

Nontsikelelo 'Ntsiki' Mapukata a Senior Lecturer and BHP Course Convenor obtained her DPhil in Public Health from Wits in a PhD graduation ceremony that was held on Mandela's birthday, Monday 18th July 2022. Her thesis titled; "***Making a Rural Workforce: Exploring the Habitus of Health Sciences Students from Rural South Africa***" was supervised by Prof Lenore Manderson, a Distinguished Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand and co-supervised by Prof Steve Reid: Head of Primary Health Care Directorate here at UCT. Conceptualised at Wits, just before the data collection phase, Ntsiki accepted an academic appointment at UCT and transferred her studies to UCT for its field work. This meant that she had to secure ethics approval from HREC (Medical) at UCT in addition to the ethics approval she obtained at Wits. Using Bourdieu's framework, she examined the lived experiences of final year health sciences students of rural origin at UCT.

Her thesis, a culmination of a journey that started in 2005, the findings of which will be shared in an upcoming seminar, was described by her examiners as "an extraordinary thesis" with "an excellent literature review" and "an excellent explanation of the theoretical framework" by the second examiner. The examiner reports also noted the thesis' considerable originality with significant implications for medical education in South Africa and internationally.

Her thesis was submitted as a monograph along with a reflexive essay that was published in 2020¹, a standard requirement at Wits. A second article titled "Centering a Black Narrative: The Role of a Higher Education Institution in Facilitating a Transforming Habitus " was recently accepted for publication [Gender Questions].

During the study period, Ntsiki supervised two MPH students to completion and co-authored seven papers, one of which was a book chapter and two practice papers. With research interests in student engagement and student development; multiprofessional education and professionalism, her scholarship focuses on exploring educational approaches that are centred on a humanising pedagogy where communities become centres of learning in mutual beneficial partnerships.

1. Mapukata N. Embodiment of particular ways of being: Habitus as an autobiographical narrative. *Ubuntu: Journal of Conflict and Social Transformation*.2020 Apr 1; 9(1):9-24