RESEARCH
in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
2016 - 2017
The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is the largest amongst the ten faculties of Stellenbosch University, the leading research-led university in South Africa. Research and teaching in the Faculty’s five academic departments and three schools are augmented by five research centres and two institutes. Among them is a Stellenbosch University flagship project, the Stellenbosch Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST). The Faculty also hosts the Research Chair in the Economics of Social Policy. Research support is coordinated by the Vice-Dean (Research) and the Faculty’s research committee.

The Faculty’s prominent researchers and their fields of research are showcased in this brochure, as well as a few prominent research projects. All of these colleagues have established themselves as leading scholars as judged by their local and international peers.

Prominent researchers

Business Management

Prof. Christo Boshoff
(Distinguished Professor)
Research focus: service marketing and in particular the role that the sub-conscious and emotional responses of both employees and customers play in service delivery situations. In these studies Prof. Boshoff measures the neuro-physiological responses of subjects using methodologies such as brain activity measurement (EEG), facial muscle activity (EMG), skin conductance (GSR) and eye-tracking to assess, for instance, how consumers respond in stress-related situations such as a service failure or a customer-complaint situation.
E-mail: cboshoff@sun.ac.za

Prof. Pierre Erasmus
Research focus: Value-based financial management, capital structure theory and corporate valuation. Attempting to dispel negative sentiments towards shareholder value theory resulting from corporate scandals, financial crises and executive mismanagement, Prof. Erasmus focuses his research on evaluating factors that contribute towards the sustainable creation of shareholders’ wealth. He also investigates the impact of changing ownership structures and increased investor influence on management behaviour by considering modified financing and capital budgeting decision-making.
E-mail: pde@sun.ac.za

Prof. Nic Terblanche
(Distinguished Professor)
Research focus: customer retention with the emphasis on customers’ in-store experiences, co-production, co-creation, loyalty programmes and word-of-mouth. Prof. Terblanche is also researching customers as a key stakeholder group and their perceptions of corporate reputation. He is furthermore interested in how firms can enhance customer value as an outcome of marketing activities.
E-mail: nst@sun.ac.za

Prof. Suzette Viviers
Research focus: ethical, sustainable and responsible investing. Prof. Viviers has done extensive empirical research on the nature of the phenomenon and how it relates to risk-adjusted investment performance. She is currently focusing on two responsible investment strategies, namely impact investing and shareholder activism.
E-mail: sviviers@sun.ac.za
Research focus: topics related to competition policy, law and economics. Prof. Boshoff’s recent work in industrial organisation focuses on the behaviour of price-fixing cartels, including estimates of the extent of harm to consumers and studies of how cartels are formed using advance price announcements. He also researches the rationality of court decisions, using decision-theoretic models to assess competition authorities’ decisions.

E-mail: wimpie2@sun.ac.za

Prof. Ronelle Burger
Research focus: health, education, service delivery, NGOs. Prof. Burger’s research interests are poverty and exclusion in African countries, focussing on the role of government and nonprofit service delivery. Her research is closely aligned with policy processes as it attempts to support initiatives to fight poverty and inequity. She works within a network of international and interdisciplinary collaborators, engaging a team of talented and diverse young researchers from the Research on Socio-economic Policy (ReSEP) group.

E-mail: stan@sun.ac.za

Prof. Johan Fourie
Research focus: African economic history. His PhD, completed in 2012 at Utrecht University in The Netherlands, investigated the wealth of the Dutch Cape Colony settlers. Since then he has published extensively in local and international journals on topics ranging from early South African inequality, European missionaries in Africa to Huguenot wine-making skills. In 2015, he won the World Economic History Congress dissertation prize for early-modern history.

E-mail: johanf@sun.ac.za

Prof. Neil Rankin
Research focus: price dynamics, pricing and the micro-economics of inflation, firm productivity and trade, labour markets and the match between workers and jobs, impact evaluation, big data and machine-learning in economics. Prof. Rankin is an applied micro-economist who collects and uses data to investigate policy-relevant questions. He has evaluated government labour market interventions and worked with organisations to develop platforms to match work seekers and available jobs. He has also worked extensively on pricing practices and the determinants of inflation at a micro-level.

