



**Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement**

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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Work-family balance: UCT professor to debunk the myths

Wednesday, 9 October 2013, 17h30, Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building

In the fast-paced world people live in today, balancing work and family life responsibilities poses a major challenge to working parents. But so much about managing work and family issues that is being presented in the media or public space might actually be no more than a myth.

Professor Jeffrey Bagraim from the School of Management Studies at the University of Cape Town will debunk some of these myths during his inaugural lecture on Wednesday, 9 October 2013, at 17h30 at Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus.

One such myth speaks to the idea that a balance between work and family life is an appropriate way of thinking. Another one is that it is mainly women who struggle with managing their work and family lives.

According to Professor Bagraim's research, postgraduate students are concerned about work-family issues and when pondering employment opportunities, take companies' family responsibility policies into consideration. This contradicts another myth that students do not care about family responsibility issues at the workplace.

His current focus is on promoting socially sustainable work through research, policy development and change interventions. He has started organising a network of researchers across Africa to provide opportunities for context-sensitive research in this area.

Professor Bagraim's past research interests reflect varied influences in his life, examined through the lens of organisational psychology. These include entrepreneurial intention; corporate culture and power; organisational commitments; and, most recently, the work-family concerns of working parents and young adults.

Professor Bagraim's studies at UCT include a Business Science degree specialising in psychology, a BA Honours degree in organisational psychology and a master's degree in organisational psychology. He obtained his PhD from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom.

He is currently a professor of organisational psychology in the School of Management Studies at UCT and serves as the Deputy Dean of Postgraduate Affairs in the Faculty of Commerce. He is a registered psychologist and one of a very few organisational psychologists with a research rating from the National Research Foundation.

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Kemantha Govender

Media Liaison Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Welgelegen, Upper Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank
Tel: (021) 650 5672 Fax: (021) 650 3780
Cell: (084) 737 6522
E-mail: kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za