



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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UCT's Psychology Department to host discussion on a global research initiative to address violence against children

12 April 2018 | 13:00-14:00 | Room 2A, Psychology Department, PD Hahn Building, Upper Campus, UCT

Approximately one billion children worldwide are victims of violence and abuse every year. The consequences are devastating and include poor neuro-cognitive development, emotional problems, externalising behaviours, substance use, and poor physical health including a shorter life expectancy.

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Psychology Department will host a seminar titled 'Evidence for Better Lives – A Global Research Initiative to Address Violence against Children'. The seminar will be addressed by Professor Manuel Eisner, who is a Wolfson Professor of Criminology at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge.

In the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations have called on the world community to eliminate violence against children. In response to this call, an international and interdisciplinary consortium of leading researchers has launched a research, capacity building, and policy impact initiative called Evidence for Better Lives.

This includes the launch of a unique birth cohort study of 12 000 children born in the same year across eight project sites in low and middle-income countries. In his talk Prof Eisner will present an overview of the study. He will explain how it will provide answers to questions on exposure to violence and child development that will help to develop more effective intervention and prevention strategies.

Notes to Editors

Prof Eisner is a criminology professor at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He is also the director of the Violence Research Centre. In his research he tries to overcome the traditional disciplinary boundaries in our thinking about the causes and prevention of violence. His work therefore spans research on the long-term trends in

violence during human history, macro-level comparative work on why societies differ in levels of violence, scholarship about the dynamics that link child and adolescent development to aggressive behaviour, and experimental work on preventive interventions in schools and families.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Angelique Botha

Media Liaison and Social Media Intern
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 2583
Cell: (064) 276 6234
Email: angelique.botha@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za