



URBAN FUTURES CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

2022





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Dr. Princess Sibanda and Doung Jahangeer captured during a performance of "Ibomvu: A call to get back to the Earth". Warwick Junction, Durban.



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



TOP: Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre directors and staff accepting an award for Recognition of Service To the Community from the Deputy Minister for Social Development, Ms. Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu.

BOTTOM: UFC staff conducting fieldwork in Welbedacht East, Durban.

It is with great pleasure that I get to report on another excellent year for the UFC. Our engaged research has boomed, and our offices have once again become a hub for meeting, sharing ideas, and collaborations. Staff returned to working at the office, at least for part of the working week. Systems have been established for adaptable working arrangements as a number of staff members prefer to combine working at home with working in the office.

The UFC received a number of significant awards in 2022. The team responsible for producing the research-based, immersive storytelling experience, Lalela Ulwandle was invited to perform at the *United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27)* in Cairo, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' closing event for the *International Year of Fisheries and Aquaculture* in Rome. This collaborative production by Empatheatre and UFC's Senior Researcher, Dr. Kira Erwin, makes visible stories of living with the ocean across the divides of geography, age, and cultural practice. This is very significant given that the UFC prides itself on the use of creative methodologies for both doing research and disseminating research outcomes.

Ocean economies are one focus of the UFC that aligns to projects that account for the Anthropocene. A second is the UFC's zero-waste project, which has focused on bottom-up and replicable models for generating zero-waste in settings that are characterised by having informal economies as primary income generation streams. This project brings together a range of actors from informal traders to civil society organisations, to local government, and to academics. A network has formed to allow for a pluralised governance of zero-waste in the informal economy, very much in line with the UFC's commitment to both improving quality-of-life, and to sustainable cities. It is also a good example of the UFC's mode of operating as a research hub.

The UFC continues with its other engaged research projects. Our links with city officials has led to excellent joint innovations. Welbedacht now has pocket parks thanks to our links with eThekweni Planning Department. The Warwick Zero-Waste project team has linked up with the Durban Botanic Gardens to divert organic waste from the Early Morning Markets from landfill, and instead make compost for the Botanic Gardens

on the site. The Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre hosted SAPS in a day called 'Sports is Your Gang'. This engaged research is feeding into policy debates and platforms, allowing for more lasting impact. Our social media, run by Karen Ijumba, also showcases our project and intellectual work, and provides a platform for engaging with external actors and interested partners.

2022 was also a year of awards for the UFC team. Dr Erwin, Dr Tamlynn Fleetwood, Dr Tanya Dayaram, who form part of the Warwick Zero-Waste project team were awarded the best DUT engagement project award, and I was awarded DUT Women Researcher of the Year. Dr Erwin and her team members continue to bring substantive funding into the UFC through their projects which are focused on reducing climate change impact, as we work consciously to reduce the human negative footprint in the Anthropocene Age. Other funding sources that were secured during 2022 are from Aids Fonds and The Global Fund – both in support of the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre.

DUT continues to provide enormous institutional support to the UFC through core funding for its permanent posts, administrator, and the provision of finances for capital expenses. The UFC has also been for bringing social science consciousness into the technical space, and for running a series of much needed 'disruptive projects'. We are indeed well located.

eThekweni and other South African municipalities find themselves in difficult times, and sustainable and accessible cities often seem like a pipe dream. The UFC and other sister urban centres have important work to do in shifting away from actuarial and managerial governance to governing through a harm reduction lens.

I extend my warmest wishes to our team, our partners, and all those whose goal it is to work toward a more accessible, egalitarian, and connected urban spaces.

**Prof. Monique Marks**



# OVERVIEW

Based in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment at the Durban University of Technology (DUT), the Urban Futures Centre (UFC) is an interdisciplinary laboratory that not only builds theory, but also tests out ideas and interventions in ways that are not prescribed and determined by dominant stakeholders, be they government officials, academics or large social movements. The UFC seeks to find new solutions to problems, and to do so in collaboration with those most affected by the complexities that characterise urban spaces. The UFC serves as the central node for a network of projects, institutions, practitioners and academics interested in the future of cities locally (in Durban and South Africa) and globally. It currently houses a set of local and international research collaboration projects, including two community engagement projects.

Underpinning the workings and activities of the centre is a concern with the real people who live in cities, and their futures.

Focusing on quality of urban life, the UFC utilises university capacity and resources to design sustainable urban solutions to everyday problems. Imagining urban futures raises questions on the types of thinking and practices required to make cities great places to live in. Integrating intellectual, theoretical, practical and community resources the UFC aims to be a space of engagement and deliberation, and seeks to build an interdisciplinary knowledge network, encourage processes of innovation and imagination, and engage urban problems and solutions through a systems approach.

## Guiding Principles

- Using an imaginary lens
- Doing engaged research
- Focusing on social and environmental justice
- Knowledge building for societal good
- Designing with conscience
- Aiming for resilience and inclusivity
- Improving the quality of everyday life in cities
- Recognising multi-agent systems of governance
- Challenging dominant paradigms of policy and theorizing

Dr Princess Sibanda (left) and Gauri Jaghmoor (right) at the Early Morning market, Warwick Junction, Durban.





