

CHSR&D

News Report 2019



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Background, Mission, Aims and Focus Areas

Established at the University of the Free State (UFS) in 1993, the CHSR&D stems from a rich tradition of research and training in medical sociology and sociology of health and health care. The Centre was founded specifically to address the need for bio-social scientific enquiry, operational research, and the development of research skills in the field of health systems studies. It has also accumulated commendable experience and expertise in key methodological approaches: quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, and monitoring and evaluation. The Centre's mission is to generate and disseminate scientific knowledge on health and health systems at the local, provincial and national levels, and to use this knowledge to improve and inform new and existing policies, strategies and practices. The Centre also commits to developing health systems capacity via implementation science and postgraduate research training.

Specific aims for realising this mission are to:

- Meet the need for multidisciplinary research and development in the domain of health, health systems and health care.
- Generate and disseminate research findings and information on health and health systems, and promote the translation of research findings into policy and practice.
- Inform the strengthening of health systems with a view to greater equity, effectiveness and efficiency.
- Provide postgraduate training and capacity building that contributes to expanding expertise in health, health systems, and healthcare research and development.

Our main focus areas of research are:

- Health systems.
- Public health in South Africa (includes engagement with health policy and strategy, operational functioning, and specialist areas such as occupational health).

The priority health programmes that we focus on include:

- Tuberculosis (TB) prevention and control.
- HIV & AIDS.
- TB-HIV co-epidemic.
- Sexual and reproductive health.
- Mental health.

The Year in Retrospect

2019

During 2019, under a new Director, Prof Michelle Engelbrecht, the Centre began to focus on two cross-cutting issues in healthcare: 1) *men's health* against the backdrop of family, maternal and child care; and, 2) *mental health* in TB patients. To this end, we set about establishing new and revitalising existing local, national and international collaborations, particularly with colleagues at academic institutions in the United States of America, United Kingdom and also locally. The result was a collaboration between academic institutions – CHSR&D, Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, Centre for Development Support, Department of Community Health (all UFS), Institute of Applied Health Research (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom), Rollins School of Public Health (Emory University, United States of America) and civil society (Sonke Gender Justice) on the development of a proposal titled, *Adapting evidence-based interventions for constructive male engagement in maternal and neonatal health in the Free State Province, South Africa* for the Medical Research Council, United Kingdom. We also started establishing our footprint in Africa, with a collaboration with Makerere University (Uganda) on a project to explore depression and anxiety among new TB patients within HIV programmes.

Our four-year collaborative project, titled *Towards a health-enabling working environment: developing and testing interventions to decrease HIV- and TB-stigma among healthcare workers in the Free State, South Africa* with colleagues at the Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies (CELLLO), University of Antwerp (Belgium) culminated in a series of feedback workshops at hospitals across the Province. Qualitative findings highlighted new awareness and changed behaviour related to HIV and TB stigma among individual healthcare workers. With seven publications in accredited scientific journals and one PhD graduated to date, this was a particularly fruitful collaboration that we will continue to cultivate through the development of new research proposals and publications.

During 2019, the Centre's research findings were disseminated in one book and eight peer-reviewed articles in accredited journals. Particularly noteworthy is the book, *Narrating the everyday: Windows on life in central South Africa*. This book resulted from a collaborative partnership between the Centre, Department of Sociology (UFS) and University of Łódź (Poland), where several chapters in the book are based on the dissertations of Master's and theses of PhD graduates of the programme, *The narrative study of lives* (UFS). Papers were also presented at three international and three national/local conferences.

Towards the end of 2019, we constituted an Advisory Board for the Centre and look forward to their involvement in and guidance to our work in 2020 and beyond. A final word of gratitude to all CHSR&D staff, research associates, collaborators, and funders for their work and support during the year.

Staff



From left to right: Bridget Smit (Administrative Officer), Dr Gladys Kigozi (Senior Researcher), Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (Director), Belinda Jacobs (Senior Administrative Officer) and Christo Heunis (Associate Professor)

Staff Achievements

- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht was appointed as Director of the CHSR&D.
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht was promoted to Associate Professor.
- Prof Christo Heunis was rated as Category C (Level 2) researcher for 2019-2023.
- Dr Gladys Kigozi was accepted for the Future Generation Professoriate Programme.
- Dr Gladys Kigozi was awarded funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Africa Health Research Development and Innovation Programme and the South African Medical Research Council for collaborative research to address common mental disorders in tuberculosis patients.

