Background

Re-imagining Reproduction: Making babies, making kin and citizens in Africa is funded by the Wellcome Trust through the Research Development Award. Our vision is to:

1. develop a research agenda that interrogates the diversity of biological and social reproduction practices on the continent from an African perspective,
2. support and nurture a cohort of researchers who can take this research agenda forward as they develop their careers.

We conceive of reimagining reproduction as exploring the ways in which biological and social reproduction are connected to ideas of care in both the present and the future. We conceive of reproduction as being situated in a multiplicity of meanings, practices, and technologies aimed to preserve and nurture individual and collective life. Working in five different countries on the African continent, we explore the country-specific and regional variations, by which people are reimagining reproduction and kinning practices.

By using the idea of ‘reimagining reproduction’ on the African continent, our key objective is to challenge (and hopefully shift) discourses and perceptions of reproduction that frame it primarily in terms of a natural given, of abundance, pathology, mortality, and irresponsibility.

The aim of this event is to discuss the idea of what a reimagining of scholarship on reproduction in Africa might look like and might achieve (or not). Towards this end we will be discussing studies of reproduction of the past, present and future, asking:

- What does re-imagining reproduction entail?
- What are the prospects, opportunities and challenges involved?
- What are the emerging trends in reproduction and caring within Africa?
ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for the event has been arranged at the University of Pretoria’s Future Africa campus, where the event will be held as well. This accommodation is on the University of Pretoria’s sports campus, and is close to the main University of Pretoria campus and several shops and restaurants.

You can view the rooms and amenities via this link: https://www.futureafrica.science/campus/hotel-accommodation.
TRANSPORT

The Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship has booked your airport shuttle with Shuttle Direct for your arrival and departure from Pretoria. The drivers will wait at the Information Desk of the International Arrivals Hall at the Airport. We will send you confirmation of your shuttles as they are booked, with some shuttles booked for multiple people travelling on the same flights.

If you would like to explore Pretoria and the surrounding areas during unscheduled time during your visit, I recommend you consult any of the following transport options:

- **Train: Gautrain:**
  - Commuter train between Pretoria and Johannesburg. Station located on the corner of Grosvenor and Arcadia Street in Hatfield, near the University of Pretoria.
  - Web: [http://www.gautrain.co.za](http://www.gautrain.co.za)
  - You will be required to purchase a card from the cashiers and load it with the correct amount of credit to travel from OR Tambo International Airport to Pretoria.

- **Shuttle: Shuttle Direct**
  - Shuttle Company located in Pretoria.
  - Email: [info@shuttledirect.co.za](mailto:info@shuttledirect.co.za)
  - Tel: 086 173 4732

- If you have the Uber app you can also make use of their services in Pretoria and Johannesburg.

WI-FI

Future Africa’s conference facilities and accommodation has Wi-Fi, and details will be supplied upon checking in

SIM CARDS FOR MOBILE PHONES

By South African law (RICA), you are required to provide a proof of residence if you want to buy a prepaid SIM card in South Africa. If you will not be using international roaming, we recommend you buy a SIM card in the airport arrivals lounge, where you can purchase one with only your passport.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

We want to reduce our impact on the environment as much as possible. To accomplish this, we have decided to supply water bottles and stationary on the first day only. We kindly ask you to reuse and recycle during and after the event.
VENUE

The event will be held at Conference Room 1 of Future Africa, which is on the LC De Villiers Sports Campus of the University of Pretoria.

PLUGS

Most plugs in South Africa are 15 amp 3-prong or 5 amp 2-prong, with round pins. Please bring a suitable adaptor if you need one, or purchase one here (available in most supermarkets or pharmacies). The university will not be able to supply these.

