

# CENTRE FOR APPLIED ETHICS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### 1. ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for Applied Ethics (CAE) is an interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service institution of Stellenbosch University, based in the Philosophy Department. It reports to the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences. The Centre does work on its own, but also accommodates three units, viz. the Unit for Bioethics, the Unit for Environmental Ethics and the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity.

The first part of this report deals with the general activities of the Centre as such. The reports of the different Units of the Centre follow this report. The report therefore has the following sub-divisions:

**General report of the CAE: pp. 1-5**

**Report of the Unit for Bioethics pp. 6-13**

**Report of the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity: pp. 14-16**

**Report of the Unit for Environmental Ethics: pp. 17-**

### 2. GOVERNING BODY DURING 2013

**Prof. A.J. Leysens** (Representative of the Centre for International and Comparative Politics, *Chair*), **JP Hattingh (or his representative)** (Dean), **A.A. van Niekerk** (Director of the Centre and Head: Unit for Bioethics), **Mr C Maasdorp**, representative of the Centre for Knowledge Management and Decision-making), **S Hall** (Representative: Unit for Environmental Ethics), **G. Woods or substitute** (Director of the Anti-corruption Centre), **S. van der Berg** (Representative of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences), **W.P. Pienaar** (Representative of the Faculty of Health Sciences), **C. Walker** (Representative of the Depts. of Psychology, Sociology, Geography and Environmental Studies, and Social Work), **K. Moodley** (Representative of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law), **Dr. M Woermann** (Head: Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity), a representative of the Mediclinic Southern Africa, a key sponsor of the Centre and **Mr Daniel Malan**, representative of the Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa, situated in the US Business School.

### 3. RESEARCH

(Under this heading, only activities are reported that are not dealt with in the reports of the different Units of the Centre. See also the reports of the Units).

### 3.1 Publications and other research outputs

#### 3.1.1 Book chapters

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. Pragmatism and religion. In: Alan Malachowski (ed.): *The Cambridge Companion to Pragmatism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013: 300-323.

#### 3.1.2 Other publications (indicative of the community service/interaction of the Centre)

1. Van Niekerk, AA. Ons bestaan in tyd, *Die Burger* (Forum artikel), 2 Januarie 2013. [Our existence in time]
2. Van Niekerk, AA. Verleë geleentheid, *Beeld*, 3 Januarie 2013 [Embarrassed opportunity]
3. Van Niekerk, AA. Tyd bly maar 'n raaisel, *Volksblad*, 5 Januarie 2013 [Time remains a riddle]
4. Van Niekerk, AA. Die eerste tree op die pad na tirannie, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 6 February 2013: 9 [The first step on the way to tyranny]
5. Van Niekerk, AA. Uit die DNS van geloof, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 13 April 2013: 13. [From the DNA of faith]
6. Van Niekerk, AA. Die stem van protes, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 17 April 2013: 13. [The voice of protest]
7. Van Niekerk, AA. Oor gay-wees in ons tyd, *By* (*Die Burger* supplement), 8 June 2013:2 [Gayness in our time]

### 3.2 Presentations

#### At International Conferences

Van Niekerk, A.A. *Reply to Chandre Gould and Brian Rappert's paper: "The dis-eases of secrecy: The TRC Report on South Africa's Chemical and Biological Warfare Program"*. International Symposium: Issues and Non-Issues in Science and Medicine, University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom, 27-28 September 2013.

#### At National Conferences and other events

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. *In flight with the owls of Minerva: Philosophy for Business*. USB-ED Executive Development Program (Facilitator of 4 hour session), 13 May 2013, US Business School.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. *My storie en tye*. Speech at F van Zyl Slabbert Leadership School. Stellenbosch, 15 May 2013. [My story and times]

3. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Oor tyd, die toekoms en sekuriteit*. Special guest speaker at tenth birthday celebrations of Finfocus Financial Planners, Clos Malverne Restaurant, Stellenbosch-district, 16 May 2013. [On time, the future and security]
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ethical perspectives on covert research*. Research Integrity Workshop, Stellenbosch University, STIAS, Stellenbosch, 13 June 2013.
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Doctoral supervision: my experience and suggestions*. Panel discussion of the African Doctoral Academy, Stellenbosch, 5 July 2013.
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Enhancement and education: Perspectives and Challenges*. Conference of Headmasters, South African Boys' Schools. Paul Roos Gymnasium, Stellenbosch, 30 August 2013.
7. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ethical perspectives on covert research*. Key note speaker at Conference on Combating Scientific Misconduct and Research Irregularities, Sandton, 23-25 October 2013.

