

# CENTRE FOR APPLIED ETHICS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

### 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. 1-7**

**Report of the Unit for Bioethics pp. 8-13**

**Report of the Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity: pp. 14-19**

**Report of the Unit for Environmental Ethics: pp. 20-23**

### 2. GOVERNING BODY

Prof. **P Fourie** (Representative of the Centre for International and Comparative Politics), Prof. **JP Hattingh (or his representative)** (Dean), Prof. **AA van Niekerk** (Director of the Centre and Head: Unit for Bioethics), Prof. **HL du Toit**, Chairperson of the Philosophy Department (from 2016 replaced by Prof. **V Roodt**), **Mr. C Maasdorp**, representative of the Centre for Knowledge Management and Decision-making), Dr. **S Hall** (Representative: Unit for Environmental Ethics), a representative of/ or the Director of the Anti-corruption Centre, Prof. **S van der Berg** (Representative of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences), Prof. **WP Pienaar** (Representative of the Faculty of Health Sciences, *chair*), Prof. **C Walker** (Representative of the Depts. of Psychology, Sociology, Geography and Environmental Studies, and Social Work), Prof. **K Moodley** (Representative of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law), **Dr. M Woermann** (Head: Unit for Business Ethics and Public Integrity), **Mr. Martin Rossouw**, representative of the Medielinic Southern Africa, a key sponsor of the Centre and Dr. **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 Journal articles

Van Niekerk, A.A. 2015. Oor historisme en verstaansraamwerke: hoe beoordeel ons historiese gebeure en agente? *LitNet*, 2015.

##### 3.1.2 Book chapters

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. Vriendskap en Liefde, in: M Becker, E Brugmans & J Hermens (eds.): *Rondom vriendschap: Filosofiese Beskouwingen. Opstellen aangeboden aan Paul van Tongeren*. Zoetermeer: Klement, 2015, pp. 33-46.
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. Sexual ethics, in: Henk ten Have (ed.): *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics*. DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-05544-2\_393-1. #Springer Science+Business Media DorDr. echt 2015 (Internet publication).

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

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. Nuwe lig uit donker, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 28 April 2015, p. 15. [New light from the dark]
2. Van Niekerk, A.A. Wat is versoening?, *Die Burger* (Forum article, response to Hennie van Coller & Wilhelm Verwoerd), 11 June 2015, p. 15.
3. Van Niekerk, A.A. Hou oog op die regse radikale, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 7 July 2015.
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. Johannes Degenaar: 1926-205, *Die Burger*, 24 Julie 2015, p. 8.
5. Van Niekerk, A.A. Van volksuniversiteit na internasionale speler, *Die Burger* (Forum article), 10 November 2015, p. 9.
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. Nee, Sonja, gaan lees weer mooi, *Rapport Weekliks*, 22 November 2015, p. 7.

#### 3.2 Presentations

##### At National Conferences and other events

1. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Accountable moral leadership*. Key note speaker, Conference of *Unashamedly Ethical*, Stellenbosch, 5 March 2015.

2. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Ethics as moral philosophy*, National Science and Technology Forum Conference, Kempton Park, 19 March 2015.
3. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Introduction to ethics and business ethics*, CPD lectures (two two hour sessions) for different companies in the investment and insurance industry, 30 July and 15 August 2015.
4. Van Niekerk, A.A. *Sexually speaking – from and ethical perspective*. Stellenbosch Bioethics Discussion Group, 30 July 2015.
5. *Responsible research ethics: adding value to the facts*. Key note lecturer at launch conference of the Research Ethics Association for Southern Africa (REASA), Cape Town, 17 September 2015.
6. Van Niekerk, A.A. Keynote and plenary lecturer on *Ethics in science and research*, Annual Faculty of Agriculture and Science Research Day, University of Limpopo, 1-2 October 2015.
7. Van Niekerk, A.A. Keynote and plenary lecturer: *Ethics in the workplace: the challenges facing local government*. IMASA (Institute of Municipal Administrators for Southern Africa) National Conference, Stellenbosch, 22-23 October 2015.