# CURRENT PROJECTS

## Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre

The Urban Futures Centre partners with two non-government organisations in running the country's first comprehensive community-based harm reduction centre. The two partners are Advance Access and Delivery (AA&D) and the South African Network of People Who Use Drugs (SANPUD). The eThekweni Municipality are also a core partner, providing the building as well as a waiver on electricity and rates for the team who run the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre (BHRC). Also provided by the Municipality is 24/7 static security.

The roots of the BHRC lie in the lockdown level 5 when the Office of the Deputy Mayor approached Prof. Monique Marks (Head of the UFC) to establish a medical withdrawal management programme in the lockdown facilities. This was initially run from the underground parking lot of Moses Mabhida Stadium, one of the Covid-19 lockdown safe spaces for homeless people who live in the eThekweni Municipality. In June 2020, the eThekweni Municipality Executive Committee determined that a building would be allocated to this team for the purposes of running a full-time harm reduction centre. The building allocated is called Bellhaven Memorial Centre.

The BHRC runs 5 days a week, providing harm reduction services to roughly 200 homeless and low-income people who use drugs. Services provided include a daily observed methadone programme; voluntary uptake of psycho-social services; and testing and treatment for HIV, TB and Hepatitis. The services that are provided are peer-led and include the provision of care to those living on the streets, who are unable (usually due to illness) to travel to the BHRC. The BHRC has received a number of prestigious awards. It has also been declared as a model for country-wide replication by the National Department of Social Development.

2022 was a stressful year for the BHRC Directors as funding dried up. The reality of closing the methadone programme was real and would have had very negative consequences for our clients, their families, and the broader community. We were fortunate that Networking HIV and AIDS Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA) and South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) stepped in to assist, allowing the team to continue with our methadone programme. These two critical organizations then facilitated our engagement with The Global Fund, who will now be providing the funding required to keep running till December 2023. The arrangement with The Global Fund provides for an excellent partnering relationship with the eThekweni office



Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre beneficiary lights a candle during 'International Overdose Day' event.





of TB HIV Care. The Daitz Foundation, together with the South African Union of Jewish Women, will also be providing funding to the BHRC, and will be assisting with key infrastructural needs such as shower provision and setting up an outside cooking area. In a push towards sustainability, we are also planning to offer our services to paying clients with a drug use disorder.

While the BHRC primarily provides medical and psycho-social services to an extremely vulnerable population grouping, it is also recognised as a placemaker in the city. The BHRC provides a safe space for the homeless more generally. It is also a safe chill space for other vulnerable population groups such as migrants, transgender people, and sex workers. The BHRC team has a very good relationship with the police, in particular Durban Metro Police, who play a critical role in securing the Centre, and all who occupy it.

Located in a mixed-use suburb, the BHRC has become a place where individuals, businesses and organisations are able to contribute and volunteer services. It is also a space of deliberation about issues pertaining to drug use, and a space for experimentation of ideas and practices. In 2022, the BHRC was a busy hub for international guests who specialize in non-traditional medicine to work with our clients. We also partnered with a range of health agencies to ensure that our clients are fully screened for TB and for other communicable illnesses.

As the project moves into its 4th year, we are looking forward to undertaking new and exciting ventures. In 2023, one of Cape Town's leading filmmakers will be working with the BHRC's beneficiaries to produce a film titled 'Whoonga'. The film aligns with the principles of harm reduction that the Centre espouses, as it talks to the humanization of people who use drugs and the importance of human connection.

Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre beneficiary enjoying himself at the 'Valentine's Day' event.



## Warwick Zero-Waste Project

The Warwick Zero-Waste (WZW) project aims to work with different stakeholders in Durban, South Africa to support sustainable and inclusive zero-waste practices. This three-year project (2021-2023), funded by Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMIF), is a collaboration between the University and local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO): groundWork (gW) and Asiye eTafuleni (AeT). In the project, multidisciplinary teams collaborate with informal workers and other stakeholders to research and find solutions to waste challenges in one of the country's largest informal street markets, the Markets of Warwick. Exciting activities and expanded networks for zero-waste and climate change mitigation were forged in 2022!



Warwick Zero-Waste Project researchers led by local waste picker in a granular sorting of waste from bins at the Early Morning Market, Warwick Junction, Durban.

One of the biggest successes of the year has been the implementation and incremental scale up of the organics to compost pilot. Organic waste in landfills is a major contributor to methane gas emissions that exacerbates global warming. Composting is one of the most feasible low-cost, low-tech options for diverting organic waste from landfill. Composting also creates rich nutrients for soil, which generates plants and food. In Year 1 we recorded around 400 tonnes of organic waste leaving the Early Morning Market (EMM) in Warwick for landfill.

We are excited to report that in Year 2 the WZW Project has partnered with the Durban Botanic Gardens, the Durban University of Technology's (DUT) Horticulture Department, and the eThekweni Business Support, Tourism and Markets Unit to

begin slowly and incrementally moving organic waste from the EMM once a week to compost in the Botanic Gardens permaculture garden. Over the course of 5 months (July – Nov 2022), the team diverted 4096kgs (4,096 tonnes) of organic waste from landfill! The pilot has generated much excitement among the partners and next year we move to scale up to divert as much of the 400 tonnes produced annually in the EMM as possible. We need to ensure that the benefits of this are shared between the City partners, and importantly, the market traders who have participated in the pilot. A short video on the composting pilot can be viewed [here](#)!

