



Intreeredes



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
POTCHEFSTROOMKAMPUS



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Geagte leser

Ons is baie opgewonde om hierdie eerste publikasie aan julle bekend te stel waarby die NWU-Potchefstroomkampus erkenning verleen aan al ons professore wat gedurende 2012 'n Intreerede gelewer het. Ons poog ook om deur middel van hierdie publikasie ons navorsingskundigheid verder te bemark.

'n Intreerede is 'n sentrale deel van enige universiteit se akademiese aktiwiteite en ook 'n feesviering van 'n belangrike mylpaal in 'n akademiese loopbaan. Die rede verskaf 'n platform om die hoogleraar se akademiese werk te deel met die breë gemeenskap en die voordele wat navorsing vir die gemeenskap inhou te demonstreer.

Professore verskaf intellektuele leierskap aan die Universiteit en is dus van kardinale belang vir ons navorsingspoging en spesifiek ten opsigte van ons strewe na 'n Navorsings-gerigte kampus. Die sukses faktor vir enige universiteit wat strewe na navorsingsgerigtheid is die vermoë om top professore te behou, te werf en te ondersteun. In hierdie verband is ons baie suksesvol.

Ons wens ons professore geluk met die besondere akademiese prestasies en leierskap en passie wat hulle in die betrokke dissiplines toon en bevorder.

Ons wil graag hierdie publikasie op 'n jaarlikse basis aan ons gemeenskap beskikbaar stel en glo dat dit vir die leser 'n positiewe indruk laat ten opsigte van die navorsingskundigheid op die NWU-Potchefstroomkampus.

Prof Amanda Lourens



Een taal is nie genoeg nie

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Suid-Afrikaanse onderwysers behoort meer as een taal in hul klasse te gebruik; diegene wat nie kan nie, moet verkieslik voorsien word van 'n onderwysassistent wat in 'n ander Suid-Afrikaanse taal spesialiseer. Hierdie kontroversiële voorstel is gemaak deur professor Robert Balfour, Dekaan van die Fakulteit Opvoedingswetenskappe, in sy Intreerede aan die Noordwes-Universiteit in Potchefstroom.

Vir professor Balfour het sy intreerede 'n geleentheid gebied om sy denke te sintetiseer en te besin oor die werk wat reeds afgehandel is en die werk wat nog voorlê. Hy het 'n breë visie van sy dissipline, en put inspirasie uit die prent van die “breë en die smalle weg” wat 'n bekende gesig in baie Afrikanerhuishoudings is – met die breë weg wat lei na die verderf en die smal weg wat lei na saligheid.

“Vir 'n akademiese pelgrim lyk die breë weg baie meer aantreklik,” verduidelik hy. “Die moeisame reis van akademiese wetenskapsbeoefening deur nouer wordende paadjies na 'n kleiner wordende spesialisering lei uiteindelik na 'n piepklein liggie aan die einde van 'n baie lang tunnel.”

Volgens professor Balfour smaak wetenskaplikes wat die ‘breë weg’ kies die vreugdes van:

- die tuin van goed en kwaad (die huis van spekulاسie, eerder as die huis van rede);
- die versoeking van kitsgratifikasie (populêre wetenskapsbeoefening en publieke roem),
- die dobbelhuise (valse aannames en goedgeelowige ideologie, eerder as deeglike waarneming en deduktiewe denke);
- daardie nimfe en meisies wat met kleurvolle tendense geassosieer word (soos die modegier van Marxisme in die 70's);
- en laastens, daardie bordele van dissiplines soos kultuurstudies, waar mens onder hande geneem word deur skraps geklede teorieë soos Kosmopolitisme (Appiah 2006) en Nieuhistorisme (Brannigan 1998), Plurlingualisme (Beacco en Bryam 2003) en “Multilanguaging” (Reyes 2001).

Dit is hierdie breë “kerk” wat professor Balfour se denke rig en lei wanneer dit kom by sy eie belangstelling in tweetaligheid en meertaligheid. Hy is passievol oor die rol van tweetaligheid in Suid-Afrika en besorg oor die rol daarvan in formele leer en onderrig in Suid-Afrika.

Professor Balfour glo dat die ouderdom waarop taalvaardighede ontwikkel word van kritieke belang is. Ons weet dat kinders besonder oop is daarvoor om 'n groot



Prof Robert Balfour

verskeidenheid waarnemings vinnig te absorbeer en dat hierdie vermoë besonder goed ontwikkel is in die vroeë kinderjare, maar ná puberteit afplat.

So wat beteken dit vir Suid-Afrika? In die tweetalige klaskamer of samelewing is die ideaal om die gebruik van tale aan te moedig, maar terselfdertyd die subtraktiewe tweetaligheid te vermy wat voorkom wanneer één taal 'n ander taal oorskadu.

“In elke Suid-Afrikaanse klaskamer lei die onderrigmetodes wat gebruik word, om taal te ontwikkel onbedoeld tot saamgestelde en subtraktiewe tweetaligheid,” sê hy. “In die tipiese middelklas meertalige klaskamer in Suid-Afrika kan kinders meer as twee of drie tale magtig wees. Die onderwyser gebruik egter slegs een taal, gewoonlik Engels of Afrikaans, terwyl die kinders se interaksie met mekaar en met ander kinders in één taal is, in Engels.

Volgens professor Balfour is die huidige taalonderrigmetodes nie in voeling met die werklike konteks vir onderrigtale in 'n meertalige Suid-Afrika nie. Die gevolg is dat opvoeders nie gebruik maak van die geleenthede vir verstandelike ontwikkeling wat beskikbaar is vir tweetalige kinders nie, sodat die bate van tweetaligheid in 'n verlies ontaard.

“Dit moet sekerlik 'n bydraende faktor wees in die voortgesette onderprestasie van Suid-Afrikaanse kinders vergeleke met kinders in ontwikkelde lande,” sê hy.

Die onderwysstelsel in Suid-Afrika was nog nooit in staat om formele en volhoubare leergeleenthede in meer as een taal aan te bied vir die meerderheid van die bevolking nie, ten spyte van die rykdom aan tale en literatuur wat beskikbaar is. Navorsing het getoon dat die optimale ouderdom vir taalverwerwing tussen 1 en 11 jaar is, maar in Suid-Afrika geskied blootstelling aan daardie tale gewoonlik eers ná daardie tydperk. Die gevolg is dat min Suid-Afrikaners in staat is om

komplekse betekenis in meer as een taal uit te druk of te verstaan.

“Leerders moes óf te vroeg die oorgang maak vanaf moedertaalonderwys, óf moes tale (Engels en Afrikaans) onvoldoende verwerf as gevolg van gebrekkig opgeleide onderwysers, onvoldoende hulpbronne vir taalontwikkeling, en te min geleenthede vir gebruik van die teikentaal,” verduidelik hy.

“Taalontwikkeling vir hoër onderwys was tot dusver 'n lapwerk gekenmerk deur ongelyke taalvaardigheid en onregverdige verspreiding van geleenthede. Ongelyk in hierdie sin: die inheemse tale wat wel aangebied is, is slegs vir 'n kort tydperk aangebied (kinders van die tagtigerjare kon bv. Setswana of Sesotho leer op laerskool, maar het dan oorgeskakel na slegs Engels of slegs Afrikaans na die ouderdom van 11).

Kinders wat meer as een taal ken, demonstreer konsekwent beter grammatikale bevoegdheid, woordeskatverwerwing en sintaktiese bewustheid. Navorsing het getoon dat tweetalige kinders makliker die konneksie maak tussen lees en verstaan, en beter is met luister en verstaan van 'n reeks aksente en uitsprake, wat ook baie belangrik is vir die ontwikkeling van leesvaardighede.

Waarom is dit belangrik?

“Die navorsing oor die voordele van tweetaligheid vanaf 'n vroeë ouderdom is meesleurend. As 'n kind één taal kan praat, help sy/haar grondige kennis van daardie één taalstelsel vanaf 'n jong ouderdom daardie kind om later van tyd nog 'n taal met relatiewe gemak aan te leer. Vir tweetalige kinders werk dit só dat grondige kennis van twee tale op 'n jong ouderdom, en gebruik van daardie tale vir geletterdheid- en gesyferdheidsverwerwing bewustheid skep vir tale as denkstelsels, op dieselfde manier as wat getalle telstelsels is, met die vermoë om oneindige verskeidenheid en insig voort te bring.”

Die pyn en die ekstase

Die pyn en die ekstase

Musiek mag dalk die voedsel van liefde wees, maar volgens die Noordwes-Universiteit se professor Karendra Devroop, kan dit ook die oorsaak van pyn wees.

Die gehoor by 'n simfoniekonsert, meegevoer deur die romantiek en skoonheid van die musiek, sal dit bemoontlik moeilik vind om te glo dat die musici dalk ook pyn ervaar wat hul loopbane en lewensbestaan bedreig.

Professor Devroop is passievol oor die probleme van musici en sê dat daar nog nie genoeg navorsing gedoen is oor die mediese probleme van hul beroep nie. Sonder sodanige navorsing sal voorkomende strategieë nie ontwikkel word nie en sal individuele musici nie bewus wees van die risiko's en beskikbare behandelingsopsies nie.

Professor Devroop, Direkteur van die Skool vir Musiek en Konservatorium op die Potchefstroomkampus van die Noordwes-Universiteit, is 'n jazz-spesialis, en sy eklektiese musiekstyl vind weerklank in sy omvangryke navorsing oor die probleme wat ervaar word deur musici.

“Niemand sal die waarde van sportmedisyne ontken nie, maar die idee van musiekmedisyne is minder bekend. Maar net soos atlete het uitvoerende kunstenaars ook mediese probleme wat direk verband hou met hul

professionele talente.”

Sedert die laat tagtigerjare, rapporteer navorsers 'n hoë voorkoms van musiekverwante beserings. Die bevindings is sorgwekkend. Tot 76% van professionele simfoniemusici het aangedui dat hulle ten minste een mediese probleem ervaar wat ernstig genoeg is om hul musiekvoordrag negatief te affekteer. Tot soveel as 87% van universiteitstudiante ervaar musiekvoordragverwante pyn, terwyl 60% van professionele koperblaasmusici rapporteer dat hulle een of meer probleme ervaar wat die spiere of bene affekteer.

Soos wat verwag kan word, is die mediese probleme direk verwant aan die instrumente wat bespeel word. In navorsing deur professor Devroop is hoofpyne gerapporteer deur 46% trompet- en fransehoring-spelers, terwyl 43% breinfloutes en duiseligheid ervaar het, en 41% oogooreising ervaar het. Ander navorsing wys dat 56% van hoërskoolleerlinge musiekvoordrag verwante pyn ervaar, en dat 52% van professionele vroulike klarinetspelers ernstige pyn in die regterhand ervaar.

Harde geluide veroorsaak probleme vir nie-klassieke musici, met 'n derde van hulle wat gehoorverlies ervaar. Maar hulle is nie alleen nie: selfs vir klassieke musici kan piekklankdrukvlakke tydens repetisies so intens soos 139 db wees.

Die probleme is nie net fisiologies van aard nie. Meer



Prof Karendra Devroop

as 50% van professionele musici het erken dat hulle medikasie gebruik wat stres en spanning tydens optredes verminder, wat onwettige middels insluit.

Algemene medisyne- en dwelmgebruik is ook gerapporteer onder universiteitstudente.

Selfs diegene wat hul stem as instrument gebruik, is nie immuun nie. Sangers rapporteer probleme verwant aan die oormatige gebruik van die larinks, insluitende die ontstaan van vergroeiings op die stembande weens oormatige inspanning, sowel as spier- en beenspanning.

Asof dit nie genoeg is om die geesdrif van selfs die mees toegewyde stortsanger te demp nie, ervaar sangers ook dikwels refluksversteuring in die maag en esofagus, sowel as postnasale drup. Hierdie kwessies affekteer nie net die sangers se prestasie nie, maar ook hul fisiese en psigologiese welstand.

Die probleme van instrumentaliste wissel van ooreisingsbeserings en karpale tunneldroom tot distonie wat lei tot 'n subtiele verlies aan beheer in vinnige passasies, gebrek aan presisie, opkrulling van vingers, vingers wat "vassit" aan klawers, en 'n onwillekeurige buiging van die strykstokduim in die geval van snaarinstrumente.

Die lys van toestande is kommerwekkend. Professor Devroop noem die mees algemene probleem-areas:

- Pianiste en kitaarspelers – regterhand, linkerhand en polse;
- Snaarinstrumentspelers – linkerpols, nekpyne, regterskouer;
- Hoë koperblaasinstrumente – embouchure, kakebeenpyne, vingers, bo-rug;
- Lae koperblaasinstrumente – linkerhand en pols (tromboon), regtervingers, pols en lae-rug;

- Saksofoon en klarinet – regterpols-, elmboog- en nekpyne;
- Fluit – skouer, vingers en pols;
- Fagot – vingers en pols van albei hande;
- Hobo – nekpyne, kakebeen, en die gesigspiere wat betrokke is waar die lippe teen die mondstuk gehou word;
- Slaginstrumentspelers – pols.

"Dit is geen wonder dat beserings voorkom nie," verduidelik hy. "Professionele trompetspelers gebruik heel- wat mondstukkrag, tipies teen 'n maksimum van 11 kg, met 'n gemiddeld van 5 kg. Daar is groot verskille in die vlakke van krag wat gebruik word deur verskillende spelers, maar individue toon hoë vlakke van konsekwentheid.

"Die behoefte aan verdere navorsing is onteenseglik," sê professor Devroop. "Ons top musici benodig dieselfde tipe primêre en voorkomende sorg wat enige top atleet sou ontvang. Ongelukkig is te min mense bewus van die risiko's, en kry uitvoerende kunstenaars nie die behandeling wat hulle verdien nie."

Devroop is 'n groot voorstander van ernstige navorsing in musiek in Suid-Afrika oor dissiplines heen, en in vennootskap met verskeie instansies.

"Daar sal 'n nouer verbintenis moet wees tussen die bedryf en die akademiese gemeenskap, tesame met die verbeterde en meer wydverspreide mentorskap van jong navorsers en studente. Ons moet navorsingsareas identifiseer wat relevant is vir ons land, en toepaslike studies onderneem sodat gesondheidsprobleme doeltreffend geïdentifiseer en behandel kan word."

Die Wonder van Die Wonder van Grondwet-Afrikaans Grondwet-Afrikaans

Enigiemand wat bereid is om te soek vir Afrikaanse ekwivalente vir Engelse grondwetlike-regsterme, verskynsels en begrippe, soos vervat in die Grondwet van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1996, sal vind. En in Afrikaans het die onderzoeker 'n ryke pit, asook 'n verantwoordelikheid, om te delf.

Dit is, in kort, die slotsom waarby die gerespekteerde regsfilosoof, professor Lourens Marthinus du Plessis, navorsingsprofessor verbonde aan die Fakulteit Regte van die Noordwes-Universiteit se Potchefstroom-kampus, tydens sy intrede gekom het toe hy gevra het: “Hoe is dit met die juridies-staatkundige register van Afrikaans in ons wordende en groeiende konstitusionele demokrasie in Suid-Afrika, en spesifiek op grondwetsfront, gesteld?”

Met sy intrede, getiteld Die Wonder van Grondwet-Afrikaans, ondersoek Du Plessis dié vraag of sowel die groter kontoere as die fyner nuanses van Suid-Afrika se grondwetlike demokrasie doeltreffend in Afrikaans onder woorde gebring en verduidelik kan word.

“Toe die era van grondwetlike demokrasie in 1994 vir Suid-Afrika aanbreek, was Afrikaans, gemeet aan die verrykte grondwetlike en menseregte diskoers wêreldwyd, 'n agtergebelewe grondwetstaal. Hoe is dit dan nou, agtien jaar later, met die register van grondwet-

Afrikaans gesteld?”

Du Plessis het voortgegaan deur te sê dat dié vraag nie binne bestek van 'n intrede volledig beantwoord kan word nie, maar dat hy eerder gaan volstaan deur te verwys, met enkele voorbeelde, hoe die seggingskrag van Afrikaans só ingespan kan word dat dit met die benoeming van sekere eietydse en soms unieke grondwetlik-demokratiese verskynsels die spyker op 'n heel besonderse wyse op die kop kan slaan.

Verder het hy aangetoon waar daar suksesvol gesoek moes word, asook gevorm moes word, aan nuwe woorde of uitdrukkings vir grondwetlik-demokratiese verskynsels. Wanneer Du Plessis oor, byvoorbeeld, die ‘-isme van die Grondwet’ praat, kom sy aanslag met Afrikaans, asook sy noukeurige ondersoek na alternatiewe, duidelik te voorskyn.

“Konstitusionalisme’, in Engels ‘constitutionalism’ is die Grondwet se eie –isme van grondwetlike oppergesag en bereikbaarheid. Volgens Iain Currie en Johan de Waal is konstitusionalisme die idee dat 'n regering se magte aan 'n skriftelike Grondwet ontleen moet word en beperk moet bly tot daardie magte wat die Grondwet verleen. Die houe as onafhanklike gesag moet deur regspraak beperkings op regeringsmagte kan afdwing.

“Konstitusionalisme is egter meer as 'n idee of 'n staatsregtelike teorie of 'n versameling van sulke teorieë.



