

GRADUATION CEREMONY



23 March 2022

Qualifications conferred on 23 March 2022.

The Faculty of Science graduation walk of celebration took place on 31 March 2022.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dean: Professor M Ramutsindela

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Brink, Christiaan Willem Thesis Title: *The role of supplementary feeding sites in vulture conservation in South Africa*

Christiaan Brink completed his BSc and BSc(Hons) in Zoology at the University of Pretoria, followed by an MSc in Conservation Biology at UCT. He began full-time study towards his PhD in August 2017. Christiaan Brink's thesis evaluated the current widespread use of supplementary feeding to support declining vulture populations in South Africa. Through a systematic survey he produced a national database of supplementary feeding sites and contribution quantified their to vultures. This survey also evaluated the motivations, perceptions and practices of their managers and identified potential practices that may be putting vultures at risk. Furthermore, he conducted more than 800 face-to-face surveys with farmers to spatially quantify the prevalence of poison-use for predator control, one of the main causes for the current African vulture crisis. Lastly his thesis showed that at a landscape level, while accounting for poisoning prevalence and the provisioning of unsafe food at feeding sites, supplementary feeding was not associated with increased breeding success for Cape Vulture colonies. These findings highlight the need for further investigations into the trade-offs associated with this practice and cautions against a priori assumptions of beneficial effects.

Supervisor: Dr R Thomson (Biological Sciences)

Co-supervisors: A/Professor A Amar (Biological Sciences); Dr A Santangeli (Biological Sciences) Brom, Peta Deborah Douglas Thesis Title: *Monkey beetles on the beat: urban monkey beetles reveal opportunities for pollinator habitat management in a South African city*

Peta Brom holds a Bachelor of Consumer Science (Housing), and a BPhil (Sustainable Development Planning) from Stellenbosch University. Before joining UCT she worked as a green building consultant. She joined UCT fulltime in 2016 to pursue her MPhil and PhD.

Peta Brom's thesis focuses on an important regional tribe of pollinators in the Fynbos Biome; monkey beetles. She explores their community structure across Cape Town in order to identify opportunities to support and conserve urban pollinator populations. She makes the link between indigenous plant community structure and pollinator community structure, with a codependency for success. She further calculates the duration of the reproductive cycle of spring geophytes emerging in the lawns of the city's parks and public open spaces. This allows her to propose a maintenance strategy that includes a mowing suspension duration aligned to the spring season of plant reproductivity.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor LG Underhill (Biological Sciences) Co-supervisors: Dr K Winter (Environmental and Geographical Science); Dr J Colville (Statistical Sciences)

Chopra, Vrinda

Thesis Title: Mediating social entrepreneurship in South Africa and India: exploring the entanglements of neoliberal logics and social missions

Vrinda Chopra holds a BA(Hons) degree from the University of Delhi, India, an MSc from the London School of Economics, and an MPhil from the University of Cambridge. In 2016, she joined the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at UCT for her PhD studies. Vrinda Chopra's thesis interrogates the practice of social entrepreneurship in South Africa and India, focussing on the entanglements of economic imperatives, such as financial sustainability, and social imperatives, like trust, morality, cooperation. solidarity, justice (among others). To show the entanglements of logics, Vrinda Chopra studies organisations called intermediaries that are situated in-between prominent development institutions (like state and philanthropy) and social enterprises on the ground. She shows both the discursive centring of economic and financial logics in social entrepreneurship practice, as well as the tensions and anxieties it produces given the pressures of social missions, which in South Africa and India are primarily around unemployment and inequality. She argues that as intermediaries navigate entangled economic and social logics, the inherent ambivalent nature of their work emerges. The ambivalent nature of practice challenges prevalent critiques that argue the centrality of neoliberal economic logics in development policy and practice.

Supervisor: Dr S Daya (Environmental and Geographical Science) Co-supervisor: Dr R Chaturvedi (Sociology)

Dabengwa, Abraham Nqabutho Thesis Title: Long-term ecosystem dynamics of contrasting grasslands in South Africa

Abraham Dabengwa completed his BSc(Hons) qualification at the National University of Science and Technology (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe) in 2006, obtained an MSc degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in 2009, and then began full-time study towards his PhD in 2011.

Abraham Dabengwa's explored equilibrium thesis and disequilibrium arguments regarding relationships among rainfall, grass productivity, grazing pressure, fire and soil degradation at wetland key resource areas over centennial timescales. The comparative study of palaeoecological data from sedimentary profiles from two contrasting grasslands in KwaZulu-Natal Province showed how large herbivores interacted with fire and climate to determine transitions between alternate stable consumer states of grass biomass over the past 2000 years. At the semiarid, lowland site, the interaction of fire and herbivory maintained open, discontinuous, low biomass vegetation at local scales, whereas continuous high biomass vegetation persisted in the mesic montane grassland. Grass biomass declined, and soil disturbance increased with drought at both sites, but recovered in wet periods. The nonequilibrium theory, combining equilibrium and disequilibrium, is extended with stability domains of grass states driven by fire, grazing, and soil moisture to assess ecological resilience and alternate stable states using palaeoecological studies.