#### **4. COMMUNITY INTERACTION**

Apart from the above popular publications and presentations, the Director participated in a number of radio and television programs on ethically related matters. These programs were broadcast on RSG Monitor (17 January; 17 May), Cape Talk (1 November; 11 November), and Radio Pretoria (7 November).

#### **5. OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE**

##### **5.1 Teaching**

5.1.1 In 2013 we saw the first intake of MPhil students in the newly created one year program, following on the PGD in Applied Ethics. There was a significant intake, particularly as far as biomedical ethics is concerned. As was expected, only one student was, at the end of 2013, ready to graduate, confirming our expectation that the program is too demanding for normal students to complete in a year's time.

5.1.2 The following ethics-related PhD was completed and the degree bestowed at the end of 2013:

H Niemand: *The autonomy of culture: a cultural-philosophical analysis*. PhD. 227 pp. December 2013. (Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk)

5.1.3 In the early part of 2013, prof. van Niekerk was approached by a group of US medical students to offer a special course in the history of ideas for all interested at Tygerberg. This course was offered during the month of August (four sessions of two hours each.) It was attended by about 60 medical students, who were all also duly evaluated. The feedback was very positive.

5.1.4 Prof. van Niekerk was also asked to offer a four hour session on philosophy and ethics in business, part of the Senior Executive Diploma Program of USB.

## 5.2 Visitors in 2013

The Centre received a number of eminent academic visitors in the course of 2013. Prof. Paul van Tongeren from the Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands, took care of an entire Honours course and delivered a lecture on Nietzsche's ethics. Afterwards he worked as a fellow at STIAS. Prof. Philippe van Haute of Nijmegen also visited and lectured. Prof. Ian Hacking, one of the best known philosophers in the world, was a STIAS Fellow and lectured on autism in the department. We also had interactions with another STIAS fellow, prof. Vladimir Safatle from Sao Paulo, with whom we discussed future liaisons.

## 5.3 Ethics committees and services

Personnel of the Centre serve as members of a variety of ethics committees/institutional review boards at Stellenbosch University and elsewhere.

5.31. Membership in and service to the following committees continued:

- The Ethics Committee of the Medical Research Council (MRC) (AA van Niekerk). Prof. van Niekerk's term in this capacity came to an end in 2013 and was, on his request, not renewed.
- The Ethics Committee of Subcommittee A (Humanities & Social Sciences) of Stellenbosch University's Research Committee (Dr L Horn [chair] and dr T de Villiers-Botha)

5.3.2 In September 2013, prof. van Niekerk was appointed by the Minister of Health as a member of the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC), the highest policy making body for research ethics in South Africa. He was at the same time appointed as member of the NHREC's committee for the revision of the comprehensive Guidelines for Biomedical Research, which is set to be published in 2014 or early in 2015.

5.3.3 Prof. van Niekerk also serves as chairperson of the Senate Research Ethics Committee (SREC), the body that appoints, accredits and oversees all the ethics committees currently operative in the various faculties of the university.

5.3.4 Prof. van Niekerk also serves as chair of the Board of Directors of the Ethics Institute of SA (EthicsSA), whose former CEO and current Executive Director, prof. Willem Landman, serves as professor extraordinaire in the Centre and Department and renders very value services to the Centre. Prof. Deon Rossouw, current CEO of EthicsSA, has also been appointed professor extraordinaire in the department and Centre in the course of 2012.

5.3.5 Members of the Centre (Van Niekerk, Woermann, Hattingh and Smit) will from 2014 be involved in a new MPhil in Futures Studies, to be created at the Institute of Futures Studies at the Bellville Park.

5.3.6 Dr Woermann is a member of the Governing Committee for the Anticorruption Centre for Education and Research (ACCERUS); Stellenbosch University.

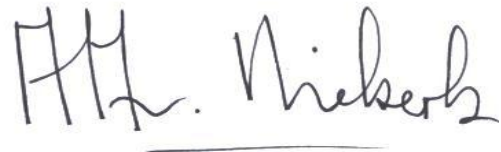
## 6. SPONSORSHIP

Mediclinic has confirmed its generosity towards the Centre by renewing its sponsorship of the Unit for Bioethics for the next two years (R100 000 per year for two years). This sponsorship has been running since 2007, and is highly appreciated by the Centre. We convey our sincere gratitude to Mediclinic Southern Africa.



