

ASASWEI CONFERENCE: ADVANCING SOCIAL WORK PRAXIS THROUGH STRENGTHENED MULTI-SECOTORAL RESPONSES TO ADVERSITY, VULNERABILITY AND TRAUMA.

DATES OF CONFERENCE: 27, 28, 29 SEPTEMBER 2023.

FRAMEWORK OF BREAKAWAY SESSIONS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

REVISED AS AT 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

THEME 1: (55)

Promoting stakeholder partnerships that protect, support and enhance resilience during adverse events and trauma

SUB-THEME 1.1 (17)

The role of psychosocial services during adverse events and resultant trauma from a Human rights perspective

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	The role of psychosocial services during adverse events and resultant trauma from a Human rights perspective (Unique number: 001)	Session 1 Plenary Venue	The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, herein referred to as the Constitution, affirms that all human beings are having human rights. Despite this affirmation, human beings and particularly women and children, go through victimisation either by a stranger or somebody known to them. These victimisations, depending on its intensity, can cause trauma to the victim's lives. In dealing with these damages (physical, emotional, psychological and otherwise),	Dr. Matshemo Moganedi Dr Matshemo Joyce Moganedi was born in Limpopo and advanced herself to Gauteng Province. She is a professional social worker, graduated in 2001 from UNISA. She proceeded to her Masters in HIV and AIDS, in the same Institution. She further did her PhD with the University of Limpopo in 2021. Her experiences are Occupational Social work, Policy Development, implementation, and evaluation. Her areas of interest are gender-based violence, victim empowerment, Skills development programme, teenage pregnancy, sheltering services, and male

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			<p>psycho-social support services are rendered. Resilience theory became a lens. This study was qualitative in nature, and desk-top review was employed to collect data. Document analysis was used. The findings are that adverse events can be traumatic and needs psycho-social support services to help the survivors to develop resilience. Adverse events can take place during childhood and if left for long time without being addressed, can cause post-traumatic stress disorder</p>	<p>victims. Her passion has been Academia and she has joined the University of Zululand in 2022, KwaZulu-Natal Province as a Lecturer in Social Work Department.</p> <p>Mr. Buti Kulwane Social Work Policy Manager - Transnational Organised Crime (Human Trafficking) - Department of Social Development. Papers Research and other Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Model of Home & Community Based Care and Support published in SABSWA journal of 2000. • Research titled “Civic Competence in Khutsong” in July 2002. Master of Management (MM) research report at the Wits School of Public & Development Management
2	<p>Association between coping styles and secondary traumatic stress among forensic social workers in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 002)</p>	<p>Session 1 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>Forensic social work in South Africa is challenging, increasing the likelihood of secondary traumatic stress among its practitioners. Proactive coping strategies are necessary to reduce the impact of secondary traumatic stress on forensic social workers. The aim of this study was to describe the association between the frequency of different coping styles and the frequency of secondary traumatic stress symptoms in forensic social workers. The study applied a quantitative approach with a cross-sectional descriptive design. An all-inclusive willing participation sampling method was used, focussing on all qualified Forensic Social Workers who graduated</p>	<p>Dr Pieter Boshoff hold’s the position of a senior lecturer at the Potchefstroom Campus of North-West University. With a teaching and research background spanning 12 years, my expertise lies in the field of Social Work, specifically in the area of psychological trauma. I possess a doctoral degree in this field. Thus far, I have successfully published 6 articles related to this subject matter, and I currently have an additional 3 articles undergoing review for publication</p>

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			from a South African university. IMB SPSS Statistics version 28.0 was used to analyse the data. The study found that avoidant and emotion-focused coping styles were linked to an increase in secondary traumatic stress symptoms. Employers and clinicians can assist forensic social workers by providing strategies that promote problem-focused coping styles to reduce perceived secondary traumatic stress symptoms.	
3	<p>Human rights-based psychosocial services, applying Dembour's Four Schools of Human Rights Framework.</p> <p>(Unique number: 003)</p>	Session 1 Plenary Venue	Applying a human rights perspective to the delivery of psychosocial services in response to trauma and other shocks that people experience, can be more effective if Dembour's Four Schools of Human Rights Framework is used to design these services. The four schools are the naturalist, deliberative, protest and discourse schools. Based on an in-depth literature study and my social work practice, I have adapted Dembour's four schools to design and deliver social work services that encompass the multifacetedness of human rights-based social work practice. This paper will explain what the four schools entail and how they can be applied to the delivery of psychosocial services, especially services to individuals, groups and communities that have to stand up against trauma and adverse circumstances.	<p>Dr. Corlie Giliomee</p> <p>Dr Corlie Giliomee is a lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria. She teaches social development and ethics in social work. Her academic and research interests center on human rights education, human rights, social justice, social work education, social development, and homelessness. She has a passion for the promotion of social human rights education in Africa. Currently, she is serving on the executive committee of the University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education (UCCHRE) and is a member of the committee for human rights of the IASSW.</p>

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4	<p>Management of Vicarious Trauma for Victim Empowerment Social Workers: Intimate Partner Violence.</p> <p>(Unique number: 004)</p>	Session 1 Plenary Venue	<p>Intimate Partner Violence forms a large proportion of the violence faced by the country and remains on the increase. In response to the rising challenge of IPV, Victim Empowerment has been designed to deal with the impact of IPV on victims and implementers.</p> <p>This study employed the qualitative research approach, seeking to explore experiences of service implementers to inform guidelines for practice.</p> <p>The goal of the study is ‘to provide management of vicarious traumatization of Victim Empowerment Social Workers.</p> <p>Semi-structured interviews was used to collect data with a sample of social workers. Purposive sampling method will allowed the researcher to use her judgment by purposively selecting persons because they are accessible, suitable, and embody some characteristics of the study.</p> <p>The VEP was initiated within the broader NCPS , in order to recognize the negative impact of crime on individuals, families and communities and also to prevent secondary victimization. The program deals with victimization, , however in dealing with victims of IPV, implementers of services are left with long lasting scars because of Vicarious Trauma. The guidelines for practice include psychosocial</p>	<p>Ms. Mary Kgole.</p> <p>Mary Kgole is a Social Work Practice Lecturer at the University of Pretoria. Currently a PHD candidate with UNISA. She holds a Master’s Degree in Social Health Care. She has acquired extensive experience in both Government, NGO, civil society and private sector and institutions of higher learning. Her other attributes includes people management skills, conflict resolution, diversity management, gender mainstreaming, facilitation, capacity building and skills. She is a very passionate about GBV and Mental Health. , driven, goal oriented with a strong work ethic and good moral compass and a visionary in any role. She is a dedicated, disciplined, passionate individual who is driven and visionary in any role.</p>

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			<p>support for VEP social workers and debriefing services.</p> <p>Key Words: Intimate Partner Violence, Victim Empowerment, Gender Based Violence, Vicarious Trauma.</p>	
5	<p>Social Work with Vulnerable Groups Within the Criminal Justice System: Challenges and Opportunities Emerging in Practice.</p> <p>(Unique number: 005)</p>	Session 1 Plenary Venue	<p>The social work profession has a chequered history of working with vulnerable groups within the criminal justice system. In South Africa, the president recently signed legislation aimed at strengthening efforts to protect distinct vulnerable groups while also expanding the list of persons who are to be protected to include other vulnerable persons. Through the phenomenological study design, this paper aimed at exploring and describing the challenges and opportunities of social workers working with diverse vulnerable groups within the criminal justice system. The authors triangulated the purposive, convenience and snowball sampling techniques to select social workers. The qualitative data was collected through individual semi-structured interviews. Thematic data analysis was used to analyse the collected data. The findings of the study indicated that the prevention of secondary victimization of vulnerable children within the justice system was a major challenge for some social workers working as court preparation officers and court intermediaries.</p>	<p>Mr. Thembinkosi Singwane.</p> <p>Mr Thembinkosi Singwane is a Social Work Lecturer at the University of Limpopo. He completed his Masters' Degree from the University of Witwatersrand under the tutelage of Prof Thobeka Nkomo. Thembinkosi is currently a PhD Student at the University of Pretoria under the supervision of Prof Stephan Geyer. He has over 8 years of experience in the Public, Corporate and NGO Sectors. His research niche lies with the ambit of harm reduction, substance use disorders, mental health, addiction management and unemployment. He has published a few articles on substance use disorders.</p> <p>Prof. Selelo Rapholo.</p> <p>Prof Selelo Frank Rapholo is the Associate Professor attached to the Department of Social Work, University of Limpopo. Prof Rapholo is a qualified Social Worker with specialized skills in Forensic Social Work and has scientifically contributed to this field. Prof Rapholo is currently the head of the Department at the University of Limpopo Department of Social Work. He has several accolades to his name from ASASWEI and the University of Limpopo.</p>

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6	<p>The SIX Cs model for Psychological First Aid (PFA): Empirical Evidence.</p> <p>(Unique number: 006)</p>	Session 1 Plenary Venue	<p>The acute stress responses (ASR) following traumatic events predicts post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD. There is a need for a short psychological first aid (PFA) that non-professionals can learn, to help mass casualties. This study tested the Six Cs model (Cognitive, Communication, Commitment, Continuity, Challenging and Control) in an experimental design on ASR signs.</p> <p>Sixty-three participants were randomly assigned to the Six Cs intervention or to supportive emotional expression (controls). They listened to an emergency phone call. Before, immediately after, and 5min later participants' anxiety, heart-rate variability (HRV) and mental resilience were measured.</p> <p>All Time x Group interactions were statistically significant: The Six Cs participants showed lower anxiety and less reductions in HRV and resilience than controls immediately after the stressor, and they recovered faster than controls on all three outcomes.</p> <p>The results clearly demonstrate a profound superior effect of the SIX C's method over the control method, in all outcomes, immediately after a simulated stressor and 7min later, thus truly showing a better effect on resilience.</p>	<p>Dr. Moshe Farchi.</p> <p>Moshe Farchi, PhD. is an expert in the fields of acute trauma, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and psychological inoculation, and Effective Resilience. Dr. Farchi has also conducted extensive research into the fields of resilience empowerment and acute Stress reaction.</p> <p>Dr. Farchi is the head of the Social Work department in Tel-Hai College and is the professional head of the Stress Trauma & Resilience Studies program.</p> <p>Dr. Farchi is the Founder and professional Leader of the Israeli national Psychological First Aid The "SIX Cs" model. This model has been adopted and utilized by wide range of institutions and counties.</p>

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			This study has implications for training people worldwide in a simple, effective and evidence-based method as a new form of PFA.	
7	<p>Enhancing Resilience in the Face of Climate Change: The Role of Social Workers in Durban Floods.</p> <p>(Unique number: 007)</p>	Session 1 Plenary Venue	The Durban floods that occurred in April 2022 and June 2023 serve as a reminder of the devastating consequences of climate change. In response to such catastrophic events, a collaborative effort among stakeholders is essential to protect, support, and enhance resilience in affected communities. It is recommended that social workers be employed as part of the first responders' team. These social workers can provide vital counselling and debriefing services to individuals who have witnessed and experienced the destructive power of climate change. The integration of social works into the emergency response system will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 11, which emphasize sustainable economic growth and resilient infrastructure, respectively. Furthermore, to reduce carbon emissions, social workers can play a role by adopting environmentally conscious practices. Shifting from physical assessment tools to digital alternatives. Such change aligns with the broader global efforts to promote sustainable development and combat climate change.	<p>Ms. Sphokazi Gambushe. Bachelor of Social work. 3 years post graduate experience in areas of working with persons battling with addiction, persons in conflict with the law, Children in need of care and protection and victims of Gender Based violence. Current experience involves assessing suitability of diverted clients for allocation into relevant program. Hosting crime prevention programs to community members and institutions, providing training and capacitation of local stakeholders and CBO's. Facilitating group sessions to non-custodial sentenced offenders and to offenders that require reintegration as they approach the end of their sentence.</p>

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			Fostering stakeholder partnerships and empowering social workers, community resilience can be enhanced and support those affected by traumatic events can be provided. Integrating social workers as first responders and adopting environmentally friendly practices will contribute to a sustainable and resilient future in the face of climate change.	
8	Meeting the multifaceted needs of patients with drug-resistant TB. (Unique number: 008)	Session 1 Plenary Venue	<p>While TB can have detrimental effects on a person's health, the social ramifications of such a diagnosis and the treatment process may have devastating implications. Disruptions in a patient's life facing a chronic and stigmatized disease like DR TB may hinder work or opportunities to earn an income, care for family members, social isolation and lower self-esteem. Although social workers give psycho-social support such as patient and family counselling, support groups, and make referrals to external agencies for ongoing and relevant long-term support, patient material and financial support is often a pressing need. Availability of the disability grant can compensate for income loss, and meet patient material and financial needs. However, the strict qualifying criteria exclude many patients and must be challenged. There is a further need for social workers in all government and NPO agencies to work collaboratively to</p>	<p>Ms. Silindile Mageba. Silindile Mageba is a 32 year old female, currently residing in Sherwood Durban and originally from Manguzi (Northern KZN). She completed Matric in 2006 at Star of the sea high school. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, obtained from University of KwaZulu Natal in 2011 and certificate in Employee Wellness obtained from University of South Africa in 2018. Silindile has 12 years working experience as a social worker, she worked for Department of Social Development (Vulamehlo Service Office) from 2011-2014 and was transferred to Department of Health (King Dinuzulu Hospital) where she is placed in HIV/TB section.</p>

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			enhance the journey of the patient as they travel through the healthcare system.	
9	<p>Social Work Role in Differentiated Service Delivery for People with HIV/AIDS and Multidrug Resistant Tuberculosis.</p> <p>(Unique number: 009)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 1	<p>For people living with HIV/AIDS, Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) has focused on enhancing resilience, self-efficacy, and engagement. For people co-infected with HIV/AIDS and multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), there are severe challenges associated with treatment, including stigma, social and structural barriers. We used empirical adherence data and qualitative research based in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, to identify longitudinal barriers to medication adherence to inform an MDR-TB/HIV DSD-model incorporating social work interventions that address psychosocial/structural barriers to care engagement. Based on these data, DSD for people with MDR-TB/HIV should 1) intensify support for severely adherence-challenged subpopulations, while adherent patients may require less intensive support, 2) address decreased adherence over time and 3) account for psychosocial, behavioral, and structural challenges linked to discrete treatment stages. Social work role in DSD to address the psychosocial dimensions of health can improve outcomes for individuals with MDR-TB/HIV and the</p>	<p>Prof. Jennifer Zelnick Jennifer Zelnick is a professor and social welfare policy chair at the Touro College Graduate School of Social Work in New York City. She has an MSW in community organizing from the University of Pittsburgh, and a doctorate in Work Environment Policy from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Professor Zelnick is a public health social work professor and practitioner whose career objective has focused on the health and well-being of the health and human service workforce in the United States and South Africa.</p> <p>Mr. Karl Reis Karl Reis is a Medical Student at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is currently a research associate with the ADAP-TIV study (Adaptive Evaluation of mHealth and conventional adherence support interventions to optimize outcomes with new treatment regimens for drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV in South Africa) placed at CAPRISA, and has extensive global health research in South Africa and Tanzania.</p>

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			health and well-being of their families and communities.	
10	<p>Ma’at Institute’s role in adverse situations: Collective autoethnographic reflections of facilitators rendering African-centred psychosocial interventions.</p> <p>(Unique number: 010)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 1	<p>This paper synthesises findings drawn from the Ma’at Institute facilitators’ reflective experiences of rendering African-centred psychosocial interventions with clients in distress. Ma’at Institute is a multidisciplinary centre established through partnership between the UKZN and the HWSETA. This paper explores how the facilitators describe their developmental process and what it means to be a Ma’at Institute facilitator in an African-centred context. This article is based on the reflection stories and experiences of five facilitators. It is framed within the autoethnographic framework influenced by the reflective practice approach. Four themes that emerged are self-critical approach, maximised orientation to African-based skills, personal-cultural connection and maintaining of personal-professional balance. The paper concludes with the view that the Ma’at Institute provides an intermediate platform for practitioners transitioning from a theory-based learning context to an African-centred practice context. The paper recommends the need for the expansion of centres of this nature to bridge theory and practice effectively.</p>	<p>Dr. Mbongeni Sithole Dr Sithole is serving as a social work educator in the School of Applied Human Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is a qualified social worker with eleven years of academic experience. He has field-practice expertise in the public service, having practised in the areas of Social Development, Corrections and Skills Development. His interest is mainly in the area of inclusive education, corrections, supervision, trauma debriefing and Afrocentricity as an alternative knowledge system. He has a working knowledge of legislative prescripts and policy frameworks pertaining to Higher Education, Labour Relations and the Criminal Justice System.</p> <p>Ms. Nokukhanya Zondi Ms Zondi is a registered PhD student in the Discipline of Social Work, UKZN. Ms Zondi’s primary research interest is in Afrocentric Social Work. Her Master’s thesis was on mediation and child participation in indigenous African families. Her PhD is on rituals and rites of passage for children from Indigenous African communities. Her thesis is conceptualised and written in isiZulu. Ms Zondi is based in the MA’AT Institute as a mentor and the isiZulu language expert with more than three years of experience. Her research interest is in African-centred mediation, African culture and value systems.</p> <p>Ms Zamansele Nqayi Zamansele Nqayi is a PhD student in the Discipline of Developmental Studies at UKZN. Her research</p>

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				interest is in African-centred knowledge systems. Her Masters research was on the Rites of passage and virginity testing in the 21 century.
11	<p>Meeting the multifaceted needs of patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis: A frontline perspective.</p> <p>(Unique number: 011)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 3	A drug-resistant TB diagnosis can be devastating for patients and their families. Long-term hospitalization and facing a stigmatized disease lead to loss of income, disruptions in families, social isolation, and lower self-esteem. Social workers (SWs) are well-placed to enhance social protection for patients, families, and communities. Involving the patient as a central member of the healthcare team may improve health outcomes. SW knowledge of the healthcare system may help patients navigate this often-complex system. Families and other treatment supporters may benefit from treatment literacy, infection control strategies, and the management of side effects. Community awareness involves TB education that may help to destigmatize TB. This presentation draws on cases from the perspective of a SW at a TB referral hospital in KwaZulu-Natal to develop recommendations for how SWs can use their expertise to link patients with resources and work collaboratively outside the healthcare system to meet multifaceted patient needs.	<p>Prof. Jennifer Zelnick</p> <p>Jennifer Zelnick is a professor and social welfare policy chair at the Touro College Graduate School of Social Work in New York City. she has an MSW in community organizing from the University of Pittsburgh, and a doctorate in Work Environment Policy from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Professor Zelnick is a public health social work professor and practitioner whose career objective has focused on the health and well-being of the health and human service workforce in the United States and South Africa.</p>
12	The effects of internal and external risk	Session 4 Breakaway Room 3	The primary focus of this study is secondary traumatic stress (STS) among forensic social workers, who are exposed	<p>Dr. Pieter Boshoff</p> <p>I hold the position of a senior lecturer at the Potchefstroom Campus of North-West University.</p>

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	<p>factors in forensic social workers's experience of secondary traumatic stress.</p> <p>(Unique number: 142)</p>		<p>indirectly to distressing narratives from sexually abused children. Unlike general social workers, they face the dual challenge of serving as both expert witnesses and therapists. The research aims to explore the impact of internal and external risk factors on STS experiences in forensic social workers, a topic that has received limited attention in international and South African studies. An all-inclusive willing participation sampling method was used, focussing on all qualified Forensic Social Workers who graduated from a South African university between 2006 and 2019. The study utilized a quantitative cross-sectional descriptive design, employing Google Forms distributed via email to collect data. Data analysis was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics version 28.0. The findings indicate that internal factors, such as race and relationship status, and external factors, including clinical supervision, social support, and exposure to traumatic criminal events, had varying effects on STS symptoms.</p>	<p>With a teaching and research background spanning 12 years, my expertise lies in the field of Social Work, specifically in the area of psychological trauma. I possess a doctoral degree in this field.</p>
13	<p>Mental wellbeing and multiple bereavements: The experiences of social workers working in</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>Social Workers who work in Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) are members of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association of South Africa (EAPA-SA). They address a range of issues, such as work-life balance, mental health, and addiction in</p>	<p>Dr. Matshemo Moganedi Dr Matshemo Joyce Moganedi was born in Limpopo and advanced herself to Gauteng Province. She is a professional social worker, graduated in 2001 from UNISA. She proceeded to her Masters in HIV and AIDS, in the same Institution. PhD with the University</p>

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	<p>Employee Assistance Programme.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 077)</p>		<p>the workplace. While dealing with some of these issues, social workers in EAP had to deal with multiple bereavements caused by COVID-19 pandemic including their own bereavements. This qualitative study seeks to explore the mental wellbeing experiences of social workers in dealing with multiple bereavements. Purposive sampling will be used to sample the participants and semi-structured interviews will be employed for data collection. Thematic Analysis will be used for data analysis. It is evident that COVID-19 has left social workers to deal with complicated grief and mental wellbeing challenges. This study will assist with the development of a strategy on how to care for the caregivers which may be used for future handling of pandemics.</p>	<p>of Limpopo in 2021. Her experiences are Occupational Social work, Policy Development, implementation, and evaluation. Her passion has been Academia and she has joined the University of Zululand in 2022, KwaZulu-Natal Province as a Lecturer in Social Work Department.</p> <p>Ms. Smangele Simelane Mrs Smangele Nomkhosi Simelane was born in KwaZulu Natal and worked in different organizations in both private and public sector. She is an Employee Health and Wellbeing Specialist at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU). Her qualifications are Honors Degree in Social Work (UNIZULU), master's degree in social work from the University of Pretoria in 2007, Post Graduate Diploma in Public Admin and HR from UKZN in 1999 and Advance Programme in Organizational Development from UNISA in 2017 and currently a PhD candidate in Social Work from the University of Zululand.</p>
14	<p>Exploring Social Workers' Response to Gender-Based Violence: Skills, Training, and Recommendations</p> <p>(Unique number: 012)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>This study examines social workers' expertise in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and its impact on victims. Utilising a phenomenological design, participants engaged in focus group discussions and interviews, also using document analysis for data collection. Resilience theory helped understand resilience within social workers' expertise, highlighting core intervention strategies for assisting GBV victims. Findings revealed social work interventions relying on values, ethics, and essential skills like</p>	<p>Ms. Sithuthukile Myeni Sithuthukile Myeni is a lecturer at the University of Zululand in the Department of Social Work. She holds a Master of Arts (Social Work) degree and is currently pursuing her PhD, focusing on gender-based violence. She is a social worker by profession and is registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP). She has vast social work experience in the fields of victim empowerment, child protection, and community work</p> <p>Prof. John Rautenbach</p>

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			<p>communication, probing, partializing, and active listening to support GBV survivors. However, more training on trauma-informed care is needed, as social workers face distressing circumstances affecting their well-being. Recommendations include enhancing assessment and intervention skills, advocacy, prevention strategies, policy and systems change, and promoting networking and collaboration. Social workers' expertise significantly contributes to addressing GBV, necessitating continuous trauma-informed training. Integrated networks are crucial to combat GBV and raise awareness among individuals supporting victims. The study emphasises comprehensive efforts required from social workers to effectively combat GBV.</p>	<p>Prof John Victor Rautenbach is a Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of Zululand. He is a professional social worker registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP). Previously he was the Head of the Department of Social Work and Social Development at the University of Fort Hare, where he worked for eighteen years.</p> <p>He is a former Executive Committee Member of the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI). He has also served as a Board Member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), where he was the co-chair of the governance task force, a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and continues as the Chair of the Standing Committee on the World Census of Social Work Programs. The Directory of Schools of Social Work has recently been published. He currently serves on the IASSW research committee.</p>
15	<p>The resilience of social workers rendering services to distressed communities: coping strategies.</p> <p>(Unique number: 013)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>The concept of resilience is increasingly gaining universal recognition amongst the helping professionals and the social scientists. It is a term used to provide explanations about the individual complexities and the responses of groups and communities to stressful, emotional, depressive, traumatic and challenging situations. Since the profession of social work is considered the emotionally demanding field, resilience is a concept of much relevance. The research methodology in this study was qualitative</p>	<p>Mr. Tumelo Sekgobela</p> <p>Tumelo Sekgobela has been involved in studies related to resilience of social workers, substance abuse and bullying in schools. Previously, he worked at the Department of Social Development and Health in South Africa as a social worker and social work supervisor respectively. I have focused on various programmes including HIV/AIDS, Supervision, disability, and foster care.</p>

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			in nature and was used to understand the resilience of social workers who render services to distressed communities. The primary goal of this study was to develop an in-depth understanding of resilience in social workers rendering services to distressed communities. The study conducted face-to-face, semi-structured interviews through the use of purposive method of sampling. The Interview guide was utilized as a data collection instrument. The study employed exploratory research designs. Ethical requirements such as informed consent, debriefing, beneficence, confidentiality and avoidance of harm were adhered to. The study employed the resilience theory.	
16	Youth Transitioning Out of Residential Care in South Africa: Toward Ubuntu and Interdependent Living. (Unique number: 014)	Session 1 Breakaway Room 1	This qualitative study, informed by a descriptive-interpretive research design, examined the experiences of 16 youth transitioning from Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs), together with perspectives of family caregivers and service providers in eThekweni Metropolitan, KwaZulu-Natal. The results indicate that youth were unprepared for transitioning out of care. CYCCs fostered dependency by virtue of their structure and operation. Instantaneous graduation from childhood to adulthood involved adult role expectations on transitioning, without the safety nets and rights afforded in care.	Dr. Rajeshree Moodley Dr Rajeshree Moodley has 30 years social work experience with children, families and restorative services at NPOs and the Department Social Development. She is the acting manager for restorative services at eThekweni North, Department of Social Development. She wrote journal articles and presented at national and International conferences on child participation, care, permanency planning and transitioning out of care. In 2021, she graduated with a PhD in social work.

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			Multiple risk factors associated with pre-care kept youth in care and impacted their post-transition experiences. Against all odds, some youth demonstrated resilience and the value of interdependency and Ubuntu. More caring and less controlling supportive healing from toxic shame and trauma and stakeholder engagement to mitigate risk factors are recommended. The neoliberal discourse on independence is critiqued, with a call to shift to interdependence and Ubuntu in policy and practice for a humane response to past trauma, present vulnerability, and future risks.	
17	<p>Evaluation of psychosocial support services rendered to victims of natural disasters at Dannhauser Municipality by Social Workers.</p> <p>(Unique number: 015)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 1	The province of KwaZulu Natal experienced extreme weather conditions in April 2022. A significant number of people in Dannhauser became survivors of natural disasters in April 2022. The aim of this paper was to evaluate the psychosocial support services rendered to victims of natural disasters by social workers. Descriptive qualitative analysis was used to review fifty social work reports on psychosocial support services rendered to survivors of natural disasters. Findings showed there is no; indication of response time to victims of trauma, clear description of psychological trauma experienced by victims, and intervention services focused on material loss. There is no indication of	<p>Ms. Thobeka Mbatha</p> <p>Thobeka Ntombeningi Mbatha, is a social worker at the Department of Social Development, at the Dannhauser Service Office from 2011 until present. She specializes in HIV/AIDS and works closely with Community Caregivers and Child and Youth Care Workers. She is a part-time student at the University of KwaZulu Natal, doing a masters degree in Child Care and Protection. She is passionate about the protection of children and their rights.</p>

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			how many survivors were removed from their homes. The developed plan of action does not indicate holistic intervention service. Recommendations; holistic psychosocial support services must be provided to victims of trauma.	