There are limited plug points in the venue for the event, so please charge your laptops and cellphones at your accommodation to avoid clamouring for a charging point during the event.
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>08:00 - 08:15</td>
<td><strong>REGISTRATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>08:15 - 08:20</td>
<td><strong>WELCOME</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr Josiah Taru</td>
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<td>08:20 - 08:30</td>
<td><strong>ADDRESS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CAS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Prof James Ogude - Director of The Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship</td>
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<td>08:30 - 08:40</td>
<td><strong>ADDRESS FROM THE VC</strong>&lt;br&gt;Prof Tawana Kupe - Vice Chancellor and Principal</td>
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<td>08:40 - 09:00</td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION TO RE-IMAGINING REPRODUCTION AND PROJECT SCOPE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Prof Nolwazi Mkhwanazi - Principal Investigator &amp;&lt;br&gt;Prof Deevia Bhana - Co-Investigator</td>
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<td>09:00 - 10:00</td>
<td><strong>TRAJECTORIES OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN AFRICA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Keynote Address by Dr Efua Prah</td>
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<td>10:00 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>10:15 - 11:15</td>
<td><strong>MIRACLE BABIES, GOLDEN CHILDREN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research Project by Dr Maxima Missodey&lt;br&gt;Discussants: Profs Benson Mulemi &amp; Rebecca Hodes</td>
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<td>11:15 - 11:45</td>
<td><strong>EMERGING ASSISTED REPRODUCTION MARKETS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Prof Andrea Whittaker on behalf of Profs Lenore Manderson &amp; Trudie Gerrits</td>
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<td>11:45 - 12:45</td>
<td><strong>ETHNOGRAPHY OF WOMEN'S PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF MATERNAL HEALTHCARE IN MAGETA ISLAND, WESTERN KENYA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research Project by Dr Stephen Ombere&lt;br&gt;Discussants: Drs Carla Tsampiras &amp; Sandra Manuel</td>
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Programme Day 1
Tuesday 20 September 2022

12:45 - 13:15
IMAGINING GENDER FUTURES IN UGANDA
Dr Nanna Schneidermann

13:15 - 14:15
LUNCH BREAK

14:15 - 15:15
RE-IMAGINING REPRODUCTION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN MALAWI: (NON) USAGE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES FOR REPRODUCTIVE DECISIONS.
Research Project by Dr Blessings Kaunda
Discussants: Drs Sandra Manuel & Carla Tsampiras

15:15 - 15:45
FIRST 1000 DAYS PROJECT: SCIENTIFIC IMAGINARIES AND NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR THINKING RELATIONS
Prof Fiona Ross

15:45 - 16:00
CLOSING

17:00 - 18:30
COCKTAILS
Programme Day 2
Wednesday 21 September 2022

09:00 - 09:05  WELCOME  
Dr Josiah Taru

09:05 - 10:00  RE-THINKING MEANINGS AND USES OF PREGNANCY: PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS FROM MOZAMBIQUE  
Keynote Address by Dr Sandra Manuel

10:00 - 11:00  RELIGION, REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND THE MAKING OF BABIES AMONG ZIMBABWEAN MIGRANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA  
Research Project by Dr Josiah Taru  
Discussants: Prof Casey Golomski & Dr Marissa Mika

11:00 - 11:15  COFFEE BREAK

11:15 - 12:15  (IN)VOLUNTARY CHILDLESSNESS: EXPLORING EXPRESSIONS OF LONGING FOR CHILDREN IN ESWATINI  
Research Project by Dr Thandeka Dlamini  
Discussants: Prof Rebecca Hodes & Dr Marissa Mika

12:15 - 12:45  MATERNAL MORTALITY IN EAST AFRICA  
Prof Benson Mulemi

12:45 - 13:45  LUNCH BREAK

13:45 - 14:35  REIMAGINING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WITHIN THE CIRCULAR MIGRATION NETWORKS IN NAIROBI CITY, KENYA.  
Research Project by Dr Agnetta Nyabundi  
Discussants: Profs Benson Mulemi & Casey Golomski

14:35 - 15:05  REPRODUCING POLICE STATES THROUGH FORENSIC GENETICS  
Prof. Noah Tamarkin

15:05 - 15:55  AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: EXPLORING CHILD PROTECTION IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS AFRICA  
Research Project by Dr Deidre Blackie  
Discussants: Prof Benson Mulemi & Dr Marissa Mika

15:55 - 16:00  CLOSING
Prof Tawana Kupe
Professor Tawana Kupe has been Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria since 2019. He holds a DPhil in Media Studies from the University of Oslo, Norway. In December 2019, he received an honorary doctorate from Michigan State University in the US, and another from the University of Montpellier in France, in October 2021. Prof Kupe has a notable publication record, having authored journal articles, books and book chapters in his main discipline, media studies and journalism. He is an active member of several civil society organisations and is a board member of a number of tertiary education networks, organisations and initiatives around the world.

Prof James Ogude
Professor Ogude is the Director at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria, a position he assumed in 2017, having been with the Centre since May 2013. He is an “A2” rated researcher by the National Research Foundation (NRF). He has just concluded a five year project on the Southern African philosophical concept of Ubuntu funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation. He is currently leading a Mellon funded supra-national project involving the Universities of Ghana, Makerere, Cape Town and Pretoria. He is also the Director of the African Observatory for Environmental Humanities located at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria.