Prof Lourens M du Plessis

“Dit is ook die naam wat aan ’n bepaalde normatiewe toedrag van sake gegee word – 15 “normatief” in dié sin dat dit waardenorme neerlê om aan die gemelde toedrag van sake vorm en gevolg te gee terwyl dit tegelykertyd self aan sekere waarde-eise voldoen. So het in Suid-Afrika ‘konstitusionalisme’, constitutionalism in Engels, posgevat as waardegelade naam vir die nuwe grondwetlike bedeling as geheel. ’n Alternatief is ‘konstitusionele/grondwetlike demokrasie’, in Engels dan “constitutional democracy”. Konstitusionalisme gedy inderdaad as ’n vorm van demokrasie. ’n Wet of uitvoerende handeling in lyn of in ooreenstemming met die Grondwet is ‘grondwetlik’. Die gebruik van die agtervoegsel ‘-matig’, soos in ‘doelmatig’, resepmatig’, ‘wetmatig’, ‘patroonmatig’ ensovoorts en dan uiteindelik ook ‘grondwetmatig’, druk egter die gedagte van ‘volgens, ooreenkomstig of by wyse van’ of na die maat, of maatstaf, van byvoorbeeld die Grondwet veelseggender uit. Die ooreenkoms met die Duits “Verfassungsmässig” val dadelik op.

“Die byvoeglike naamwoord ‘grondwetmatig’ kan in baie gevalle, ofskoon nie voor die voet nie, met vrug in plaas van ‘grondwetlik’ of ‘konstitusioneel’ gebruik word, en so ook die selfstandige naamwoord ‘grondwetmatigheid’ in plaas van ‘konstitusionalisme’ of ‘grondwetlikheid’.

“Die agtervoegsel ‘-matig’ bring die normatiwiteit, inherent aan die eise van ‘grondwetlikheid’, skerper na vore. Dit het egter ook beperkings. ‘Grondwetmatig’ of ‘grondwetmatigheid’ het byvoorbeeld nie ’n nommerpas Engelse ekwivalent nie. Dit het ook nie voor die handliggende antonieme in Afrikaans nie: ‘ongrondwetmatig’ en ‘ongrondwetmatigheid’ val maar bra kras op die regs- en grondwetsgevoelige oor – dan maar liefst met ‘ongrondwetlikheid’ volstaan of so nie ‘niegrondwetmatigheid’ as ’n moontlikheid oorweeg.

“Soos voorheen opgemerk kan ‘grondwetlik’ of ‘konstitusioneel’ nie voor die voet met ‘grondwetmatig’

vervang word nie. ‘Grondwetlike’ of ‘konstitusionele gedingvoering’ is byvoorbeeld ’n bepaalde vorm van litigasie maar om te kan sê dat sodanige litigasie ook ‘grondwetmatig’ is, vereis ’n waardeoordeel, wat verder gaan as om gewoon die besondere aard van die betrokke litigasie te beskryf. Suid-Afrika se hoogste hof in grondwetlike aangeleenthede heet, volgens die amptelike Afrikaanse vertaling van die Grondwet, ‘die Konstitusionele Hof’. ‘Grondwetmatig’ en ‘grondwetmatigheid’ in die betiteling van hierdie hof is onvanpas. Die benamings ‘Grondwetlike Hof’ of ‘Grondwethof’, albei skeppings van die volksmond, is dalk net-net aanvaarbaar maar dit is verkieslik om by die amptelike benaming te hou. Die volksmondbenamings is in elk geval nie meer beskrywend nie, net meer Diets.”

Hy het hom wél nie geskaar by die kwessie van die plek, status en gelykheid van Afrikaans as grondwetlik verkanste amptelike taal teenoor Engels en Suid-Afrika se nege ander amptelike tale nie, eerder of, en indien wel hoe goed, Afrikaans as ’n taal haarself in ’n grondwetlike diskoers in ’n talig-plurale gemeenskap kan handhaaf.

“Dit gaan vir my egter nie in die eerste plek oor Afrikaans nie, maar oor die kleinood van grondwetmatige demokrasie in Suid-Afrika met sy elf amptelike tale. Wat ons by hierdie geleentheid oor Afrikaans gewonder het behoort, ter wille van die welstand van grondwetmatige demokrasie, gewonder te word oor al ons tale,” het Du Plessis gesê.

“Die sprekers van verskillende tale het die verantwoordelikheid om al wonderende inisiatief te neem om die grondwetmatig-demokratiese register van hulle tale te ontgin. Gelukkig het ons in Afrikaans ’n saambindende faktor in die vorm van ’n taal wat vir baie van ons, en sekerlik vir myself, ’n tweede moedertaal geword het, naamlik Engels. Dit is die taal waarin meesal amptelik met die Grondwet omgegaan word en waarin akademici en ander intellektuele by voorkeur oor

grondwetmatige demokrasie praat en publiseer. Ons
hoef nie van hierdie werklikhede te probeer wegstam
om aan elkeen se ‘eie taal’ ’n regmatige plek te laat
toekom nie.”

“Selfbeheersde, grondwetmatige regspraak verg krag,
dit is nie ’n vorm van swakheid of huiwering nie. Dit is
beheers, nie bedees nie. Selfbeheersing verg ook baie
genuanseerde omgaan met taal, en natuurlik ’n taal
waarmee genuanseerd omgegaan kan word. Afrikaans,
lyk dit my, is so ’n taal,” aldus Du Plessis.

Hy het afgesluit deur te sê: “Daar is baie moontlikhede
om grondwetmatig-demokratiese Afrikaans vindingryk
te gebruik en ontwikkel, sonder benadeling van
enigiemand, allermens skrywers in en sprekers van die
taal. Kom ons ontgin hierdie moontlikhede, nie net in
en vir Afrikaans nie, maar in en vir elke Suid-Afrikaanse
taal.”

Geneesmiddelabsorpsieverbetering - om seker te maak dat medikasie uitkom waar dit moet

Geneesmiddelabsorpsieverbetering – om seker te maak dat medikasie uitkom waar dit moet

Die soeke na nuwe en beter medisyne vir die behandeling van die mensdom se kwale geskied teen 'n vinniger tempo as ooit vantevore. Maar is die geneesmiddels wat tans ontwikkel word so doeltreffend as wat dit moet wees?

Dit is die vraag wat in die kollig gestel is tydens die intreerede van die NWU se professor Silas Hamman.

Volgens professor Hamman is tegnologie wat gemik is op die ontwikkeling van nuwe geneesmiddels baie meer gevorderd as dié wat geïnvesteer is in die doeltreffende aflewering van daardie geneesmiddels.

Dit is veral problematies wanneer dit kom by geneesmiddels met fisiese en chemiese eienskappe wat nie maklik deur membrane in die liggaam beweeg nie en dié wat nie hul teikenlokaliteit in groot genoeg konsentrasies bereik nie.

Om die regte medikasie te hê, is net 'n deel van die oplossing. 'n Verdere komplikasie is dat selfs as jy die regte medikasie in die regte dosis afsluk, dit jou steeds nie noodwendig beter sal laat voel nie. Die rede daarvoor is dat 'n geneesmiddel net die epiteelmembraan (wat die ingewande omring) kan oorsteek as dit die korrekte 'handtekening' het. Die molekules moet die korrekte grootte wees, en moet

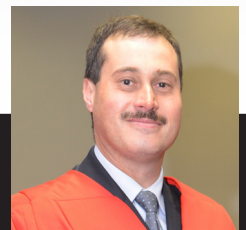
oplosbaar wees.

“Die kwessie van geneesmiddelaflewering word progressief belangriker soos wat meer en meer swak absorbeerbare geneesmiddels ontwikkel word,” verduidelik professor Hamman. “Dit beteken dat innoverende geneesmiddelafleweringstelsels ontwikkel moet word sodat ons klinies suksesvolle formulerings kan sien vir hierdie swak absorbeerbare geneesmiddels.”

Nuwe tegnologieë wat die impak van swak absorbeerbare geneesmiddels verbeter, sluit in verskeie doseer- metodes wat keer dat die geneesmiddel prematuur afgebreek word, wat die absorpsie van die geneesmiddel verbeter, en dié wat dit vir die geneesmiddel moontlik maak om makliker tussen selmembrane in die liggaam te beweeg ten einde die gewenste lokaliteite te teiken.

Een van die oplossings is absorpsieverbeterende verbindings wat die intestinale skans tydelik ontwig met relatief geringe weefselskade. Dit gee die geneesmiddel toegang tot die liggaam se bloedsomloopstelsel.

Ensiem-inhibitors bied nóg 'n antwoord. Hulle werk deur die ongewenste, premature afbreek van die medikasie



Prof Silas Hamman

te verminder. Die ideaal is dat die ensiem-inhibitor spesifiek moet wees, en dat dit slegs moet werk waar die geneesmiddel gemetaboliseer word vir die tyd wat die geneesmiddel by daardie plek is.

“Die ensiem-inhibitor moet dus naby aan die geneesmiddel gehou word totdat dit verby die punt van metabolisme beweeg het. Dit het die grootste kans om te werk in die maag en ingewande,” verduidelik professor Hamman.

Mukoadhesie kan ook gebruik word om seker te maak dat die geneesmiddelmolekules bly waar hulle nodig word vir lank genoeg om doeltreffend te wees. Mukoadhesie-afleweringstelsels het verskeie voordele aangesien dit langer in die maag en ingewande bly. Dit verbeter die absorpsie van die geneesmiddel en beperk die premature afbreek van die geneesmiddel – i.e. voordat dit die beskadigde of bekwaalde area kan teiken.

Sommige van die nuutste geneesmiddels is ontwerp om chemies te verander sodra dit in die liggaam is. Hierdie nuwe geneesmiddels staan bekend as pro-geneesmiddels. Dit is 'n chemies kopie van 'n moedergeneesmiddel wat geen medisinale effek het totdat dit binne-in die liggaam getransformeer word nie, sowel as afleweringseienskappe wat beter is as die moedermolekule. Die progeneesmiddel-benadering kan byvoorbeeld gebruik word om 'n oplosbare derivaat

te produseer van 'n verbinding wat nie wateroplosbaar is nie. Die progeneesmiddel los op in die liggaam en versprei na die teiken-membraan, waar dit omskep word in die moedergeneesmiddel sodat die gewenste mediese behandeling kan plaasvind.

Om die beweging van medikasie tussen membrane te verbeter, kan die geneesmiddelstruktuur verander word om dit meer oplosbaar te maak in vette, of om die molekulêre gewig te verminder.”

“Hierdie tipes aanpassings is baie belangrik vir die suksesvolle ontwikkeling van mondeliks ingeneemde geneesmiddels wat hul werk goed doen en die bedoelde resultaat oplewer,” sê professor Hamman. “Die navorsing moet geïntensiveer word om tred te hou met die geneesmiddelontwikkeling.”

'n Nuwe wet vir 'n nuwe wêreld

'n Nuwe wet vir 'n nuwe wêreld

Die wêreld is in 'n onbekende, en sommiges meen, onomkeerbare toestand van ekologiese en sosio-ekonomiese agteruitgang, en dit is meer dringend as ooit dat ons soek na tegnologiese en normatiewe oplossings om oorlewing op aarde te verseker.

Dit is die mening van Noordwes-Universiteit se Omgewingsreg-professor, Louis Kotze.

“In hierdie veranderende wêreld gaan ons moontlik die samestelling, funksies en doelwitte van globale omgewingsreg en -bestuur, moet heroorweeg,” sê hy.

Vir Professor Kotze is dit selfs nog meer waar binne die konteks van die Anthropocene. Die woord Anthropocene is geskep deur die 1995 Nobelprys-wenner, Paul J. Crutzen en sy kollega Eugene F. Stoermer. Die woord is 'n aanwyser van die tydperk waarin mense 'n verwoestende en oorweldigende impak op die aarde en sy stelsels het. Terwyl dit nog nie amptelik aanvaar is as die beskrywing van 'n nuwe geologiese tydperk nie, dui die term informeel op 'n nuwe tyd in geologiese geskiedenis, waarin die biofisiese faktore wat deur die mens aan die biosfeer voorstel word, begin om die fisiese grense wat die funksionering van al die belangrike aarde stelselprosesse te verander.

“Daar is 'n verskeidenheid oorwegings wat omgewings-prokureurs oor sal moet besin as globale omgewingsreg en -bestuur beter gaan reageer op die talle uitdagings en kompleksiteite van die Anthropocene-tydperk,” het hy

verduidelik.

Die Anthropocene is 'n tydperk waarin mense die verloop van die natuur, die aarde en sy stelsels in 'n ongekende manier verander. Dit volg op die Holoseen integretervlak fase, 'n periode wat gekenmerk word deur die buitengewoon goeie lewensomstandighede, wat die ontwikkeling van moderne samelewings, in 'n wêreld van sewe biljoen mense, in staat stel.

Daar word oor die algemeen aanvaar dat die Anthropocene periode ontstaan het in die Industriële Revolusie, en die vergrote industriële aktiwiteit van die 1800's.

Fossielbrandstowwe is tydens die Industriële Revolusie ontdek, en toenemend uitgebuit is om ontwikkeling te bestuur en die onversadigbare menslike aanvraag vir groei te bevredig. Die Anthropocene word deur onder meer, menslike wysigings van die globale omgewing, verhoogde vrystellings van swaai, stikstof en kweekhuiskasse, klimaatsverandering, die transformasie, en ontgraving van groot land oppervlaktes; die verandering van water siklusse, en wydverspreide spesie-uitwissing, gekenmerk.

“Terwyl die ekologiese impak hiervan vanselfsprekend is, is die magdom sosio-ekonomiese, politieke en wetlike uitdagings wat daarmee gepaardgaan, ewe erg,” sê

Prof Louis Kotze



hy. “Droogtes, oorstromings en stygende seevlakke as gevolg van klimaatsverandering, die verskuiwing van die mense, en gewapende konflik oor skaars natuurlike hulpbronne, is slegs ’n paar voorbeelde van toekomstige sosio-politiese spanning wat nog gaan kom.”

Professor Kotze meen dat die Anthropocene nie net nog ’n mode-term is nie, maar as ’n gemene-deler kan dien om ons begrip van die mensgedomineerde menslike-omgewingskoppelvlak en die gepaardgaande pragmatiese en wetenskaplike uitdagings, te fasiliteer.

“As ’n gemene-deler kan die Anthropocene die wetenskaplike speelveld gelyk maak; kan dit ’n algemene begrip van die sentrale rol van die mense in die globale wêreldstelsels verandering skep; kan dit die debat oor maniere om hierdie impak te versag herfokus; kan dit ’n algemene begrip van die globale dimensie van menslike impakte en ekologiese krisis kweek; en kan dit ’n kollektiewe waardering vir die erns van die omvang van sosio-wetlike, politieke, ekonomiese en ekologiese krisis wat op ons wag, bevorder,” verduidelik hy.

Wat dit beteken is dat daar ’n behoefte is vir meer effektiewe omgewingsreg en-bestuur. Ons moet die wette herkonseptualisering as ons effektief gaan voldoen aan die uitdagings wat voorlê.

Vir Professor Kotze is een van die belangrikste en uitdagendste vereistes, vir ons om verby die staat te

beweeg en internasionale wette te ontwikkel. Ons het ’n holistiese reaksie en ’n enkele uitkyk op die hele aarde en al sy omgewings en spesies nodig. Hy vra ook vir ’n nuwe uitkyk op volhoubaarheid wat gegrond is op ’n etiek wat fokus op die mensdom as ’n geheel.

“Ons sal ons eie plek in die natuur moet heroorweeg, asook die wyse waarop ons sal reageer op die ekologiese, sosio-politieke, regs-en ekonomiese krisis wat wag om ons wag. As wetenskaplike voorspellings waar is, gaan hierdie krisis net verdiep as die menslike impak op die aarde en sy stelsels verder toeneem in die Anthropocene, “sê hy.

“Ons het ’n geweldige morele verpligting om die grondslag vir meer effektiewe sosio-institusionele ingrypings te lê,” sê hy. “Ons is dit verskuldig aan ons kinders en hulle kinders om hierin te slaag. Daar is geen ander manier nie. “

Die kuns van die bou van gesonde bevolkings

Hoewel dit die akademiese bewussyn vir die eerste keer in die 1920's betree het, bestaan die idee van openbare gesondheid al vir so lank as wat mense in gemeenskappe woon.

In haar intreerede spoor Professor Annamarie Kruger, van die Afrika-Eenheid vir Transdissiplinêre Gesondheid, haar beroep terug na die Ou Testament.

“Ons lees in Deuteronomium hoe Moses wette geformuleer het om onreinheid te voorkom in die kampe, en die konsep van ’n gesamentlike verantwoordelikheid vir die gemeenskap se gesondheid het voortgegaan deur die eeue heen,” sê sy.

Dit het egter tot die 1920's geneem vir die konsep van openbare gesondheid om omskryf te word, toe die indrukwekkend benoemde Charles-Edward Amory Winslow die eerste definisie daargestel het. Volgens Winslow is openbare gesondheid “die wetenskap en kuns van die voorkoming van siekte, die verlenging van lewe en die bevordering van gesondheid, deur middel van georganiseerde pogings en ingeligte keuses van die samelewing, organisasies (openbare en private), gemeenskappe en individue”.

Die definisie is ’n goeie een, wat die toets van tyd deur- gestaan het, en die ontwikkeling van openbare gesondheidsinisiatiewe regoor die wêreld, voorberei.

“Winslow moes ’n wyse man gewees het,” sê sy.

“Hierdie definisie berei voor vir die ontwikkeling van die vakgebied openbare gesondheid. Die kompleksiteit van gesondheid word ook in hierdie definisie vasgevang.”

Die praktyk van openbare gesondheid sluit ’n verskeidenheid metodes en pogings in, wat ontwerp is om individue en gemeenskappe te beskerm teen risikofaktore wat met morbiditeit en voortydige sterfte geassosieer word. Soos aansteeklike siektes meer beheerbaar geword het, het die fokus verskuif vanaf openbare gesondheid na die nie-aansteeklike lewenstylsiektes (NALSS).

“Hierdie was die eerste groot paradigmaverskuiwing in die vakgebied,” verduidelik sy. “’n Mens kan nie dink van die bevordering van gesondheid sonder om te verwys na die Ottawa-Handves nie, waar die bevordering van gesondheid omskryf word as ‘die proses waarvolgens mense in staat gestel is om beheer oor hulle gesondheid te verhoog en ook te verbeter’”.