THEME 1:

Promoting stakeholder partnerships that protect, support and enhance resilience during adverse events and trauma

SUB-THEME 1.2 (23)

The protection of physical and psychological health and wellbeing of children, people with disabilities, and older people through fostering safe, sustainable, and inclusive living spaces

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1	The improvement of the psychosocial health and well-being of children: Lessons from the Thari-programme. (Unique number: 016)	Session 1 Breakaway Room 1	Behavioural problems such as gang activity, substance abuse, volatile behaviour and class disruptions can negatively impact the health and well-being of children. The Adopt-a-school Foundation developed the Thari-program to provide psychosocial support to women and children. Interventions in schools, Safe Parks and a stakeholder forum strengthen the school community and promote the health and well-being of all. Eight schools in Botchabello, Free State that experienced high levels of gangsterism, poor	Prof. Roelf Reyneke Roelf Reyneke is an adjunct professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of the Free State, where he served many years as HOD and program director. His research focus is social services in the education sector. He is currently the program coordinator of the Masters in School social work. Roelf has been a guest lecturer at European Universities and presented various papers at national and international conferences. He has published in journals and contributed multiple chapters to books. He is also the

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			academic results and other social issues formed part of this pilot project. Although a mixed methods approach (QUAL/quan) was followed to explore and describe the programme, this paper will only focus on two elements of the qualitative research: the behavioural problems children present with and the changes seen in schools during the implementation of the programme. Results show a decrease in gangsterism and psychosocial issues and less disruptive behaviour. Learners and educators also feel much safer in schools, and there was a change in the school culture. Lessons learned from this project will serve similar programs that would like to enhance the safety and well-being of school learners.	co-editor of Restorative school discipline: The law and practice.
2	Rethinking Adequate Housing and Inclusive Neighbourhoods as a Strategy to Mitigate Vulnerabilities Against Older Persons. (Unique number: 017)	Session 1 Breakaway Room 2	Particularly in South Africa, vulnerable populations contend with a nexus of interrelated vulnerabilities. As they age, senior citizens require optimum social care in safe and secure housing and neighbourhoods. UN SDG 11 stresses that as part of social policy, adequate housing is the bedrock for inclusive development to mitigate a myriad of physical and psychosocial risks particularly for vulnerable populations. Employing a human rights perspective, this qualitative study explored the intersection of housing and subjective wellbeing for older persons in a low-income community in Johannesburg. Data were collected from nine participants	Prof Mziwandile Sobantu Mzwandile Sobantu is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Johannesburg. He holds a PhD in Social Work, focusing on the intersection of housing and social development obtained from the University of Johannesburg. Among other roles, he teaches postgraduate and undergraduate modules, and very passionate about postgraduate supervision and academic writing. In addition, he coordinates the Masters in Community Development (MACD) programme. Since joining academia, he has published several journal articles, book chapters and presented his research in different fora in the continent and abroad.

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			utilising semi-structured interviews. After transcription, it was analysed through content analysis. The study found out that the quality of housing and neighbourhood environment influenced their perceptions of vulnerability. Risks to sexual abuse was determined by overcrowding, for example. In conclusion, housing is not only just brick and mortar but also undergirds key social and economic relations that mitigate vulnerabilities.	
3	Provisioning of services by social workers and community volunteers to children in foster care living with HIV: The need for a collaborative effort. (Unique number: 018)	Session 1 Breakaway Room 2	This paper discusses the services provided by social workers and community volunteers in the City of Johannesburg to children in foster care living with HIV. A mixed methods approach was used to gather both quantitative and qualitative data using self-administered questionnaires and semi-structured interviews from a sample made up of both social workers and community volunteers. The results showed that even though social workers provided services to these children, the services were not adequate due to various challenges they faced. On the other hand, community volunteers provided HIV services that social workers could not. However, there was a lack of collaboration between the social workers and community volunteers. Therefore, this study recommends an inter-disciplinary collaboration between social workers and community volunteers to strengthen the	Mr Jeffries Khosa Mr. Khosa Jeffries Zwelithini is a social worker with over 8 years practical experience. He is a PhD candidate in the Department of Social Work & Criminology at University of Pretoria. His research interest is child protection, decolonisation of social work education and gender-based violence. He presented research in an international conference and a winner of multiple awards, University of Pretoria Doctoral Research Bursary (2022/23), postgraduate merit award in 2021. NRF bursary award through Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU) in 2019. Recipient of post-graduate merit award for Masters' degree (2019) from Wits University. Recipient of merit award at UNIVEN (2011). Prof. Priscilla Gutura Prof Priscilla Gutura is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at University of Pretoria. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Fort Hare. Her research

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			services to children in foster care living with HIV.	interests include social protection and gender equality. Her work centres on empowering vulnerable members of the society, in particular women and children, including fighting against gender-based violence.
4	<p>Social support among South African older persons during COVID-19: Enhancing resilience through gerontological social services.</p> <p>(Unique number: 019)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 2	<p>COVID-19 was managed through protective measures, such as physical distancing and the banning of social gatherings, with potentially negative consequences for older persons' experience of social support. A cross-sectional study explored possible risk and protective factors of social support among a sample of South African community-dwelling older persons (N = 118). The online questionnaire incorporated the MOS Social Support Survey. Bivariate and regression analyses explored changes in social support pre- to during COVID-19 and the variables that contributed to emotional/informational, tangible, affectionate supports, positive social interaction, and overall social support. All types of social support decreased significantly during the pandemic. Gerontological social services, embedded in a socio-ecological perspective on resilience, are recommended to navigate towards desired social support. The paper contributes to sub-theme 1.2 to shed light on the protection of the psychological health and well-being of older persons.</p>	<p>Prof. Stephan Geyer</p> <p>Prof. Stephan Geyer is an associate professor (Social Work) in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He teaches modules in addiction, gerontology, and research methodology. As research supervisor, he guides both MSW and PhD candidates in the fields of addiction, social gerontology and HIV social interventions. As an applied researcher, his research focuses primarily on social gerontology, and secondary on addiction. He is a member of the South African Academy for Science and Arts. He received a C2 rating from the NRF in 2021.</p>
5	Guidelines to assist social	Session 1 Breakaway	The children's court aims to protect children by acting in the best interests of the child.	Dr. Elzahne Simeon De Jager

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	<p>workers to prepare children for the children's court.</p> <p>(Unique number: 020)</p>	Room 2	<p>Another function of the children's court is to determine whether a child needs care and protection (Children's Act 38 of 2005). Court proceedings can be stressful for the child, who is already abused, neglected, and removed from their normal environment. There are limited resources within the South African context regarding the preparation of children for children's court proceedings. This social work research study identified which guidelines could assist social workers in preparing children for children's court proceedings. This was a qualitative study. The researcher conducted semi-structured interviews by following a purposive sampling method with social workers from the Department of Social Development in the ZFM (Zwelentlanga Fatman Mgcawu) district with the purpose of exploring the views of social workers regarding the content of such a guideline. The findings indicated that social workers do not have a specific guideline to help them in preparing children for the children's court. Some guidelines/themes that were identified by the social workers included: a guideline which is age appropriate, therapeutic techniques, understanding the need for the children's court, mock trials, and a discussion on what happens next.</p>	<p>Dr Simeon De Jager is a senior lecturer at the North West University within the school for psycho social health. Her research focus area is within the child protection field.</p>

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6	<p>A World of their Own: Qualitative study on Life Experiences of People with Albinism in Botswana.</p> <p>(Unique number: 021)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 2	<p>It has been observed that, despite the efforts of various stakeholders to raise awareness on oculocutaneous albinism globally, regionally, and nationally and despite various studies surrounding the issue, stigma and marginalisation plague in many communities, including Botswana. The study seeks to explore the life experiences of people with albinism. It seeks such understanding through the direct testimony of people with albinism. In addition, the study will contribute to existing knowledge focusing on a disability that is more visible on the surface than its physical and mental limitations. Thus, it may contribute to awareness of what appearance means cross culturally and suggest ways in which the situation may be addressed and enhanced.</p>	<p>Ms. Tendani Moseki-Lowani PhD student at the University of Botswana. Part time lecturer at Institute of Development Management (IDM Botswana).</p>
7	<p>Reasons for Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy among National University of Lesotho students.</p> <p>(Unique number: 022)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 2	<p>Covid-19 is a contagious disease caused by coronavirus. Vaccine hesitancy is the delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services. This paper looks into the reasons for Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy among National University Lesotho students. The study used purposive and snowball sampling methods to select 24 participants; 21 students and 3 key informants. The study found reasons for vaccine hesitancy to include possibility for side effects, conspiracy theories, religious beliefs, short time for vaccine development, fear of needles, preferred natural immunity</p>	<p>Ms. Reatile Polaki Completing Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work Interned at Mohlomi Mental hospital June -August 2021 as a social worker Interned at St Joseph's hospital March- May 2022 as a social worker.</p> <p>Ms. Ntoetse Matsoso Currently completing undergraduate degree in social work Interned at Mohlomi hospital as a social worker Interned at the Probation office.</p>

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			and lack of information. This paper addresses the gaps in Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy studies as most were conducted in western countries and not much in Africa especially in Lesotho. The study recommends educating people about the benefits of taking the vaccine while disseminating information on what Covid-19 is.	
8	<p>Psychosocial damage to children who experience sexual and physical abuse in Mafikeng Ha Motoko</p> <p>(Unique number: 023)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 2	<p>Numerous children worldwide face abuse in different forms including sexual and physical abuse, in most cases inflicted by someone close or their family. This study examines the psychosocial impact of such abuse on children, considering the perspectives of victims, caregivers and key informants. The findings highlights a range of detrimental effects, including post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, depression, impaired interpersonal relationships, and social isolation. It is recommended to raise awareness through campaign, educating caregivers on how to handle cases of abuse. To address this study, a fitting methodology was identified. In this study interpretivism has been used in regard to the research paradigm. The study also adopted a qualitative research approach and qualitative study design. In-depth interview was also used for collection of data and such data was analysed and assembled in a comprehensive fashion. Implementation of the study was inclusive of</p>	<p>Ms. Nkotseng Mokhele 4th year Social work student</p> <p>Ms. Thato Mphatle 4th year Social Work student</p> <p>Ms Mantema Khetheng 4th year Social Work student</p>

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			ethical considerations such as confidentiality, informed consent and trustworthiness.	
9	<p>Reflecting on collaboration practices between teachers and social workers in supporting learners' psychosocial development: a qualitative pilot study. (Unique number: 024)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>Addressing learners' psychosocial developmental challenges effectively necessitates collaborative approaches involving teachers and social workers. This aligns with the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development, emphasizing interdependencies in field of humanities and the need for respectful cooperation in designing and implementing an inclusive education system. This qualitative exploratory pilot study, conducted with teachers and social workers (n=6) from a bigger research project in two Gauteng District 11 schools, articulates this collaborative practice and explores the experiences of teachers and social workers in providing psychosocial support to learners. Findings highlight diverse shared responsibilities, including provision of counselling, motivating learners, engaging parents, conducting assessments and home visits, and establishing psychosocial support programs. The participants identified challenges that they experienced during their process of supporting learners to include limited teacher and school participation, lack of parental involvement, reluctant and resistant learners, and inadequate social work resources. The study recommends a collaborative structure that involves social</p>	<p>Mr. Gift Khumalo Gift Khumalo is a clinical tutor and Clinic Manager in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He teaches Counselling Skills, coordinates the Academic Service Learning module and provides psychosocial support to students on clinical practicals. He holds a Bachelor of Social Work, a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, and a Master of Arts in Social Work, all obtained from the University of the Witwatersrand. He is currently a PhD candidate in Social Work at the University of KwaZulu Natal and as an academic and researcher.</p>

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			workers, teachers, parents, community members, and organizations, which emphasizes the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach in schools.	
10	Hearing children's voices in creating safe living spaces. (Unique number: 025)	Session 1 Breakaway Room 3	Children are vulnerable, but children living in a high-risk community are considerably more so. It is essential to protect these children against forms of abuse to ensure their wellbeing. This must be done by fostering a safe living space. In order to create safe living spaces we need to include the children's voices to participate in matters that affect them. The purpose of this study was to explore children's perceptions on community safety in relation to child sexual abuse prevention. Purposive sampling was used to recruit 32 children aged 11 – 12 years living in a high-risk community. Four focus group discussions were used for data collection and included visual data collection methods such as The Child Protection Community Map of Courage. The data was analysed using thematic analysis. The findings indicated that the children experience their community as unsafe due to various factors.	Dr. Lizane Wilson Lizane is a dedicated and compassionate social worker and research supervisor with a strong focus on child sexual abuse prevention. With a commitment to making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children. Recognizing the importance of prevention, Lizane has taken on the role of a research supervisor, guiding and mentoring MSW (Master of Social Work) and PhD students in their research endeavors related to child sexual abuse prevention. Ms. Sylvester Ramotopo Sylvester, a registered social worker, completed her Masters in Social Work Degree in 2022. The title of her study was "Children's perceptions of safety in relation to child sexual abuse prevention in a high-risk community in the North West Province".
11	Identifying and supporting children with developmental delays and/or disabilities in rural child and youth	Session 1 Breakaway Room 3	Historically, there is a lack of structured assessment and intervention protocols to support the care of children with developmental delays and/or disabilities (DDD) in rural child and youth care centres (CYCCs) across South Africa. A three-phased research project produced a protocol to fill	Dr. Yolande Heyns Yolande Heyns (BA Child and Family Psychology, BA Soc Sc (Hon), MA Soc Sc, & PhD Soc Sc), is a registered social worker in private practice and an avid researcher. She renders supervision services to local welfare offices and child and youth care centres (CYCCs) while conducting administrative work and fundraising. She also provides

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	<p>care centres (CYCCs).</p> <p>(Unique number: 026)</p>		<p>this gap. It is called the Ecosystemic Assessment and Intervention Protocol (ECO-AIP). The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the ECO-AIP. The presentation will mainly focus on the algorithmic steps followed, and the accompanying assessments that need to be conducted as part of the protocol. The protocol was implemented in two rural CYCCs between 2020 and 2021. This presentation shows the benefits of the protocol, as found during empirical research. Three journal articles have been published on this research (of which one is international). The training and accreditation process that should be followed before the ECO-AIP can be implemented in a CYCC is also discussed.</p>	<p>mediation services to parents and their children. Her main interest is however empirically based scale development that promotes the overall well-being of children in CYCCs, and therefore she has conducted two research studies (MA & PhD).</p>
12	<p>National initiative to support older persons traumatized by elder abuse.</p> <p>(Unique number: 027)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Studies indicate that while 1 in 6 persons over the age of 60 have experienced elder abuse (Yon Y, 2017) only 4 % of cases are reported. (Stride, 2020) The high rate of abuse within this vulnerable age group is exacerbated by socio economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and lifestyle stress. Under-reporting is attributed to various factors, including fear of retaliation, inaccessible reporting structures and complexity of the reporting process. This paper will outline how Tafta's intervention, the National Toll-free Elder Abuse Helpline: - is designed to provide an uncomplicated platform for older persons, in all communities of South Africa, to report abusive behaviour</p>	<p>Ms. Carmel Murugen Carmel Murugen has over 30 years experience in social work practice and management within the Child Care, Disability and Older Persons sectors. She is currently in the role of Divisional Manager: Research, Strategy & Development at Tafta. She is responsible for conducting research to add to the knowledge base and promote evidence based practice in the older persons sector. She is currently involved in a research study on Elder Abuse in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg and a study on Falls in Older Persons, in collaboration with the University of Western Cape. She was the project lead in designing and establishing the National Toll-free Elder Abuse Helpline at Tafta.</p>

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			<p>inflicted by family, community members or organizations, receive crises counselling and be linked to appropriate service providers.</p> <p>- facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration between health care professionals, social work, legal and police services in strengthening stakeholders' response to protecting and supporting older persons experiencing elder abuse.</p>	
13	<p>The value of using a storybook to protect the psychological health of children during COVID-19 in resource-limited communities in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 028)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused poor mental health, parental loss and food insecurity in children. At the pandemic's peak, context-relevant and child-friendly COVID-19 tools for child counselling and education were limited in low-income communities. Researchers and social work practitioners created the Uhambo Lwami storybook in isiZulu to initiate conversations with children about COVID-19. Using the Afrocentric framework, the authors present evidence from interviews with 13 purposively selected community-based social workers and child and youth workers who integrated the storybook into child counselling during the pandemic. The central theme discussed is the value of using the storybook to educate and support children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results indicated that the storybook could be helpful for grief and bereavement counselling and communicating COVID-19 information in a child-friendly way. The storybook further promoted child</p>	<p>Dr. Maud Mthembu</p> <p>Dr Mthembu is a senior lecturer from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Discipline of Social Work. Dr Mthembu has a particular research interest in Child protection, the development of child-friendly tools and children and pandemics</p>

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			engagement and participation in sessions, strengthening the school's response to support children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper suggests that well-designed Afrocentric storybooks are a cost-effective communication tool to support counselling with children.	
14	<p>Long-term Effects of Gender-Based Violence on Children: Social Workers perspectives.</p> <p>(Unique number: 029)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 3	Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is one of the leading social ills that remains a challenge in South Africa. It is usually violence between two adults, however, not much is spoken about the children who witness the violence. Due to the poor living conditions that some Black families find themselves living in urban South African townships, children are often exposed to violence within the home environment. These circumstances include dire living conditions experienced in informal settlements or overcrowding where families of more than three people dwell in one backroom. This study explored the long-term effects that affect the children who witness GBV as they get affected indirectly. The study employed a qualitative research approach and adopted a case study design. Eight social workers from organizations in four townships in Gauteng who had worked with child victims of GBV were interviewed. The participants were invited through snowball sampling techniques. Data was collected through one-on-one individual interviews using a semi-structured interview schedule. The findings of	<p>Ms. Muriel Dlamini</p> <p>I am passionate about helping children grow up with normal and happy childhoods. Gender-Based Violence is one of the issues that hinder this from being achievable. As a social worker, the role that can be played to ensure that children are protected from such circumstances is a crucial and great one. Children have the rights to be cared for and protected from neglect, abuse and maltreatment, even if it is from family members. Through research and making actionable recommendations, this change can be achieved for future generations in South Africa.</p>

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			this study revealed that there is a need for child secondary victims of GBV to get access to counselling services after witnessing violence at home as a way of processing and dealing with the long-term effects of psychological trauma.	
15	<p>The quest for mitigating the vulnerability of children in child and youth care facilities: Interface of social work, child and youth care services and consumer science.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 085)</p>	Session 2 Breakaway Room 5	<p>This paper is premised on the need to mitigate the vulnerability of children in child and youth care facilities. The Nutrition Education Program and the appreciative inquiry are applied as a conceptual framework for explaining this endeavour. Unique in this paper is the interface of three disciplines, Social Work, Child and Youth Care Services and Consumer Science, and embracing the latter as a foundation for holistic development. The dichotomy between the two disciplines and overlooking Consumer Science as a component in child wellbeing is not unusual. This paper is based on a study that explored the understanding of food preparation and hygiene practices in the KwaZulu-Natal child and youth care facilities. This paper found the limitations and a lack of measures for the delivery of nutritious, safe, affordable and sustainable and healthy diets for all children. It further recommends the integration of consumer science in child care and protection programmes.</p>	<p>Dr. Mbongeni Sithole Dr Sithole is a social work educator in the School of Applied Humanities at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He also has fieldwork experience derived from the public sector. His research interests involve management and administration, Afrocentricity, inclusive education and corrections. He has supervised several students at the postgraduate level and has published a few academic articles.</p> <p>Dr. Mumsy Chibe Dr Chibe is a Lecturer and Advanced Diploma Programme Coordinator at the University of Mpumalanga. Before that, she was a Lecturer and Work Integrated Learning Coordinator at WSU University and Unizulu, respectively. She holds a PhD in Food and Nutrition from the Department of Consumer Sciences: Food and Nutrition at Durban University of Technology, an M Tech Degree in Food Service Management and a B Tech in Food and Beverage Management of Technology from Vaal University of Technology..</p> <p>Mr Mbongiseni Nzuza Mr Nzuza is a Director of St Anthony's Child and Youth Care Centre in Blaauwbosch, a semi-rural area under Newcastle. Mr Nzuza is a qualified social worker and a child and youth care worker. He holds a National Higher Certificate in Residential Child Care</p>

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16	<p>Northern Cluster Social Work Seminar: An Exploration of Gender-Based Violence and Women's Place in Society.</p> <p>(Unique number: 096)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 1	<p>The Northern Cluster Social Work Seminar brought distinguished guests from the public sector, Higher Education, and Civil Society organizations together, focusing on gender-based violence (GBV) and its impact on women's place in society. A key highlight was the presentation of ongoing research on GBV, aiming to enhance knowledge, refine interventions, and provide essential services. The seminar explored the Global Social Work Month theme, advocating for social workers' competence in handling diverse populations. Attendees actively participated in addressing key questions related to traditional customs and beliefs, rational social action, current GBV interventions, barriers faced by social service practitioners, strategies promoting women's role in society, and support for practitioners as carers of GBV victims.. Discussions and recommendations underscored the need to address cultural norms perpetuating GBV, strengthen National Strategic Plan implementation, and provide support and resources for practitioners. Promoting gender equality through legislation and empowerment programs emerged as essential in combating GBV, highlighting the importance of collective efforts to eradicate gender-based violence and promote women's rightful place in society, fostering continuous collaboration and action for a violence-free and discrimination-free society.</p>	<p>Ms. Sithuthukile Myeni Sithuthukile Myeni is a lecturer at the University of Zululand in the Department of Social Work. She holds a Master of Arts (Social Work) degree and is currently pursuing her PhD, focusing on gender-based violence. She has vast social work experience in the fields of victim empowerment, child protection, and community work</p> <p>Ms. Nokuthuthuka Mthethwa Nokuthuthuka Mthethwa is a social worker by profession and is currently the Deputy Director (KwaMsane Office). She hold a Master of Arts (Social Work) which she obtained form the University of Zululand. She currently has thirteen years practicing in the field of social work. Her professional interests are in restorative services namely crime prevention and support, victim empowerment, and substance abuse prevention and treatment.</p> <p>Angel Thandeka Mhlungu Thandeka Mhlungu is a Social Worker with 11 years of professional experience. She is currently employed by the Department of Social Development and is practicing as an Acting District Coordinator in the Crime Prevention and Support programme at the King Cetshwayo District Office. Ms Mhlungu holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Work as well as a Master's in Social Work from the University of Zululand. She also has an Honours degree in Public Administration from MANCOSA and a Certificate in Employee Wellness from UNISA. Ms Mhlungu has experience working in various programmes including Social Welfare Services, Children and Family Services and Restorative Services including</p>

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				Victim Empowerment and Substance Abuse programmes
17	<p>Emotional poverty of older persons in residential facilities.</p> <p>(Unique number: 066)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 Online</p>	<p>Statistics indicate that the number of persons over 60 outnumber children younger than 5 years. It is estimated that in 2050, 80% of older persons will live in developing countries where resources to ensure their wellbeing are limited. A biopsychosocial perspective is significant to assess the wellbeing of older persons. It is often older persons in residential facilities that are prone to emotional poverty, thus feeling isolated and depressed that is awaited detrimental to their wellbeing. It is especially the experiences of losses such as decline in health, death of loved ones and limited freedom that contribute to emotional poverty. It is against this background that this qualitative study was conducted to explore the experiences of older persons in residential facilities as well as social workers rendering services to older persons. Twenty older persons and ten social workers took part in this study. Ethical clearance was obtained for this medium-risk study. The findings of this study indicate the vital role social workers play in the Gerontology field as part of the multidisciplinary team to reduce the emotional poverty of older persons. More social work research is needed to improve the wellbeing of and service rendering to older persons.</p>	<p>Ms. Melanie Human I am a PhD student at the Department of Social Work at Stellenbosch University. My research interest is in the Gerontology field. I have presented a paper at a Gerontology conference in Italy in 2021 regarding my PhD research. I am also a fourths year supervisor and act as a guest lecturer regarding Gerontology.</p> <p>Dr. Ilze Slabbert I am a lecturer at Stellenbosch University. I teach three undergraduate modules and have several Master and PhD students. My research interests are in Gerontology, substance abuse, intimate partner violence and mental health.</p>

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18	<p>The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the remote learning of high school learners with hearing impairment disabilities in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal</p> <p>(Unique number: 031)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the education sector, especially the with regard to the education of hearing-impaired learners. Although these actions had significantly slowed the spread of the virus, they have also caused a number of difficulties that have had a negative impact on educational systems for children with hearing impairment disabilities the world over. Online learning has presented a particular set of challenges for education for learners with hearing impairment during COVID-19. This paper will investigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the remote learning of the high school learners with hearing impairment disabilities in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal. The research findings that are presented are intended to assist policy makers, teacher, parents and learners to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on the remote learning of high school learners with hearing impairment disabilities</p>	<p>Dr. Annie Singh Dr Annie Singh is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and specializes in the field of Statutory and Constitutional Interpretation. Holds a Bachelors of Law Degree (LLB) and Masters in Law (LLM) from the University of Durban-Westville; PhD from UKZN. Is admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa</p>
19	<p>Financial barriers to accessing health care services: caregivers of children with physical disabilities.</p> <p>(Unique number: 032)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>This qualitative study aimed to understand the financial obstacles faced by the caregivers utilizing health care services in the public health sector for children with physical disabilities in Nongoma, KwaZulu Natal. Data from the interviews showed that the social grant is insufficient, high cost transport impede access, absence of assistance in caregiving responsibilities, unavailability of mobility aids such a wheelchairs and also the</p>	<p>Ms. Nokuthula Zulu Nokuthula Zulu obtained a degree in Social Work at University of South Africa in 2012. She also pursued her dream and obtained her Masters degree in child care and protection at the University of KwaZulu Natal in 2021 and also the Diploma in Public Management obtained at Mthashana TVET College in 2021.</p>

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			care burden often place as a strain on caregivers. It is recommended to improve health care services and access to health care services, appropriate assistive device allocation be made available at lower cost, disability awareness and anti-discriminatory training for frontline workers be implemented.	
20	<p>The utilization of a Multi-Sectoral approach when working with children awaiting trial in the secure care centres.</p> <p>(Unique number: 033)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 4	South Africa is confronted with social ills that impact negatively on the lives of children exacerbating their vulnerability. Over 120 children were in conflict with the law in 2021-2022 due to peer pressure, substance abuse and gangsterism. The Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 allows for the admission of children in conflict with the law to secure care centres where they receive psycho-social interventions, residential diversion and therapeutic services and recreational activities to reduce recidivism among youth offenders. While these interventions are undertaken collaboratively with probation offices, prosecutors, police, and community stakeholders, and have reduced re-admissions to secure care facilities, after care services are lacking when working with children awaiting trial.	<p>Ms. Vanessa Singh</p> <p>Vanessa Singh is the Facility Manager at Valley View Child and Youth Care Centre at Department of Social Development. She has 20 years social work experience in residential care for children in temporary care; awaiting trial at secure care centres and Westville Youth Centre. Ms Singh holds a Master’s Degree in Childhood and Youth Development, which she obtained from UKZN. During the COVID 19 Pandemic, Ms Singh had overseen services to homeless people relocated from shelters in Durban. This Project received two awards- the silver award at the Premiers Service Excellence Awards and Gold Award at the National Batho Pele Awards.</p>
21	<p>An investigation into the experiences of adolescents taking antiretroviral from</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 4	The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in South Africa led to a breakdown of families with parents, dying, children being orphaned and many living in child-headed households. Following vertical transmission of HIV,	<p>Ms. Charity Sithabile Dlamini</p> <p>Dlamini Charity Sithabile (Bachelor of Art (Honors in Psychology)-UNISA-2018) BA in Social Work (UNISA-2011), Certificate in Monitoring Evaluation and Research (UKZN-2018). Currently enrolled in Masters</p>