Staff Development

- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht and Dr Gladys Kigozi attended statistical training on 'Introduction to R.'
- Bridget Smith completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration at the UFS.

Research Associates

- Dr Niresh Bhagwandin (South African Medical Research Council).
- Dr Asta Rau (CHSR&D).
- Prof Francois Steyn (Department of Social Work and Criminology, University of Pretoria, South Africa).
- Dr Kerry Uebel (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia).
- Prof Dr Edwin Wouters (Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies [CELLO], Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp, Belgium).

Advisory Board

An Advisory Board was constituted for the Centre in 2019 and will meet for the first time in early 2020. The members include:

- Prof Corli Witthuhn (Vice Rector: Research, UFS, and Chairperson of the Advisory Board).
- Prof Heidi Hudson (Dean of the Humanities, UFS).
- CHSR&D researchers (UFS).
- Dr Niresh Bhagwandin (Executive Manager: Strategic Research Initiatives, South African Medical Research Council).
- Dr Perpetual Chikobvu (Director: Information Management and Research, Free State Department of Health).
- Prof René English (Head of the Division of Health Systems and Public Health, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa).
- Dr Ellen Blekie (retired, formerly Young Women Christian Association and South African National Tuberculosis Association).

Completed Research Project

Towards a health-enabling working environment: developing and testing interventions to decrease HIV- and TB-stigma among healthcare workers in the Free State, South Africa

Project leaders: Prof Dr Edwin Wouters (Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies [CELLO], University of Antwerp, Belgium), Dr Asta Rau (CHSR&D) and Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

CHSR&D staff: Dr Gladys Kigozi, Belinda Jacobs and Bridget Smit.

In the context of a devastating HIV-TB co-epidemic and severe human-resource shortages in the health sector, HIV and TB stigma among healthcare workers threatens the health of the workforce as well as that of the broader population visiting healthcare facilities. In response, the project aimed to: 1) scientifically assess the extent and sources of HIV and TB stigma among the healthcare workforce in the Free State Province and 2) refine and test innovative stigma-reduction interventions.

The design applied a combination prevention approach by focusing on clinical, behavioural and structural factors that influence HIV and TB stigma in the workplace. In addition, stigma reduction activities were designed to target three social-ecology levels (individual, community and structural). The research was structured as a classic randomised control trial. A baseline study (completed in 2016) measured HIV and TB stigma at randomly selected hospitals in the Free State among randomly selected respondents – using a self-administered questionnaire with validated stigma scales to measure stigma and other key variables. Data showed stigma levels high enough to warrant HIV and TB stigma-reduction interventions. All interventions were comprehensively workshopped with Free State Department of Health stakeholders and were rolled out in 2017. This was followed-up with a post-intervention survey in 2018.

The quantitative analysis did not show a significant intervention effect on stigma between intervention and control groups. While qualitative evidence indicated new awareness and changed behaviour related to HIV and TB stigma among individual healthcare workers, a combination of factors including strong social hierarchies in the workplace and the downscaling of the original version of the intervention seemed to reduce the impact. The findings further highlighted the potential of using healthcare workers as change agents to reduce HIV and TB stigma in their local communities. In December, the findings were reported at six feedback workshops across the province.

Funding: VLIR-UOS (Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad [Flemish-Interuniversity Council]).

Student funding: Two PhD bursaries for students registered at the University of Antwerp: one funded by FWO (Flanders Research Foundation) and one funded by BOF (University of Antwerp).

Ongoing Research Project

Experiences of drug-susceptible tuberculosis patients with symptoms of depression and anxiety: a cohort study of new patients in the Free State

Principal investigator: Dr Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D).

CHSR&D team: Prof Michelle Engelbrecht and Prof Christo Heunis.

Collaborators: Dr André Janse van Rensburg (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) and Dr Perpetual Chikobvu (Free State Department of Health).

The aim of this study is to explore depression and anxiety among new patients on drug-susceptible tuberculosis (DSTB) treatment in Mangaung Metropolitan District in the Free State.

