



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Faculty of Social Sciences

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### SOCIOLOGY

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### Dr Mosime is the new Head of Department

We are pleased to announce that Dr Mosime began her term as Department HOD in January 2020. She took over from Dr Ikanyeng Malila.

Join me and my team as we celebrate our first anniversary with me as the Head of the Department of Sociology. As I said to the team at the beginning of my tenure, the only reason I felt I was ready to serve them was that they had been my family since 1994 when I was their student, and then as a colleague since 1999. In the 25 years, the Department of Sociology has become the launching pad for my professional and civic leadership, which includes leading the Academic and Senior Administrative Staff Union (UBASSSU) and representing Academic Staff in the UB Council and UB Foundation. I am confident to say 2020 has been a successful year for all of us. We are a formidable force where every single member takes a different leadership role towards the smooth running of the Department. Together we have braved it through COVID-19 infections, lockdowns and curfews. We have come out on the other side with new skill sets on online teaching, online assessments and ability to perform other administrative processes online. We may be latecomers, but we have become digital natives. What have we got lined up for 2021? Watch this space! The Department will be the host of a five-year Cooperation Agreement between UB and the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin) in Germany to implement the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS) from 2020 to 2024. Our Departmental Seminars and webinars will continue to attract the best local and international scholarship and research. We are also looking forward to our first cohort of PhD graduates. Our Department has also become one of the fastest growing departments in the Faculty of Social Sciences, with student numbers far exceeding projections, sometimes by more than 300% in some courses! All of this would not be possible

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Department of Sociology is to provide high level of Sociologists as part of the Development of the necessary human resources the economy needs to promote people centered development.

#### OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the department are;

1. To provide students with the analytical and conceptual skills to understand the nature and dynamics of a changing social world.
2. To consolidate a thorough foundation in both sociological theory and research methodology to achieve the above.
3. To introduce the student to a broad range of disciplinary perspectives and substantive areas in sociology during levels 100 and 200.
4. To allow the student from level 300 to specialize in a particular substantive area within sociology.
5. To enhance the knowledge, skills, capacity and marketability of the student to enter the labor market or to continue with further academic studies.

### Professor Thabo Fako retires from UB.. Page 6



without our capable patient Secretary cum Personal Assistant, Alphoncinah Kamanga. She is the only constant in the Department – available for all our needs with a constant smile.

Sociology Department joins the GCSMUS initiative...Page 5

"Our Graduate Programmes are growing"

Professor Maphosa...page 7

#### Editors Note:

Greetings and compliments of the new season!

The Sociology Department is excited to present the first issue of its Newsletter. Our goal is to publish two (2) issues every year. We would like this newsletter to be a place where the department can announce and share news and events, staff members can share their research and community projects and students past and present can connect. If you are interested in publishing an article, submitting pictures, or including an announcement please feel free to contact us at: [Sociologydept@ub.ac.bw](mailto:Sociologydept@ub.ac.bw)



# Research and Publication Highlights

Journal articles and book and chapters published by the department January 2019 to December 2019

## BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Pule, P., Malambe, P., Sabone, M. & **Lesetedi, G.** 2020 "Towards early detection and intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD): Scientific evidence and life stories of two Botswana parents" in Amanze, J.A. and Nkhoma, J.S. (editors) *Disability is not Inability: A quest for inclusion and participation of people with disability in Society*". Mzuzu: Mzuni Press.
2. Mosime, S.T, and Dikobe, M.M. (2020). "Candidate training programmes in Africa: A waste of resources or pedagogies of the oppressed? The experience of LETSEMA in Botswana (2013 - 2019) in Africa Now: Gendered Institutions and Women's Political Representation. New York: Zed Books. Pp. 74-102

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. **Sello, N. and Molebatsi, R. (2020).** Community-based decision making: Articulating policy decision in the Okavango Delta in Botswana, submitted to Africa Spectrum to be considered for publication. Submitted in July 2020, manuscript ID is AFR-20-148.
2. **Sethunya Mosime and Godisang Mookodi (2020).** *Women Rights Activists Never Stopped Talking: From Formal Women's Movements to Informal and Fluid Networks through the Empowerment Discourse in Post-Donor Aid Botswana* Botswana Notes and Records, Vol. 52: 77-91.
3. Matlhare, B., **Faimau, G & Sechele, L. (2020).** Risk perception and knowledge of cybercrime and its preventive strategies among youth at the University of Botswana. Mosenodi: Journal of the Botswana Educational Research Association, 23 (1), 99-113.
4. **Faimau, G. (2020),** "Towards a Theoretical Understanding of the Selfie: A Descriptive Review," *Sociology Compass*, Vol. 14 (12): e12840, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12840>. [Published by Willey, indexed in SCOPUS and Web of Science.
6. **Maphosa, F. & Ntau, C. (2020).** Undocumented migrants as *homo sacer*: Cases from Botswana and South Africa. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 55(7):1-17.
7. **Maphosa, F. & Molale-Rankone, M. 2020.** Humour as aggression: The case of *ho lahla mollo* among students at the National University of Lesotho. *Lwati: A Journal of Contemporary Research*, 17(2): 47-70

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

- Molepo, S.P., Faimau, G. and Mashaka, K.T.O. (2020), "CCTV Placement in Gaborone City, Botswana: A Critical Review through the Lens of the Situational Crime Prevention Theory," *Criminology and Social Integration*. [Published by the University of Zagreb, indexed in IBSS and SocINDEX].
2. **Maphosa, F and Maunganizde L** (in-print, 2021). *Business and Society in Botswana: Corporate Citizenship*. Palgrave
3. Rugoho, T and **Maphosa, F** (in print, 2021). *Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents with Disabilities*. Palgrave

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

**Godisang Mookodi (2020).** Presented on interview held on 26th June, 2020 by Feminism in Botswana on Gender activism, action research and feminism. (See page 4)

**Dr Treasa Galvin (2020).** Participant in February 2020 workshop entitled 'Reflections on Historical Heritage in Botswana's Place, Street and Landmark Names'.