Supervisor: A/Professor L Gillson (Biological Sciences) Co-supervisor: Emeritus Professor WJ Bond (Biological Sciences, SAEON)

De Coito, Paula Marie Thesis title: *Phylogeny and biogeography of southern African limpets in the genus Siphonaria in the context of a global phylogeny*

Paula de Coito holds a BSocSc and a BSc(Hons) in Biochemistry from UCT. Her PhD is the culmination of a lifelong passion for nature, science and education.

Paula de Coito's thesis explores the genetic relationships of an ecologically and evolutionarily important group, the false limpets Siphonaria. It first resolves the status of southern African species, recognising 11 species, including two species new to science. It then establishes that the rare-and-endangered Eelgrass false limpet, endemic to Langebaan Lagoon, has an unnamed sister species in Knysna Lagoon; a finding that has important conservation implications, including the need to guard against the possibility of extinction in the face of population collapses that have been recorded. Finally, it develops a world phylogeny - an 'evolutionary tree' - for the entire genus and for the first time, places the southern African species within that phylogeny. The thesis also tests the general paradigm that species richness declines from the tropics to the high latitudes of polar regions, and demonstrates that, contrary to this, among the false limpets there is a tropical dip in diversity, ascribable to the fact that the limpet shape is ill-adapted to tolerate the stresses of heat and water-loss there. Finally, the thesis demonstrates than species that have a planktonic larval stage have a wider geographic distribution that those with a 'direct development' that skips the planktonic phase.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor GM Branch (Biological Sciences) Co-supervisor: Professor T Hedderson (Biological Sciences)

Morake, Dedricks Monyai Thesis Title: *Long-lived mesoscale convective systems over eastern South Africa*

Dedricks Morake graduated with his MSc in Ocean and Atmosphere Science from UCT in 2018 and began his PhD in the Department Oceanography later that year. of Dedricks Morake's thesis develops а climatology of longlived mesoscale convective systems (MCSs) over eastern South Africa. It further studies the spatial distribution, frequency, life cycle, seasonal cycle and large-scale environmental conditions that are favourable for their development and explores the role MCSs play in summer rainfall. It is found that, on average, 63 MCSs occur over this region between November and March with a December peak, and that most of these systems occur near the eastern escarpment, or the warm waters of the northern Agulhas Current. More systems are initiated over land than over the adjacent ocean. The thesis indicates that there is considerable variability in MCSs frequency on interannual time scales and that such variability can have considerable impact on regional rainfall. Some MCS events have led to severe flooding events in eastern South Africa, with substantial socio-economic impacts and loss of life.

Supervisor: Professor C Reason (Oceanography) Co-supervisor: Dr R Blamey (Oceanography) Sekonya, James George Thesis Title: *Governance, informality and agency in the making of crossborder mopane worm livelihoods in southern Africa*

James Sekonya holds BEnvM (UNIVEN) and MPhil (UCT) degrees. He began full-time study towards his PhD in 2017. Before joining UCT, he worked in nature conservation, ecological monitoring, and environmental consulting across South Africa. James Sekonya's thesis examines the governance, complexities of informality and their influence in cross-border commercialisation of forest products. Using interactive governance and informality theories, he investigates the outcomes of interactive governance on patterns and forms of access to resources and markets across Botswana and South Africa. By analysing the mechanisms through which actors navigate different governance regimes, ranging from statutory through to customary approaches, he develops a conceptual framework to analyse the governance of natural resource commercialisation. A key finding is that asymmetric interactions between statutory and customary governance systems have led to the emergence of informality as an adaptive strategy across the trade. This is attributed to a fragmented and regulatory void, characterised by compliance costs that are inhibitory for impoverished actors. His research demonstrates the pitfalls of rigid regulatory frameworks which lack a pro-poor and resource sustainability focus on safeguarding informal resource-based livelihoods.

Supervisor: Professor R Wynberg (Environmental and Geographical Science)

Co-supervisor: A/Professor F Matose (Sociology)

Telemala, Joseph Philipo Thesis Title: *Investigating language preferences in improving multilingual Swahili information retrieval*

Joseph Telemala earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania in 2011 and a master's degree from Mahatma Gandhi University in India in 2015, before starting a full-time PhD at UCT in 2018. Joseph Telemala's thesis investigated the use of language preferences, with a specific focus on language preferences driven by search topic, in improving the relevance of results in a multilingual Swahili information retrieval system. He began by exploring the search behaviours of Swahilispeaking Web users in Tanzania. He created a prototype multilingual search engine that allowed users to search in English and Kiswahili, and then analysed the resulting query and click-through logs to look for an association between topic search and preferred language - topiclanguage association. Finally, he devised and evaluated an algorithm for ranking multilingual Swahili information retrieval results based on the topiclanguage associations/preferences he discovered in the click-through logs. The findings show that language preferences can potentially improve the relevance of results in multilingual information retrieval in some scenarios.

