

BEING HUMAN

As human populations increase dramatically across the planet, never has it been more critical to engage, connect, create and think in new ways that help us to explore, express and understand our humanity. Research in the humanities and social sciences at UCT is leading the way.

Relevance is key to UCT's research-led culture. Whether information proves of practical use to society at large depends on its frame – which is why all UCT research is framed within a contemporary South African context that seeks to successfully contribute to development and transformation in the country. Its strategy remains the identification of those vital attributes necessary for sustaining a research practice that continues to be globally competitive.

Recent investment by the university has focused on a broader-based development of research capacity with an emphasis on the humanities and social sciences. This invigoration is particularly relevant in light of the 2011 Academy of Science of South Africa report *The Consensus Study on the State of Humanities in South Africa*, and the *Charter for Humanities and Social Sciences*, which pointed to a worrying decline in the humanities and social sciences across the country, a trend that UCT is bucking.

The emphasis on humanities and social sciences at UCT has seen measurable growth in the area of research and publications, despite relative stagnation in these areas nationally.

This trend looks likely to continue, particularly as all three DST/NRF South African Research Chairs awarded in 2007 in the humanities were renewed in 2012. A fourth Chair, held by Professor Carolyn Hamilton in Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative, has also performed strongly in its first five years and looks set to be renewed in 2013. This Chair works closely with other humanities-based research initiatives at the university: the Centre for Curating the Archive, the recently established Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA) and the Gordon Institute for the Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA).

These units provide direct and valuable intellectual support to a vibrant, thriving university research culture, whether individually, in collaboration, or through external partnerships. One such partnership extends northward into Africa – the TomboUCTou Manuscripts Project – led by Associate Professor Shamil Jeppie of HUMA. Its initial focus was on the research and translation of the Timbuktu Manuscripts in Mali, but it has broadened to include writing cultures from other parts of Africa.

UCT's contribution to the humanities endeavours to move beyond what is conventional. Just as the Michaelis School of Fine Art, the School of Drama and the College of Music create a rich and vibrant tapestry of work, so too the global revival of religion that impacts all forms and levels of individual and social life cannot be denied or ignored.

A study of religious discourse is crucial for understanding modern religions, their sources of inspiration and their underlying structures.

The Department of Religious Studies, headed by the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Islam, African Publics and Religious Values, Professor Abdulkader Tayob, offers an open and dynamic approach to the study of religion that recognises the importance of creative and critical thinking in a changing and culturally diverse South Africa.

Some credit can be claimed by the university for the national revival of linguistics research with a programme spearheaded by Professor Rajend Mesthrie of the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Migration, Language and Social Change.

The emphasis on humanities and social sciences has already seen UCT demonstrating measurable growth in the area of research and publication despite relative stagnation in these areas nationally.

UCT's active linguistics unit collaborates closely with colleagues in the School of Education and the Centre for Higher Education Development, along with the linguistics department at the University of the Western Cape. Sociolinguistics – described as one of the fastest-growing strands of linguistics – focuses on language and communication in society and social interaction. It carefully analyses everyday encounters in order to understand larger structures and processes like globalisation, inequality, social creativity, and the formation and contestation of identities. Its aim is to bring together empirical analysis and social and linguistic theory, as well as socio-political engagement.

The university recognises the importance of the humanities to both intellectual endeavour and the shaping of society, and remains committed to this sometimes undervalued area of academics.



Preserving the treasures of national heritage:

THE ARCHIVE AND PUBLIC CULTURE

The Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative works closely with other humanities-based research at the university to provide valuable intellectual support to a vibrant, thriving university research culture.

South Africa has a vast archival inheritance from the colonial and apartheid eras, which includes documents, images found in archival repositories and other collections, bones, natural specimens, art works, and maps. This inheritance, shaped in complex ways by the dominant concerns of the time, presents significant epistemological, conceptual, methodological, and ethical challenges for anyone delving into the treasure trove. And further complexity is added by post-apartheid policies and activities that now augment the collection and challenge the very perimeters and definition of archive itself.

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Two aspects of archive have operated in especially stark ways in South Africa. The absence of a documentary archive was used to designate black South Africans as timelessly traditional and tribal, while the Truth and Reconciliation Commission bears the weight of managing the political history of the apartheid era. Critical interrogation of the notion of archive, and specific archives, is therefore a South African research priority.

