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Centre for Social
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PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED
RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL
SCIENCE RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



CSSR's Director's Report for 2023

This year, I took over the directorship of a thriving CSSR comprised of the Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub (AARHub), the Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI), and the Sustainable Societies Unit (SSU), all contributing to a vibrant home for social science. Thank you, Jeremy Seekings, for your sterling leadership over the past 12 years!



You will read, in the reports from each of these units, about work that is contributing to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) through knowledge creation and translation into practice. The **AARHub** (Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub) has worked on understanding 'development accelerators' – interventions that contribute to adolescents achieving several SDGs simultaneously. While the main focus of the AARHub is on sexual and reproductive health (SDG3), of course this is also achieved through understanding other aspects of the social world, such as the dynamics of poverty (SDG1), gender equality (SDG5), and quality education (SDG4). **SaVI** (Safety and Violence Initiative) has focused largely on the prevention of violence against children (SDG16) through parenting support programmes, but preventing violence also goes a long way to helping children thrive in terms of their health and education. A key question for SaVI, through the Global Parenting Initiative, has been how to take social programmes (in this case, parenting programmes) successfully to scale. SaVI also worked on the prevention of violence against women (SDG5) through the platform of parenting programmes, by promoting gender equality in the home and providing tools for reducing conflict between adults in the home. The **SSU** (Sustainable Societies Unit) continued its work on social welfare, community based natural resource management, removal of poisons from urban and rural life, and human-wildlife conflict. This work is relevant for SDG 1 (no poverty), inclusive and sustainable development (SDGs 6 and 11), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and life on land (SDG 15). The CSSR has also provided a home for many postgraduate students, from Honours level through PhD, as well as Postdoctoral Research Fellows. This helps us develop researchers who will become the next generation of principal investigators, and is an important aspect of our work.

Together with the Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa, we continued a lively seminar series that is open to all at UCT, and frequently benefited from the attendance of colleagues from other countries. The work of the CSSR is focused broadly on Africa and on South-East Asia, which prompted several stimulating visits to and from colleagues around the world. Our exceptional research operations team made sure that everything ran smoothly, and provided support and advice to other researchers across the faculty. I am enormously grateful to this team for all their hard work and generosity.

We are very grateful to the donors who have made all this work possible: the European Research Council, the Global Fund Against AIDS, TB and Malaria, the LEGO Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Oak Foundation, Sexual Violence Research Initiative, the Solidarity Fund, the South African National Research Foundation, UCT VC 2030 Future Leaders Fund, UCT Vision 2030 Grand Challenges Pilot Programme, the UK Global Challenges Research Fund, and Wellspring Foundation: without you, none of this would be possible.

I look forward to a 2024 filled with more of this exciting and valuable work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine L. Ward'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a thin horizontal line.

Catherine L. Ward (Director)

Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub



2023 was a productive year for the Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub (AARHub) team; we continued much of the work we started in 2022 and forged ahead with new research together with new partners. We continue to build a transformative pipeline of early-career quantitative and qualitative social scientists, establish and maintain equitable partnerships, and contribute to the growth and vibrancy of the CSSR and UCT. Details on our specific projects and work teams follow, but some highlights from the year include:

- [Dr Jane Kelly, Early Career Researcher \(ECR\), presented at the International Maternal and Newborn Health Conference in Cape Town in May on behalf of the HEY BABY research project team, \(pictured right\) and at the SA AIDS Conference in Durban in August.](#)



- [Presentations from our team at the AIDSImpact conference in Stockholm, Sweden,](#) including a plenary address by A/Prof Toska (pictured left).



- ECR and PhD candidate Siyanai Zhou presented his work as an oral at the 25th International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Observational Databases (IWHOD) in Athens, Greece in March.
- Chuma Busakhwe, who completed her Master's degree in Psychological Research, presented at her first international conference: the 36th Annual European Health Psychology Society Conference in Bremen, Germany in September.
- Participatory research lead and PhD candidate Chelsea Coakley gave an oral presentation at AIDSImpact Conference in Stockholm, Sweden on HIV prevention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (page 7).
- Oxford Research South Africa (ORSA) Senior Research Assistant Mildred Thabeng participated, presented, and facilitated at the United Nations' Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) Summit on gender-transformative education in Istanbul, Turkey.
- A/Prof Elona Toska received a Y2 Young Researcher Rating from the NRF.
- Dr Jane Kelly was awarded an ad hominem promotion to Senior Research Officer.
- Qualitative researcher Dr Christina Laurenzi (Stellenbosch/UCT) received a CIPHER fellowship award (USD149,796), mentored by A/Prof Elona Toska.
- A new seminar series was launched together with Oxford: Safeguarding Early Life Transitions from Future Crises. This series brings together key thinkers from a variety of fields and regions in the global north and south to present their work. A list of our 2023 seminars are included later in this report.
- We engaged in social responsiveness activities to disseminate research findings through our partnership with the Paediatric Adolescent Treatment for Africa, in East London, South Africa and Maseru, Lesotho. Multi-sectoral teams including healthcare providers, young activists and early career researchers gathered in two satellites (nearly 70 people) to review evidence, consolidate recommendations and develop future research collaborations.
- A/Prof Elona Toska joined the Permanent Working Group on Middle Childhood and Adolescents by the South African Office of the Presidency, and presented together with Prof Lucie Cluver (Oxford) to the SA Department of Basic Education Legotla on findings from the HEY BABY study.