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	<p>birth in KwaZulu - Natal.</p> <p>(Unique number: 034)</p>		<p>adolescents who were initiated on ART from birth face adherence challenges. A Desktop methodology was used to investigate the secondary data systematically using journal articles, websites, StatsSA, Caprisa and Departmental reports. Readily available information to the public was attained to provide the caregivers living in rural areas with facts to increase understanding of their adolescent children, HIV and chronic treatment through public platforms. Findings suggest that while adolescents navigate growth, relationships, intimacy and disclosure, their adherence is affected. The gap identified was that the multidisciplinary teams are addressing the holistic client needs, but there is an unequal distribution of resources between rural and urban areas. The findings will be included in interventions that have a central focus on parenting.</p>	<p>Degree in Social Science. Started working at Nicro as Social Auxiliary worker, then proceeded to Mental health society currently employed by Department of Social Development for 10 years as Social worker at Impendle office, Sithabile conducts monitoring and evaluation to the Non-profit funded organizations by Social Development.</p>
22	<p>The implementation of legislation that guides service delivery to child headed households: A Social work perspective.</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Section 150 of the Children’s Act 38 of 2005, as well as the Children’s Amendment Act 41 of 2007, consider children living in child headed households as children in need of care and protection. In an effort to protect these children, Section 137 of the Children’s Amendment Act give specific guidelines on supervisory services to child headed households in South Africa. Although the Children’s Act has set guidelines for service delivery to child headed households, there is</p>	<p>Dr. Elzahne Simeon De Jager Dr Simeon De Jager is a senior lecturer in the school for Psycho Social Health at the North West University, and her reseach focus is within the child protection field.</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique number: 144)		no certainty of the successful implementation of these guidelines to address the needs of this target group. This study attempted to find out what social workers' views are regarding the implementation of legislation with regard to social work services to child headed households.	
23	<p>The view of care-leavers on the opportunities of foster care placement in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 035)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>The aim of this study is to understand the view of care-leavers on the opportunities of foster care placement in South Africa. The researcher has adopted a qualitative research approach as well as explorative, descriptive, and contextual research designs. This study comprised of 18 social workers and 18 care leavers from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and several Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCC), and these participants were purposefully selected for the study. The process of data collection followed a semi-structured interview. The theories utilised are Ecological Systems Theory, Social Support Theory, Resilience Theory and Attachment Theory. Findings indicate that there are opportunities for foster care placement in South Africa, namely; provision of basic needs, shelter, recreational activities, strengthening of relationship with the society, independency, helps to alleviate poverty, provision of therapy, educational opportunities and care and protection.</p>	<p>Dr. Sandile Dhludhlu. Dr Sandile Dhludhlu is a senior lecturer at the University of South Africa, Department of Social Work. He holds the following qualifications; Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (UKZN 2021), Master of Social Work Specialising in Social Development and Policy (UP 2015), Master of Business Leadership (UNISA, 2023), and Bachelor of Social Work (UNISA 2009).</p>

THEME 1:

Promoting stakeholder partnerships that protect, support and enhance resilience during adverse events and trauma

SUB-THEME 1.3 (3)

Empowering and protecting homeless people against vulnerability and exploitation

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUMES OF PRESENTERS
1	Gauteng Provincial Strategy to empower and mitigate adult street homeless people against vulnerability: Progress and Challenges. (Unique number: 049)	Session 1 Breakaway room 5	South Africa has encountered several uncertainties, with coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic accentuating already existing vulnerabilities that include street homelessness. Inadequate housing street and homelessness undermine human dignity. In 2020, the Gauteng Provincial government mandated its Department of Social Development to develop an integrated multi-sectoral strategy to coordinate responses to address homelessness. Leaning towards Ubuntu and empowerment perspectives, this paper is a product of a synthesis of literature on homelessness and the authors' practice observations of homelessness in the province. The paper explored progress and challenges of the Gauteng City Region Strategy to address adult street homelessness. Among others, the study found out that there is commendable progress to combat homelessness and mitigate the challenges that the homeless face. For example, provision of shelter and skills empowerment are some of the practical steps taken by government to empower the homeless. The paper	Dr. Emmison Muleya Emmison Muleya is a Social Work Policy Developer at the Gauteng Department of Social Department and coordinates Care and Support Services to Families and the Homeless programmes at the province. He is also a Research Associate in the Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Johannesburg. He holds a PhD in Development Studies, and his research interests are in in developmental states, structural and developmental social work in the South African Context. Dr. Mzwandile Sobantu Mzwandile Sobantu is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Johannesburg. He holds a PhD in Social Work, focusing on the intersection of housing and social development obtained. Since joining academia, he has published several journal articles, book chapters

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUMES OF PRESENTERS
			recommends research to generate reliable data and improved stakeholder collaboration.	and presented his research in different fora in the continent and abroad.
2	<p>A Multi-Sectoral Approach in the provision of services to homeless people in Durban, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 097)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 1	To contain the spread of Covid 19 during the national state of emergency in 2020, a level 5 hard lockdown was implemented countrywide in terms of the Disaster Management Act 57 Of 2002 in South Africa. In line with the promulgation, the Department of Social Development, together with other stakeholders viz SAPS, Department of Health and Non Profit organizations were tasked with the responsibility of ensuring the removal of homeless from the streets to safe facilities such as shelters provided by the Ethekewini municipality. Social workers conducted assessments, rendered psychosocial, family reunification and recreational programmes to support homeless people in different shelters. At least 30 percent of homeless people were reunified with families, and they received support for substance abuse and mental health issues, which were identified. The multifaceted needs of people living on the streets need to be prioritized and a more integrated approach to be used.	<p>Ms. Vanessa Singh</p> <p>Vanessa Singh is the Facility Manager at Valley View Child and Youth Care Centre at Department of Social Development. She has 20 years social work experience in residential care for children in temporary care; awaiting trial at secure care centres and Westville Youth Centre. Ms Singh holds a Master’s Degree in Childhood and Youth Development, from UKZN. During the COVID 19 Pandemic, Ms Singh had overseen services to homeless people relocated from shelters in Durban. This Project received two awards-the silver award at the Premiers Service Excellence Awards and Gold Award at the National Batho Pele Awards.</p>
3	<p>Barriers to care for homeless people living with Mdr-Tb/Hiv in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 098)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 1	Adherence to MDR-TB treatment comes with numerous challenges, among which is a high pill burden, the management of side effects, and navigating a complex, fragmented and often unresponsive healthcare system. These challenges are more intense and multiply for the homeless population. We analyze a case vignette drawn from a current study based in Sydenham, KwaZulu-Natal, using empirical data on structural, behavioural, and psychosocial barriers to assess the additional	<p>Ms. Hlengiwe Pretty Nyilana</p> <p>Ms Hlengiwe Nyilana is a professional Social worker registered with the South African Counsel for Social Service Professions based in Durban KwaZulu Natal. She holds a Masters by Research in Medical Science from the University of KwaZulu Natal. She has a vast experience working in a clinical setting in the fields of substance abuse, cancer and recently HIV and Tuberculosis HIV prevention, treatment, and</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUMES OF PRESENTERS
			<p>challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness. We find that long-term substance use, trauma, social exclusion, stigma, and loss of family combined with severe illness and housing instability create seemingly insurmountable barriers to care. However, local services, including social work and nursing, organized around the health and psychosocial needs of homeless people may create stability to facilitate care and create potential pathways to recovery. Social work can play a unique role in meeting the complex needs of this vulnerable population.</p>	<p>cure. Hlengiwe's dedication extends beyond her professional commitments.</p> <p>Prof. Jennifer Zelnick Jennifer Zelnick is a professor and social welfare policy chair at the Touro College Graduate School of Social Work in New York City. She has an MSW in community organizing from the University of Pittsburgh, and a doctorate in Work Environment Policy from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Professor Zelnick is a public health social work professor and practitioner whose career objective has focused on the health and well-being of the health and human service workforce in the United States and South Africa.</p> <p>Dr Boitumelo Seepamore Boitumelo Seepamore is a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is an experienced public health social worker and qualitative researcher working in the field of Drug-resistant TB and HIV. Her work in South Africa examines public health social work interventions, palliative care, psychosocial support, caregiving practices, and adherence in vulnerable and stigmatized populations particularly in TB care.</p>

THEME 1:

Promoting stakeholder partnerships that protect, support and enhance resilience during adverse events and trauma

SUB-THEME 1.4 (12)

Advocating for and reducing the vulnerabilities of undocumented migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and LGBTQI+ populations

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>Exclusion of Migrant Youth from the South African Welfare Services: A Case Study.</p> <p>(Unique number: 050)</p>	Session 2 Plenary Venue	<p>This case study presents qualitative findings on migrant youth's coping strategies on their exclusion from the welfare services of South Africa. South Africa like any other country experiences an increased number of young people who migrated from their countries of origin. Several studies show that immigrants including migrant youth upon their arrival in South Africa face challenges of exclusion from welfare services. It is from this background that this study sought to explore migrant youth' coping strategies for their sustainable livelihoods. Ten migrant youth in Musina town who are accommodated in shelters managed by churches were used as a case study and were purposively and conveniently selected to participate in this study. Ethical certificate was obtained from the University of Limpopo research ethics committee and all sources are acknowledged. Data was collected through face-to-face semi-structured interviews and analysed thematically through the assistance of the Nvivo software. Resilience theory was used to guide this study. Findings reveal various coping strategies that migrant youth employ to mitigate their exclusion from the South African welfare services. Recommendations,</p>	<p>Mr. Dillo Justin Ramoshabe Justin Ramoshaba is a Social work lecturer at the University of Limpopo. Justin is a young upcoming researcher and holds a Masters degree in Social work. The presenter is currently a registered PhD student who is at the writeup stage. The presenter has published over 9 research articles in DHET accredited journals</p> <p>Mr. Selelo Frank Rapholo The Presenter is an associate Professor and HoD at the University of Limpopo. The Presenter has published over 15 research articles in DHET accredited Journals.</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			integrated intervention, and future research are provided in this paper.	
2	<p>Understanding the vulnerabilities of migrants linked to their life stories aimed at trauma-informed care.</p> <p>(Unique number: 036)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Globally people are displaced from their countries of origin due to war, traumatic exposure, atrocities, poverty, and climate change. Migration unfolds in distinct phases, namely the time in the country of origin, the journey to the new country, and the adaptation in the new country. All these phases have numerous challenges and adversities. This research focused on the life stories of migrants in the North West province, South Africa, to develop guidelines for trauma-informed social work. Narrative inquiry guided the research and data were collected with semi-structured interviews supported with visual data collection strategies (photo elicitation, a timeline, and the Tree of Life). Data were thematically analysed. Findings will be presented in the framework of the three time-spans. The challenges of the border crossing into South Africa of undocumented migrants were a particular concern. The presentation will conclude with guidelines for trauma-informed social work with migrants.</p>	<p>Prof. Mariette Van der Merwe Mariette van der Merwe is an Associate Professor at North-West University, Compres, Faculty of Health Sciences. She has about 40 years' experience in social work practice. Her research focus areas are trauma, well-being and most of the research studies are conducted in resource-poor areas. Her main task in her current position is post-graduate study supervision for master's and Ph.D. students. These students do mainly qualitative research with visual data collection strategies.</p> <p>Ms. Kopano Ramongale Ms. Kopano Ramongale is a Master's student in Social Work, North-West University. She is writing up her final dissertation, titled: Exploring the life stories of migrants to develop guidelines for trauma-informed social work. She has work experience at Childline, Mahikeng, and is currently a full-time student.</p>
3	<p>Overcoming challenges to acculturation: insights and suggestions from immigrant adolescent learners in South Africa.</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Immigrant adolescent learners are vulnerable to challenges such as discrimination, xenophobia, poor academic performance, cultural confusion, and acculturation gap. However, there is limited research that gives voices to immigrant adolescent learners to come up with their own solutions and recommendations to alleviate these challenges. Thus, this study aimed to use the Participatory Action Research (PAR) framework within the</p>	<p>Mr. Agrippa Mabvira Agrippa Mabvira is a Ph.D. candidate studying toward the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work at the University of the Witwatersrand. He has been a teaching assistant in the Department of Social Work at the University of the Witwatersrand for the past three years. With a primary research interest in immigration and a passion for social justice and advocacy, his work revolves around</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique number: 037)		<p>qualitative research methodology to capture recommendations from immigrant adolescent learners through the technique of Photovoice. Human capabilities approach and acculturation theory were the underlining theoretical frameworks. The study was conducted in strict accordance with established ethical guidelines, and a comprehensive set of measures was implemented to ensure trustworthiness. The evidence recommends intercultural training for educators, awareness campaigns, methodical and continuous language support, a culturally responsive curriculum, concerted effort by civil society and the government against xenophobia as well as responsible reporting by media outlets to avoid the perpetuation of stereotypes against immigrants</p>	<p>understanding the experiences of immigrant populations, exploring their acculturation, access to resources, and psychosocial well-being.</p> <p>Dr. Roshini Pillay Dr. Roshini Pillay is a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at the University of the Witwatersrand. She had more than 20 years of practice experience as a social worker before joining the academy. Her research interests are group work, technology-enhanced learning in Social Work education, social justice, and Occupational Social Work. She is a member of the International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG).</p> <p>Dr Poppy Masinga Dr. Poppy Masinga is the Head of Faculty of Social Work and Community Development at South African College of Applied Psychology (SACAP). Previous Senior Lecturer at Wits and Lecturer at University of Pretoria.</p>
4	Multi-institutional collaborations in creating safety nets for vulnerable women involved in scrap collection in the rural Eastern Cape of South Africa.	Session 1 Breakaway Room 4	<p>Waste collecting has evolved into a lucrative industry for the unemployed throughout the world. Women make a living and provide for their children by working in the informal economy, primarily by collecting and selling waste. In order to explore the livelihoods of female scrap collectors in the rural Eastern Cape of South Africa, this qualitative study used a multiple case study design. From the many case studies used as research sites in the Eastern Cape, participants were recruited using a convenience sampling. The results showed that the covid had a terrible impact on the women participating in the scrap-collecting endeavor. Their</p>	<p>Mr. Mzukisi Xweso Mzukisi Xweso is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Development Professions, Faculty of Health Sciences, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique number: 038)		livelihoods had been destroyed, and the viability of the labour they do is moot. In order to develop policy that addresses social inclusion of scrap collectors in the formal systems of waste collecting structures and to provide safety nets for women, the recommendations emphasise the necessity of multi-institutional collaborations.	
5	<p>The vulnerability of rural women in small businesses and the implication of social work practice.</p> <p>(Unique number: 039)</p>	Session 1 Breakaway Room 4	Women have a crucial role to play in socioeconomic development in impoverished rural areas in South Africa. Despite the commitment that the government has expressed to raising standards of living in rural areas, progress has been extremely slow and women have borne the brunt of poverty, often being obliged to engage in the informal survival strategies such as engaging in small business activities. This qualitative study leaned on narrative interviews to determine the strategies that the purposively selected rural women in Alice of the Eastern Cape province develop to operate successful and sustainable small businesses and earn a living for their families. The findings revealed that the strategies that they used to ensure the survival of their businesses were resilience, resourcefulness, and an ability to make accurate observations. The recommendations provide guidelines for women to be protected and empowered in the wake of adversity by social workers and other stakeholders in the development fraternity.	<p>Dr. Zukiswa Gwam</p> <p>Dr. Zukiswa Gwam is a lecturer in the Department of Social Development Professions, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa</p>
6	Advocacy for and reducing the vulnerability	Session 2 Breakaway Room 1	Migration is prompted by various factors including climate change, economic, disasters, civil strife, and health adversities. While there may be	<p>Dr. Morena Rankopo</p> <p>Dr. Morena Rankopo is a senior lecturer and Coordinator of Graduate Studies in the</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>of undocumented migrants: A Botswana experience.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 056)</p>		<p>international protocols to guide humanitarian responses for migrants, the protocols provide a framework that is too narrow and limited to address the needs of migrants during adversities. Thus, undocumented migrants are always left behind. Interventions to address vulnerable populations are led by civil society organisations who operate with inadequate information on this population, and often operate under resources constraints. This paper discusses the legal and policy framework on social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic in Botswana focusing on undocumented migrants. For the first time in the history of adversities, the social work profession was on all media platforms as the first line of response and mitigation against the effects of COVID-19. The paper suggests how the social work response could be strengthened in future to promote social inclusion of the most vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>Department of Social Work at the University of Botswana. He teaches group work, community practice and social work ethics. His research interests include indigenous social work education and practice, social protection, psychosocial support systems, community resilience, and lately disaster risk reduction. He is currently the Vice Chairperson of the National Gender Commission. He has worked with government, parastatals, and private sector to facilitate gender mainstreaming in some sectors.</p> <p>Dr. Kgosietsile Maripe Dr Kgosietsile Maripe is a senior lecturer at the University of Botswana, Department of Social Work. He teaches several courses including psychology for social workers, probation, introduction to social work and social welfare, and social work and disaster risk management. He possesses a PhD in Social Work from the North West University.</p>
7	<p>The perceptions and attitudes of primary school learners towards same-sex parenting in South African townships.</p> <p>(Unique number: 040)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>The increased availability of choices for same-sex couples to become parents contributes to the growth in same-sex parenting. Although most children born to same-sex couples are the biological offspring of one of the parents, an increasing number are the product of donor insemination, surrogacy, foster care, and adoption. Adolescents with same-sex parents reported feeling more connected at school. Another study reported that children in gay and lesbian households are more likely to talk about</p>	<p>Mr. Sethenjwa Nduli PhD Candidate, UKZN Social Work Discipline</p> <p>Mr. Mfundokayise Muthwa Master Candidate, UKZN Social Work Discipline</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			emotionally difficult topics and are often more resilient, compassionate, and tolerant. There is still a dearth of literature that speaks to school learners in townships. This paper explores the perceptions and attitudes of primary school learners on same-sex parenting. This study draws on queer theories and analyses a subset of qualitative data with ten school learners.	
8	Transnational Children on the Move: Adopting Nature-based and Culturally Responsive Social Work Interventions. (Unique Number: 058)	Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 online	Millions of children ‘move’ both within and between countries. Children may move with their families, peers or do so independently. Children migrate for a variety of reasons: to escape poverty, abuse, violence, or conflict, for adventure, to join their families, or to access education, jobs, and basic services or because of climate-related push factors. The children’s movement takes many forms, and their experiences are extremely varied. Children on the move continue to be invisible in social work debates on the child protection-migration nexus. In addition, the limited interventions available to them are often fragmented and inconsistent with their needs. Based on a critical review of literature, this paper highlights the children’s common rights-based protection needs and illustrates how nature-community based responses can be adapted to their specific needs.	Prof. Ajwang’ Warri Ajwang’ Warri is a registered social worker and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary (Canada). She has published more than 45 peer-reviewed journal papers and book chapters in the areas of child protection, transnational migration, and intervention research.
9	Big Five Personality Traits and Elective Co-	Session 5 Breakaway Room 3	This presentation discusses a study examining the mediating role of perceived social support and subjective well-being in the relationship between Big Five personality traits and actively seeking an	Dr. Nir Wittenberg Dr. Nir Wittenberg is a professor of Social Work at Ariel University. Holding a Ph.D. in Social Work from Tel Aviv University, Dr. Wittenberg is a

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>Parenting among LGBTQ Populations.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 173)</p>		<p>elective co-parenting (ECP) partner. The study includes a vulnerable population facing challenges due to societal norms and a lack of professional knowledge in marital and family counseling. Data from 212 participants in Israel were collected using questionnaires to assess the ECP. The results indicated positive correlations between conscientiousness, agreeableness, and extraversion with perceived social support. Perceived social support, in turn, was positively related to seeking an ECP partner. Emotional stability and extraversion were also positively related to subjective well-being, which was also positively associated with seeking ECP partners. These findings suggest that specific personality traits may influence perceptions and potentially explain the decision to seek ECP.</p>	<p>licensed social worker, lecturer, and researcher. With a strong commitment to addressing social challenges and improving the well-being of individuals and communities, Dr. Wittenberg specializes in innovative approaches that benefit vulnerable populations, including at-risk youth, LGBTQ individuals, and families living in extreme poverty. His research interests include social support systems, digital tools, and help-seeking behavior. Dr. Wittenberg is a board member of a non-governmental organization that provides free online emotional support to Arab and Jewish residents.</p>
10	<p>Factors contributing to the abuse and killing of people with albinism in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 060)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>The study aims to demonstrate how people living with albinism are abused and murdered in KwaZulu-Natal. The main objective was to explore the factors contributing to the abuse and brutal killing of people with albinism in KwaZulu-Natal. Ecological systems theory and resilience theory guided the study. Semi-structured interviews were used to find the participants' experiences and perceptions on the abuse and brutal killing of (PWA). The collected data was analysed using thematic analysis. The results showed that people with albinism agreed that they are abused and brutally murdered by the public. Several recommendations were made which are not</p>	<p>Dr. Mbongeni Mfanasibili</p>

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			limited to a need for government to be fully involved in raising awareness of the abuse of people with albinism.	
11	<p>The Community Oriented Substance Use Programme in the City of Tshwane: a cross sectional survey of stakeholder perceptions.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 061)</p>	Session 2 Breakaway Room 1	<p>Globally, the vast number of psychoactive substances consumed contributes to significant physical, mental and social harms. The City of Tshwane and University of Pretoria’s Community Oriented Substance Use Programme (COSUP) is an applied research intervention addressing drug use-related harms by using a harm reduction community-oriented primary care approach. Researching stakeholder perceptions of South Africa’s first publicly funded community-based harm reduction programme. During 2021, purposively sampled respondents were surveyed using a cross-sectional survey. Data was electronically collected. Most (70–80%) thought COSUP improved client well-being, family relationships and community re-integration. Most (76%) considered harm reduction to be the best approach to manage harmful drug use in the city. Respondents favour a harm reduction approach to drug use and believe COSUP should be sustained and expanded indicating the focus on harm reduction philosophy as an emerging treatment model. The presenter identified several basic principles shared with social work, such as respect, self-determination, strength-based, whilst facilitating growth and self-discovery. The study implies the significance of stakeholder partnerships</p>	<p>Dr. Magriet Coetzee Spies Magriet Coetzee-Spies’ Qualifications: BA SW; MA SW; Doctor Philosophiae Social Work in Health. Level of experience in related field: Substance Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working experience over 40 years in public health and welfare, Dept. of Health and Dep. of Social Development, the Jewish community as well as in child protection and as probation officer in Justice. Research was focused on biopsychosocial factors influencing Adherence to ART in HIV and AIDS.

	TOPIC	Session Number	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			to support, protect and enhance the resilience of persons living with substance use.	
12	<p>“Zifunani iziStabane La”. Remaining Resilient in the face of resistance, the voices of queer students residing in University residences in eThekweni Metropolitan.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 107)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 3	University residences have received little attention from scholarship on queerphobic bullying in South Africa. The issues surrounding same-sex identities and residence life remain a key challenge for residence departments and managers. Overwhelming evidence suggests that students living arrangements in university residences are often cis-heteronormative and present queer students with adjustment difficulties, homophobia and unconducive studying conditions. While this is so, it is worth mentioning that the experiences of living away from home allow same-sex students to express and explore their identities freely and simultaneously have the liberty to negotiate their same-sex identities. There is still limited research that focuses on the resilience and resistance of queer students. Using photo voice to engage queer students to understand how they experience, respond to, resist, and remain resilient in queerphobic spaces in and around university residences. The study also centres on how the available resources and challenges aid queer students to stay resilient; furthermore, it also intends to recommend more informed interventions to enhance queer students' life in university residences.	<p>Mr. Sethenjwa Bonny Nduli PhD candidate: University of KwaZulu-Natal.</p>

THEME 2: (35)

Building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant communities through indigenous modalities, inter-sectoral collaborations, and partnerships

SUB-THEME 2.1 (13)

Supporting families in mitigating vulnerabilities

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>An investigation of sexual violence against women mitigation strategies targeted at individuals and families: Case of Maseru district of Lesotho.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 062)</p>	Session 2 Breakaway Room 1	Violence against women (VAW) perseveres worldwide despite efforts made by various governments, civic organizations, communities and individuals to combat this social problem. In this presentation, I explore the VAW mitigation strategies that target individuals and families. I problematize the social construction of gender that occurs in most patriarchal families since it favours men over women, inculcating male supremacy. Therefore, I will elicit participants' views on what individuals and families can do to curb VAW within their communities. Heise's (1998) ecological model of violence against women will underpin this study. The study places focus on the ontogenic level and the micro-level only, unearthing VAW mitigation strategies that focus on individual people and families in rural and urban areas of Lesotho. Based on the findings I will make recommendations on what social	<p>Dr. Josphine Hapazari</p> <p>Josphine Hapazari is a lecturer at the National University of Lesotho. Her research interests focus on gender-based violence, gendered complexities relating to vulnerable groups, such as rural women and girls, youths, the elderly; as well as research on unemployment, family studies and higher education studies. Her passion in gender studies as well as research on violence against women stems from her conviction that social police ought to be informed by empirical research. She has presented some of her work at both local and international conferences.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			workers can do to building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant families that are capable of combating VAW. Results are envisaged to assist policy makers to proffer relevant social policies that are informed by empirical research.	
2	<p>Intergenerational family life and care of older people in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 059)</p>	Session 2 Breakaway Room 1	This paper examines intergenerational family life, which is the most common African household type, and its inclusion in care service provision for older people in social work and social development in South Africa. The paper draws on the findings of a qualitative research study that was conducted in a religious-cultural environment with older people and their caregivers to identify areas of family vulnerability amidst the difficult socio-economic conditions of South African society. On this basis, various dimensions of inter-sectoral collaboration that are necessary to support families facing adversity are identified. Emphasis is placed on the importance of engaging religious, cultural, and indigenous practice frameworks, and relevant stakeholders to promote appropriate policy and services for clients in relation to their lived realities. These aspects are central to empowering communities in terms of minimizing the vulnerabilities that are	<p>Dr. Somaya Abdullah</p> <p>I hold two PhDs, one in the study of religion, which I obtained through a joint program from the University of Cape Town and Oxford University, and the other that I most recently obtained through the University of Johannesburg under the supervision of Professor Leila Patel. I currently work at the Department of Social Work and Social Development at the University of Cape Town after working previously at the University of Fort Hare.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			attendant to intergenerational family life and care.	
3	<p>Social work and police services in advancing mental health support services to families.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 071)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>In South Africa, the Mental Health Care Act (MHCA) proposes a collaborative relationship between the South African Police Services (SAPS) and mental health care practitioners (sMHCP) such as social workers. Police officers are often contacted when a family member is experiencing a mental health crisis. The way in which these families and patients are treated can impact their human rights. There is a lack of published data on this issue; hence the need to investigate the views of social workers about the challenges experienced by families with police services. A qualitative research methodology was employed, and explorative and descriptive research designs were utilised. The most important conclusion indicated that the experiences of families with SAPS support were poor. Recommendations are presented on the actions that could be taken by social workers to improve relationships between SAPS and families of relatives with a mental illness to improve support services.</p>	<p>Dr. Uwarren September I am a lecturer at the University of the Western Cape. My research interests include Mental health and Families, Community and Public Mental health, and practice education. I hold a D.Phil degree from Stellenbosch University.</p> <p>Prof. Marianne Strydom Marianne Strydom is a lecturer at Stellenbosch University. Her research interests include child abuse and neglect, child protection, family preservation, and practice education. She holds a D.Phil degree from Stellenbosch University.</p>
4	<p>Assessment of social work services towards addressing</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>This study investigated social work services in addressing barriers to learning in public schools, Sibasa Circuit</p>	<p>Ms. Tshireledzo Vannesa Sikhitha Ms Tshireletso Sikhitha is a master's student and a part-time lecturer in the Department of Social Work,</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>barriers to learning in public schools in Sibasa circuit, Vhembe district.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 111)</p>		<p>in Vhembe District. The study was conducted in two public secondary schools, focusing on Grade 11 and 12 learners. A qualitative study that used an exploratory research design was conducted. Purposive sampling was used to draw a sample from learners, educators, and social workers. Semi-structured individual interviews and focus groups were used to collect data and were thematically analyzed. The findings revealed that learners encountered the following barriers: teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, bullying, peer pressure, and poverty, which disturbs them to focus on school activities. The findings also revealed that social workers should provide psychosocial counseling, and educational support in addressing barriers to learning. The researcher recommends that the schools appoint social workers permanently to address barriers to learning experienced by learners.</p> <p>Keywords: Barriers to Learning, Learners, School Social Work, Social Work Services</p>	<p>at the University of Venda, Faculty of Humanities, Social Science and Education. Her teaching focus is on community work, undergraduate research and fieldwork practice (introduction to integrated methods. Her area of interest is issues around school social work. She is a postgraduate student focusing on barriers to learning in schools.</p> <p>Dr. Mmaphuti Mamaleka Dr. Mmaphuti Mamaleka is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work, at the University of Venda since 2014. Previously, she worked as a supervisor with the Department of Social Development. Her teaching focus is social work supervision, management, as well as fieldwork practice. Her specialization field is supervision and management. Her areas of interest include parenting, gender-based violence, and Afrocentricity, particularly indigenous knowledge systems.</p>
5	Exploring the end-of-life care and re-integration of elderly offenders	Session 4 Breakaway Room 1	The increasing number of seriously ill offenders re-entering society as elderly parolees after incarceration has severe ramifications for post-incarceration	Mr. Sethenjwa Nduli PhD Candidate, UKZN Social Work Discipline

