



DIVISION OF
SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL
SCIENCES



DSBS Newsletter

Welcome to our first annual Year in Review for the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DSBS) in UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine. The Division was founded in 2013 with a mission to grow teaching, research and practice in the social and behavioural sciences in public health. Over the last few years, we have been fortunate to see a rapid expansion in staff, students, funding, and publications. Our core Research and Teaching work is in our Welcome Booklet which can be accessed via the link at the end of this letter. This Year in Review captures some of the highlights of our work during 2017 and describes some of the new initiatives coming in 2018.

SASH Research Day



SASH Research Day was held at the Wild Fig 13 March 2017. We had student presentations from 9 SASH Fellows who reported on emergent findings, research plans and methodological challenges linked to their work.

Each of the student sessions was assigned an academic discussant, each of which reviewed student presentations ahead of time. Morna Cornell, Marion Heap, Leslie London and Carla Tsampiras all made contributions as discussants. Rebecca Hodes and Robert Morrell delivered the keynote address and discussion in the afternoon. It centered on the development of social science theory from the global South.

SASH Forum

Following directly from SASH Research Day, Fellows and Programme staff went to Goedgedacht for the second SASH Forum from the 14- 17 March. On the first day, Fellows Alice and Lesley helped to facilitate a workshop using the Theatre of the Oppressed methodology, which is a central part of Alice's PhD work. We had inputs from Leslie Swartz and Lenore Manderson on how to publish research. Don Oppenario presented on the history of HIV social science. Caroline Kuo facilitated a session on how to make the most of academic conferences, from writing abstracts to networking strategies. Another highlight of the Forum was a career panel, in which Elona Toska, Yandisa Sikweyiya, Vuyiseka Dubula, Mark Lurie and Carla Tsampiras spoke about how they have come to do the work that they do.



Conferences in 2017

As part of their Fellowship, Fellows worked collaboratively as a peer-mentorship group to prepare for and practice their presentations for the 2017 PHASA Conference held in East London. From the 4-7 September 2017, Namhla Sicwebu, Samantha Malunga, Lesley Gittings and Alison Swartz attended the PHASA Conference held in Gauteng. Namhla and Sam presented work based on their research towards their Masters. Lesley and Alison presented PhD related research. Alison also presented on behalf of Bey Schmidt and Myrna van Pinxteren who were unable to attend the conference themselves.

From 13-15 November 2017, AIDS Impact conference was held in Cape Town. Chris and Alison served on the local organising committee. Lesley Gittings, Obrian Nyamucherera, Myrna van Pinxteren, Samantha Malunga and Bey Schmidt presented either oral or poster presentations. Alison was interviewed for the Children's Radio Foundation, for which the audio is available [here](#).

Workshops in 2017

As a pre-workshop to the Global Evidence Summit held in Cape Town in September 2017, DSBS collaborated with colleagues from the MRC to offer a workshop in Qualitative Evidence Synthesis. Approximately 30 participants from all over the world attended, many of whom stayed in Cape Town to attend GES.

In 2017, we have also continued with our Nvivo training workshops.

Movement for Change and Social Justice (MCSJ)



In 2017 MCSJ welcomed 8 new young male members from Gugulethu who have volunteered their time and skills to assist MCSJ. These young men are seen as potential catalysts for change, particularly as they can speak to other young men from the community about their own experiences as young men themselves. These men participated in a training programme led by Sonke Gender Justice on gender-based violence and its impact on community health and morale.

In May 2017 MCSJ organized a march to the local police station that aimed to highlight the concerns of health workers regarding their safety at Gugulethu CHC. The march was well attended (500 people) and strategies for ensuring the safety of health workers were adopted. Since the March, police presence has increased significantly around the clinic.

In July 2017 MCSJ put together a documentary to encourage making condoms available to young people in schools to reduce teenage pregnancy, high rates of termination of pregnancy (TOP) and HIV infection. MCSJ is trying to persuade teachers and school government bodies to introduce condom distribution and family planning into schools in Gugulethu. Thus far the documentary has been distributed and well received by some local schools in Gugulethu. MCSJ has formed a task team that is mainly made up of young

people to assist with a distribution strategy in 2018.

In November 2017, in the aftermath of a successful training workshop on GBV, on November 28th, 2017 MCSJ and affiliated organisations joined Sonke justice on their 16 days of activism against GBV march to the Nyanga police station.

Click here to download the DSBS Welcome Book (70-page overview of the Division)

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