HEY BABY

Quantitative Research

The HEY BABY (Helping Empower Youth Brought Up in

Adversity with their Babies and Young children) study moved into a new phase of data collection in the Eastern Cape (*pictured right*). Working with 1,159 young women who had their first children as adolescents, and their 1,504 (and increasing) children, the team is following up with young moms, to understand their experiences of sexual health, HIV, pregnancy, childbirth,

access to grants, and food security, with new questions on traumatic brain injury, menstrual health for older girls, and mental health screening. This phase includes research activities with their children for the first time since the baseline (2017-2018), focusing on the children's general health and cognitive development. To engage children in the consent process, Dr Kath Morse led the team in developing a child assent booklet



Field team at a training with Level Ground



East London team, Dr Kath Morse & Janke Tolmay showing off the new branding on the cars



Child Research Assistants training on the Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children

for children aged 4+, and successfully trained the team on Mullen Scales of Early Learning and Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children for Phase 3 (*pictured left*), including translating materials into isiXhosa. A [dissemination brochure](#) summarising findings to date was developed and shared with participants during follow-up activities.

In November, our team, in collaboration with the University of Fort Hare, hosted a Satellite Spoke for the PATA Summit in East London. This annual hybrid event took place simultaneously across 12 countries through regional in-country satellites, and virtually via the PATA Linking and Learning Hub. This year's theme was 'The Face of Care: Health Providers and Communities at the frontline of paediatric and adolescent HIV service delivery in South Africa'. In one of the prime sessions, A/Prof Elona Toska discussed the importance of reaching the 2025 UNAIDS targets (*pictured right*). Two pipeline projects were presented. Dr Christina Laurenzi (Stellenbosch University) presented on exploring pathways to improve retention in care for young adolescent mothers living with HIV. Dr Hlengiwe Gwebu (University of Fort Hare) and A/Prof Elona Toska presented on supporting healthcare providers, using the Parenting for Lifelong Health model. Members of our qualitative team also shared their work. Dr Jane Kelly and team shared insights on opportunities for service integration for adolescent mothers. A/Prof Lesley Gittings (Western University, Canada; CSSR Honorary Research Associate) delivered a presentation entitled *Showcasing the Face of Care: a [visual report](#) of research findings from the PATA 2022 Summit*.



Elona Toska at the PATA Summit with the delegates

Qualitative Research

2023 brought the launch of ‘Khanyisa Ngemfundo’ (Be the Light through Education), an implementation research study that uses participatory and qualitative research methods, including visual translation of research findings (PI: Dr Jane Kelly). Based in the Eastern Cape, Khanyisa Ngemfundo aims to explore mechanisms of support for school return among pregnant and mothering adolescents.

Having completed in-depth research activities in four schools across educator, service provider, and learner groups, data from these activities will inform the co-development of a toolkit for school-based support teams managing learner pregnancies. The toolkit will be launched in mid-2024 in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education and Eastern Cape Department of Education. Preliminary insights from this study were shared at the International Maternal and Newborn Health Conference (May 2023), the Eastern Cape Department of Education Learner Pregnancy Indaba (July 2023), and the International Workshop on HIV and Adolescence, in Lusaka, Zambia (October 2023).



(From left) Ms Yusra Price, Ms Lulama Sidloyi, Ms Yanga Dipa, Dr Hlokoma Mangqalaza, Ms Chelsea Coakley and Ms Mildred Thabeng - attending a methods development and training workshop.



Ms Mildred Thabeng co-facilitating workshop activities with learners as part of the Khanyisa Ngemfundo research study

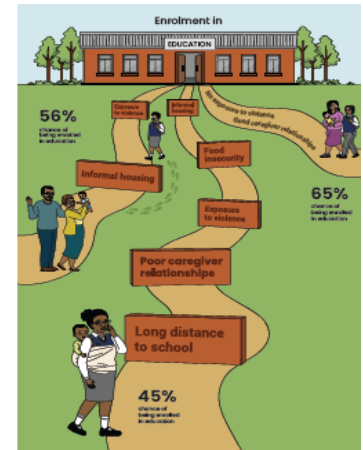
(MPhil in Sociology) will explore the role of the representative council of learners in policy implementation. Both were awarded scholarships for this work – Ms. Zulu received UCT’s Accelerated Transformation of the Academic Programme Award, and Mr. Senetla was awarded two scholarships (Ada & Bertie Levenstein Bursary and KW Johnston Bequest Research Scholarship) with additional support from the UCT Vision Grand Challenges Pilot Programme (co-PIs Kelly and Toska).