Om ’n toestand van volledige fisiese, geestelike en maatskaplike welstandte bereik, moet die individu of groep in staat wees om verwagtinge te identifiseer en verwesenlik, behoeftes te bevredig, en om saam met die omgewing te verander of daarmee opgewasse te raak.



Prof Annamarie Kruger

“Gesondheid word dus gesien as ’n hulpbron vir die alledaagse lewe, en nie as die doel van die lewe nie. Dit is ’n groot verandering aan die manier waarop ons dink. Gesondheid word ’n positiewe konsep, wat maatskaplike en persoonlike hulpbronne, sowel as fisiese vermoëns beklemtoon.

“Wat dit beteken, is dat die bevordering van gesondheid nie net die verantwoordelikheid van die gesondheidsektor is nie, maar verder gaan as gesonde leefstyl, na wel- stand. Die gevolg is dat gesondheid ’n multidissiplinêre inisiatief word.”

In Suid-Afrika is hierdie verskuiwing egter nie heeltemal verwesenlik nie. Ons geskiedenis van ongelukheid het veroorsaak dat ’n relatiewe klein deel van die bevolking die oorgang vanaf die groot voorkoms van aansteeklike siektes, na dié van nie-aansteeklike lewenstylsiektes, ervaar het.

Volgens Professor Kruger, kan dit in ons guns tel omdat dit die navorsings- en gesondheidsgemeenskappe in Suid-Afrika behoort in staat stel om die gesondheidsoorgang in ’n positiewe rigting te lei, wat ’n afname in aansteeklike siektes impliseer, asook geen verhoging in die voorkoms van NALS’s.

Ongelukkig is daar ’n gaping tussen die teorie en die werklikheid.

“Die navorsing aan die Noordwes Universiteit, wat in 1998 (THUSA-studie) en weer in 2005 en 2010 (PURE-studie) ingesamel is, impliseer dat ons nie slag daarin om die risikofaktore vir NALS’s te verlaag nie. Die toenemende MIV/vigs-epidemie vertel ook sy eie storie.

Die onvermydelike vrae wat ontstaan is: HOEKOM? Wat doen ons verkeerd?” vra sy.

Kruger is oortuig daarvan dat ’n herbesoek aan Winslow se definisie, oplossings sal lewer. Hy verwys na twee gewoontes wat verwaarloos word: die kuns van die voorkoming van siektes en die deurslaggewende rol van welsyn.

“Na die beste van my kennis, word hierdie twee konsepte binne die praktyk van openbare gesondheid en die bevordering van gesondheid, afgeskeep,” sê Professor Kruger.

Sy meen dat “welsyn” ’n vergenoegde toestand van gelukigheid, gesondheid en voorspoedigheid is.

“Vir my is dit die deel van die mens wat van binne kom, wat lei tot geluk en versterking van aanpasbaarheid. Die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie omskryf dit as ’n toestand van totale fisiese, geestelike en maatskaplike welstand en nie net as die afwesigheid van siekte of swakheid nie”.

Die konsep is nie nuut nie, maar Kruger glo dat ’n paradigmaverskuiwing nodig is om ’n behoorlike opbou en versorging van die bevolking se welsyn in die praktyk te implementeer.

Dit laat die woord “kuns”.

“Vir my verwys dit, binne die konteks van openbare gesondheid, na die manier waarop mense aangespreek en gemotiveer word om tot aksie gemobiliseer te raak, om verantwoordelikheid vir hulle lewens te neem. Dit behels die vervolmaking van kennis wat verder strek as mono-dissiplines. Dit is onmoontlik vir een persoon om die “kuns” faktor in openbare gesondheid te wees. Dit sou na my mening, ’n transdissiplinêre groep of span-poging behels,” verduidelik Professor Kruger.

Maar kan hierdie op grondvlak werk? Professor Kruger is van mening dat die navorsing wat sy en haar span uitgevoer in die FLAGH-projek (Farm Labour and General Health), LIFEPLAN® bewys dat dit kan. In die studie is gemeenskap-navorsingsresultate oor sewe jaar ingesamel deur nagraadse studente van 'n multidissiplinêre gesondheidsnavorsingspan (verpleegsters, maatskaplike werkers, sielkunde studente, verbruikerswetenskaplikes, beroepshigiëniste en teologie studente), en in een model geïntegreer en gekombineer.

Alhoewel hierdie program ontwikkel is en getoets is vir uitkomstes in kommersiële boerdery gemeenskappe, het dit ook duidelik geword dat dit wyer van toepassing is, en in staat is om selfs in 'n korporatiewe omgewing, positiewe resultate in terme van aanpasbaarheid te lewer.

Voorbeelde aangaande die positiewe terugvoer wat dui op “welsyn” van gemeenskappe, sluit die volgende in:

- Ons voel vir die eerste keer of ons as mense gesien word;
- Ons families neem deel aan die begrotingsproses – geld hou langer;
- Ons stel belang in mekaar se welstand;
- Bestuurders het aangemeld dat werkers trots in hulle werk het;
- Produktiwiteit van werk het vertwee-, selfs verdriedubbel, en
- Mense het verantwoordelikheid vir hul gesondheid (In 2009, in 'n korporatiewe situasie, 22 alkoholiste in die gesig staar dissiplinêre optrede In 2011, na 'n

paar LifePlan® sessies, daar was geen -. Niemand is afgedank.)

“Ons het gesien dat verandering kan plaasvind,” sê sy. “Die gesondheidsorg omgewing het 'n dringende behoefte aan 'n benaderingsverandering – 'n verandering waaroor nagedink en weer nagedink moet word, oorweeg en heroorweeg moet word, bespreek en toegepas moet word – en hoe gouer, hoe beter. As ons begin om die klem te plaas op die menslike aanpasbaarheid en 'n transdissiplinêre benadering, sal ons sien hoe ons drome vir 'n beter lewe vir almal, 'n werklikheid word.”

Die opbou van vertroue in 'n Die opbou van vertroue in 'n versorgingsberoep versorgingsberoep

Professor Martie Lubbe, hoof van die Navorsings-eenheid vir Medisyneverbruik in Suid-Afrika (MUSA) aan die Noordwes-Universiteit, is passievol oor medisyne en in besonder oor die rol van apteke en farmaseutiese produkte in die versorging van pasiënte.

Die idee van 'n familie-apteker is nie 'n nuwe konsep nie. Die plaaslike apteker is al sedert die 18de eeu 'n betroubare bron van wysheid en sorg. Maar terwyl aptekers nog altyd beskou is as belangrike figure in hul gemeenskappe, het die rol wat hulle in die gemeenskap speel, dramaties met die verloop van tyd verander.

Volgens Lubbe is een van hierdie groot veranderinge, die wyse waarop die farmaseutiese praktyk-self herontdek is as farmaseutiese sorg.

Die verandering lyk nie logies met die eerste oogopslag nie. Vroeë aptekers was grootliks verantwoordelik vir die vervaardiging van die medisyne wat hulle verkoop het. Met die opkoms van die farmaseutiese bedryf het aptekers steeds 'n belangrike rol gespeel in die bekwame kombinerings van voorafvervaardigde bestanddele.

Hierdie byna alchemistiese vermoë en omvattende kennis het gesorg dat aptekers se sentrale rol in die gemeenskap behoue bly.

Tussen 1900 en 1960, het die rol van die apteker

minder prominent geword. Medisyne is toenemend vooraf vervaardig en dokters het begin om die rol van die apteker oor te neem vir hul pasiënte. Aptekers het ondersteuners van die mediese beroep geword, eerder as aktiewe deel-nemers daarin.

Hierdie tendens het verander tussen 1960 en 1990, toe groter klem geplaas is op die advies wat 'n apteker kan voorsien. Ten spyte van die veranderende tendens is die meerderheid gemeenskapsaptekers gefokus op produkte eerder as op sorg.

Die Steenkamp-kommissie is in 1978 gepubliseer, en het aanbeveel dat aptekers meer betrokke raak by die behandeling van pasiënte. In 1986 het die Brown-kommissie verdere aanbevelings gemaak ten opsigte van aptekers se vryheid as dit kom by voorskryf van geskeduleerde medisyne. Die kommissie beveel aan dat die Medisynebeheerraad die rol van die apteker as gesondheidswerker en gesondheidsadviseur moet erken.

Hierdie aanbevelings het gelei tot 'n verskuiwing in die wyse waarop aptekers opgelei is. Aptekers het hul rol as primêre versorgers begin inneem, betrokke geraak in pasiënt monitering, immunisering en gesinsbeplanning.

Professor Lubbe glo dat hierdie tydperk 'n belangrike oorgang vir die ontwikkeling van die beroep is. Die apteker se gespesialiseerde kennis van die funksie en gebruik van medisyne is erken en daarmee saam het



Prof Martie Lubbe

hul sosiale status begin toeneem.

Kliniese aptekers het ook 'n rol gespeel in 'n wye verskeidenheid wetenskaplike tegnieke wat terapeutiese monitering, dosis en dieet insluit.

“Die titel van 'n artikel wat in 1986 gepubliseer is, het die rigting van die industrie daargestel,” verduidelik Professor Lubbe. “Medisyne het nie dosisse nie – mense het dosisse!”

Hierdie artikel is toevallig terselfdertyd as wat Lubbe besig was met haar MPharm gepubliseer. Die fokus van haar navorsing was die wyse waarop die medisyne verskaf is aan mense wat die Potchefstroom Dienssentrum vir Bejaardes besoek. Die studie toon duidelik dat dokters die mees betroubare rol in die gemeenskap speel, maar dat aptekers erken word vir hul kennis van medisyne en dosisse.

Die konsep van farmaseutiese sorg is in 1975 duidelik uiteengesit in 'n hoogs invloedryke artikel, geskryf deur Mikeal et al., as “die sorg wat 'n gegewe pasiënt ontvang en vereis wat veilige en rasonale medisinale gebruik verseker”.

Teen 1980 is die konsep verduidelik as “die verbondsverhouding tussen 'n pasiënt en 'n apteker, waar die apteker die funksie van medisyne verbruikskontroleerder vervul (met toepaslike kennis en vaardighede) gereguleer deur bewustheid en

toegewydheid aan die pasiënt se belange.” (Hepler, 1987:376).

Die rol van die apteker is sedertdien verder vasgelê.

“Die filosofie van die beoefening van farmaseutiese sorg is dat ons 'n pasiënt-gesentreerde benadering het, waar die praktisyn die maatskaplike verantwoordelikheid dra om te sorg vir die pasiënte se medisinale benodighede” verduidelik Lubbe. “Met ander woorde, die apteker moet seker maak dat pasiënte geen gesondheidsprobleme het met betrekking tot die medisyne of dosisse wat aan hulle gegee word nie. Dit sluit die geskiktheid, die doeltreffendheid en die veiligheid van die medisyne in.”

Baie geleenthede vir die beoefening en navorsing van farmakologie in Suid-Afrika word beskikbaar gestel soos die apteker se verantwoordelikheid as 'n versorger aanhou groei en ontwikkel.

“Ons moet ten volle gebruik maak van die huidige na- vorsingstegnieke om seker te maak dat ons die prestasie van aptekers effektiewelik kan evalueer, “ sê Lubbe. “Dit moet gedoen word op ekonomiese, menslike en kliniese vlakke.

Professor Lubbe sluit af deur te sê dat “die resultaat die sistematiese ontwikkeling en verbetering van die praktisering van farmaseutiese sorg sal wees. Ons beroep speel 'n leierskapsrol, en ons aanvaar die uitdagings wat voorlê. “

Die Kwantumfisika van fragmente

Die kwantumfisika van fragmente van poësie

Wat het die manuskripte van 'n Ierse digter te doen met die studie van letterkunde in Potchefstroom? En wat het die digkuns te doen met golfdeeltjie-fisika? Volgens professor Nicholas Meihuizen in sy Intreerede, gelewer op 5 September 2012 – nogal baie.

Die kern van professor Meihuizen se lesing, getiteld “The Quantum Poetics of Yeatsian manuscripts”, is te vinde in die onlangs verkrygte Cornell Edition van die manuskripmateriaal van die Ierse digter, William Butler Yeats. Die Cornell-manuskripte, wat tans versamel word in die kampus se Ferdinand Postma-biblioteek, voorsien die wetenskaplike van die oorspronklike brondokumente van die bestudeerde werk.

Volgens Meihuizen is daar 'n neiging onder hedendaagse literêre kritici om die outeurs se werke te ontbeklemtoon en die profiel van die menings van literêre kritici te verhoog.

“Die kritikus se insette word beskou as ewe belangrik as die oorspronklike outeur s'n,” verduidelik hy. “Die probleem daarmee is dat die outeur se intensie nie meer belangrik is nie. Dit mag dalk 'n oordrywing wees, maar die implikasie is daar.”

As voorbeeld verwys Meihuizen na die bekende Amerikaanse kritikus Helen Vendler se vertolking van

Yeats se Sailing to Byzantium.

Vendler baseer haar vertolking van die gedig op die feit dat Yeats elke strofe met 'n Romeinse syfer begin. Sodoende maak sy aanspraak op 'n unieke interpretasie van die gedig gebaseer op die verskillende stasies of lokaliteite geïmpliseer deur elke syfer, maar wat andersins nie eksplisiet teenwoordig is nie.

Hierdie stasies het volgens haar verskillende faktore wat in spanning met mekaar verkeer. Die een wat hemelwaarts wys, word byvoorbeeld ondergrawe deur die een wat aarde toe wys. Sy laat in effek die Romeinse syfers ‘praat’, terwyl Yeats stilbly, en ken so betekenis toe aan belangrike gedeeltes in die gedig, betekenis wat grootliks te make het met Freud, seks, en Hellenistiese versus Hebreeuse waardes. Op hierdie manier vervang sy die gedig se klem op estetiese transformasie deur dramatiese psigodrama. Dit is in 'n sekere sin interessant, maar wyk af van wat die meeste kritici as die digter se intensie beskou.

Die Cornell-reeks maak dit vir ons moontlik om te kyk na die vroegste konsepte met hul aanvangsidees, Yeats se latere konsepte waar die gedig begin vorm aanneem, en sy finale konsepte voor publikasie, waar die gedig amper volledig ontwikkel is.

“En sien ons enige Romeinse syfers?” vra hy. “Nee. Hulle verskyn vir die eerste keer in die proewe van sy skaars bundel “October Blast”, gepubliseer in 'n beperkte



Prof Nicholas Meihuizen

oplaag deur die digter se suster se handpers, Cuala Press.”

Dit beteken dat die syfers geen rol gespeel het in Yeats se opvatting van die gedig nie, terwyl die veronderstelde drama soos “waargeneem” deur Vendler die botoon sou moes voer in sy gedagtes. Dit is eers ingevoeg nadat die gedig al gefinaliseer was. Meihuizen wys daarop dat die syfers verwyder is in die laaste gepubliseerde weer- gawe van die gedig voor Yeats se dood, in sy selfgeredigeerde “Oxford Book of Twentieth Century Verse”.

“My gekibbel lyk dalk soos haarklowery,” gee hy toe, “maar dit het tog betekenis as voorbeeld van die vryheid wat kritici, selfs invloedryke, gevestigde kritici met goeie reputasies, hulself kan veroorloof met kunswerke as die outeur nie meer leef nie.”

Professor Meihuizen wonder ook of hierdie tipe wetenskapsbeoefening net vir outeurs van die verlede beskore was. Wat is die ‘oorspronklike weergawe’ nou eintlik in ’n tyd waar skrywers se konsepte met die druk van ’n ‘delete’-knoppie aan die vergetelheid prysgegee word?

Meihuizen is ook gefassineer deur dekonstruksie en die fragmentariese in poësie.

Hy verduidelik: “Sommige reëls in Shelley se gepubliseerde gedigte bevat byvoorbeeld gapings, ’n aandui- ding van werk wat nog in proses was, werk waarheen hy nog sou terugkeer as dit nie was vir sy

ontydig dood nie. Byvoorbeeld, die Dantean terza rima ‘Triumph of Life’ eindig in die middel van die dialoog, met die pregnante uitroep: ‘Then, what is life? I cried’. Die afwesigheid van afsluiting, met sy suggestie van die onbeantwoorbare is baie betekenisvol”.

Wat het dit als te doen met kwantumfisika? Die kwantum, die kleinste hoeveelheid van ’n fisiese hoeveelheid wat onafhanklik kan bestaan, word as metafoor gebruik, en dit bied ’n manier om ’n outeur se intensies te ondersoek wanneer dit kom by manuskriptontleding. Manuskriptmateriaal is, in ’n sekere sin, deeltjies, wat op hul eie unieke manier ’n bydrae lewer tot ons verstaan van die volledige teks.

“Wanneer hierdie poësie-eenhede in oënskou geneem word, bepeins ’n mens die aard van kreatiwiteit met die bestaande materiaal sonder om die invloed van eksterne en ongemotiveerde menings toe te laat,” verduidelik hy.

Ons sal nooit die verborge prosesse van die verbeelding verstaan nie, maar deur middel van manuskripte kan ons insig verwerf in hierdie prosesse. Indien die sleutelemente in hierdie prosesse die onmeetbare of

ontasbare dinge is wat saamkom in die gedagte van die digter, ontbloot die manuskripte weliswaar meer van ‘the rich, dark nothing’ as die wesens wat daaruit opgegrawe (‘disinterred’) word, om aan te haal uit Yeats se gedig

‘The Gyres’.

Pas aan en stel tevrede, of gaan onder:

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waarom volgehoue kliëntetevredenheid die sleutel is tot winsgewendheid

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Hoe bly 'n maatskappy in bedryf as sy kliënte 'n bykans onbeperkte aantal verskaffers het om van te kies? Wat maak dat 'n kliënt terugkeer, en hoe kan enige spesifieke besigheid werklik in al hul behoeftes voldoen?