#### **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 KykNet (Prontuit, 3 February), Focus (9 August) RSG Monitor (5 February, 18 August), SAFM (2 May), Praat Saam (11 May), Spektrum (29 April) and Sondagjoernaal (18 January). A series of radio interviews were also done with Prof. van Niekerk about his book *Geloof sonder sekerhede* by a religious broadcaster (Wanda Bam). Prof. van Niekerk also, on invitation of the producer, Herman Binge, did an extensive TV interview on prominent Afrikaner leaders for a program that Binge is producing for KykNet.

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

##### **5.1 Teaching**

5.1.1 In 2015 we saw the second intake of the one year MPhil (Applied Ethics) students. For Bioethics this was a group of 13 students who generally did quite well although, as could be expected, are delayed by the 50% thesis requirement.

5.1.2 Prof. van Niekerk was again asked to offer a four hour session on philosophy and ethics in business, part of the Senior Executive Diploma Program of USB-ED. Very positive feedback was received from this.

5.1.3 Prof. van Niekerk, Dr. Woermann and Dr. Smit also offered a complete module in the PG Dip (Future Studies) program at the Business School; ethics forms an integral part of this module. Very positive feedback was received about this contribution.

5.1.4 Prof. van Niekerk was invited to act as external examiner of Liesbeth Feikema's doctoral dissertation *Still not at ease: corruption and conflict of interest in hybrid political orders*, attained at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Prof. van Niekerk also had to attend the promotion ceremony in Utrecht in order to question the candidate. It is a ground-breaking piece of research.

## **5.2 New International Co-operative Projects of the Centre**

The year 2015 turned out to be a year of exciting new projects upon which the Centre has embarked and that represent new vistas that the Centre is about to research.

### **5.2.1 BEINGS 2015**

Prof. van Niekerk was invited to co-operate in BEINGS 2015 (Biotech and the Ethical Imagination) a summit that took place in Atlanta, Georgia from 17-19 May 2015, and was mainly organized by Emory University. Quite prominent bioethicists and philosophers from all over the world attended, not least of which were Steven Pinker of Harvard, Margaret Somerville of Toronto University, Arthur Caplan of New York University and Erica Haimes of Newcastle University in the UK, and many others. The idea behind the summit was to try and investigate the possibility of formulating internationally valid guidelines for research in the field of biotechnology – a quite ambitious enterprise, as was brilliantly argued by people like Steven Pinker. This co-operation continues by Prof. van Niekerk's participation in a working group that teleconference occasionally.

### **5.2.2 The STEM Initiative**

Prof. van Niekerk was also invited to participate in an international symposium on the challenges of "Reconceiving Ethics through Global Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Education and Research (STEM)", an occasion at which he also delivered a key note address on "Race as variable in the work of institutional review boards". This conference took place from 19 to 21 December 2015 at the University of Virginia in the USA. It was a very intensive exercise, but the co-operation emerging from it holds great potential for the future work of our Centre.

### **5.2.3 The Compass Group Military Ethics Partnership**

Prof. van Niekerk and the Centre were also, in the course of 2015, invited to participate, as the only Centre from Africa, in a comprehensive new research program on military ethics initiated by colleagues at the National University of Australia in Canberra. The "Compass Group" (representatives of about 10 such centres all over the world) met for the first time early in 2016 in Canberra. Prof. van Niekerk could not attend due to other commitments, and it was decided to send Ms. Liezl Groenewald in his place at the expense of the organisers. She is a senior researcher and employee of the Ethics Institute of SA in Pretoria, and is about to embark on a doctoral project on a related topic. She will drive the project in the Centre, without the risk of any additional financial burdens on the Centre or the University.

