

DR. ANDREW SPAUMER

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dr. Andrew Spaumer is an accomplished academic and social work professional with a strong foundation in teaching, research, and community engagement. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work, a Master of Social Work, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration. With over three years of academic teaching experience, Dr. Spaumer has consistently delivered high-quality education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As a lecturer at the University of South Africa, he has taught courses emphasizing social welfare policy and developmental approaches to social work, ensuring alignment with national and institutional quality assurance standards. He has also contributed significantly to curriculum development, module coordination, and the mentorship of students.

His supervision of master's and doctoral candidates has further demonstrated his commitment to fostering academic inquiry and supporting scholarly growth. Dr. Spaumer's research portfolio encompasses peer-reviewed publications and presentations at international conferences. His research expertise lies in the niche area of child protection.

Beyond academia, Dr. Spaumer has demonstrated active involvement in community engagement and organizational leadership. He has founded and co-led nonprofit organizations such as Siyahlokomelana Community Services and Botsofe ke Kgetho Community Group, which focus on empowering marginalized communities through targeted social programs. His role as a project leader for UNISA's Cares community engagement initiative highlights his commitment to student support and co-curricular activities while fostering sustainable development. Additionally, his participation in institutional governance, through service on the Department of Social Work Executive Committee and Marketing Committee, reflects his contributions to decision-making processes within the university. He also serves as the Assistant Program Director for the CHS Mentorship Program and as the Coordinator for the CHS Post-Doctoral Incubation Program, reflecting his dedication to academic mentorship and leadership development.

Dr. Spaumer possesses substantial experience in online and open distance learning (ODEL), having completed foundational training in digital pedagogies and effectively incorporating these methodologies into his teaching practices. His academic citizenship is further evidenced by his leadership in mentorship programs, coordination of postdoctoral incubation initiatives, and active membership in professional organizations, including the South African Council of Social Services Professionals and the International Association of Social Workers with Groups.

CORE SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

- Research & Innovation
- Teaching & Learning
- Social Work
- Academic Citizenship
- Teamwork
- Community Engagement
- Effective Verbal & Written Communication
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Performance Evaluation
- Examination Preparation
- Supervision
- Organizational Skills
- Logical & Analytical Skills
- Time-Management
- Leadership
- Conflict Management

EDUCATION

Tertiary Education

Institution	Qualification	Date of Completion
University of South Africa	Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work	2024

Thesis Title: A Model to Enhance Social Work Support for Pentecostal Churches Religious Leaders Supporting Children in Need of Care and Protection.

Institution	Qualification	Date of Completion
University of South Africa	Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration	2020

Institution	Qualification	Date of Completion
University of Pretoria	Master of Social Work	2018

Dissertation Title: Conflict management in Black African marriages in an urban context: An exploratory study.

Institution	Qualification	Date of Completion
University of Pretoria	Bachelor of Arts in Social Work	2020

High School Education

School:	Grade:	Date of Completion:
Tidima High School (Pretoria)	12	1992

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COURSES & TRAININGS

Institution/Company	Course	Date of Completion
Ethics Ambassador	Certificate: Ethics Ambassador Training Programme	2023

Institution/Company	Training	Date of Completion
Eden Training Academy	Conduct Moderation of Outcomes Based Assessments SAQA ID 115759	2023

Institution/Company	Training	Date of Completion
UNISA – CHS: Dept Tuition, Support, & Facilitation of Learning	Foundational Skills in Online Teaching and Learning; Pedagogies, Assessment, and Transformation	2022

Institution/Company Contemporary Institute of Clinical Sexology (United Kingdom)	Training CICS Foundation Certificate in Counselling Skills and Practice	Date of Completion 2020
Institution/Company Open College (United Kingdom)	Training Diploma in Life Coaching	Date of Completion 2018
Institution/Company University of Witwatersrand	Training Forensic in Social Work	Date of Completion 2016
Institution/Company University of Pretoria	Training Employee Wellness Program	Date of Completion 2013
Institution/Company Accreditation & Training Service ETDP- SETA. US-51930	Training Outcome-Based Assessment (SAQA 115753)	Date of Completion 2013
Institution/Company University of South Africa	Training Certificate in Labor Relations Management	Date of Completion 2012

WORK HISTORY

University of South Africa (UNISA)