Waste-pickers have also taken centre stage in several events held in 2022 via the Africa-Zero Waste Hub, where they have represented

themselves and their issues through powerful presentations. Two particularly exciting engagements were the Towards Zero-Waste: Working with Waste-Pickers in your Neighbourhood, held at the KZNSA Gallery in August, and in October, the launch of our partner's, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Zero Waste to Zero-Emissions Report that explored Durban as a case study. The South African Waste Picker Association (SAWPA) participated in both events and affiliated and non-affiliated waste-pickers engaged with diverse audiences, including residents and local government, to educate communities on their work and its importance, as well as share information on recycling. A short video that captures the key messages from the KZNSA Gallery event can be viewed [here](#).

Drawing on the extensive fieldwork undertaken with waste-pickers for the project, the emerging researchers on the team also managed to publish a journal article in 2022, titled Working with Waste: Hazards and Mitigation Strategies Used by Waste Pickers in the Inner City of Durban. The article argues for implementing the government's Waste Picker Integration Guidelines as a positive step towards addressing risks and hazards faced by waste-pickers in the inner City. The article offered emerging researchers, Ntobeko Mlotshwa, Dr Tanya Dayaram, Asiphile Khanyile and Dr Princess Sibanda and opportunity to produce the article, under the supervision of Dr Kira Erwin and Dr Tamlynn Fleetwood.

Finally, in 2022, the WZW Project Team also worked closely with artists and creatives to conceptualise





and initiate different activities and performances in the market area to engage informal workers and their customers in conversations about zero-waste and climate change. The creative component started with a Creative Collage Workshop with street traders invited to be Zero-Waste Champions. In the October workshop, traders told their own stories through collage images, as well as their stories of the market. Open conversations were also held to discuss how traders view the market within the wide context of climate change. In December 2022, the creative team implemented a trilogy of performances in and around the market, culminating in a final participatory theatre piece. The trilogy of creative interventions acted as a catalyst for starting a conversation with customers and traders around organic waste and climate change. The creative interventions were performed by traders, actors, and students, and were supported by the research team to engage public audiences. These creative methods have started a dynamic and participatory dialogue with traders and customers around climate change and what we might do collectively to reduce harmful GHGs. Art really is an exciting and accessible way to think through the changes we can all make towards creating a better future.

The WZW Project team is grateful to all our partners and collaborators in 2022! Both local partners: the Durban Botanic Gardens (Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture: eThekweni Municipality), the Business Support, Tourism and Markets Unit (eThekweni Municipality), the DUT Horticulture Department, SAWPA, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), and the members of the project's Advisory Group, as well as our international partners: GAIA, Nipe Fagio, Instituto Pólis, Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO), SWaCH, and ETH Zürich. We are also grateful to our funding partner, the UMIF, for making it possible to undertake this incredible work.



Performers mingle with traders and consumers during a walking performance of "Mina, Wena, Thina – A Call To Action". Early Morning Market, Warwick Junction, Durban.

Bins containing organic waste from the Early Morning Market, and from Durban Botanic Gardens which is used for composting.



# Transforming Relations In The Water-Society-Waste Nexus Project

'Transforming relations in the water-society-waste nexus: Localizing Global Environmental Change (GEC) efforts towards just and inclusive sustainability in South Africa' is a multi-institutional project funded by the South African National Research Foundation (NRF).

The project brings together experienced and emerging researchers from University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of the Built Environment and Development Studies, University of the Western Cape's Department of Geography, Environmental Studies & Tourism and DSI/NRF/CSIR Chair in Waste and Society located in the Department of Social Work, and Urban Futures Centre. Dr Jennifer Houghton, a research associate of the UFC leads the DUT component of the project. One DUT PhD student, Mthabiso Phungula, is conducting her research through this project, under the supervision of Dr Houghton.

2022 presented a number of opportunities for progressive research work to be undertaken on the project. With the severe flood event in Durban in April 2022, a new research focus emerged as the research team examined the experiences and responses to the floods within formal and informal communities, as well as governance related to disaster management and recovery from the flood damage across eThekweni Municipality. Dr Houghton and Ms Phungula documented flood damage and recovery efforts in the badly damaged area of Dassenhoek. They are currently completing a journal article which considers the relationships between communities, urban infrastructure and the effects of severe weather events as central

to the localisation of responses to global environmental change in marginalised urban areas.

In November 2022, the entire project team met in Durban for a two-day workshop. Team members from across the three participating universities reported back on research progress. The team engaged in collaborative theory building activities to draw out new insights from across the various aspects of research and case study areas on relations between water, waste and society as they are linked to the localisation of responses to global environmental change. During the workshop, guests from ETH Zurich shared their experiences and findings from related research across Africa. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the initiation of a comparative study of the discourses of water pollution and beach closures in Durban and Cape Town. Dr Shirley Brooks (University of the Western Cape) and Dr Houghton will conduct this research during 2023.

In December, a number of post graduate students funded through the project joined the three-day UFC writing retreat held in Durban. Dr Houghton was instrumental in furthering the progress of various research outputs by the members of the project during the retreat.