Ms Chuma Busakhwe presenting at the European Health Psychology Society Conference

Congratulations to Ms Chuma Busakhwe for completing her MSocSci in Psychology with flying colours, and for presenting preliminary findings from her work at the European Health Psychology Society Conference (pictured left). The title of her research project is ‘Exploring the mental health experiences of young mothers affected by HIV in South Africa’. Dr Hlokoma Mangqalaza also received a scholarship from the National Research Foundation to support her postdoctoral studies for 2023-24.

Our findings from qualitative engagements with nurses in public health facilities in the Eastern Cape were disseminated at the SA AIDS Conference in Durban (pictured above right) and the AIDS Impact Conference in Stockholm.



Example of visual knowledge translation of HEY BABY research findings from Jochim et al. (2022). “Which factors affect postpartum educational enrolment of adolescent mothers in South Africa?” Illustration by Orli Setton.



Ms Lulama Sidloyi and Dr Jane Kelly at the SA Aids Conference in Durban

Screen and Support

In 2023, we continued to work closely with a long-term collaborating organisation, Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA), and strengthened our partnership with Kabangwe Creative Initiative Association, a key partner on the ground in Lusaka, Zambia that supports young women living with HIV through a network of trained, experienced peer supporters. Building on emerging findings from a series of community conversations held in late 2022 with diverse groups of stakeholders, we moved from a formative stage of work into design and implementation. We worked alongside peer supporters to refine a suitable set of questions that could be used to screen young women living with HIV, for violence and related challenges. Between November 2022 and April 2023, peer supporters administered these screenings through a quantitative questionnaire with adolescent girls and young women living with HIV in the Chazanga area outside Lusaka, Zambia. An important feature of this work was exploring and refining referral mechanisms and potential pathways for onwards care and support. This work was followed by the development of a training workbook for peer supporters based on our learnings, and a two-day dissemination workshop in Lusaka in October 2023. The workshop aimed to share lessons emerging from Screen and Support, and create a space for relationship building and networking among peer supporters, health care professionals, and other key stakeholders. It included stakeholder dissemination and reflections with a diverse stakeholder group, followed by peer supporter training and validation of the training workbook. Modules included: foundations to violence response approaches; community collaborations and relationships; questions to ask when screening participants; differences between disclosure and reporting; how to set up referral pathways; and self-care tips for peer supporters.

The Screen & Support team is conducting follow-up telephone interviews with participants on any recent experiences of accessing health services, pregnancy, ART adherence, and violence exposure. This work will be finalised in early 2024, with findings submitted to conferences and peer-reviewed journals in 2024.



Photos show participants from the two-day dissemination workshop, including peer supporters, key community stakeholders, and the study team



The Global Fund

This year we completed our work as part of the Global Fund Against AIDS, TB and Malaria's Strategic Initiative on Adolescent Girls and Young Women, aimed at accelerating HIV incidence reduction among adolescent girls and young women in five target countries (Cameroon, eSwatini, Kenya, Lesotho, and Mozambique). Final country reports and key findings were shared with the Global Fund, UNICEF, and country stakeholders, through webinars, brown bag sessions, presentations to the HIV Situation Room, and conferences, and obtained feedback from a range of stakeholders. The team were lead contributors to the [Technical Brief on HIV Programming for Adolescent Girls and Young Women 2023-2025](#).

Visits with UNAIDS leadership

On October 25, Mrs Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of UNAIDS and an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mrs Anne Githuku-Shongwe, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Ms Eva Kiwango, the UNAIDS Country Director. This enriching visit focused on an update on the AARHub's research on adolescents, focusing on HIV prevention.



The UNAIDS and some CSSR team members posing for a photo after fruitful engagements at UCT.

On October 25, Mrs Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of UNAIDS and an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mrs Anne Githuku-Shongwe, Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Ms Eva Kiwango, the UNAIDS Country Director. This enriching visit focused on an update on the AARHub's research on adolescents, focusing on HIV prevention.

Events

International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa

A/Prof Brendan Maughan-Brown and Ms Monica Cavalheiro (Monica pictured right) participated in the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA), which was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in December. The Global Fund team produced five posters and one manuscript which were presented during the conference.