E-mail: neilrankin@sun.ac.za

Dr Monique Reid
Research focus: monetary economics and monetary policy. The core of Dr Reid’s research agenda focuses on the inflation expectations channel of the monetary transmission mechanism, and central bank communication as a monetary policy tool, targeted at managing these expectations. She is studying the impact of central bank communication on the inflation expectations of the rationally inattentive general public. She is currently part of an interdisciplinary team who is adopting novel approaches to providing both academic and policy-relevant insights on the topic.

E-mail: mreid@sun.ac.za

Prof. Servaas van der Berg (Distinguished Professor and SA Research Chair)
Research focus: issues of poverty and welfare including matters such as poverty measurement, income distribution, employment, access to and the quality of social services. Prof. Van der Berg is particularly interested in issues of social policy, inter alia the economics of education and the economics of health, and the role of social grants (such as the social old-age pension and the child support grant) in the social security system. He works with a team of researchers in a programme of Research on Socio-economic Policy (ReSEP), often using large datasets to derive policy-relevant findings.

E-mail: svdb@sun.ac.za
Prof. Ronel du Preez  
Research focus: consumer behaviour, specifically areas related to consumer decision-making, perception, image, status consumption, social class and persuasive communication strategies. Other research interests include student success in higher education. Prof. Du Preez’s research has found application in diverse application areas including contexts such as HIV/AIDS, retail, wine, and apparel industries as well as in higher education.  
E-mail: rdp@sun.ac.za

Prof. Amos Engelbrecht  
Research focus: the role of ethical and effective leadership in organisations. Prof. Engelbrecht investigates the influence of value-based leadership styles (e.g. transformational, authentic, servant and ethical leadership) on leader effectiveness. His current research focus is on the psychometric assessment of organisational leadership, ethical leadership and integrity in the South African business context. He is also involved in the development, evaluation and presentation of leadership development programmes for corporate managers.  
E-mail: ase@sun.ac.za

Prof. Gina Görgens  
Research focus: work-related psychological well-being and organisational effectiveness. Prof. Görgens conducts research on the predictive validity of individual differences (such as personality, emotional intelligence and psychological capital) on employee well-being and organisational effectiveness. Her research also focuses on cross-cultural psychological measurement issues in South Africa.  
E-mail: ekermans@sun.ac.za

Prof. Callie Theron  
Research focus: psychometric issues in personnel selection, particularly assessment and decision-making, human resource concerns in diversifying the South African workforce (with specific reference to learning potential, affirmative development and talent retention), and leadership and organisational unit performance.  
Selection from a diverse job applicant group poses searching questions to the human resource management profession in South Africa to develop valid selection procedures that simultaneously add value, do not discriminate unfairly and minimise potential adverse impact. These interventions should focus on developing the job competency potential latent variables required to succeed in the job situation.  
E-mail: ccth@sun.ac.za

Prof. Alewyn Burger  
Research focus: graph theory and combinatorial optimisation. Prof. Burger often uses computing to solve problems by designing efficient algorithms that search through huge solution spaces, e.g. finding the minimum moves to solve a puzzle such as Rubik’s cube.  
A logic puzzle enthusiast, Prof. Burger developed WrapSlide, a rearrangement puzzle for Apple and Android devices.  
E-mail: apburger@sun.ac.za

Prof. Jan Havenga  
Research focus: the development of macro-logistics theory in the sustainable supply chain field. Prof. Havenga developed a freight-flow model that is used by government and industry for policy-making and improving national competitiveness. It also measures performance of the national logistics system and guides capacity planning for transport and logistics infrastructure, including railways, ports, pipelines, roads and logistics hubs. The model, which measures all freight flows on all modes and includes costs, is extended to all elements of logistics – transport, warehousing, inventory holding costs, administration – and forecast demand for 30 years.  
Prof. Havenga’s work has led to the development of supply chain thinking from a nation-building perspective and contributes to the global debate for improving sustainability (growth, social equality and environmental protection) through a more sustainable supply chain perspective. He is part of an international round-table of researchers tackling these problems.  
E-mail: janh@sun.ac.za

Prof. Stephan Krygsman  
Research focus: transport and economic development, urban transport system planning, information communication technologies and travel behaviour research. As part of his current travel behaviour research, Prof. Krygsman developed an activity and travel survey smartphone application, which is used to extract individuals’ activity and travel behaviour, as well as their behavioural response to feedback. He also focuses on funding transport, and the principle of user-pay is a key element of urban transport planning.  
E-mail: skrygsman@sun.ac.za