#### **5.2.4 Farewell to Paul van Tongeren**

Prof. van Niekerk was invited to contribute (see under book chapters above) to the Festschrift of Prof. Paul van Tongeren, Professor of philosophy and ethics at Nijmegen University in the Netherlands, who retired at the end of 2015. He is a great friend of our department and Centre, and has often visited us as well as Stias, delivered lectures and offered a course. Prof. Vasti Roodt, and ex-student of Van Tongeren, attended, with Prof. van Niekerk, the farewell festivities in Nijmegen (amongst which: an “exit lecture”, attended by a huge audience), and delivered a lecture at a conference held the previous two days in his honour. In spite of his retirement, we hope to maintain good relationships and continued future co-operation with Paul van Tongeren.

#### **5.2.5 New Book Project**

Prof. van Niekerk was in the course of 2015 approached by Tafelberg Publishers to embark on a new book project about the existential and ethical significance of the death phenomenon in human experience. He has started on this project, which will probably only be completed by 2017. A thoroughly revised (two added chapters and extensive re-writing) of Van Niekerk’s book *Geloof sonder sekerhede* was formally launched at Stellenbosch’s Woordfees in March 2015.

### **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.

#### **5.3.1 Membership in, and service to, the following committees continued:**

- 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. More about this in the report of the Unit for Bioethics.
- Prof. van Niekerk is chair of the Senate Research Ethics Committee of Stellenbosch University – the policy making body of the University, which also appoints and accredits members of all the Research Ethics Committees of the University.
- The Ethics Committee of Subcommittee A (Humanities & Social Sciences) of Stellenbosch University’s Research Committee (Dr. L Horn [chair] and Dr. S Hall)
- Prof. van Niekerk is a member of the governing board of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law (CMEL) in the FMHS.

5.3.2 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 since 2012. Both appointments were renewed in the course of 2014.

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

## 5.4 Appointments

1. Dr. Susan Hall was appointed to the full-time position of lecturer in the Department of Philosophy (and therefore, by implication, the Centre for Applied Ethics) from 1 January 2015. She has an outstanding academic track record and is an expert in the field of applied ethics, with special reference to themes in bioethics and environmental ethics. The Centre deeply appreciates her appointment by the Department and looks forward to her wholehearted involvement in Centre-activities in future. The extent of her involvement is already apparent from the reports of the Units for Bioethics and for Environmental Ethics.
2. Dr. Lyn Horn continues her work as extraordinary senior lecturer in the Philosophy Department and Centre. She contributes to various teaching programmes and delivers exceptionally valuable service in supervising MPhil students in Bioethics, and plays a pivotal role in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as chairperson of the Research Ethics Committee of the Humanities – a daunting task in view of the volume of work (and level of responsibility) that is associated with it. She has unfortunately been experiencing some health problems over the past year, and we wish her all the best for a speedy and complete recovery.

## 6. Sponsorship


Mediclinic has confirmed its generosity towards the Centre by renewing its sponsorship of the Unit for Bioethics. For 2015 and 2016, the awarded amount was/is R200 000, in order to, meet the Centre's many commitments, not least of which is to also continue the temporary employment of Ms. Andrea Palk, who delivers indispensable services as researcher and administrator in the Unit for Bioethics. This sponsorship has been running since 2007, and is highly appreciated by the Centre.

**We convey our sincere gratitude to Mediclinic Southern Africa, and specifically ask their representative on the Governing Committee, Mr. Martin Rossouw, to convey that gratitude to Mr. Koert Pretorius, CEO of Mediclinic Southern Africa and his entire management team and Board of Directors.**



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Prof.. W.P. Pienaar  
Chair: Governing Body



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

# UNIT FOR BIOETHICS

## Annual Report 2015

### 1. RESEARCH

#### 1.1 Completed research projects

- 1.1.1 *Sexual ethics.* (A.A. van Niekerk). Another invitation to write a book chapter in the prestigious *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics*. It was published on the Internet in 2015; the hard copy will follow in 2016.
- 1.1.2 *Friendship and romantic love.* (A.A. van Niekerk). Prof. van Niekerk was invited to write a book chapter for the Festschrift for Prof. Paul van Tongeren, friend and colleague of long standing. This was completed and published towards the end of 2015.
- 1.1.3 *The ethics of psychopharmacology* (D. Stein D & A.A. van Niekerk). The authors were invited to contribute to the prestigious *Oxford Handbook of Psychiatric Ethics*, which was published by Oxford University Press in 2015.
- 1.1.4 *Exploitation in global context.* (A.A. 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*. This chapter was published on the Internet by Springer in 2015; the hard copy will follow in 2016.