Prof Nolwazi Mkhwanazi
Nolwazi Mkhwanazi is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of the Pretoria. She is based at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS). She is one of the founders of the Medical and Health Humanities Africa (MHHA) network. In her research, Nolwazi has been working with young people regarding issues of sexuality, sex education and sexual health intervention. In this work, her fieldwork sites span across Southern Africa including Botswana and Eswatini. She has collaborated with people in a range of disciplines including fine art, biomedical sciences, public health, demography and other social science disciplines. These collaborative projects include partners based in the global South, mainly in Ghana, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya, Chile and India.
Prof Deevia Bhana

Deevia Bhana is the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Gender and Childhood Sexuality at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her research focuses on building an interdisciplinary understanding of sexuality and gender across the young life course drawing from feminist, queer, critical masculinity studies and new feminist materialism. Her work on young sexualities, especially, but not only girls, places emphasis on the mechanisms through which gender inequalities are experienced and challenged in a variety of educational settings and within peer and relationship dynamics. She brings these insights to a wide range of questions that address the early experience of sexualities, sexual innocence, the intersection of young sexualities with age, race, class and social media, sexual health and education with special emphasis given to sexual violations and schooling.

Keynote Speakers

Dr Efua Prah

Efua Prah's research reflects her interests in theorisations in African critical thought, African migration studies, adolescent and childhood studies, and maternal and reproductive health. She has had over 20 years' experience in various capacities - Social Justice Activist, Lecturer, Public Health and Health Systems Research Consultant, Social Science Researcher, Facilitator and Teacher, which have allowed her to strengthen her critical thinking and application skills, successfully engaging with various audiences, both large and small. Her publication record covers a broad spectrum of social and public health issues - From the study of children and childhoods, migratory sociopolitics, health systems research, to critical race theory and gender dynamics. She is also the co-founder and owner of BlueFootPrint Productions, a film company based in Cape Town where she works as a videographer making documentary films.

Dr Sandra Manuel

Sandra Manuel is a social anthropologist, Assistant Professor at University Eduardo Mondlane (UEM) and researcher at Kaleidoscopio Research Institute on Culture and Public Policy. Her lecturing, research and policy analysis focuses on the social study of sexuality, gender, and health themes. Her analysis questions normative gendered notions through looking at the intersectional relations and understanding socio-cultural readings of the body and sexuality, specifically in the African context. Her latest journal publication is titled Performing respect: Contemporary strategies and lived experiences in intimate relationships in Maputo (2021 Journal of African Cultural Studies). She is, currently, a member of the editorial board of Feminist Africa journal and previously was at the editorial of Anthropology Southern Africa journal. Her work at university also comprises empowerment of young women students on SRHR through a Southern African regional partnership and a planning dimension as she worked as the Adviser for the UEM Vice-Chancellor for research.
Related Projects

Prof Andrea Whittaker

Professor Andrea Whittaker PhD FASSA is Professor of Anthropology at the School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. As a medical anthropologist, she specialises in the fields of reproductive health and biotechnologies. She currently is Chief Investigator on an Australian Research Council Grant exploring the assisted reproductive industry in sub-Saharan Africa. Her major publications include Intimate Knowledge: Women and their Health in Northeast Thailand (2000), Women’s Health in Mainland South-east Asia ed. (2002), Abortion, Sin and the State in Thailand (2004), Abortion in Asia: Local dilemmas, global politics ed. (2010) Thai in Vitro: Gender, Culture and Assisted Reproduction (2015) and International Surrogacy as Disruptive Industry in Southeast Asia (2019).

Prof Lenore Manderson

Lenore Manderson is Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Medical Anthropology in the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; she divides her time between South Africa and Australia. A medical anthropologist and social historian of medicine working in Australia, Asia and Africa, she has published extensively on gender, inequality and the social circumstances of poor health, including Surface Tensions (2011) and Viral Loads (2021). Her growing interest in climate change is reflected in new collaborative book, Water’s Edge (2022).

Prof Trudie Gerrits

Trudie Gerrits (medical anthropologist) is Associate Professor at the Anthropology Department of the University of Amsterdam. Since 1993 she has done research about infertility and assisted reproductive technologies in sub-Saharan Africa (Mozambique, Ghana and South-Africa) and in the Netherlands. She published several articles and book chapters about these themes. Her book ‘Patient-Centred IVF: Bioethics and Care in a Dutch Clinic’ has been published with Berghahn Publishers in 2016. Currently she is involved in a research project examining the ‘IVF-industry’ in South-Africa and all sorts of related reprotravel. Before working at the UvA she worked for 5 years at the Ministry of Health in Mozambique. Gerrits is keen to translate (her) research insights into recommendations for policy and practices, and has recently been involved in some applied (research) projects, in Kenya, Ghana and Indonesia. She is the chair of the Share-Net Community of Practice on Infertility. She is also the basic science officer of the ESHRE Special Interest Group ‘Global and socio-cultural aspects of infertility’.
Prof Nanna Schneidermann

Nanna Schneidermann is assistant professor in anthropology at Aarhus University and works with urban transformation, gender, and popular culture in Uganda, South Africa and Denmark. Her work on reproductive health focuses on the making of kinship, experiences of care and the relationship between motherhood and the state. She currently focuses on wedding music and wedding videos in Northern Uganda, as part of the collaborative research project Imagining Gender Futures in Uganda.