Prof. Stephan Visagie  
Research focus: supply chain optimisation and nonlinear knapsack problems. Prof. Visagie has a keen interest in applying operations research in the retail industry, particularly the optimisation of distribution centres, and optimising assortment planning and size-mix allocation. He also focuses on finding new exact or heuristic algorithms to solve concave knapsack problems.  
E-mail: svisagie@sun.ac.za
Public Leadership

Prof. Kobus Müller
Research focus: the new reality of public problem-solving namely the emergence of collaborative governance models as no single actor (public or private) has all the knowledge or all information required to solve all public problems.

The thrust of Prof. Müller’s research is characterised by the convergence of separate tracks of thought into a single coherent focus of environmental governance incorporating and integrating previous work on organisational innovation/public reform. His current projects include the role of social capital, organisational learning, adaptive co-management, resilience thinking and adaptive capacity in collaborative settings.

E-mail: Kobus.Muller@spl.sun.ac.za

Dr Josephine Kaviti Musango
Research focus: application of system-dynamics modelling in managing change in resource management and policy-related challenges, particularly on issues relating to: (i) African Cities in Transition; (ii) Energy Transitions in Urban Environments; (iii) Resource implications of urban growth and Development in African Contexts; (iv) Green Economy in Urban Areas.

Dr Musango is currently leading urban Modelling and Metabolism Assessment (uMAMA), a research team engaging with scholars, city decision-makers, urban residents, industry and urban planning and design professionals to enhance the research focus on urban metabolism in African cities.

E-mail: Josephine.musango@spl.sun.ac.za

Prof. Erwin Schwella
Research focus: effective and ethical public leadership in institutional and innovative contexts. Prof. Schwella’s recent conference outputs included addresses at international conferences on public leadership, public leadership for peace, safety and security, and innovative public leadership. His recent publications included contributions on speaking truth to power, and poor public leadership in South Africa.

He is also a professorial fellow at Leiden University where he is mandated to facilitate the leadership research agenda of the Leiden Leadership Centre.

E-mail: Erwin.Schwella@spl.sun.ac.za

Prof. Tertius de Wet
Research focus: quantiles and campanometry. In the broad area of quantiles, Prof. De Wet investigates their properties and application in different areas of science. This research includes finite and large sample distribution theory of central and extreme quantiles in unstructured and structured (covariates), truncated and in censored samples with application in (especially) finance.

In campanometry the focus is on the development of statistical procedures, including collection of relevant physical, acoustical and historical data, development and application of quality measures for bells and carillons and applying statistical methods to founder classification. Parallel to this is the development of an inventory of bells in the Western Cape in the SUNDigital collection.

E-mail: tdewet@sun.ac.za

Prof. Mark Swilling
(Distinguished Professor)
Research focus: the transition to sustainable modes of production and consumption, with special reference to the decoupling of economic growth from rates of primary resource use. This is applied to the greening of the global economy, cities, the South African economy and the challenge of incremental upgrading of informal settlements.

Prof. Swilling is Academic Director of the Sustainability Institute and Co-Director of the Stellenbosch Centre for Complex Systems in Transition.

E-mail: Mark.Swilling@spl.sun.ac.za

Prof. Reinette (Oonsie) Biggs
(SA Research Chair)
Research focus: social-ecological sustainability research in the region, especially social-ecological regime shifts and their impact on ecosystem services.

Prof. Biggs is a research associate at the Stellenbosch Centre for Complex Systems in Transition and research theme leader at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

E-mail: oonsie@sun.ac.za

Statistics and Actuarial Science

Prof. Niel le Roux
Research focus: multivariate statistical data analysis and the graphical representation of multivariate data. Biplot methodology is extended to deal with both continuous and categorical data as well as data of mixed types. R programmes are developed to implement the theory in practice.

E-mail: njlr@sun.ac.za

Public Leadership

Prof. Tertius de Wet
Research focus: quantiles and campanometry. In the broad area of quantiles, Prof. De Wet investigates their properties and application in different areas of science. This research includes finite and large sample distribution theory of central and extreme quantiles in unstructured and structured (covariates), truncated and in censored samples with application in (especially) finance.