More specifically, the study seeks to: 1) determine the prevalence of symptoms of depression and anxiety at treatment onset, after the intensive treatment phase (2 months) and at the end of treatment (6 months) among new DSTB patients; 2) to determine the influence of depression and anxiety on treatment outcomes of patients on treatment; 3) to explore experiences of TB patients with symptoms of depression and/or anxiety – narratives from the ground; and 4) to explore providers' views of and experiences in managing TB patients with co-morbid depression and anxiety.

The study protocol received ethical clearance from the Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee. Permission to conduct the study was granted by the Free State Department of Health and the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. Data will be gathered through surveys and in-depth interviews with patients and key informant interviews with providers, as well as extracting information from patient records. A pilot study was conducted to test the practicality of the research instruments. Data analysis is on-going to test the validity and reliability of the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and the Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) questionnaire for use among Sesotho-speaking public health patients.

Funding: National Research Foundation.



New Research Project

A collaborative study on depression and anxiety among new TB patients within HIV programmes in South Africa (CoDATE study)

Principal investigator: Dr Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D).

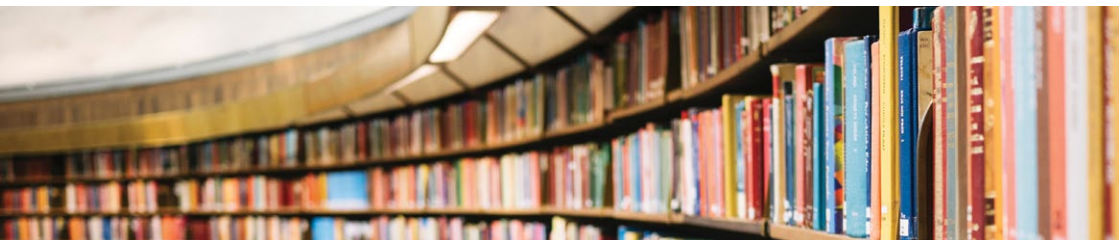
Co-investigator: Dr Raymond Tweheyo (School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda; Faculty of Health Sciences, Lira University, Uganda; and Division of Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care, University of Manchester, United Kingdom).

Given the huge burden that HIV places on patients with tuberculosis (TB), this subproject (of the *Experiences of drug-susceptible tuberculosis patients with symptoms of depression and anxiety: a cohort study of new patients in the Free State*) specifically focuses on HIV co-infected TB patients and seeks to explore their unique experiences of depression and anxiety based on the social-ecological and health systems thinking models. The study will target TB patients attending antiretroviral clinics in the Mangaung Metropolitan District.

From a socio-ecological perspective, the study will interrogate: 1) how individual TB-HIV patients' characteristics, for example, age, gender, education and history of mental illness, influence the experience of depression and anxiety; 2) how interpersonal relationships between patients and other people within their social networks, such as family members, workmates, peers, etc. influence their experience of depression and anxiety; 3) how TB-HIV patients experience mental health care at the primary health care facility; 4) TB-HIV patients and health workers' perceptions of how their communities perceive depression and anxiety; and 5) how factors within national policies impact on the delivery of mental health services to TB-HIV patients. From the health system perspective, the study will interrogate the qualitative results for complex and dynamic inter-connected relationships between the six health systems building blocks: 1) leadership and governance; 2) health financing; 3) health workforce; 4) health information, 5) medical products, vaccines and technologies; and 6) health service delivery. Therefore, in accordance with the social-ecological model, the specific contribution of using health systems theory is to tease out the extent to which the system components are dynamically affected by each other, the stakeholders, as well as the social and policy context.

Funding: Department of Science and Technology (DST) Africa Health Research Development and Innovation Programme and the South African Medical Research Council.

Publications – Book



- Coetzee JK, Rau A & Wojciechowska M. (eds.). *Narrating the everyday: Windows on life in central South Africa*. Bloemfontein: SUN MEDIA. ISBN: 978-1-928424-18-5. <https://doi.org/10.18820/9781928424192>.

Sharing stories is a way to understand and celebrate who we are as individuals and as social beings. These aspirations are at the heart of this collection of narratives, each one a window opening onto a unique facet of life in South Africa's Free State. Several chapters are based on the dissertations of Master's and theses of PhD graduates of the Department of Sociology's (UFS) programme, *The narrative study of lives*. In achieving this 'cap' to their postgraduate training, graduates were supported by the book's editors and by publication partners. International partners and co-authors included academics from Poland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, New Zealand, and the United States of America.