#### 1.2 Ongoing projects

- 1.2.1 *Ethical problems related to newer developments in genetic reproductive technologies, with special reference to human enhancement and transhumanism* (A.A. van Niekerk, S. Hall, A. Palk, C. Verster & L. Franken).
- 1.2.2 *A critical appraisal of the views of Michael Sandel on enhancement* (A.A. van Niekerk & C. Morgan – Honours student). Van Niekerk was asked to respond to a critical article written about his original article of 2014. The work on this was started in 2015
- 1.2.3 *The legitimacy of race as variable in the deliberations of IRB's.* (A.A. van Niekerk) An article published by Van Niekerk in 2014, generated so much interest that he received a number of invitations for follow-up articles. This is now ongoing work
- 1.2.4 *Moral enhancement* (A. Palk). Work on this PhD project is progressing steadily. Van Niekerk and Palk attended an international conference in Belgrade on this issue in November 2015.

- 1.2.5 *The morality of the idea of unlimited longevity.* (L. Franken) Work on this PhD project is progressing steadily.
- 1.2.6 *The moral problem of double loyalty in occupation medicine* (G. Grobler) Work on this PhD project is progressing steadily.
- 1.2.7 *The debate between Rorty and Habermas* (A.A. van Niekerk), invitation to contribute a book chapter to A. Malachowski: *The Cambridge Companion to Rorty.* (Cambridge University Press). Will appear in 2016 or 2017.
- 1.2.8 *Reconsidering counselling and consent* (D. Hall & A.A. van Niekerk). Article written with ex-student of Prof. van Niekerk. The article was written and submitted to an accredited international journal, and was subsequently published on the Internet in 2015, while the hard copy publication is to follow in 2016.
- 1.2.9 *Healing without waging war: beyond military metaphors in medicine and HIV care research.* (M. de Roubaix, A.A. van Niekerk et.al.). Article written with ex-students and colleagues. It was completed and submitted to one of the most acclaimed bioethics journals in the world (*The American Journal of Bioethics*) in 2015. The article was consequently accepted for publication at some point in 2016.
- 1.2.10 *Ethical concerns in the debate about pediatric vaccinations, with special reference to MMR.* . (J. Bester). Doctoral project making excellent progress. Candidate is due to graduate at the end of 2016.

## 2. RESEARCH OUTPUTS

### 2.1 Articles in peer-reviewed journals (\*) indicates accredited journals

Hall, D. & Van Niekerk, A.A. 2015. Reconsidering counselling and consent, accepted for publication in *Developing World Bioethics\**, and published on the Internet, doi:10.1111/dewb.12100.

Palk, A.C. 2015. 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): 39-54.

### 2.2 Books/Research reports

2.2.1 Van Niekerk, A.A. & Palk, A.C. et. al. 2015. *Consensus Report on the State of Biosafety and Biosecurity in South Africa.* (co-authors of ch 1 and parts of ch 4). Pretoria: Academy of Sciences of South Africa (ASSAf).

2.2.2 Van Niekerk, A.A. 2015. Contributor and member of the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC): *Ethics in Health Research: Principles, Processes and Structures.* (Guidelines for Ethical Health Research). 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Pretoria: Dept of Health, Republic of South Africa. 93 pp.



## 2.2 Book Chapters

- 2.3.1 Van Niekerk, A.A. & Stein, D. 2015. Ethics of Psychopharmacology, in: J.Z. Sadler, K.W.M. Fulford & C.W. van Staden (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Psychiatric Ethics, volume 2*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 1175-1190.
- 2.3.2 Van Niekerk, A.A. 2015. Exploitation, in: Henk ten Have (ed.): *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics*. Internet edition:  
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-05544-2\_187-1. # Springer Science+Business Media  
DorDr. echt.