Supervisor: Professor H Suleman (Computer Science)

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Mehta, Akshata (with distinction) Rathmell, Sophie Gillies (with distinction in the coursework component)

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Aziz, Alveena Chinyama, Francis Landilani Clark, Fiona De Swardt, Gideon Jacobus (with distinction in the dissertation) Garvey, Cameron Michael (with distinction) Heye, Sonia (with distinction) Hickman, Rowan Barbara Johnson, Storm Ryan Lambrecht, Michael Stefan (with distinction) Malatsi, Tebogo Doctor (with distinction in the dissertation) Meyer, Thomas Leenen (with distinction) Mirugwe. Alex (with distinction in the dissertation) Mokhanda, Malesela Simon (with distinction) Mokubedi. Macheba Lucia Mwenje, Chikomborero Primrose Naidoo, Terushka Nematswerani, Phumudzo Njati, Jolando Ntombini, Kolosa (with distinction) Nyathi, Miranda Oliver, Benjamin Thomas (with distinction) Patel, Trisha Divieshkumar (with distinction in the coursework component) Pillay, Nakkita Harisha Lungoomeah (with distinction in the dissertation) Robbertze, Yuri (with distinction) Sigauke, Connie Spence, Kurt Angus Mcdonald Takawira, Michaela Faro Chehesai Toolsee, Tesha (with distinction) Van Dyk, Anke (with distinction in the coursework component)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS

Acton, Ryan Robert Baylis Ahn, Soo Kyung (in the first class) Andrews, Claude Edwin Appadoo, Prettysha (in the first class) Arendse, Amy Hannah (in the first class) Arens, Matthew Michael (in the first class) Arenstein, Jordan (in the first class) Arlow, Henco Aslan, Bilal Hasan Autar, Nirvashi Devi (in the first class) Bailey, Aidan James Balovi, Nhlengani Junior (in the first class) Barrow, Christine Tamara (in the first class) Baur, Niclas Fabian (in the first class) Birkett, Giovanna Lara (in the first class) Blair, Cameron James (in the first class)

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Vorster, Aylana Elizabeth (with distinction in Astrophysics) Walters, Reza Watson, Liam Adam Roebert (with distinction in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics and the degree with distinction) Wessels, Darren Nefdt Wilson, Kiera Jean (with distinction in Computer Science and the degree with distinction) Wright, Tim (with distinction in Business Computing) Wrinch-Schulz, Luke Elliot Yang, Kun-Yu Yerolemou, Nicholas Yuan, Yi-Ning Tiffany Zambodla, Ayabukwa Ziki, Batsirayi Mupamhi Zulu, Brandy Zulu. Zwelisha Zuma, Sinongo Nkazimulo Zungu, Linda

VISION AND MISSION UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Vision

An inclusive and engaged research-intensive African university that inspires creativity through outstanding achievements in learning, discovery and citizenship; enhancing the lives of its students and staff, advancing a more equitable and sustainable social order and influencing the global higher education landscape.

Mission

UCT is committed to engaging with the key issues of our natural and social worlds through outstanding teaching, research and scholarship. We seek to advance the status and distinctiveness of scholarship in Africa through building strategic partnerships across the continent, the global south and the rest of the world.

UCT provides a vibrant and supportive intellectual environment that attracts and connects people from all over the world.

We aim to produce graduates and future leaders who are influential locally and globally. Our qualifications are locally applicable and internationally acclaimed, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice. Our scholarship and research have a positive impact on our society and our environment.

We will actively advance the pace of transformation within our University and beyond, nurturing an inclusive institutional culture which embraces diversity.

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Note:

As of January 2015, the levels of individual donors' giving circles have changed as follows:

- Chancellor's circle: formerly R250 000+, now R500 000+;
- Vice-Chancellor's Circle: formerly R100 000 R250 000, now R250 000 R500 000;
- Dean's circle: formerly R60 000 R100 000, now R100 000 R250 000;
- Friends of UCT: formerly <R60,000, now <R100,000.

Please note that these changes only affect donations received after 1 January 2015. All donors who were members of particular circles prior to January 2015, will continue to be recognised in their original circles, until the rolling five-year giving period has elapsed.

We apologize for any omissions or errors. If you would like to query your donations totals, circle membership, or any other matter related to your gifts to UCT, please email giving@uct.ac.za.

A full list of UCT donors is also available at www.uct.ac.za/main/donating-to-uct/donor-recognition.

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Updates can be done on the web – <u>http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/</u> - or by writing to the Alumni Office, UCT, PB X3 Rondebosch 7701 or by contacting us on (27) (21) 650 3746.

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