Lecturer

Jan 2021 – Current

Main Duties:

- Teaching approved College Program Qualification Mixed (PQM) and phasing out specified programs and modules.
 - Working to improve module pass rate, aiming to surpass 70% by developing assessment plans and creating opportunities promoting deep learning.
 - Adhering to quality assurance measures set by the School of Social Sciences.
 - Serving as the primary lecturer for second-year theory modules (Social Welfare Policy within the South African context and The Social Work Helping Process within a Developmental Approach).
 - Acting as the secondary lecturer for two modules (Introduction to Social Welfare and Social Work & Social Work Practice).
 - Compiling tutorial letters.
 - Providing and monitoring e-tutor activities.
 - Developing assessment plans and promoting deep learning by applying Bloom's Taxonomy.
 - Implementing quality assurance measures of the School of Social Sciences.
 - Scientifically reviewing doctoral and master's proposals.
 - Serving as the Non-Examining Chair for master's students.
 - Producing and publishing journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers.
 - Promoting community engagement in line with Unisa's Community Engagement Policy.
 - Enhancing general university functioning, effectiveness, and impact at the departmental, school, and college levels.
 - Participating in bodies related to discipline expertise.
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Northampton County Council (United Kingdom)

Social Worker

Feb 2017 – Dec 2020

Main Duties:

- Providing practical and social work support for children, young people, and families, holding a more complex caseload. This includes undertaking assessments, visiting children and their families, carrying out interventions, reviewing work undertaken, and engaging directly with children, young people, and families.
- Carrying out initial, core, and other specialized assessments as per national guidelines and within prescribed timescales to formulate support plans for service users and coordinating their implementation or referring the case to the appropriate service area for child/family support.
- Conducting child protection investigations and Section 47 enquiries to gather information about a child's circumstances and decide on actions to ensure their safety and welfare.
- Working directly with family members, providing advice and guidance, empowering service users, and promoting their participation in planning and evaluating services to increase self-sufficiency, competence, and independence from social service assistance.
- Attending and participating in multidisciplinary team meetings, planning reviews with colleagues and relevant professional staff to assess and analyze service users' needs and to plan care programs according to those needs.
- Ensuring all information and reports relevant to work carried out are recorded, updated, and completed efficiently and promptly according to Directorate/legislative policies and procedures to ensure that decisions made and actions taken are fully evidenced and suitable for audit, court, or any other legitimate purpose.
- Implementing childcare activities according to the Children Act 1989 and other relevant legislation, regulations, and guidance. Developing outline plans into full child protection plans that include specific, achievable, child-focused objectives, realistic strategies, and specific actions to achieve the expected outcomes for the child.

Reason for leaving: Transitioned to pursue full-time Doctoral studies.

Gauteng Department of Social Development

Social Worker

May 2011 – Dec 2016

Main Duties:

- Conducting risk assessments on all referred cases for early intervention and prevention.
- Finalizing Children's Court cases by investigating and making recommendations to the court.
- Providing family reunification services through counseling, mediation, and assessments of family systems.
- Assessing and training prospective foster parents and conducting group work sessions for service users (foster children, foster parents, and substance-dependent clients).
- Engaging with the community and conducting awareness programs on issues such as neglect, child abuse, domestic violence, mental health, and parental substance abuse.
- Assessing clients and gathering relevant information about their cases, providing crisis intervention, and contacting and making referrals to other agencies and services.
- Supervising and training social work students and social auxiliary workers.
- Collaborating with a range of professionals to provide advice and support to families.
- Supporting young people to find alternative strategies to steer them away from criminal activity.
- Participating in child protection and prevention programs for abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Promoting awareness of the Children's Act and statutory intervention and care.

Reason for leaving: International exposure to the field of Social Work.

ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP

- Coordinator: CHS Post Doctoral Incubation Program (2024 – Current)
- Deputy Manager: CHS Mentorship Program (2024 – Current)
- Assistance Program Manager & Mentor: College of Human Sciences Mentorship Program (2022 – Current)
- Member: Department of Social Work (DSW) Human Resource Committee (2021 – Current)
- Member: DSW Executive Committee (2022 – Current)
- Leader: DSW Marketing (2022 – Current)
- Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Reviewer: DSW Scientific Research Committee (SRC) (2021 – Current)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Ratanang Community Project** (Member, 2023 – Current)
- **Motswedi Project** (Co-Leader & Founder, 2023 – Current)
- **Botho Bathong** (Member, 2022 – Current)
- **UNISA Cares Project** (Project Leader, 2021 – Current)
- **Bana Ba Tiileng** (Member, 2021 – Current)

EXTERNAL PROJECTS

- South African National Association of Social Workers. Founding Member. 2024 – Current.
- Siyahlokomelana Community Services (NPO). Director & Project Leader. 2014 – Current.
- IASWG: International Environmental Justice Group. Founding Member. 2023 – Current.
- Botsofe ke Kgetho (NPO). Initiator and Director. 2023 – Current.
- International Association of Social Workers with Groups (IASWG). Director & Member. 2009 – Current.
- Love Pretoria East Pastors Forum. Member. 2020 – Current.
- El-Bethel Christian Fellowship. Founder and Pastor. 1999 – Current.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Title of Paper	Year
• The role of Lobola negotiators in dealing with conflicts within marriage: An afro-centric perspective. Paper presented virtually at 2023 International Association of Social Work with Groups (IASWG), 9 June, Calgary.	2023
• The Social Work Pastor: The Contribution of Social Work for Pastoral/ Clergy Group Leadership. Paper presented at 37th International Association of Social Work with Groups IASWG), 7 June, Calgary.	2014

PUBLICATIONS

- **Spaumer, A.**, Lekganyane, R., & Shirindi, L. (2025). A Social Work Perspective on South African Traditional Male Child Circumcision. *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*, 61(1), 106–124. <https://doi.org/10.15270/61-1-1272>
 - **Spaumer, A.**, Mavhandu-Mudzusi, A.H., & Adewoye, S.E. (2025). Marital Resilience factors that enhance Conflict Management in Black African Marriages in South Africa: An Afro-Centric Perspective. *E-Journal of Religious and Theological Studies*, 11(1):25–36. <https://doi.org/10.38159/erats.20251113>
 - **Spaumer, A.**, & Mavhandu-Mudzusi, A. H. (2025). Pentecostal church leaders' support to children in need of care and protection. *HTS Teologiese Studies / Theological Studies*, 81(1). <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v81i1.10173>
 - Scheitel, R., Amukwelele, D. Z., Busari-Akinbode, S. A., Chilwalo, N., Dolan-Reilly, G. L., Ibobor, S. O., Prat-Bau, N., **Spaumer, A.**, Filion-Onserud, H., Willoughby, M., & Adejoh, S. O. (2024). Utilizing International
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Group Work to Address the Impact of Climate Change on Social Work Practice: A Mutual Aid Approach. *Soziales_Kapital*, 29(2), 129–149-129–149.

- Kgatle M.S.; **Spaumer A.** 2023. Integrating Professional Counselling During Marriage Counselling Within Neo-Pentecostalism in South Africa. *In die Skriflig* 57(1), a2920. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ids.v57i1.2920>
- **Spaumer, A.** 2018. True Love Through Conflicts. Nolo Publishers: Pretoria

MASTER'S SUPERVISION

Name of Student	Title of Dissertation	Year of Completion
Ms. Liketso. P. Moeletsane	Multiple perspectives on factors contributing to relapse in adolescents previously placed in a residential care facility: The case study of Ficksburg, Free State Province	In Progress

Name of Student	Title of Dissertation	Year of Completion
Mrs. Eunice Nematsharaga	Experiences of Married Men who are victims of intimate partner violence at Nzhelele Phadzima area, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province, South Africa.	In Progress

DOCTORAL SUPERVISION

Name of Student	Title of Thesis	Year of Completion
Ms. Whitney. N. Maimela	Survival Strategies and Coping Mechanisms of Youth in Limpopo who Dropped out of School and are not in Education, Employment, or Training: Guidelines for Social Work(ers).	In Progress

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- South African Council of Social Services Professionals (SACSSP).
- Board of Health Care Funders (BHF)
- Association of South African Social Workers in Educational Institutions (ASASWEI)
- International Association of Social Workers with Groups (IASWG)

REFERENCES

- **Prof. Petro Botha**
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- **Prof. Azwihangwisi Mavhandu-Mudzusi**
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 - **Mrs. Dudu Tibane**
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