## 2.3 Papers read at international conferences and meetings

- 2.3.1 Van Niekerk, A.A. *Deliberation in REC's and the complexities of considering race as variable in biomedical research*. XXXIVth International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Sigmund Freud University, Vienna, 12-17 July 2015.
- 2.3.2 Van Niekerk, A.A. Part of plenary panel on topic of *The Medical Use of Cannabis and Cannabinoids: reconciling evidence with compassion*, International Biological Psychiatry Congress, 24-27 September, Somerset-West.
- 2.3.3 Van Niekerk, A.A. *Enhancement, mastery and perfection: a critique of Michael Sandel's position*, Plenary lecture at international conference: Enhancing Understanding of Enhancement, Belgrade, Serbia, 27-28 October, Center for the Study of Bioethics, University of Belgrade.
- 2.3.4 Van Niekerk, A.A. Invited lecture: *Race as variable in the work of Institutional Review Boards*, at International Conference: Reconciling Ethics through Global Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Education and Research (STEM), Virginia Tech Research Centre, Arlington, Virginia, USA, 19-21 December 2015.

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

- 2.4.1 Van Niekerk, A.A. *Public conversation with Willem Landman and Etienne de Villiers about assisted death*. Woordfees, Stellenbosch, 10 March 2015.
- 2.4.2 Van Niekerk, A.A. *The history of Bioethics in SA*, Designation Ceremony of Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Medical School, Stellenbosch University, 20 April 2015.
- 2.4.3 Van Niekerk, A.A. *Do health care workers have a "duty to care" during humanitarian crises?* Annual Bioethics Seminar of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Tygerberg, 20 April 2015.

## 3. TEACHING

- 2.1 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 will again be offered in 2017. In the meantime, the supervision of a number of students' dissertations continues (see below).
- 2.2 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.

2.3 In 2015, Prof. van Niekerk also taught, supervised and acted as one of the Faculty of the ARESA Program (Advancing Research Ethics Training in Southern Africa), a Fogarty funded training program (postgraduate diploma), offered by the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law at the Medical Faculty of Stellenbosch University. That program is coming to an end in 2016.

2.4 Prof. van Niekerk, seconded by Dr. Hall, assists with the teaching of Medical Ethics to MBChB second as well as fifth year students.

### **3. 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**

4.1.1 Gardner, J.B.: *Moral responsibility for prenatal harm to children: the case of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk. [The dissertation was completed and accepted in 2015; degree was bestowed in March 2016]

#### **4.2 Completed Masters Theses**

4.2.1 Loftus, I. *Ethical problems related to the identification of genetic risks for tumours and other diseases*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.

4.2.2 F.C.L. Rakotsoane: *Human life invaluable: an emerging African biomedical principle*. Dissertation for PGD (Health Research Ethics), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University. December 2015. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk (This thesis is currently reworked into an article for publication.)

4.2.3 Simpson, A. *The moral relevance of the Geneva Oath*. MPhil. Supervisor. Dr. S Hall.

4.2.4 Valentine, T.: *Closing the Gap: Exploring Edentulism in the context of Distributive Justice for Health Care*. Supervisor: Dr. S Hall.

[Baraldi, E. exited the program with a BPhil in December 2015.]

#### **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. A.A. van Niekerk. Co-supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
2. Bijloos, A. *The moral significance of risk and responsibility*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.

3. Franken, L. *Morality and immortality: assessing the ethical implications of the idea of radical life extension*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
4. Grobler, G. *To serve two masters? A moral analysis of the conflict of interest in the Profession of occupational physicians*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
5. Kling, S. *Models of clinical ethics services in SA: a critical appraisal*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk; Co-supervisor: Prof. K Moodley.
6. 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. A.A. van Niekerk.
7. Palk, A. *Moral bioenhancement: an ethical and philosophical investigation*. PhD. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.