At UCT, research in this area has been given renewed vigour under the Chair in Archive and Public Culture, which offers privileged insights into the normative understandings of the workings of archive, and an opportunity to interrogate afresh the definition of archive and develop new theoretical tools and conceptual vocabularies to be used in

approaching questions that challenge and extend older metropolitan ideas. Taking the initiative still further, it considers what the notion of archive enables and what it forecloses, and explores new methods for approaching archival and similar materials.

The initiative investigates to the fullest the circumstances of the making of the archival inheritance, its refashioning over time, and processes of inclusion and exclusion. This is accomplished by focusing on how archives shape public, political and academic discourses and practices, and were, themselves, shaped by public, political and academic discourses and practices.

This draws attention to the relationship between academic disciplines and their archives. Former UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Njabulo Ndebele's observation that "[t]here can be no transformation of the curriculum, or indeed of knowledge itself, without an interrogation of archive" informs the initiative's exploration of these relationships in a variety of disciplines.

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Along with Professor Pippa Skotnes from UCT's Michaelis School of Art, the DST/NRF Chair in Archive and Public Culture anchors a UCT-wide initiative, Archive and Curation (ARC): The Visual University and Its Columbarium. ARC engages with projects that investigate the university's extended columbarium (the many research collections, both in formal university repositories and in informal bottom drawers of professors' desks or hidden in departmental cupboards), encouraging self-reflection of the relationships between disciplines and their archives within the university.

The initiative is committed to inter- and transdisciplinary modes of work and social learning formats. Close attention is given to postgraduate pedagogy and the production of future academics, with postgraduate research structured around regular research development workshops and active support for sole-authored student publications.

The platform has achieved high recognition, nationally and internationally, as a trusted voice with the will and power to speak out in support of archival institutions and the public interest, as well as for its trailblazing work as a novel form of popular media-based activist intervention.



District Six Museum

Institute for Humanities in Africa

Food for thought and room for lively, intellectual debate

A full and lively events programme in the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA) – some 60 events in 2012 – was critical to realising the mission to create and champion a space for inter-disciplinary research and debate for graduate students and their peers. Events included two regular weekly seminars: a series structured by the dual research themes *On Being Human* and *Circuits of Consumption*, and a series of 'book lunches' intended to open discussion with authors of books published in the humanities.



Perhaps the liveliest 'book lunch' – in a room filled with people and strong views – was that of *The Second Sexism* by David Benatar, in which he maintains that men are the victims of new and pernicious modes of gender discrimination.

The year saw the launch of Continental Connections – seminars, lectures and workshops presented by invited visitors from Mali, Ghana, Uganda, and Nigeria. The first event dealt with discourse analysis: a combination of two lectures grappling with the genealogy of the concept of discourse, and a workshop focused on conducting discourse analysis.

A one-day symposium to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* proved

an especially successful event, convened around the visit to HUMA of keynote speaker Professor Rob Nixon (University of Wisconsin, Madison). The symposium planted the seed for an inter-disciplinary master's in Environmental Humanities – a first in South Africa.

Certain events are conventionally academic; others are intended for the wider public. Cape Town Commons is a HUMA public platform for debate on matters of citizenship in this city. The focus event for 2012 was the scandalous waste of public funds by the National Lotteries Board directly affecting the lifelines of a surprising number of Cape Town NGOs. The event was attended by hundreds from Cape Town and its wider environs.

Other notable events held in 2012 included a series of seminars held under Shamil Jeppie's research programme on African Arabic writing cultures in which local western-style calligraphers and scholars of Arabic writing spoke about the theory that informs their practice. Renowned Moroccan calligrapher Hamidi Belaid also ran a calligraphy course at the Michaelis School of Fine Art.

Research highlights included Deborah Posel's work on the politics of consumption in South Africa, which produced an analysis of the ANC Youth League under Julius Malema, and Ilana van Wyk's twin research emphases on prosperity gospel churches and the South African lottery, which resulted in a series of publications and lectures.

Zethu Matebeni's research, delving into questions of sexuality, and sexual and identity politics, culminated in a well-attended public debate in Langa township. A short film about the politics of gay and lesbian pride in South Africa was produced from this event. Matebeni concluded a four-year research project concerning HIV risk and the vulnerability of women in Southern Africa. A journal article published in *Agenda* addressed issues around pornography and feminism in South Africa, and Matebeni also published the book *Black Lesbian Sexualities and Identity in South Africa*, based on her PhD thesis.

