Safety and Violence Initiative

Research Report 2015
Director: Mr Guy Lamb

Initiative Profile

Scholars at UCT have been working on issues relating to safety and violence for decades, but collaborative research across disciplines was infrequent. The Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) was formally established in April 2011 as one of four interdisciplinary Strategic Initiatives, located in the Office of the Vice Chancellor. SaVI’s vision is to work towards safe communities, where freedom and security are the norm, rather than the exception. In this regard SaVI facilitates interdisciplinary research and debate across the university with a focus on understanding and preventing violence, and promoting safety. The Initiative brings together scholars from a number of departments, centres and units at UCT. It also works closely with provincial and national government and civil society organisations in terms of research and violence prevention interventions.

SaVI (in partnership with the Centre of Criminology) was commissioned by the Western Cape Provincial Government’s Department of Community Safety in 2015 to undertake research on community police forums and neighbourhood watches structures in the province. The aim of the research was to determine the diversity of activities that have been undertaken by these community policing groupings, as well as their successes and the challenges that they have faced. The research will be completed in early 2016, and the research findings will be used to inform the compilation of the Regulations for the Western Cape Community Safety Act, (Act 3 of 2013).

SaVI has partnered with a non-governmental organisation, Amandla EduFootball, to explore the impact of the sport-based youth violence prevention in the Western Cape; and has initiated a longitudinal study in Gugulethu and Manenberg to ascertain the impact of youth violence prevention interventions in this area. SaVI has also contributed funding to a research project by Dr Don Pinnock (SaVI Research Associate) on gang violence in Cape Town and various interventions and programmes that have the potential to prevent it. The research findings will be published in 2016.

In addition, in 2015 SaVI concluded its two year study that was commissioned by national government’s Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on violence against women and children and the United Nations Children’s Fund on violence against women and children in South Africa. This project was undertaken in partnership with the Children’s Institute and drew on expertise from the Centre for Social Science Research, Department of Psychology, the Gender Health and Justice Research Unit, and the Division of Nursing and Midwifery. The project generated evidence-based analysis, predictive statistical models and made recommendations to the IMC on the most relevant approaches to reduce and prevent violence against women and children in South Africa.

Initiative Statistics

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<th>Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary Associates</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Assistants</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Programme Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Administrator</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Research Fields and Staff

Steering Committee

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LILLIAN ARTZ
Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JULIE BERG
Centre of Criminology and Department of Public Law

DR MERCY BROWN-LUTHANGO
African Centre for Cities

DR LEON HOLTZHAUSEN
Department of Social Development

MR GUY LAMB
SaVI Director – violence prevention; arms control; policing; peacebuilding

PROFESSOR ANWAR MALL
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Transformation and Social Responsiveness
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDREW NICOL
Department of Surgery

PROFESSOR JEREMY SEEKINGS
Centre for Social Science Research and Department of Sociology

PROFESSOR MARK SHAW
Centre of Criminology

PROFESSOR SEBASTIAN VAN AS
Department of Pediatric Surgery
Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

PROFESSOR ELRENA VAN DER SPUY
Centre of Criminology and Department of Public Law

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CATHY WARD
Department of Psychology

Honorary Associates

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FLORETTA BOONZAIER
Department of Psychology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDY DAWES
Department of Psychology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SINEGUGU DUMA
Division of Nursing and Midwifery

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RAJENDRAN GOVENDER
Department of Sociology

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SHANAAZ MATHEWS
Children's Institute

DR DON PINNOCK
Centre of Criminology

PROFESSOR CLIFFORD SHEARING
Institute for Humanities in Africa

Research Assistants

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Violence against women and children

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Community safety

MS DELA GWALA
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MR DANIEL HARTFORD
Community safety

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MS GISELLE WARTON
Violence against women and children, campus safety

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Community safety

Programme Officer

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Administrator

MS LAMEEZ MOTA

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RESEARCH OUTPUT

Chapters in books


Articles in peer-reviewed journals