TOP: Academics and post-graduate students attending a team workshop at TWIMS campus in Everton, Durban.

MIDDLE: Damage caused to the Quarry Road West settlement by the KwaZulu-Natal floods.

BOTTOM: Residents of the Quarry Road West informal settlement photographed during a site visit, following the KwaZulu-Natal floods.



## Welbedacht East Place Making Project

The Welbedacht East area is situated in the south of Durban and was part of the first phase of one of the largest slum clearance projects in the history of the eThekweni Municipality. It is also regarded as a poorly located project on the periphery of the city, with long commuting distances to work, no income opportunities within the area, and little state provided social facilities. Despite its marginal location, this community is unique and exceptional, because of its diversity and social inclusiveness.

The UFC was approached by community activists from Welbedacht East after the July 2021 social unrest to showcase how this integrated community was unaffected by the riots and could be held up as an important local model for building social cohesion in the South Africa. After working with a community team, UFC staff engaged the relevant departments of the eThekweni municipality to help organise a community driven exhibition entitled Welbedacht – A Beautiful Place. The community exhibition and cultural celebration of eight storytellers' photographs and their stories exhibition was officially launched at the Sarva Dharma Ashram in Welbedacht East, Chatsworth, Durban in March 2022.

The overall goal of the project was to discover how the community make sense of Welbedacht as a place, and their role in the place-making process. However, the event was also earmarked as a perfect launch-pad for the eThekweni Municipality's Local History Museum



to share ideas on the roll-out of a potential programme for a larger documentation process of oral histories on how to make Welbedacht a more beautiful place. Through the project, the research team learned that Welbedacht is indeed a place of learning, a place where everyone can learn about how people live together in harmony and in peace. For the community participants an important outcome has been the recognition of the value of celebrating their community and changing the ongoing narrative of Welbedacht as an impoverished place where residents live without hope. It was the first time that they were afforded the opportunity to tell the untold stories of community vibrancy and solidarity and not just racial tolerance but real unity and cohesion.

Importantly, the March 2022 community event served as a catalyst to bring the critical stakeholders from the community and the municipality together. The UFC explained to the community that the first step in community development was to formalize different community interests under a community banner. By mid-2022 the Welbedacht Civic Association (WCA) was formed, and it is moving full steam ahead with representing the voices of their residents. The WCA has even been working closely with the municipality's War Room for that ward, and as a result of the UFC intervention, the Area Based Management Team now has ongoing engagements with the Civic Association.

A priority project has been the establishment of pocket parks. During the second half of 2022, eThekweni's Architecture Department has been meeting with the community representatives through the WCA, and have completed final designs for three parks, the locations of which have been led by the community. It is currently being costed and implementation should begin in the new financial year. UFC is proud to have made this partnership possible.

TOP: School child's artwork featured in the community exhibition titled "Welbedacht – A Beautiful Place".

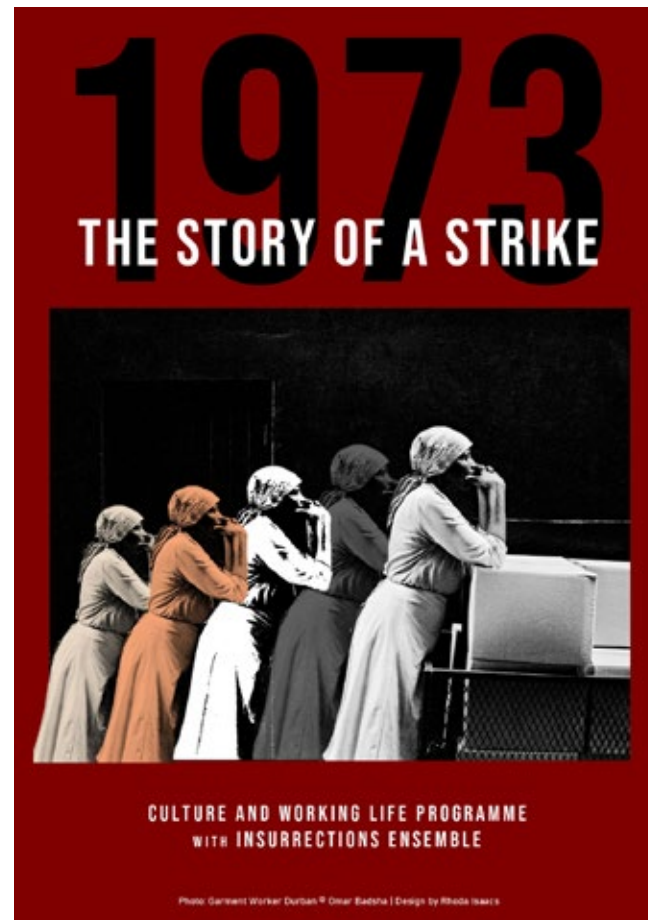
BOTTOM: UFC staff conducting fieldwork in Welbedacht East, Durban.



