

## **Resume: Prof Juan A. Nel**

**Juan** joined the University of South Africa (Unisa) in 1997 as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology, after serving in the South African Police Service (SAPS) for ten years. During most of his policing career, Juan held the position of section head: Psychological Support Services. Promoted to the rank of Senior Superintendent (Colonel) in 1995, he was also appointed as National Health Manager in that year, while similarly serving as national coordinator of the SAPS RDP Victim Support Programme.

Juan was appointed in 1998 as Director: Centre for Applied Psychology (UCAP) in the Department of Psychology at Unisa and remained in that position until 2011. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2008 and Full Professor in January 2012. A registered Research and Clinical Psychologist since 1990 and 1995, respectively, he studied at the University of Pretoria and Unisa. His clinical master's dissertation was entitled: "A contextual approach to post-shooting trauma in the SAPS". In 2007, Juan completed the DLitt et Phil degree in Psychology at Unisa, the title of his thesis being: "Towards the 'Good Society': Healthcare provision for victims of hate crime from periphery to centre stage".

Juan's expertise in police psychology; victim empowerment and support; hate crime; sexuality; as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) mental health and well-being is recognised. His related academic research, tuition, advocacy and community participation have contributed to improved theory, professional practice, policy changes and community mobilisation. Juan has presented 42 papers at local conferences and 34 in the international arena and has been interviewed more than 55 times for national television, radio, and/or newspaper and magazine articles. He has contributed to 44 publications.

Juan is devoted to the development of postgraduate students and in this regard has supervised 61 students to date, including 15 masters' dissertations and doctoral theses, 29 MA Research Consultation placements and/or internships, and 17 BPsych trauma counsellors. Juan was previously involved in the teaching of psychopathology, as well as the curriculum and teaching of three other modules, that is: community psychology; interpersonal skills in diverse contexts, and transformative counselling encounters. The skills Juan has acquired in diversity intervention and -management and group facilitation and -therapy are widely recognised. He regularly facilitates experiential workshops on the Skill of Group Facilitation, Same-sex sexuality and Psychotherapy, Counteracting Heterosexism, and HIV/AIDS Care and Counselling. Juan is course leader of the Short Course in Victim

Empowerment and Support that he co-initiated in 1998 at Unisa and that still is the only of its kind presented at a tertiary institution in SA. He, furthermore, serves as resource faculty member of both the African and Dubrovnik post-graduate courses in victimology, victim assistance and criminal justice of the World Society of Victimology.

Other passions are community engagement and academic citizenship in the context of structures that lobby for equality and human rights, and the strengthening of healthcare service provision. He is a founding member of, and until 2011 served on the Department of Social Development (DSD)-led Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP) Management Team. Juan recently received a certificate of recognition of 12 years contribution towards development of this Programme, among others, for being instrumental in the recognition of hate victimisation as priority area in the VEP integrated policy guidelines. During 2000, Juan was joint recipient of the Marc Groenhuijzen Foundation Award at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Victimology, in Montreal, Canada, for research into critical success factors for victim empowerment in SA. In 2009, he was principal researcher on a Baseline study on the VEP in South Africa, national project conducted on contract by UCAP for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and National DSD. He is a founding member and continues to serve on the Steering Committee of the Hate Crimes Working Group, a multi-sectoral group lobbying government to develop interventions to recognise and address hate crimes in South Africa. In this context, he currently serves as leader of a research project aimed at developing an instrument to be utilised in partnership with key civil society organisations to monitor hate crimes, nationally.

Juan is a founding member and served for 16 years on the Board of OUT LGBT Well-Being (OUT), a national health service provider for LGBT persons; and a founding member of, and still serves on, the Joint Working Group (JWG), which is the organised LGBTI sector in South Africa. Involved in collaborative research with OUT and other JWG member organisations, since 2002, he currently still serves as principal researcher, project leader and supervisor on a study entitled: "Empowerment of Emerging South African LGBT Communities: The North-West Province as Case Study", conducted under the auspices of UCAP and funded by the Unisa Strategic Projects Fund and the South Africa Netherlands Project for Alternatives in Development (SANPAD). As of July 2011, Juan also serves as one of the civil society representatives on the Department of Justice-led National Task Team aimed at addressing gender- and sexual orientation-based violence targeted at LGBTI persons.

Juan's academic citizenship, community engagement and related advocacy efforts are increasingly focused on his own discipline. As of 2007, he co-represents the Psychological Society of SA (PsySSA) on the International Network for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns and Gender Identity Issues in Psychology (INET). A member of the PsySSA Council since 2008 and on the Executive Committee since 2011, he was chair of the Sexuality Division of the Scientific Committee of the 30<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Psychology that was co-hosted by PsySSA in Cape Town in July 2012. In this context, he also serves as leader of a project aimed at positioning PsySSA as regional hub towards the promotion of the well-being and human rights of LGBTI persons on the African continent.