## STAFF PROJECTS

**Professor Gabriel Faimau** is investigating "Motivations of Selfie-taking and Ethical Sensibilities of Selfie-posting among Young People in Botswana". The project has been awarded **P 78,070.85**. This project aims at examining the trend of selfie-taking and selfie-posting among young people in Botswana. In particular, the project intends to interrogate the ethical blind spots and choices that prompt an individual to take and post a self-portrait photograph online. In doing so, this study will add new perspectives to the current debates and scholarly studies on digital culture and society from Botswana's context as well as knowledge of the current state of smartphone use in Botswana that might influence the future use of smartphones, practices and policies of cybersecurity, and various digital policy frameworks in Botswana and in the region.

**Professors France Maphosa** together with **Dr Malila, Mr Maravanyika, Ms Gaborone** and **Dr Mpho Keatile** are studying "Policing an emergency: COVID-19 and police work in Botswana" through a grant awarded by ORD

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
Margaret Mead



KARL MARX



# The engaged Sociologist: community service

**The Department continues to use its Professional resources to serve communities**

## Professor Faimau

In the past year Prof. Faimau served as an Advisory Board Member of the Institute of Resource Governance and Social Change (IRGSC) in Indonesia, responsible for providing insights relating to the development. Served as a Board Member of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) in Indonesia responsible for establishing, monitoring and evaluating the organisational plans, activities and resources. He Served as resource person at the 2020 JPIC Kalimantan Webinar Series on “Living as a Community in Times of Covid-19 Pandemic” (June 2020). Prof. Faimau also served as the contact person of the Indonesian diaspora community in Botswana (under the global Indonesian Diaspora Network) responsible for organising, amongst others, Indonesian socio-cultural events in Botswana (2016 to date). He also participated in launching a book on the diplomatic relations between Indonesia and South Africa and presented a broad review of the global partnership between Indonesia and Southern African countries.

## Dr Mookodi

Dr Mookodi, a feminist of note continues to make her work visible. She served as Patron for the Young Women’s Leadership Club at UB since 2010. Served as a member of the Gender Based Violence Virtual weekend hosted by Peace by Peace and Maitisong. Served as a co-facilitator on GBV and masculinities.

## Mr Ntsabane

Mr Ntsabane have been involved in a number of neighbourhood policing activities in the past year. Has also served as an Executive member of Pelontle Football Club. He played a significant part in the running and fundraising activities of the community club and has been a part of the organisation and mobilisation especially during major holidays.

## Mr Emmanuel Maravanyika

Mr Emmanuel Maravanyika participated in the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation mentor (mentorship programme, South Africa) where he mentors selected 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who sign up for the programme. Mentorship is decided on the student’s career path and assigned to a mentor with similar career.

## Dr Sethunya Mosime

Dr Mosime became the Chairperson of the Board of the Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana. She also served as a member of the Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA) editorial board. Dr Mosime continued in her role as member of UB Council and UB foundation. She has held several webinars that promoted engaging in positive insightful change in the community, shaping the inclusive development agenda and sensitize the public to rethink development.

## Ms Nkhukhu-Orlando & Lesedi Mashumba

The duo founded the Botswana Organization for Fathers and Children at Risk (BOFCAR) and continue to help it grow. They have secured two (2) interns from government currently involved in mediation services and media and public relations services-. They manage and coordinate mobilisation of resources from potential sponsors, maintain links with government, international partners, local NGOs, churches, schools and other partners. In the year 2020 they drafted the BOFCAR Strategic Plan and Parental Agreement forms as key documents guiding BOFCAR’s operations.

## Dr Ntau

As a member of the St. Bernadette Catholic Church *Lekgotla borre*, and immediate past Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) he played an advisory role in the new leadership of the church to help them settle in. The PPC assists the parish priest in the smooth running of the church at parish level. It is responsible for the day to day running of the parish with an Executive Committee. In addition Dr Ntau is a member of the Kutlwano neighbourhood watch community (formed due to security concerns in the neighbourhood). “*During the first lockdown in the country we organised food parcels for the needy members in our community*” says Dr Ntau.

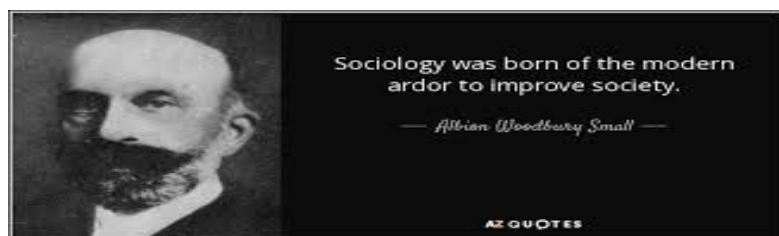
## Dr Lesetedi

Dr Lesetedi is a member of the Newlands School PTA and also board member. She has been involved in fund raising activities and organizing the Prize Giving Ceremony which due to COVID 19 was not possible held. She is also a member of the Lions Club of Gaborone where she participated in various club activities.

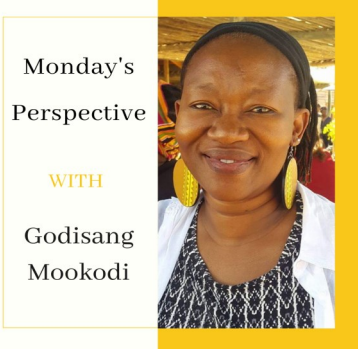
## MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

**Dr Nelson Sello was interviewed on BTV** (on September 9) about social behavior and what needs to be done to ensure that the virus does not spread as much as it would. He highlighted that social behavior change is a process that takes time to effect due to various conditions that exist in society.

