



**SARChI**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN**  
**RESEARCH CHAIR IN**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
**EDUCATION**



# The South African Research Chair Initiative (Sarchi) in Entrepreneurship Education

## Prof Cecile Nieuwenhuizen

Chair: SARChI in Entrepreneurship Education  
College of Business and Economics

## OVERVIEW

The South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI): Entrepreneurship Education was established to build capacity and create knowledge on post-school entrepreneurship education. The Chair's success in 2022 was driven by the core team of three female professors, Cecile Nieuwenhuizen, Natanya Meyer and Thea Tselepis who collaborated nationally and internationally. Khethukuthula Gumede is the administrator of the SARChI. Each team member contributed uniquely, resulting in a synergistic whole to achieve various successful projects and outputs. In this report, the highlights are shared as they relate to the objectives and specialisation of the core members. The highlights include the following:

## TALENT MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

All core members are involved in postgraduate and postdoctoral supervision, represent the Chair at various national and international events and are involved in some operational aspects. Members of the Chair supervised more than 25 postgraduate students during 2022, including honours, postgraduate diplomas, master's, and doctoral students. Prof Natanya Meyer and Prof Thea Tselepis teach entrepreneurship modules to undergraduate students and develop programmes and materials to promote entrepreneurship and business development.

## POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

With teams of authors from various universities, Prof Nieuwenhuizen contributed as editor and author to 52 books and re-worked the fifth edition of Entrepreneurship, a South African perspective with Prof Tselepis as co-editor, to include more African case studies as well as more examples on local entrepreneurship for interdisciplinary disciplines. Prof Nieuwenhuizen also represented the Chair as a member of the Community of Practice (CoP), an initiative by the National Entrepreneurship



Development of Higher Education (EDHE) platform.

In 2022 Prof Meyer became a co-researcher, author, and presenter of the South African National Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM). This annual report is the biggest globally and includes over 50 countries. She reached thousands of viewers, listeners, and readers through various events and presentations in 2022. Prof Meyer is also the Chair of the Research Community of Practice of Entrepreneurship in Higher Education (EDHE). In 2022, she presented research findings to an audience of 500+ at their annual conference.

Prof Thea Tselepis collaborated with the SETA retail chair on a research project linked to an entrepreneurial mindset. The report was presented at the annual SETA conference. She is also a member of the CoP of Learning and Teaching initiated by EDHE. A teaching methodology on incubation applied in an international collaboration was shared on the EDHE annual Lekgotla.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Most of the research conducted by the core team members is focused on post-school entrepreneurship. In 2022 the team (core team, postdocs and visiting professors) produced 48 peer-reviewed articles, up from 38 in 2021 and 20 in 2020. Scholarship of teaching and learning, as well as publications on 4IR, were amongst the publications.

Ten international visiting professors are appointed to the Chair, who assist in creating knowledge.





Prof S Kraus

These professors are from the USA, Poland, Hungary, Pakistan, Germany, and Nigeria.

Among these visiting professors is a distinguished visiting professor appointed to the Chair, namely Prof Sascha Kraus. An outstanding achievement celebrated by UJ and the Chair was Prof Kraus' acknowledgement for his achievement as a Clarivate "Highly Cited Researcher" in Economics and Business in 2022.

## SUSTAINABILITY, INNOVATION AND FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR)

All the objectives in the Chair are aligned to promote entrepreneurship education/awareness/training and development to contribute to job creation and equality. In this regard, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are considered in the planning and execution of research and community engagement projects. The various initiatives in this report testify to the interdisciplinary approaches to promote innovation in the 4IR.

The SARChI also hosts one Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Niel Kruger, who is actively involved in teaching and research components. He is also a team member of UJ Invent, a technology transfer company wholly owned by UJ. UJ Invent takes over from the Technology Transfer Office when Intellectual Property can be commercialised, using a spin-off company or where the technology readiness levels are high enough. UJ Invent's strategy aims to create an ecosystem where entrepreneurs and innovators can thrive, because there is a pipeline of executable technologies (product feasibility), pushing technology into a marketplace that is ready to respond to the offering. After all, it also ensures that there is a viable business case, all within the university's strengths while embracing the 4IR and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Dr Niel Kruger



## NATIONAL AND GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

A highlight for the Chair was the achievement of Prof Cecile Nieuwenhuizen, who received a Doctor Honoris Causa in Entrepreneurship for her contributions to entrepreneurship education and development from the Krakow University of Economics (Poland). She also continues to offer a dual PhD qualification with Vrije University (Netherlands). Moreover, Prof Nieuwenhuizen mentors various staff and students at UJ as supervisor and advisor. This prestigious event in Poland celebrated her national and international contributions to entrepreneurship education and development

Prof Natanya Meyer collaborated on various international levels. She is a guest editor of three global special issues for publication published in 2023, focusing on entrepreneurship and digital platforms. She also presented a guest lecture on entrepreneurial ecosystems in person at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (Italy).

Prof Thea Tselepis offered initiatives on entrepreneurial thinking in 2022 that included groups from a South African and German consortium, students from other African countries, and an international contribution to the "Success program" on how to design enterprising teaching portfolios. A highlight was a funded programme to promote student entrepreneurship development in collaboration with California State University, Northridge

## THE WAY AHEAD

The Chair continues its work to create knowledge for and as entrepreneurs!



Prof Natanya Meyer



Prof Thea Tselepis