Paediatric and Adolescent Treatment Summit

Dr Rachel Yates and Ms Dineo Sekgobela participated in the Paediatric and Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) summit in the Kingdom of Lesotho in November. They presented key findings from our research and



Left: Dr Rachel Yates featured on the Lesotho national television sharing some key insights from the Global Fund work. Right: Ms Dineo Sekgobela (in front) together with other PATA

collaborations in Lesotho and facilitated reflection and knowledge-translation sessions. Rachel presented on the association between sexual abuse and intimate partner violence and reduced ART adherence among adolescent boys and girls, highlighting the need to link violence prevention and health services for adolescents living with HIV. Dineo shared highlights on social determinants and drivers of HIV among adolescents, focusing on the need for age-appropriate packages that remain relevant throughout the diverse stages of AGYW's lives, including early motherhood or transition to tertiary education.

Adolescent Engagement and Participation

Graduation and closure of Eastern Cape (EC) Teen Advisory Group (TAG): an Ethical and Methodological Learning Journey

In 2023, young research advisors from EC TAG were invited to co-develop methodology with our research team towards ethical closure and conclusion of four years (between 2019-2023) of collaborative participatory research focused on health, development, resilience and well-being. An invited book chapter formed the foundation for participatory engagement and TAG group closure, and will be published in 2024. Participatory methods were explored and applied with the group of 13 young research advisors aged 20-24 years, providing and utilising creative materials in multiple youth-friendly settings. Choice of method; data co-generation, analysis and interpretation; and writing of the collaborative book chapter were co-directed by TAG young advisors, and took place across four iterative gatherings. The gatherings varied from one-day focused workshops to a three-day residential analysis and writing retreat, and concluded with small working group gatherings guided by themes identified in the analysis. In this book-chapter process, the role that advisors previously played shifted from participants and advisors to researchers: undertaking each step in the research process themselves, with continuous support and mentorship from our research team. The team's researcher-facilitators also became



Ms Chelsea Coakley, presenting research with TAG at the International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence in Lusaka, Zambia



participants, aiming for their experiences to complement those of TAG advisors in the final chapter. Throughout 2023, participatory work engaged with patchwork ethnography as both a method and a theory and included slow and reflective processes of co-research and continuous informed consent. The closing ceremony in December 2023 was a gathering of all young advisors who participated in EC TAG, and their close relatives. Guests participated in creative activities as well as a visual exhibition, commemorating and celebrating EC TAG's outputs and achievements since its founding in 2019.

Eastern Cape TAG young mothers' advisory work

The Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub has an ongoing partnership with UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office (2018-present) to generate evidence on scalable solutions for adolescents living with HIV and adolescent HIV-affected mothers in East and Southern Africa. An important feature of this partnership over the last year has been ongoing engagement with and recommendations from TAG members who became mothers when they were adolescents. These TAG young mothers explored quantitative findings on multi-sectoral accelerators for adolescent mothers, and co-developed support package priorities through qualitative and participatory methods. Collaborative research with TAG mothers was presented in one publication, one poster presentation at an international conference, and at a large internal UNICEF regional meeting.

Safety and Violence Initiative

2023 was a busy year for the Safety and Violence Initiative. Much of our work at present is in the context of the Global Parenting Initiative (GPI), a large international endeavour to explore digital versions of the [Parenting for Lifelong Health](#) (PLH) programmes. These offer enormous potential to take the prevention of violence (both violence against children and

violence against women) to scale, which would be a step-change in violence prevention.



**Global
Parenting
Initiative**

Global Parenting Initiative



Three of the ten GPI projects are based at UCT: ParentApp (testing an app for parents of teens); ParentText, a text message version of the programmes delivered via WhatsApp; and the SWIFT study, which involves working with the Provincial Government of the Western Cape to develop a system of parenting support, starting with ParentText and including the in-person programmes, so that all parents, everywhere, can have support at the level at which they need it. More details of these projects are provided below.

We also contribute to the Global Parenting Initiative through the work of Nondumiso Mginywa, who is supporting our Future Leaders around the world in their career development; and that of Genevieve Haupt Ronnie, who is running communities of practice to enable the mutual sharing of ideas between implementers, researchers, and decision-makers. We are grateful to Emeritus A/Prof. Marguerite Schneider, who has come on board to support these initiatives. In addition, the GPI Communications staff, Maggie Marx and Phatiswa Somdaka, are doing a wonderful job of sharing our findings and training GPI staff to communicate science well.



Our co-PI, Joyce Wamayi (NIMR), and senior data research assistant, Jonathan Klapwijk (Oxford), reviewing ParentApp.

Lauren van Niekerk, also at UCT, is the GPI Male Engagement Fellow, and is working on engaging fathers in parenting programmes. She has worked with the [Mikhulu Trust](#) to pilot an adaptation of their dialogic book-sharing programme, specifically with fathers, and is also working across the GPI to explore opportunities for engaging men in parenting.

Co-ordinated by Genevieve Haupt Ronnie, we also continue our work on the SUPER (Scale-Up of Parenting Evaluation Research) which has partnered with a number of organisations in Africa that implemented the in-person parenting programmes to collect pre- and post-programme data. SUPER allows us to explore whether these programmes are effective in real-world (as opposed to study) settings, and what conditions make them successful. This project is largely in a data-analysis and paper-writing phase, and early results are very encouraging.