**Dr Nelson Sello was on BTV again** on November 26th providing guidance and recommendations on what needed to be done to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the 2020 festive season at a time that borders had just been opened. The discussion centered on coming up with interventions and expanding the involvement of other stakeholders especially in rural areas where people were expected to go for the festive season.



## FEMINISM IN BOTSWANA: Interview by Dr Mookodi



Monday's  
Perspective  
  
WITH  
  
Godisang  
Mookodi

Dr mookodi continues to influence the Feminist movement in Botswana and abroad. Find interview from <https://www.facebook.com/FeminismWorksBW>

### 1. Who are you?

My name is Godisang Mookodi, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology (Faculty of Social Sciences) at the University of Botswana. I also currently serve as a team leader (Patron) of the Young Women's Leadership Club- U.B Chapter which is part of a regional Feminist Action Research project involving seven universities that focus on sexual politics, reproductive health and leadership on campuses. This project has been active since 2010 and is coordinated by the African Gender Institute of the University of Cape Town.

### 2. What is feminism to you?

I understand feminism to be a personal ideological belief in the advancement and improvement of the welfare of women. I see it as not sloganeering or rhetoric but doing. Feminism is activism - a commitment by people "doing" for their community with the intentions to push for equality and equity.

### 3. How did your relationship with the movement begin and evolve throughout your career?

Feminism has been a personal journey of self-discovery and the development of my gender lens as well as cosmopolitan outlook developed simultaneously during my childhood and adolescence. As one of three daughters, I was acutely aware of social injustices, specifically socio-cultural gender inequality. For as long as I can remember, I've been a Feminist (and will always be one) and an advocate for social justice for over 35 years. As a young civil servant working in the GOB Women's Affairs Unit (now Gender Affairs) from 1985 to 1990 the experience I gained was critical for my development as a gender activist travelling around the urban and rural areas of Botswana gaining insights into the socio-economic and political welfare of women. Having spent the last 30 years at UB teaching, researching and engaging in activism on gender equity issues including the development of the University Sexual Harassment Policy and as a current member of the University's Sexual Harassment Committee (which processes cases involving students and staff) my relationship with the movement, overall, continues to thrive and grow exponentially.

### 4. To what extent do you think feminism contributed to the development and progress of Botswana?

Feminism has contributed a lot to the development of Botswana. This movement has overall managed to raise awareness about the status of women which helped shift the culture and social mindset that undervalued women. I often reflect - especially in my classroom-on a period in the 80's when many women and women's rights groups dedicated their time and effort to get the government to be cognizant of the need for women's right to earn during maternity leave. Back then, Maternity policies allowed for women to be paid only +/-25% when on

maternity leave. Through feminist activism and advocacy, such policies (and many others) were able to be challenged and changed. And it is because of such efforts that today we see the conversation of parenthood extending beyond it just being motherhood and exploring issues of paternity leave, queer parenting and so on.

We, however, still have a long way to go and the topic of gender equality & equity is still a slippery social slope but so far feminism has managed to start difficult conversations that vehicled and will continue to vehicle change and development by influencing policy that recognizes the rights of minority groups across the board not only in this country but the entire globe.

### 5. What are your hopes for the future?

- I hope for:
1. The elimination of the gender gap in all aspects of society i.e. Wages, Leadership, Representation
  2. To see more young people of all genders with agency that permeates in creativity and helps their involvement in positive activities that realizes that patriarchy is a foe that impinges on human liberties to continue the fight for equality.
  3. An end to Gender-Based Violence.

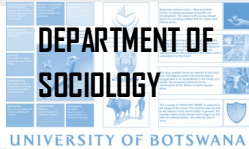
## BOFCAR GOING STRONG



Mses Esther Nkhukhu-Orlando and Lesedi Mashumba and their students established the Botswana Organization for Fathers and Children at Risk in 2017. The mandate of the NGO is to promote and strengthen protections for vulnerable children, encourage fathers to get involved in their children's lives and curb child neglect. Today "We continue to offer services like mediation, reconciliation between children and their fathers, educating the fathers on the importance of getting actively involved in their children's lives, educating parents to not fight relationship battles using children as well as collaborating with other NGOs to prevent child abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Bofcar enjoys the support of Government, currently hosting two interns; a Social worker involved in Mediation and Counselling interventions for clients and a Media Specialist responsible for promoting the services of BOFCAR to the general public so we can reach more people to assist through social media and website. BOFCAR has experienced a steady increase in the number of clients seeking its services. **"We would like to have more partners to strengthen national collaboration for the prevention of violence and abuse against children through improved networking, influencing policies and practices and advocacy".**

# Sociology Department joins the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS) initiative



## Overview of the partnership



Professor Faimau in Berlin with colleagues from GCSMUS

The University of Botswana (UB) and the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin) in Germany have recently signed a five-year Cooperation Agreement to implement the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS) in Botswana from 2020 to 2024. The Department of

Sociology acts as one of the lead partners of this global initiative, represented by Prof. Gabriel Faimau.

The GCSMUS is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development via the DAAD program “Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation – EXCEED.” The center is based at TU Berlin in Germany and connects 48 institutional partners from 47 countries and eight world regions, led by Prof. Nina Baur, Chair for Methods of Social Research, Department of Sociology at TU Berlin and Prof. Angela Million, Chair of Urban Design and Urban Development, Institute of Urban and Regional Planning at TU Berlin. Other Lead Partners include the Department of Sociology at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, represented by Prof. Fraya Frehse and the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at IIT Roorkee in India, represented by Prof. Gaurav Raheja.