Prof Fiona Ross

Fiona C. Ross is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. Her work examines formations of life in southern Africa with a current emphasis on the complex ways that scientific knowledge of life is mobilised in defence of well-being. This work, supported with an AW Mellon Research Chair, has grounded three programmes of research; Formations of Life; Genes, Genealogies, Technologies; Nutrition and Nourishment. All seek to ground the intersections of science and policy in the exigencies of everyday life.

Prof Benson Mulemi

Prof Benson A. Mulemi is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and an independent researcher from Kenya. He holds the PhD degree with a concentration in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. He is a visiting professor and supervisor in the Medical Anthropology programme at Gulu University in Uganda and an external examiner in Kenya. He has worked as a lecturer and research fellow in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Division of Research, Innovation and Partnerships at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa among other universities in Kenya. He was awarded a visiting scholar and Research Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, by the British Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the A. G. Leventis Foundation. His research interests are in Ethnographies of Health and Health care; maternal health and reproductive health practices, culture and disability, and ethnography of albinism in East African societies.
Prof Noah Tamarkin

Noah Tamarkin is an assistant professor of Anthropology and Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University and a research fellow at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) at University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He is the author of Genetic Afterlives: Black Jewish Indigeneity in South Africa, published in 2020 by Duke University Press. He is currently writing a book on the introduction and implementation of South Africa's national forensic DNA database, the forensic genetics networks that it has fostered, and its implications for postapartheid South African and global politics of surveillance statecraft, human rights, and carcerality.

Discussants

Prof Casey Golomski

Casey Golomski is a cultural-medical anthropologist of Southern Africa whose work centers perennial questions about life, death, and their thresholds. Aside from authoring over thirty academic and literary publications—including the book ‘Funeral Culture: AIDS, Work and Cultural Change in an African Kingdom’ (Indiana) and the Society for Humanistic Anthropology Writing Awards First Prize in Poetry—Golomski’s been interviewed for and cited by the New York Times, New Hampshire Public Radio, New Hampshire Magazine, AlexNews, and Business Times. Currently, he's exploring the effects of racist policies and practices on elder care in South Africa. He is writing two books. One on the history of senior housing from 1870-2020, and the other a creative non-fiction book about white dying featuring memoirs of individuals in one small-town old age home to ask 'who cares' (and for whom) in the aftermath of racial violence and at the end of life.

Prof Rebecca Hodes

Rebecca Hodes (D.Phil, Oxon) is a medical historian. She is the Director of the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS & Gender, and an Associate Professor of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria. Hodes is a founder and co-Principal Investigator of the Mzantsi Wakho research study, about the medicines-taking and sexual health practices of South African youth. Hodes's academic writing has been published in AIDS, AIDS Care, African Affairs, the African Journal of AIDS Research, Critical Public Health, Global Public Health, the Journal of Southern African Studies, the International Journal of African Histories Studies, Medical Humanities, the Social History of Medicine, the South African Historical Journal, and the South African Medical Journal, in addition to other peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. Hodes's current research interests encompass histories of science, race and sex; popular responses to epidemics; qualitative and participatory research methods, bioethics, and the medical and pharmaceutical humanities.
Dr Marissa Mika

Marissa Mika is a writer, researcher, and historian-ethnographer who focuses on the intersections of science, medicine, technology, and power. Since 2002, she has worked in eastern and southern Africa on the politics of global health research. In 2019, she directed the humanities and social sciences program at the University of Global Health Equity, a new health education center in Rwanda. She is a visiting scholar at the Center for Science, Technology, Medicine and Society at the University of California, Berkeley. Her book, Africanizing Oncology, tells the remarkable story of the Ugandan Cancer Institute.

Dr Carla Tsampiras

Carla Tsampiras is a senior lecturer in Medical and Health Humanities (MHH) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She is a social historian of health interested in the relationships between narratives and ideas about gender, ‘race’, class, sexuality, and health (individual and planetary). She has written on the early years of the AIDS epidemic in South Africa; gender violence and slavery in the Cape colony; MHH in health sciences education and the development of the field of MHH in the region.

