

Prof Elelwani Ramugondo (PhD)

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Profile Summary

- Over 20 years of **academic experience** in a research-intensive university environment
- 8 years of **leadership and management** in an academic environment, managing complex portfolios. Excellent track-record of engaging with student affairs within governance structures and beyond in my various leadership roles.
- 3 years of therapeutic and managerial experience in a '**special-needs**' **educational environment** focussed on barriers to learning
- 3 years of **leadership in UCTs Student Housing and Residence Life** as a warden
- Experience in **barriers to learning** from both rural South Africa and the United States of America
- Promoted to **Full Professor** at the University of Cape Town (UCT) during 2017
- Currently **Deputy Dean Postgraduate Education** in the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT
- Current Chair of UCT's **Academic Freedom Committee**
- Chair of the **Rhodes Scholarship** Western and Northern Cape Selection Committee
- Member of the Executive for the **South African College of Health Sciences Deans** (SACOHSD). In this role, have played a strategic role in SACOHSD forging effective relationships with professional bodies for health sciences disciplines/professions
- Member of the Advisory Board for UCT's **African Gender Institute**
- Member of the **UCT Council** (July 2016 to July 2020)
- Appointed **Special Advisor on Transformation** to the Vice Chancellor during 2015, a turbulent time and historical moment for change in the Higher Education Sector in South Africa
- Co-Chair of **UCT's Curriculum Change Working Group (CCWG)**, which led engagements and dialogues with various constituencies and stakeholders on **curriculum change from a decolonial perspective** and crafted the UCT Curriculum Change Framework
- Founding member of the **UCT Black Academic Caucus**
- Led research and successfully completed projects with a budget of up to a total amount of **ZAR 1 million** as principal investigator
- Currently overseeing a project on **Centering African Languages to Decolonise Curricula** supported by the University Capacity Development Grant, and worth more than **ZAR 1 million**
- Recently invited to join the advisory board for a new Department of Health Studies at **Royal Holloway University of London**. The department will offer a suite of UG & PG degrees with the theme of **Global Wellbeing**.

Research Overview

- 27 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. These are mostly international
- 14 chapters in peer-reviewed books, an additional one in press.
- 1 co-edited book
- 3 co-edited journal special editions, 1 as lead guest editor
- 1 book foreword
- 3 book reviews

- More than 50 papers at conference proceedings or academic meetings, 25 international, and 42 as invited or keynote addresses
- Supervised 17 honours-equivalent research projects to completion
- Supervised 12 Masters dissertations and **7 PhD theses** to completion
- Article, '*Explaining collective occupations from a human relations perspective: Bridging the individual-collective dichotomy*', in the ***Journal of Occupational Science***, was the **most cited paper in that journal during 2018**

Citations (Google Scholar): 699

H-index (Google Scholar): 12

i10-index (Google Scholar): 13

Key Collaborations

- Collaborated with colleagues from the United Kingdom (University of Edinburgh) and UCT (Associate Professor Shose Kessi) for a **British Academy** writing workshop, sponsored by the **African Studies Association of the United Kingdom** during 2016. The "Game Change" writing workshop emerged from discussions and research into the intersectional challenges faced by black and African women and academics from the LGBTQIA+ community
- Convened the **Inaugural UCT Decolonial Summer School**, and a regular speaker at the **UKZN Decolonial Summer School**.
- In collaboration with colleagues from the United States of America (**Harvard University**) and UCT (Associate Professor Shose Kessi), co-edited two special issue editions for ***Critical African Studies*** in 2020 and 2021
- Collaboration as lead guest editor towards a **first ever special edition on theorising the core concepts of human occupation and health** in occupational therapy, internationally
- Collaborated with colleagues at Manipal University, India and UCT (Professor Roshan Galvaan) and co-edited a book entitled, **Concepts in Occupational Therapy: Southern Perspectives**. The book was published in 2017 and is prescribed reading for occupational therapy students at UCT and **Manipal University**
- Currently Consulting Editor for the 14th Edition of the **Willard & Spackman's** Occupational Therapy book. Published by Wolters Kluwer, this is one of key textbooks for occupational therapy world-wide. Editors are based in the US (**Columbia University** and **Midwestern University**)
- Recently signed agreement to co-edit the 3rd edition of *Play in Occupational Therapy for Children*, a key resource world-wide for students, practitioners, and scholars on play. This is a publication by Elsevier. The first editor is based in the US (**University of New Mexico**).

Summary of Achievements

Established the first Department of Occupational Therapy at Tshilidzini School for Children with Special Learning Needs in Limpopo Province, South Africa. Successfully led a racially **diverse and cohesive** Division of Occupational Therapy at UCT **which gained visibility internationally** through scholarship and research. **The undergraduate cohort (first to fourth year) of a racially diverse body of students during that period achieved a 100% pass rate in the qualifying year.** As Special Advisor on Transformation, **was able to influence the strategic direction for diversity and inclusion at UCT in terms of institutional culture, but also equity in terms of demographics at the executive leadership level.** Currently supervising **9 PhD candidates** from across two faculties at UCT, and one from outside UCT. PhD candidates include **8 black South Africans** (2 who have graduated) and **3 African international students** (1 who has graduated and another one who has just received a pass result with minor corrections). **12 of the PhD candidates supervised (past and current) are women.**