Celebrating the publication with partners at the University of Łódź (Poland). From left to right: Prof Jan K Coetzee (Department of Sociology, UFS), Dr Magdalena Wojciechowska, Dr Dominika Byczkowska-Owczarek, Prof Beata Pawłowska and Dr Asta Rau (CHSR&D)

Publications – Articles

- Engelbrecht MC, Rau A, Nel P & Wilke M. Emotional well-being and work engagement of nurses who moonlight (dual employment) in private hospitals. *International Journal of Nursing Practice*, e12783. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijn.12783>.
- Engelbrecht M, Rau A, Kigozi G, Janse van Rensburg A, Wouters E, Sommerland N, Masquillier C & Uebel K. Waiting to inhale: Factors associated with health care workers' fears of occupationally acquired tuberculosis (TB). *BMC Infectious Diseases*, 19(1):475. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-019-4115-z>
- Janse van Rensburg A, Khan R, Fourie P & Bracke P. Politics of mental healthcare in post-apartheid South Africa. *South African Journal of Political Studies*, 46(2):192-205. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2019.1611300>.
- Kigozi NG, Heunis JC & Engelbrecht MC. Yield of systematic household contact investigation for tuberculosis in a high burden metropolitan district of South Africa. *BMC Public Health*, 19:867. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7194-2>.
- Mofolo N, Heunis JC & Kigozi NG. Towards national health insurance: Alignment of strategic human resources in South Africa. *African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine*, 11(1):a1928. <https://phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm/article/view/1928/3183>.
- Nyblade L, Stockton MA, Giger K, Bond V, Ekstrand ML, Mc Lean R, Mitchell EMH, Nelson LRE, Sapag JC, Siraprasiri T, Turan J & Wouters E. Stigma in health facilities: why it matters and how we can change it. *BMC Medicine*, 17:25. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-019-1256-2>.
- Sommerland N, Wouters E, Masquillier C, Rau A, Engelbrecht M & Kigozi G. Factors associated with HIV stigma toward colleagues in the health care workforce in South Africa. *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 30(4):10. DOI: 10.1097/JNC.000000000000010.
- van Brakel WH, Cataldo J, Grover S, Kohrt BA, Nyblade L, Stockton M, Wouters E & Yang LH. Out of the silos: identifying cross-cutting features of health-related stigma to advance measurement and intervention. *BMC Medicine*, 17:13. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-018-1245-x>.

International Conference Presentations

Kigozi G, Heunis C & Engelbrecht M. Systematic household contact investigation for tuberculosis in a high-burden metropolitan district of South Africa. African Population and Health Research Center's Research Networking Symposium, Dakar, Senegal, 15-16 May.

Kigozi G, Heunis C & Engelbrecht M. Lay health worker motivation to perform household contact tuberculosis investigation in a high-burden metropolitan district in South Africa. 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health, Hyderabad, India, 30 October – 2 November.

Sommerland N. Challenges in reducing HIV and TB stigma among healthcare workers in the workplace: Results and insights from a South African cluster randomised trial. AIDS Impact Conference, London, United Kingdom, 31 July.

National and Local Conference Presentations

Heunis JC, Kigozi NG & Engelbrecht MC. Socioeconomic and tuberculosis control disparities: towards building a transnational research agenda for South Africa and Brazil. Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference 2019, College of Cape Town, 16-18 September.

Kigozi G, Heunis C & Engelbrecht M. Ward-based community health workers' motivation to perform systematic household contact tuberculosis investigation: a cross-sectional study in Mangaung Metropolitan District. 8th Annual Free State Provincial Health Research Day, Bloemfontein, 7-8 November.

Malakoane B, Heunis JC, Chikobvu P, Kigozi NG & Kruger WH. Development of a health system governance and accountability intervention in the Free State, South Africa – a descriptive study. Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference, Cape Town, 16-18 September.

