



DIVISION OF  
SOCIAL AND  
BEHAVIOURAL  
SCIENCES



## DSBS Fieldnotes

Friends, partners, collaborators and readers, we welcome you to the launch of [Fieldnotes](#), our new platform for promoting awareness and discussion of urgent social and behavioural science questions in public health. Fieldnotes is a project based in the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DSBS) in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

The idea emerged from discussions in our Division over the last few years about who we are, how we can work more effectively with each other, and how we might tell others about the work we are doing in critical health social science research. We hope that it will become a trusted resource for anyone interested in learning more about our work in the Division and School, as well as the bigger intellectual and political questions we will be examining.

To launch Fieldnotes, we have initially brought together 4 pieces that we hope demonstrate our investment in clear, critical and creative thinking, and highlight some of the kinds of people and projects at work in the Division. In future, we will release one article every second week. We hope this will be a manageable load and keep readers coming back on a regular basis. Please check back frequently to see what has been added.

We welcome any ideas, comments, feedback and contributions you have regarding this new and exciting venture for DSBS. [Contact Us](#) at DSBS with your thoughts.

"Engaging with Traditional Health  
Practitioners"

## Lesley Gittings (PhD student)

Our first Fieldnotes article, titled [Biomedical Beliefs and Practices Amongst Traditional Health Practitioners](#) was contributed by Lesley Gittings a DSBS PhD student and [SASH](#) Fellow. Lesley has been working in the Eastern Cape for the last two years trying to better understand the experiences of adolescent boys living with HIV. She uses both her own experiences as a healer in training, and the experiences of her research participants in the Eastern Cape to challenge conventional ideas about the divisions between biomedical and traditional health practices.



## "Race and Privilege as a UCT Student" Tebogo Mokganyetji (PhD student)

Lesley's piece is followed by a contribution by Tebogo Mokganyetji, also a DSBS PhD student and [SASH](#) Fellow. Tebogo's piece is titled: ["The Privileged Black Child?:" Reflections on my Privilege--Or lack Thereof--As a UCT PhD Student](#) and it offers a personal reflection on her experiences as a PhD student at UCT. She reflects on the complicated relationship she has to the notion that she is 'privileged' to be a black female PhD candidate at the university. She also describes various forms of taxing emotional labour that women in her

position are expected to perform at institutions that are wrestling with historical legacies and ongoing structures of oppression.

## "TB Resilience in Khayelitsha" Lianne Cremers, Alison Swartz and Chris Colvin

Our third post, [Resilience Among TB Patients on Treatment in Cape Town](#), is from Lianne Cremers, Alison Swartz and Chris Colvin. Adapted from some of the PhD work Lianne conducted in Khayelitsha (supported by Chris and Alison), this post describes the ways that individuals and communities demonstrated resilience in coping with life with TB, even when some of these strategies interfered with their TB treatment. Lianne has recently released a full-length documentary and an academic journal article that includes embedded video clips (also embedded in the Fieldnotes piece). You can watch a trailer for the longer ethnographic film TB in Town 2 [here](#).

## A University-Community Partnership: MCSJ A conversation between Mandla Majola and Zara Trafford



Our last piece is an interview between two DSBS staff members, Zara Trafford and Mandla Majola titled [Movement for Change and Social Justice \(MCSJ\): A Community-University Partnership](#).

Mandla is a lifelong activist and Gugulethu resident, former TAC organiser, current member of the Division's iALARM research project and co-founder of MCSJ. In this piece he describes the birth of MCSJ as a community-university

partnership, its key objectives and early successes and some of its plans for the future. MCSJ represents the kind of creative fusion of teaching, research and social responsiveness that we hope Fieldnotes will also be able to achieve.

Click here to download the DSBS Welcome Book: a comprehensive overview of the research, teaching and social responsiveness work of the Division

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