# The 1973 Durban Strikes – Celebrating 50 Years Conference

In the early 1970s, a vibrant intersectional resistance movement, which brought together Black and White students, liberal academics, civil society activists, radical Christians and the working class, emerged in Durban. This exchange of ideologies, strategies and actions erupted in January 1973, when workers unified and took to the streets to protest their wages, as well as working and living conditions. This pivotal historical moment, which laid the foundation for a militant trade union and labour movement in South Africa, came to be known as 'The Durban Strikes'.

Poster: 1973 Story of A Strike, a major creative performance.



Attendees sharing stories from the American trade union movement.



LEFT: Director of BAT Centre, Mam'Nise Malange, addressing 1973 Durban Strikes – Celebrating 50 Years Conference attendees. RIGHT: South Africa trade union stalwarts reflect on the visual archive of the movement, which formed part of the exhibition at BAT Centre.



In 2022, Omar Badsha [founder of South African History Online] initiated the conceptualisation of a 3-day academic and creative conference that would invite a cross-generational, cross-geographical and multi-disciplinary reflection on, and celebration of, the 50th anniversary of 'The Durban Strikes'. Urban Futures Centre, as a representative of DUT, came on board as a partner alongside University of the Witwatersrand, Wits History Workshop, Chris Hani Institute, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town, University of Fort Hare and the University of Pretoria. Through a widely cast open call, passionate individuals working from within these institutions gathered and archived close to 40 research papers (complete and in-progress), which set the stage for a vigorously generative symposium around the past, present and future of the labour and trade union movement in South Africa. In addition to this, David Hemson and Omar Badsha planned to curate a series

of publicly accessible photographic exhibitions across various spaces in Durban, to educate and inspire the youth. Emeritus Professor Ari Sitas also led the production of **'The Story of A Strike'**; a major collaborative creative performance with prolific artists who form part of The Culture and Life Working Group and Insurrection Ensemble.

The dynamic offering of **'The 1973 Durban Strikes – Celebrating 50 Years Conference'** was hosted at the DUT Hotel School from the 26th – 28th of January 2023. The event attracted leading thinkers on society and work, stalwarts and current leaders of the trade union movement, emerging researchers, and young and old members of the public. The conference was opened by Prof. Monique Marks [Head of Urban Futures Centre], Prof. Thandwa Mthembu [Vice Chancellor of DUT] and Omar Badsha, who all acknowledged the significance of the proximity of DUT to Curries' Fountain – a site which served as

a safe gathering space of discussion and dissent during the Colonial and Apartheid eras – as a reminder to honour the lives that were sacrificed to liberate South Africa. They further encouraged the conference attendees to see the gathering as an opportunity to critically revisit the jubilation of 1994 in relation to the 'current fragility of the economic and social rights of the so-called underclass', and to open up new avenues for hopes and dreams that 'predict, prescribe and innovate a better future'. The intense and rigorous debate between old friends and new voices that followed over the next few days did exactly that.

The closed symposium, which was attended by +/- 80 people, began with an intergenerational narrative overview of the context and philosophies that shaped the trade union movement in South Africa over the course of time. This was chaired by Prof. Diane Cooper, and presented by Dr. David Hemson (key actor

in The Durban Strikes), Alec Erwin (first General Secretary of FOSATU), Ms. Nomonde Mgumane (National Bargaining Council for the Clothing Manufacturing Industry) and Ms. Nomarashiya Caluza (South African Democratic Teachers' Union - SADTU). Thereafter, papers were presented, traversing a vast spectrum of topics such as **'The 1973 Durban Strikes: Rethinking the politics of the time'** and **'Students and Intellectuals in Workers' Struggles'**, to **'Artefacts of Working-Class Struggle'** and **'The 'New' Working Class, the Precariat and Trade Unions'**. During breaks and in the evenings, symposium participants were able to mingle with local conference attendees against the backdrop of exhibitions at the BAT Centre and KwaMuhle Museum, a book launch at DUT Hotel School, and an irreverent multi-media artistic performance at DUT's Courtyard Theatre. By day three participants were brimming with insights into how trade unions could be reimagined today.



In the concluding presentations, Prof. Marks challenged participants to review trade unions through a “burden of the future” lens, and to reposition them as intervening bodies that engage with the experience of society's outliers and make sense of what productive, fair labour

is from that perspective. Emeritus Professor Eddie Webster then closed the event with thanks to the organizing team, and a heartwarming invitation to visit Rick Turner's gravesite, to commemorate the revolutionary visions of hope he had for the city, the country and the world at large.



## Creative Research Methodologies Short Course

The Urban Futures Centre partnered with the Department of Urban and Rural Development at Uppsala University, and the Department of Cultural Policy and Management at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2020 to deliver a project entitled 'Creative Methodologies for Urban Contexts'. Through this project, which was funded by the South African Swedish University Forum (SASUF), we collaborated with our partners to host an intimate two-day multi-transdisciplinary hybrid symposium, in Durban, on 'Creative Methodologies for Uncovering Data on the Urban'. The symposium was attended by hand-picked academics and practitioners from across the globe who are working in and with creative methods, where they each made discursive presentations about their respective fields of expertise and interest.

In 2021, Uppsala University built upon the generative dialogues and knowledge sharing networks that flowed out of the symposium by developing a semester-long course titled 'Creative Research Methods for Urban Context', which attracted Doctoral students from throughout the world.