Focusing on the Sustainable Development Goal #11 of the Agenda 2030 which aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, the center is committed to developing transdisciplinary spatial methods in order to improve both the academic education in the spatial disciplines and planning practice with emphasis on evidence-based, low-impact urban development approaches. To achieve these goals, the center is organized as a peer-learning process and will implement several strategic activities between 2020 and 2024. This includes combined teaching-research-courses, Ph.D. and post-doctoral research projects, research workshops and international conferences.

Appreciating the leading role played by the University of Botswana in the GCSMUS initiative, Prof. Nina Baur, the

Director of GCSMUS at TU Berlin said, “the University of Botswana is the GCSMUS’s gateway for linking Africa to the rest of the world. The involvement of UB as a lead partner in conceiving the concept of the GCSMUS together with other lead partners from Brazil, India and Germany demonstrates a strong commitment to the advancement of urban sustainable development, knowledge sharing, exchange and implementation.”

Dr. Sethunya Mosime, Head of the Department of Sociology at UB, underlines the timely contribution of the global network and collaboration among students and experts in spatial methods from across a diversity of disciplines through the GCSMUS initiative. “The GCSMUS conference and methodology workshops organised in collaboration with the University of Botswana will make Botswana the first country in Africa to host this important step towards caring for economies and cities, changing the narrative about African cities as breeding grounds for squalor and danger,” she said.

On his part, Prof. Gabriel Faimau, the Lead Partner of GCSMUS at UB, added that “the GCSMUS provides an excellent platform for UB community to join a global network of researchers and scholars. Not only will the initiative inspire future collaborative research, but it will also contribute to the formation of a new generation of social science researchers and urban planning and design experts in Africa.”

**More information on the GCSMUS can be found on:**  
<https://gcsmus.org>.

## Two PhD candidates participate in the GCSMUS students exchange programme

*(See next page for their stories)*



Pictured in Germany Ms Khumo Motshwari (Front row 3rd from left) and Mr Robert Molebatsi (Front row 2nd from right)

# Sociology Department joins the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS) initiative cont'd

## Mr Robert Molebatsi

It was a pleasure to participate in an exchange programme at the Technische Universitaat Berlin (TU) from September 2020 to February 2021. The programme brought about 50 PhD Students from various Universities and countries in the global south. Going there, the opportunity to experience German culture and language was more appealing. And of course the excitement of going to a place of reputable German scholars and receiving their mentorship. Once there, learning from some of the revered Professors cemented the obvious value of the exchange programme. The cosmopolitan texture of the group added to the fun and richness of the rather short academic exchange.

It turned out to be a worthwhile academic excursion and one punctuated with site visits to the many historical sites and museums in Berlin. The spice to it was an educational sample to the small city of Bauhaus Dessau and learning of the sterling academic adventures of the legendary architect Walter Gropius at the Bauhaus University and the City's museum. The legacy of which seemed to me to be part of the basis upon which the GCSMUS in TU is based on. While all along I had no doubt of the impact sociology can have to any sphere of life, I marveled at how TU blended the disciplines of sociology, urban planning and architecture. A blending that manifests the pliable fusion of structure and agency sociology is ever seized with. Despite the brevity of the time spent there, I somehow feel I can proudly associate with TU. It was indeed an experience, only stained by the 21st Century great blight (so far) of COVID 19.



## Ms Khumo Motshwari

This intensive 6 months exchange program has enabled me to develop my research proposal, and also widened my knowledge on Spatial Methods and tools of Social Research. I have also particularly found the exchange enriching due to the multi-disciplinary composition of the center's participants. Within the center, I was given other responsibilities like planning for an excursion to Quedlingburg Harz, workshops and co-moderated during the zoom sessions. In addition, this program has also helped me establish networks with other colleagues from Global South which facilitated cultural ex-

change. Lastly, I have widened my language skills by enrolling for a German Beginners Language Course which enabled me to communicate easier during my stay.

## UB will host the 1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods ("SMUS Conference")

We are happy to announce that the "Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability" (GCSMUS) together with the Research Committee on "Logic and Methodology in Sociology" (RC33) of the "International Sociology Association" (ISA) and the Research Network "Quantitative Methods" (RN21) of the European Sociology Association" (ESA) will organize a "1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods" ("SMUS Conference") which will at the same time be the "1st RC33 Regional Conference - Africa: Botswana" from **20 September - 26 September 2021** with the main conference days from 23 September - 26 September 2021. Due to challenges of COVID-19 **the conference will convene entirely ONLINE.**

The seven-days conference aims at promoting a global dialogue on methods and should attract methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences (e.g. area studies, architecture, communication studies, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). Additionally, the conference programme will include advanced methodological training courses, Ph.D. workshops and a social programme. Thus, the conference will enable scholars to get in contact with methodologists from various disciplines all over the world and to deepen discussions with researchers from various methodological angles.

For communications relating to the conference [smusconference@ub.ac.bw](mailto:smusconference@ub.ac.bw)

### Conference Organizing team

Prof. Gabriel Faimau (Team Leader)  
Prof. France Maphosa  
Dr. Ikanyeng Malila  
Dr Godisang Mookodi  
Dr. Gwen Lesetedi  
Dr Sethuya Mosime  
Dr. Latang Sechele  
Ms. Esther Nkhukhu-Orlando

"THE FUNCTION OF SOCIOLOGY, AS OF EVERY SCIENCE, IS TO REVEAL THAT WHICH IS HIDDEN."

PIERRE BOURDIEU



Teaching is the greatest act of optimism. Colleen Wilcox

## Professor Thabo Fako retires from UB

Longtime lecturer in the Sociology Department, Professor Fako retired in February 2020 after serving the university for 46 years. His association with the University of Botswana dates back to 1974 when he joined the then University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland as a part-time Lecturer. He was appointed a Lecturer in Sociology in 1978. Professor Fako pursued his university education in the United States where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with honours (magna cum laude) from Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri in 1974. He obtained a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Sociology from the University of Kentucky in Lexington in 1978 and a PhD in Sociology from the highest ranked Sociology Department in the USA at Madison Wisconsin in 1984. His PhD studies focused on Complex Organizations, and Medical Sociology.