The Tombouctou Manuscripts Project

Associate Professor Shamil Jeppie, who leads the Tombouctou Manuscripts Project, has made regular trips to the UNESCO world-heritage site of Timbuktu to work with an archive of handwritten texts in Arabic and African languages in the Arabic script, produced between the 13th and the 20th centuries.



A United Nations expert mission estimates that around 4 000 ancient manuscripts were destroyed by Islamic fundamentalists during their occupation of Timbuktu in early 2013. This is approximately one-tenth of the manuscripts that were stored in the city. Most documents were saved by the devotion of the library's Malian custodians, who spirited them out of the occupied city in rice sacks, on donkey carts, and by motorcycle, boat and 4-wheel drive.



Lamu Endangered Archives

During 2012 Associate Professor Jeppie took his interests in Islamic culture eastward to Lamu in Kenya, one of the original Swahili settlements in East Africa.

Funded by the British Library Endangered Archives Programme, Associate Professor Jeppie, together with Norwegian colleague Anne Bang and Ethiopian student Hasan Kawo, ran a project to catalogue the manuscripts of a small library at the Riyadhha madrasa in Lamu. The 19th century Riyadhha Mosque is one of the oldest and most influential Islamic teaching institutions in the Swahili world. During this visit, digitisation of the entire manuscript collection of unique copies on Islamic education in East Africa for the past 120 years was completed, generating a total of 35 000 digital images of the full collection.

Giving Vibrant Voice to Great Literature

The Coetzee Collective is the leading international research group on the writings of J.M. Coetzee, the South African 2003 Nobel laureate in literature. Coetzee's work has sparked an extraordinarily vibrant culture of research, teaching and conversation among postgraduate students in literature at UCT.



Coetzee Collective, Rebecca Saunders
(Illinois State)
*The Concept of Foreignness in
Waiting for the Barbarians*

The research hub, originally founded in 2006 as an informal discussion group, is hosted by Associate Professor Carrol Clarkson of the Department of English Language and Literature. A series of seminars at the university is sponsored by the hub, often featuring overseas visitors, while links are fostered with acclaimed researchers and postgraduate students throughout the world.

UCT postgraduate students in the English Department are at the core of the burgeoning international and inter-disciplinary field of "Coetzee Studies" which, in addition to the study of South African and world literatures, includes scholarship in fields like animal ethics, translation, linguistics, film studies and jurisprudence.

Two postgraduate students – Joshua Maserow and Eckard Smuts – presented papers at an October 2012 conference on Coetzee at Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany. The event presented an opportunity for the Coetzee Collective to broaden the scope of its network and strengthen ties with its international members. A positive outcome of the conference has been an ongoing correspondence between researchers from the two universities.

Maserow has since graduated with distinction while Smuts is about to submit his doctoral thesis. They are joined by Daniella Cadiz Bedini, who wrote her MA on Coetzee, and will graduate with distinction in June 2013.

Still more good news: Dr Hedley Twidle's essay on Coetzee won the Bodley-Head Financial Times Essay Award – a major international honour in the field.

The 2012 highlight for the collective, which took place in December, was undoubtedly a visit to UCT by J.M. Coetzee himself. He read from his new novel, *The Childhood of Jesus*, not yet published at the time.

Coetzee's latest work, in a departure from previous novels, is the story of a young child's co-operative relationship with a man who is not his father and explores the myriad assumptions about the world normally invisible in ordinary adult life, and the limits and provisionality of any single explanation of a phenomenon.



Four times the focus on AFRICAN STUDIES

AXL – a recent Humanities partnership – has begun to forge the sort of synergies that encourage debate on the challenges of creating imaginative, intellectual, and politically engaged communities whose gaze on the world is, unqualifiedly and uncomplicatedly, African.

The merging in 2012 of four previously distinct academic departments in the Faculty of Humanities has created the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL) and it's an exciting place to be. Instead of working in silos, staff and students are encouraged to locate synergies, explore innovative ways of working and share knowledge and resources. The partnership consolidates years of research by African academics and is already bearing fruit in the form of cross-functional collaboration.