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	<p>released on medical parole in eThekweni Municipality, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 129)</p>		<p>service providers, especially those providing social work programmes, monitoring, and supervision services in community correctional centres (COMCOR). Elderly parolees experience several difficulties, including maintaining their livelihoods, as they are well past work age and often lack family members to assist them after their release from incarceration. Often, post-incarceration social work programmes do not prioritise the needs of elderly parolees during service delivery, further straining the transition process of elderly parolees released from custody. The study aims to explore the experiences of caregivers and correctional service providers during the reintegration process of elderly offenders released on medical parole after incarceration. The study will utilise qualitative methods to explore the perceptions and experiences of elderly parolees and correctional service providers in the Department of Correctional Services. The study was situated in Durban Community Corrections (COMCOR), a reintegration centre under the Durban Management Area in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The sample comprised fifteen (n=15) caregivers and ten (n=10) correctional</p>	

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			social workers responsible for rendering social work programmes.	
6	<p>The disorientation of families by the COVID-19 pandemic in Polokwane, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 099)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 1	<p>Several studies show that during natural disasters, individuals and families face challenges such as exacerbation of existing family problems or new difficulties accompanied by stress related to job loss, injury or illness, and parenting concerns. The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's lives was also reported to be instigated by the safety measures such as isolation strategies and lockdown which led to more challenges such as change in activities and livelihoods. It is from this background that the researchers developed a hunch to explore the disorientation of selected families by the COVID-19 pandemic in Polokwane which is located in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The researchers adopted a qualitative approach wherein a case study design was used. Data was collected through semi structure interviews wherein convenient and Snowball sampling techniques were used to select the respondents. Thematic content analysis was used to analyse the data. The findings of the study show that loss of family bonds, Job loss and domestic violence are what disorientated the selected families in</p>	<p>Mr. Justin Ramoshaba Justin Ramoshaba is a social work lecturer at the University of Limpopo. Justin is a young upcoming researcher and holds a master's degree in social work. The presenter is currently a registered PHD student who is at the writeup stage. The presenter has published over 11 research articles in DHET accredited journals</p> <p>Prof. Selelo Frank Rapholo The Presenter is an associate Professor and HoD at the University of Limpopo. The Presenter has published over 18 research articles in DHET accredited Journals.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			Polokwane. Conclusions and recommendations are also provided in this study.	
7	<p>Culturally responsive marriage enrichment interventions: Strengthening relational well-being.</p> <p>(Unique number: 101)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 2	<p>Traditional African marriage systems, rooted in indigenous governance systems, carried from generation to generation, reinforce satisfactory spousal healthy family outcomes. However, modernisation, neglecting core values of indigenous practices, upsurges divorce and vast falling apart of family structures. Marriage enrichment programs (MEPs) provide the necessary skills to eliminate future problems. Black Africans, hitherto, lack instruction on healthy functioning marriages, seeking help primarily once problems escalate. Empirically evaluated culturally relevant programs, blending indigenous with current systems, are scarce. Often unskilled and lacking in numbers, practitioners face challenges addressing the high one-on-one need. This mixed method three-phase research, grounded on current empirical international and South African data, builds on the strengths of the Royal Bafokeng Nation indigenous community and reports on preventative education interventions to sustain, support, strengthen and preserve marriages, promoting sustainable, resilient societal structures,</p>	<p>Dr. Susanne Jacobs Susanne Jacobs (PhD Education, MDIAC, Play Therapy) taught in Teacher Education (early childhood, under, tertiary and postgraduate) for 30 years. Current postgraduate supervision entails research methodology and subject-specific content at Community Psycho-social Health and Well-being and Social Work (COMPRES) and the Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Promotion (AUTHÉR). Qualitative research focuses on restoring, preserving, and strengthening community, individual psycho-social resilience, relational health, and well-being through interdisciplinary strengths-based approaches (schools/ families in diverse societies). Appreciative Inquiry (AI) (constructing change) is used as a strengths-based perspective and method of inquiry (individuals/ groups /communities). Interests support culturally responsive, innovative, viable ecology approaches, including Gestalt, Cognitive-behavioral, Narrative, Positive Psychology, Resilience, Attachment theories, and educationally-based marriage enrichment.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			individually, collectively and cross-culturally. Findings can adapt and expand interventions to advance and direct practice and policy application.	
8	<p>An Evaluation of a Family- and Community-based Intervention: Sihleng'imizi 'We Care for Families'.</p> <p>(Unique number: 102)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 2	In South Africa, the provision of social grants, such as the Child Support Grant (CSG), has the aim of addressing high poverty and inequality in post-apartheid South Africa. The CSG in particular has had positive impacts on the educational, nutritional and health outcomes of children. In countries such as Columbia, Mexico, Niger, Brazil and Peru, there has been a shift to scale up the positive impacts of cash transfer programmes by offering complementary interventions, otherwise known as 'cash plus care' programmes. A study by Patel, et al. (2017) indicated the need for an evidenced-based family intervention which would scale-up the positive impacts of the CSG. Emanating from the findings of the abovementioned study, the Sihleng'imizi Family Programme was designed. This paper will present the evaluation of the pilot Sihleng'imizi intervention, to inform the development of an appropriate programme to promote and improve child-well-being outcomes of CSG beneficiaries.	<p>Dr. Jenita Chiba</p> <p>Jenita Chiba graduated from Rhodes University with a BSW and was employed as a research assistant by the Department of Social Work/Social Development at Fort Hare University (UFH) in 2005. She obtained her MA Soc Sci (Social Work) in 2008 from UFH, and was promoted to Junior Lecturer and Lecturer in the same department. In 2015, she worked for the Centre for Social Development in Africa as a researcher. Here her work related to families, poverty, adolescent HIV/AIDS and prevention programmes. Currently she is a social work lecturer at the University of Pretoria and is the programme manager for the MSW programme in Play-based Intervention.</p>
9	Contributions of informal social	Session 4	Stokvels, globally known as rotating savings and credit associations	Dr. Nkosiyazi Dube

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>security to the needs of their members. A qualitative study on stokvels in Soweto – Johannesburg.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 114).</p>	Breakaway Room 2	<p>(ROSCAs), remain a major form of social protection for the poor within the South African context. The continued existence of stokvels is a reflection of the absence of a comprehensive formal social security system. However, stokvels have not been given adequate attention despite their contributions in protecting their members from diverse adversities. This empirical presentation, based on one of the objectives of my PhD, discusses the contributions of stokvels to the social protection of their members. Findings revealed that stokvels addressed income insecurity, provided for children’s educational needs, provided access to health promotion, and enhanced access to a broader social capital base of their members.</p>	<p>‘Nkosiyazi Dube is a CARTA and Mellon scholar who holds a BSW, MA (Social Development), and a DPhil (Wits). Dube is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Work in the School of Human and Community Development at the University of the Witwatersrand. Dr. Dube’s teaching and research interests are Health and Social Development, Children and HIV & AIDS, Poverty and Development, Children in Alternative Care, Formal and Informal Social Security, Social Networks, and Health Promotion.</p>
10	<p>Sustainable Livelihood Approaches and the foster care grant as preservative approaches: Social Security.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 137)</p>	Session 4 Breakaway Room 2	<p>Foster Care Grants (FCGs) are a poverty alleviation strategy for millions of South Africans and this is also the case in KwaZulu-Natal, Msunduzi Municipality. This qualitative study investigated the role of the FCG on poverty alleviation by interviewing 14 foster parents who had been fostering children for more than five years. The participants' testimonials suggested that the grant helped them realize some of the Sustainable Livelihood Approaches (SLA's) major capital assets and provided beneficiaries</p>	<p>Mr. Nkosiyakhe Joseph Shabalala. Nkosiyakhe Shabalala is a social worker in the KZN-DSD Pietermaritzburg Service Office's social services component. He has ten years of higher education experience dealing with services such as child care and protection, elder care, victim empowerment, substance addiction, disability, HIV/AIDS, and crime prevention. He began his career at DSD Durban in 2013, then relocated to the Lamontville Office in 2015 before being transferred to Pietermaritzburg in 2016. He studied at UKZN, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work in 2012 and a Master's degree in Development Studies in 2022. He</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			with financial resources such as future savings, the ability to budget as well as a reliable monthly income. The researchers Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway developed the sustainable livelihood approach (SLA) in the mid-1980s to examine diverse settings of vulnerability and to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation (Kollmair & Gamper, 2002). The study also highlighted (a) emotional challenges as a result of death of biological parents of the children, (b) fostering child being difficult due to child's behaviour, (c) the grant application process being too long, and (d) the grant amount being not good enough. It can thus be concluded that FCG play a huge role in poverty alleviation.	conducted research on the following topic: Investigation of Foster Care Grants as a Poverty Reduction Strategy.
11	<p>Building a multidisciplinary workforce for an early childhood home-visiting programme in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 161)</p>	Session 4 Breakaway Room 5	This paper examines the roles and involvement of various disciplines in an early childhood home-visiting programme. These findings emerged from a qualitative study that aimed to develop an early childhood home-visiting programme for vulnerable children in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Findings determined that for such a programme the most effective workforce would be a multidisciplinary workforce which brings together local	<p>Dr. Kim Schmidt</p> <p>Senior lecturer at the University of Fort Hare, currently deputy HOD. have completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education and Training and a Wheelock Certificate Diploma in Early Childhood Education.. In 2019 I co-edited and co-authored an early childhood development text that further inspired my interest in early childhood and shaped my PHD research. I completed my PHD in 2023 which focused on the development of an early childhood home visiting programme to support</p>

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			community-based knowledge and professional expertise from across a range of disciplines.	vulnerable children in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.
12	<p>Support services utilised by adults with an acquired disability.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 048)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online</p>	<p>While at least a billion people have a disability, excluding their families that are also affected, the necessary support and recognition are often lacking. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) can be considered a minority group deserving of all the rights and respect that granted to any other minority group. PWDs who acquire their disability later in life utilise several support services as they adjust and 'grieve' the life prior to the disability onset. The goal of this study was to explore what support services are utilised by PWDs. According to the ecological perspective support services could occur on a micro-, meso- exo- and macro level. A qualitative study with an explorative and descriptive design was utilised to meet the goal of the study. Nineteen PWDs and five social workers took part in the study. Data collection took place during Covid-19 restrictions therefore interviews were conducted online. Ethical clearance (SU13290) was obtained for this study. Findings of the study indicate that support services across the different levels of the ecological perspective were used by PWDs including family members,</p>	<p>Dr. Noreth Muller-Kluits Dr Noreth Muller-Kluits is an NRF-COE-funded Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Developmental Pathways to Health Research Unit (DPHRU) at the University of the Witwatersrand, and an honorary affiliate of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, at King's College London, and is a qualified South African social worker. She specialises in qualitative research, and is particularly interested in the areas of disability, community-based support, and caregiver burden. She completed her PhD in Social Work at Stellenbosch University, South Africa in 2020, focused on the experiences of adults with acquired physical disabilities of social work support in South Africa.</p> <p>Dr. Ilze Slabbert Ilze Slabbert is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the University of Stellenbosch; included in her teaching are topics such as substance use, casework and health care. She also supervises post-graduate students. She was previously employed as a senior social worker. Dr Slabbert focuses in her research on domestic violence, substance use, reflective learning and health issues. She has published articles on these topics in scholarly journals and has also presented several papers at professional conferences.</p>

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			community facilities, social workers and healthcare systems. A bottom-up approach is recommended for inclusion of PWDs in service delivery to them and their families.	
13	<p>Mitigating child maltreatment through assessment in child protection services: A South African perspective.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 070)</p>	Session 3 Breakaway Room 4	In South Africa, the implementation of child protection service assessments assumes paramount importance in the endeavour to address and mitigate child maltreatment, ultimately facilitating the realisation of children's rights to care and protection, as stipulated in international, regional, and domestic policies and legislation. Social workers are important role players in the care and protection of children in South Africa because they are the only professionals who are legally tasked with undertaking assessments of at-risk children. The research study therefore investigated the challenges faced by social workers in assessment practice in child protection services. A qualitative research methodology was employed and explorative and descriptive research designs were utilised. The most important conclusion indicates that social workers utilise the prescribed actuarial-based risk assessment tool and that there is a lack of the utilisation of the consensus-based assessment tool. Recommendations are	<p>Dr. Moreblessing Memory Ndonga Dr. Moreblessing Ndonga possesses a Ph.D. in Social Work from Stellenbosch University. Currently serving as a Senior Program Advisor for Statewide Children and Families under the Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing in Victoria, Australia, she holds a keen interest in child protection and social policy. With extensive expertise in her field, she strives to create positive change and improve the lives of vulnerable children and families through her dedicated work and research endeavours.</p> <p>Prof. Marianne Strydom Marianne Strydom is a lecturer at Stellenbosch University. Her research interests include child abuse and neglect, child protection, family preservation and practice education. She holds a D.Phil degree from Stellenbosch University.</p>

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			presented on the actions that could be taken to improve assessment practice.	

THEME 2:

Building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant communities through indigenous modalities, inter-sectoral collaborations, and partnerships

SUB-THEME: 2.2 (10)

Strengthening community support structures to mitigate the impact of adverse events

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>Community development, ecotourism and traditional leadership interface in biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 072)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Ecotourism is one of the main economic drivers of community development. The degradation of land and extinction of species along the coast, because of natural disasters may be regarded as the main threats to sustainable livelihood. This paper serves to explore if the interface of community development, ecotourism and traditional leadership serve as the key drivers for economic development and sustainable livelihood. A qualitative design was used to conduct the study, involving traditional leaders, programme officials, project managers and owners of ecotourism ventures in</p>	<p>Dr. Fikile Xaba I currently serve as a Lecturer in University of Zululand, Social Work Department. I am a qualified Social Worker, registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP). I have 24 years of experience as a social worker and have been in Private practice for 8 years. I have field-practice experience in the public service, having practiced in the areas of corrections/ rehabilitation, social development, and employee wellness. I hold (BA in Social Work, Honours (BPA)-MPA and PhD in Development studies and various short-term certificates.</p> <p>Ms. Nondumiso Hadebe Work experience: Nkonjeni Hospital (2018), Social worker (internship). Isibani Development Partners (2020), Social worker. NICRO Organization (2020), Social worker. I am presently working at the University of</p>

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			four local municipalities situated in Northern KwaZulu- Natal in South Africa. 20 participants from uMkhanyakude District Municipality were recruited through a purposive sampling method. The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) was used as an explanatory lens. In findings, the interface of community development, ecotourism, and traditional leadership serves as the key drivers for economic development and sustainable livelihood in uMkhanyakude District Municipality. The paper concluded that the human beings' reliance on plants and animals is indispensable.	Zululand, Department of Social Work, as an nGAP lecturer. I am currently working toward my Doctorate in social work. I am a first-year coordinator and serve on two of the faculty committees, namely, the library committee and the teaching and learning committee.
2	<p>Psychosocial effects of COVID-19 and its vaccine on the National University of Lesotho community.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 073)</p>	Session 2 Breakaway Room 3	This study aims to investigate the psychosocial effects of COVID-19 and its vaccine on the National University of Lesotho community, on their academic level and social level. The findings were obtained through interviewing 20 participants. Quota sampling was used and thematic analysis for analysing the data. The analysis showed that most people did not vaccinate voluntarily. The vaccinated students and the unvaccinated, both experienced fear, anxiety and depression. Schools had to adapt to a new learning platform	<p>Ms. Thandiwe Lucy Khatakane</p> <p>Thandiwe Khatakane is a student at the National University of Lesotho pursuing a bachelor's degree in Social Work. I have a deep passion for making positive impact on individuals and communities. My desire is to empower individuals to overcome challenges and lead fulfilling lives.</p> <p>Ms. Liteboho Rosemary Kibi</p> <p>Liteboho Rosemary Kibi grew up in Maseru, Lesotho. Witnessing the struggles and challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness sparked a fire within me to pursue a career in social work. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work at the National University of Lesotho and looking forward to work for the people.</p>

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			that is online, NUL not being an exception. However, it resulted in poor academic performance. Lastly, Lesotho government did not take heed of every citizen's mental health including people living in the rural areas with limited access to resources for acquiring knowledge. It is a crucial need to have people with relevant skills to hold awareness campaigns that equip people with knowledge to care for themselves during such pandemic.	Ms Reitumetse Mathaba Reitumetse Mathaba is an aspiring social worker and I'm currently completing my studies at The National University of Lesotho.
3	Building Resilience: Strengthening Mental Health Services for Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: A Social Work Perspective. (Unique Number: 074)	Session 2 Breakaway Room 3	This paper stresses the importance of resilience and mental health services in disaster preparedness and recovery, specifically from a social work standpoint. It highlights the role of social workers in addressing mental health needs during and after disasters, exploring the connection between resilience and mental well-being. Factors contributing to resilience in individuals and communities are discussed, alongside the unique role of social work in disaster preparedness, including the integration of mental health services. Strategies for strengthening mental health services in disaster-affected communities, such as collaboration, trauma-informed care, and	Prof. Nontembeko Bila Professor Nontembeko Bila is a South African social work academic, and researcher affiliated with the University of Pretoria. She joined the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the university in 2010 and obtained her PhD in 2018. Her research specialisation centres around mental health and disability. At both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, she teaches courses on mental health and disability. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves as a Departmental Postgraduate Chair and a member of the Faculty Postgraduate Committee. She also contributes as a task team member of the Social Work in Health Care initiative for the South African Council of Social Service Professions.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			community engagement, are presented. Case studies, best practices, and lessons learned demonstrate the impact of social work in promoting resilience. The abstract concludes by addressing challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders, highlighting the significance of a social work perspective in enhancing mental health services for disaster resilience.	
4	Load Shedding and Its Impact on the Mental Psyche of South African Citizens. (Unique number: 100)	Session 3 Breakaway Room 1	This paper examines the psychological, emotional, and social consequences of living in a power-constrained environment. The psychological impact of load shedding is explored, highlighting feelings of powerlessness, anxiety, and stress resulting from unpredictable power outages and the inability to carry out essential tasks. Emotional well-being is also affected, with heightened irritability, frustration, and a sense of deprivation. Load shedding has significant social consequences, straining relationships and family dynamics due to disrupted routines and increased responsibilities. Community well-being is also affected, evidenced by decreased	Prof. Nontembeko Bila Professor Nontembeko Bila is a South African social work academic, and researcher affiliated with the University of Pretoria. She joined the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the university in 2010 and obtained her PhD in 2018. Her research specialisation centres around mental health and disability. At both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, she teaches courses on mental health and disability. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves as a Departmental Postgraduate Chair and a member of the Faculty Postgraduate Committee. She also contributes as a task team member of the Social Work in Health Care initiative for the South African Council of Social Service Professions.

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			social cohesion and increased crime rates due to reduced lighting and security systems. Economically, load shedding imposes financial burdens on individuals and businesses, leading to spoiled food, reduced productivity, and increased costs for alternative energy sources. Long-term effects on employment, economic growth, and investment are also considered. Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and those with chronic health conditions, face disproportionate impacts from load shedding, necessitating targeted support and resources to mitigate health risks. Effective communication and transparent information are vital in managing the mental impact of load shedding. Public awareness campaigns, proactive communication from utility providers, and access to reliable information can reduce anxiety and enhance coping mechanisms among citizens.	
5	Psychological First Aid: Supporting Individuals and Communities in the Aftermath of Disasters.	Session 4 Breakaway Room 1	The paper highlights the importance of Psychological First Aid (PFA) in providing immediate and compassionate support to individuals and communities affected by disasters. It emphasizes the need to	Prof. Nontembeko Bila Professor Nontembeko Bila is a South African social work academic, and researcher affiliated with the University of Pretoria. She joined the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the university in 2010 and obtained her PhD in 2018. Her research

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique Number: 130)		address the psychological well-being of survivors alongside their physical needs. The abstract explores the core principles of PFA, including safety, comfort, and connection, and discusses the psychological reactions and emotional distress commonly experienced by survivors. It also emphasizes the significance of cultural sensitivity and individualized approaches in delivering PFA. Furthermore, the abstract outlines specific strategies and techniques employed in PFA, while addressing the challenges and ethical considerations faced by social workers. Overall, the abstract underscores the vital role of PFA and social workers in disaster response and recovery, emphasizing the importance of providing empathetic support to promote psychological well-being.	specialisation centres around mental health and disability. At both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, she teaches courses on mental health and disability. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves as a Departmental Postgraduate Chair and a member of the Faculty Postgraduate Committee. She also contributes as a task team member of the Social Work in Health Care initiative for the South African Council of Social Service Professions.
6	Strengthening Resilience of Community-Based Structures: A Multi-Sectorial Approach to Addressing Adverse Events.	Session 2 Plenary Venue	Communities worldwide, face vulnerabilities due to environmental threats, disasters, and pandemics. Strengthening the resilience of community-based structures is crucial for understanding, withstanding, and overcoming adverse events. This presentation discusses how adopting a multi-	Ms. Dainess Ziba Amukwelele Dainess Ziba Amukwelele is a Namibian Lecturer at the University of Namibia. She graduated from The University of Namibia where she obtained her BA in Arts (Social Work) and Master's in social work from Stellenbosch University. She prides 13 years of experience in Social Work Practice in various sectors such as public, private, and non-governmental sectors. Dainess has worked both in Africa and Europe in the

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique number: 051)		sectoral approach to building community resilience fosters sustainable development, adaptation, and responses to adverse events. It is based on a desk review of the literature which examines four crucial components of building resilience, namely: (i) Resilience through skills, knowledge, and resources development, (ii) Using community assets for coping, recovery, and risk reduction, (iii) proactive measures to lessen vulnerability, and (iv) Community-based flexible multi-sectoral structure development to handle uncertainties. It further, discusses the roles of social workers in promoting resilience before and during crises and challenges faced by community-based organizations in strengthening community ownership and effective response. This presentation will contribute to the advancement of sustainable approaches to disaster risk management and Community stability in the face of adverse events.	United Kingdom, and her interests include Child Protection, Early Intervention and Presentation, and Community Work. She believes in evidence-based approaches to community work and thrives to adopt sustainable approaches to community work.
7	Integration of Indigenous model vs Formal Child Protection System Đ A case of Para	Session 2 Plenary Venue	Tanzania experienced a significant increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The increase in OVCs was influenced by the HIV and AIDS pandemic, poverty,	Mr. Meinrad Lembuka Meinrad holds an M.A in social work and M.A in International Cooperation and Development over the course of time he has transformed himself to be a multi-disciplinary experts knowledgeable in areas of

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>social work model in Tanzania Mainland</p> <p>(Unique number: 052)</p>		<p>urbanisation, and unemployment. HIV and AIDS pandemic destroyed customary support systems that were used to protect children under Ubuntu values. The paper used the Ubuntu conceptual framework to guide the review of the para social work model in Tanzania. The review showed that stakeholders reformed a sort of African ubuntu mechanism known as para social work cadre with voluntarily and community owned aspect to serve OVC, and this modified voluntary cadre embraced African cultural values, ecology and formal social welfare system improved the welfare and quality of life of children and their families in Tanzania. Para social work model proved that African indigenous models and the formal social welfare mechanism can work together. Conclusively, it's an urgent call to re-open doors for new strategies that integrate formal social work system and indigenous model on child protection that can be applied in Africa.</p>	<p>HIV/AIDS, key populations, social work, social welfare policies, international relations, gender, social policies and Ubuntu. Presently Meinrad is a Lecturer in social work at The Open University of Tanzania at the Department of sociology and social work.</p>
8	<p>Social Protection for Elderly Widowed Women in Uganda: An</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Social protection programs have been implemented globally as part of poverty mitigation strategies for vulnerable groups. The government</p>	<p>Dr. Deborah Atwine Dr Deborah Atwine is a qualified social worker who is currently a lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at Kyambogo University,</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>Afrocentric Perspective.</p> <p>(Unique number: 156)</p>		<p>of Uganda provides social protection to vulnerable people such as the elderly, but no policy nor program targets female headed households and especially the elderly women. Informed by the Afrocentric perspective, this paper analyses the social protection systems for households headed by elderly widows in Kamuli District. The researcher(s) employed a qualitative case study design to investigate the lived experiences of 30 elderly widows in a bid to understand the related social protection systems. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used to gather data and later analysed it using thematic content analysis. Among others, this study found that elderly widowed women experience multiple vulnerabilities related to age and undue burden of poverty. The authors recommend gender aware social protection policies that also integrate decolonial Afrocentric strategies.</p>	<p>Uganda. She teaches several social work modules. In addition, she has served in various leadership capacities such as the Examinations Coordinator, Acting Head of Department and currently as Coordinator of Postgraduate Programmes in the same department. Her specialisation and research interests include social protection, social policy, social work decolonisation, indigenisation, and innovative approaches to social development. She has published her work in peer-reviewed journals and presented her work in several international conferences.</p> <p>Prof. Mziwandile Sobantu</p> <p>Mziwandile Sobantu is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Johannesburg. Previously, he was at the Gauteng Department of Social Development as a foster care social worker. Other than mainstream teaching, he supervises postgraduate students, coordinates the course work Masters in Community Development, and has served in member of the Faculty of Humanities Higher Degree Committee (FHDC). He writes mainly on social development with a keen interest in older persons and gender. He leans on a pedagogy of hope and a social justice framework in his teaching and supervision.</p>
9	<p>The role of child and youth care workers in a multidisciplinary team in times of disasters.</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Multidisciplinary teams are becoming more and more recognised as essential partners needed to respond to devastating natural challenges, especially those caused by natural disasters. Despite this</p>	<p>Ms Mirriam Siluma</p> <p>Mirriam Siluma holds a masters in Child and Youth Care and is a Child and Youth Care lecturer at the Durban University of Technology. She is pursuing her PHD in the Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Johannesburg.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique Number: 154)		acknowledgement, there hasn't been much research on how child and youth care workers can collaborate with other professions during such crisis. The purpose of this paper is to present the role of child and youth care workers as an integral partner in the multi-sectoral approach to working with young people affected by and vulnerable to disasters and trauma. These unanticipated incidents do significant harm to communities and have a negative impact on the wellness of children, families and communities. Thus, purporting a multi-sectoral approach is critical to helping vulnerable young people.	Mirriam Siluma has 27 years' experience in the field of Child and Youth Care. Her career in Child and Youth Care started with direct work with young people, followed by supervision, management, teaching and curriculum development. In Addition, Mirriam served as the representative of education institutions in the second Professional Board for Child and Youth Care.
10	COVID-19 pandemic, higher education and online learning. (Unique Number: 115)	Session 4 Breakaway Room 3	The COVID-19 pandemic brought in its wake unforeseen challenges in higher education. Many institutions of higher learning prohibited contact learning and introduced the concept of online learning in institutions of higher learning. Distance learning which is generally known as online learning plays a vital role in the country's education system. It is undeniable that online learning provides ample of benefits to students. Nevertheless, there are also many negative implications from	Ms. Nothando Lubanyana Miss Nothando Lubanyana is an intern employed by the Human Science Research Council. She is placed at the University of KwaZulu-Natal under the Discipline of Social Work and a research assistant in the Discipline of Criminology. She has 4 years of experience in academia and research. She is a Social Worker by profession and her research interests are in working with students living with disabilities, students that are academically at-risk, community development and the inclusion of all individuals. Ms. Zamansele Nqayi Zamansele Nqayi is a registered PhD student in the Discipline of Developmental studies at UKZN. Her