Professor Fako has worked at the University of Botswana in various capacities since 1974. He rose through the ranks and has held numerous positions, including lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor. He has held many responsibilities such as Head of Department, Dean of Student Affairs, Director of Continuing Education, etc. He was the first Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) when the position was established in 1995. Professor Fako took over from Professor Bogosi Otlhogile as the fifth UB Vice Chancellor between 2011 and 2017. After leaving the VC office, he rejoined the Department of Sociology where he continued his teaching career. The department is delighted that one of their own was found worthy of leading Botswana's institution of higher learning. Fako is the first Motswana citizen to be Professor of Sociology with a commensurate record of research and publications. He had an impressive career and the department will be poorer without him. We wish him well and thank him for his years of dedicated and inspirational service.

## Ms Lesedi Mashumba rejoins UB

Ms Lesedi Mashumba is happy to have rejoined the sociology department after her study leave. She is enrolled as a PhD Candidate (awaiting her defense) at Queensland University of Technology in Australia. Ms Mashumba teaches in the Criminal Justice stream. The department wishes her a successful academic career. (See page 11...her journey back home).



## Professor Maphosa wins a Research Grant

Awarded ORD research grant to study on the topic *Policing an emergency: COVID-19 and police work in Botswana* with Dr Malila, Mr Maravanyika, Ms Gaborone and Dr Mpho Keatile



## Professor Faimau receives ORD research grant

for his project on Motivations of Selfie-taking and Ethical Sensibilities of Selfie-posting among Young People in Botswana.



## Mr Robert Molebatsi wins scholarship

Mr Molebatsi is on research leave participating in the GCSMUS students exchange programme (see page 5)



The self is not something ready-made, but something in continuous formation through choice of action. John Dewey

# STUDY PROGRAMS: NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

## Meet the Sociology Graduate Program

**Coordinator: Professor France Maphosa**

### Our Graduate Programmes



We are currently offering 3 graduate programmes, MA in Sociology, MA in Development Studies and MPhil/PhD. The MA in Development Studies was the first and attracts students mainly from Southern Africa but also attracted students as far as West Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon). Its alumni includes government ministers, diplomats, programme directors and managers in the public sector, private sector and civil society. A tracer study of

the graduates of the programme was completed by **Prof Maphosa** and **Dr Lesetedi** in 2020. The findings are under review as a journal article. The MA in Development Studies (MADVS) is a multi-disciplinary programme, Its first intake was in 2000 and currently has 13 students enrolled.

The MA in Sociology is a new programme. It is intended for students who have a background in Sociology either as a single major or double major or related field). Its first intake was in 2019 and currently has 4 students enrolled. The MPhil/PhD is intended for students with an undergraduate degree in Sociology or related field). Its first intake was in 2013 and currently has 15 students enrolled.

Our PhD students are pursuing research on issues including health, migration, experiences of LGBTI, social cohesion, urban tourism, digital technology, organizational behavior, natural resource management, food security, gender issues, social impacts of COVID-19, unemployment and employability.

All our programmes are offered on both full and part-time bases.

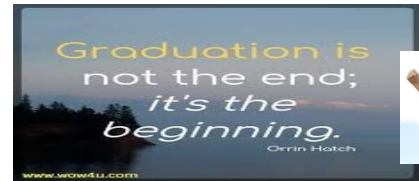
### Graduating class of 2020

The Department celebrated **three (3)** candidates who attained Masters of Arts Degree in Development Studies (MADVS) at the 38th University of Botswana Graduation Ceremony. **Two** of the students completed by **Coursework only**

1. Tumelo Powe
2. Lesedi Komi

**Israel Rocky Blackie**, a PhD candidate completed awaiting oral examination (the first PhD in Sociology by a Motswana from the University of Botswana!)

**Topic:** Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) and Poverty Reduction: Insights from Ngamiland and Chobe Districts, Botswana



### Vision for graduate studies

1. To increase student intake especially at the MA level
2. To encourage students do research in line with the University's strategic plan to be a research based university
3. To enhance students' university experience and mentoring through co-publishing with them
4. To increase graduate programmes. The process of developing and accrediting an MA and MPhil/PhD in Criminal Justice is at an advanced stage

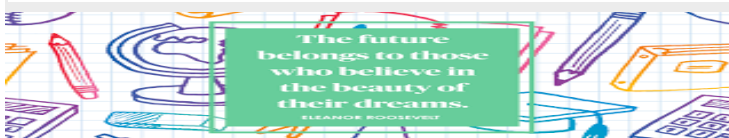
### Chada Kealotswe completed both coursework and dissertation (MADVS Degree)



Chada & supervisor Dr Mookodi

**Topic:** The Dynamics of Poverty Among Youth in Serinane Village in Kweneng West Sub-District: Implications for Reaping the Demographic Dividend.

Supervisor: **Dr Mookodi**







## Meet the MA (MDP) Coordinator: Dr Treasa Galvin



The Master's in Development Practice (MDP) degree programme at the School of Graduate Studies is awarded by the Faculty of Social Sciences and coordinated from within the Department of Sociology. The MDP degree is a multi-disciplinary programme designed to offer the

skills and knowledge required to identify and address the global challenges of sustainable development, such as poverty, health, population, conservation, climate change and human rights. Now in its tenth year, the MDP degree at UB is a member of the MDP Global Network which consists of 35 similar programmes hosted by Universities around the globe.