It is clear that AXL is uniquely positioned to provide exploration and insight into issues of what it means to be 'African', the meaning of culture, feminist discourse in Africa, the construction of identity and race, and the role of language alongside the continent's political and social development. The value of the school, according to its director, Associate Professor Jane Bennett, is its ability to examine familiar themes more critically, in new ways and from a quintessentially Afrocentric perspective.

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The journey towards AXL has not been without controversy. In 2011, the merits of the proposed amalgamation were hotly debated, leading to months of discussions by students, staff members and faculty executive, under intense media scrutiny. At the heart of the debate was the perceived devaluation of African Studies at the institution and concern about the loss of departmental independence for the Centre for African Studies (CAS).

These anxieties have been set aside following significant gains achieved since the launch, key among them the appointment of Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza (SARCHI Chair in Land Reform and Democracy) to the AC Jordan Chair in African Studies. This has brought Professor Ntsebeza's renowned intellectual achievements and vision into the heart of the school.

Another gain in 2012 was the National Excellence for Teaching and Learning Award from the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa to



*Associate Professor Jane Bennett,
Director of AXL.*

Dr Susan Levine (Social Anthropology), a recipient of UCT's Distinguished Teacher Award in 2011.

Through the AGI and Gender Studies, AXL students and staff benefited from the visit of internationally acclaimed documentary film-maker and writer Yaba Badoe (Ghana) in August. Badoe spent a week at UCT giving seminars and screening her award-winning documentary *The Witches of Gambaga*, which explores the negative impact of cultural beliefs and superstition in parts of Africa. The visit was co-ordinated in collaboration with the faculty's African Cinema Unit.

The Linguistics section hosted a successful residential seminar, titled *Language and Desire*, which was attended by AXL postgraduates, affiliates and faculty members.

The three SARCHI Chairs held within AXL have, through a first-class array of seminars, digital production and research publications, continued to stimulate the school and wide range of affiliated researchers and writers.

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AXL also published three issues of *Feminist Africa* and two editions of *Social Dynamics* in 2012. The *African Feminists: Talking the Walk* is another project that connects UCT academics and students with their counterparts in different African contexts. Initiated in 2011 by the African Gender Institute, the programme presents the work and ideas of African feminists in order to answer the question: What do African feminists look and sound like? Key events included seminar presentations, book launches, documentary screenings and panel discussions, including a visit from feminist activist Sara Longwe, who gave a talk on "Legal Voice: feminist activism from the body up" – an account of her legal struggles for equality in Zambia.

An important milestone for AXL has been the establishment of the Centre for African Languages Diversity, a research unit headed by Dr Matthias Brenzinger, created to stimulate the study and documentation of African languages to promote linguistic diversity on the continent. Through its scholarship programme and collaborations with international institutions, the unit will soon attract MA and PhD students from around Africa.

A Champion for Integrated African Studies

Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza has been appointed as the new AC Jordan Chair in the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL). This professorial chair in the field of African Studies was established at UCT in 1993 and is named after Archibald Campbell Mzolisa Jordan, who was a pioneer in the field of African Studies under apartheid.



According to Professor Ntsebeza, Africans, in particular South Africans, do not know enough about their own continent and have yet to prioritise a meaningful study of African issues. The AC Jordan Chair aims to address this challenge by championing the integration of African Studies into research, teaching and learning at undergraduate and postgraduate level across the institution.

Examples of this commitment to an African agenda can already be found in UCT's Afropolitanism drive, and in the work of the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics and the recently established Centre for African Language Diversity, as well as in the teaching of isiXhosa in the Health Sciences.

African Studies is in a sense inherently cross- and multidisciplinary, providing an opportunity for individuals from different disciplines and professions to address selected topics, problems or themes related to Africa.

South Africa's Chinese Diaspora and the Multilingual Transformation of Rural Towns

China's economic ties with Africa have strengthened in the last decade as more Chinese migrants settle here – recent estimates are as high as 400 000 compared to 20 000 in 1990.



Most recent migrants are from mainland China and are engaged in the retail sector. Iconic of this development are the so-called “China shops” found in almost every South African town, shops that do not cater to a niche ethnic market, as is common in the global North, but to a local African clientele.