#### 4.4 Masters projects in progress

1. Biyela, I.M. *Disabled people's competition for employment and career advancement: moral perspectives*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. AA van Niekerk.
2. De Vaal, C. *Raising ethical issues in the dead: An exploration of ethical challenges in forensic medicine*. Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
3. Harbor, O. *Shades of Competence: An Exploration of the Competence Element of Informed Consent*. Supervisor: Dr. S. Hall.
4. Dr. T.S. Mashele. *An exploration of ethical challenges related to the management of Dr. ug resistant Tuberculosis in South Africa*. Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
5. Maswanganyi, J.V. *An exploration of the plausibility of human rights and communitarian approaches in guiding public health interventions*. Supervisor: Dr. L. Horn.
6. Moosa, T. *No longer sacred: the implications of unsanctifying human life*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A van Niekerk.
7. Morkel, M. *Medical testing in the life insurance industry: bioethical perspectives*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk
8. Ogunyinka, R. *Paternalism in Medical Ethics: An Evaluation*. Supervisor: Dr. S. Hall.
9. Patel, F. *The nature of the moral obligation underlying global bioethics*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
10. Photo, M. *The effects of the SA Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act on health care workers in South Africa*. MPhil. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.
11. Ukena, A. *Elective deafness as moral problem*. MA. Supervisor: Prof. A.A. van Niekerk.

## 5. SERVICE DELIVERY

- 5.1 Prof. van Niekerk has, from September 2013, been appointed as a member of the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC), as well as a member of the Committee for the revision of National Guidelines for Ethical Biomedical Research. ***These new guidelines have now been approved by the Minister of Health and were published in the course of 2015. This a very significant achievement of the NHREC, since there existed a serious need for new guidelines.*** The next task of this committee is to revise the Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice.

5.2 Prof. van Niekerk has been a member of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and he also was a member of the panel that did a consensus study on the level of biosafety and security in South Africa. This work came to completion in the course of 2015. Prof. van Niekerk solicited the services of Ms. Andrea Palk to assist him with writing most of the ethics-related chapters of the final report. The report (see under section 2.2, above) has been approved by the ASSAf Council, was published in 2015 and enjoyed a quite favourable reception.

## 6 OTHER GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIT

### 6.1 Bioethics Discussion Group

A very significant addition to the activities of the Unit since 2014 was the activities and deliberations 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. 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 unrest/protest actions on the campus towards the end of 2015 had an adverse effect on the meetings of the group. The meetings, discussants and topics for 2015 were as follows:

Speaker	Topic	Date
Prof.. David Hall	Contemplating Counselling and Consent	25 Feb
Prof. Anton van Niekerk	Sexual Ethics	30 July
Prof. Willie Pienaar	End of life decisions relating to futility in psychiatry	20 Aug
Dr. Lyn Horn	First world obligations to developing world countries with regards to the Ebola virus	29 Sept

AA van Niekerk  
(Head: Unit for Bioethics)

# UNIT FOR BUSINESS ETHICS AND PUBLIC INTEGRITY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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**Please note that the Head of the Unit, Dr. Minka Woermann, was with maternity leave between 5 June and 2 October 2015. Immediately thereafter she embarked on a research sabbatical.**

### 1. RESEARCH

#### 1.1. International conferences

Prof. Deon Rossouw participated in the following international conferences:

- Building ethical business cultures in emerging markets conference: University of St Thomas (Minneapolis, USA);
- World Forum Lille on Responsible Economy (Lille, France).

#### 1.2. Regional / national conferences and forums

Dr. Schalk Engelbrecht participated in the following national / regional conferences and forum:

- Guest speaker at the ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners) Regional Event – East London, 22 October 2015 (Title: "The (new) science of integrity");
- Guest speaker at the launch of the Lesotho chapter of the ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners), 17 November 2015 (Title: "When and why we cheat");
- Guest speaker at the "KPMG Mining Executive Forum: Fit for Future" (9 September 2015);
- Facilitator and co-host at the KPMG BEN-Africa Ethics Forum (Johannesburg, 19 May 2015);
- Facilitator and co-host at the KPMG BEN-Africa Ethics Forum (Cape Town, 8 October 2015);
- Moderator for a panel session entitled "The Future of the Compliance Profession" at the annual conference of SAMED (South African Medical Device Industry Association), 27 August 2015.