Her current research work is concerned with ecofeminism, flesh foods (meat), gender, power, and violence. She teaches a postgraduate course called ‘The Meat of the Matter – Food, Gender, and Planetary Health’ and is a vegan feminist interested in developing multidisciplinary food scholarship from the region.

She is a founding member of the Medical and Health Humanities Africa network, a board member of the Institute for Medical Humanities at Durham; a member of the Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), and is part of the Environmental Humanities South working group.

Research Fellows

Dr Stephen Ombere

Stephen Okumu Ombere has PhD in Anthropology from the University of Bern-Switzerland and is a lecturer in the department of Sociology and Anthropology, Maseno University-Kenya. He has conducted ethnographic fieldwork among the Giriama community in Kilifi county, coastal Kenya, and is passionate about maternal health, sexual reproductive health among youths, and vulnerable and marginalised groups. Stephen is an active member of the Swiss Society for African Studies, Swiss graduate program in Anthropology, and an editor and reviewer for the International Journal of Public Health and the International Journal of Childbirth. In the past five years, Stephen has actively published several articles in refereed journals and two book chapters on maternal and child birth practices in Coastal Kenya.
Dr Maxima Missodey

Maxima Missodey had her tertiary education at Ghana’s premier University, the University of Ghana and has been with the Department of Sociology since her undergraduate studies. Her research interests include pharmaceutical anthropology, medical sociology and health research. She recently graduated from the University of Ghana with a PhD in Sociology. Her thesis, titled, “Herbal Medicines: Commodities in the Pharmaceuticalisation of Health in Ghana” is an anthropological study that explored the social life of herbal medicines from production, distribution through consumption and regulation. This study was part of a larger multi-country project aimed at studying the realities surrounding the global pharmaceutical industry.

Dr Blessings Kaunda

Blessings N. Kaunda, a medical anthropologist who has over ten years of qualitative research experience. She has a background in sociology (Unima), medical anthropology (UvA) and public and population health (Wits). Her niche focuses on applying social science disciplines (sociology, medical anthropology, medical humanities, gender lenses) and public health, health systems strengthening, operational research and implementation science frameworks to provide a richer understanding of research, analytic approaches and programmatic interventions. She continues to grow her experience in providing research leadership, publications, implementing research studies, data management, and analysis and facilitating knowledge translation.

Dr Josiah Taru

Josiah Taru is a social anthropologist whose work focuses on the anthropology of Christianity broadly and on Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity in particular. His previous research interrogates the complex relations between a local Pentecostal-Charismatic movement and the post-colonial Zimbabwean state, showing subtle ways in which, the Pentecostal movement is an infrastructural actor that plugs cracks and gaps evident in Zimbabwe’s social welfare system. Josiah has published nine peer-reviewed journal articles and three book chapters. Josiah has held ZUKOnect research fellowship at the University of Konstanz, and a visiting scholar fellowship at KU Leuven.
Dr Agnetta Nyabundi

Agnetta Adiedo Nyabundi is currently a post-doctoral fellow on the Andrew W. Mellon funded project on “Entanglement, Mobility and Improvisation: Culture and Arts in Contemporary African Urbanism and its Hinterlands” at the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria. A lecturer of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology at Maseno University though currently on leave. She holds a PhD Degree in Anthropology (Maseno University), Masters in Anthropology (Maseno University) and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology (First Class Honours) - Maseno University. Her research and consulting work has focused on the health system and the integration of mobile phones within care-seeking.

Dr Thandeka Dlamini

Thandeka is a medical anthropologist with a PHD in critical global health from the University of Amsterdam. She is an ethnographic fanatic, interested in studying the global-local nexus, eliciting how decisions, information and knowledge travel across space and time (the translation process), the imprints they leave on society at large and on individuals and how change is navigated, negotiated, challenged or accepted in everyday lives. She loves studying societies; the transformation process i.e., changes, shifts and emerging trends in societies; exploring new narratives, and how they emerge and challenge established repertoires. Her main quest is to promote novel traditional methodologies of study and translate them into scientific knowledge.

Dr Deirdre Blackie

Deirdre (Dee) Blackie is a child protection researcher and community worker in Johannesburg South Africa. Following a 15-year career in business consulting and change management, she started working with communities concerned with child protection, child abandonment and adoption in 2010. She facilitated the creation of a National Adoption Coalition for South Africa in 2011, and since then her primary focus has been on creating awareness and engaging with communities and lobbying the government around child protection challenges.

Her master’s research explored the lived experience of child abandonment and adoption in South Africa, and her PhD research has taken her into the field of disability, with a specific focus on atypical children and critical autism studies.