The project looks at the multilingual transformation of rural towns, with ethnographic fieldwork focusing on the Eastern Cape towns of Tsolo, Cala and McClear – off the beaten track and rarely discussed in migration literature, which focuses instead on urban, metropolitan contexts. These three towns are vibrant market towns servicing a population engaged in subsistence agriculture, small-scale farming and some professional and government employment.

Since the late 1990s, trading in these towns has been transformed by international migration, with traders coming from China, from India and Pakistan, and from other African countries like Ghana and Senegal.

The project endeavours to understand how global migrants, especially the “new” Chinese diaspora, negotiate the linguistic, social and economic challenges of trade and everyday life in these rural African towns. Local residents are primarily isiXhosa-speaking with varying levels of English, yet Chinese traders have developed strategies to facilitate economic transactions: signage drawing on local meanings and languages, basic isiXhosa-Afrikaans-English jargon, and employment of language mediators to interact with customers. Further fieldwork will take place in November 2013 and throughout 2014, focusing on issues of ownership and consumption, and changing communication practices.

The project is funded by the National Research Foundation and conducted jointly by Associate Professor Ana Deumert (AXL, Linguistics) and Mr Nkululeko Mabandla (AXL, CAS) who are also involved in the recently established European Consortium on Globalization at the Margins, initiated jointly by Professors Jan Blommaert (University of Tilburg) and Leonie Cornips (University of Maastricht).

Texting Africa – Multilingual Digital Writing

Digital communication technologies, in particular popular and affordable texting, have opened new spaces for the informal use of written African languages.



Research has to date focused largely on the global North – Manuel Castells and his colleagues note in *Mobile Communication and Society*: “We know a good deal about Norway because of the quality of the Norwegian research in the field, while we know little about Nigeria because of the scant reliable evidence on this important country.”

The Texting Africa project contributes to closing the research gap by focusing on digital literacy practices in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. Data include text message corpora and screen data for other digital applications like Facebook and Twitter, as well as survey, interview, observation and focus-group data.

The Texting Africa project contributes to closing the research gap by focusing on digital literacy practices

The project began in 2010, but recent publications have focused on the role of creativity and linguistic play in digital writing. Good texters have an ability to manipulate language and create new words and expressions and, while much of this formal creativity happens in English or French, writers make skilful use of African language resources.

The data shows such practices to be widespread, and multilingual linguistic creativity to be a hallmark of the genre. For many African writers – educated in a school system which privileges former colonial languages – digital writing is a place where they write African languages on a regular basis, unsupervised, a space where African languages are cool and alive.

The project, led by Professor Ana Deumert (AXL, Linguistics), is funded by the National Research Foundation and South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development. The work benefited from research collaboration with Dr Kristin Vold Lexander, University of Oslo, and a specialist in texting in Senegal. Future collaboration is anticipated with the recently launched Centre for Multilingualism in Society Across the Lifespan (MultiLing, University of Oslo).

Art IN ACTION

UCT's curriculum of performing arts has placed many stars on the world's stages. It prides itself on the quality of its teaching, the success of its graduates, and the commitment of both staff and students to contributing to the communities in which they live and work.

UCT is renowned for its performing arts curriculum spanning music, dance, film, drama and art. In the past year the work of students and faculty in the performing arts shone both locally and internationally.

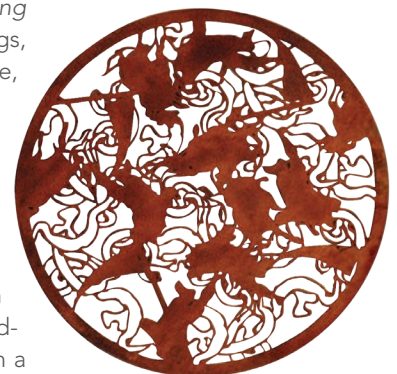
Special mention must go to pianist Jane Yu, an alumna of the South African College of Music, who is delighting audiences around the world with her extraordinary musical abilities. After completing her honours degree at UCT, and following a highly successful performance at Carnegie Hall earlier this year, she has been chosen to pursue her master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music.

UCT's School of Dance students also returned triumphant from the International Theatre School (ITS) Festival in Amsterdam, having won the coveted ITS Guest Award for best international performance. *A Journey from Past to Present* interpreted four themed pieces that formed part of the South African story. The students did not try to emulate European dance styles but delivered an authentic and technically skilled performance. Judges were impressed with the novel way in which the performance merged traditional and international dance styles in a manner both unique and exciting.