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Prof. A. Leysens  
Chair: Governing Body



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Prof. A.A. van Niekerk  
Director: Centre for Applied Ethics

# UNIT FOR BIOETHICS

## Annual Report 2013

### 1. RESEARCH

#### 1.1 Completed research projects

- 1.1.1** *Ethical problems related to newer developments in genetic reproductive technologies, with special; reference to human enhancement and transhumanism* (AA van Niekerk, S Hall, A Palk, C Verster & L Franken). Prof. van Niekerk, dr Hall and these three students, have been, and still are investigating this problem from a variety of perspectives. In 2013, much attention was paid to the problematic of transhumanism. Andrea Palk's MA thesis, which was completed in the course of 2013, dealt extensively with this issue, particularly the question as to the validity and appropriateness of human dignity arguments in the debate. **The thesis was rewarded with the Faculty Medal for the best Master's thesis in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in 2013.**
- 1.1.2** *The history and social functions of bioethics in South Africa.* (AA van Niekerk). Following on the book chapter written by Van Niekerk & Benatar about this and published in 2012, Prof. van Niekerk was also invited to write the chapter on Bioethics in South Arica in the *Global Bioethics Ethics Atlas* which was published in 2013.
- 1.1.3** *The intellectual self-image of the medical profession and the efficacy of communication between doctors and patients.* (B Gerber) This is (in broad terms) the topic of Berna Gerber's doctoral dissertation which was successfully completed and the degree awarded in 2013.
- 1.1.4** *Ethical problems related to providing reproductive assistance to HIV-infected patients.* (CEM Oliphant). Clothilde Oliphant did this research which was completed by means of an MPhil thesis.
- 1.1.5** *Moral issues in the evaluation of the impact of telemedicine on the doctor-patient relationship.* (L Acton). An MPhil thesis was completed emanating from this research.
- 1.1.6** Disability and biomedical enhancement (AA van Niekerk). A book chapter was published on this topic.

#### 1.2 Ongoing research projects

- 1.2.1** *Ethical problems related to newer developments in genetic reproductive technologies, with special; reference to human enhancement and transhumanism* (AA van Niekerk, S Hall, A Palk, C Verster & L Franken)

- 1.2.2 *A critical appraisal of the views of Michael Sandel on enhancement* (AA van Niekerk). Article in accredited journal forthcoming in 2014.
- 1.2.3 *The legitimacy of race as variable in the deliberations of IRB's*. (AA van Niekerk) Article forthcoming in 2014.
- 1.2.4 *Moral perspectives of covert research* (AA van Niekerk). Article in accredited journal forthcoming in 2014.
- 1.2.5 *The ethical management of genetic information about hereditary cancer treatments* (I Loftus). MPhil thesis forthcoming.
- 1.2.6 *A moral and philosophical evaluation of the idea of moral bioenhancement* (A Palk) Dissertation forthcoming.
- 1.2.7 *The ethics of psychopharmacology* (D Stein & AA van Niekerk). The authors were invited to contribute to the *Oxford Handbook of Psychiatric Ethics*, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2015.
- 1.2.8 *Exploitation in global context*. (AA van Niekerk). Following on his chapter about South African Bioethics, Van Niekerk was invited to write a book chapter in this regard for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, to be published by Springer in 2015.

Articles and/or dissertations on all of these topics are in preparation.

## 2. RESEARCH OUTPUTS

### 2.1 Articles in peer-reviewed journals

1. Hall, S. Is the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act guilty of disability discrimination? *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 32 (1): 36-46.
2. Hall, S. The ethics of discriminatory sex-selective abortion: is legal prohibition our best option? *The Specialist Forum*, October 2013.
3. Palk, A. The implausibility of appeals to human dignity: An investigation into the efficacy of notions of human dignity in the transhumanism debate, *South African Journal of Philosophy*: 34(1) (Forthcoming; accepted for publication)
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. Phronesis and an ethics of responsibility, (with Nico Nortjé), *South African Journal of Bioethics and Law*, 6 (1), June 2013: 28-31.
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. The morality of enhancement and longevity, *The Specialist Forum*, 13 (4), Mei 2013: 57-61.

## 2.2 Book Chapters

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. South African Bioethics, in H ten Have & B Gordijn: *Handbook of Global Bioethics*. Amsterdam: Springer, 2013: 1475-1493.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. Disability and biomedical enhancement: conflict or co-existence?, in: L Swartz, J Claassen & LD Hansen (eds.): *Searching for dignity: conversations on human dignity, theology and disability*. Stellenbosch: Conference-RAP (Sun MeDIA), 2013: 103-116.