In 2022, we initiated a similar process of exploring how this burgeoning, yet under capacitated, area of thinking and practice could be packaged into an educational offering. In May 2022, we began engaging with DUT's Centre for Continuing and Professional Education on how to structure the one-of-a-kind skills and knowledge building resources that had been gathered through the project into a short course that will generate a third income stream for the Centre and afford advanced postgraduate students and creative practitioners the opportunity to learn about these methods.

Following this process, we hosted a one-day workshop in November 2022 with early career academics and researchers Dr. Heeten Bhagat [UFC Postdoctoral Research Fellow] and Dr. Rachel Baasch [Research Associate in the Arts of Africa South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI)], to begin the work of redesigning the Swedish course and refining the materials to speak to a Global South context.

As we move into 2023, we look forward to putting this extensive preparatory work into action. We have begun restructuring the course as a 9-week self-learning journey that will create a space of guidance for participants to intensively examine, expose, trouble and make sense of creative research methodologies, and how they apply to their research and/or creative practice. The first iteration of the course is set to be offered from 4 – 8 September this year.

TOP LEFT: Durban Strikes, 1973.

BOTTOM LEFT: Striking brick workers, Durban North, 1973.



# COMMUNITY/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Africa Zero-Waste Hub



ABOVE: 'Towards Zero-Waste: Working With Waste-Pickers In Your Neighbourhood' event in Glenwood, Durban.  
BELOW: Group photo of attendees at the "Food Justice and the Importance of Community" event hosted at Durban Botanic Gardens.



The Africa Zero-Waste Hub is an innovative platform forged through mutually beneficial partnerships, where stakeholders can engage and collaborate to promote sustainable, zero-waste solutions that benefit society and improve lives and livelihoods. The Hub provides a collaborative learning and social engagement space (virtual and in-person) where anyone interested in, or working on, zero-waste initiatives can convene to partner, share knowledge, technical advice, and/or resources.

In 2022, the Hub held 6 successful engagements that focused on pressing zero-waste and climate change issues, including 2 sessions on waste picker integration and 3 sessions on approaches and technologies to divert waste, and in particular organic waste, from landfill. On 7 October 2022, the Hub also co-hosted the Durban launch of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)'s Zero-Waste to Zero-Emissions Report, in partnership with GAIA and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). Not only did these various Hub engagements enable an exchange of ideas between diverse groupings: waste-pickers, government officials, activists, academics and the wider public, but they have also helped forge greater understanding and solidarity.

The collaborative way in which sessions are designed with local and international Hub partners ensures relevant and responsive topics and allows for further networking and partnership. On 14 December 2022, the WZW Project Team proudly accepted the DUT 2022 Community Engagement Excellence Award for the innovative work done through the Africa Zero-Waste Hub!

A public website for the Africa Zero-Waste Hub that shares the resources produced by the WZW Project so far can be viewed [here](#).





## Lalela uLwandle

The One Ocean Hub work continued in 2022 with an exciting tour of the award winning theatre production *Lalela uLwandle* (Listen to the Sea). This research-based theatre performance is based on narrative interviews and focus groups of people living on the coast of KwaZulu-Natal and the meanings that the oceans hold for their lives. The play explores intergenerational environmental injustices, tangible and intangible ocean heritage, marine science, threats to ocean health, and unpacks the various exclusions citizens have faced in ocean decision-making in our country. *Lalela uLwandle* is a collaborative creative research project with Empatheatre and the Environmental Learning Research Centre at Rhodes University.

Each performance is followed by a facilitated discussion with the audience. These conversations and audience feedback form an additional layer of research data. *Lalela uLwandle* provides a space for both specific audiences and the general public to engage with pressing issues of ocean wellbeing, climate change and the inequalities that continue to shape our country. It offers an innovative arts-based method in which the public can engage with, and contribute to, research on ocean governance in South Africa.

In 2022 *Lalela uLwandle* performed at the South African Marine Science Symposium in Durban, at a National meeting of Small-Scale Fishers in the Eastern Cape, and for a week in the city of Cape Town. In November 2022 *Lalela uLwandle* was invited to perform by the office of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as part of their COP27 Capacity-building hub session. Our first international audience had an emotive response to the play and thanked the actors for enabling such a moving expression of the human right to livelihood, health, culture and participation in relation to the oceans.



TOP: A lively audience photographed during a performance of *Lalela uLwandle* at Magnet Theatre, Cape Town.

BOTTOM: Mpumi Mthombeni engages with the audience at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Rome, Italy.



## Fishers' Tales Exhibition

The Fishers' Tales moved from its **online home** into a live exhibition space at the KZNSA Gallery in Durban, South Africa. The exhibition was free to the public and ran from 2 March to 3 April 2022.

The exhibition showcased arts-based storytelling on the wondrous tales and emotional connections that fishers enjoy with the ocean. In addition to viewing the photographs and artwork on the walls, the public were invited to take home copies of the beautifully printed postcards. The postcards each of contained a unique fisher's story, and an accompanying artwork from an emerging artist in Durban that visually interpreted the story.