To ensure that more South Africans have the opportunity to pursue careers on the stage, key advances have been made in finding funding for the arts at UCT. UCT's Opera School has a proud legacy of discovering talent in disadvantaged communities rich in musical culture, yet its programmes remain some of UCT's most expensive. To further the university's broader transformation agenda of developing inclusive curricula and engaging African voices, the Opera School Endowment Fund was launched in 2012 to make pledging donations more accessible to both individuals and organisations.

A key role of arts at UCT is to explore, express and interpret what it is to be South African and African. Several important exhibitions took place in 2012, including the annual Michaelis School of Fine Art's Graduation Exhibition, which showcased the extraordinary work of 52 students. Key among these was the exhibition by Associate Professor Johann van der Schijff at the Iziko South African National Gallery titled *Community Punching Bags*. In a collaboration with several Cape Town high schools, the punching bags, adorned with faces, demonstrated that issues often not spoken of, such as violence, discrimination, racism and xenophobia, can be addressed in a collaborative and creative way through interactive art.

The African Cinema Unit, under the directorship of Associate Professor Lesley Marx, hosted the first Alternative Africa Film Festival, *Right-wing Vampires, Ritual and Rapture*. Other activities from the unit included the launch of Professor Jyoti Mistry's book *We remember differently: Race, Memory, Imagination*, and the presentation by South African film-maker Ross Devenish of his film and television work. Award-winning director Oliver Hermanus was also showcased, while students benefited from a screenwriting and screen production master class.





Professor Carolyn Hamilton

Archive and Public Culture

Professor Carolyn Hamilton holds the DST/NRF Chair in Archive and Public Culture, and leads the interdisciplinary research initiative in Archive and Public Culture based at the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics. Professor Hamilton was previously head of the Constitution of Public Intellectual Life Project and director of the Graduate School for the Humanities at the University of the Witwatersrand. She was also a member of the Board of the South African History Archive and founder member of the Gay and Lesbian Archive. Her archive work is rooted in an ongoing interest in the history of South Africa in the eras immediately before colonialism for which there are limited written archives. Other illuminating materials will need to be explored. Professor Hamilton was responsible, in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, for the establishment of the Archival Platform – an electronic civil-society-based intervention in the politics of archive.



Professor Rajend Mesthrie

Migration, Language and Social Change

Rajend Mesthrie is Professor of Linguistics in the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics, and holds the DST/NRF Chair in Migration, Language and Social Change. He is a past president of the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa



Professor Rajend Mesthrie with students at the annual linguistics workshop.

(2001 to 2009) and head of the Linguistics Section at UCT (1998 to 2009). He was elected honorary life executive member of the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa in 2012. He is currently an executive member of the International Society for English Linguistics and an elected member of the SA Academy of Science. Professor Mesthrie has published widely in the field of sociolinguistics, with special reference to language contact and variation in South Africa. He is co-editor of the Cambridge University Press journal *English Today*, which produces scholarship dealing mostly with English in global and migratory contexts. He is a board member of another 12 journals in the fields of sociolinguistics, globalisation and English, South African sociolinguistics, sociology, and African studies, and holds an A rating from the NRF.

Islam, African Publics and Religious Values

Abdulkader Tayob is Professor of Islamic Studies, Head of the Department of Religious Studies and holds the DST/NRF Chair in Islam, African Publics and Religious Values. He obtained his doctoral degree in 1989 from Temple University in the United States. Professor Tayob is a recognised scholar in the study of modern Islam in general, and Islam in South Africa and Africa in particular. His current research spans religion education in South Africa, modern Islam, and biographies of religious engagement. By pursuing these interests, he examines the way religion is taught in public life. Building on the work of Islam in public life, he will examine the role of religion studies as part of life orientation and religious studies as a free-standing subject in South African schools. He will continue his cutting-edge research into how to approach the study of Islam in the modern world, with the main area of



Professor Abdulkader Tayob

focus being the link between present and past, along with the categories used to best interpret the present. His third area of research is a focus on the personal dimension of religious revival. Taking a biographical approach, he questions what motivates people to join religious revival groups. These questions are posed to Muslim activists in South Africa, Egypt and Nigeria, and Muslims and Christians in East Africa.



Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza

Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa

Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza holds the DST/NRF Research Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa. He has conducted extensive research on the land question in South Africa, specifically on land rights, democratisation, rural local government, traditional authorities, and land and agrarian movements. Professor Ntsebeza has published *Democracy Compromised: Chiefs and the Politics of Land in South Africa* (Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden, in 2005 and the HSRC Press in 2006). He has also co-edited *The Land Question in South Africa: the Challenge of Transformation and Redistribution* (HSRC Press, 2007, with Ruth Hall), and *Rural Resistance in South Africa: The Mpondo Revolts after Fifty Years* (Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden, 2011, and UCT Press, 2012, with Thembele Kepe). His current research interests, apart from land and agrarian questions, include an investigation of African Studies at UCT and a related project on the political and intellectual history of the late Archie Mafeje.

African Cinema Unit

The African Cinema Unit is an initiative within the Centre for Film and Media Studies that is committed to promoting the study of African cinemas, taking account of the richness and diversity of the film cultures that have emerged from the countries that make up this vast and complex continent. Associate Professor Martin Botha's book *South African Cinema 1896–2010* (Intellect) was published in 2012, and represents the first broadly based text that encompasses the history of South African cinema in its entirety. Under the directorship of Associate Professor Lesley Marx, several events also showcased alternative African cinema (e.g. the first Alternative Africa film Festival) and brought filmmakers to the university.

Director: Dr I Rijsdijk

E-mail: ian.rijsdijk@uct.ac.za

Website: <http://cfms.uct.ac.za/african-cinema-unit/>

Centre for Contemporary Islam

The Centre for Contemporary Islam (CCI) was established in 1996 to co-ordinate research conducted at UCT on Islam and Muslim societies, and the dissemination of findings to a broader public. The main projects of the CCI include Islam and Public Life in Africa; Sufism, Gender and Islam; and the Timbuktu Manuscripts Project. The CCI publishes the annual *Journal for Islamic Studies*. The centre is based in the Department of Religious Studies, and has the active participation of scholars from outside the department.

Director: Professor A Tayob

Email: abdulkader.tayob@uct.ac.za

Web: <http://www.cci.uct.ac.za>

Centre for Popular Memory

The Centre for Popular Memory (CPM) is an Africa-focused oral-history research, advocacy and archival centre linked to the Department of Historical Studies. Research prioritises multilingual approaches to the impact of post-traumatic legacies in Africa and specialises in multileveled technology outputs through academic journals, exhibitions and film, including scholarly content for portable media platforms.

Research Groupings associated with this theme

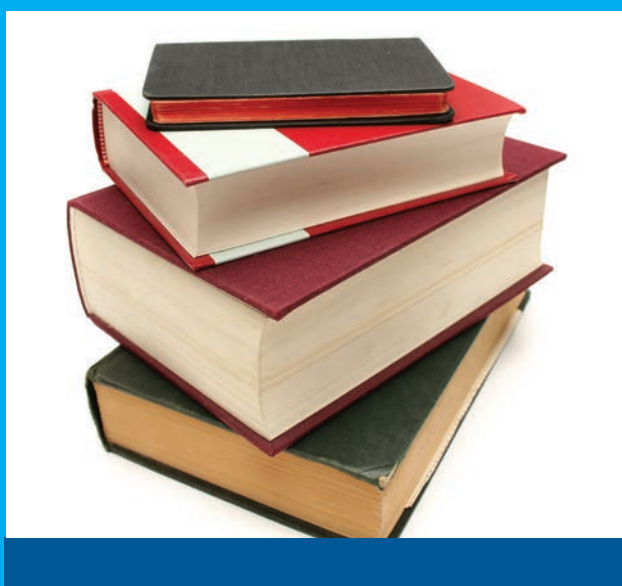
Through the African Oral History Archive project, the CPM has more than 3 000 oral history recordings in 12 languages, many with full transcripts and translations, preserved, migrated and gathered over 25 years.

The African Memory Project (AMP) aims to increase access to, and use of, oral and visual collections in Africa. To this end, it collaborates with international leaders in fields of oral history and memory studies to analyse Africa-centred research materials. Memories of Apartheid is a key project of AMP that seeks to engage civil society on various levels and includes a number of transnational and international research and educational partners. The project will develop a large-scale oral-history programme and conduct filmed oral-history interviews with people who lived through apartheid, across South Africa. It will also develop a centralised digital archival model for the gathering and dissemination of audiovisual archival material for educational use on an international scale.