## 2.3 Popular articles (as indication of community interaction)

- 1 Van Niekerk, A.A. Ras as faktor in mediese navorsing, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 16 July 2013: 13. [Race as factor in medical research].
- 2 Van Niekerk, A.A. Sal jy dié burger eet?, *Die Burger*, (Forum article), 10 August 2013: 11. [Will you eat this burger?]
- 3 Van Niekerk, A.A. Smulvleis uit ‘n buis, *Beeld*, 21 Augustus 2013. [Delicious meat from a tube.]
- 4 Van Niekerk, A.A. Surrogasie (onderhoud met Marlene Malan), *Rapport*, 1 September 2013. [Surrogacy]
- 5 Van Niekerk, A.A. Word jy ‘Robo sapiens’? *Die Burger* (Forum article), 12 November 2013. [Are you becoming ‘Robo sapiens’?]

## Papers read at international conferences and meetings

- 1 Van Niekerk, A.A. *May we enhance the disabled?* 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Ethics: Ethical Challenges of Disability, 11-13 April 2013, Strasbourg, France.
- 2 Van Niekerk, A.A. *The ethics of human enhancement*. SORSA-RSSA (Society of Radiologists of SA and the Radiology Society of SA) 2013 Imaging Congress, Durban International Convention Centre, Durban, 25 August 2013. (Key note speaker).
- 3 Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ownership of biological specimens: moral perspectives*. 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Dermatological Society of South Africa. CTICC, Cape Town, 30 August – 1 September 2013. (Key note speaker).
- 4 Van Niekerk, A.A. *Who owns biological specimens taken for biomedical research?* EACME (European Association for Centres of Medical Ethics) Annual Conference, Bochum, Germany, 19-21 September 2013.
- 5 Van Niekerk, A.A. *The legitimacy of race as variable in the deliberations of Institutional Review Boards*. UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Naples, Italy, 19-21 November 2013.



- 6 Van Niekerk, A.A. Key note Presenter of *Report on Evaluation of EDCTP Ethics Grants Programme in Africa*, EDCTP Stakeholder Meeting on Ethics, Antwerp, Belgium, 28 November 2013.

## **2.5 Papers delivered at national scientific conferences and/or other meetings**

1. Hall, S. 2013. *An Obligation to Enhance*. Presented at: Philosophical Society of Southern Africa (PSSA) Conference, Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal, 14-16 January 2013.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Should people be biotechnically improved?* Conference of Psychology Society, Century City, 12 March 2013.
3. Van Niekerk, A.A. *The morality of abortion*. Courageous Conversations, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch, 7 May 2013.
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. *The ethics of human enhancement*. Lecture at conference of Servier Laboratories, Crystal Towers Hotel, Century City, 11 May 2013.
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Is enhancement a disenchantment?* Bioethics Seminar, Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Medicine, Stellenbosch University, Bellville, 30 May 2013.
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Race as variable in biomedical research*. Key note speaker, University of Pretoria, Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day, 21 August 2013.
7. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Biomedical enhancement from a disability perspective*. Key note speaker, Ethics Workshop, UCT Rehabilitation Research Conference, College of Medicine, Cape Town, 4 September 2013.
8. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Moral perspectives on genetic testing*. Key note speaker at Symposium on Genetic Testing, Stellenbosch University, 10 October 2013.
9. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Beyond humanity? Philosophical and moral perspectives on transhumanism*. Stellenbosch Forum Lecture, 21 October 2013.

## **3. TEACHING**

3.3 The Unit takes, first and foremost, responsibility for the post-graduate teaching of bioethics in the MPhil (Applied Ethics) Program, as well as the doctoral program in bioethics. The MPhil was offered in 2013.

3.4 Prof. Van Niekerk annually teaches a module on ethical issues relating to HIV/AIDS in the Postgraduate Diploma and MPhil programmes of the Centre for AIDS Management in the Workplace in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. The lectures for this program are currently offered at a summer and/or winter school, as well as via satellite transmission.

3.5 Prof. van Niekerk also teaches and acts as one of the Faculty of the ARESA Program (Advancing Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa), another Fogarty funded training program (postgraduate diploma), offered by the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law at the Medical Faculty of Stellenbosch University.

3.6 Prof. van Niekerk assists with the teaching of Medical Ethics to MBChB second as well as fifth year student

## 4. POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

Several postgraduate students were involved in, or are still conducting research on topics that are of direct interest to the activities of this Unit. The details are as follows:

### 4.1 Completed Doctoral Dissertation

B Gerber: *Identity and discourse: a critical philosophical investigation of the influence of the intellectual self-image of the medical profession on communicatively effective care to patients*. PhD. 266 pp. December 2013. (Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk)

### 4.2 Completed Masters Theses

1. Oliphant, C.E.M. *Reproducing with AIDS: the morality of providing reproductive assistance to HIV-infected individuals*. MPhil. December 2013. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk. (cum laude).
2. Acton, L. *An ethical enquiry of the impact of Telemedicine on the doctor-patient relationship*. MPhil. December 2013. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk. Co-supervisor: Dr S Hall.