Master of Health System Studies



From left to right: Ryan Mayne, Leandri Janse van Vuuren, Ronel van Rooyen, Trudie Harrison (Mosamaria NPO Aids Ministry), Lydia van Turha (Free State Department of Health), Dr Hellen Motloun (rotating registrar, Department of Community Health, UFS) and Israel Mawoyo

The Master of Health System Studies (MHSysStud) follows a research-intensive approach to produce graduates who are well-equipped to conceptualise, implement, and report on health systems research. Three new students, Leandri Janse van Vuuren, Ronel van Rooyen and Israel Mawoyo commenced with the MHSysStud programme and started to respectively investigate the HIV treatment needs of transgender women, women's cultural and health beliefs about breast cancer, and the efficacy of HIV treatment adherence clubs. Their orientation in health systems studies included interactive lectures by Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D) – introduction to health, health challenges and health systems; Dr Hellen Motloun (Department of Community Health, UFS) – HIV in paediatric care; Lydia van Turha (Free State Department of Health) – HIV management from a provincial health department's perspective; Trudie Harrison (Mosamaria NPO Aids Ministry) – HIV management and care at the community level; and Dr Cloete van Vuuren (3 Military Hospital) – HIV treatment and care in the military.

Community Engagement

- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht was appointed as Chairperson of the Scientific Committee for the Social Sciences, UFS.
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht and Dr Gladys Kigozi participated in the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) National Dialogue, titled, *Harnessing knowledge for the design and implementation of UHC*, hosted by the National Department of Health and the South African Medical Research Council in Johannesburg, 21-22 November.
- Prof Michelle Engelbrecht acted as an abstract reviewer at the 8th Free State Annual Provincial Health Research Day.
- Prof Christo Heunis served as Vice-chairperson of the Free State Provincial Health Research Committee.
- Prof Christo Heunis served on the Board of Mosamaria NPO Aids Ministry.
- Prof Christo Heunis acted as an abstract reviewer and session chair at the 8th Free State Annual Provincial Health Research Day.
- Dr Gladys Kigozi served on the Advisory Committee on Employment Equity of the Faculty of Humanities.
- Dr Gladys Kigozi represented the Faculty of the Humanities on the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- Dr Gladys Kigozi acted as an abstract reviewer and session chair at the 8th Free State Annual Provincial Health Research Day.

Visitors



Nina Sommerland, PhD candidate from the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and co-investigator on the HIV & TB-Stigma project, visited the CHSR&D in December to take part in feedback workshops at the eight hospitals that participated in the project, *Adapting evidence-based interventions for constructive male engagement in maternal and neonatal health in the Free State Province, South Africa*.

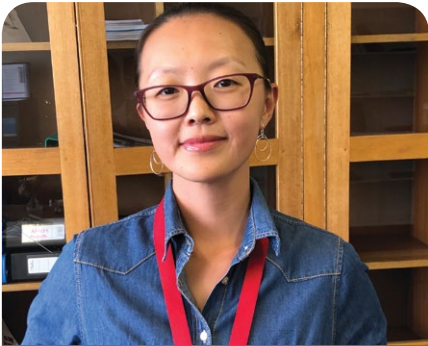
Nina Sommerland (Department of Sociology, University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Wessel van den Berg (Sonke Gender Justice), Dr David Griessel (Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, UFS), Jan Cloete (Centre for Development Support, UFS), Dr Nadine Lake (Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, UFS), Alfie Moolman (Community Engagement, UFS), Dr Hellen Motloug and Dr Sammy Mokoena (both Department of Community Health, UFS) visited the CHSR&D in September to collaborate on the development of a proposal to the Medical Research Council, United Kingdom titled, *Adapting evidence-based interventions for constructive male engagement in maternal and neonatal health in the Free State Province, South Africa*.



From left to right (back row): Wessel van den Berg, Dr David Griessel, Jan Cloete, Dr Nadine Lake, Alfie Moolman; front row: Dr Gladys Kigozi, Dr Hellen Motloug, Dr Sammy Mokoena & Prof Christo Heunis

Dr Hellen Motloug and Dr Sammy Mokoena, both registrars in the Department of Community Health (UFS), respectively completed nine months and three month rotations during which they participated in research projects at the Centre.



Dr Hellen Motloug (Rotating registrar, Department of Community Health, UFS)



Dr Sammy Mokoena (Rotating registrar, Department of Community Health, UFS)

Visits

Prof Michelle Engelbrecht and Dr Gladys Kigozi visited:

- Prof Jessica Sales at Emory University, United States of America, on 17 September.
- Prof Jack DeHovitz, David Odegaard and Dr Tonya Taylor at State University New York Downstate Medical Center, United States of America, on 19 September.
- Ruti Levtov and Aapta Garg at Promundo, Washington DC, United States of America, on 20 September.
- Dr Lyndsay O'Hara at the University of Maryland, United States of America, on 23 September.