Dit is enkele van die vrae wat beantwoord word deur die navorsing van professor Pierre Mostert, direkteur van die Skool vir Besigheidsbestuur aan die NWU.

Ons leef in 'n era wat gedefinieer word deur sowel die belangrikheid van verhoudinge as 'n groot verskeidenheid. Die nodigheid om kliënte voortdurend tevrede te stel deur aan hulle behoeftes te voldoen, plaas geweldige groot druk op maatskappye en organisasies. Professor Mostert verduidelik dat die huidige bemarkingsera, die verhouding-era, in die laat 1990's 'n aanvang geneem het toe bemarkers besef het dat organisasies langtermynverhoudings met hul kliënte moet opbou en handhaaf om beter aan kliënte se behoeftes te voldoen en kliënte te behou te midde van 'n omgewing wat die hele tyd meer en meer mededingend raak. Die verwagting is dat dit kliëntlojaliteit kweek, wat weer lei tot verwysings, beter verkope en meer wins.

Professor Mostert erken dat dit 'n moeilik bereikbare ideaal is. "Verbruikers het heelwat meer inligting tot hul beskikking om meer ingeligte koopbesluite te neem. Dit

het tot gevolg dat kliënte se verwagtinge hoër raak en meer waarde vir hul geld begin eis. Dit raak ook al hoe moeiliker om nuwe kliënte te lok."

Hoekom is dit so belangrik om kliënte te behou? Dit kan ses tot sewe keer meer kos om nuwe kliënte te vind as om bestaande kliënte te behou. Elke kliënt wat behou word, word weerspieël in die netto wins in terme van verminderde bedryfs- en bemarkingskoste.

"Organisasies moet poog om kliënte te behou deur eerstens aan hul behoeftes te voldoen en tweedens verhoudinge met hulle te bou om lojaliteit te kweek. Natuurlik is dit so dat nie alle kliënte belangstel in 'n langtermynverhouding met organisasies nie. Die kuns is dus om kliënte te identifiseer en te teiken wat wél daarin belangstel," sê Mostert.

Kliënte koop produkte en dienste gebaseer op hul persepsie van wat die meeste voordele en waarde aan hulle bied. Hierdie persepsie is uiteraard subjektief en moeilik meetbaar. Verbruikers se gedrag is ook nie eenvormig nie: Verbruikers met beperkte finansiële hulpbronne kan byvoorbeeld die duurste skeermes en skeermeslemmetjies koop weens die gehalte wat die produk bied. Dieselfde verbruiker kan egter die goedkoopste tee koop omdat hy/sy glo dat alle soorte tee eintlik basies dieselfde is – die goedkoopste handelsmerk bied dus die beste waarde.



Prof Pierre Mostert

Verbruikersgedrag verwys ook nie noodwendig na 'n spesifieke oomblik wanneer geld in ruil aangebied word vir produkte of dienste nie. Dit moet eerder gesien word as 'n deurlopende proses wat baie besluite op 'n klomp verskillende vlakke behels.

“Begrip van die verbruikersbesluitnemingsproses help bemerkers om meer gefokus te werk te gaan. Dit bied waardevolle insigte in die denke van die verbruiker wanneer koopbesluite geneem word, deur spesifieke evaluering van die interne en eksterne faktore wat die proses beïnvloed,” sê Mostert.

Die interne faktore wat verbruikersgedrag en besluite beïnvloed, sluit in motivering, persepsie, leer, persoonlikheid, houding, betrokkenheid, kennis, waardes, leefstyl, emosies en hulpbronne. Eksterne faktore sluit in kultuur, subkultuur, sosiale stand, familie, en die organisasie se bemarkingspogings.

“Dit is ook belangrik om te weet dat kliënte soms ná 'n aankoop angstigheid of vrees ervaar, ook bekend as kognitiewe dissonansie” verduidelik hy. Hierdie vrees is vir die maak van verkeerde keuses, veral na 'n duur aankoop. Kliënte wat kognitiewe dissonansie ervaar, sal probeer om hulself gerus te stel dat hulle die regte besluit geneem het deur addisionele bewyse te soek wat hul keuse ondersteun, deur op te let na die gekose produk se advertensies maar mededingende handelsmerkte se advertensies te vermy, of deur ander mense te probeer oortuig om dieselfde produk te koop.

“Dit is as al hierdie pogings misluk dat verbruikers die produk teruggee of nie weer van die diens gebruik maak nie,” sê hy. “En dit is iets wat 'n bemarker ten alle koste wil voorkom.”

Wat is dus die oplossing? Besighede moet begrip vir verbruikers en hul koopgedrag ontwikkel en 'n manier vind om aan kliënte se behoeftes te voldoen of dit te oortref.

Verhoudingsbemarking bied 'n vars filosofie van besigheid doen deur die ontwikkeling, opbou en handhawing van kostedoeltreffende, wedersyds voordelige, langter- mynverhoudings met individuele kliënte.

In 'n wêreld waar tegnologie dit makliker maak vir mense om hul afstand te hou, voed verhoudingsbemarking die basiese menslike behoefte aan erkenning. 'n Handelsmerk kan die volgende aan 'n kliënt bied: erkenning (waardering wanneer erken word en op die naam aangespreek word), verpersoonliking van mag (deur byvoorbeeld persoonlike verhoudinge met werknemers te hê), vermindering van risiko (insluitende prestasie, fisiese, sosiale en sielkundige risiko) en status deur assosiasie met 'n organisasie (wat as vooraanstaande beskou word).

Interessant genoeg maak 'n sterk verhouding kliënte met hoër verwagtinge meer gewillig om organisasies oor te sien indien daar nie aan hul verwagtinge voldoen word nie, aangesien hulle meer begaan is oor hul verhouding met die organisasie as oor die tydelike misstap. Die voorbehoud is egter te vinde in die woord “tydelike”. Aanhangers kan baie vinnig in vyande ontaard as daar vir 'n tweede keer nie aan hul verwagtinge voldoen word nie, en negatiewe mondelinge kommunikasie versprei, oorloop na die kompetisie toe of vertroue verloor in die organisasie.

“Die belangrikheid daarvan om kliënte deurlopend tevrede te hou, kan nie oorbeklemtoon word nie. Tevredeheid met produkte of dienste sal na alle waarskynlikheid lei tot herhaalde aankope, want tevredeheid met 'n aankoop is waarna elke verbruiker streef. Die sleutel is konsekwentheid met die lewering van bevredigende resultate aan verbruikers. Dit is die enigste manier waarop handelsmerklojaliteit gevestig en gehandhaaf kan word.”

Nuwe vergesigte in poësie en sang

Nuwe vergesigte in poësie en sang

Wat is poësie en wat is sang? Skryf gewilde liedjieskrywers lirieke, of toonset hulle poësie?

Dit is vrae waarop professor Bernard Odendaal gefokus het in sy intreedende as professor in skryfkuns aan die Noordwes-Universiteit se Potchefstroomkampus.

Professor Odendaal bestudeer die onderskeid wat gemaak word tussen lirieke en poësie sedert hy in 2005 betrokke geraak het by 'n skryfkuns- en liriekvertaalprojek.

Die gewilde liedjieskrywer David Kramer gee uiting aan baie mense se mening as hy sê “'n Liriek is nie 'n gedig nie en moet aanpas by 'n struktuur en 'n spesifieke vorm. 'n Gedig moet dikwels oor en oor gelees word om die bedoeling daaragter te verstaan, maar 'n liriek moet gesing word en verstaan word as dit die eerste keer gehoor word.”

Hennie Aucamp, die toonaangewende liriekskrywer en denker oor randkultuur gebruik 'n term wat professor Odendaal verkies wanneer hy na lirieke verwys as ‘liedjietekste’.

Die verskille tussen poësie en sang was nog nooit baie duidelik nie. Die vroegste gedigte in tale regoor die wêreld was bedoel om gesing of voorgedra te word, en tot vandag toe nog word baie gedigte getoonset.



Die Afrikaanse bloemlesing, Groot Verseboek, bevat heelwat liedjietekste in sy latere uitgawes.

“Baie Afrikaanse liedjieteksskrywers het die afgelope paar jaar in liedjieboeke gepubliseer,” verduidelik professor Odendaal. “Met ander woorde soos poësie. Ek dink hier byvoorbeeld aan die boeke wat gepubliseer is deur Koos Kombuis, Hennie Aucamp, Gert Vlok Nel, Valiant Swart, Johannes Kerckorrel, Stef Bos, Amanda Strydom, om maar net enkele te noem.”

Die feit dat die lirieke deur gewilde Engelse liedjieskrywers soos Bob Dylan en Leonard Cohen, en in die Franssprekende wêreld iemand soos Jacques Brel, as gedigte gepubliseer word, of dat gesogte literêre pryse al aan hulle toegeken is, of dat hulle benoem word vir hierdie pryse, is internasionaal aanduidings dat die grense tussen poësie en liedjietekskuns nie meer so duidelik afgebaken is as wat vir die grootste gedeelte van die 20ste eeu die geval was nie.

Professor Odendaal het 15 jaar gelede by 'n ekstrakurrikulêre poësiowerkswinkel begin om sy studente aan te moedig om liedjietekste te skryf.

“Hulle moes eksperimenteel ervaar hoe moeilik dit is om vormstruktuur, natuurlike gesproke taal en funksionaliteit met betrekking tot woord- en klankplasing met mekaar te versoen,” verduidelik hy. “Ek het altyd gedink dat die skryf van 'n liedjieteks 'n natuurlike oefening en 'n minder veeleisende taak is as die skryf van byvoorbeeld 'n sonnet, aangesien gesproke taal en die vermyding

Prof. Bernard Odendaal

van dubbelsinnighede belangrike komponente van die toeganklikheid is wat met lirieke geassosieer word. So het ek gedink... totdat ek dit self probeer het!”

Die resultaat van die eksperiment was professor Odendaal se liedjieteks “My oom wat jare woon in Bloemfontein”. Nadat hy in 2005 vir Herman van den Berg by ’n Jacques Brel-vertaalprojek ontmoet het waar albei betrokke was, het hy hom gevra om die teks te toonset. Die resultaat was interessant.

“Herman het verduidelik dat hy klein wysigings aan die teks aangebring het aangesien hy gevoel het dat die streng jambiese metrum tot onnatuurlike taalgebruik gelei het,” verduidelik professor Odendaal. “Natuurlike spraak is belangriker as presisie of vorm wanneer dit kom by liedjies!

“Die verhouding tussen liedjieteks en komposisie is selfs meer kompleks as jy in gedagte hou dat hele nuwe stelle visuele kodes, bv. dié wat oorgeneem word uit dans, film en selfs die visuele kunste, ook betrokke is wanneer dit by musiekvideo’s of skouspelagtige konserte kom. Ons het gevorder vanaf die gespesialiseerde en selektiewe interpretasieprosesse wanneer ons gedrukte liedjietekste lees tot ’n multisensoriese kommunikasiemodus,” sê professor Odendaal.

Navorsing het getoon dat baie mense erken dat, wanneer hulle konserte bywoon, die woorde van die liedjies maar net één bron is waaruit hulle genot put. Baie

mense luister om die waarheid te sê glad nie eers na die lirieke nie.

Liedjietekste en gedigte het wesenlik heelwat in gemeen. Die verskille tussen hulle is gewoonlik te vinde in vorm en styl: liedjietekste moet groter strukturele reëlmatigheid toon (met betrekking tot ritme en konstruksie van versreëls) en het groter toeganklikheid (stilistiese eenvoud, semantiese ondubbelsinnigheid). Só werk dit in elk geval in teorie. In werklikheid het baie gedigte net

so ’n vaste vorm as die meeste liedjietekste. Gedigte kondig dikwels hul verhouding formeel aan met liedjie- en resitasiekunsvorme soos ballades, villanelles, sonnette en volkskwatryne. En baie vryevers-gedigte het ’n kenmerkend musikale samestelling, so die vaste vorm is ’n problematiese onderskeidende kriterium.

Toeganklikheid kan ook nie ’n kriterium wees nie. Baie gedigte is baie eenvoudig en roerend juis weens hulle emosionele ‘understatement’. En daar is liedjies wat as literatuur wil funksioneer, soos die chanson wat so gewild is in die Franssprekende wêreld.

“Jacques Brel, die Franssprekende Belg wie se 40 chansons ek in Afrikaans in verwerk het in samewerking met prof Naomi Morgan van die Departement Frans aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat, is ’n meer onlangse skep- per van sulke chansons poëtique.”

Sedert die 17de eeu is dit in Frankryk beklemtoon dat suiwer poësie op sy eie voete kan staan en nie musiek nodig het nie.

Professor Odendaal stem saam. “In die eerste plek word liedjietekste geskryf om gesing of uitgevoer te word. In daardie omgewing is musiekkodes gewoonlik van sleutelbelang. Wat poëtiese kodes betref, kan mens aanneem dat slegs die hoorbare aspekte werklik van belang is: die ritme, die klank van die woorde en sinne, hul intonasie, en die semantiese aspekte wat afgelei kan word.”

“As gedigte getoonset word, bly die manier waarop die gedig op papier vertoon in die slag (tensy die luisteraar die teks voor hom het). Aan die ander kant beteken die musiekkodes baie. Laasgenoemde behels interpreteerbare aspekte soos musiekstyle, sleutels, die gebruik van instrumente, ens. – dinge waaroor ek nie met gesag kan praat nie aangesien ek ongelukkig geen musiekopleiding het nie.”

Professor Odendaal is ook gefassineer deur die nuwe

rigtings wat poësie inslaan. Hy verwys na die groeiende invloed van ‘performance poetry’ en “die beskikbaarheid van allerhande soorte nuwe media en tegnologie wat in baie gevalle gekombineer kan word om ’n wêreldwye herontwaking van optrede en sang en van die visuele manipulasie van poësietekste tot stand te bring”.

Nog ’n nuwe rigting is die kunstefees, waar digters en kunstenaars saamwerk om gekombineerde kunswerke op te lewer. Odendaal se ervarings in hierdie verband was interessant. Hy vertel hoe hy uitgedaag is om ’n gedig te skryf wat geïntegreer kon word in die werk van die installasiekunstenaar Stephan Erasmus.

“Nadat ek hom gekontak het, het ons besluit dat ek ’n teks moes skep wat hy sou kon vermenigvuldig, opsny en opknip in nuwe patrone, soos wat hy gedoen het met vorige kunstenaars se boeke.

Ek wou ’n gedig skep wat uit verskillende dele bestaan wat ’n min of meer kumulatiewe beeld sou skep van Afrikaans en die mense wat die taal praat. Ek het gereken die verskillende dele kon die materiaal wees waaruit Erasmus die verskillende blaaie van sy kunstenaars- boek kon saamstel. Die vorm van die gedig is dus eerste geskep: Ek het ’n tabel met ’n aantal selle op die rekenaarmonitor geskep en besluit hoe om hierdie selle te vul. Toe ek hierdie stapel tabelselle sien, het die titel van die gedig by my opgekom: Onse in my pond – die selle synde die klein ons-gewiggies wat op ’n skaal gepak word.”

Deur die roetes van verskillende mediums is professor Odendaal teruggebring na ’n unieke, onvertaalbare Afrikaanse uitdrukking waarvan die oorsprong teruggevoer kan word na die taalsituasie in die Kaapkolonie in die agtiende eeu. En dit op sigself is suiwer poësie!

Verkenning van bestuur in die **Verkenning van bestuur in die ontwikkelende staat** *ontwikkelende staat*

Daar is 'n wêreldwye verskuiwing in die manier waarop ons dink oor regeerkunde, en die manier waarop ons regeer word. Die waardes wat tradisioneel gekoppel word aan regerings word uitgedaag omdat ontevredenheid en ontnugtering oor die gebrek aan politieke oplossings, die orde van die dag geword het.

Hierdie verskuiwing het vir Professor Gerrit van der Walt 'n vrugbare veld voorsien vir sy lewenslange studie in regeerkunde, veral met verwysing na regeerkunde in die ontwikkelende staat.

Die eerste stap in enige bespreking van regeerkunde is om regeerkunde te omskryf.

“In hierdie studieveld, is dit problematies,” sê Professor van der Walt. “As gevolg van die onlangse evolusionêre aard van die internasionale verskynsel van regeerkunde, bestaan daar tans nie 'n erkende korpus van kennis nie, en word dit gekenmerk deur 'n amorge samestelling van teorieë, modelle en paradigmas van verwante dissiplines soos openbare administrasie en politieke wetenskap.”

Professor van der Walt het in sy intreerede, sy aandag gevestig op die doel vir sy studie; die ‘kennis vir wat’ vraag, vanuit 'n regeerkunde oogpunt, en ook wat hierdie kennis beteken in die konteks van die ontwikkelende staat in Suid-Afrika.

“Hedendaagse denke bou voort op die klassieke

politiese denke, wat 2363 jare teruggevoer kan word na Plato en Aristoteles,” sê hy. “Die konsep van ‘regering’ is afgelei van 'n Griekse woord wat beteken ‘om te stuur’. In sy eenvoudigste vorm, verwys regering na besluitnemingsprosesse sowel as die prosesse waardeur besluite geïmplementeer word.”

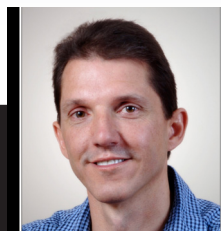
Daar is 'n duidelike onderskeid tussen regering en regeerkunde. Die eerste verwys na die instellings, terwyl die tweede 'n baie breër konsepsies, wat die komplekse interaksie tussen stelsels, beleid, vennootskappe en mense insluit.

Die verskuiwing in die manier waarop ons dink oor regeerkunde, word weerspieël in 'n groter vernuwing in dienslewering en 'n ondernemende, entrepreneuriese ingesteldheid.

“Ons het gesien hoe die fokus verskuif na die gehalte en prestasie van regering, en klem word geplaas op die uitkomst eerder as die insette. Dit gee aanleiding tot die stigting van die sogenaamde ‘oudit-samelewing’, waar burgers die regering verantwoordelik hou vir hul optrede – of gebrek daaraan,” verduidelik Professor Van der Walt.