### 4.3 Doctoral projects in progress

1. Bester, J. *Ethical concerns in the debate about pediatric vaccinations, with special reference to MMR*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
2. Bijloos, A. *The moral significance of risk and responsibility*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
3. De Villiers, E. *Ethics education of nurses in Namibia: a critical evaluation*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. K. Moodley.
4. Franken, L. *Morality and immortality: assessing the ethical implications of the idea of radical life extension*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
5. Gardner, JB: *Moral responsibility for prenatal harm to children: the case of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
6. Grobler, G. *To serve two masters? A moral analysis of the conflict of interest in the profession of occupational physicians*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
7. Kling, S. *Models of clinical ethics services in SA: a critical appraisal*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk; Co-supervisor: Prof. K Moodley.

8. Le Roux-Kemp, A. *A legal-ethical evaluation of universal health coverage by means of a National Health Insurance Plan in South Africa and Ghana*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
9. Palk, A. *Moral bioenhancement: an ethical and philosophical investigation*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.

#### **4.4 Masters projects in progress**

1. Baraldi, E. *Should HIV patients on ARV's who develop drug resistance due to non-compliance with treatment regimens be denied further treatment?*. Supervisor: Dr. L Horn.
2. Biyela, I.M. *Disabled people's competition for employment and career advancement: moral perspectives*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
3. De Vaal, C. *Raising ethical issues in the dead: An exploration of ethical challenges in forensic medicine*. Supervisor: Dr L Horn.
4. Harbor, O. *Shades of Competence: An Exploration of the Competence Element of Informed Consent*. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
5. Kruger, W. *The ethics of HIV vaccinations*. MPhil. Supervisor: Dr. L Horn.
6. Loftus, I. *Ethical problems related to the identification of genetic risks for tumours and other diseases*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
7. Ludwick, J. *Virtue ethics and psychiatry*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
8. Dr T S Mashele *An exploration of ethical challenges related to the management of drug resistant Tuberculosis in South Africa*. Supervisor: Dr. L Horn.
9. Maswanganyi, J.V. *An exploration of the plausibility of human rights and communitarian approaches in guiding public health interventions*. Supervisor: Dr L Horn.
10. Moosa, T. *No longer sacred: the implications of unsanctifying human life*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
11. Morkel, M. *Medical testing in the life insurance industry: bioethical perspectives*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk
12. Ogunyinka, R. *Paternalism in Medical Ethics: An Evaluation*. Supervisor: Dr S Hall.
13. Patel, F. *The nature of the moral obligation underlying global bioethics*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
14. Photo, M. *The effects of the SA Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act on health care workers in South Africa*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
15. Simpson, A. *The moral relevance of the Geneva Oath*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
16. Ukena, A. *Elective deafness as moral problem*. MA. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
17. Valentine, Terence: *Closing the Gap: Exploring Edentulism in the context of Distributive Justice for Health Care*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.

## **5. SERVICE DELIVERY**

- 5.1 Prof. van Niekerk has, from September 2013, been appointed as a member of the National Health Research Ethics Council, as well as a member of the Committee for the revision of National Guidelines for Ethical Biomedical Research.

5.2 Prof. van Niekerk has been appointed as a member of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and he is also a member of the panel that is doing a consensus study on the level of biosafety and security in South Africa.

## 6. OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIT

### 6.1 Bioethics Discussion Group

A very significant addition to the activities of the Unit in 2013 was the creation, since the beginning of the year, of a discussion group on bioethical issues. This was primarily intended as an intellectual sounding board and think tank of prof. van Niekerk's team of postgraduate students who work in the field. Anybody with an interest in the subject, however, is welcome to attend. The group kicked off with a series of talks on the human enhancement problematic which is currently the main topic of research in the Unit. Meetings are roughly every three weeks for about 90 minutes to two hours at a time. Somebody is asked to make a presentation or read a paper, after which extensive discussion follows. It is hoped that this activity will in future lead to larger conferences and to publications of individuals or the team. The secretariat is very admirably and efficiently handled by ms Andrea Palk.

The meetings, discussants and topics for 2013 were as follows:

7 March 2013	Enhancement: General	Dr Susan Hall
27 March	Disability and enhancement	Prof. AA van Niekerk
18 April	Cognitive enhancement: the use of Ritalin	Dr C Verster (US)
9 May	Radical enhancement: transhumanism	Ms Andrea Palk
1 August	The ethical ramifications of non-therapeutic circumcision	Prof. Daniel Sidler (US)
22 August	The ethics of presumed consent for organ donation	Dr Malcolm de Roubaix (US)
25 September	The ethics of sexuality	Ms Maritza Breitenbach

## **6.2 Evaluation of Research Ethics Committees in Africa**

Prof van Niekerk was, in the course of 2013, asked to act as specialist adviser to the firm Clinical Consultants and Development Works (CC&DW), a consultant firm that was contracted by the Africa Program of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) to evaluate the efficacy and functioning of all the EDCTP supported research ethics committees in Africa. This was a huge task. The report was finalized in the course of October, and prof. van Niekerk was asked to present the findings as key note speaker at the EDCTP Conference, held in Antwerp on 28 November 2013. The report was accepted and very well received.