Natalie Davidson has led a project in Zimbabwe which adapted the PLH for Teens programme to include a focus on reducing couples' conflict. The pilot test of the programme, adapted and delivered with the support of [Clowns Without Borders South](#)

[Africa](#), suggests that, indeed, parenting programmes can support the reduction of violence against women.

An indicator of the esteem in which our work is held is that Prof. Catherine Ward won the South African Distinguished Women in Science Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This would not have been possible without all the work of everyone that goes into our many projects.

ParentApp

UCT Team: Dr. Abigail Ornellas, Dr. Lauren Baerecke and Nicole Chetty

Fieldwork

The baseline survey for the ParentApp's RCT (randomised controlled trial) in Tanzania was completed in 80 clusters – 42 peri-urban clusters and 38 urban clusters, with a total of 2396 caregivers and 2396 teens. The team have completed one-month follow-up surveys in 42 clusters, and six clusters are currently in progress (n=1298 caregivers and n=1110 teens). CSSR team members, including Lauren Baerecke, Nicole Chetty and Abigail Ornellas, have all spent time in the study site, Mwanza, supporting fieldwork and implementation.



The incredible National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) team in Tanzania



Our wonderful team of facilitators from our implementing partner ICS (Investing in Children and their Societies)

Implementation

A total of 2382 phones have been distributed; half were installed with ParentApp, and the other half received the control WASHApp, a hygiene app. Sixty-eight of the 80 groups have completed the 12-week interventions: 34 control groups and 34 intervention groups. All 80 clusters have also participated in an in-person parent get-together session (implemented midway through the intervention as a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) touchpoint). All 40 intervention clusters were supported by WhatsApp groups managed by trained facilitators. Exceeding our expectations, participation in the WhatsApp groups and engagement with ParentApp have been strong – nearly 70% of caregivers are active in WhatsApp groups and have engaged with all 12 modules of the core programme.

Milestones

We've released v0.16.21 of ParentApp Teens TZ (1 September 2023). This version includes [4 new modules](#) and is now openly available on the Play Store in Tanzania. The new modules include sexual and reproductive health, sexual violence prevention, coping with grief, and learning through play content, with many additional activities for parents and teens.



Policy engagement

There has been continued interest and buy-in by the Tanzanian government. Achievements include a policy review and environment analysis; national and regional stakeholder meetings; scaling labs with government, NGOs, INGOs and CSOs; as well as forming a Tanzanian Parenting Consortium.

Plans for 2024

- Pilot 12-month follow-up
- RCT qualitative interviews
- Sibling follow-up, to see if siblings of the focus child also benefit
- RCT 12-month follow-up
- In-person partner workshop in Cape Town



The 2022 core team of ParentApp: representatives from UCT, Oxford, NIMR, Clowns Without Borders South Africa, and IDEMS (Innovations in Development, Education, and the Mathematical Sciences), and our designer, Orli Setton

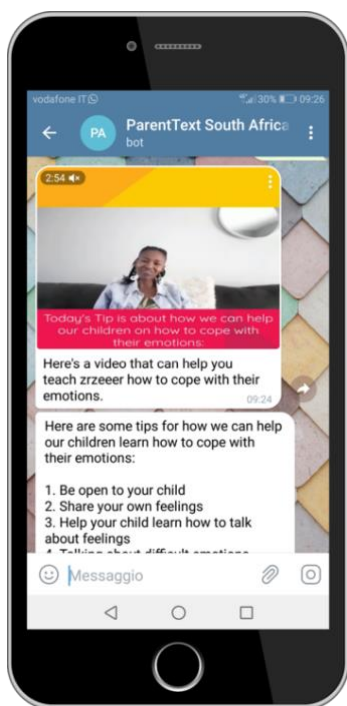
ParentText Optimisation and Evaluation in South Africa

UCT Team: Shallen Lusinga, Zamakhanya Makhanya and Juliet Stromin

The current intervention is a pragmatic randomised factorial trial to optimise ParentText effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and engagement, when embedded within a child welfare system and education system. Parents and caregivers across a range of developmental stages are enrolled. Eligible parents have a teen between the ages of 10 and 17 living in their household. The primary aim of the intervention is to promote positive parenting and reduce violence against children.

Implementation of the ParentText project began in August of this year. The first step involved onboarding of participants by facilitators in Mpumalanga as pictured here.





To date, we have enrolled approximately 75% of our sample and, of those who completed onboarding, 20% have gone on to complete the entire intervention programme. We have begun administering our post-test questionnaires, and our UCT and Oxford teams are in the process of data cleaning. Descriptive statistics and preliminary findings of our baseline data should be available soon. The team has also begun preparation for qualitative data collection, which involves focus group discussions and interviews.