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			<p>online education. The University of KwaZulu-Natal faced challenges with online learning for undergraduate students. This paper intends to review challenges faced by students who used online learning as a core medium of learning during COVID-19 pandemic. The study was underpinned by the theory of teaching and learning. The study adopted the literature review approach using various sources to interrogate challenges of online learning on undergraduate students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Several challenges have been identified and these issues have to be resolved in order to sustain the quality of education for future generations. The study suggested that the institutions of higher learning must invest in devising and improving the existing online learning platforms, as well as expanding provision of internet access and provide training for the students.</p>	<p>research interest is in African center knowledge systems. Her Masters research was on rites of passage for virginity testing in the 21 century. Her PhD research interest is in food security through indigenous African knowledge systems. She is a social worker, with over 5 years experience. Her area of work has been mostly in advocacy for the voiceless and youth development. She is currently working at the Maat Institute as a Project Coordinator. MA'AT Institute strives for Justice, order, harmony and Balance through Ubuntu.</p>

THEME 2:

Building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant communities through indigenous modalities, inter-sectoral collaborations, and partnerships

SUB-THEME: 2.3 (2)

Strengthening indigenous economic empowerment structures in responding during and after adverse situations

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	Exploring the Efficacy of Microfinance Interventions in Enhancing the Resilience of Low-Income Women in Botswana. (Unique Number: 078)	Session 2 Breakaway Room 4	Financial empowerment of low-income populations has long been hailed as a strategy that could foster their long-term resilience. However, little is known about how which microfinance programs are associated with the resilience of low-income women in Botswana. Through the lens of the resilience theory, this phenomenological study explored resilience experiences of 19 low-income women enrolled in a microfinance program. Content analysis was adopted to develop themes around participants` strengths, talents, skills and personal traits they used to overcome adversity. The findings revealed that women`s strengths included being industrious, dexterous and caregivers, and talented in baking, sewing, crocheting and hairdressing. Religion and prayer were a source of hope during difficult times while their entrepreneurial skills were a means of survival. This study demonstrates that interdisciplinary collaborations between microfinance providers and human behavior practitioners could strengthen economic empowerment interventions to leverage on clients` positive attributes to respond to their non-financial needs.	Dr. Kefentse Kubanga Kefentse P. Kubanga is a PhD Candidate at the University of Alabama School of Social Work. Kefentse is interested in research on economic empowerment interventions. She is also a lecturer of Social Work at the University of Botswana. Her research examines the intersection of economic interventions and resilience among low-income populations. Dr. Zainab Suntai Dr. Suntai is an assistant professor at Baylor University`s School of Social Work. Her research focuses on the intersection of race and gender in palliative and end-of-life care. Her passion stems from her work with people diagnosed with chronic illnesses and is informed by the theory of intersectionality. Dr Edson Chipalo Edson Chipalo is an assistant professor at Lewis University. Chipalo`s research area of interest focusses on examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and mental and other health

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
				outcomes for adolescents and youth in low income countries
2	<p>The Experience Incubator as an economic empowerment modality for strengthening sustainability and self reliance in older persons.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 079)</p>	Session 2 Breakaway Room 4	With only 1 in 6 South African's having saved for retirement (Business Tech, 2022) and the ageing population growing at a rapid rate, the conservative retirement age limits formal work opportunities, rendering the majority of older persons destitute, vulnerable to abuse and financially dependent on the State or family. In collaboration with the Global Institute for Experienced Entrepreneurship (GIEE); Tafta launched a Pilot Experience Incubator® (EI) Programme. This paper will explain how the EIP capacitates older people with entrepreneurial skills by utilising modules designed to support the development of ideas and expansion of existing businesses with marketing, financial and business skills. The program helps to build resilience and self-reliance in older persons through entrepreneurial opportunities whilst using their life experience to sustain and supplement their livelihood. It builds on the experiential knowledge and skills of older persons to promote their economic empowerment thereby enhancing their resilience and self-reliance.	<p>Ms. Yougendri Moodley</p> <p>Yougendri Moodley completed her Bachelor of Social work degree at the University of South Africa in 2016 and a certification for the Employee Assistance Programme in 2018. She was employed at Tongaat Child Welfare from 2010-2016 as an auxiliary social worker and thereafter worked at Blind and Deaf Society from 2016-2019. Yougendri joined Tafta as a social worker in 2019 and was promoted to area manager in 2019. Yougendri has a keen interest in the disability and aged sector and has acquired the skill to communicate in sign language. She is passionate about making a difference in the lives of vulnerable population groups by creating opportunities for empowerment and advocacy.</p>

THEME 2:

Building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant communities through indigenous modalities, inter-sectoral collaborations, and partnerships

SUB-THEME: 2.4 (2)

Strengthening religious and spiritual structures in responding during and after adverse events

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	The Shutdown of Church Services During COVID-19 in South Africa: A Social Work Perspective. (Unique Number: 131)	Session 4 Breakaway Room 1	From a perspective of social work, this conceptual paper analyses the negative effect of the temporary closure of churches to stop the spread of Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) on classical conservative Pentecostals in South Africa. The paper argues that physical church meetings provide spiritual resources needed to cope with life's challenges and problems. Therefore, the closure of churches left the Pentecostal extremely vulnerable. Social workers are challenged to learn from Pentecostals the importance of people's reliance on church meetings for spiritual resources needed to overcome life's problems.	Prof. Selelo Frank Rapholo Selelo Frank Rapholo is the Associate Professor and Head of Department (HoD) attached to the Department of Social Work at the University of Limpopo. Prof Rapholo is a registered social worker with the South African Council for Social Service Professions and a researcher in the fields of Child Sexual Abuse, Forensic Social Work, Migration Studies, Spirituality and Religion, Public Health and Substance Abuse
2	Challenges faced by MA'AT Institute therapists during COVID-19 and flood disasters. (Unique Number: 132)	Session 4 Breakaway Room 1	COVID-19 and the KwaZulu Natal flood disasters have had a profound effect in the provision of psychosocial support in MA'AT Institute therapists. This paper investigates the challenges and experiences faced by the MA'AT Institute therapists who provided psychosocial support while affected by the societal stressors of COVID-19 and the Flood disasters. In writing the paper a semi structured questionnaire was used, as a self-interview guide to gain insight on the experiences of the therapists during COVID-19 and flood disasters. The impact of COVID-19 and floods	Ms. Zamansele Nqayi Zamansele Nqayi is a registered PhD student in the Discipline of Developmental studies at UKZN. Her research interest is in African center knowledge systems. Her Masters research was on rites of passage for virginity testing in the 21 century. Her PhD research interest is in food security through indigenous African knowledge systems. She is a social worker, with over 5 years' experience. Her experience has been mostly

		<p>resulted in an investigation around mental health and wellbeing of the therapists; having work/life boundaries, connectivity issues and the therapists being prone to teletherapy which was a new intervention method in psychosocial support for the therapists. The concept of therapy is used in a sense relating that therapy was used by all persons, not only those who are predisposed to Western methods of working. During COVID-19 and Flood disasters the support provided by the MA'AT Institute therapists included Individual therapy, group work and community work. The provision of psychosocial support by the MA'AT Institute therapists, was adequate support to meet the needs of the services users despite the societal stressors.</p>	<p>in community development and has worked in different organizations such as, her own private practice, the Department of Social Development, Age in action and Rural Education access Programme. Her area of work has been mostly in advocacy for the voiceless and youth development. She is currently working at the Maat Institute as a Project Coordinator.</p> <p>Ms. Wenzile Madlala</p> <p>Ms Wenzile Madlala is pursuing her Masters' degree in Social Work. Her topic is An exploratory study of psychosocial cultural experiences of African individuals during COVID 19 in Umzumbe. She is a Social Work mentor and a practitioner at the MA'AT Institute UKZN, with more than three years of work experience. Her expertise comprise community engagement and mental health. At MA'AT Institute she performs all three methods of social work, which include individual, group and community work.</p>
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THEME 2:

Building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant communities through indigenous modalities, inter-sectoral collaborations, and partnerships

SUB-THEME: 2.5 (2)

Offence prevention and promotion of safer spaces through partnerships with community structures

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	The intersection of culture, tradition, and delayed disclosure of child sexual abuse: insights from the Vhavenda Tribe. (Unique Number: 128)	Session 4 Breakaway Room 1	Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a global problem that interrupts the willpower to encourage the healthy development of children in societies. Although CSA is a global issue, culture and tradition play a significant role on how people perceive and respond to the abuse. This qualitative study used an exploratory design to understand the intersection of culture, tradition, and delayed disclosure in the context of the Vhavenda tribe. Five adult survivors of CSA, seven caregivers of survivors of CSA, four social workers, and two traditional leaders were purposively sampled to participate in the study. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and thereafter, it was arranged and analysed thematically. The findings of the study contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural dynamics at play and highlights the need for culturally sensitive interventions to facilitate timely disclosure, support survivors, and foster protective environments. Indigenous systems should be recognised and strengthened to fight, preserve and protect children from sexual abuse.	Dr. Livhuwani Ramphabana Livhuwani Ramphabana is a Lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He holds a Master's in Social Work and a PhD in Social Work from the University of Limpopo in South Africa. His research interests include; child protection, gender and culture, and public health. He has published several papers in the field of child sexual abuse.
2	Integrated intervention by the State	Session 2 Breakaway Room 5	In Jozini, Northern part of KZN; there is high number of children who are in conflict with the law. Crime prevention programmes were used to understand this phenomenon.	Ms. Nompumelelo Ntimbane Nompumelelo Thembisile Ntimbane is a qualified Social Worker and graduated at

	<p>and Community structures in crime prevention.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 084)</p>		<p>Findings revealed that most of these children are from dysfunctional families, and born out of wedlock. Hence, children lack parental supervision and guidance. This makes them vulnerable to social illnesses which leads to committing offences. Integrated mode of service delivery can be used in the fight against crime. Such services must include family strengthening for the purpose of preservation.</p>	<p>University of Zululand in 2009, holds a National Diploma in Public Management from EThekweni City College; and currently doing her Post Graduate Diploma in Project Management at Mancosa college. She assumed permanent post duties as a Social Worker in 2010 at the Department of Social Development, Ubombo Service office; and is still in the post as a probation officer.</p>
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THEME 2:

Building sustainable, resilient, and self-reliant communities through indigenous modalities, inter-sectoral collaborations, and partnerships

SUB-THEME: 2.6 (5)

Multi-sectoral strategies for mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>Social work and faith-based organizations collaboration: strengthening response to mental health problems in rural areas</p> <p>(Unique Number: 080)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Mental health problems have become prevalent concern that affects individuals, groups, and communities significantly. Social workers and faith leaders are often the first point of contact when individuals and families face mental health problems or traumatic events. While social work is known for its role in promoting mental health and preventing mental health problems, faith-based organizations can play an important role in supporting individuals and families experiencing mental health problems and encouraging them to seek help. Faith-based interventions appear to be a culturally sensitive way to address mental</p>	<p>Dr. Thabisa Matsea Thabisa Matsea holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Social Work from the North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, and is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the University of Venda. She has practiced generic social work and has also worked in healthcare settings focusing mostly on the HIV and AIDS field. She has 10 years teaching experience in higher education.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			health problems. Drawing on secondary data and the author's research on mental health related issues in rural areas, this paper explores the opportunities that can be created because of collaboration between social work and faith-based organizations. It will analyze their role in dealing with mental health problems. The paper will also explore how this collaboration can strengthen response to mental health problems.	
2	<p>The Hope Revolution Vision - The process of establishing Community based substance abuse prevention and treatment.</p> <p>(Unique number: 093)</p>	<p>Session 3 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>The Enyobeni tragedy of June 2022 East London, RSA where 21 young people lost their lives in a tavern, offers us a glimpse of the depth of the substance abuse scourge in South Africa, amongst an increasingly younger population. Unfortunately the cost of substance abuse treatment is unaffordable for the communities where it is needed the most; and the relapse rate of persons who completed residential or outpatient treatment programmes are compelling a community based response to both the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. Section 5 of the Prevention of and Treatment of Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008 provides guidelines in this regard; and the National Drug Master Plan 2019-2024 foreground community based treatment as the more sustainable response to substance abuse. This presentation describes the processes followed in a collaboration between Nelson Mandela University Engagement Unit, the Dept of Social Development Professions and The Hope</p>	<p>Prof. Veonna Goliath I am an Associate Professor at Mandela University in the Dept of Social Development Professions. A social worker and clinical psychologist by profession, whose passion and interest is in community engagement, foregrounding the voices of those we serve in the area of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment</p> <p>Dr. Jacobus Nomdoe Pastor Dr Jacobus Nomdoe is a Minister of Religion, based in Cape Town. He is the African Continent Director of Teen Challenge, an international accredited residential treatment programme for persons with substance induced disorders and the director of the Hope Revolution Vision, a community based substance abuse prevention and treatment programme</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			Revolution Vision (THRV) with communities in Gqeberha to establish a community based substance abuse prevention and treatment programme. This collaboration with THRV gives effect to our Universities' focus to be of service to society, and honours the voices of community as knowledge keepers and multiple stakeholders as equalising partners for impactful change.	
3	<p>Addressing Colonial-Apartheid Legacy and Infrastructural Barriers in Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province.</p> <p>(Unique number: 094)</p>	<p>Session 3 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>Despite the official end of apartheid in 1994, systemic barriers to accessing resources and human rights continue to exist in certain parts of South Africa. One example of this is inadequate access to substance use disorder treatment, which exacerbates the problem. Substance use disorder is recognised globally as a multifactorial health issue, and South Africa's struggle to address this phenomenon is compounded by infrastructural deficits. To gain insight into the problem, a qualitative study was conducted, involving semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with 15 participants in East London in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. The research findings revealed several problems, including a lack of substance use treatment centres, the impact of colonial and apartheid segregation on access to these centres, inadequate human resources for treating substance use disorder, and insufficient financial support for implementing treatment programmes. Inconsistencies in the treatment of substance use disorder pose a threat to the success of policies. The Eastern Cape is the most</p>	<p>Dr. Samkelo Bala Black Consciousness</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			neglected area in terms of resource allocation and access to substance use treatment centres.	
4	<p>How to grow rice on a desert: The irony of imported social work pedagogy and praxis in Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 053)</p>	<p>Session 2 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>Literature showing that Africans use traditional African indigenous knowledge before approaching Western knowledge and medicine is abundant. Secondly, individualisation, a founding Social Work Principle, calls for social work interventions guided by clients' beliefs and perspectives. Imported social work pedagogy and epistemology, however, are possible barriers for full integration of the complimentary knowledge systems in praxis while a complimentary African-Western model would seem most appropriate in Africa. This conceptual idea therefore proposes an integrated African-Western social work praxis for Mental Health Promotion and Treatment in Africa.</p> <p>The presentation will therefore demonstrate how African indigenous knowledge may be integrated into social work epistemology and praxis through:</p> <p>(i) partnering with African indigenalists in training, (ii) collaborating with African indigenalists in treatment of complex psychosociological conditions such as Anxiety Disorders, (iii) forging a multisectoral referral community-tertiary services network between social workers and African indigenalists.</p>	<p>Dr. Sophia Thabane</p> <p>I am a Social Work Educator with competence in Family and Clinical Work. I have published in Social Work Field Education, Child Protection and integration of African indigenous knowledge systems into Social Work Practice. I previously practiced as a Social Worker in urban and remote areas of Lesotho.</p>
5	<p>Combating substance abuse amongst learners in South African schools.</p>	<p>Session 3 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>Substance abuse is one of the pandemics that destroy the future of young people in South African schools leading to a number of social ills which exacerbate the economic deterioration of the country. This study explored the legislative</p>	<p>Ms. Nozipho Babra Ngubane</p> <p>Nozipho Ngubane is a passionate professional social worker based at Impendle service office under the Department of Social Development. Nozipho has been in this field for twelve years of</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique number: 091)		framework in combating substance abuse among learners in South African schools. A literature review of legislative frameworks in different countries shows the causes of substance abuse and its effects on learners, their families, in schools, communities and the country at large. The findings show that although a legislative framework is available in South Africa but the implementation part is lacking compared to other countries such as Germany and Netherlands. Implementing the existing legislation while adopting strategies such as harm reduction which is a proven method may be effective and might have a great impact in combating substance abuse especially amongst South African learners in all spheres of education from primary to tertiary.	experience providing social work expertise to vulnerable groups, individuals, Non Profit Organisations and community based programs. Nozipho holds a Bachelors degree in Social Work as well as the Masters degree in Child Care and Protection from the University of Kwazulu Natal.
6	Substance abuse and mental health: multi sectoral Approach. (Unique number: 092)	Session 3 Plenary Venue	Substance abuse is a global challenge that affects not only the user but the greater society. South Africa is no exception, as it is reported that 15% of the population abuse substances. As a complex phenomenon, I believe it needs an integrated approach to ensure the maximum impact. Social workers are confronted with substance abuse and its effects daily and we are expected to deal with a plethora of problems associated it. There seem to be a misalignment/disjuncture between the increased intervention against drug abuse and the increasing prominence of the drug problem in South Africa. This calls for a multi sectoral approach in order to effectively deal with substance abuse in South Africa. An ecological	Ms Christabella Nthabiseng Latakomo. She is a lecturer at the University of Johannesburg who is completing her PhD in the field of substance abuse. She is a seasoned academic, and teaches and co-ordinates the third year internship programme.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			approach guided by programme theory will best explain how the different systems can be coordinated to effectively deal with substance abuse.	

THEME 2:

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SUB-THEME: 2.7 (1)

Social entrepreneurship, technology innovations and strategies for youth empowerment and skills development.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>Online Support for Youth at Risk: Reaching Out Through Technology.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 063)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 Online</p>	<p>This lecture presents research on the use of the Internet as a source of support for youth at risk experiencing distress, providing insights into online communication and help-seeking behaviors. Due to a lack of knowledge, fear of exposure, and stigma, many adolescents avoid seeking help. However, the online world offers unique opportunities for information, support, and a sense of belonging, and has proven to be equally effective in establishing therapeutic alliances as those conducted in person. The study employed a Grounded Theory approach with a sample of 602 young people aged 12-25. The data collection methods included</p>	<p>Dr. Nir Wittenberg Dr. Nir Wittenberg is a professor of Social Work at Ariel University. Holding a Ph.D. in Social Work from Tel Aviv University, Dr. Wittenberg is a licensed social worker, lecturer, and researcher. With a strong commitment to addressing social challenges and improving the well-being of individuals and communities, Dr. Wittenberg specializes in innovative approaches that benefit vulnerable populations, including at-risk youth, LGBTQ individuals, and families living in extreme poverty. His research interests include social support systems, digital tools, and help-seeking behavior. Dr. Wittenberg is a board member of a</p>

			interviews, questionnaires, and support group messaging. Five main patterns of online help-seeking behavior were identified: self-reliance, problem solving, self-discovery, social engagement, and the need for counseling relationships. This study enhances the understanding of online support for youth and has organizational and clinical implications for internet-based outreach, counseling, and the development of therapeutic alliance.	non-governmental organization that provides free accessible online emotional support to Arab and Jewish residents.
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THEME 3: (21)

Strategies toward the normative development of society

SUB-THEME: 3.1 (9)

Promoting egalitarianism in intimate and other relationships as responses to Gender-based violence and femicide

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	Gender-based violence experiences among women living with physical impairments: Towards integration of services to meet	Session 2 Breakaway Room 3	This study was a qualitative inquiry which sought to explore and describe gender-based violence encountered by women living with physical impairments in Tshwane Metro, Pretoria. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with twelve women and the findings revealed that they experienced physical, emotional, sexual, financial and structural violence. Certain risk factors increased the likelihood of the participants' victimisation and these included stereotypes	Ms. Yeukai Muruzi Yeukai Muruzi is a PhD social work student in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria. She earned a master's degree from the same university, where she conducted a research study on gender-based violence among women with physical impairments in Tshwane Metro, Pretoria. Her research interests are in gender-based violence, disabilities and women empowerment. Yeukai has

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>the needs of vulnerable women.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 076)</p>		<p>associated with physical impairments and non-disclosure of the violence experienced. The participants however adopted protective factors to prevent further violence and these included seeking professional help, disclosing violence to informal and formal sources of help and adopting self-acceptance to one's condition. It was concluded that gender-based violence among women living with physical disabilities is a rarely known reality, tangled with the intersection of disability and gender. The matter calls for social workers' multi-disciplinary collaborations in gender-based violence initiatives to protect this forgotten cohort at risk.</p>	<p>published two articles in internationally accredited journals and currently working on a systematic review paper to be published. She also has practice experience in the fields of homelessness, substance abuse and harm reduction, community engagement and social work supervision.</p> <p>Prof. Priscilla Gutura Prof Priscilla Gutura is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at University of Pretoria. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Fort Hare. Her research interests include social protection and gender equality. Her work centres on empowering vulnerable members of the society, in particular women and children, including fighting against gender-based violence. She has published over thirty articles in local and international journals and has contributed two chapters to a book.. She received a Y2 rating from the National Research Foundation in 2020.</p>
2	<p>A review of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on gender-based violence in South Africa</p> <p>(Unique Number: 081)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis that has negatively affected the ordinary functioning of people worldwide and continues to increase rapidly. The study sought to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender-based violence in South Africa. To understand GBV against women, the radical feminist theory which is based on the oppression of women in a social order dominated by subordination, including through sexuality and bodies was used. Data were obtained from secondary sources, journal articles, news articles,</p>	<p>Dr. Zintle Ntshongwana. Dr Ntshongwana is a lecturer in the School of Human and Community Development, Social Work department at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She holds a PhD, Masters and Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Fort Hare. She completed a certificate in Civic Leadership through Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Dr Ntshongwana also completed a certificate through Early Career Development Programme (ECAD,</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			and news reports on GBV. Findings indicate that COVID-19 restrictions and regulations have contributed to gender-based violence. The study also found a high prevalence of gender-based violence during the lockdown, particularly against women. These findings reflect that South Africa is fighting yet another deadly pandemic of gender-based violence. This study also provides implications for social work policy and practice. It can be concluded that this pandemic has brought massive misery across the world, especially regarding violence.	Wits). Her research focuses on children, families, family relationships, foster care, domestic violence, family violence, gender-based violence, and social work roles and interventions. She has been awarded a Female Academic Leaders Fellowship (FALF 2023). She published articles in peer-reviewed journals. She also co-authored a book chapter which was published in 2022. She is the recipient of the 2022 Emerging Scholar Award for the Twelfth International Conference on Health, Wellness & Society, which was held from 8–9 September 2022, at Wits.
3	<p>Gender-based Violence and Femicide Interventions- Perspectives from community members and activists in Evaton, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 082)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Globally, Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) remains a multifaceted social issue in the 21st century. Despite the ratification of international treaties and national laws, South Africa continues to have alarmingly high levels of GBVF, which were worsened during the COVID-19 national lockdown. Despite copious studies on GBVF, the voices of local community members and activists as key collaborators in such research have been excluded. This study used a mixed methods and included forty (40) participants in a survey for the quantitative aspect as well as a qualitative aspect of the study. Community members participated in gender-specific focus group discussions, while activists had a focus group of their own to obtain data on interventions. Findings show that while the South African government has made strides in its efforts to eliminate GBVF, there are no sustainable community level programming and intervention aimed at changing social norms and toxic</p>	<p>Dr. Motalepule Nathane-Taulela</p> <p>Dr Motlalepule Nathane is a Senior Lecturer in the department of Social Work at the University of the Witwatersrand. She is an academic researcher and holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has over eighteen years of work experience in practice as a Social Worker and in the Institution of Higher Learning. Dr Nathane is a social feminist with a special interest in gender studies, African perspective of Families; Motherhood, Fatherhood, Decoloniality, Human Rights and Social Justice. She is one of the co-authors of a book published by HSRC titled Black Academic Voices: The South African Experience. Dr Nathane has extensive experience in mentoring and youth development.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			masculinity that perpetuate GBVF. In conclusion, we recommend that efforts be made to implement intervention initiatives that go beyond creating awareness on GBVF, but partner with local NGO-led organizations to engage in programming and intervention that is aimed at changing social norms.	
4	<p>Child Sexual Abuse: Indicative of social inequality and a failure to translate policy into practice.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 083)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Child sexual abuse in South Africa is astronomical, although the SAPS 2019/2020 statistics shows a decrease in the number of reported cases, an approximately 60 children succumb to abuse daily. Despite the array of policy and legislative frameworks aimed at protecting children and promoting an equal society in which children's rights are recognised as human rights, child sexual abuse remains amongst the highest in the world. This paper thus reports on the views of service providers regarding the policy and legislative frameworks guiding service provision to sexually abused children. The findings highlight the disjuncture between macro and micro level practice from an ecological perspective as policy and legislation are far removed for the realities of practice and insufficient resources impede service delivery. Recommendations include addressing the disjunction between macro level practice and direct service provision at micro and meso levels and calling for improved collaborations between service providers.</p>	<p>Dr. Tasneemah Cornelissen-Nordien.</p> <p>Tasneemah attained a BA degree in Social Work at Stellenbosch University and followed it up with an International Master's Degree in Social Work as an exchange student at Gothenberg University, Sweden. Thereafter she worked in the field of sexual abuse before joining academia and attaining a Phd in Social Work at Stellenbosch University, in 2019, which focused on empowerment services to sexually abused children. Currently the focus is developing an academic career alongside women empowerment and community engagement.</p>
5	<p>Adolescent Gender Attitudes and</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Harmful norms and unequal gender attitudes have been identified as risk factors to poor choices adolescents make with regards to their</p>	<p>Dr. Ntandoyenkosi Maphosa</p> <p>Dr Ntandoyenkosi Maphosa is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Work and Community</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>Norms: The Role of a Comprehensive Sexuality Education Programme.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 086)</p>		<p>interpersonal relationships and violence. These perpetuate gender inequalities and predispose adolescents to gender based and domestic violence. Interventions addressing gender inequalities, particularly gender attitudes and harmful norms are crucial to improve the overall outcomes of psychosocial and gender relations for adolescents. Underpinned by the social learning theory, this paper suggests that adolescents can learn gender attitudes and norms through socialization and these can be relearned. The paper draws from data collected qualitatively in an ethnographic manner using structured observations, transcribed session recordings, and field notes during the delivery of a Comprehensive Sexuality Education Programme (CSE) with 40 grade 8 learners in high school. Positive changes were observed on issues like gender relations which suggested the adoption of more equitable gender attitudes.</p>	<p>Development at the University of Johannesburg. She holds a PhD in Social Work, an MA in Community Development from the University of Johannesburg. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from the University of Fort Hare. She currently teaches both undergraduate and post graduate students. Her research interests include gender-based violence, women empowerment issues, community development and social work teaching and learning.</p>
6	<p>Making a Case for a Mandatory Recourse Program for the Victims and Survivors of Rape in South Africa: A Social Work Perspective.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 087)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Rape remains one of the heinous crimes committed in South Africa, and in majority of cases, women and children are the victims and survivors. The purpose of this paper is to advance an argument from a social work perspective for the consideration, introduction and implementation of a mandatory recourse program for the victims and survivors of rape in South Africa. This purpose is informed by the fact that courts only incarcerate the offenders of rape while there is no mandatory recourse offered to the victims and survivors of rape, except in the cases of whereby they institute litigations against the perpetrators, which is time consuming as well as has</p>	<p>Dr. Daniel Masilo</p> <p>I am a Senior Lecturer in Social Work at Walter Sisulu University. My research interests include but not limited to gender based violence, families and parenting, child sexual abuse and Law and Social Work. I have published several papers on child sexual abuse in specific settings such as the family and school.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			financial implications. This desktop paper is divided into five sections. The first section is on problem statement, while the second section focuses on the theoretical framework. The third section discusses reasons for the consideration, introduction and implementation of a mandatory recourse program for the victims and survivors of rape in South Africa. The fourth section answers the question on who should benefit from the proposed mandatory recourse program and the last section focuses on the role of social work in the mandatory recourse program for victims and survivors of rape.	
7	<p>Engaging men and boys to prevent intimate partner violence: A holistic approach to change gender attitudes and behaviour.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 133)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>There is a global movement to engage men in initiatives to reduce gender-based violence and increase awareness of the negative societal impacts of violence against women and girls. This paper explores the efforts to engage men in preventing intimate partner violence in South Africa. A qualitative study was conducted by fifteen participants who run programmes involving men and boys in Gauteng Province. The findings reflect broader debates within the gender and development literature around “bringing men and boys in” and may thus be relevant in justifying the greater need of involving men and boys in efforts to reduce intimate partner violence. Further, the findings reflect that interventions engaging men and boys have the potential to change gender attitudes and behaviours. This paper concludes that efforts to engage men and boys are essential. Holistic approaches should be taken to end all forms of intimate partner violence through men’s inclusive</p>	<p>Prof. Priscilla Gutura.</p> <p>Prof Priscilla Gutura is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at University of Pretoria. She holds a PhD in Social Work from the University of Fort Hare. She has published over thirty articles in local and international journals and has contributed two chapters to a book. She has also supervised several PhD and master’s students. Prof Gutura received a Y2 rating from the National Research Foundation in 2020.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			programmes that build the capacity of men and boys.	
8	<p>Unveiling the Shadows: A Systematic Literature Review on Understanding Femicide in South Africa and its Socio-Cultural Determinants.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 088)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Femicide, the intentional killing of women based on their gender, is a pervasive and disturbing issue globally, with South Africa experiencing alarmingly high rates. This SLR examines the socio-cultural determinants of femicide in South Africa. Through a comprehensive analysis of scholarly articles, reports, and studies, the review aims to enhance our understanding of the multifaceted nature of femicide in the country. Taking a socio-cultural lens, the review investigates factors contributing to femicide, such as gender norms, patriarchy, cultural beliefs, and practices. The review explores the intersections of gender, violence, and culture, analysing the consequences of femicide on victims, families, communities, and society. Identifying gaps in knowledge, the review emphasizes the need for further research and policy development. It concludes by providing recommendations for interventions, policies, and strategies to prevent and address femicide in South Africa. This review serves as a crucial tool to, promote dialogue, and guide evidence-based interventions against femicide.</p>	<p>Mr. Wiseman Ntlhari Mathebula</p> <p>Mr. Wiseman Ntlhari Mathebula's journey as an academic, lecturer, and Ph.D. student in Social Work reflects his unwavering dedication to the field. Through his research, teaching, and community engagement, he aspires to make a lasting impact on society, empowering individuals, and advocating for social equality. With his passion, expertise, and academic achievements, he is poised to become a leading figure in the field of social work, inspiring generations to come.</p>
9	<p>Care for the Caregivers: Psychosocial Risk Factors Among gender-based violence Victim Support</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>This study explores the challenges (gender-based violence) GBV victim support social workers face in South Africa, focusing on psycho-social risk factors that can impact on their well-being and professional effectiveness. The study identifies specific risks these professionals face, such as increased workload, long working hours, emotional exhaustion, exposure to traumatic experiences, and</p>	<p>Dr. Matshemo Joyce Moganedi</p> <p>Dr Matshemo Joyce Moganedi is a professional social worker, graduated in 2001 from UNISA. She proceeded to her Masters in HIV and AIDS, in the same Institution. She further did her PhD with the University of Limpopo in 2021. Her experiences are Occupational Social work, Policy Development, implementation, and evaluation.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	Social Workers in South Africa. (Unique number: 103)		blurring of personal and professional boundaries. Purposive sampling and document analysis reveals that there are psycho-social risks factors faced by these professionals, emphasising the need for comprehensive support services that prioritize the well-being and resilience of social workers. Measures such as work-life balance, organizational support, and adequate resources and training are crucial. Implementing these measures can create a supportive and sustainable work environment for GBV victim support social workers in South Africa.	Her areas of interest are gender-based violence, victim empowerment, Skills development programme, teenage pregnancy, sheltering services, and male victims. Her passion has been Academia and she has joined the University of Zululand in 2022, KwaZulu-Natal Province as a Lecturer in Social Work Department. Dr. Nkuke Evans Mohlatlole Lecturer at NWU since February 2019. Responsible for Teaching and Learning, on both under- and post graduate levels; Supervision of post graduate students; internal and external examination of post graduate research dissertations and/or theses; Research and Community Engagement