## **7. APPOINTMENT**

Dr Lyn Horn (MBChB, MPhil, PG Dip and PhD), who attained her MPhil and PhD in Bioethics at Stellenbosch University, and currently serves as the chair of the Research Ethics Committee for the Humaniora at Stellenbosch, was appointed extraordinary senior lecturer in the Department and Centre from 2013.

## **8. RECOGNITION**

Prof. van Niekerk was again rated by the NRF in the course of 2012, and his rating was improved from a B3 to a B2 from 2013 until 2018. The B2 category specifically indicates the following: “All or the overriding majority of reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant enjoys considerable international recognition for the high quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs”.

AA van Niekerk  
(Head: Unit for Bioethics)

# UNIT FOR BUSINESS ETHICS AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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### 1. RESEARCH

#### 1.1 Conferences

##### 1.1.1. Papers presented at international conferences

Rossouw, GJ. 2013. The evolution of ethics in corporate governance in Africa. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of BEN-Africa. Lagos, Nigeria.

##### 1.1.2. Conference and workshop participation

Prof Rossouw was an invited participant and presenter at the following conferences and workshops:

- Global Ethics Forum, Geneva / Switzerland
- The Lille World Forum on Corporate Responsibility, Lille / France

Prof Rossouw was a presenter, and Dr. Woermann was an invited participant, at:

- A workshop on 'Improving strategies for ethics and responsibility in Anglophone and Lusophone Africa', organised by: *Ethics Institute of South Africa (EthicsSA)*

##### 1.1.3. Forum lectures

Du Toit, H.L. 2013. Leadership in an ecological age (authored by M. Woermann and H.L. du Toit). Presented at the Windhoek Socratic Forum, 10 October 2013.

#### 1.2. Publications

##### 1.2.1. Journal articles

Woermann, M. 2013. 'Moral imperatives for an immanent world: investigating the pragmatist, deconstructive, and ante-philosophical positions', *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 32(3): 275 – 284.

##### 1.2.2. Books

Woermann, M. 2013. *On the (Im)Possibility of Business Ethics: Critical Complexity, Deconstruction, and Implications for Understanding the Ethics of Business*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Rossouw G.J & Van Vuuren L.J. 2013. *Business Ethics 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* Cape Town: Oxford University Press.

##### 1.2.3. Book chapters

Woermann, M. 2013. 'Macro Ethics' in Rossouw, G.J. and van Vuuren, L.J. *Business Ethics 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* Oxford University Press.

##### 1.2.4. Forthcoming

Woermann, M. 2014. 'Business ethics, corporate social responsibility, and corporate governance' in Brevis, T. and Vrba, M. (eds.) *Contemporary Management Issues*, Cape Town: Juta.

## **2. TEACHING**

### **2.1 Postgraduate teaching**

- The primary task of the Unit's staff is to assume responsibility for the post-graduate teaching of business ethics in the MPhil (Applied Ethics) Programme. Two week-long contact sessions were held, in which prominent business ethics themes and local business ethics challenges were addressed. The specialisation programme is primarily lectured by Dr. Minka Woermann, but Prof. Deon Rossouw – who was appointed as an extraordinary professor in the Department of Philosophy as of 2013 – also assists in this task.
- Prof Rossouw presented a guest lecture in the MBA programme at EDHEC Business School, Lille (France).

### **2.2. Undergraduate teaching:**

- Business Ethics 214 (approx. 390 students) (Dr. M. Woermann; Dr. D.J. Louw, Dr. J.P. Smit)
- Business Ethics 314 (approx. 100 students) (Dr. S. Hall)
- Business Ethics 242 (approx. 390 students) (Professional Accounting Ethics) (Dr. M. Woermann)
- Philosophy and Ethics 314 (approx. 320 students) (Dr. S. Hall; Dr. D.J. Louw)
- Philosophy and Ethics 474 (approx. 250 students) (Dr. S. Hall; Dr. D.J. Louw)

## **3. POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

### **3.1. Completed MPhil projects**

Mpekansambo, L.: 'The limits of virtue theory in business ethics', MPhil (Applied Ethics), 50% thesis, March 2013. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann.