Other recent developments include a ParentText safety protocol, which will become a template for use by other Global Parenting Initiative (GPI) studies, and has also informed a series



of travel safety and well-being resources for the GPI. In addition, the ParentText randomised controlled trial protocol has been submitted to JMIR Research Protocols, and a dashboard for monitoring and evaluation of ParentText 2.0 is now available.

Supporting Wellness through Integrated Family Training (SWIFT) Study

UCT Team: Cindee Bruyns, Carly Katzef, and Cathy Ward, with additional help from Juliet Stromin



The SWIFT study launched this year under the Global Parenting Initiative. This three-year study aims to integrate parenting support into the health sector through designing an intervention that provides support at the level needed by parents.

The team has spent this first year meeting with stakeholders within government departments and NGOs at provincial and city levels. These interviews have allowed us to gather invaluable information from the stakeholders about the systems, programs, and role-players working within the Western Cape. This will enable us to design our study in a sustainable way – one which will not overburden any of the service providers while providing comprehensive support to parents. These stakeholder engagements have also been incredibly important in developing strong relationships through which an amazing collaboration has started. The team is excited and raring to go for the pilot studies that will be conducted in the Witzenberg and Mitchells Plain municipalities in 2024.

Sustainable Societies Unit

Prof. Nicoli Nattrass and Prof. Jeremy Seekings continue to conduct research through the Sustainable Societies Unit (SSU). Marine Drouilly returned to the SSU in 2023 as a Research Associate. Several other former students also published work during the course of the year.



Waste and Wildlife

The SSU hosts the Waste and Wildlife project of UCT's Khusela Ikamva initiative to create a more environmentally sustainable campus. The project is run in collaboration with the Institute for Communities and Wildlife (iCWild) at UCT and the Michaelis School of Fine Art. The SSU is also host to ongoing projects on human/wildlife conflict in the Karoo.

In September, second year photography students planted an extension of the Sustainable Darkroom garden on Hiddingh Campus. This garden is maintained with funding from Khusela Ikamva and the support of Michaelis students and staff, as well as staff from Properties and Services, and Campus Security. Vanessa Cowling, a Master's student whose research is centered around the sustainable

darkroom project, presented her submission at the Michaelis Gallery in November. Svea Josephy and Cowling also presented the garden project at a conference in July.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rJ8FR4xohA>

An updated version of Fritha Langerman's R-A-T exhibition was presented in the Leslie Building foodcourt area in March 2023. It highlighted the toxic relationship between poor waste management and poison. <https://www.campuswild-uct.co.za/rats/>

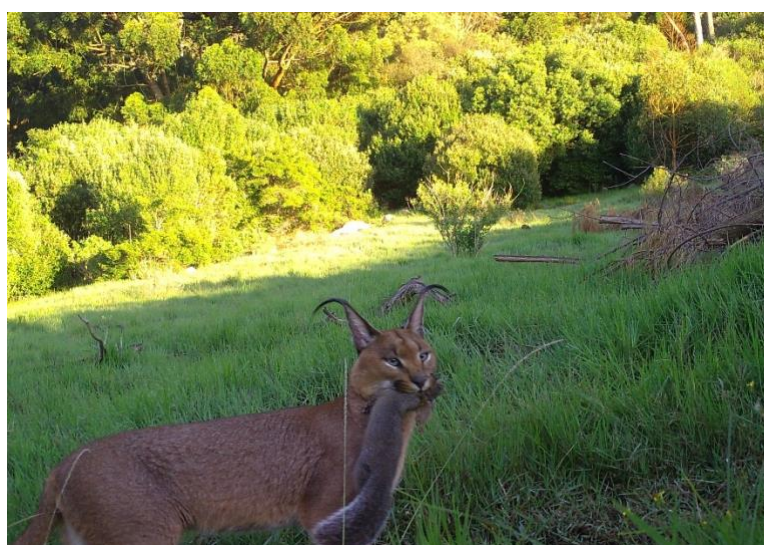


The ongoing camera trap survey by Zoe Woodgate in iCWild, assisted by students in the Department of Biological Sciences, revealed that there is a rich diversity of wildlife on campus, but the most common animal is the domestic cat. Some of these cats live by scavenging food from bins, and preying on birds and rodents. Others are tamer and enjoy food and care from university staff. A background paper ‘Liminal Animals in a Liminal Space: Semi-feral cats on Cape Town’s urban edge’ (<https://www.campuswild-uct.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Cats-at-UCT-discussion-paper78.pdf>) was produced and posted on The Campus Wild website, hosted by Fritha Langerman at Michaelis with the assistance of Khusela Ikamva. The issue was picked up by UCT News: <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2023-11-10-how-to-manage-ucts-semi-feral-cats-ethically-and-responsibly>



Human-wildlife conflict

Marine Drouilly and Nicoli Nattrass continued their work on human wildlife conflict in the Karoo. Papers included perceptions of predation control methods and illegal poison use (*Ambio*), genetics of caracals (*bioRxiv*), the effect of land use on mammals (*Land*) and the co-occurrence of black backed jackal and caracal in the Karoo (*Journal of Arid Environments*).