Visual storytelling is a powerful way to connect into other people's stories of ocean life. The Urban Futures Centre and the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance harnessed this power, and enhanced it, by affording the public an opportunity to engage more deeply with issues of coastal justice and democratic ocean governance. The exhibition space brought together diverse publics and fishers to talk about shared concerns for ocean wellbeing. In this way the artwork acted as a catalyst for conversations around how we work together towards the sustainability of our oceans in just and equitable ways that protect the most vulnerable in society.



TOP: Fishers and the public read through the stories on the take-home postcards  
BOTTOM: Kira Erwin introducing the fishers and artists at the opening night of the Fishers' Tale exhibition



Third Year Mechanical Engineering students, who won the Sharps Disposal Bins Design competition, pose with representatives from NACOSA and DUT.

## DUT Mechanical Engineering Students Design Sharps Disposal Bins

In 2022, the Urban Futures Centre was approached by Networking HIV and AIDS Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA) to design a sharps disposal bin for people who inject drugs. Sharps disposal bins allow people who inject drugs to dispose of their injecting paraphernalia in safe and responsible way, protecting them and the community.

While South Africa has needles syringe programmes running in most large cities, there are no public sharps disposal bins. The non-government organisations who provide the needle syringe programmes collect used needles and syringes regularly, and it is important that devices are available for safe disposal at any given time. In other countries, devices for safe disposal are located in key public areas including public toilets, parks, train stations, and within harm reduction centres.

The UFC engaged the DUT Mechanical Engineering Department to see if they were keen

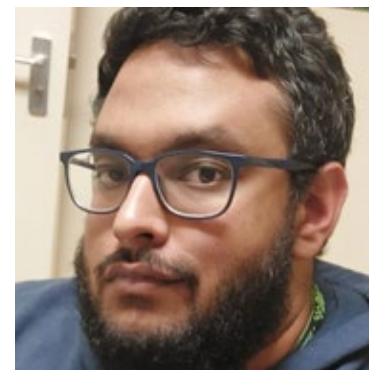
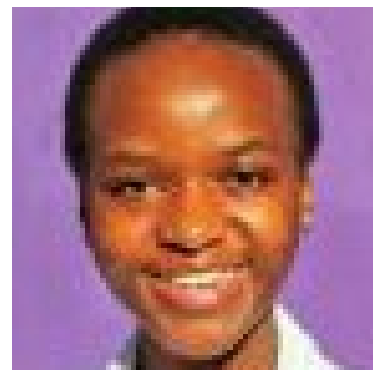
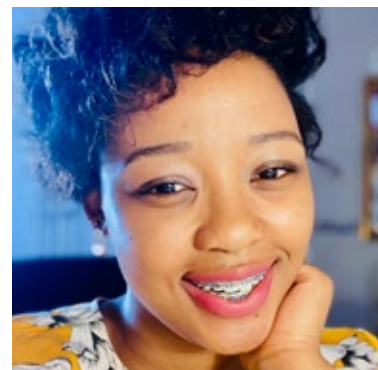
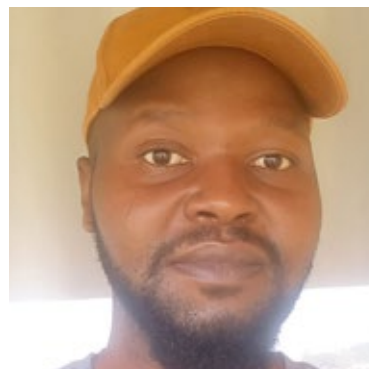
to be involved. They were. The final year students have a design module, and the lecturer arranged for this course to be centred on designing a sharps disposal bin, after getting a design brief from one of the NACOSA specialists.

In early December 2022, the final year students presented their designs to DUT staff and to representatives from a range of non-government organisations who work in the general field of harm reduction. Six incredible, innovative designs were presented. Prizes were awarded to four of the designs as there was a tie for third place.

Following this event, the UFC, together with NACOSA, submitted a funding proposal to the South African Medical Research Council. The funding proposal is in response to a call for seed funding for health innovation devices. Should this funding application be successful, the top design will be produced and will be installed in public spaces throughout the country.



## People



## Staff

Head of The Urban Futures Centre:  
**Prof Monique Marks**

Senior Researcher: **Dr Kira Erwin**

Researcher and MEL specialist:  
**Dr Tamlynn Fleetwood**

Research Associate:  
**Dr Sogen Moodley**

Research Associate:  
**Dr Jennifer Houghton**

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow  
(Warwick Zero Waste)  
**Dr Tanya Dayaram**

Centre Administrator:  
**Mrs Tharshnie Ramasami**

Media and Communications:  
**Ms Karen Ijumba**

Human Sciences Research Council  
(HSRC) Intern: **Mr Simisa Klaas**

## Students

### PhD Students

**Richard Ahlschlager**  
Dissertation Title: A framework for implementing sustainable development for cities based primarily on a value-based system thinking approach.

**Lindsay Bush**  
Dissertation Title: 'A model for high quality, integrated high-rise urban living: Learning from Durban's beachfront.'

**Doung Jahangeer**  
Dissertation Title: 'Shifting Territories: Towards a methodology for a creative emancipatory approach to place-making, the role of spaza shops in Cornubia, Blackburn, KZN.'

### Ntobeko Mlotshwa

Dissertation Title: Learning with Informal Waste Pickers in Durban: Lessons for waste picker integration into environmentally just municipal waste management systems.