### **3.2. On-going MPhil projects**

- Hoepfl, K. Corporate governance for environmental sustainability. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann.
- Horwitz, J. The ethics of outsourcing labour in business. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann.
- Reddy, R. The potential role of South African unions in promoting CSR. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann.
- Swartz, A. Global competence: does business have a moral duty to assist educational institutions in preparing students for the job market? Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann; co-supervisor: Dr. T. de Villiers-Botha.

- Smit, A.T. The role of business in society: an exploration of sustainable business development based on Biomatrix systems theory. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann.
- Saayman, J.P. Ethics in Leadership. Dr. M. Woermann.

### **3.3. On-going Masters projects**

- Snyman, R. A Foucauldian analysis of corruption. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann.

## **4. SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **4.2. Editorial positions**

- In 2013, Dr. Woermann assumed the role of editor-in-chief of the African Journal of Business Ethics. In her capacity as editor, she was involved in:
  - Publishing three editions of the journal during the course of 2013 (although one edition was backdated to 2012)
  - Fundraising for the journal
  - Moving the journal to an electronic platform (hosted by SUNJournals) (<http://ajobe.journals.ac.za>) and assigning a new publisher to the journal (SUNMeDIA)
  - Screening and reviewing papers for the annual Business Ethics Network (BEN) Africa Conference, which was held in Lagos, Nigeria in October 2013

### **4.2. Representation on editorial boards**

- Prof Rossouw served on the editorial boards of the following journals:
  - Journal of Business Ethics
  - African Journal of Business Ethics
  - Turkish Journal of Business Ethics
- Prof Hattingh served on the editorial board of the following journal:
  - African Journal of Business Ethics

### **4.3. Continuous professional development (CPD) training**

- Dr. Woermann developed and presented two sessions of a CPD course on business ethics (which will run till the end of 2014) to financial planners. The course is accredited by the Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa.

### **4.4. Examination and moderation**

- Prof. Rossouw acted as external examiner in the MPhil Applied Ethics Programme of St Augustine College.
- Dr. Woermann served as internal moderator for the ‘Ethics and Governance’ Master’s module, presented by the Centre for Corporate Governance; University of Stellenbosch Business School. She also acted as external



examiner for two theses on business ethics-related themes for Rhodes University and the University of the Witwatersrand.

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# UNIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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### 1. Research

#### 1.1 Research Outputs

##### 1.1.1 Publications

1. Hattingh, JP. Protection of the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity, in H.A.M.J. ten Have, B. Gordijn (eds.), **COMPENDIUM AND ATLAS OF GLOBAL BIOETHICS**, DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-28753-4\_80, Springer Science+Business Media, Dordrecht 2013. (This contribution was written and accepted in 2012.) Available at <http://www.springerreference.com/docs/html/chapterdbid/363443.html>
2. Hattingh, JP. Whose climate, which ethics? On the foundations of climate change law, in **CLIMATE CHANGE: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**, Volume II: Policy, Diplomacy and Governance in a Changing Environment. Edited by Prof. Dr. Oliver C. Ruppel, Prof. Dr. Christian Roschmann and Dr. Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
3. Hattingh, JP. Environmental philosophy and ethics: a critical overview of anthropocentric, ecocentric and radical value positions. Revised book chapter for **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** (second edition), edited by Callie Loubser. Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers. (To be published in 2013.)

##### 1.1.2 Papers and presentations

1. Hall, S. Changing ourselves, changing the world: the ethics of human engineering and climate change'. Presented at the **LONDON SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE**, London, United Kingdom, 22-24 June 2013.
2. Hall, S. What is climate change, and why are companies and government agencies reluctant to change their current approach? Presented at the **BIOCATALYSIS AND TECHNICAL BIOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP ETHICS WORKSHOP**, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, 4 October 2013.

#### 1.2 Current Research

Prof. Hattingh is continuing with his research in different areas of environmental ethics, and is continuing his focus on the interface between, and overlap of environmental ethics, climate change ethics, and development ethics.

## 2. OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Short course

The Unit for Environmental Ethics was again approached by the City of Cape Town, as well as the Eden District Council, to tender for the presentation of a short course in *Professional Ethics for Environmental Health Practitioners*. The tender for the City of Cape Town was successful, and the short course was presented in January 2013.