Other research

Nicoli Nattrass also continued working on public health and COVID-19, this time drawing connections between the use of conspiracy theories to sell alternative/fake ‘cures’ for COVID-19 and AIDS (*Global Public Health*).

Jeremy Seekings – who stepped down as Director of the CSSR in mid-2023 – continues to conduct research on aspects of public policy and politics in Southern Africa, mostly through the Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (which formed part of the CSSR until it was established as an independent research centre in 2017). The Institute reports separately on its activities, but CSSR and IDCPPA align on lunchtime seminars.

Dr John Spyropoulos published a series of Working Papers based on his PhD thesis on understandings of money and debt among young adults in Khayelitsha (Cape Town) and the consequences for intra-household relations.

2023 PUBLICATIONS

Journals

1. **Banounin, B.H., Toska, E.,** Maughan-Brown, B., Rudgard, W., **Hertzog, L.,** Jochim, J., Armstrong, A. & Cluver, L. Associations of social media and health content use with sexual risk behaviours among adolescents in South Africa. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, 31(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/26410397.2023.2267893>
2. Bergh, K., **Toska, E.,** Duby, Z., Govindasamy, D., Mathews, C., Reddy, T. & Jonas, K. Applying the HIV Prevention Cascade to an evaluation of a large-scale combination HIV prevention programme for adolescent girls and young women in South Africa. *AIDS and Behaviour*. DOI: [10.1007/s10461-023-04130-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-023-04130-z)
3. Brühl, A., **Ward, C.L., Lachman, J.M.,** Foran, H.M., Raleva, M., Baban, A. & Heinrichs, N. Co-occurrence of intimate partner violence against mothers and maltreatment of their children with behavioral problems in Eastern Europe. *Violence Against Women*, 29(12-13). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012231188090>
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Working Papers

1. Spyropoulos, J. Experience and meaning of unstable earning and low wages for young adults from poor families in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, South Africa. [CSSR Working Paper 472](#) (Cape Town: Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town).
2. Spyropoulos, J. Young Adult responses to irregular employment: Household, dependence and mutuality. [CSSR Working Paper 473](#) (Cape Town: Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town).
3. Spyropoulos, J. Five Carvela shoes and a shack: The making of aspirational status. [CSSR Working Paper 474](#) (Cape Town: Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town).
4. Spyropoulos, J. Transition to adulthood in the time of COVID. [CSSR Working Paper 475](#) (Cape Town: Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town).
5. Spyropoulos, J. On the meaning of money for young adults from poor Black families in Khayelitsha, Cape Town – Conclusions from a case study. [CSSR Working Paper 476](#) (Cape Town: Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town).