“Ons let op dat daar 'n groter aanvraag is vir die toepassing van universele beginsels van goeie regeering. Projekte soos die Wêreldbank se Goeie Regering

Prof Gerrit van der Walt



programme, en op die Afrika-kontinent projekte soos die Afrobarometer, die Mo Ibrahim-stigting vir goeie bestuur, die NEPAD subprogram vir Goeie Regering, en Portuur-beoordelingsmeganismes is deel daarvan.”

Hoewel daar geen universele formules vir die meet van goeie regering is nie, is daar ’n beduidende konsensus dat goeie regering veral moet voldoen aan die volgende kriteria, nl.:

- Openbare deelname in besluitneming oor beleid, as die oorsprong van ’n gesonde demokrasie;
- Die oppergesag van die reg en onpartydige toepassing daarvan deur die regbank en die polisie, om menseregte te beskerm;
- Deursigtigheid in terme van besluitneming, en die beskikbaarheid van inligting;
- Tydige reaksie van staatsinstellings om aan burgers se behoeftes te voldoen;
- Eenstemmige oriëntasie om belanghebbendes se botsende behoeftes te versoen;
- Gelykheid en inklusiwiteit;
- Effektiwiteit en doeltreffendheid in die gebruik van ongewone hulpbronne; en
- Aanspreeklikheid vir dienslewering.

Suid-Afrika is tans vyfde op die Ibrahim-indeks in Afrika so ver dit goeie regering betref.

Dus, waar pas die ontwikkelende staat in? Belangstelling in die konsep het posgevat ná die ekonomiese op- bloei in Hong Kong, Singapoer, Suid-Korea en Taiwan, wat opgevolg is deur Indonesië, Maleisië, die Filippyne en Thailand. In ’n ontwikkelende land gaan maatskaplike ontwikkeling hand aan hand met ekonomiese ontwikkeling, en lei dit tot die

formulering van sosio-ekonomiese beleid.

“As ontwikkelende ekonomieë, het die ‘BRICS-lande begin om ’n toenemend belangrike rol te speel in die globale ekonomie. Suid-Afrika en lande soos Chili, Mauritius en Botswana, is deel van die sogenaamde ‘derde golf ontwikkelings-state’, wat toenemend hul merk maak,” sê hy.

Die presiese hoek en omvang van die ontwikkelende staat in Suid-Afrika is tans onderhewig aan intense debat, en word gekenmerk deur ’n sterk ideologiese heterogeniteit. Die politieke dinamika is ’n belangrike raamwerk vir die voortdurende gesprek oor regering in Suid-Afrika.

Professor van der Walt is passievol oor die noodsaaklikheid vir regering om erken te word as ’n studieveld binne die konteks van die ontwikkelende staat in Suid-Afrika.

“Die kennisgebied van openbare administrasie is natuurlik geskik vir die studieveld,” verduidelik hy, “veral met huidige fokus in die dissipline op wat bekend staan as nuwe openbare regering.”

Nuwe Openbare Bestuur word verwys na as ‘ ’n geïntegreerde wetenskap’ wat benaderings, teorieë en modelle van ander dissiplines kombineer.

“Wat duidelik is, is dat die studie van Regering tans internasionaal in sy kinderskoene is. Die studie van netwerkregeringsdinamika, in al sy teoretiese, organisatoriese/strukturele, politieke en regeringsdimensies, is meer omvangryk as die bestaande dissipline, en dit het tans nie ’n duidelike kenniskonstruksie om dit af te baken nie. ’n Baie meer omvattende en geïntegreerde benadering moet gevolg word ten einde die kenniskonstruksie van Regering te bou.”

Samewerking om risiko te

Samewerking om risiko te minimaliseer

minimaliseer

Persoonlike veiligheid is 'n diep gesetelde menslike behoefte. Menslike samelewings het met verloop van tyd ontwikkel, en so ook ons reaksies op die gebeure wat ons lewens en lewensbestaan bedreig.

Vir die Noordwes-Universiteit se professor Dewald van Niekerk het die bestuur en vermindering van risiko 'n lewenstaak geword.

“Die ontwikkeling en progressie in die mensdom se verstaan van die wêreld en die lewe het 'n progressiewe en voortdurende evolusie verseker in reaksie op die gebeure wat ons lewensbestaan bedreig,” verduidelik hy. “En deel daarvan is om te begryp dat ons tot ons eie ondergang bydra deur ons onvolhoubare praktyke.”

Professor van Niekerk glo dat 'n begrip vir die prosesse van risiko ook 'n dieper begrip vereis vir die velerlei faktore wat daardie risiko beïnvloed. Hy het 'n baie breë visie en beroep hom op die kundigheid van verskeie dissiplines wanneer hy gebeure wat as rampe beskryf is in oënskyn neem.

Teen die einde van die twintigste eeu het die media-beelde van natuurrampe die menslike konsekwensies en maatskaplike dimensies van hierdie gebeure onderstreep.

“Ons het wegbeweeg van die studie van natuurgevare en hul effekte. Die fokus het verskuif na 'n meer ontasbare en minder verstaanbare verskynsel wat ons deesdae ramprisiko noem,” sê hy.

Ramprisiko is al sedert die 1920's die onderwerp van wetenskaplike referate, en tot en met die laat sewentigerjare het teoretici die konsep van “ramp” vanuit 'n sosiaal-wetenskaplike sowel as 'n natuurwetenskaplike perspektief benader.

Vanuit 'n sosiaal-wetenskaplike oogpunt is rampe altyd as 'n eksterne agent beskou wat gemeenskappe noodsaak om saam te staan teen die ‘aggressie’ van die gebeurtenis; as uitdrukking van maatskaplike kwesbaarheid; en as 'n oorgang na 'n staat van onsekerheid.

Vanuit die perspektief van die natuur- of fisiese wetenskappe het die agent van die ramp in die kollig gekom soos wat die dinamika van die gevare gesimuleer is in 'n poging om dit te verstaan.

In die 1980s het 'n wêreldwye besef posgevat dat rampe nie soseer gaan oor die grootte van die fisiese gebeurtenis nie, maar oor die onvermoë van die getroffe gemeenskap om die impak te absorbeer binne sy eiesoortige beperkings en vermoëns. Hierdie besef het die behoefte benadruk vir 'n fokus op risiko eerder as op die ramp self in rampstudies en -navorsing.

Professor van Niekerk waarsku daarteen om toe te laat dat die pendulum té ver in die teenoorgestelde rigting swaai. 'n Té sterk fokus op die maatskaplike konstruk van ramp/risiko ignoreer egter die gevaar- of “agentspesifieke” benadering.



Prof Dewald van Niekerk

Alhoewel hierdie benadering die mees algemene visie op rampe gebly het, selfs in die werk van sosiaal-wetenskaplikes in die 1980's, het daar intussen 'n paradigmaskuif plaasgevind vanaf 'n suiwer rampgeoriënteerde fokus na 'n fokus op ramprisiko. Die hedendaagse verstaan van risiko het 'n groot invloed gehad op die mate waarin verskeie wetenskaplikes van 'n verskeidenheid verskillende dissiplines (bv. sosiologie, antropologie, geografie, argitektuur, landbou, meteorologie, ingenieurswese, regte, publieke administrasie en ontwikkelingstudies) gesamentlike navorsing doen oor kwessies m.b.t. ramprisiko.

Professor van Niekerk voel sterk daaroor dat hierdie transdissiplinêre benadering aangemoedig behoort te word. Hy spreek hom uit teen die oproepe om 'n enkele akademiese dissipline tot stand te bring vir ramprisikostudies.

“Dit is slegs deur 'n transdissiplinêre paradigma dat mens 'n betekenisvolle bydrae kan lewer tot die verstaan van en vermindering van die verskynsel bekend as ramprisiko,” sê hy.

Wat presies is ramprisiko? Professor Van Niekerk verkies die 2009 UNISDR-definisie van risiko as “die kombinasie van waarskynlikheid van 'n gebeurtenis en sy negatiewe gevolge”. Die definisie word verder uitgebrei: Die term ramprisiko verwys dus na die potensiële (nie werklike en gerealiseerde) rampverliese, in lewens, gesondheidstatus, lewensbestaan, bates en dienste, wat 'n bepaalde gemeenskap of samelewing oor verloop van 'n gespesifiseerde tydsverloop kan oorkom.

“Ramprisiko is die produk van die moontlike skade veroorsaak deur 'n gevaar weens die kwesbaarheid binne 'n gemeenskap. Dit moet in ag geneem word dat die effek van 'n gevaar (van 'n bepaalde omvang) gemeenskappe verskillend sal affekteer. Dit is waar weens die verskillende “coping”-meganismes binne gemeenskappe. Armer gemeenskappe loop dus 'n groter risiko as gemeenskappe wat oor die nodige kapasiteit, toegang

tot hulpbronne en bates beskik” verduidelik hy.

Professor van Niekerk glo dat die “pynlike spesialisering” van akademiese dissiplines in kleiner en kleiner wordende substelle direk indruis teen die oproep van universiteitsadministrateurs om 'n meer entrepreneuriese gees te vestig.

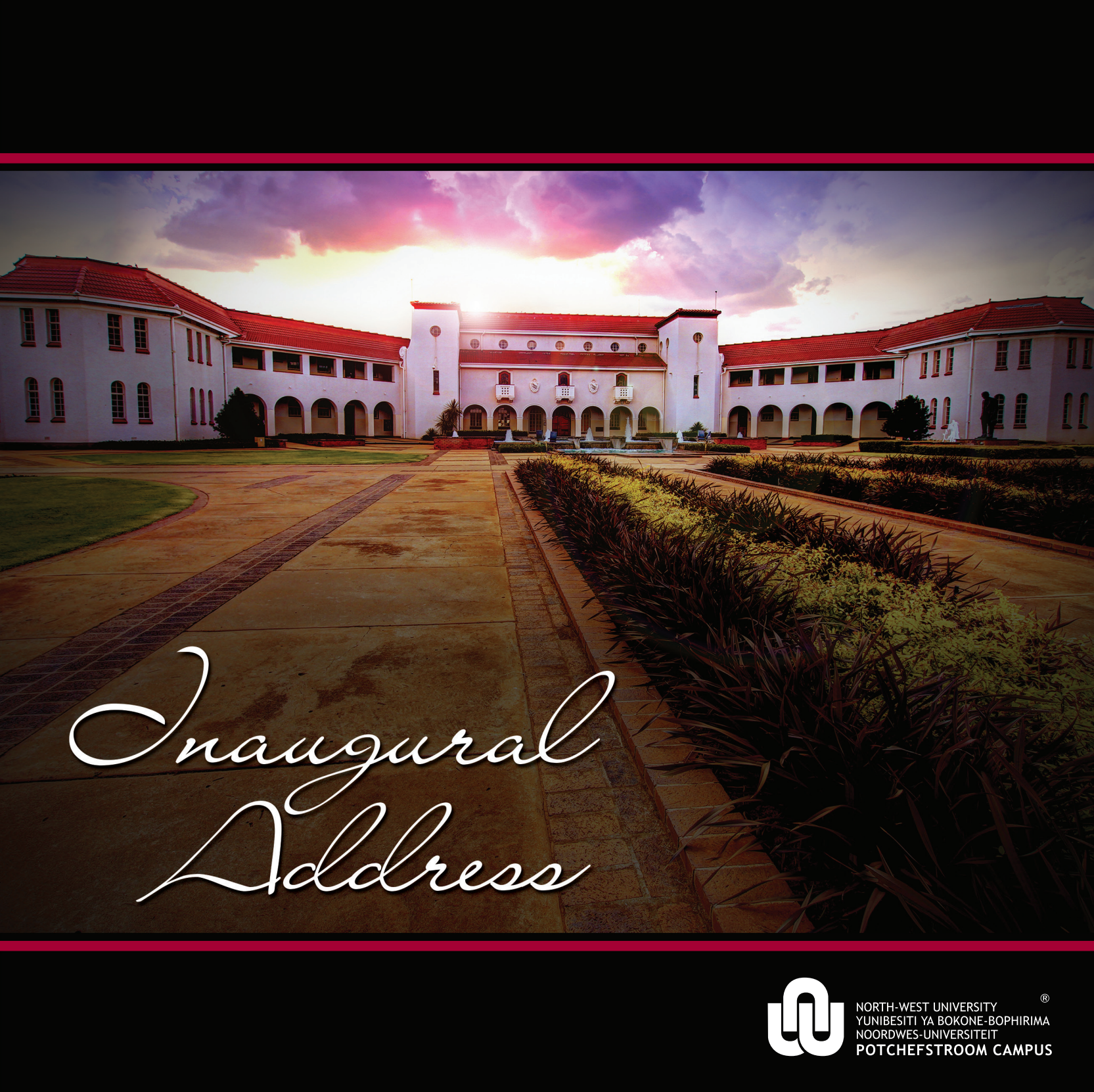
Hy glo die behoefte om innoverende oplossings te vind vir die probleme waarvoor ons te staan kom, beteken dat die onderskeie dissiplines moet saamwerk. In terme van ramprisiko-vermindering is klimaatsverandering byvoorbeeld 'n multisektor- en multidissiplinêre verskynsel.

Transdissiplinariteit is al beskryf as “'n onvoltooide wetenskaplike program” maar dit is juis hierdie oopheid wat dit so kragtig maak.

Hy haal aan uit 'n 2008-referaat deur Christian Pohl en Gertrude Hirsch Hadorn wat die stelling maak dat transdissiplinariteit nodig is “wanneer kennis oor 'n gemeenskapsrelevante probleemarea onseker is, wanneer die konkrete aard van probleme betwis word, en wanneer heelwat op die spel is vir diegene wat geraak word deur probleme en wat betrokke is by die hantering daarvan. Transdissiplinêre navorsing handel oor probleem-

areas op só 'n wyse dat dit: a) die kompleksiteit van probleme kan begryp, b) die diversiteit van lewenswêreld en wetenskaplike persepsies van probleme in ag kan neem, c) abstrakte en gevalspesifieke kennis aan mekaar kan koppel, en d) kennis en praktyke kan ontwikkel wat bevorderlik is vir dit wat as die algemene belang beskou word”.

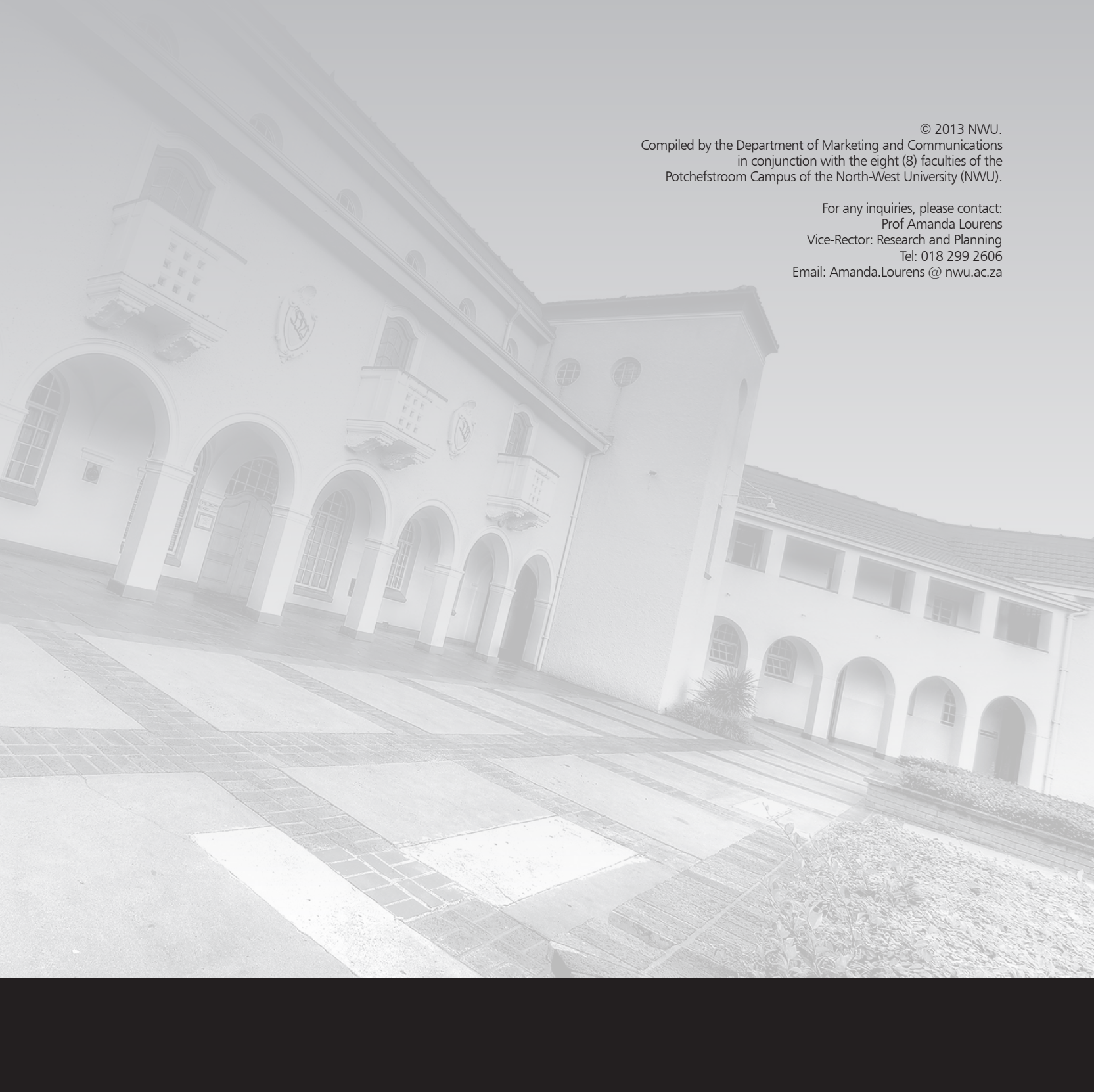
“Ons moet meer holisties na die wêreld kyk.” Hy verduidelik: “Vir ramprisiko-vermindering om enige effek te hê, moet ons die insig van 'n groot aantal dissiplines kombineer. Dit is die enigste manier om oplossings te vind vir ons werklike wêreldprobleme.”