The purpose of these visits was to collaborate on proposal development in three areas: 1) male engagement in family, sexual and reproductive health; 2) antimicrobial resistance; and 3) reduction of HIV stigma among adolescents.



From left to right: Dr Gladys Kigozi, Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (both CHSR&D) and Prof Jessica Sales (Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University)



From left to right: Dr Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D), Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D) and Ruti Levtov (Promundo)



From left to right: Dr Gladys Kigozi (CHSR&D), Dr Lyndsay O'Hara (School of Medicine, University of Maryland) and Prof Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D)



From left to right: David Odegaard (SUNY-DMC, United States of America), Prof Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D) and Dr Tonya Taylor (SUNY-DMC)



From left to right: Prof Jan K Coetzee, Dr Asta Rau and Prof Krzysztof Konecki

Dr Asta Rau (CHSR&D) and Prof Jan K Coetzee (Department of Sociology, UFS) visited the University of Łódź (Poland) to formally hand over the book, *Narrating the everyday: Windows on life in central South Africa* co-edited with Polish partners. The formal handover was to Prof Rafał Madera – Dean of Faculty of Economics and Sociology, and to Prof Krzysztof Konecki – Vice Dean of the Faculty, Editor-in-chief of *Qualitative Sociology Review* and President of the Polish Sociological Association.

Study with us: Master of Health Systems Studies (MHSysStud)

This specialist degree integrates theory with in-depth knowledge of health systems. Students will identify a health/health systems issue and address it via research. Where feasible, you will have the opportunity to base your Master's on our Centre's ongoing research projects. Studying side-by-side with experienced health systems researchers on a 'real-life' research project is a very valuable form of mentorship and should impact positively on your dissertation/articles, as well as your practical research skills and experience.

This specialist degree integrates theory with in-depth knowledge of health systems. Students will identify a health/health systems issue and address it via research.

Curriculum options for the MHSysStud:

There are 2 available options:

1. Full dissertation, and
2. At least two interrelated manuscripts that are publishable or published in accredited journals.

There is no coursework option but throughout their study students attend non-credit bearing Master Classes in health systems and research methodology.

Selection will take place in November and December of the year prior to registration. Prospective students must apply before 31 August (international students) or 31 October (South African students) of the year preceding registration.

See our website for more info about us, our projects, and the MHSysStud Programme:

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/humanities/departments-and-divisions/centre-for-health-systems-research-development-home>

Gratitude

We would like to express our gratitude to all those funders who so generously supported the work of the CHSR&D in 2019 and previous years:

- African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship (ADDRF)
- African-Asian Society (AAS).
- American International Health Alliance (AIHA) HIV/AIDS Twinning Center funded by CDC through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- Andrew Mellon Foundation.
- Atlantic Philanthropies.
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).
- Bristol-Myers Squibb.
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC USA, South Africa).
- Health and Life Sciences Partnership (HLSP)
- Department of Community Health, UFS.
- Desmond Tutu TB Centre (DTTC), Stellenbosch University.
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) via Health Focus GmbH
- Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI).
- Development Economics Research Group (DERG), World Bank.
- Directorate Research Development, UFS.
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF).
- European Union (EU).
- Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA).
- Ford Foundation.
- Free State Department of Health (FSDoH).
- Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI).
- Health Systems Trust (HST).
- HIVCare (an operating division of Medicross Healthcare Group).
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit (IDEU, University of Cape Town).
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada).
- International Projects Advisory Service (Ipas).
- International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease ('The Union').
- Joint Economics, Aids and Poverty Programme (JEAPP).

- Medical Research Council of South Africa (MRC).
- National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF).
- Netherlands Support Programme, World Bank.
- Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA).
- Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD).
- Research Matters (IDRC).
- Save the Children (United Kingdom).
- South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU).
- South African-Flemish Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Programme.
- State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC).
- Strategic Academic Cluster for New Frontiers in Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development, UFS.
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- Technology, Research, Education and Technical Assistance for Tuberculosis (TREAT TB).
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- University of British Columbia (UBC).
- University of the Free State (UFS).
- VLIR-UOS (Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad / Flemish Interuniversity Council).
- WK Kellogg Foundation.
- World Health Organization (WHO).

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