### 2.2 Ongoing Doctoral Projects

1. BAUGHAN H. Technology and practical reason in technology education policy - a philosophical study. D.Phil. Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. (To be submitted in October 2014 for examination.)
2. LONG SS. The formulation of an environmental ethic for civil engineers in South Africa. D.Phil. Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. (To be submitted in October 2014 for examination.)
3. MORODI TJ. The precautionary principle and public environmental decision-making in South Africa: An ethical appraisal. Ph.D. (Applied Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. (To be submitted in October 2014 for examination.)
4. MAZIGO, AF. Toward an ethical basis for pro-poor development interventions in the fishing sector of Ukerewe, Tanzania: A study in Development Ethics. Ph.D. (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. Co-supervisor: Dr. Magdalene Ngaiza, Institute of Development, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. (To be submitted in October 2014 for examination.)
5. LYAKURWA, M. The environmental ethics of the Wachaga and Waluguru of Tanzania: Beyond the romantic exhortation of the ideal traditional past. Ph.D. (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. Co-supervisor: Dr. Sirkku Hellsten, Philosophy Section, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. (To be submitted in December 2014 for examination.)

### 2.3 Completed Master's Thesis

Seward, M. *Environmental governance as a prerequisite for sustainable development: South Africa's grass-roots transition toward social, ethical and environmental restoration*. MPhil (Environmental Management), University of Stellenbosch, December 2013. Supervisor: Dr S Hall. (cum laude).

### 2.4 Ongoing Master's Projects

1. STEYN CJ. *Exploring ethical challenges, climate change and implications on land and water use within the agricultural sector of the Garden Route, Western Cape, South Africa*. M.Phil. (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh.

- (Submitted in November 2013 for examination, which was successfully completed.)
2. HERBST AT. *A critical analysis of the socio-ecological impacts of golf courses and estates in the Mosselbay, George and Knysna Area*. M.A. (Philosophy) Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh.
  3. CRUISE AJ. *Deconstructing the other (animal)*. M.A. (Philosophy) Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. (To be submitted in October 2014 for examination.)
  4. BOOYSEN, B. *The Perfect Moral Storm of Fracking in the Karoo*. M. Phil (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.

## **2.5 M.Phil in Environmental Management**

Prof. Hattingh is member of an interfaculty Programme Committee that has launched a Mphil Programme in Environmental Management in January 2001. Departments participating in the programme are Philosophy (Environmental Ethics), Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Public and Development Administration, Public Law, and Conservation Ecology. Since December 2002 a steady stream of students graduated from this program.

Within the framework of this programme Prof. Hattingh took responsibility for a module in Environmental Ethics until 2012. From 2013 his duties in this regard has been taken over by Dr. Sue Hall.

## **2.5 M.Phil. in Sustainable Development**

In February 2003 the Sustainability Institute under the leadership of Prof. Mark Swilling and Ms. Eve Annecke launched an innovative MPhil Programme in Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Department of Public and Development Management of the University of Stellenbosch. Having been part of the team planning the Programme, Prof. Hattingh is currently one of the co-teachers in the module on Leadership and Ethics for Sustainable Development. Prof. Hattingh will continue with his responsibilities in this context from 2013 while serving as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

## **2.6 Activities around UNESCO's COMEST**

1. At the end of 2011 the second term of Prof Hattingh as member of COMEST (The World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology), an advisory body of UNESCO came to an end. COMEST falls under UNESCO's Division for the Ethics of Science, and consists of 18 members that are selected to be representative of the world community on the one hand, and expertise in the ethics of various fields on the other hand. Members are appointed to COMEST in collaboration with the official delegations of member countries of UNESCO and their countries' Ministries of Science and Technology. COMEST advises the General Assembly of UNESCO on ethical issues, and conduct, on request, research for the General Assembly on ethical

issues. At the beginning of 2004, Prof. Hattingh was appointed as member of COMEST for a period of 4 years. On the recommendation of the South African Government, Prof. Hattingh has been invited by COMEST to serve for another term of four years, i.e. from 2008 – 2011. During 2005 Prof. Hattingh was appointed as Rapporteur in the Executive Board of COMEST, a position in which he served until the end of 2011. Since May, 2008, Prof. Hattingh was invited to Chair a Working Group on Environmental Ethics to take the lead in preparing a report on The ethical implications of global climate change.

2. During 2012 Prof Hattingh was invited by the Director General of UNESCO to serve as an associate member of COMEST, which means that he can still be invited to support the activities of COMEST.

## **2.7 Membership of Editorial Boards**

Prof. Hattingh currently serves on the Editorial Board of the following journals:

1. *Southern African Journal of Environmental Education* (co-editor of the section on Environmental Ethics)
2. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* (member of Editorial Board, since 2007).
3. *Journal for Ethics Education* (This is a Springer on-line journal that was recently established by Prof. Henk ten Have, Director of the Center for Healthcare Ethics, Duquesne Universiteit, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was invited to become member of Editorial Board in 2011 – and the Journal was established in 2012.)