Prof. Rossouw participated in the following national / regional conferences:

- Business Ethics Network of Africa Regional Conference, Johannesburg.

## 1.3.Publications

### 1.3.1. Journal articles

NA

### 1.3.2. Book chapters

NA

### 1.3.3. Pre-contracts

Woermann, M. Monograph titled *Complexity and the Ethics of Living: a Post-Structural Grounding*. Pre-contract with: Springer, New York.

Woermann, M. Chapter on 'Business Ethics in Africa' in *The Routledge Companion to Business Ethics*, Pre-contract with Routledge.

Rossouw G.J. Chapter on 'Business Ethics in South Africa' in *Ethical Business Cultures in Emerging Markets*. Pre-contract with Cambridge University Press.

(The above research outputs were finalised in 2015 and are currently under review).

## 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. Prof. Deon Rossouw – who is appointed as an extraordinary Professor in the Department of Philosophy – also assists in this task.

Our 2015 intake of 14 students was double that of 2013 (our previous intake), which attests to the growing popularity of the Programme. Both the first and the second contact sessions were rated as either 'excellent' or 'very good' by all the students.

- Dr. Engelbrecht lectured on the following occasions:
  - Guest lecture for students in Forensic Accounting at North-West University, 31 August 2015;
  - Lecturer for a MBA module at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (part of the course "Business in Society");

- Lecturer for a short course on behalf of the ICFP (Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners) – "Practice and Fraud Risk Management".
- Prof. Rossouw lectured in the following post-graduate programmes:
  - The University of Stellenbosch Business School's (USB ED), Executive Development Programme;
  - University of Johannesburg's UJ-IoDSA Corporate Governance Certification Programme.
- Dr. Woermann lectured in the following post-graduate programme:
  - The MPhil Programme in Future Studies, Institute for Future Studies, University of Stellenbosch Business School (subjects: complexity thinking and business ethics).

## **2.2. Undergraduate teaching:**

- Business Ethics 214 (approx. 600 students) (Dr. M. Woermann; Mr. P. Kruger)
  - In 2015, this module grew by approximately 200 students;
- Business Ethics 314 (approx. 70 students) (Dr. S. Hall);
- Business Ethics 242 (approx. 600 students) (Professional Accounting Ethics) (Ms. A. Palk)
  - In 2015, this module grew by approximately 200 students;
- 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**

Hattingh, C.J. An investigation of the Libertarian philosophy, applied to Business Ethics. Supervisor: Dr. J.P. Smit. March 2016.

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

- Ballard, H. Non-compliance with control measures in managing ethics at a selected university. Supervisor: Prof. D. Rossouw;

- Cornelissen, S. International business norms and corporate moral duties: A critical assessment of the United Nations / Ruggie framework. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann;
- Hoepfl. K. Corporate governance for environmental sustainability. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann;
- Horwitz, J. The ethics of outsourcing labour in business. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann;
- Illet, D. Trust as the currency in advisor client relationships. A critical appraisal. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann;
- Locke, N. Morality and hacking. Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann;
- Jee. H. Brokering public-private partnerships for primary school education scholarships: The role of Corporate Social Investment practitioner. Supervisor: Dr. S. Engelbrecht;
- Marais, F. Is discrimination in risk underwriting in the insurance industry fair and sustainable? Supervisor: Dr. M. Woermann;
- Seleke, T. The relevance of stakeholder theory in legal judgement. Supervisor: Prof. V. Roodt;
- Selepe, D. Corporate environmental responsibility and the law. Supervisor: Prof. V. Roodt;
- 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. Towards responsible leadership in the Financial Planning Industry in South Africa. Dr. M. Woermann.

