Ghana’s Covid- 19 presidential lockdown speeches. *African Renaissance*. 18 (4): 261-283.

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**, Selormey, D. and Nkansah, H.A. (2021) Ubiquitous technologies and learning: Exploring perceived academic benefits of social media among undergraduate students. *International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education*. 18 (1): 1-16.

**Adjin-Tettey, T. and Garman, A.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** and **Garman, A.** (2021) Solutions journalism as a tool to erode polarisation in the media and society. *African Journalism Studies*. 42 (2): 1-4.

Peer Reviewed Subsidy-Earning Journal Research Publications

**Boshoff, P.**

**Boshoff, P.** (2021) Breaking the Rules: Zodwa Wabantu and Postfeminism in South Africa. *Media and Communication*. 9 (2): 52-61.

**Boshoff, P.** (2021) The Women of SunLand: Narratives of NonCompliant Women in the Daily Sun Tabloid Newspaper, South Africa. *Communicatio*. 47 (3): 50-69.

**Boshoff, P. and Mlangeni, N.L.**

**Boshoff, P.** and **Mlangeni, N.L.** (2021) Age is Nothing but a Number: Ben 10s,Sugar Mummies, and the SouthAfrican Gender Order in the DailySuns Facebook Page. *Frontiers in Sociology*. 6 (2021): 1-10.

**Dalvit, L.**

**Dalvit, L.** (2021) Back to Whose ‘Normal’? Personal reflections of a visually-impaired academic at a small South African University. *Communication Culture & Critique*. 14 (2): 328-331.

Buthelezi, M., **Chatikobo, T.,** & **Dalvit, L**. (2021). United in diversity? Digital differences and inequalities within a South African rural community. *Information, Communication & Society*, *24*(3): 455-469.

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

**Adjin-Tettey, T.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** Towards sustainable journalism in Sub-Saharan Africa: A policy brief. *13th Southern Africa-Nordic Centre (SANORD) Annual Scientific Conference.* Bergen, Norway. September 2021.

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** Combating fake news, disinformation, and misinformation: Experimental evidence for media literacy education.  *ILMA Conference on Social Media, Hate speech and Fake News*.  North-West University, Mahikeng. South Africa. July 2021.

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** Privacy and security in the digital sphere: How netizens in two African countries navigate risks. *Trends in Media and Communication Conference 2021*.  University of Ghana, Accra. Ghana. October 2021.

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** Staying clear of disinformation and misinformation: Fact checking practices of students of two universities in West Africa. *Trends in Media and Communication Conference 2021*.  University of Ghana, Accra. Ghana. October 2021.

**Adjin-Tettey, T. and Garman, A.**

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** and **Garman, A.** Sustainable Journalism in Sub Saharan Africa: a north-south, global-local dialogue. *International Association of Media and Communication Researchers (IAMCR) 2021 Conference*. United States International University - Africa (USIU-Africa), Nairobi. Kenya. July 2021.

**Adjin-Tettey, T.** and **Garman, A.** Lurking as a mode of giving attention in social media: Motivations-based typologies. *71st Annual ICA Conference, Engaging the Essential Work of Care: Communication, Connectedness, and Social Justice*. Virtual. United States of America. May 2021.

**Boshoff, P.**

**Boshoff, P.**

**Boshoff, P.** Age is nothing but a number: Ben 10s, sugar mummies, and the South African gender order in the Daily Sun’s Facebook page. *SACOMM 2021 (South African Communications Association)*. Virtual. South Africa. October 2021.

**Chatikobo, T. and Dalvit, L.**

**Chatikobo, T.** and **Dalvit, L.** Reflections on coloniality of power through digital technologies in a Global South context. *International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)*. United States International University-Africa, Nairobi. Kenya. July 2021.

**Dalvit, L.**

**Dalvit, L.** Problematising networked spatialities and temporalities: new inclusions and exclusions at South African universities. *The Network Society: Re-evaluation and Applications of a Concept*. virtual, virtual. virtual. June 2021.

**Dalvit, L.** Please do not call it human right: a critical perspective on the digital inclusion of people with disabilities in South Africa. *International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)*. United States International University-Africa, Nairobi. Kenya. July 2021.

**Garman, A.**

**Garman, A.** Finding a form. *Creative Nonfiction Colloquium*. Online, Bellville. South Africa. May 2021.

**Garman, A.** Deeper and deeper and deeper: narrative nonfiction and the interiority of the other. *International Communication Association*. Online, Gold Coast. Australia. May 2021.

**Rennie, G.**

**Rennie, G.** “Will this Work? Investigating Ways of Telling a Story that Resists Being Told”. *Creative Non-Fiction Workshop*. UWC / Zoom, Cape Town. South Africa. May 2021.

**Schoon, A**.

**Schoon, A**. and Walton, M. (2021). Everyday struggles with South Africa’s unequal mobile infrastructure. *IAMCR*. Virtual, Nairobi. Kenya. July 2021.

**Schoon, A** (2021). Lighter lips, a Bollywood funeral and the Niger elections: Share-It, the algorithmic video news infrastructure for the Global South’s less-connected. *Automation and data-driven journalism beyond the Western world: actors, practices, and socio-political impac*t. Virtual, University of Helsinki. Finland. May 2021.