THEME 3:

Strategies toward the normative development of society

SUB-THEME: 3.2 (2)

Promoting positive role models in gender relational contexts

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	Promoting positive role models in gender relational contexts.	Session 4 Breakaway Room 4	Gender based violence (GBV) is a global challenge, affecting everyone including men and does not consider human right as per the South African Constitution. Even though the statistics indicate that majority of the victims	Dr. Matshemo Moganedi Dr Matshemo Joyce Moganedi is a professional social worker, graduated in 2001 from UNISA, Masters in HIV and AIDS(UNISA), PhD- University of Limpopo in 2021. Her experiences are Occupational Social work, Policy

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	(Unique number: 155)		are women and children, men are not immune to this challenge. This study followed qualitative approach and desk top review was used for data collection. Empowerment theory served as a lens. Thematic analysis was used to analyse the data. The findings are that there are good men (positive role models) who respect women and children as human beings. These men continue to raise awareness in communities and are leading by example of being good fathers, husbands, brothers, and community leaders. Even though GBV continue to hit the world hard, positive male role models are making a difference in their small spaces. Good practice can be learnt from those men and be adopted.	Development, implementation, and evaluation. Her areas of interest are gender-based violence, victim empowerment, Skills development programme, teenage pregnancy, sheltering services, and male victims. Her passion has been Academia and she has joined the University of Zululand in 2022, KwaZulu-Natal Province as a Lecturer in Social Work Department. Mr. Buti Kulwane Social Work Policy Manager - Transnational Organised Crime (Human Trafficking) - Department of Social Development.
2	Denial of contact to unmarried fathers: the need for further training and support to social workers. (Unique Number: 089)	Session 2 Breakaway Room 5	There has been a growing concern regarding children growing up without their fathers despite them being alive. Societal Norms and expectations often alienate men from parenting. Qualitative research was applied and in-depth interviews were conducted with unmarried father and mothers or maternal relatives. The data show that fathers re not always absent by choice but other social(gender roles),Cultural(payment of Inhlawulo) and economic(unemployment) factors contribute to single parenting . it is imperative for social workers and other related professionals to understand the law, especially Section 21 of the Children's Act(2005) and policies on guardianship and parenting plans.	Ms. Pinky Luthuli Pinky Luthuli is employed by Department of Social Development in KwaMashu office. Holding masters degree in Social Sciece and bachelor of Social work and both qualifications obtained at Uniersity of KwaZulu Natal. I have been on the field for 12 years and been exposed to work during adverse challenges(Covid 19,unrest and floods). Pinky is currently a social work supervisor and an expertise in fatherhood ,parenting and social behavior change programs.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			Men can be involved in co-parenting before birth, for instance at ante-natal classes, and society needs to change its attitude towards socially constructed gender differences by acknowledging men's role as nurtures, not only as providers.	

THEME 3:

Strategies toward the normative development of society

SUB-THEME: 3.3 (6)

Guiding families through life stage transitions and adversity

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>South African-born international adoptees searching for their origin.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 127)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Intercountry adoptions take place when a child's permanency placement cannot be addressed in his country of birth. An average of 200 children have been placed with adoptive parents yearly since intercountry adoptions from South Africa began in 2000, mostly in Europe. There has been an increase in requests for origin searches from South African-born adoptees and their birth parents. Given the diversity of African cultures</p>	<p>Dr. Hanelie Malan Dr Hanelie Malan obtained her PhD in Social Work in 2010 at the North-West University. She has extensive practice experience in social work in child protection and medical social work field. She has been appointed as senior lecturer and programme coordinator of the Masters of Social Work: Child Protection programme in the subject group Social Work at the North-West University in 2014. In 2018 she was appointed as deputy subject chair for the subject group: Social Work and as subject group leader in 2021. She supervised a</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			<p>and the history of adoption, there appears to be a need for more evidence-based research to help professionals who provide origin search services to these adoptees and their biological families.</p> <p>This presentation is based on a study that develop the content of a post-adoption social work program to assist adoptees in their origin search. The qualitative approach was used to first explore adoption social workers experiences and processes regarding origin search. Secondly, the life experiences, cultural views, and expectations of South African-born adult adoptees, adoptive parents, and the biological parents in the origin search were explored.</p>	<p>number of postgraduate students, presented and co-present at 21 national and international conferences and published articles in peer reviewed journals.</p> <p>Ms. Rene Ferreira Rene Ferreira has extensive practice experience in child protection and social work management and worked in the Child Protection field since 1992. She started specializing in adoption work and have been employed by Abba Adoptions and Social Services since 2004. As an adoption social worker with speciality registration, she has experience in birthparent care, adoptability assessment, national and inter-country adoption as well as origin inquiries. Since 2016, she has held the position of Operations Director at Abba Adoptions, where she is also co-responsible for training and capacity building. In addition to her duties at Abba, she also serves as Director of Courage, is actively involved in the National and Provincial Adoption Coalitions, and gives guest lectures at the North-West University.</p>
2	<p>A Dohari Narrative of Nepalese Grandmothers Providing Informal Family Support for Adult Children in Hamilton, Ontario.</p> <p>(Unique Number 116)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>The population of people aged 55 and older is growing significantly in Canada. The aging population of Canada is also becoming more ethnically diverse, with South Asians making up the largest visible minority group in both the 2006 and 2016 census. Also, South Asian females represent the largest visible minority and comprise 5.4% of the Canadian female population and many of them are grandmothers who provide informal support for older adult children. However, the experiences of</p>	<p>Ms. Kusum Bhatta Kusum Bhatta is a Ph.D. student at McMaster University School of Social Work. I hold a Master's degree in Gender Studies and Feminist Research from McMaster, and I obtained my Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) from St. Xavier's College in Nepal. Currently, I proudly represent the Department of Social Sciences in the senate as a student representative. Vice President in the Graduate Student Association and co-chairing the Women's Committee at McMaster University. My research and advocacy efforts highlight the critical importance of recognizing the essential contributions</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			these grandmothers are missing in extant literature. Hence this paper will be adopting an innovative arts-based method-dohari narrative to explore and present the experiences of Nepalese grandmothers providing informal family support to adult children in the City of Hamilton, Ontario. The research found that the grandmothers feel obliged to take care of the entire family because of how busy their children are, and this might be a source of stress for them. This calls for a rethink for older care providers and provision of culturally sensitive interventions by social workers.	of immigrant aging women of colour, who often provide care work that is undervalued and unrecognized.
3	<p>Testing Psychopathy as a Unified Theory of Crime and the Psychometric properties of the Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory- Short Version among South African Youth.</p> <p>(Unique Number 117)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>While there is empirical evidence to support psychopathy as a unified theory of crime in literature, no known study has examined the applicability of the theory or the psychometric properties of associated scales among South African youth. The aim is to explore the psychometric properties of the Youth Psychopathic Traits Inventory- short version (YPI-S) and the applicability of Psychopathy as a Unified Theory of Crime among 213 young adults in South Africa. Reliability measurements, principal factor analysis, Spearman's Rho correlations, chi square and multiple regression were used to</p>	<p>Dr. Emma Campbell Emma Campbell is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Development at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include criminal justice and forensic social work. Her PhD research topic was developmental and life-course pathways for antisocial behaviour among young adults in the Western Cape, South Africa. In her research she explored numerous theories for deviant behaviour among South African youth, including psychopathic traits, childhood adversity, peer influence and social control. Hence a strong interest in the developmental, multi-systemic approach to understanding human behaviour.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			explore the theory and associated scale. Results from factor analysis and reliability measures indicated the YPI-S had good psychometric properties when applied to the South African sample, however applicability of the behavioural dimension was a challenge. The results related to the association between deviant behaviours and psychopathic traits suggested that Psychopathy as a Unified Theory of Crime could be applied in the South African context. It is however important to note that future research should explore the challenges in applicability of scales and how the relevant scales could be culturally and contextually adapted for better psychometric outcomes.	
4	<p>The Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Altruistic Behavior in a South African Sample of Emerging Adults.</p> <p>(Unique Number 118)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>The role of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in early development has consistently been proved to lead to specific deviant behavior, criminal justice involvement and crime. Conversely, very little research attention has been focused on the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences and altruistic behavior. The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences on deviant and altruistic behavior found in emerging adulthood. The sample population consisted of 413</p>	<p>Prof. Leon Holtzhausen</p> <p>Leon Holtzhausen is the Head of the Department of Social Work and Social Development at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He holds a PhD with a specialisation in Criminal Justice Social Work. His research focus is broadly situated in the field of social justice, crime, and violence. Some of his research work includes the assessment and intervention with juvenile sex offenders, trauma, and Adverse Childhood Experiences.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			<p>young adults between the ages of 18 and 20 from the Western Cape, South Africa. Data was collected making use of the following self-report questionnaires: The Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire, the Deviant Behavior Scale, and the Altruistic Scale. Pearson correlations found that experiencing childhood physical neglect and exposure to domestic violence were the two strongest correlations with deviant behaviors. Furthermore, Chi square tests for association revealed significant associations between childhood adversity and altruistic attitudes. Early detection and intervention of Adverse Childhood Experiences could potentially reduce criminal justice involvement and increase altruistic attitudes during emerging adulthood.</p>	
5	<p>Tools to guide parents through the adversity of social media: a literature review 2021-2023</p> <p>(Unique Number: 112)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 4 online</p>	<p>Generation Z, born in a world driven by technology, has been identified as the most anxious cohort to date; where spending 9 hours daily online is a normal way to function and communicate. GenZ is at a heightened time of identity formation, navigating their emotional reactions and learning to regulate themselves. With the undercurrent of online platforms requiring constant interaction, emotions are aroused by a response or lack thereof on their posts;</p>	<p>Ms. Robyn Coleman Robyn Coleman, PhD candidate at the University of Fort Hare, the focus of her study is a grounded theory study on social media and anxiety. She is a time-on-task lecturer at the University of Fort Hare, plus private, public and NGO experience. Her focus is on mental health and adversity experienced on social media platforms. She has written a book chapter on research with her supervisor and has presented a series of talks on social media and mental health through a local radio station, NGO's and schools to empower the community at large.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			the response arousal can influence the user's well-being by taking the shape of mixed emotions including anxiety and rumination. A literature review of tools and guidance to empower and capacitate parents within their parental journey. Tools such as co-monitoring and joint parental use of online platforms have had a greater effect towards reduced online usage than applying restrictive measures with their adolescents.	Prof. Ulene Schiller Prof Schiller supervises masters and PhD post graduates candidates at the University of Fort Hare. She is an associate Professor for Social work and Deputy Dean for Teaching Learning and Community Engagement. Her research focus is on child protection and internationalisation.
6	RDP housing program and family preservation: the experiences of youth in rural area of Ilembe district. (Unique Number 119)	Session 3 Breakaway Room 5	The RDP initiative, designed to address housing disparities and uplift vulnerable communities, holds significant implications for family preservation and social cohesion. This abstract under the theme of strategies towards the normative development of society, explores the experiences of young adults from rural areas of Ilembe with the provision of Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) housing program. The abstract will examine how the provision of RDP houses has impacted family dynamics, economic prospects, and social integration in rural communities. The abstract will shed light on the challenges and opportunities young adults encounter within the context of improved living conditions and how	Ms. Hloniphile Khuzwayo Hloniphile Khuzwayo is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Applied Human Science (Social Work Department) at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, working on my thesis, titled: "An investigation into the relationship between depression and suicidal ideation among adult female offenders. The intervening role of hopelessness and social support in a correctional facility at KwaZulu Natal, South Africa". I am committed and interested to understand the correlate between depression and suicidal ideation among adult incarcerated women.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			these factors influence their sense of belonging, empowerment, and well-being. Moreover, the abstract will emphasize the importance of sustainable social development and family-centered interventions. This abstract will contribute valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to enhance community resilience and foster positive outcomes for vulnerable populations in rural areas.	

THEME 3:

Strategies toward the normative development of society

SUB-THEME 3.4 (4)

Multisector responses to young people and teenage pregnancy

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	The effectiveness of Community-Based Participatory Partnerships in combating children's vulnerability in Maseru, Lesotho. (Unique Number 120)	Session 3 Breakaway Room 5	The complex nature of child vulnerability cases in Lesotho has contributed to the need for Community-Based Partnerships in addressing the scourge. Using a qualitative research approach and an explorative design, the paper explored the effectiveness of these partnerships in combating child vulnerabilities that manifest themselves through teenage pregnancy and early marriages. The population of the study was constituted of members from the Child and Gender Protection Unit, child welfare organisations, Social Development officers and the traditional local authorities. The findings of the study show the relevance of traditional child protection mechanisms, the strength of collaboration and optimal resource utilization. However, the study findings also show the effects of migration on the family system, cultural barriers, competition and lack of commitment.	Dr. Mulwayini Mundau I am currently working as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at the National University of Lesotho. In terms of my academic qualifications, I am a holder of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social work, Master of Social work and a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. My research interests are in child welfare, community development, social protection and social work. In this regard, I have published a number of research articles in these areas. In this study, I was the principal and sole researcher.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
2	<p>Early childbearing in the context of the Child Support Grant in a rural area in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number 121)</p>	<p>Session 4 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>Despite the government's many health initiatives, teenage pregnancy is nevertheless common in South Africa. The Child Support Grant (CSG) is often blamed for escalating teenage pregnancies. Few qualitative studies have examined the link between teenage pregnancy and CSG. Fifteen young women aged 18-24 years who had their first child as adolescents were interviewed in Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal. The findings indicate that young women did not deliberately fall pregnant to receive CSG benefits. A lack of sexual and reproductive health education and access to contraception, gender relations, and risky behaviours such as transactional sex contribute to teenage pregnancy. To remedy this, a multi-sectoral approach from different departments such as Health, Education and Social Development together with families and communities should work together to reduce teenage pregnancy.</p>	<p>Ms. Nokuthula Ngubane Ms. Ngubane is a doctoral candidate in policy and development studies at the University of KwaZulu Natal; she also possesses a master's degree in development studies and a bachelor's degree in social work from the same institution. Ms. Ngubane has extensive work experience from a multitude of institutions, NGOs, higher education institutions, and the government sector. Ms. Ngubane has an extensive foundation in research and community service, having held positions as a researcher, social worker, and community worker. She currently serves as a social worker for the Department of Social Development.</p>
3	<p>The Integrated round table intervention method in teenage pregnancy awareness within</p>	<p>Session 4 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>Teenage pregnancy is a major public health and social concern in South Africa, particularly in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Province. This conceptual paper aims to study the effectiveness of the integrated round table intervention method in raising awareness about teenage pregnancy and promoting safe</p>	<p>Ms. Nompumelelo Khumalo Nompumelelo Senamile Khumalo is an acting Social Work Supervisor at the Department of Social Development KZN under the Endumeni Service Office. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work obtained from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. She has 10 years of experience in the field of social work, having worked as a probation officer and an adoption social worker.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>uMzinyathi district in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Province.</p> <p>(Unique Number 122)</p>		<p>sexual practices among adolescents. A statistical analysis method was used, quarterly reports from the Department of Social Development on the round table intervention for three local municipalities under the uMzinyathi District Municipality were utilized. The analysis showed that there has been a slight decrease in teenage pregnancy statistics mainly due to implementation of the round table approach, this approach includes children, parents and stakeholders where dialogues are held with both children and parents, the issues raised are then attended to by relevant departments. It is recommended that Local Municipalities strengthen the implementation of the round table intervention.</p>	<p>Mr. Mthandeni Mtshali Mthandeni Mtshali is a Social Worker from the Department of Social Development (Nquthu Service Office). He holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Zululand. He is currently registered for a Masters of Philosophy in Child Care and Protection at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal.</p> <p>Miss Nozipho Mbele Nozipho Mbele is a Social Worker employed by the Department of Social Development rendering services as a Gender Based Violence Social Worker. She obtained her bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Johannesburg in the year 2017. She completed her one year internship program at the Department of Health.</p>
4	<p>The Community of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to Improve Child Wellbeing Outcomes</p> <p>(Unique Number: 056)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>The Community of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to Improve Child Wellbeing Outcomes (CoP) study is a community of practice approach that is centred in schools and on early grade (R-3) learners and their families, who are beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant. Meeting children's needs holistically requires an inter-sectoral and transdisciplinary response. This presentation highlights the social work intervention component of the</p>	<p>Tania Sani is a community development social worker who has a master's degree in social work. She is Project Coordinator at the CSDA for the Community of Practices for Social Systems Strengthening research study. She was part of developing, piloting and implementing the community coaching role for the SmartStart Early Learning programme and is passionate about leveraging community stakeholder resources in social services delivery.</p> <p>Sandra Madella is a Social Work Policy Manager in the Gauteng Department of Social Development, provincial coordinator of the School Social Work Programme and oversees the Learner Pregnancy and Integrated School</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			CoP. Combined with the use of a locally developed digital Child Wellbeing Tracking Tool (CWTT) and a partnership with the Gauteng Department of Social Development's School Social Work unit, it demonstrates how innovative multi-sectoral interventions that intersect with individuals, families, public and community services can be delivered by social workers. In so doing, it makes a valuable contribution to pro-poor developmental social work within a school setting.	Health Programmes in GDSD. Instrumental in organizing the official launch of the Gauteng School Social Work Programme in 2021.

THEME 4: (48)

Quality management and enhancement of social services

SUB-THEME: 4.2 (20)

Building professional capacity in social service professions through supervision, support, and development

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1	Navigating trauma-informed social work practice in a	Session 4 Breakaway Room 3	Social workers are confronted with persons' experiencing extreme levels of trauma in South African communities.	Dr. Elizabeth C Erlank Dr E C Erlank has been a senior lecturer at the University of South Africa since April 2017. She is the primary

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	<p>resource-limited context: Insights from social workers in the Waterberg District, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 145)</p>		<p>However, limited research on social workers rendering trauma-informed services in South Africa has been documented. This study aimed to explore the experiences, challenges and coping strategies of social workers rendering trauma-informed social work services in the Department of Social Development (DSD), Waterberg District, Limpopo Province. A qualitative research approach and a phenomenological research design were utilised. The ecological systems theory and trauma-informed perspective were the underlining theoretical frameworks. Semi-structured interviews were used for data collection from a sample of purposively selected social workers. The study complied with ethical principles. The evidence suggested a need for a trauma-informed organisational structure and workforce in the DSD.</p>	<p>lecturer for two fourth-level social work modules. She is the leader and coordinator of a registered engaged scholarship project for staff and children of Child and Youth Care Centres, Tshwane. Her special interests are in the field of substance use disorders and trauma. She is also a certified trainer and facilitator of the International. Traumatic Incident Reduction Association, California, from 2013 and has trained many professionals in Traumatic Incident Reduction techniques to assist trauma victims.</p> <p>Ms. Rhulani Sherlock Bopape</p> <p>Ms R S Bopape is an experienced social worker and is presently employed at the Department of Correctional Services. She has an advanced knowledge of child protection, family services and assisting victims of trauma. She completed her master's degree at Unisa in 2022 under the supervision of the first presenter. This study explored social workers' experiences, challenges and coping strategies rendering trauma-informed social work services in the Department of Social Development (DSD), Waterberg District, Limpopo Province.</p>
2	<p>Exploration of professional supervision of probation officers from the perspectives of their supervisors in SA.</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>This paper presents the findings of a study which explored the supervision of probation officers (POs) in SA. The research design was mixed methodology & involved POs and their supervisors. This paper presents the findings from the perspectives of the supervisors which were gathered through in-depth qualitative interviews. The study found that most supervisors</p>	<p>Prof. Thulane Gxubane</p> <p>In direct social work practice, he has worked mainly with youth offenders, their victims and their families promoting a restorative justice practice framework in SA. Currently an associate professor, lecturer and the coordinator of the Criminal Justice Social Work Masters programme in the Department of Social Work & Social Development at UCT. He has published chapters in various edited local and international books, several peer-reviewed articles in local, regional and</p>

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	(Unique Number: 030)		did not hold any postgraduate qualification in probation practice and/or in supervision. Their key performance areas included performing management & human resources tasks, overseeing the implementation of a variety of programmes, mentoring & supervision to DSD-funded organisations. Key challenges regarding supervision of POs included some provisions of national supervision policy such as appointment of supervisors, finding time for supervision, irregular supervision, postponement of cases at courts, lack of expertise knowledge & experience in probation practice, reliance on NGOs for intervention programmes, and lack of resources.	international journals focusing on probation practice, youth justice, and restorative justice.
3	The State of Social Work Supervision in South Africa. (Unique Number: 136)	Session 4 Breakaway Room 2	Social work supervision is a support, mentoring and professional development platform for social workers. It also must develop their knowledge, skills, abilities and disposition to deliver effective services. The main problem in the practice of social work supervision is that it focuses primarily on social workers delivering on their caseloads with little attention paid to their professional and emotional needs. More challenges include: Lack of theoretical framework in its practice; lack of resources; lack of training and	Dr. Joyce Ramabulana-Ndzuta Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work- “Exploring the state of Social Work Supervision in South Africa” Current Position: Social Work Policy Manager at National Department of Social Development. Responsible for Development of Legislation; Policies and Programmes the protection of Children, Capacity building on policies and programmes, Advocating for children’s rights

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			lack of policies. The aim of this study was to explore the state of social work supervision in the South African welfare sector.	
4	<p>Development of an innovative strategy to address child sexual abuse investigations in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 143)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>This research article examines the investigation of child sexual abuse cases in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. It highlights the challenges faced by different role players and discusses recommendations based on international literature. The findings suggest that a conceptual framework combining theories can enhance investigation efficiency. However, monitoring and evaluation of the proposed model are necessary for improvement. Despite progress in policy formulation, implementation remains a significant issue. The study emphasises the need for more effective responses to address the escalating problem of child abuse in South Africa.</p>	<p>Mr. Sivuyile Nqaphi</p> <p>Prof. Ulene Schiller Prof Schiller supervises masters and PhD post graduates candidates at the University of Fort Hare. She is an associate Professor for Social work and Deputy Dean for Teaching Learning and Community Engagement. Her research focus is on child protection and internationalisation.</p>
5	<p>Effective Supervision is still a major concern: Challenges observed during the training of supervisors.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 139)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>The paper shares some experiences gathered during the supervision training of some supervisors for the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. The University of Venda, Department of Social Work conducts workshops for supervisors who assist in supervising the 4th-year-level students. The observation made shows challenges that question the validity of supervision as key in</p>	<p>Dr. Mmaphuti Mamaleka Dr. Mmaphuti Mamaleka is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work, at the University of Venda since 2014. Previously, she worked as a supervisor with the Department of Social Development. Her teaching focus is social work supervision, management, as well as fieldwork practice. Her specialization field is supervision and management. Her areas of interest include parenting, gender-based violence, and Afrocentricity, particularly indigenous knowledge systems. She is</p>