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

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

## **4. SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **4.1.Editorial positions**

- Dr. Woermann continued as Editor-in-Chief of the African Journal of Business Ethics (since 2013).

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

- Prof. Rossouw continued to serve on the editorial boards of the following journals:



- Journal of Business Ethics;
- African Journal of Business Ethics;
- Turkish Journal of Business Ethics.
- Prof. Hattingh continued to serve on the editorial board of the African Journal of Business Ethics.

### **4.3.Committee membership**

Dr. Woermann continued to represent the CAE on the following governing committees:

- Anticorruption Centre for Education and Research (ACCERUS); Stellenbosch University (since 2010);
- Centre for Corporate Governance in Africa; University of Stellenbosch Business School (since 2012).

Dr. Woermann continued to serve on the executive committee of the Business Ethics Network Africa (since November 2012).

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

- Dr. Engelbrecht acted as:
  - External moderator for a course in Business Ethics at North-West University (ETIE313);
  - External examiner for an MPhil (Philosophy) dissertation from North-West University (Title: "The Marikana Massacre: The problem of embedded anthropological reductionism in modern economic philosophy").
- Prof. Rossouw served as external examiner in the MPhil Applied Ethics Programme of St Augustine College.
- Dr. Woermann served as moderator for the 'Ethics and Governance' Master's module, presented by the Centre for Corporate Governance; University of Stellenbosch Business School.

### **4.5.Reviews:**

- Prof. Rossouw acted as reviewer for business ethics journals, including the Journal of Business Ethics and the African Journal of Business Ethics.

## **5. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **5.1.Appointments**

- Dr. Schalk Engelbrecht was appointed as a Research Associate from 1 January 2015 – 31 January 2017 in the Centre for Applied Ethics.
  - Dr. Engelbrecht holds a PhD in Philosophy and is currently a Senior Manager and Head of Ethics Advisory at KPMG Forensic.
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# UNIT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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### 1. Research

#### 1.1 Research Outputs

##### 1.1.1 Publications

Hattingh, JP and Annecke, E (in press). Ecological literacy, a sense of wonder, and more ... [to be published in 2016 in *Greening the South African Economy*, a forthcoming publication of the Sustainability Institute, Stellenbosch University.]

#### 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 2015.

#### 2.2 Book project

In June 2015 Prof. Hattingh participated in a seminar at the International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) of the Erasmus University of Rotterdam that was organized on the topic of *New Developments in Livelihood Research* in honour of the retiring Rector of the ISS, Prof. Leo de Haan. Prof. Hattingh's contribution was on the theme of *Houses, Housing and Being at Home in Ethical Perspective*. The contributions to this seminar will be published in book format during 2016.

#### 2.3 Ongoing Doctoral Projects

1. DE RUYTER, S. Ph.D. Constructing "Climate Change Knowledge". The example of small-scale farmers in the Swartland region, South Africa (Applied Ethics). Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh. Handed in for examination

2. MORODI TJ. The precautionary principle and public environmental decision-making in South Africa: An ethical appraisal. Ph.D. (Applied Ethics) Supervisor: Prof. JP Hattingh Degree awarded in March 2016
3. 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 2016 for examination.)
4. 8. NEVHUTALU, HK. Patients' rights in South Africa's public health system: Moral-critical perspectives. Degree awarded in March 2016

### **2.3 Ongoing Master's Projects**

1. MOSWANE, M. *The Land Ethic applied*. MPhil (Environmental Ethics). Supervisor: Dr. Susan Hall.
2. VAN DER MERWE, C. *The contribution of corporate environmental codes of conduct to sustainable development in the mining sector*. Supervisor: Dr. Susan Hall.

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

Prof. Hattingh is member of an interfaculty Programme Committee that has launched an 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 2013-2014, his duties in this regard were taken over by Dr. Susan Hall, who was succeeded by Prof. Louise du Toit in 2015.

### **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 continued with his responsibilities in this context in 2014 and 2015 while serving as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

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

1. 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. *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.)

Johan Hattingh

6 April 2016

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