As a two year postgraduate degree with a modular structure, the MDP facilitates professional development for participants living outside the Gaborone catchment area as well as for those living in other members states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In line with the programme's multi-disciplinary nature, the MDP draws together a staff base from a range of departments at UB, the Okavango Research Institute (ORI), the Botswana College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and regional Universities in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In addition to the programmes core modules, MDP students complete a two-month research field school and a dissertation. Through the linkages between the MDP Global Network and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), our MDP students have been able to undertake field placements in countries such as Uganda, Bangladesh, and the island nation of Tonga.

## Meet the BCJ Coordinator: Ms Kenbonyengwana Mashaka



The Department of Sociology, the queen of the social sciences at the University of Botswana runs a Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies (BA CJS). Now on its 11<sup>th</sup> year of existence, the program has since graduated eight (8) groups including those that entered at third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year with the Diploma in Criminal Justice (DCJ); which has since 2011 been phased out. The BACJS is a 4 year (8 Semester) para-professional program targeting both pre-service as well as in-service personnel in the administration of justice, law enforcement and in the security services. These include among others: the police service, prisons, the army, the intelligence community, private security service providers, mining companies, the financial sector, as well as the communications sectors dealing with security, compliance and risk management issues.

For in-service personnel, the program offers an opportunity to acquire a high level qualification, enhancing career development and broadening the scope of their knowledge of the criminal justice beyond that based on their experiences in the organizations/departments for which they work. For pre-service candidates (BGCSE), the program provides a unique understanding of the criminal justice process as it incorporates all aspects of crime and justice and ensures that information provided is based on international as well as local knowledge and recent research studies.

### Scope of Program

The wide variety of courses offered over a period of eight (8) semesters i.e. four (4) academic years cover a number of key areas in the criminal process namely: Crime Intelligence, Crime Prevention, Emerging International Concerns General policing and law enforcement concerns, Court Processes, Prisons Punishment, Policy, Management and Theoretical Issues. It also offers the following transferable skills, Research Skills, Crime Investigation and Risk Assessment, Report writing skills and Critical thinking.

*(See page 13 for specific objectives of the BCJ program)*



The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done - men who are creative, inventive and discoverers.

(Jean Piaget)

# A Selection of Seminar Abstracts



**The department engages its staff and Graduate students.**

**Presentations are great opportunities to network and gain valua-**

## Mr Clement Tlhogo

**Exploring benefits, opportunities and constraints of urban tourism in Botswana: The case of the city of Gaborone.**

Tourism is an important aspect of the development of Botswana. However like many developing countries, tourism in Botswana mainly nature based. This means tourist product is still narrowly flora and fauna. Dependent on one form of tourism is not sustainable, and is risky for in case the product reaches its lifespan or is affected by unforeseen ailments. Indications are that domestic tourists that visit wildlife and the wilderness in the country are small compared to international tourists. Marketing and promotional efforts have been put in place to promote the domestic tourists to visit the country's abundant flora and fauna, but there seem not to be improvement in enticing the market. While this is the case, it has been established that there is a significant number of local residents who travel to neighboring

South Africa for other forms of tourism particularly urban tourism. It is not clear why a big number of local residents travel to South African cities over and

above existing cities in Botswana especially Gaborone which is the capital city. Issues of tourism product diversification and assessment of the domestic tourism market needs could have the potential to yield results that can improve Botswana tourism performance. Therefore, this research aims to explore the benefits, opportunities and constraints of urban tourism in Gaborone, as an alternative form of tourism that can diversify the already established wildlife and wilderness based tourism.

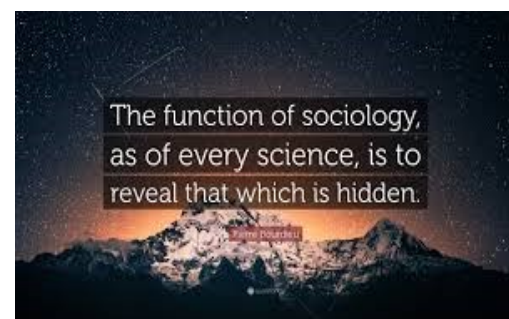
The purpose of this research is to assess the viability of Gaborone city as an urban tourism destination. This research adopts the qualitative research design, premised on the interpretivist paradigm and is guided by the Structuration theory as its theoretical underpinning. The research is guided by a triangulation of methods of data collection which include key informant interviews, in-depth interviews and documentary analysis. This research results are anticipated to contribute to sustainable tourism development practices and/or influence tourism policy instruments.

## Ms Lesedi Mashumaba

**Topic: Exploring and understanding the experiences, attitudes and perceptions of gender, sexuality, race, and victimisation in male sex workers' interactions with sex tourists in Botswana.**

The sex work and sex tourism linkage is very complex, especially in the African context, where it is entangled in a web of denial of its existence, religious

disapproval, and political views fuelled against it. Reference is made to local dynamics throughout the thesis, in order, to understand how these cross-national interactions influence how male sex work is practised and perceived in Botswana. Over the past decade, the tourism industry has been one of the fastest growing and largest economic sectors in Africa. Studies in other contexts confirm a strong correlation between growth in the tourism industry and an increase in sex work. While there are theoretically sound and empirically informed studies on the many forms of sex work, especially in Asia and other parts of the world, as well as studies focused on female sex work in the tourism industry, male sex work is still under-researched, and especially its occurrence in the tourism industry in Africa. In-depth face-to-face interviews were conducted with male sex workers. Support groups and the police were also interviewed as important players given the existence of sex work in a semi-criminalised and fuzzy legal system in Botswana.