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			social workers' training. Challenges such as academic base particularly on the application of theories, supervision processes, and functions as key factors are wanting. Failure to address these challenges affects social work as a practice-based profession and an academic discipline as defined by ASSW & IFSW (2014). Measures to be deployed in mitigating the challenges observed will be shared. The recommendations will make a significant contribution to enhance the training and practice of social work as a profession.	supervising under and postgraduate student research. She attends and presents at national and international conferences. She reviewed journal articles and book chapters. She published two book chapters and three articles.
6	Capacitating Students in Field Training. (Unique Number: 168)	Session 5 Breakaway Room 1	This paper highlights the challenges faced by social work students during their fourth-year field placements. The research was conducted among social work students at two historically disadvantaged universities in South Africa in order to understand the field experiences of final-year Bachelor of Social Work students from historically disadvantaged universities. A qualitative study was undertaken among current and past social work students. The findings highlighted issues pertaining to limited placements, poorly managed student placements, access to communities, and supervision	Dr. Varoshini Nadesan Dr Nadesan is a senior lecturer at the University of Johannesburg. Her career history includes 20 years of postgraduate social work practice in the field of statutory services to children, probation services, women, services to the elderly, substance dependency and custody matters. She joined the SACSSP as National Manager of Professional Conduct and then at Uj since 2012. She teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, supervises postgraduate students at masters and doctoral levels, and serves on various university committees and boards. She also serves externally on various Boards and Task Teams. In 2022 she was appointed to the Professional Board for Social Work and chairs the Educationa Training and Development Tasks Teams. She also serves on the Task Force of the

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			challenges. However, the key findings indicate that once placed, the students felt abandoned by their training institutions and left to rely solely on their field supervisors for academic, administrative and developmental guidance. The study recommends that universities be more adept at fulfilling the needs of students and providing comprehensive support. The study also recommends that a suitably administered system of communication between the university, student and placement agency be implemented as part of the comprehensive support to students.	IASSW Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training.
7	<p>Conceptualisation of supervision in social development as a social service organisation</p> <p>Conceptualisation of supervision in social development as a social service organisation.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 135)</p>	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Breakaway</p> <p>Room 2</p>	<p>Social work supervision is core in enhancing the delivery of quality services to clients while enhancing the professional development of social workers. The historical development of social service supervision reflects that professional and organisational demands do not co-exist without challenges. The tension that often manifests between professional and managerial supervision, is explained using the analogy of “polity dualism”, a concept widely used in political science to describe the co-existence of democratic and traditional rulership. The study adopted a qualitative</p>	<p>Mr. Sandile Ntethelelo Gumbi</p> <p>Currently a third year PhD Social Work student at UKZN, with research interests in social work supervision and Afrocentric social work. I am under the academic supervision of Professor N.M Mazibuko and Dr M.S Sithole. I am currently a PhD Trainee at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) under the Mentorship of Professor D. Bhana. A presenter at the 2017 ASASWEI Conference held in Gauteng.</p>

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			exploratory-descriptive design underpinned by an interpretive paradigm. Seventeen social workers and supervisors were purposively sampled from one district. The findings were presented using two main themes and two related subthemes, respectively. These included participants' understanding of supervision and relating supervision understanding with experience. The recommendations point to the need for supervisors to adhere to supervisory responsibilities with the allocated number of supervisees, decreasing administrative duties and provision of ongoing capacity-building programmes.	
8	<p>Navigating Through The Protection Of Personal Information Act No 4 Of 2013: Implications For Social Work Practitioners.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 126)</p>	Session 4 Plenary Venue	The commencement of the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013 (hereinafter referred to as POPIA) in South Africa imposed a regulated environment from unregulated common practices when processing personal information. Under the Act, certain conditions were introduced to establish requirements when processing personal information. Among responsible persons involved in processing personal information is social work practitioners who are instrumental in protecting and supporting vulnerable members of our populations such as children, persons	<p>Dr. Maditobane lekganyane</p> <p>Dr Lekganyane is a senior lecturer in UNISA's department of social work. He holds a Bachelor of Social work, a Masters in Social Behaviour studies of HIV, a Doctorate in Social work and a Bachelor of Laws qualifications. Dr Lekganyane also holds a certificate in terms of section 6(5)(g) of the Legal Practice Act for the purpose of admission as an Advocate of the High Court of the Republic of South Africa. He served at various organisations including the Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital and the City of Tshwane Metro Municipality. His research niches are HIV and Orphans and vulnerable children.</p>

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			with disabilities, the elderly persons, refugees, and others. Despite the implications of POPIA on their practice, there is scanty literature around the subject of POPIA and social work practitioners, hence this paper provokes thoughts around the best ways for social work practitioners to navigate through the conditions imposed by this enacted law text. The paper also outlines the implications of POPIA on social work practice and proposes an approach towards practicing in compliance with this legislation.	
9	<p>Perspectives of state prosecutors on the expected content of forensic social workers' court reports.</p> <p>(Unique number: 146)</p>	Session 4 Breakaway Room 3	Sexual violence against children is a gross violation of children's rights. Corroborative evidence in these cases is rare. Because of this reason, cases of child sexual abuse, is often referred to forensic social workers for further investigation, who on their turn, will compile a report with their findings and testify in court on the matter. During such testimony, state prosecutors would sometimes express their frustration about forensic social workers' reports. This study aimed to address this aspect and to make some recommendations to forensic social workers, based on the feedback, gained from 12 state prosecutors by means of semi structured interviews, regarding their	<p>Dr. Sufran Smith</p> <p>I have been a registered social worker since 2000 and have worked in the field of Forensic Social Work and Occupational Social Work within the South African Police Service since 2001. Since 2012 I have worked in at North West University where I am a senior lecturer at the School of Psychosocial Health at the Subject Group Social Work. I am also the programme coordinator for the MSW (Forensic Practice).</p> <p>My academic experience ranges from teaching undergraduate and post graduate courses and supervising Master's studies and PhD studies.</p>

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			expectations of court reports. Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from the NWU.	
10	<p>Compassion fatigue among social workers employed in government hospitals – how can we help?</p> <p>(Unique number: 147)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Social workers in government hospitals are tasked to render social work support services to patients and their families within a multidisciplinary team approach. This qualitative study explored and described government hospital social workers' experiences and reactions to compassion fatigue by applying exploratory, descriptive, and contextual research strategies with a sample of these social workers in Gauteng. Semi-structured interviews with questions contained in an interview guide. The data was analysed using the eight steps of Tesch (in Creswell, 2014), and data verification was applied. Ethical considerations were adhered to throughout the research process. This study's findings will boost the service delivery offered to patients because social workers who can recognise and deal with compassion fatigue will be able to provide a better quality service. Finally, the study will guide managers and supervisors to recognise compassion fatigue and the importance of supporting social workers in dealing with compassion fatigue and provide</p>	<p>Prof. Heiletje Marili Williams Prof Marili Williams holds a PhD in Social Work from the North West University, a Social Work Master's degree (Cum Laude) also from the North West University and a Bachelor of Social Work, Honours degree from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. I am a qualified social worker and registered to practice at the SA Council for Social Service Professions. I have 25 years of social work practice experience within the South African Police (since 1988), and it is now my 9th year as an academic at the University of South Africa (UNISA). I have vast experience in dealing with traumatic events, trauma debriefing, program development and evaluation/ROI, substance dependency, suicide prevention, life skills training, coaching of managers, marital counselling, colleague relationships within occupational social work, employee health and wellness and research.</p> <p>Mr. Clement Motshana Completed Master's degree at the University of South Africa</p>

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			content for policy reviews, education and development.	
11	<p>Student’s perspectives of supervisory relationship during fieldwork practice at the institutions of higher learning in Limpopo Province, South Africa</p> <p>(Unique Number: 166)</p>	Session 5 Breakaway Room 1	<p>Fieldwork placement is a critical component of the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) curriculum. During fieldwork placement, the students’ learning is facilitated by fieldwork supervisor and the development of healthy relationship between the students and the supervisor makes learning easy for students. This qualitative study explored the student-supervisor relationship from the two rural-based universities, in South Africa. The findings revealed that students had varied experiences of relationship with their supervisors, with the majority reporting to have had good and outstanding relationship with their supervisors, while few reported undesirable relationships with their supervisors. It is therefore recommended that consideration should be made by supervisors to improve how they academically relate with their students so as to improve their practical outcomes.</p>	<p>Dr. Jimmy Budeli Dr. Nngodiseni Jimmy Budeli is a senior Lecturer and Interim Head of Department of Social Work, in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education at the University of Venda. He holds a PhD in Social Work and Master of Social Work from the University of Limpopo; Post-Graduate Diploma in Higher Education from Rhodes University; Honours Bachelor of Arts Social and Behavioural Studies In HIV/AIDS from UNISA; Advanced Course In Labour Law from the University of Free State) and Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Venda. He serves as Chairperson of the Board for Thandululo Counselling Organization(TCO), an Interim Chairperson of Limpopo Province Employee Assistance Professionals (EAPA-SA) Vhembe sub-chapter and a member of Limpopo Province Premier’s office GBV and Femicide committee.</p> <p>Prof. Lobelo Mogorosi Associate Professor Mogorosi is a former HoD of Social Work Department at the University of Venda. He Hold Doctor of Social Welfare degree from Columbia University in the US. He teaches research at undergraduate level and coordinate research project at fourth year level of social work. His research interest in on substance abuse and employee health and wellness.</p> <p>Dr Patricia Manganyi Dr. Manganyi is a Fieldwork coordinator: Lecturer at the University of Venda. Her research interests include workplace trauma and stress.</p>

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12	<p>Patient-centered care in HIV/DRTB care: healthcare worker challenges in a KZN hospital.</p> <p>(Unique number: 149)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>The complexities of treating and caring for people with drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV (DRTB/HIV) demand multiple allied supports. However, few studies have examined how diverse categories of healthcare workers, with different training, orientation, value base, and roles, work towards patient care. This study used three focus groups to investigate the experiences and perceptions of social workers, pharmacists, and nurses at a centralised TB hospital in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Across the 16 healthcare workers, a lack of specialized training and resources to deliver optimal patient-centered care for illnesses as complex as DRTB-HIV, concern for personal, and routine exposure to two life-threatening diseases were concerns. Each cadre of healthcare workers felt underappreciated by others and stigmatized by other workers in the wider healthcare system through association with DRTB patients. Role overlap, lack of staff development and job-specific training, and an overriding sense of feeling unappreciated hinders patient-centered care.</p>	<p>Dr. Boitumelo Seepamore Boitumelo Seepamore is a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is an experienced public health social worker and qualitative researcher working in the field of Drug-resistant TB and HIV. Her work in South Africa examines public health social work interventions, palliative care, psychosocial support, caregiving practices, and adherence in vulnerable and stigmatized populations particularly in TB care. Boitumelo currently participates in a randomized control adherence intervention trial for people with DR-TB HIV in KwaZulu-Natal, and works closely with other organizations and groups in public health.</p> <p>Prof. Amrita Daftary Dr. Daftary is a social and behavioural global health researcher. She has expertise in qualitative research methods, implementation science and evaluation, and health services research. Dr. Daftary examines health care seeking and caregiving practices for tuberculosis (TB) and HIV. She is well cited for her work on stigma associated with TB, including drug-resistant TB and TB-HIV coinfection. Her projects are based in a number of global settings, particularly South Africa, India, and Canada. Dr. Daftary is Director and Founder of SSHIFTB, a global virtual centre on Social Science & Health Innovations For Tuberculosis, at York University's Dahdaleh Institute of Global Health Research.</p>
13	<p>Social Workers reflecting on the intersecting</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>While globalization and neoliberalism plays a pivotal role in bringing development internationally, grave</p>	<p>Dr. Velo Govender PHD in Social work at UKZN Served in the NGO sector as a, Social worker for 15 years</p>

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	<p>realities within the Transformative Agenda.</p> <p>(Unique number: 148)</p>		<p>concerns remain locally in South Africa that many Social workers in the Child Welfare organisations contextually interact within deprived under resourced systems which has implications for managing such communities. This paper presents the policies practices and and structures that include deliberations on the implementations of political socio economic and global issues that directly impact the day to day functioning of social workers in executing their duties. The study adopts a qualitative approach. The findings revealed that despite social workers commitment to a transformative agenda to improve the lived realities of the poor and vulnerable, various contextual and national challenges come to exist and persist within the neoliberal work environment</p>	<p>Academic for 8 years at UKZN and UNISA Currently in Private practice as an Individual and Family Therapist. Chair person for Ubuntu Community Chest</p>
14	<p>Paper withdrawn (Unique number: 150)</p>			
15	<p>Barriers to and facilitators of self-disclosure by male victims of child sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a prevalent and enduring social and health problem with global ramifications. Male victims have difficulty disclosing their abuse due to traditional gender norms and associated fears. Understanding the factors that inhibit and facilitate</p>	<p>Dr. Sufran Smith I have been a registered social worker since 2000 and have worked in the field of Forensic Social Work and Occupational Social Work within the South African Police Service since 2001. Since 2012 I have worked in at North West University where I am a senior lecturer at the School of Psychosocial Health at the Subject Group</p>

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	(Unique number: 140)		disclosure among male victims of CSA is crucial for enhancing access to gender-specific services. This study employed a rapid review methodology to synthesize the literature on barriers and facilitators of self-disclosure among male victims of CSA. A total of 15 studies met the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. The findings underscore the significance of increasing awareness regarding male victims of CSA and emphasize the need to re-evaluate societal norms and challenging prevailing gender expectations. The study highlights that prevailing standards of masculinity can discourage male victims from disclosing their experiences of sexual abuse. The study identifies important practical implications for practice and future research.	<p>Social Work. I am also the programme coordinator for the MSW (Forensic Practice). My academic experience ranges from teaching undergraduate and post graduate courses and supervising Masters studies and PhD studies.</p> <p>Ms. Rachelle Snyman As a registered social worker since 2021, Ms Snyman pursued and completed her Master of Social Work degree with a focus on Forensic Practice in 2023. Concurrently, she worked as a statutory social worker at CMR Lydenburg from 2022, gaining experience in child protection and family preservation. Currently Ms Snyman is in private practice.</p> <p>Mrs Karlien Van Schalkwyk I have been a researcher and lecturer within the Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Research at North-West University, South Africa, since 2010. I have been involved in several research projects across various disciplines covering quantitative, qualitative and review methodologies. My academic experience includes supervision of master students across various disciplines as well as both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Since 2022, I have been employed within the Centre for Health & Human Performance at North-West University, South Africa.</p>
16	<p>Supervision as a critical element in Social service professions.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 138)</p>	Session 4 Breakaway Room 2	Professionalism in social services workplace has lost its value, due to the lack of proper supervision, support and development. Hence this study seek to uplift the professional capacity building in supervision since it is vital for the motivation of employees, and helping	<p>Ms. Sithembile Mdletshe Mdletshe Sithembile is a qualified social worker and graduated at the University of Zululand in 2013. She worked at Mseleni Hospital as an intern graduate between 2016_2017. She assumed permanent post duties at the Department of social development, Weenen Service office in 2017. Ms Mdletshe transferred</p>

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			<p>them advance in their careers and profession its self. Interviews carried out with ingwavuma social workers, in Kwazulu-Natal ; discovered that there is poor performance and lack of interest as one-on one and group supervision sessions are no longer carried out. Social workers also cited favouritism when appointing employees to attend training and workshops for development as another problem. Close supervision sessions, fair training and workshop nominations will enhance positive change in building professional capacity in social service professions through supervision, support and development.</p>	<p>to Ingwavuma Service office in 2021 where she is currently based. She has an interest in working with families and is championing the care and service to families sub-programme in the office. Furthermore, she considers furthering her studies in the said programme and Employee Assistance Program.</p>
17	<p>Developing a social development empowerment model for women's participation in poverty reduction programmes in Umzinyathi District-KwaZulu Natal.</p> <p>(Unique number: 151)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Women who reside in rural areas and farms are particularly marginalized and live in extreme levels of poverty which are below the national income standard. Poverty continues to be on the agenda of many countries in the international arena. The history of apartheid characterised by systematic oppression and marginalisation of `black citizens has contributed to studies documenting the extent of poverty in South Africa. The study adopts a qualitative approach that has assessed the experiences of twenty women who participated in poverty reduction programmes in uMzinyathi District, in Kwa Zulu Natal.</p>	<p>Ms. Nelisiwe Ignatia Vilakazi Nelisiwe Ignatia Vilakazi is the Head of Department of Social Development in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. Before assuming this position, she was the Deputy Director General at the National Department of Social of Development. She holds a Masters Degree in Social Work and is currently a PhD candidate. She is registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) as a social worker.</p> <p>Prof. John Victor Rautenbach Prof John Victor Rautenbach is a Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of Zululand. He is a professional social worker registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP). Previously he was the Head of the Department of Social Work and Social Development at</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis is the design that enabled the researcher to delve into the circumstances of women influencing or impacting their participation in poverty reduction programmes. Further the study was guided by an empowerment theory which asserts that poverty reduction programmes must consider the social and historical experience of the disadvantaged women in processes of enhancing their livelihood and development.	the University of Fort Hare, where he worked for eighteen years. He is a former Executive Committee Member of the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI). He has also served as a Board Member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), where he was the co-chair of the governance task force, a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and continues as the Chair of the Standing Committee on the World Census of Social Work Programs.
18	<p>Capacitate professionals to build theories with grounded theory from data on the ground: Phases one and two of Generation Z social media experiences.</p> <p>(Unique number: 141)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 4 online</p>	<p>Researchers have avoided utilising grounded theory due to its viewed complexity of having both evolved and stayed the same since 1967. Navigating the giants of grounded theory takes patience to wade through its density and various approaches, however, the research outcome supersedes this. The statistical fact Generation Z is the most anxious cohort fueled this study to obtain data to further understand this phenomenon within the context of social media engagement. This study has adopted the constructivist grounded theory approach which requires an open mind to hear participants, without the influence of previous theories and literature intruding on the study. The data from the ground is systematically</p>	<p>Ms. Robyn Coleman Robyn Coleman, PhD candidate at the University of Fort Hare, the focus of her study is a grounded theory study on social media and anxiety. She is a time-on-task lecturer at the University of Fort Hare, plus private, public and NGO experience. Her focus is on mental health and adversity experienced on social media platforms. She has written a book chapter on research with her supervisor and has presented a series of talks on social media and mental health through a local radio station, NGO's and schools to empower the community at large.</p>

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			obtained, iteratively and comparatively analysed while being co-constructed with the researcher towards building a theory. The iterative data that has been collected and analysed for phase one and phase two reveals the significance of obtaining data from the ground.	
19	<p>Reflections of Social Work Interns on The Experiences of Transitioning from Classroom to Real-World Setting</p> <p>(Unique Number: 167)</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>Internships have gained significant popularity as an educational resource for students, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom and practical experience in real-world settings (Du-Babcock, 2016). O’Higgins & Pinedo (2018) cited in the Employment Policy Department say that there is relatively little solid evidence on the impact of internships on subsequent labour market experiences of young people. Internships are progressively being recognized as a crucial component of the transition from school to the workforce and continue to facilitate a polished shift from the academic setting to the practical world of work (Anjum, 2022). This presentation draws on my experiences as an intern in an academic institution.</p>	<p>Ms. Nothando Lubanyana Miss Nothando Lubanyana is an intern employed by the Human Science Research Council. She is placed at the University of KwaZulu-Natal under the Discipline of Social Work and a research assistant in the Discipline of Criminology. She boasts with more than 4 years of experience in academic and research. She is a Social Worker by profession and her research interests are in working with students living with disabilities, students that are academically at-risk, community development and the inclusion of all individuals.</p>
20	<p>Wellness of social work students and educators: risk and protective factors in social work</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>The social work profession is only as strong as the professionals who practice it. However, during their work and training, social workers and student social workers must manage many</p>	<p>Dr. Hanelie Malan Dr Hanelie Malan obtained her PhD in Social Work in 2010 at the North-West University. She has extensive practice experience in social work in child protection and medical social work field. She has been appointed as</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>training programmes at Higher Education Institutions in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 108)</p>		<p>stressful and emotionally taxing matters that may affect their well-being. These stressors require practitioners to have inner strength and resilience. Rising awareness of threats to staff and student wellness in the social work training and educational environment affects graduates' outcomes and practice readiness. This study, therefore, embarks on a quantitative and qualitative investigation to determine both the risk and protective factors in social work training programmes across a selection of Higher Education Institutions in South Africa. It seeks to make recommendations for both the development of the curriculum and support structures that need to be in place to support both staff and students.</p>	<p>senior lecturer and programme coordinator of the Masters of Social Work: Child Protection programme in the subject group Social Work at the North-West University in 2014. In 2018 she was appointed as deputy subject chair for the subject group: Social Work and as subject group leader in 2021.</p> <p>Prof. Wim Roestenburg Prof Wim Roestenburg has been a professor of social work at the North-West University, Potchefstroom for the past eight years. This is his third academic appointment following UJ and UNISA during a 30-year academic career. As a Master's in Business Administration graduate and former well-being counselor in the Mining Industry that included Anglo American and Chamber of Mines, he has a keen interest in employee well-being issues and the organizational responses.</p>

THEME 4:

Quality management and enhancement of social services

SUB-Theme: 4.3 (2)

Capacity building in new fields of social service such as environmental justice, climate change, green / eco-social work, inter- and trans-disciplinary interventions

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>Essential knowledge, values, and skills for environmental and green social work.</p> <p>(Unique number: 104)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>A generalist framing of social work draws from a common knowledge, skills, and value base that aids social workers in their quest for social justice. Climate change, the frequency and intensity of natural and human made disasters and their disproportionately negative impacts on service users call for intensified efforts in promoting social, economic, and ecological justice. The combined effects of poverty, inequality, human made, and environmental disasters furthermore necessitate a re-examination of social work's foundational base in view of grounding it within a sustainable development framework. This conceptual paper is drawn from a desk review of the Global Agenda (2012) theme on promoting environmental and community sustainability. It presents the essential knowledge, skills, and values for environmental and green social work which social workers could draw from in developing an integrated view of people and the environment and thereby intervening for people, planet, and prosperity.</p>	<p>Dr. Peggie Chiwara Dr Peggie Chiwara is a social work lecturer at the University of Pretoria where she teaches postgraduate and undergraduate courses in social work theory and social development. She is a member of the ASASWEI environmental social work special interest group. Her research interests include social development, sustainable development, poverty, structural inequalities, green and environmental social work.</p>
2	<p>Work organizations and their social</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>The goal of work organizational 'corporate citizenship' initiatives, such as corporate social responsibility (CSR) and employee wellness programs</p>	<p>Prof. Lobelo D. Mogorosi Prof. Lobelo D. Mogorosi teaches in the Department of Social Work, University of Venda, South Africa, where he previously served as the HoD. He did his</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>(Unique number: 105)</p>		<p>(EAPs), is to assist such organizations to help meet personal and socio-economic needs of employees, their families and hosting communities. This paper argues that Social Work professionals can assist such organizations to meet their positive 'corporate citizenship' objectives, in their work through wellness programs and corporate social (CSR) projects. These organizations assist nations economically and socially through employment of citizens and payment of corporate taxes, all which contribute towards assisting in meeting some of the national goals and plans. National legislations and programs may help ensure that attention is paid on CSR and similar workplace initiatives can go a long way to contribute towards democracy and national harmony, thus lower societal strives and conflicts. The presentation, thus, reflects on roles and dilemmas related to 'corporate citizenship' of work organizations, focusing on selected policy areas (namely, human resource, investment, environmental and philanthropy).</p>	<p>undergraduate education at both the University of the North (now, Limpopo) and University of Zululand. He obtained graduate qualifications at Columbia University (New York, USA). His areas of interest, research and publication include social policy and research, Social Work at the workplace /employee health and wellness, substance abuse and decolonization.</p> <p>Dr. Patricia S. Manganyi Dr. Patricia S. Manganyi is Senior Lecturer: Field work Coordinator at the Department of Social Work, University of Venda. She co-chairs Faculty WIL Committee. She studied at Universities of Limpopo, Stellenbosch and Pretoria. Her teaching and research interest areas include human behaviour and social environment, Social Work at the workplace, Employee Health and Wellness.</p> <p>Dr. N. Jimmy Budeli Dr. N. Jimmy Budeli is a senior lecturer and interim HoD: Social Work, in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, University of Venda. He serves in various university institutional and community committees (including, chairing Vhembe District EAPA-SA).</p>

THEME 4:

Quality management and enhancement of social services

Sub-Theme: 4.4 (15)