Director: Dr S Field

E-mail: sean.field@uct.ac.za

Web: <http://www.popularmemory.org.za>



Centre for Rhetoric Studies

The centre was founded in 1995 and remains unique on the continent, where it has pioneered the emergence of rhetoric studies (as mentioned in Blackwell's *International Encyclopedia of Communication*). It concerns itself with multidisciplinary research in public rhetoric, deliberative democracy and argumentative

culture. The centre engages in three main activities: hosting research fellows, organising academic conferences and registering postgraduate students (master's and PhD). It publishes its findings through the *African Yearbook of Rhetoric* (AfricaRhetoric Publishing). The Centre has a success rate of nearly 100 per cent in numerous competitively funded international research projects.

Director: Distinguished Professor Ph-J Salazar

E-mail: philippe.salazar@uct.ac.za

Web: <http://www.rhetoricafrica.org>

Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa

The Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa (ICRSA) is dedicated to the postcolonial study of religion and religions in South Africa and the Southern African region. In addition to developing resources for the study of religions and reconfiguring the study of religion from a Southern African perspective, ICRSA has participated in international research projects on religious education and cultural heritage. ICRSA houses the peer-reviewed, accredited *Journal for the Study of Religion*.

Director: Professor DS Chidester

E-mail: david.chidester@uct.ac.za

Web: http://www.uct.ac.za/departments/comp_religion/index.php

Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research

The Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research was established in 1980 under the terms of a gift to the University of Cape Town by the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation and is named in honour of the parents of Mendel and Robert Kaplan. The centre, the only one of its kind in South Africa, is autonomous and has its own governing body. It seeks to stimulate and promote the entire field of Jewish studies and research at the university with a special focus on the South African Jewish community. The centre is multidisciplinary in scope and encourages the participation of scholars in a range of fields including history, political science,

education, sociology, comparative literature, and the spectrum of Hebrew and Judaic studies.

Director: Professor M Shain

E-mail: milton.shain@uct.ac.za

Web: <http://www.kaplancentre.uct.ac.za/>

Lucy Lloyd Archive, Resource and Exhibition Centre

The Lucy Lloyd Archive, Resource and Exhibition Centre (LLAREC) is a research centre to promote the visual as a site of meaning and knowledge. Its focus is on collections and curatorship in which objects are allowed to become both sites of knowledge and mnemonics in which reference can be made to a wider meaning.

At the heart of the centre's curatorial practice is the issue of representation; many of its projects interrogate the ways in which the historical, social and medical construction of identity are revealed through representation. Major projects have included the publication of the Bleek and Lloyd archive, the production of portfolios and artists' books, and the installation of exhibitions at various venues. LLAREC incorporates the Katrine Harries Print Cabinet, and is now part of the Centre for Curating the Archive, which includes major photographic collections and a visual history archive, as well as the projects that curate them.

Director: Professor P Skotnes

E-mail: pippa.skotnes@uct.ac.za

Web: <http://michaelis.uct.ac.za>

Research Institute on Christianity and Society in Africa

The Research Institute on Christianity and Society in Africa (RICSA) is engaged in research into religion in public health, globalisation, and public theology. Its primary activity has been the International Religious Health Assets Programme (IRHAP) – a multi-institutional, multisite, inter-religious, transdisciplinary collaborative research project co-ordinated at UCT.

Initiated in 2003 together with colleagues from Emory University, it includes academics and practitioners from other South African centres, and has a strong partnership with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (a seven-hospital system in Memphis, USA), while working with other partners in Africa, Europe and the USA.



IRHAP maps and assesses religious health assets, policy processes, and capacity-building at the interface of religion and public health. Its more recent work is with the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa, building community partnerships for the strengthening of health systems. It is conducting research on male peace and safety in the context of interpersonal violence (three sites in South Africa and the USA, in conjunction with the Medical Research Council and the UNISA-based Peace and Safety Lead Programme), and is taking more of an interest in health systems and primary health care. RICSA is also known for its published multiyear, multivolume project on the social history of Christianity in South Africa (UNISA Press, CD-ROM).

Director: Professor JR Cochrane

E-mail: jim.cochrane@uct.ac.za

Web: <http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/ricsa/>