Prof. Tertius de Wet
Research focus: quantiles and campanometry. In the broad area of quantiles, Prof. De Wet investigates their properties and application in different areas of science. This research includes finite and large sample distribution theory of central and extreme quantiles in unstructured and structured (covariates), truncated and in censored samples with application in (especially) finance.

Prof. Tertius de Wet
Research focus: quantiles and campanometry. In the broad area of quantiles, Prof. De Wet investigates their properties and application in different areas of science. This research includes finite and large sample distribution theory of central and extreme quantiles in unstructured and structured (covariates), truncated and in censored samples with application in (especially) finance.

Prof. Tertius de Wet
Research focus: quantiles and campanometry. In the broad area of quantiles, Prof. De Wet investigates their properties and application in different areas of science. This research includes finite and large sample distribution theory of central and extreme quantiles in unstructured and structured (covariates), truncated and in censored samples with application in (especially) finance.
Prominent research initiatives

Graduate School of Economic and Management Sciences (GEM)
The Graduate School provides a structured programme for full-time doctoral education across all the academic disciplines in the Faculty. Its goal is to increase the Faculty’s number of PhD graduates, and broaden access to the doctoral education in economic and management sciences.

Manager: Dr Jaco Franken, e-mail francken@sun.ac.za

SA Research Chair in the Economics of Social Policy
Under this Research Chair, a team of researchers study aspects of social policy and provides policy advice in the South African and wider African contexts, with strong emphasis on quantitative, policy-relevant research.

Incumbent: Prof. Servaas van der Berg, e-mail svdb@sun.ac.za

Research programme on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP)
Research on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) is a research programme within the Department of Economics. Its researchers often use large datasets to derive policy-relevant findings.

http://resep.sun.ac.za

Stellenbosch Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST)
The Centre acts as a coordinating mechanism by utilizing the transdisciplinary potential that exists among various faculties and departments in the University that have interests and expertise in sustainability, sustainable development and complexity.

It also pursues and coordinates applied solution-based sustainability research in the Stellenbosch area, while engaging in sustainable community-building activities in cooperation with community-based organisations.

Co-Director: Prof. Mark Swilling, e-mail Mark.Swilling@spl.sun.ac.za
Manager: John van Breda, e-mail jrvb@sun.ac.za. Website: www.tsama.org.za

SA Research Chair in Social-Ecological Systems and Resilience
The Chair, situated in the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, contributes to theoretical, methodological and empirical gaps in our understanding of social-ecological systems and resilience by employing transdisciplinary methods in ways that integrate approaches from the social and natural sciences, while simultaneously engaging with stakeholders outside academia. It will add to a southern African perspective.

Incumbent: Prof. Reinette (Oonsie) Biggs, e-mail oonsie@sun.ac.za
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
Stellenbosch University
Private Bag X1, Matieland 7602, South Africa

CGW Schumann Building, Bosman Street, Stellenbosch
www.sun.ac.za/ems

Dean’s Office: Tel: +27 (0)21 808 9564

Vice-Dean (Research): Prof Christo Boshoff
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2026
E-mail: cboshoff@sun.ac.za

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS
Department of Business Management
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2026

Department of Economics
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2247

Department of Industrial Psychology
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 3012

Department of Logistics
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2249

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 3244

SCHOOLS
School of Accountancy
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 3889

School of Public Leadership
Bellville Park Campus:
Tel: +27 (0)21 918 4122, E-mail: enquiries@spl.sun.ac.za
Stellenbosch Campus:
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2195, E-mail: enquiries@spl.sun.ac.za

University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB)
Tel: +27 (0)21 918 4288, E-mail: usbcom@usb.ac.za
www.usb.ac.za

CENTRES AND INSTITUTES
Africa Centre for HIV/Aids Management
www.aidscentre.sun.ac.za/

Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement
www.usb.ac.za/disputesettlement/

Bureau of Economic Research (BER)
www.ber.ac.za/

Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa
www.governance.usb.ac.za/

Centre for Statistical Consultation (CSC)
www.sun.ac.za/english/research-innovation/csc

Institute for Futures Research (IFT)
www.ifr.sun.ac.za/Home

Stellenbosch Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST)
www.tsama.org.za

Sustainability Institute (in partnership with SPL)
www.sustainabilityinstitute.net