Inaugural Address



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS



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Dear reader,

We are very excited to introduce this first publication to you whereby the Potchefstroom Campus is giving recognition to all our professors who delivered an Inaugural Address during 2012. We also try, by means of this publication, to further market our research expertise.

An Inaugural Address is a central part of any university's academic activities and also a celebration of an important milestone in an academic career. The Address provides a platform to share the professor's work with the broader community and to demonstrate the advantages that research has for the community.

Professors provide intellectual leadership to the University and are therefore of cardinal importance to our research effort and specifically with regard to being a research-orientated campus. The success factor for any university that strives to be research oriented is the ability to retain, recruit and support top professors. In this regard we are very successful.

We congratulate our professors on their exceptional academic achievements and leadership and passion that they show and promote in their particular disciplines.

We would like to make this publication available to our community on an annual basis as we believe it leaves the reader with a positive impression regarding the research expertise of the Potchefstroom Campus.

Prof Amanda Lourens



One language is not enough

One language is not enough

South African teachers should be using more than one language in their classrooms, and those who are not able to do so, should be provided with a teacher assistant specialist in another of South Africa's languages. This controversial suggestion was made by Professor Robert Balfour, Dean of the Faculty of Education, in his Inaugural Lecture at North West University in Potchefstroom.

For Professor Balfour, his inaugural address provided the opportunity to synthesise his thinking and to reflect on the work already completed, as well as the work still to be done. He has a broad vision of his discipline, and draws on the scriptural print seen in many Afrikaans households, where the broad road leads to perdition and the narrow road to salvation.

"For an academic pilgrim, the broad road has more appeal," he explains. "The arduous journey of academic scholarship through ever more narrow paths towards an ever narrowing specialisation leads ultimately to a very small light at the end of an extremely long tunnel."

Professor Balfour maintains that scholars who choose the 'wide road' experience the delights of:

- the gardens of good and evil (the house of speculation, rather than the house of reason);

- the temptations of quick gratification (popular scholarship and public fame);
- the gambling houses (false assumptions and incredulous ideology, rather than careful observation and deductive thinking);
- those nymphs and damsels associated with colourful trends and fashions (remember when Marxism was the rage of the 70s?);
- and finally, those bordellos of disciplines like cultural studies, in which one is attended to by scantily dressed theories like Cosmopolitanism (Appiah 2006) and New Historicism (Brannigan 1998), plurilingualism (Beacco and Bryam 2003) and multilanguaging (Reyes 2001).

It is this broad church that guides Professor Balfour's thinking when it comes to his own interest in bilingualism and multilingualism. He is passionate about the role of bilingualism in South Africa and concerned about its role in formal learning and teaching in South Africa.

For Professor Balfour, the age at which language skills are developed is vital. We know that children are particularly open to absorbing a great variety of observations quickly and that this capacity is accelerated in the early years of childhood and plateaus after puberty.



Prof Robert Balfour

So what does this mean for South Africa? In the bilingual classroom or society, the ideal is to encourage the use of languages while avoiding the subtractive bilingualism which occurs when one language overshadows the other.

“In every South African classroom the teaching methods used to develop language leads, unintentionally, to compound and subtractive bilingualism,” he says. “In the typical middle class multilingual classroom in South Africa children may possess more than two or three languages. However, the teacher uses only one language, typically English or Afrikaans, while the learners interact with each other in one language, and with other children, in English.

Professor Balfour says the methods developed for the teaching of language are out of touch with the actual contexts for teaching languages in a multilingual South Africa. The consequence is that educators do not take advantage of the opportunities for mental development that are available to bilingual children, and thus the asset of bilingualism becomes a loss.

“In a developing context, this must surely be a factor in the continued underperformance of South African children when compared to children in developed countries,” he says.

The education system in South Africa has not been able to offer formal and sustained learning opportunities for the majority of the population in more than one language, despite there being a wealth of languages and literatures available. Research has shown that the optimal age for language learning is between 1-11 years but in South Africa new languages are typically introduced after that period. The result is that few members of the population can express or understand complex meaning in more than one language.

“Learners have either had to make the transition from mother tongue education too early, or had to acquire languages (English and Afrikaans) inadequately as a consequence of insufficiently educated teachers, inadequate resources for language development, and too few opportunities to use the target language,” he explains.

“Language development for higher education has thus been a patchwork characterised by unequal proficiency and inequitable distribution of opportunity. Unequal in this sense: what indigenous languages that were offered to children were offered for only a short period (for example, during the 1980's a child could learn Setswana or Sesotho in primary school, but then switch to all English or all Afrikaans classes after the age of 11).

Children who know more than one language consistently demonstrate a better grasp of grammatical competence, vocabulary acquisition and syntax awareness. Research has also shown that children who are bilingual may be more skilled at making the link between reading and understanding, and may be better at listening and understanding a range of accents and pronunciations, which is also the key to the development of reading skills. Why is this important?

“The research on the advantages of bilingualism from an early age is compelling. For the child who speaks one language, knowing that one language system well, from an early age, helps that child to learn another language with relative ease at a later age. For bilingual children, knowing two languages well from an early age, and using those languages for literacy and numeracy learning develops awareness of languages as systems of thinking, in the same way that numbers are systems of counting, capable of yielding infinite variety and insight,” he says.

The agony and the ecstasy

The agony and the ecstasy

Music may be the food of love, but according to North West University's Professor Karendra Devroop, it can also be the cause of pain.

The audience at a symphonic concert, transported by the romance and beauty of the music, would be hard pressed to imagine that the musicians who are playing for their pleasure may be experiencing pain that is threatening their careers and their livelihoods.

Professor Devroop is passionate about the problems of musicians, and he says that not enough research has been carried out into the medical problems associated with their craft. Without such research, preventative strategies will not be developed and individual musicians will be not be aware of the risks and of treatment options available.

Professor Devroop, who is the Director of the School of Music and Conservatory at the Potchefstroom campus of North West University, is a jazz specialist, and his eclectic music style is reflected in his wide ranging research into the problems experienced by musicians.

"No one would deny the value of sports medicine," he points out. "But the idea of specialist performing arts medicine, or music medicine is less well known. But just like athletes, performing artists have medical problems that are directly related to their professional talents."

Since the late 1980s, researchers have been reporting



high incidences of music-related injuries. The findings are alarming. As many as 76% of professional symphony musicians reported experiencing at least one medical problem severe enough to affect their performance. As many as 87% of college students experience performance related pain, whereas 60% of professional brass musicians report having one or more problems affecting the muscles or bones.

As can be expected, the medical problems are directly related to the instruments that are played. In research carried out by Professor Devroop, headaches were reported by 46% of trumpet and French horn players, while 43% of them experienced blackouts and dizziness, and 41% experienced eye strain. Other research shows 56% of high school students experiencing performance related pain, and 52% of professional female clarinet players reporting severe pain in the right hand.

Loud sounds cause problems for non-classical musicians, with a third experiencing hearing loss. But they are not alone: even for classical musicians, peak sound pressure levels during rehearsals can be as intense as 139db.

The problems are not just physiological. Over 50% of professional musicians admitted to using medications that reduce stress and tension during performances, including the use of illegal drugs. Widespread drug use has also been reported among college musicians.

Even those who use their voices as their instruments are not immune. Vocalists report problems related to the

Prof Karendra Devroop

overuse of the larynx including the formation of projecting growths on vocal chords due to excessive force and strain, as well as muscle and bone stress.

If that is not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of even the most devoted shower singer, vocalists also commonly experience reflux disorder in the stomach and oesophagus as well as post-nasal drip. These issues affect not only the vocalists' performance, but their physical and psychological well-being as well.

The problems of instrumentalists range from repetitive strain injuries and carpal tunnel syndrome to dystonia which causes a subtle loss of control in fast passages, lack of precision, curling of fingers, fingers "sticking" to keys, and an involuntary bending of the bowing thumb in strings.

The catalogue of ailments is distressing. Professor Devroop lists the most common areas of concern:

- Pianists and guitarists – right hand, left hand and wrists;
- String players – left wrist, neck pain, right shoulder;
- High brass – embouchure, jaw pain, fingers, upper back;
- Low brass – left hand and wrist (trombone), right fingers, wrist and lower back;
- Saxophone and clarinet - right wrist, elbow and neck pain;
- Flute – light shoulder, fingers and wrist;
- Bassoon – fingers and wrist both hands;

- Oboe – neck pain, jaw, and the facial muscles used to shape the lips to the mouthpiece;
- Percussionists – wrist.

"It is not surprising that injuries occur," he explains. "Professional trumpet players use substantial amounts of mouthpiece force, typically at a maximum of 11kg, with a 5kg average. There are substantial differences in the levels of force used by different players, but individuals show high levels of consistency across their own performance range".

"The need for further research is undeniable," says Professor Devroop. "Our top musicians need the same kind of primary and preventative care that any top athlete receives. Sadly, too few people are aware of the risks, and performing artists are not getting the treatment they deserve."

Professor Devroop is calling for serious research into music in South Africa across disciplines, and in partnership with various institutions.

"A closer relationship needs to exist between industry and the academic community, along with the improved and more widespread mentoring of young researchers and students. We need to identify areas of research relevant to our country, and follow through with appropriate studies so that health concerns can be effectively identified and TREATED," he concludes.

The Miracle of Constitutional Afrikaans

Those willing to seek Afrikaans equivalents for English constitutional law terms, phenomena and concepts, as contained in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, will succeed. And, in Afrikaans, they lie deeply rooted in the language, and it is the investigator's responsibility to go digging.

This is briefly the conclusion reached by the respected legal philosopher, Professor Lourens Marthinus du Plessis, research professor at the Faculty of Law at the Northwest-University, during his Inaugural Address when he posed the question: "How is the Afrikaans juridical political register doing in our growing constitutional democracy in South Africa, and specifically on the constitutional front?"

In his Inaugural Address, entitled "The Miracle of Constitutional Afrikaans", Professor Du Plessis investigates whether the larger contours, as well as the finer nuances of South Africa's constitutional democracy can effectively be put into words, and explained in Afrikaans.

"When the era of constitutional democracy dawned in South Africa in 1994, Afrikaans, measured by the enriched constitutional and human rights discourse world- wide, was a disadvantaged constitutional language. So what is the state of the register of

constitutional Afrikaans now, 18 years later?"

Professor Du Plessis continued by saying that this question could not be fully answered within the scope of an Inaugural Address, and that he would rather suffice it by referring to a number of examples of how the power f Afrikaans expression can be harnessed in such a way that the naming of certain contemporary, and sometimes unique constitutionally democratic phenomena, could hit the proverbial nail on its head in a very particular way.

Moreover, he indicated that new words or expressions had to be successfully sought and formed, for constitutionally democratic phenomena. When Professor Du Plessis addresses the '-ism of the Constitution', for example, his assessment of Afrikaans, as well as his meticulous investigation of alternatives, is evident.

Constitutionalism, "konstitusionalisme" in Afrikaans, is the Constitution's own -ism of constitutional supreme authority and justifiability. According to Iain Currie and Johan de Waal, constitutionalism is the idea that a government's forces should be derived from a written Constitution, and should remain limited to those powers that the Constitution provides. The courts as an independent authority to judgment can enforce limits on government powers.



Prof Lourens M du Plessis

“Constitutionalism is, however, more than an idea or a constitutional theory or a set of such theories.”

“It is also the name given to a particular normative state of affairs” – 15 “normative” in that it lays down value norms to form and give effect to the supposed state of affairs, while at the same time complying with certain value claims. And so, constitutionalism, “konstitusionalisme” in Afrikaans, took root in South Africa as a credible name for the new constitutional dispensation as a whole. An alternative is constitutional democracy, or “konstitusionele /grondwetlike demokrasie” in Afrikaans. Constitutionalism does indeed thrive as a form of democracy.

A law or executive act, in line or in accordance with the Constitution, is constitutional. The use of the Afrikaans suffix ‘-matig’, as in ‘doelmatig’, ‘resepmatig’, ‘wetmatig’, ‘patroonmatig’, etc., and eventually ‘grondwetmatig’, more significantly expresses the idea of ‘according to, in accordance with, or by way of’, or to the measure of, for example the Constitution. The similarities to the German “Verfassungsmässig”, is immediately recognisable.

“The adjective ‘grondwetmatig’ may in many cases, although not indiscriminately, be successfully used instead of a ‘grondwetlik’ or ‘konstitusioneel’, and likewise, the noun ‘grondwetmatigheid’ can be used instead of ‘konstitusionalisme’ or ‘grondwetlikheid’.

“The suffix ‘-matig’ more sharply highlights the normativity inherent in the claims of constitutionality. It does, however, have its limitations. ‘Grondwetmatig’ or ‘grondwetmatigheid’, for example, do not have tailored English equivalents. They also do not have obvious Afrikaans antonyms: ‘onggrondwetmatig’ and ‘onggrondwetmatigheid’ crassly falls on the legal and constitutionally sensitive ear – rather suffice with ‘onggrondwetlikheid’ or if not, consider ‘nie-grondwetmatigheid’ as a possibility”.

“As previously noted ‘grondwetlik’ or ‘konstitusioneel’ should not indiscriminately replace ‘grondwetmatig’. ‘Grondwetlike’ or ‘konstitusionele gedingvoering’ for example is a particular form of litigation but to say that such litigation is also ‘grondwetmatig’, requires a valued judgment, which goes beyond simply describing the nature of the particular litigation. The highest South African court presiding over constitutional matters is called the ‘Konstitusionele Hof’, according to the official Afrikaans translation of the Constitution. Using ‘grondwetmatig’ and ‘grondwetmatigheid’ in the title of this court, is inappropriate. The names ‘Grondwetlike Hof’ or ‘Grondwethof’, both colloquial creations, are perhaps barely acceptable, but it is preferable to keep to the official name. The colloquial names are no more descriptive anyway, and are simpler.”

He did, however, not side with the issue of location, status and equality of Afrikaans (versus English and South Africa’s nine other languages) as a constitutionally entrenched official language, but rather whether, and if so, how well Afrikaans can be maintained as a language in a constitutional discourse within a multilingual society.

“For me, it’s not primarily about Afrikaans, but rather about the gem that is ‘grondwetmatige demokrasie’, in South Africa with its eleven official languages. Those things we consider about Afrikaans at this occasion should be considered about all our languages, for the sake of constitutional democracy,” says Professor Du Plessis.

“Those people who speak different languages are responsible for taking this into consideration, and explore the constitutionally democratic register of their languages. Fortunately, we have a unifying factor in Afrikaans, in the form of the English language, which for many of us, and certainly for me, became a second language.

It is the most official constitutional language, and is preferred by academics and other intellectuals when publishing, and discussing constitutional matters. We do not need shy away from these realities in order to grant each language its rightful place.”

“Sound, constitutional jurisprudence requires power, it is not a form of weakness or hesitation. It is controlled, not timid. Self-control also requires a lot of nuanced dealings with language, and of course, a language which can be dealt with in a nuanced way. It seems to me, that Afrikaans is such a language,” says Professor Du Plessis.

He concluded by saying: “There are many possibilities of using and developing constitutionally democratic Afrikaans, without harming anyone, least of all writers and speakers of the language. Let us explore these possibilities, not only in Afrikaans, but in and for every South African language.”

Drug absorption enhancement - ensuring medication gets where it needs to go

Drug absorption enhancement – ensuring medication gets to where it needs to go

Drug absorption enhancement – ensuring medication gets to where it needs to go. The quest for new and better medications to treat humanity's ailments is occurring at a faster pace than ever before, but is the drugs that are being developed as effective as they should be?

This is the question that came under the spotlight in the inaugural lecture Northwest-University's, Professor Silas Hamman.

According to Professor Hamman, “technologies aimed at developing new drugs are far more advanced than those invested in the effective delivery of those drugs.”

This is a particular problem when it comes to drugs with physical and chemical properties that do not easily pass through membranes in the body and those that fail to reach their target location in a large enough concentration.

Having the right medication is only a part of the solution. An additional complication is that even if you swallow the right medication in the right dosage, it may still not make you feel better. The reason for this is that a drug can only cross the epithelial membrane, which lines the intestine, if it has the correct ‘signature’. The molecules

must be the correct size, and they must be soluble.

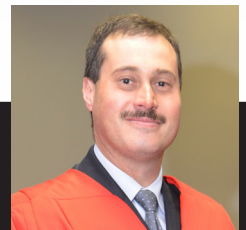
“The issue of drug delivery becomes progressively important as more and more poorly absorbable drugs are developed,” Professor Hamman explains. “This means that innovative drug delivery systems have to be developed so that we can see clinically successful formulations for these poorly absorbable drugs.”

New technologies to improve the impact of poorly absorbable drugs include various dosage methods that protect the drug from being broken down prematurely, dosage methods that enhance the absorption of the drug as needed in the body, as well as those that allow the drug to travel more easily between cell membranes in the body to target the desired locations.

One of the solutions is found in absorption enhancing compounds which temporarily disrupt the intestinal barrier with relatively little tissue damage. This enables the drug to enter the body's circulatory system.

Enzyme inhibitors provide another answer. These work by reducing the unwanted, premature breaking down of the medication. Ideally, the enzyme inhibitor must be specific, and should only work where the drug is

Prof Silas Hamman



metabolised for the time that the drug is located at that position.

“For this to be possible, the enzyme inhibitor must be kept in close proximity to the drug until it has passed the location of metabolism. It seems to have the best chance of working well in the stomach and intestines,” Professor Hamman explains.