My Journey From Australia to Botswana Amid Covid-19



For so many I had watched movies about kidnapers, snipers and terrorists, and had always feared a man under a mask. But in an instant the world I knew had turned into a masked world. In that moment even a masked stranger is trustworthy for we are all protecting ourselves from the wrath of a pandemic and kidnapping is the last thing on anyone's mind. My friend's car pulls slowly on the driveway so as not to hit our huge luggage bags. Its been weeks of packing and unpacking and finally the 5 days long journey to Botswana begins. As I bid farewell to my masked friends, housemates and neighbours I cannot help think it could be the last time I see them. My PhD journey was almost coming to an end. It had been six months of a whole different world with lockdowns, studying and working from home, restricted domestic and international travel and movement, and our university buildings were just so empty. I had gone to my student station earlier to pack up my desk. Usually, it is norm to have a farewell party, but bidding farewell in that way had become prohibited. We packed our bags into the car and drove to the airport. Sanitizing spots were set everywhere, social distancing was ensured by security and posters were everywhere about preventing the spread of the pandemic. Most airline counters however, were closed. So were most shops.

The impact of the pandemic on the economy was visible. As the flight takes off, we are headed to Doha, where we spent a day awaiting our next connection. The beautiful airport of Doha, empty! It is not surprising as I had seen the same back in Brisbane, Australia as we were departing. We are still all masked and airport staff is keeping busy sanitizing the surfaces every couple of hours. The next day we boarded our flights to Nairobi, Kenya. We arrived at midnight, with our airport hotel shuttle awaiting. But transiting was not easy. We had done our Covid-19 tests 72 hours earlier, but the result presentation system used in Australia was not recognized in Kenya. They threatened to quarantine us for 14 days. We spent the next few hours negotiating transit and being allowed to lodge in at the booked hotel. They reluctantly agree when we show them the Botswana High Commission letter of support of travel. We got to the hotel at 4am in the morning and had a bath. It had been 2 days since we bathed properly. We

spent the next 2 days in Nairobi awaiting our connecting flight to Lusaka, Zambia. We had been praying that nothing changes and we get home safe. Transiting through Zambia was quite challenging. This had been the only route available so all flights ended in Zambia. We had already booked a taxi, which was nowhere to be found at 2am upon arrival. We spot an empty taxi and start to negotiate for a drop off at the Kazungula boarder. The next couple of hours in the taxi were the most daunting. In those moments, you realize you are closer to home, and luxury is limited. We endure the huge potholes, the bumps and the sunburn. And without a GPS we got lost a couple of times and asked strangers for directions. Finally we reach the Kazungula boarder. We board a pontoon to the other side. The walk from the river to the boarder was quite difficult with our huge luggage bags on our backs. We had been psychologically preparing ourselves for quarantine, but not for the hard labouring of our luggage.

Upon arrival at the Kazungula entry, we are registered and a government vehicle is summoned to carry us to the quarantine hotel. Quarantine was a whole different story; the awful food, the loneliness and the slow service. But, on the brighter side, quarantine was a beautiful part of my growth. It is in those moments when you learn to be alone but not be lonely, to enjoy your own company, to appreciate your own self, to introspect and to discover things you did not know about yourself. I had even made monkey friends, and had one monkey that just came to sit in front of my door and watch me every morning. I called him Monkenobae. The first and the last tests all came back negative, so on the 11<sup>th</sup> day we were released. My travel crew and were reunited. We spent some days touring Kasane and appreciating its beauty after quarantine. And to get to Gaborone, the only flights available were in Maun, which is were we eventually take off and land at Sir Seretse Khama Airport.



## What are you doing now?

We are always looking for alumni updates. It can be anything from a couple of sentences to a couple of paragraphs and do not forget to let us know when you graduated. Drop us a line at: [Sociologydept@ub.ac.bw](mailto:Sociologydept@ub.ac.bw)

### Ms. Wame Kgosietsile



Ms Wame Kgosietsile graduated with a single major in Sociology (2020)

God has been the source of my strength to my academic success! I am Wame Goitseone Kgosietsile, who initially was a double major in Psychology and Sociology but now the only Sociology single major graduate of 2020. I experienced the lesson that sometimes what we want is not what we always get, but indeed aids to redirect us to our true path. Towards the end of second year, I applied for a Bachelor of Psychology program and I did not qualify. The disappointment redirected to a new path that I was and still am happy to have pursued. But little did I know I was the only Sociology single major student in the class of 2020.

During my grade years, being the only student on a wheelchair had its own stares and utterances but being the only single major, this uniqueness was also met with its fair share of comments and curiosity from those around me. Everyone seemed to want to keep abreast with my academic progress. It fuelled my focus and determination. Throughout the assignments, presentations, tests, and examinations, I sought to perform better even though I was literally my own competitor! I was the true example of what it means to compete with oneself and seeking to do better than oneself yesterday than to do better than anyone else. To be the only sociology single major has given me much confidence that I can venture into a path alone courageously and reach the ultimate destination successfully.

Endurance and flexibility were the key qualities that led to my success. I often had to readjust my study plans depending on the availability of others so as not to inconvenience them. Due to my disability, with weak upper and lower limbs, I am to a great extent dependent on the help of others to complete tasks for instance, I need someone to carry my laptop wherever I need it. Where I could not get up to my lecturers' offices due to malfunctioning elevators, lecturers were willing to go an extra to meet outside the comfort of their offices. Resilience coupled with determination drove me to reach the final goal of putting on a graduation gown as one who learnt and understood why she began the journey.

Sociology has equipped me with research skills that will enable me to serve communities in Botswana, as far as developments are concerned. I remain one who is always

ready to help and improve the standard of living despite my physical limitations. Therefore, Sociology has enhanced my altruistic nature.

### Ms. Gorata Chepete

**My Degree:** I embarked on a Criminal Justice Degree five years ago for several reasons that are both personal and non-personal. I applied for the Degree as my first option because I have been a victim of crime countless times and I have seen how civilians have also fallen prey to crime and inadequate Justice systems. I have always had a strong passion towards waging relentless war against criminality, economic disorder, bureaucratic tyranny, intellectual pedantry, and reforming unjust Criminal Justice systems. I knew I wanted to work within the system and try to correct some wrongs and ensure that Justice is served, Always.