CSSR/IDCPPA 2023 Seminars

18 Jan	Evan Lieberman (MIT): The politics of democracy, dignity, and development: A case study of Mogale City Local Municipality
24 Jan	Dvora Joseph Davey (UCT School of Public Health and Family Medicine): PrEP during pregnancy and lactation period: Policy implications in South Africa and other countries in the region
07 Feb	Lena Gronbach (UCT): Digitization of social protection in Botswana
21 Feb	Vino Naidoo (UCT): COVID and governance in South Africa
28 Feb	Mike Savage (LSE): The British imperial diaspora and the racial wealth divide
07 Mar	Maxine Rubin (UCT): African state behaviour in relation to the International Criminal Court
14 Mar	Ian Shapiro (Yale): Populism: Where did it come from and where is it going?
04 Apr	Amanda Manqoyi-Ouamba (UCT): Examining the role of trust in collaborative efforts in the management of learner substance abuse issues in schools: Perspectives of parents, teachers, and school principals in Cape Town
11 Apr	Vayda Megannon (UCT): Experiences of and attitudes to the COVID-19 social grant
25 Apr	Camille Wittesaele (Oxford): Child immunisation
02 May	Andy Dawes (UCT): Early childhood development
09 May	Tsidiso Tolla (UCT): Sexual and romantic relationships among adolescent and young adult men
16 May	Robert Nyenhuis (Cal Poly Pomona): Political parties' use of instagram in election campaigns in SA
23 May	Wendy Lessing and Lira Greeff (Khululeka): The Abangane Grief Support curriculum: An evidence-based psychosocial support programme for children and adolescents
06 Jun	Genevieve Haupt-Ronnie and SUPER Team (UCT): Scale-up of parenting evaluation research (SUPER) study: Qualitative findings of parenting interventions in Botswana
13 Jun	Lauren Baerecke and ParentApp team (UCT): Feasibility of a hybrid-digital parenting programme to prevent abuse of adolescents in Tanzania: Preliminary findings
11 Jul	Silinga Dzumbunu (UCT): The nexus between adolescents' empowerment and marital childbearing aspirations
13 Jul	Dr Will Rudgard (Oxford) and Silinga Dzumbunu (UCT): Household receipt of social assistance and adolescent development in Eswatini: A national analysis using MICS-6 2021/22 survey data
18 Jul	Prof Robert Mattes (Strathclyde) and A/Prof Collette Schulz-Herzenberg (Stellenbosch): It takes two to toy-toy: One party dominance and opposition party failure in South Africa's 2019 national elections
01 Aug	Dr Gosia Lipinska (UCT): Sleep for mental health
15 Aug	Prof Francesca Little and Heiletje van Zyl (UCT): Analysis of SUPER data from implementation of parenting intervention in multiple countries with specific focus on the assessment of the impact on harsh discipline practices
22 Aug	Prof Scott Drimie and Yandiswa Mazwana (The Nourished Child): Youth ambassadors as a response to urban food systems research
29 Aug	Dr Chipso Dendere (Wellesley College): Death, diversion, and departure: Voter exit and the persistence of autocracy in Zimbabwe
05 Sep	Matthias Kroenke (UCT): Conveyor-belts of information: The role of political parties in basic service delivery in Africa
01 Sep*	Christopher Trisos (UCT) : Observed and future societal impacts of climate change in Africa
12 Sep	Ruth Capon: Using evidence to prevent school-based violence in the Western Cape – the Shukuma: Moving Mindsets programme
19 Sep	Dr Katherine Morse (UCT) and Katie Huston: Using cute personas derived from cluster analysis to bust reading culture myths
29 Sep*	Seth Flaxman (University of Oxford): Inferential Artificial Intelligence (iAI): New Computational Statistical Machine Learning Methods for Global Health
03 Oct	Monica Isabel Carneiro (UCT): Do hormones keep the score? The relationship between domestic violence and hormones in post-menopausal women
10 Oct	Lauren van Niekerk (UCT): Father's involvement in their children's early learning and development: Perceptions of South African parents

- 17 Oct Dr Juluis Baruwa (UCT): Experiences of HIV-related sexual risk among adolescent girls and young women in Lesotho
- 24 Oct Dr Christina Laurenzi (Stellenbosch), Alli Roshni (Oberlin) and Chuma Busakhwe (UCT): Screen & Support: Insights from a clinic-community collaboration to upskill peer supporters in Lusaka, Zambia
- 31 Oct Dr Bukiwe Ntwana (UCT): The impact of informal settlement community leadership institutions on water and sanitation service delivery in informal settlements
- 07 Nov Yusra Price with Chelsea Coakley, Dr Hlokoma Manqalaza and Mildred Thabeng (UCT and Oxford Research South Africa): Ceding power: Reflection and closure of the Eastern Cape Teen Advisory Group (TAG)
- 10 Nov* Kinglsey Orievulu (University of Witwatersrand): The Socioeconomic and demographic impacts of drought on HIV treatment adherence in KwaZulu-Natal: Risk Exposures of Adolescent and Young People (AYP) from under-resourced communities in contexts of Extreme Weather Events
- 14 Nov Dr Abigail Ornellas (UCT): Mobile apps as a cost-effective parenting intervention: Early considerations from the ParentApp randomised controlled trial
- 21 Nov Prof Tim Murithi (UCT): Africa and the transformation of the international system
- 30 Nov Dr Lesley Gittings (Western University) and Luann Hatane (PATA): What do frontline providers of paediatric-adolescent HIV services need for empowering and supportive work environments?
- 05 Dec Bastien Dratwa (Hamburg): (Dis-)Continuities of violence: The affective life of anti-immigrant violence in post-apartheid South Africa
- 08 Dec* Vidya Diwakar (CPAN): The intergenerational persistence of poverty amidst intersecting crises: mixed methods insights and policy implications

* Seminars in our collaborative seminar series *Safeguarding Early Life Transitions from Future Crises* series with the University of Oxford

ABOUT THE CSSR

The Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Cape Town, dedicated to conducting and building capacity for systematic, policy-relevant social science research in South Africa, the region and across Africa. Substantively, the CSSR conducts research in the broad areas of development, poverty, public health, safety and violence, and social relationships and intimacy. The CSSR presently consists of the Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub (AARHub), the Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI), and the Sustainable Societies Unit (SSU), as well as a small Directorate. Methodologically, our research is empirical and problem-driven. We utilise both quantitative and qualitative strategies of data collection. CSSR projects are usually team-oriented, bringing together multiple local and international researchers, and offering post-graduate students significant opportunities for hands-on training, by involving them in all stages of projects. Research findings are presented and discussed at regular weekly seminars, and are published as CSSR Working Papers.



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