Mucoadhesion can also be used to ensure that the drug molecules stay where they are needed long enough to be effective. Mucoadhesive delivery systems have several advantages as they remain in the stomach and intestines longer, they enhance the absorption of the drug and limit the premature breaking down of the drug before it's able to target the damaged or diseased area.

Some of the latest drugs are designed to undergo chemical modifications once they are in the body. These new drugs are known as pro-drugs. It is a chemical copy of a parent drug that has no medicinal effect until it is transformed within the body to have a medical impact as well as delivery properties that are better than the parent molecule. The pro-drug approach can be used, for example, to produce a soluble derivative of a compound that won't dissolve in water. The pro-drug dissolves in

the body and spreads to the target membrane where it is converted to the parent drug, allowing the desired medical treatment to occur.

To improve how medication travels between membranes, Professor Hamman says that, “the drug structure can be modified to make it more soluble in fats, or to reduce its molecular weight.”

“These kinds of adaptations are vital for the successful development of orally taken drugs to do their job well and produce the intended result,” Professor Hamman says. “The research needs to be intensified to keep pace with the drug development.”

A new law for a new world

A new law for a new world

The world is in an unprecedented, and some argue, irreversible state of ecological and socioeconomic decline and it is more pertinent than ever that we seek technological and normative solutions to ensure survival on Earth.

This is the opinion of North-West University's environmental law Professor Louis Kotze

"In this changing world, we will possibly have to re-imagine the composition, functions and objectives of global environmental law and governance," he says.

For Professor Kotze, this is even truer in the context of the Anthropocene. Coined by the 1995 Nobel Laureate, Paul J. Crutzen and his colleague Eugene F. Stoermer, the word Anthropocene is the signifier of the period in which people have a devastating and overwhelming impact on the Earth and its systems. While it has yet to be formally accepted as describing a new geological epoch, the term informally denotes a new time in geological history, in which the biophysical factors introduced by human beings into the biosphere have begun to change the physical parameters that determine the functioning of all key earth system processes.

"There are a range of considerations that environmental lawyers will have to reflect on if global environmental law and governance are to better respond to the numerous challenges and complexities of the Anthropocene epoch,"

he explains.

The Anthropocene is a period where people are changing the course of nature, the Earth and its systems in an unprecedented way. It follows the Holocene interglacial phase, an epoch that was characterised by extraordinarily good living conditions that enabled the development of modern societies in a world of seven billion people.

The Anthropocene epoch is generally agreed to have its roots in the Industrial Revolution and the augmented industrial activity of the 1800s.

It was during the Industrial Revolution that fossil fuels were discovered and increasingly exploited to drive development and satisfy insatiable human demand for growth. The Anthropocene is characterised, among other human modifications of the global environment, by increased emissions of sulphur, nitrogen and greenhouse gasses; climate change; the transformation and disruption of vast land surfaces; changing water cycles; and wide-spread species extinction.

"While the ecological impacts of these are self-evident, the myriad concomitant socio-economic, political and legal challenges arising as a result will be equally severe," he says. "Droughts, flooding and rising sea levels as a result of climate change, the displacement of people,

Prof Louis Kotze



and armed conflict over scarce natural resources is only some examples of emerging socio-political stresses that is in store.”

Professor Kotze believes that the Anthropocene is not just another fashionable term, but could serve as a common denominator to facilitate our understanding of the human-dominated human-environment interface and its associated pragmatic and scientific challenges.

“As a common denominator, the Anthropocene could level the scientific playing field; could create a common understanding of the centrality of people in global Earth systems change; could refocus the debate on ways to ameliorate this impact; could instil a common understanding of the global dimension of anthropogenic impacts and ecological crisis; and could promote a collective appreciation of the severity of the range of socio-legal, political, economic and ecological crises that await us.”

He explains what this means is that there is a need for more effective environmental law and governance. We need to reconceptualise the laws if we are going to effectively meet the challenges that are ahead.

For Professor Kotze, one of the most important and challenging requirements is for us to move beyond the state and to develop global laws. We need a holistic

response and a singular vision of the whole earth and all its environments and species. He also calls for a new vision of sustainability that is grounded on an ethic that focuses on humankind as a whole.

“We will have to rethink our own place in nature and the manner in which we will respond to the ecological, socio-political, legal and economic crises that await us. If scientific predictions hold true, these crises will only deepen as the human impact on the Earth and its systems further intensifies in the Anthropocene,” he says.

“We have a tremendous moral obligation to lay the foundations for more effective socio-institutional interventions,” he says. “We owe it to our children and their children to get it right. There is no other way.”

The art of building a healthy population

Although it first entered the academic consciousness in the 1920s, the notion of public health has been in existence for as long as people have been living in communities.

In her inaugural address, Professor Annamarie Kruger of the Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health, traced her profession back to the Old Testament.

“We read in Deuteronomy how Moses formulated laws to prevent uncleanness in the camps and the concept of a collective responsibility for the health of the community has continued through the ages,” she says.

It took until the 1920’s, however, for the concept of public health to be defined, when the impressively named Charles-Edward Amory Winslow posed the first definition. According to Winslow, public health is “the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organised efforts and informed choices of society, organisations (public and private), communities and individuals”.

The definition is a good one, and it stood the test of time, setting the scene for the development of public health initiatives across the globe.

“Winslow must have been a wise man,” she says. “This definition sets the scene for the development of the

field of public health. The complexity of health is also captured in this definition.”

The practice of public health involves a diverse range of methods and efforts designed to protect individuals and communities from risk factors that can be associated with morbidity and premature mortality. As infectious diseases became more controlled, the focus of public health shifted to the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) of lifestyle.

“This was the first major paradigm shift in the field,” she explains. “One cannot think of health promotion without referring to the Ottawa Charter where health promotion was described as ‘the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health’.”

To reach a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, an individual or group must be able to identify and to realise aspirations, to satisfy needs, and to change or cope with the environment.

“Health is, therefore, seen as a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. It is a big change in the way that we think. Health becomes a positive concept emphasising social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities.”

Prof Annamarie Kruger



“What this means is that health promotion is not just the responsibility of the health sector, but goes beyond healthy life styles to well-being. The result is that health becomes a multi-disciplinary initiative.”

In South Africa, however, this shift is not completely realised. Our history of inequality means that a relatively small proportion of our population have experienced the transition from high prevalence of infectious diseases to that of non-communicable diseases of life style.

According to Professor Kruger, this can be used in our favour as it should enable the research and health communities in South Africa to guide this health transition in a positive direction which would imply a decrease of infectious diseases as well as no increase in NCDs.

Unfortunately there is a gap between the theory and reality.

“Our research at the North-West University, collected in 1998 (THUSA-study) and again in 2005 and 2010 (PURE study), implies that we did not manage to lower the risk factors for NCDs. The growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS also tells its own story. The inevitable questions that arise are: WHY? What have we been doing wrong?” she asks.

For Kruger the solution lies in revisiting Winslow’s definition. He refers to two aspects which have been neglected: the art of disease prevention and the pivotal role of well-being.

“To the best of my knowledge, these two concepts are lacking attention in the practice of public health and health promotion,” she says.

Kruger believes that “well-being” is a contented state of being happy and healthy and prosperous.

“To me this is that part of Man that comes from the

inside, that leads to happiness and enhances resilience. The World Health Organisation defines it as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

The concept is not new, but Kruger believes that a paradigm shift is needed for proper caring for and building of the well-being of the population to be implemented in practice.

This leaves the word ‘art’.

“To me, in the context of public health, it refers to the way in which people are being addressed and motivated to be mobilised towards action to take responsibility for their lives. It involves the integration of knowledge far beyond mono-disciplines. It is impossible for one person to be the ‘art’ factor in public health. This, to my opinion, would involve a trans-disciplinary group or team effort,” Professor Kruger explains.

But can this work on the ground? Professor Kruger believes that the research she and her team carried out in the FLAGH (Farm Labour And General Health) programme LIFEPLAN® shows that it can. In the study, community research results gathered over seven years by post-graduate students from a multi-disciplinary health research team (nurses, social workers, psychology students, consumer scientists, occupational hygienists and theology students) were integrated and combined into a model.

Although this programme was developed and tested for outcomes in commercial farming communities, it also became evident that it has a broader application and is capable of rendering positive results on resilience even in a corporative environment.

Examples of positive feedback indicating “WELL-BEING” of communities include the following:

- For the first time we feel we are seen as human beings;
- Our families take part in the budgeting process – money lasts longer;
- We take interest in each other's wellness;
- Managers reported that workers took pride in their work;
- Work productivity increased 2-3 fold; and
- People took responsibility for their health (In 2009, in a corporate situation, 22 alcoholics were facing disciplinary action. In 2011, after several LIFE-PLAN® sessions, there were none – no one was retrenched).

“We have seen that change can happen,” she says.

“The health care environment is in dire need of a change in approach - a change that has to be thought about and re-thought, considered and re-considered, discussed and implemented - and the sooner the better. If we start to put the emphasis on human resilience and a trans-disciplinary approach, we will see our dreams of a better life for all become a reality.”

Building trust in a profession of care

Building trust in a profession of care

Professor Martie Lubbe, head of the Medicine Usage in South Africa (MUSA) research unit at the North-West University, is passionate about drugs, and in particular the role of pharmacies and pharmaceuticals in the care of patients.

The idea of a family pharmacist is not a new concept. The local pharmacist has been a trusted source of wisdom and care since the 18th century. But while pharmacists have always been considered an important figure in the communities they serve, the role they play in that community has changed dramatically over time.

According to Professor Lubbe one of these major changes is the way in which pharmaceutical practice has reinvented itself as pharmaceutical care.

The change seems counter-intuitive at first glance. Early pharmacists were largely responsible for manufacturing the medicines that they sold. With the emergence of the pharmaceutical industry, pharmacists still had an important role to play in the skilful combination of pre-manufactured ingredients. This almost alchemical ability and comprehensive knowledge ensured that pharmacists' central role in the community remained secure.

Between 1900 and 1960, the role of the pharmacist started becoming eroded. Medicines were increasingly

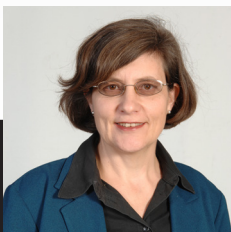
pre-manufactured and doctors began to take over the role of dispensers for their patients. Pharmacists started becoming supporters of the medical profession, rather than active participants therein.

This trend changed between 1960 and 1990 when greater emphasis was placed on the advice that a pharmacist could provide. Despite the changing trend, most community pharmacists remained focused on products rather than care.

In 1978 the Steenkamp Commission was published, and recommended that pharmacists should become more involved with the treatment of patients. In 1986, the Brown Commission made further recommendations that pharmacists should have more freedom in the prescribing of scheduled medicines. The commission recommended that the Medicines Control Board should acknowledge the role of pharmacists as health care workers and health advisors.

These recommendations resulted in a shift in the way that pharmacists were trained. Pharmacists began to step into their role as primary caregivers, becoming involved in patient monitoring, immunisations and family planning.

Professor Lubbe believes that this period presented a vital stepping stone in the development of the profession. The pharmacist's specialised knowledge of the function and use of medicines was recognised, and



Prof Martie Lubbe

their social status began to rise in conjunction with this recognition.

Clinical pharmacists also played a role in a wide range of scientific techniques, including therapeutic monitoring, dosage and diet.

“The title of a paper published in 1986 set the direction of the industry,” Professor Lubbe explains. “Drugs don’t have doses – people have doses!”

Coincidentally, this paper was published at the time that Professor Lubbe was working towards her MPharm. The focus of her research was the way in which medicines were provided to people who visited the Potchefstroom Service Centre for the Aged. The study clearly showed that doctors had the most trusted role in the community, but that pharmacists were recognised for their knowledge of medicines and dosages.

The concept of pharmaceutical care was clearly defined in 1975, in a seminal paper by Mikeal et al., as “the care that a given patient requires and receives which assures safe and rational drug usage”.

By 1980, the concept was clarified as “a covenantal relationship between a patient and a pharmacist in which the pharmacist performs drug use control functions (with appropriate knowledge and skills) governed by the awareness and commitment to the patient’s interest.” (Hepler, 1987:376).

Since then, the role of the pharmacist has been further cemented.

“The philosophy of the practice of pharmaceutical care is that we have a patient-centred approach, where the practitioner has the social responsibility to care for the patients medicine needs,” Professor Lubbe explains. “In other words, the pharmacist must ensure that the patient has no health problems related to the medicines or dosages they are given. These include the suitability, the effectiveness and the safety of the medicines.”

Many opportunities for the practice and research of pharmacology in South Africa are made available as the pharmacist’s responsibility as a caregiver continues to grow and develop.

“We need to make full use of the current research techniques to make sure that we can evaluate the performance of pharmacists effectively,” Professor Lubbe says. “This needs to be done on economic, humanitarian and clinical levels.”

Professor Lubbe concludes that “the result will be the systematic development and improvement of the practice of pharmaceutical care. Our profession has a leadership role, and we are embracing the challenges that lie ahead”.

The quantum physics of fragments

The quantum physics of fragments of poetry

What do manuscripts of an Irish poet have to do with the study of literature in Potchefstroom? And what does poetry have to do with particle wave physics? Rather a lot, according to Professor Nicholas Meihuizen in his Inaugural Address, delivered on 5 September 2012.

The heart of Professor Meihuizen's lecture, entitled "The Quantum Poetics of Yeatsian Manuscripts" is to be found in the recently acquired Cornell Edition of the manuscript materials of Irish poet, William Butler Yeats. The Cornell manuscripts, currently being collected in the campus' Ferdinand Postma library, provide the scholar with the original source documents of the work which they are studying.

According to Professor Meihuizen, there is a tendency among contemporary literary critics to de-emphasise the authors' works and to raise the profile of the opinions of literary critics.

"The critic's input is perceived as being as important as the original author's," he explains. "The problem with this is that the author's intention is no longer important. This may be an exaggeration, but the implication is certainly there."

As an example, Professor Meihuizen referred to the great American critic Helen Vendler's reading of Yeats'

Sailing to Byzantium. Vendler bases her reading of the poem on the fact that Yeats introduces each stanza with a Roman numeral. In doing so she is able to claim a unique interpretation of the poem centred on the different stations or locations implied by each numeral, but otherwise not explicitly present. These stations, she says, have different vectors, which are in tension with each other. For instance, the one pointing heavenwards is undercut by the one pointing earthwards. She, in effect, makes the Roman numerals 'speak', where Yeats is silent, and so imposes meaning at crucial points in the poem, meaning largely to do with Freud, sex, and Hellenistic versus Hebraic values. She thus replaces the poem's emphasis on aesthetic transformation with dramatic psychodrama. This is interesting in its own way, but swerves from what most critics perceive to be the poet's intention.

The Cornell series allow us to examine the earliest drafts with their incipient ideas, Yeats' later drafts where the poem begins to take shape, and his final drafts before publication, where the poem is almost fully developed.

"Do we find Roman numerals?" he asks. "No. They appear for the first time in the proofs of his rare volume *October Blast*', published in a limited edition by the poet's sisters' hand press, the Cuala Press."

This means that the numerals did not play a role in Yeats's conception of the poem, when the supposed



Prof Nicholas Meihuizen

drama perceived by Vendler should have been uppermost in his mind. They were inserted after the poem had been finalised. In fact, Professor Meihuizen points out that the numerals have been removed in the last published version of the poem before Yeats' death, in his self-edited Oxford Book of Twentieth Century Verse.

"My quibble here might seem no more than a quibble," he admits, "and yet it is of some import as an example of the freedom critics, even powerful, established critics with immense reputations, can take with works of art after the author has died."

Professor Meihuizen also takes time to wonder if this kind of scholarship is possible only for authors of the past. What is the 'original version' in a time when draft variants by contemporary writers are committed to oblivion with a press of the delete button?

Professor Meihuizen is also fascinated with deconstruction and the fragmentary in poetry.

He explains: "Some of the lines in Shelley's published poems, for example, have gaps in them, indicating work in progress, work to which he would have returned if not for his early death. For instance, the Dantean terza rima 'Triumph of Life' breaks off in mid-dialogue, with the pregnant exclamation: 'Then, what is life? I cried'. The absence of closure here, with its suggestion of the unanswerable, is significant".

So what does all this have to do with quantum physics? The quantum, the smallest amount of a physical quantity that can exist independently, is used as a metaphor thereby opening a means of examining an author's intentions when it comes to manuscript analysis. Manuscript materials are, in a sense, particles, which in their own unique way add to our understanding of the complete text.

"In considering these units of poetry, one ponders the nature of creativity with the existing materials, as opposed to allowing the influence of external and unsupported opinions," he explains.

We may never understand the hidden processes of the imagination, but we can gain some insight into these processes through manuscripts. If the key elements in these processes are the immeasurables or intangibles that come together in the mind of the poet, then the manuscripts admittedly reveal more of 'the rich, dark nothing' than the creatures to be 'disinterred' from it, to quote from Yeats's poem 'The Gyres'.

Adapt and satisfy, or die:

Adapt and satisfy, or die:

why sustained customer satisfaction is key to business profitability

why sustained customer satisfaction is key to business profitability

How does a company stay in business when its customers have an almost infinite number of suppliers to choose from? What is it that will make a customer return, and how can a business truly satisfy all their needs?

These are some of the questions that are being answered by the research of Professor Pierre Mostert, director of the School of Business Management at North-West University.

We live in an era that is defined both by the importance of relationship and a plethora of choice. The need to continuously satisfy customers by meeting their needs puts enormous pressure on companies and organisations. Professor Mostert explains that the current marketing era, the relationship era, started in the late 1990s when marketers realised that to better meet customer needs and retain customers in an increasingly competitive environment, organisations had to build and maintain long-term relationships with them. The expectation is that this would create customer loyalty that could lead to referrals, increased sales and profits.