Ms Gorata Chepete is a graduate of Bachelor of Criminal Justice (2018).

**How I got the Job:** I am not self-made and have to give credit to all the Criminal Justice and Sociology lecturers and the Faculty of Social Sciences. My Lecturers always pushed me to be the best version of myself even outside Academia. Consequentially, Mrs Mashaka who attended a briefing held by my current employer, Africa Practice was adamant about how she thinks I am destined to work for the firm. She extended the offer to four other students with a CGPA of at least 3.8. I applied and was invited for an interview and assessment session which were all robust! I remember praying after my Interviews because all I could think of was the Firm- A perfect workplace there is to offer in the country. Africa Practice has signed an MoU with the University of Botswana, Under the term of this agreement, up to three UB graduates annually receive training, mentorship, and hands-on consulting experience, affording them a ring-side view on what it is like to work as an Africa Practice Analyst or Consultant and I am humbled to be the first batch alongside Ofile Lesotho.

**My Stay at Africa Practice:** Two weeks before graduation, I got a call that I have been accepted and I can start work after the ceremony as a Graduate Analyst, a year later I got an offer as an Analyst. I currently do policy and regulatory monitoring for various African markets and I must say, this has been the greatest experience of my life. Having to work with a team of experts across

# Study Programs: BCJ Program

(From page 9)

The BCJ program is geared toward producing graduates equipped with the necessary knowledge on criminology and criminal justice. The **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM** include inter alia:

1. **Educate and train** suitably qualified individuals who will be able to detect, analyze and prevent crime; manage criminal justice institutions and provide leadership in research on crime and criminal justice.
2. Provides learners with the opportunity to **acquire the necessary transferable skills** in interpersonal communications and reporting skills, program and policy development, community organization, planning and research to function in a professional position in the field of criminal justice and a variety of employment settings.
3. Prepare learners for **graduate training** in the area of Criminal Justice and other cognate subjects in the Social Sciences and the Humanities. The program offers a wide range of courses that will develop critical thinking and strategic management skills and competencies to unravel and effectively respond to the huge and complex crime and security challenges.
4. Provide a core content that is easily comparable with the content of equivalent programs elsewhere in the world. This will ensure that the core content of the program enables University of Botswana students and graduates to compete with those from other universities on an equal footing.
5. Enable learners to acquire a knowledge base and comprehensive understanding of competing criminological theories as they **apply** to the causation, prevention, control, and treatment of criminal behavior.
6. Provide learners with a **comprehensive orientation to the field of criminal justice** as well as a holistic view of behavior, conditions, and circumstances that produce crime and criminality from a social science perspective.

## Career And Job Opportunities For BACJS Graduates

Careers in criminal justice cover a variety of responsibilities including but not limited to the following: Law enforcement (Botswana Police Service, Forensic investigation, Crime analysis and mapping, Crime prevention, Correctional Services, Probation, etc.) parastatals and private sector (mining industry, Banking and Financial Services, etc). The BACJS cuts across almost all the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Top Occupations in Demand. The BACJS also provides an opportunity for graduate training in the various specialized degrees in Criminology such as Fraud Investigation, Risk Management and Compliance, Internet Law and Policy among others, as well as teaching criminology in the evergrowing tertiary education landscape in Botswana, the region and around the world.



## Sociology Newsletter Team

**Editor: Ms Esther Nkhukhu-Orlando**      **Co-Editors: Professor G. Faimau and Dr S. Mosime**

**Contributing Writers: Ms A. Kamanga**

**The Sociology Newsletter is published annually and is available online at: <https://www.ub.bw/discover/faculties/social-sciences/sociology>**

# 13 Alumni news continued

(from page 12)

Africa who are not only interested in my work at AP but also my personal development is a dream come true. I know there are lots of opportunities ahead and I continue to work on myself in preparation every day.

**Advice:** Not only do you need a strong CGPA to compete in the job market, but you also need transferable skills and I advise students to volunteer with organizations that align with their line of work so that they can have an attractive CV.



## Meet the Sociology Academic Advisor: Mr Mokganedi Bothomilwe

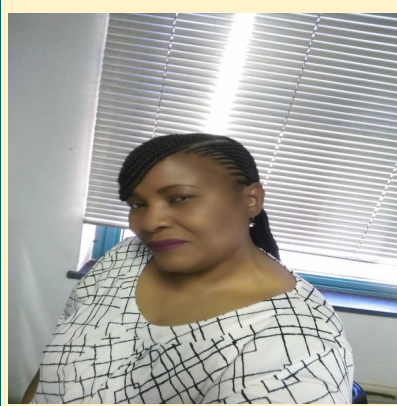
An academic advisor assists students in their growth and development by constructing meaningful educational plans which are compatible with their study program. It is a continuous and consistent process which is built upon the basis of frequent, accumulated personal contacts between advisor and advisee. Effective academic advising is the cornerstone of the academic program in our Department to accomplish the desired end result for our clients. The Department is committed to provide sensitive and thoughtful support to students, fostering the development of their self-directedness, motivation, responsible decision-making and encourage their successful completion of degree requirements and timely graduation.



## IT'S TIME TO SEE AN ADVISOR

**Do you have questions about registration? Do you know where you stand in your progress towards your Sociology degree? Are you concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic is going to impact your progress through school? It's time to get in touch with Sociology Academic Advisor, Mr M. Z. Bothomilwe! Similarly, Sociology Department staff Members have office contact hours throughout the week to advise students about progress towards their degrees and help you achieve your graduation dreams. The Sociology Department office is located on the first floor of Block 240. Feel free to stop by or call us at (0267) 355 2678.**

# The Department *in Pictures*



The success of our department can be attributed to our dedicated Secretary Ms Kamanga @K@ "Alph" "Alphi"