### Temitope Olaniran

Dissertation Title: 'Mixed-income Housing Models as Enhanced Housing Delivery Model in South Africa: A Comparative Focus on Cornubia in Durban and Cosmocity in Johannesburg.'

### Vaughn Sadie

Dissertation Title: 'Dilemmas and solutions for developing an effective management arrangement for community driven public art: An exploration of Cosmo City.'

### Mthabiso Phungula

Dissertation Title: "Problematizing gender in actions for transformative climate adaptation in eThekweni Municipality: towards localizing efforts to address global environmental change."

### Masters Students

#### Thevan Harry

Dissertation Title: Deviance or Counter-Culture: Tattooing within the Durban Metro Police Department

#### Luvolwethu Khasa

Dissertation Title: A computer repertorial analysis of the mental-emotional effects of COVID-19 on Police workers in the eThekweni region.

#### Saiesh Surujbally

Dissertation Title: 'An exploration of the perceptions and experiences of patients receiving homoeopathic care at the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre.'





## Research outputs

### Journal Articles

Brumwell, A., Babatunde, G., Wilson, A., le Roux, C., Marks, M., Adam, J., Ivanova, E., Batheja, F., Goel, F., Shilton, E., Martínez-Pérez, G. (2022). Self-testing for Covid-19 in Durban and the Eastern Cape: a qualitative study targeting decision takers. *Contemporary Social Science*, 17(5): 450-467. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102114>

Chetty, R. and Moodley, S. (2022). Building a Capable State: Unpacking Critical Skills Development Challenges in the Public Sector. *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*, 4(1): 1-14. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51415/ajims.v4i1.936>

Marks, M. & Moodley, S. (2022). Reaching High: Translating Emergent Practices of Street-Level Drug Users to Institute Harm Reduction in Durban—Implications for Urban Governance. *Urban Forum*, 33(4): 485–504. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12132-021-09452-6>

Marks, M. & Moodley, S. (2023). Healing Places, Healing People: Insights on Spontaneous Critical Placemaking from the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre in Durban, South Africa, *South African Review of Sociology*, (52)(1). DOI: [10.1080/21528586.2023.2183250](https://doi.org/10.1080/21528586.2023.2183250)

Mlotshwa, N., Dayaram, T., Khanyile, A.; Sibanda, P.A., Erwin, K. & Fleetwood, T. (2022) Working with Waste: Hazards and Mitigation Strategies Used by Waste Pickers in the Inner City of Durban. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(20): 12986. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192012986>

Moodley, S. (2022). Navigating Proximity and Distance in Researching the Local State: an Insider-Outsider Perspective. *Urban Forum*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12132-022-09474-8>

Prakaschandra, D. R., Scheibe, A., Marks, M. & Naidoo, D. (2023) Assessing cardiac safety among clients receiving methadone as part of opioid agonist maintenance therapy (OAMT) in Durban, South Africa *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 41(1): 82 -90. DOI: [10.1080/10550887.2022.2063640](https://doi.org/10.1080/10550887.2022.2063640)

### Book Chapters:

Erwin, K., Pereira, T., McGarry, D., Coppen, N. (2022). Lalela uLwandle: An Experiment in Plural Governance Discussions. In: Boswell, R., O'Kane, D., Hills, J. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Blue Heritage*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-99347-4\\_20](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-99347-4_20)

### Conference Papers / Proceedings:

Dr Tamlynn Fleetwood (22 September 2022): Moving Towards Zero-Waste: Using a Development Evaluation (DE) Approach to Learn and Innovate in Durban's Inner-City, Informal Marketplace (Warwick Junction), 2022 Biannual South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) conference held in Johannesburg (21-23 September 2022).



## Financial report



	Opening Balance	Income	Expense
E660: Warwick Zero Waste	R 0,00	R 2 005 084,84	R 2 005 084,84
E706: Fisher's Tales	R 8 337,80	R 0,00	R 7 475, 00
E275: One Ocean Hub	R0,00	R1 064 322,22	R931 193,50
F924: Research Focus Area	R 0,00	R 350 000,00	R 265 072,53
U088: South African- Sweden University Forum	R 106 626,05	R 0,00	R 0,00
U529: Staff Award - Dr Erwin	R 58 800,00	R 0,00	R 53 596,24
U826: University of Toronto	R 5 825,00	R 0,00	R 3 813,40
F932 : Community Engagement	R 2 549,67	R 0,00	R 2 549,67
TC44: Transforming relations in the Water-Society-Waste Nexus	R 282 000,00	R0,00	R 223 616,26
U574: Research Output Dr Tamlynn Fleetwood	R 30 197,70	R 0,00	R 17 684,51
U489: Research Output Prof Monique Marks	R 42 691,62	R 89 568,27	R 112 418,79
U024: Research Output - Dr Sogendren Moodley	R 99 923,23	R 12 500,00	R 9 139,98
U685: Research Output - Dr Kira Erwin	R 159 363,90	R 67 434,80	R 77 751,10
TE01: South African Cities Network	R 0,00	R 90 000,00	R 0,00
TOTALS	R 796 314,97	R 3 678 910,13	R3 695 557,75



# CREDITS:

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