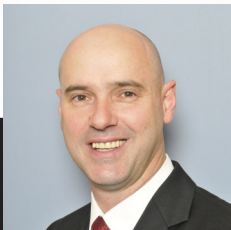
Professor Mostert acknowledges that achieving this ideal is not easy. "Consumers have significantly more

information at their disposal to make more informed purchase decisions. This results in customers holding higher expectations and demanding greater value for their money. Attracting new customers also becomes ever more challenging."

Why is keeping customers so important? It can cost six to seven times more to find new customers than to keep existing ones. Every customer retained is reflected in the bottom line in terms of reduced operational and marketing costs.

"Organisations should aim to keep customers by first satisfying their needs, and then building relationships with them that establish loyalty. Of course, not all customers have a desire to build long-term relationships with organisations, so the trick is to identify and target those customers who do," observes Professor Mostert.

Customers buy products and services based on their perception of what offers them the most benefits and value. Clearly, this perception is subjective and difficult to measure. Consumers' behaviour is also not uniform: Consumers with limited financial resources may buy the most expensive razor and razor blades due to the quality and close shave the product offers. This same consumer may, however, buy the cheapest tea brand due to a belief that all teas are almost the same – the



Prof Pierre Mostert

cheapest brand is therefore considered to offer the best value.

In addition, consumer behaviour does not necessarily refer to a specific moment when money is exchanged for products or services. Instead, it should be viewed as a continuous process that involves many decisions on numerous levels.

“Understanding the consumer decision-making process helps marketers target their efforts effectively. It provides valuable insight into the mind of the consumer as and when purchase decisions are made, by specifically evaluating the internal and external factors influencing the process,” says Professor Mostert.

The internal factors influencing consumers’ behaviour and decisions include motivation, perception, learning, personality, attitude, involvement, knowledge, values, lifestyle, emotions and resources. External factors include culture, sub-culture, social class, family and the organisation’s marketing efforts.

“It’s also important to note that after making a purchase, customers sometimes experience anxiety or fear afterwards, also known as cognitive dissonance,” he explains. This fear centres around having not made the right choice, especially after a costly purchase. Customers experiencing cognitive dissonance will attempt to reassure themselves that they chose correctly by looking for additional evidence that supports their choice, by being attentive to the chosen product’s advertisements and avoiding those of competing brands or trying to convince others to also buy the same product.

“It is when all these attempts fail that consumers may return the product or never use the service again,” he says. “And that is something that a marketer wants to avoid at all costs.”

So what is the solution? Businesses must develop an understanding of consumers and their buying behaviour as well as find a way to meet or even exceed customer satisfaction levels.

Relationship marketing provides a fresh philosophy of doing business by developing, building and maintaining cost effective, mutually beneficial, long term relationships with individual customers.

In a world where technology makes it easier for people to keep their distance from each other, relationship marketing feeds the basic human need for recognition. A brand can bring a customer recognition (being valued when being recognised and addressed by name), personalisation or power (derived from, for example, having personal relationships with employees), reduction of risk (including performance, physical, social and psychological risk) and status by being associated with a (perceived prestigious) organisation.

Interestingly, a strong relationship makes customers with higher expectations more willing to forgive organisations if their expectations are not met as they are more concerned with their relationship with the organisation than a temporary lapse. The caveat is in the word temporary, however. Fans can turn to foes very quickly when their expectations have not been met for a second time, spreading negative word-of-mouth communications, defecting to competitors or losing confidence in the organisation.

“The importance of continuously keeping customers satisfied cannot be stressed enough. Satisfaction with products or services will, in all probability, lead to repeat purchases because satisfaction with a purchase is what every consumer is after. The key is consistency in delivering satisfying results to consumers. This is the only way in which brand loyalty can be established and maintained,” concludes Professor Mostert.

New vistas in poetry and song

New vistas in poetry and song

What is poetry and what is song? Do popular songwriters write lyrics, or are they putting poetry to music?

These are questions which occupied the mind of Professor Bernard Odendaal in his inaugural lecture as professor of creative writing at North-West University's Potchefstroom campus.

Professor Odendaal has been studying the distinctions made between lyrics and poetry since he became involved in a creative writing and lyrics translation project in 2005.

Popular songwriter David Kramer expresses the views held by many when he says, "A lyric is not a poem and needs to conform to a structure and a specific form. A poem often needs to be read again and again in order for its intention to be revealed, but a lyric has to be sung and understood when it is heard the first time. A lyric is not a poem and needs to conform to a structure and specific form."

Hennie Aucamp, the trendsetting lyrics writer and thinker about peripheral culture uses a term which Professor Odendaal prefers when he refers to lyrics as "song texts".

The distinctions between poetry and song have never been clear cut. In fact, the earliest poems in languages

across the world were intended to be sung or recited, and right up to the present day, many poems have been put to music.

The seminal Afrikaans poetry anthology, "Groot Verseboek", has included many song texts in its later editions.

"Many Afrikaans song-text writers have been published in song books in the past few years," Professor Odendaal explains. "In other words like poetry. I think of the books published by Koos Kombuis, Hennie Aucamp, Gert Vlok Nel, Valiant Swart, Johannes Kerkorrel, Stef Bos, Amanda Strydom, to name but a few."

The fact that the lyrics by popular English songwriters like Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, and in the French world someone like Jacques Brel, are published as poems, or that prestigious literary prizes have been awarded to them, or that they are nominated for these prizes, are international indications that the boundaries between poetry and song text art are no longer as clear as they were in most of the 20th century.

Professor Odendaal began to challenge his students to write song texts during an extracurricular poetry workshop 15 years ago.

"They had to experience experimentally how difficult it is to reconcile form structure, natural spoken language and functionality regarding the placing of words and sounds," he explains. "I thought that the writing of a song text was a natural exercise and a less demanding task than the



Prof Bernard Odendaal

writing of a sonnet, for example, as spoken language and the avoidance of ambiguities are after all essential components of the accessibility associated with lyrics.

“Presumably less demanding ... until I did the exercise myself!”

The result of the experiment was Professor Odendaal’s song text “My oom wat jare woon in Bloemfontein”.

In 2005, after he met Herman van den Berg during a Jacques Brel translation project he was involved with, he gave him the song text and asked him to set it to music. The result was interesting.

“Herman explained that he had made small adaptations to the text, as he felt that my strict adherence to the iambic metrical pattern led to somewhat unnatural language usage,” Professor Odendaal says. “Natural speech is more important than precision of form when it comes to song!”

“The relationship between song text and composition is even more complex when you take into account that whole new sets of visual codes, for example those taken from dance, film and even visual arts, are also involved when it concerns music videos or spectacular concert presentations. We have progressed from the specialised and selective interpretation processes when reading printed song texts to a multi-sensory mode of communication,” Professor Odendaal says.

In fact, research has shown that many people confess that when they enjoy vocal concerts, the words of the song are only one source of pleasurable information, and many do not actually listen to the lyrics at all.

In essence, song texts and poems have much in common. The differences between them are usually found in form and style: song texts must show greater structural regularity (with regard to rhythm, line of poetry and construction of verses) and have greater accessibility (stylistic simplicity, semantic unambiguousness). This is the

theory, at least. In fact, many poems are as fixed in form as most song texts. Often poems formally announce their relationship with song and recitation art forms, such as ballads, villanelles, sonnets and folk quatrains. And many free-verse poems have a distinctly musical composition, so the fixed form is a difficult distinguishing criterion.

Accessibility cannot be a criterion either. Many poems are very simple and are touching because of their emotional understatement. And there are songs that want to function as literature, such as the chanson which is so popular in the French-speaking world.

“Jacques Brel, the French-speaking Belgian whose 40 chansons I adapted into Afrikaans in conjunction with Prof Naòmi Morgan of the department of French at the University of the Free State, is a more recent creator of such chansons poétique.”

Since the 17th century, it has been emphasised in France that pure poetry can stand alone and does not need music.

Professor Odendaal agrees. “In the first place song texts are written to be sung or performed. In that environment music codes are generally pivotal. As far as poetical codes are concerned, one can assume that only the audible aspects are actually of importance: the rhythm, the sound of the words and sentences, their intonation, and the semantic aspects that can be deduced.

“If poems are set to music, the way the poem appears on paper is compromised (unless the listener has the text in front of them). However, on the other hand much is gained by the music codes. The latter comprise interpretable aspects like music styles, keys, the utilisation of instruments, and such – things about which I cannot speak sensibly as I unfortunately have no music training.”

Professor Odendaal is also fascinated by the new directions that poetry is taking. He points to the growing influence of performance poetry and “the availability of all kinds of new media and technology that can often be combined, creating a world-wide reawakening of performance and song and of the visual manipulation of poetry texts”.

Another new direction is the art festival, where poets and artists work together to deliver combined artworks to be displayed. Odendaal’s experience of this has been interesting. He relates how he was challenged to produce a poem which could be integrated into the work of the installation artist Stephan Erasmus.

“After I had contacted him, we decided that I had to produce a text that he could perhaps multiply, cut up and paste into new patterns, like he had done with previous artists’ books.”

I wanted to create a poem consisting of different parts that would provide a more or less cumulative image of Afrikaans and the people who speak the language. The different parts, I thought, could be the material from which Erasmus compiles the different pages of his artist’s book. Therefore the form of the poem was created first: I created a table with a number of cells on the computer monitor and decided how to fill these cells. When I saw this stack of table cells the title of my poem came to me: “Onse in my pond” – the cells being the little ‘ons’ (ounce) weights stacked on a scale.”

So, through the routes of different mediums, Professor Odendaal was brought back to a unique, untranslatable Afrikaans saying whose origin lies in the language situation in the Cape Colony in the eighteenth century. And that in itself is pure poetry!

Understanding governance in the **Understanding governance in the developmental state** *developmental state*

There has been a worldwide shift in the way that we think about governance, and in the way in which we are governed. The values that are traditionally linked to governments are being challenged as dissatisfaction and disillusionment about the lack of political solutions have become the order of the day.

For Professor Gerrit van der Walt, the shift has provided a fertile field for his lifelong study into governance, particularly with reference to governance in the developmental state.

In any discussion of governance, the first step is to define what governance is.

“In this field, that is problematic,” says Professor van der Walt. “Due to the recent evolutionary nature of the phenomenon of governance internationally, it currently does not have a recognised body of knowledge, and is characterised by an amorphous composition of theories, models and paradigms of related disciplines such as public administration and political science.”

Professor van der Walt, in his inaugural lecture, turned his attention to the purpose of his study; the ‘knowledge for what’ question from a governance point of view; and also what this knowledge means in the context of the developmental state in South Africa.

“Contemporary thinking builds on the classical political thinking which can be traced back 2363 years to Plato

and Aristotle,” he says. “The concept of ‘government’ is derived from a Greek word which means ‘to steer’. In its simplest form, governance refers to the processes of decision-making, as well as the processes through which decisions are implemented.”

There is a clear distinction between government and governance. The first refers to the institutions while the second is a much broader concept which includes the complex interaction between systems, policy, partnerships and people.

The shift in the way we think about governance is reflected in a greater innovation in service delivery and an enterprising, entrepreneurial disposition.

“We have seen the focus shifting to the quality and performance of governance, and focus is placed on outcomes rather than input. This gives rise to the establishment of the so-called ‘audit society’, where citizens hold the government accountable for their actions – or lack thereof,” Professor van der Walt explains.

“What we are seeing is a greater demand for the application of universal principles of good governance. Initiatives such as the World Bank’s Good Governance programmes, and on the African continent initiatives such as the Afrobarometer, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Prof Gerrit van der Walt



for Good Governance, the NEPAD subprogram for Good Governance, and Peer Review mechanisms are part of that.”

Although there are no universal formulas for measuring good governance, there is significant consensus that good governance should especially meet the following criteria, viz.:

- Public participation in policy decision-making as the origin of a healthy democracy;
- The rule of law and impartial application thereof by the judiciary and police, in order to protect human rights;
- Transparency in decision-making and availability of information;
- Timely response from state institutions to meet citizens’ needs;
- Consensus orientation to reconcile stakeholders’ conflicting needs;
- Equity and inclusivity;
- Efficiency and effectiveness in the use of uncommon resources; and
- Accountability for the delivery of services.

South Africa is currently listed fifth on the African continent, on the Ibrahim Index, as far as good governance is concerned.

So where does the developmental state come in? Interest in the concept took root after the economic boom in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan, followed closely by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. In a developmental state,

social development goes hand in hand with economic development, and leads to the formulation of socio-economic policy.

“BRICS countries, as developing economies, have started to play an increasingly important role in the global economy. South Africa, and countries like Chile, Mauritius, and Botswana, are part of the so-called ‘third wave developmental states’, who are increasingly making their mark,” he says.

The exact angle and scope of the developmental state in South Africa is currently subject to intense debate and is characterised by strong ideological heterogeneity. The political dynamics are an important framework for the on-going discussions about governance in South Africa.

Professor van der Walt is passionate about the need for governance to be recognised as a field of study in the context of the developmental state in South Africa.

“The knowledge domain of public Administration is a natural fit for this field of study,” he explains, “particularly with the current focus within the discipline on what is known as New Public Governance.”

New Public Governance is referred to ‘as an integrated science’ which combines approaches, theories and models from other disciplines.

“What is clear is that the study of Governance is currently in its infancy, internationally. The study of network government dynamics in all its theoretical, organisation- al/structural, political, and governance dimensions - is more extensive than the existing discipline and it currently does not have a clear knowledge construction to delimit it. A much more comprehensive and integrated approach should be followed in order to construct the knowledge domain of Governance.”

Working together to minimise risk

Working together to minimise risk

Personal safety is a deep seated human need. As human societies have evolved and developed, so to have our responses to the events which threaten our lives and livelihoods.

For North West University's Professor Dewald van Niekerk the management and mitigation of risk has become his life's work.

"The development and progression in humanity's understanding of the world and life ensured a progressive and continuous evolution in the response to the events threatening our livelihood," he explains. "And part of that is gaining an understanding that we are contributing to our own demise through unsustainable practices."

For Professor van Niekerk, understanding the processes of risk also involves having a deeper understanding of the many factors that influence that risk. His view is broad, and he calls on the expertise of many disciplines as he looks at events which have been described as disasters.

More than anything else, the media images of natural disasters at the close of the twentieth century underscored the human consequences and social dimensions of these events.

"We have moved away from the study of natural hazards and their effects. The tide has shifted to a much more intangible and sometime less understood phenomenon

which we now call disaster risk," he says.

Disaster risk has been the subject of scientific papers since the 1920s, and right up to the late 1970s, theorists approached the concept of disaster from a social science as well as a natural or physical science perspective.

From a social science point of view, disaster was seen as an external agent which requires communities to act against the 'aggression' of the event; as an expression of social vulnerability; and as an entrance to a state of uncertainty.

From a natural or physical science perspective the agent of the disaster came under the spotlight as the dynamics of the hazards were simulated in an attempt to understand them

In the 1980s, a global realisation developed that disaster is not so much the size of the physical event but the inability of the stricken community to absorb the impact within its proper set of constraints and capacities. This realisation highlighted the need for a focus on risk, rather than disaster focus in disaster studies and research.

Professor van Niekerk warns against allowing the pendulum to swing too far in the opposite direction. Too strong a focus on the social construct of disaster/



Prof Dewald van Niekerk

risk however ignores the hazard or “agent-specific” approach.

Although this approach remained the most common vision of disasters, even in the work of social scientists within the 1980s, there has now been a paradigm shift from a pure disaster oriented focus to that of disaster risk. The contemporary understanding of risk has greatly increased to the extent that various scholars from a variety of different disciplines (e.g. sociology, anthropology, geography, architecture, agriculture, meteorology, engineering, law, and public administration and development studies) are jointly researching issues of disaster risk.

For Professor van Niekerk, this transdisciplinary approach should be encouraged. He argues against the contemporary calls to create a single academic discipline for disaster risk studies.

“It is only through a transdisciplinary paradigm that one can make a meaningful contribution to understanding and reducing the phenomenon known as disaster risk,” he says.

So what exactly is disaster risk? Professor van Niekerk favours the 2009 UNISDR definition of risk as “the combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences”. The definition is further elaborated: the term disaster risk therefore refers to the potential (not actual and realised) disaster losses, in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services, which could occur to a particular community or society over some specified future time period.

“Disaster risk is the product of the possible damage caused by a hazard due to the vulnerability within a community. It should be noted that the effect of a hazard (of a particular magnitude) would affect communities differently. This is true because of the varied coping

mechanisms within communities. Poorer communities are therefore more at risk than communities that do have the capacity, access to resources and assets to cope,” he explains.

Professor van Niekerk believes that the “painful specialisation” of academic disciplines into smaller and smaller subsets is in direct contrast to the call from university administrators to inculcate a more entrepreneurial spirit.

For him, the need to find innovative solutions to the pressing problems we face means that the various disciplines need to work together. For example, climate change, in terms of disaster risk reduction, is a multi-sectorial and multidisciplinary phenomenon.

Transdisciplinarity has been described as “an unfinished scientific programme” but it is precisely this open-endedness that makes it so powerful.

He quotes a 2008 paper by Christian Pohl and Gertrude Hirsch Hadorn which states that transdisciplinarity is needed “when knowledge about a societally relevant problem field is uncertain, when the concrete nature of problems is disputed, and when there is a great deal at stake for those concerned by problems and involved in dealing with them. Transdisciplinary research deals with problem fields in such a way that it can: a) grasp the complexity of problems, b) take into account the diversity of life-world and scientific perceptions of problems, c) link abstract and case-specific knowledge, and d) develop knowledge and practices that promote what is perceived to be the common good”.

“We need to see the world in a more holistic way,” he explains. “If disaster risk reduction is going to have any effect, we need to combine the insight of a vast number of disciplines. That is the only way we are going to solve the real world problems that face us.”