Advancing Decolonial and Afrocentric education, research, and practice

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	Wrestling with the Gender-based violence pandemic: An Afrocentric social work perspective. (Unique Number: 109)	Session 3 Breakaway Room 3	Gender-based violence (GBV) scourge has been placed in the national agenda by the South African (SA) government. While SA continues to wrestle with GBV, there has been deliberations among social work scholars, academics, and practitioners to Africanise social work education and practice. Despite this, there is paucity of research that investigates GBV from a decolonised and Afrocentric perspective. Moreover, the education and practice are still relying heavily on the Eurocentric approaches, interventions and methods which have been criticised by many scholars. Informed by the Afrocentric perspective, this paper seeks to reposition social work in the Pan African Agenda to rethink alternative strategies to curb GBV by tapping into the indigenous knowledge and resources. This paper calls for a return to the drawing board and determine how the current social work education and practice can be blended with a traditional African	Dr. Goitseone Leburu Dr Goitseone Leburu is currently a senior lecturer at the Department of Social Work, UNISA. She is responsible for carrying out teaching and learning and postgraduate supervision and research activities in the Department of Social Work. She is also the program coordinator of the Higher Certificate in Social Auxiliary Work. Prior to joining academia, she served as a social worker at the Department of Social Development, Ditsobotla Service point in the North-West Province where she practiced as a social worker. She obtained both the undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications from the North-West University. Dr Leburu has research interest gender issues, gender-based violence, violence against women and children, empowerment, and women empowerment. She has published numerous articles from these fields.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			knowledge base, approaches, and models to curb GBV.	
2	<p>Socio-Educational Coping and Survival Mechanisms Utilised by Lecturers and Students at the National University of Lesotho for Sustenance Amidst Covid-19.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 110)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>It remains without a doubt that the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic did bring with it ginormous of economic and other challenges, these which were less prepared for, particularly by less developed countries, Lesotho included. The lengthy lockdown which was abruptly imposed mandated of the National University of Lesotho to resort to online teaching and learning, the avenue which was not of popular preference before. A myriad of social and educational challenges accompanied this initiative. It necessitated by this reason that both the instructors and students cohorts develop survival and coping mechanisms accordingly. The study does intent therefore to examine these mechanisms, using resilience theory to guide the study.</p>	<p>Mr. Katiso Sehlabane Katiso Sehlabane is a lecturer at the National University of Lesotho, precisely in the Department of Sociology and Social Work. I have a Masters of Social Work, specialising in Social Administration.</p>
3	<p>Transformational and epistemic decoloniality: Critical considerations.</p> <p>(Unique number: 152)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>A complete disruption is required to transform the materiality of coloniality and colonial dynamics of power, being and knowledge. This paper explores ‘colonization of the mind as the destruction of history and subjugation of languages. It proposes: 1) understanding epistemic Eurocentrism as the ideological interests of the ruling classes; 2) embracing surrealism, creativity</p>	<p>Prof. Linda Harms-Smith Linda Harms Smith is Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, previously at Robert Gordon University, Scotland and until 2015, at the university of the Witwatersrand. Her scholarship and research focuses on Decoloniality, ‘race’ and anti-racism, radical social work, Fanonian practices, social moments and qualitative research. She is on the editorial board of Critical and Radical Social Work</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			and imagination 3) exercising epistemic disobedience through Southern knowledges; 4) destabilizing colonial hierarchies; 5) refuting the characterisation of knowledge as indigenous; 6) subverting the colonial project of the University; and 7) accepting that there can be no real decoloniality without material transformation.	and on the Steering committee of Social Work Action Network (SWAN).
4	<p>A conceptual model for Decolonising Teaching & Learning.</p> <p>(Unique number: 153)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 4</p>	<p>Since the early to mid-20th century, calls for decolonization have been made across African states, but little progress has been made beyond a mere shift in political power. Africa's underdevelopment persists, while its people increasingly imitate European and North American cultures. Despite extensive research and discussions on decolonization, it seems that true decolonization, especially in education, has not been achieved. This presentation focuses on the tenets of decolonisation in learning and teaching, and how it contributes to knowledge production in Africa. The objective is to advance the broader goals of the decolonial project. The paper reviews existing literature and explores the need for decoloniality and practical strategies for decolonizing academic institutions.</p>	<p>Dr. Mpumelelo Ncube</p> <p>Mpumelelo Ncube is the Academic Head of the Depart of Social Work at the University of the Free State. He is a Senior Lecturer teaching Social Work Supervision, Management & Ethics, Research and Introduction to Social Work. He also teaches a Research module in the MA Course Work Programme.</p>
5	<p>Student social workers' understanding of</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>This presentation reports on meanings student social workers attach to the concepts of culture, cultural identity and</p>	<p>Prof. Marichen Van der Westhuizen</p> <p>I am the Head of the Department of Social Work at the University of the Western Cape. As a lecturer, I</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>the concepts of 'culture', 'cultural identity' and 'decolonisation'</p> <p>(Unique number: 075)</p>		<p>decolonisation. Utilising the framework of the Active Force of Currere, the aim was to explore: 1) their perceptions and experiences of the concepts, 2) how past experiences influence present understanding on a personal and professional level, and 3) to develop a collective description of these concepts. A qualitative approach was followed, utilising the phenomenological research design. A purposive sampling strategy was implemented to access participants from the population of registered student social workers at the UWC. Data was collected through World Café focus groups, followed by thematic data analysis. Voluntary participation, confidentiality and the management of data guided ethical practice. The findings reflect aspects that influence the participants' understanding as well as their shared definition of the concepts as a contribution to decolonised education; including lived experiences, perceptions and understandings in curricula.</p>	<p>am following a reflective and student-centred approach to ensure that student voices are integrated in learning and teaching practices. For this reason, I value the inclusion of students in research projects within the Department. My research interests include treatment and aftercare for Substance Use Disorders, Intercultural social work and the arts, supported education, decolonisation in social work education, and ecological social work</p>
6	<p>Mwacha Mila ni Mtumwa: A Critical Exploration of Trauma-informed Approaches in</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 4 online</p>	<p>Challenging life experiences can impact any individual's present-day functioning and achievement of goals and dreams. This has given rise and endorsement of trauma-informed care and practice globally, including in Africa. This calls for curriculum development as a direct means of</p>	<p>Prof. Ajwang' Warria Ajwang' Warria is a clinical social worker and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary (Canada). She has published more than 45 peer-reviewed journal papers and book chapters in the areas of child</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
	<p>Schools of Social Work in Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 157)</p>		<p>transmitting professional ideals and values from current academics to future generations of social work practitioners, activists and researchers. Although some social work academics in schools of social work in Africa adopt radical positionality in their writing and teaching, very few social work programmes incorporate critical perspectives in their social work curriculum. This paper is not questioning people's challenging life experiences, but rather it acknowledges that emotional distress and pain is a reality for many and that it can have harmful consequences. It also emphasizes that transformative social work training ought to include sensitive, helpful, and relational responses - ensuring appropriate social supports and interpersonal connections, rather than specific trauma-based interventions.</p>	<p>rights and protection, transnational migration, and intervention research.</p>
7	<p>Advancing Decolonial and Afrocentric Education, research, and Practice.</p> <p>(Unique number: 158)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Critical frameworks that aim to counter the predominately Eurocentric viewpoints in academia and society include decolonial and Afrocentric education, research, and practice. This abstract will make the case for expanding these frameworks through a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates numerous scientific disciplines, including literature, history, sociology, anthropology, and psychology. The decolonial perspective aims to undermine colonial systems of privilege</p>	<p>Ms. Andiswa Pamella Mdlankomo Andiswa Pamella Mdlankomo is a Ph.D. candidate in the Social Work Department and Social Development at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa, submitting my thesis, titled: "The Paradox of professional social work service delivery in a resource deprived environment: A critical assessment of the factors that promote or impede the implementation of Batho Pele principles in Buffalo City Metro, Eastern Cape, South Africa".</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			and power that still influence how knowledge is produced and disseminated. Afrocentricity, on the other hand, emphasizes African-centered perspectives and experiences while analyzing societal issues. Together, these concepts support social justice, equity, and inclusion while providing a potent criticism of neocolonialism, racism, and patriarchy. In order to build more inclusive and culturally sensitive environments, this abstract will stress the significance of infusing decolonial and Afrocentric viewpoints into educational curricula, research methodology, and professional practices.	
8	<p>An Indigenised Parenting Skills Development Programme Guided by Ubuntu-Based Principles.</p> <p>(Unique number: 159)</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Social work professionals are challenged to decolonise group work practice and incorporate indigenous modalities. Not much has been written on the use of the Ubuntu Bowl with a diverse group of parents who are experiencing challenges in raising adolescents. Observations from practice suggest a need for Ubuntu-based principles to be incorporated in working with diverse parents. An integrative review methodology was used to conduct a bibliographic search on parenting skills development programmes and decolonial/indigenised approaches. The Ubuntu-based principles and the Collective Fingers Theory (CFT) informed the design of the programme. It is</p>	<p>Ms. Kgomotso Ntlatleng Kgomotso holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work obtained from the University of Pretoria where she worked as a social work tutor, and is currently pursuing a Masters degree at the Witwatersrand University. Her interest in palliative care began during her time as a Child and Family Support Counsellor providing biopsychosocial services in a cancer ward. She also gained experience in facilitating parenting group work sessions and participation in project management processes while working at the Department of Social Development. School social work is her research focus, and she currently works as a Senior Academic Programme Developer at the South African College of Applied Psychology.</p> <p>Ms. Thando Msimango</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			recommended that group work curriculum should be indigenised to empower social work students and practitioners to work in diverse contexts. Considering the need to integrate indigenous knowledge systems and practice, the Ubuntu-based principles and the Ubuntu Bowl has proven to be effective in facilitating sharing of knowledge and skills between group members to navigate parenting.	Thando is a Social Work Professional she has been involved as a Medical Social Worker providing Psychosocial support services during the covid-19 period at Waterfall and Krugersdorp Netcare Hospital. She also worked at the Department of Education under the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative Programme she was responsible for allocating unemployed social workers to public schools to offer psychosocial support services to the learners during the covid-19. In- addition.
9	Black African social workers' historical and contemporary understanding of the social development approach. (Unique Number: 163)	Session 5 Plenary Venue	Colonialism and apartheid influenced South African social welfare policies. After 1994, democratic laws like the White Paper for Social Welfare were implemented. However, poverty, unemployment, and inequality still marginalise most South Africans. This study (PALAR) uses participatory action learning action research to develop a social work practice approach for African social systems in South Africa—a critical, transformational, and democratic research method. This paper reports on one objective, to understand social workers, and social work educators' historical and contemporary conceptualisations of the social development approach, focusing on Black African social workers. Preliminary findings suggest that social development in South Africa fails to address structural inequalities like race and land, leading to	Mr. Nkqubela Aphiwe Jackson Ntloko Nkqubela Aphiwe Ntloko is a Social Worker registered with the SACSSP. He possesses a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), B.A. Honours in Development Studies and Master of Social Work (MSW) research, all from Nelson Mandela University. Nkqubela is a social activist, acutely sensitised to marginalised communities' structural issues, having grown and working in these communities. He is committed to being a catalyst and an enabler in leading transformation and development with people in their lives from diverse South African communities. His PhD work will contribute to the decolonial discourse in social work

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			large-scale poverty and unemployment. The approach is welfarist, disempowering, and insensitive to African culture. It also fails to consider the holistic needs of African clients and is not community-based. Social development services are not adequately integrated. South African social work needs to be reimagined.	
10	<p>Political activism and social work practice in South Africa: A reality or an anomaly?</p> <p>(Unique Number: 164)</p>	<p>Session 5 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>The study sought to explore factors that inhibit political activism among social workers in South Africa. Grounded Theory, Multiple case studies and Exploratory design assisted in achieving the goals of the article. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews and open ended questionnaires with social work practitioners in South Africa in their respective private spaces. Data was analysed thematically using content thematic analysis. The general consensus was that the colonial social work curriculum failed to prepare students for political activism and ignored the critical lens towards contemporary systemic and neo-liberal realities which were said to be exacerbating disunity and fragmentation within the profession. The paper is envisaged to set a way forward for further debate on the radical field of social work as a vehicle for the alteration of the social work education in South Africa.</p>	<p>Ms. Winnifred Kwakwa Winnifred Motshidisi Kwakwa is a lecturer at UL in the Department of Social Work since 2018 and is a Ph.D. candidate. Her research interests are Gender issues, Public health, Migration, and Social work policy. She has participated in the collaborated migration project supported by NIHSS (2021-2022). She was currently part of the Limpopo Provincial Covid-19 project which ended in June 2023. The outcome of these projects is ten publications in both local and international accredited journals.</p> <p>Ms. Prudence Mafa Prudence Mafa is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Social Work at the University of Limpopo, South Africa. She holds a Master of Social Work degree obtained from the same university. Ms Mafa has varied research interests which include family social work, substance abuse, public health, migration. Over a period of five years, she has been involved in research projects which were addressing issues related to these interests. Prudence is part of the teaching staff in the Department of Social Work at the University of Limpopo.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
11	<p>The use of African Proverbs in Advancing Afrocentric Social Work: A cultural competence practice.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 165)</p>	<p>Session 5 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>African proverbs are considered as an integral part of African cultures and are used to share knowledge from one generation to the other for centuries. African proverbs offer advice, teach, or reinforce morals, make an argument, relieve interpersonal tensions, aid in understanding, or to console or inspire others. In this conceptual paper, widely known African proverb such as It takes a village to raise a child, You strike a woman, you strike a rock, and Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu. Cultural competence practice is used as a framework to demonstrate how African Proverbs can be used during intervention stages in social work practice. The paper concludes that the use of African Proverbs social work will inclusiveness and collaboration with African people and their environment.</p>	<p>Dr. Zibonele Zimba Zibonele Zimba is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Community Development at University of Johannesburg. He teaches community development theories, models and perspectives. His research interests are on cultural competence practice and social work, and issues of social justice.</p>
12	<p>Advancing a Decolonising-First Approach to social work education: Experiences in a social work classroom in Australia</p>	<p>Session 4 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>There is some widespread consensus about the need to create a decolonised social work education but the question remains: how do we do this? There are limited examples of how decolonisation-in-action looks like. Drawing on practical examples and experiences of a black African social work educator teaching domestic and international students in a social work classroom in Australia, the presentation will demonstrate how a decolonisation-First approach was applied</p>	<p>Dr. Sharlotte Tusasiirwe Dr Sharlotte Tusasiirwe is a Ugandan-born, internationally educated social worker, currently lecturing social work at Western Sydney University. PhD was focused on how to decolonise social work education and practice to create culturally appropriate and contextually relevant profession. She is the author of the book Decolonising and Reimagining Social Work in Africa: Alternative Epistemologies and Practice Models and a co-author of Re-imagining Social Work: Towards Creative Practice.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			to social work curriculum, teaching model, students' assessments, to disrupt social work's complicity in colonising project. Students' reflections on the subject content and teaching approach will be shared to give participants insights into how decolonising curriculum is experienced by end users.	
13	<p>Decoloniality as total disentanglement with modern capitalist and neo-liberal complex: A social work perspective</p> <p>(Unique Number: 169)</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>Decolonial scholarship is gaining traction and currency in the Global South, particularly in the social and human sciences. A plethora of critical scholars has emerged and thoroughly engaged with the notion of decoloniality as a concept and process from a variety of dimensions that significantly enriched the discourse. The ground swelling of narratives proves ripe for consolidation and actioning. Many in the academy have been questioning the practicability of decoloniality as an epistemic and political movement. Thus it is critically important that the discourse progresses to practical application and actioning. However, there are critical transformative prerequisites at structural and systemic levels for decoloniality to find practical application. Notwithstanding the consensus amongst scholars in the Global South that coloniality emanates from the Euro-North American-centric modernity, not much progress has been registered towards total de-linking with the modern</p>	<p>Mbazima Mathebane is an associate professor in the Department of Social Work at Unisa. He has a B.A. and M.A. in social work from the University of the Witwatersrand and PhD in social work from UNISA. He received ASASWEI's 2017 Social Work Up-and-Coming Educator of the Year Award. He is the current Treasurer of ASASWEI and on the editorial board of the Journal of Indigenous Social Development (JISD).</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			capitalist and neo-liberal complex of global power relations. Meanwhile, the socio-economic, cultural, and political conditions of the present in the Global South not only highlight the endemic problems created by the Euro-North American-centric modernity, but also the extent of ineptitude of theories/knowledges generated from a Euro-North American-centric context to assist in addressing such problems.	
14	<p>The influence of the African Worldview on the socialisation of urban African youth: Implications for social work practice.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 170)</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>The contentious and paradoxical relationship between the silenced African worldview and the dominant European worldview has become a major concern and a source of frustration for various sectors within the African social fabric. The visible effects of enculturation and the resultant sense of identity crisis continue to cause a sense of unease among African parents and various social structures and cultural systems. African parents are faced with various challenges including the valorisation of European/western ways of living at the expense of African ways. The study explored, described and interpreted the influence of the African worldview on the socialisation of black youth among African families in order to distil its implication on social work practice with African youth. The study followed a qualitative research approach. Data were</p>	<p>Mbazima Mathebane is an associate professor in the Department of Social Work at Unisa. He has a B.A. and M.A. in social work from the University of the Witwatersrand and PhD in social work from UNISA. He received ASASWEI's 2017 Social Work Up-and-Coming Educator of the Year Award. He is the current Treasurer of ASASWEI and on the editorial board of the Journal of Indigenous Social Development (JISD).</p> <p>Mrs Z.G. Makhaba completed the degree of master's in social work with the department of social work, University of South Africa (Unisa) under the supervision of Prof Mbazima S. Mathebane. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of South Africa. Mrs Makhaba works for the Department of Education as School social worker.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			collected through face-to-face interviews with the aid of a semi-structured interview guide while collected data was analysed thematically using Tesch's eight steps. The findings reveal that discipline and respect are at the centre of cultural socialisation of children in urban African families.	
15	<p>Coloniality: a major hindrance to effective integration of social work theory into practice</p> <p>(Unique Number: 171)</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 2</p>	<p>The disintegration of social work theory and practice has been a topic of concern over recent years. This qualitative study aims to explore the perceptions of social workers on factors hindering their application of social work theory into practice in order to gain an in-depth understanding of this phenomenon. Non-probability, in particular purposive sampling, was applied to select participants for the proposed study. Data was collected through semi-structured face-to-face interviews, noting and recording the responses after obtaining permission from the participants. The findings of the study gave light on the perceptions of social workers on factors hindering their application of social work theory into practice. The findings demonstrated how the lack of fit between the social work curriculum and the demands of the practice environment makes it impossible for social workers to apply what they were taught during training. Recommendations included</p>	<p>Mbazima Mathebane is an associate professor in the Department of Social Work at Unisa. He has a B.A. and M.A. in social work from the University of the Witwatersrand and PhD in social work from UNISA. He received ASASWEI's 2017 Social Work Up-and-Coming Educator of the Year Award. He is the current Treasurer of ASASWEI and on the editorial board of the Journal of Indigenous Social Development (JISD).</p> <p>Mr D.M. Monyama completed the degree of master's in social work with the department of social work, University of South Africa (Unisa) under the supervision of Prof Mbazima S. Mathebane. Mr Monyama holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Venda. He works for the Department of Social Development, Limpopo province as a social worker.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			amongst others the need to decolonise the social work curriculum and practice.	

THEME 4:

Quality management and enhancement of social services

Sub-Theme 4.5: (7)

Transforming social and healthcare services through capacity building and adoption of information technology

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	<p>Psychosocial service provision using technology: Reflections from Botswana.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 054)</p>	<p>Session 2 Plenary Venue</p>	<p>There is no doubt that the world has been experiencing diverse adversities resulting in deaths, injuries, economic losses, and trauma. Social work is one of the helping professions that is called upon to respond, mitigate, and reconstruct social structures following adversities. Drawing from our experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, we contend that the use of technologies can be instrumental in providing psychosocial services, monitoring, and providing updated information to individuals, families and communities on emerging trends associated with the adversity. Failure to adapt technology may deprive beneficiaries of needed services, information, and somehow complicate</p>	<p>Dr. Morena Rankopo Dr. Morena Rankopo is a senior lecturer and Coordinator of Graduate Studies in the Department of Social Work at the University of Botswana. He teaches group work, community practice and social work ethics. His research interests include indigenous social work education and practice, social protection, psychosocial support systems, community resilience, and lately disaster risk reduction. He is currently the Vice Chairperson of the National Gender Commission. He has worked with government, parastatals, and private sector to facilitate gender mainstreaming in some sectors. He believes that the primary goal of social work is to enhance social functioning of people and improving positive relationships among people in societies with diverse social backgrounds.</p> <p>Dr. Kgosietsile Maripe</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			the response measures by human services practitioners. This paper contends that preparedness measures for adversities should incorporate the identification of technologies that would aid assessment, relief, counselling, monitoring trends, and guiding responses.	Dr Kgosietsile Maripe is a senior lecturer at the University of Botswana, Department of Social Work. He teaches several courses including psychology for social workers, probation, introduction to social work and social welfare, and social work and disaster risk management. He possesses a PhD in Social Work from the North West University. His research interests include communities and disasters, migration and displacement, disaster and disability, and psychosocial support with diverse populations. He has experience in policing, administration of justice, and disaster risk management.
2	<p>The use of technology and its implication during social work field practice</p> <p>(Unique Number: 123)</p>	<p>Session 4 Plenary venue</p>	<p>The COVID-19 has brought unprecedented situation in social work education, which had an impact in teaching and learning as well as field practice. Technology advances have greatly expanded opportunities for teaching institutions to deliver education and explore other methods. Social workers are challenged to embrace the use of information and communication technology-supported interventions and services to address emerging issues, challenges and risks in society. Therefore, student social workers should recognize that the use of digital technology and social media may pose threats to the practice of many ethical standards including but not limited to privacy and confidentiality, conflicts of interest,</p>	<p>Dr. Patricia Manganyi Dr. Patricia S. Manganyi is Senior Lecturer: Field work Coordinator at the Department of Social Work, in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education (FHSSE), University of Venda. She Co-chairs in Faculty WIL and Teaching Practice Committee. She studied at Universities of Limpopo, Stellenbosch and Pretoria. Her teaching and research interest areas include human behaviour and social environment, Social Work at the workplace, Employee Health and Wellness Programs (EAP/EHWP).</p> <p>Prof. Lobelo David Mogorosi Prof. Lobelo D. Mogorosi teaches at the Department of Social Work, University of Venda, South Africa. He did his undergraduate education at both the University of the North (now, Limpopo) and University of Zululand. He obtained graduate qualifications at Columbia University (New York, USA). He was a Moody's Post-</p>

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			competence, and documentation and must obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to guard against unethical practice when using technology. Thus, this paper argues that irrespective of the technology advancement and adopting it as a mode of practice in social work, the effective and ethical use of technology should be guided by principles and code of conduct to avoid harm and violate client' privacy.	Doctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, USA).
3	<p>Moving with the times- Embracing technology in delivering social work services in healthcare settings</p> <p>(Unique Number: 124)</p>	<p>Session 4 Plenary venue</p>	<p>Social workers are seen as ports of entry for patients and their families in healthcare with regard to meeting their social, economic, psychological and emotional needs. The role of the social worker is to make sure that the patient and his/her family receive the best care and support as possible.</p> <p>Findings from the study on the resilience of caregivers of cancer patients showed that social workers in hospitals are not able to do follow up visits on discharged patients. This leads to patients and families not aware of the role and services of social workers. Embracing technology such as using websites and social medial accounts is crucial in enhancing the marketing and delivery of services to patients and families.</p> <p>This paper will critically look into the impact of caregiving on caregivers of</p>	<p>Ms. Felistus Ndamba</p> <p>Felistus is a social worker and and a Social Work Practice lecturer at the university of Pretoria. She hold a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University o Fort Hare and a Master's Degree in Social Work (healthcare) which was awarded with a distinction. She has submitted her PhD thesis for assessment and is awaiting results. The topic of her PhD studies is: Resilience amongst caregivers of adult cancer patients: Guidelines for Social Work practice. My research interest is on HIV and AIDS and other health related issues, women, children and the elderly. I am to contribute to the profession by bringing new knowledge and practice interventions.</p>

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			cancer patients, social work services and provides recommendations thereof focusing on the adoption of technology in rendering services.	
4	<p>Social work educators and practitioners experiences and perceptions of e-social work training within the South African social work context</p> <p>(Unique Number: 125)</p>	<p>Session 4 Plenary venue</p>	<p>The latter part of the 20th century the world witnessed the unprecedented emergence of the digital age and its impact on human functioning. Traditionally social work practice has a strong “face-to-face” practice foundation, and the digital era is now presenting a review of this approach to service rendering with the emergence of e-social work. A qualitative study was conducted that explored social work educators and practitioners’ perceptions and experiences of e-social work and its infusion in social work curriculum and further training. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with social work educators and practitioners. The findings indicate that there exists limited understanding and experience with e-social work. Capacity-building is thus crucial in order to engage with client systems both in the offline world and online spaces that people inhabit.</p>	<p>Mr. Mohamed Safodien</p> <p>I have been a qualified social worker for 30 years. I have worked both in the non-governmental sector and in the government sector rendering social work services. I have been involved in social work education for 17 years, first as student supervisor, and currently as a social work lecturer. My special interest are children in conflict with the law, sport social work; fieldwork education and the impact of digital technology on social work. I am registered for PHD and my study focus is e-social work and social work training</p>
5	<p>The Role of Digital Tools in Social Work: A Hybrid Perspective.</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online</p>	<p>Social workers are now able to expand their services by utilizing digital tools, such as online community management and therapeutic interventions. While these tools can enhance service quality</p>	<p>Dr. Nir Wittenberg</p> <p>Dr. Nir Wittenberg is a professor of Social Work at Ariel University. Holding a Ph.D. in Social Work from Tel Aviv University, Dr. Wittenberg is a licensed social worker, lecturer, and researcher. With a strong commitment to</p>

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	(Unique Number: 47)		<p>and customer satisfaction, they also pose professional, ethical, and organizational challenges. Finally, they raised the topic of how social workers' roles change in a digital culture where services and knowledge are readily available. This lecture is based on empirical and theoretical literature that evaluates the current state of the social work profession while forecasting future changes, such as the rise of artificial intelligence and big data.</p> <p>I underline the significance of social workers acknowledging how to plan and conduct interventions using modern technologies from a hybrid perspective, in which digital tools are utilized to supplement and expand "traditional" face-to-face practices. This approach views the use of digital means to enrich "traditional" face-to-face practices and to expand their boundaries.</p>	<p>addressing social challenges and improving the well-being of individuals and communities, Dr. Wittenberg specializes in innovative approaches that benefit vulnerable populations, including at-risk youth, LGBTQ individuals, and families living in extreme poverty. His research interests include social support systems, digital tools, and help-seeking behavior. Dr. Wittenberg is a board member of a non-governmental organization that provides free accessible online emotional support to Arab and Jewish residents.</p>
6	Re-examining the conceptualisation of a substance dependant service user in involuntary treatment, taking into account the South African	Session 3 Plenary Venue	<p>Substance use is a widespread devastating global problem. The UNODC reports that approximately 269 million people use drugs, and the number of those with substance use disorders (SUDs) will rise by eleven percent globally and forty percent in Africa by 2030. Despite the high demand for treatment, many individuals with SUD seeks</p>	<p>Mr. Nkanyiso Mkhize Nkanyiso is a temporary lecturer in the Social Work Department at the University of Zululand Ɔ Main Campus (KwaDlangezwa). He holds a Master of Social Work degree (with Merit) from the same university and is currently pursuing his PhD studies. His expertise lies in working with delinquent children. His research extensively centers around risky behaviors and evidence-based intervention strategies. Recently, his</p>

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	<p>legislation (the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act No. 70 of 2008).</p> <p>(Unique number: 095)</p>		<p>professional help involuntarily and often relapses shortly after treatment. This paper addresses the insufficient understanding of involuntary service users, impacting the delivery of their treatment services as defined by the Prevention of, and treatment for substance dependence act. Qualitative data was collected through interviews with 11 youth from UThungulu District in KwaZulu-Natal. The neglect of underlying user needs and the lack of personal motivation for treatment were the identified key factors contributing to treatment failures. This paper highlights the necessity for clear legislation to define involuntary service users for establishing appropriate norms and standards for their treatment programs.</p>	<p>focus has been on the factors contributing to substance use and poor treatment adherence in involuntary treatment. Nkanyiso has published peer-reviewed articles in both local and international journals.</p> <p>Prof. Rautenbach John Victor Prof John Victor Rautenbach holds the position of Professor and Department Head in Social Work at the University of Zululand. He is a registered professional social worker with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP). Previously, he served as the Head of the Department of Social Work and Social Development at the University of Fort Hare for eighteen years. He has an extensive background in social work education, having been an Executive Committee Member of the Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI). Additionally, he has contributed as a Board Member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and remains an active member of its research committee.</p>
7	<p>Developing an intelligent online counselling framework for an employee health and wellness programme.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 113)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 1</p>	<p>The Fourth Industrial Revolution, described as the rapid and exponential development of internet technology resulting in concepts such as the internet of things and artificial intelligence being introduced in daily life, dramatically reshaping society. This presentation explores the possibility of supplementing counselling services by Artificial intelligent chatbots within the context of employee health and wellness programs, investigating whether the necessary</p>	<p>Mr. Ivan Kanes. Ivan Kanes is an employee assistance practitioner with diverse experience in military and private sectors. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. at NWU Potchefstroom, he focuses on using technology to revolutionise social work. Driven by a vision of integrating modern tools, Ivan aims to enhance the efficiency and impact of social services, making support accessible to all. With a compassionate and innovative approach, he inspires positive change and empowers lives through his dedication to creating a more inclusive society.</p> <p>Prof. Wim Roestenburg</p>

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			<p>social work relevant vocabulary can be developed for powering the intelligence of such conversational agents. Chatbots and conversational user interfaces have gained recognition as valuable tools to humans since 2016. While AI therapy agents have been developed in psychology, their application in social work remains limited. The research underpinning these efforts consists of the development of a conceptual AI generative chatbot counselling framework through a mixed-methods design, combining literature review, qualitative analysis of live chat transcripts and quantitative frequency analysis to converge in framework design using the Multinomial Naive Bayes theorem and Systems Development Life Cycle, and refinement through a Delphi study. The paper explains some of these methodologies in simplified terms, answering whether intelligent responding chatbots can be developed within social work.</p>	<p>Prof Wim Roestenburg has been a professor of social work at the North-West University, Potchefstroom for the past eight years. This is his third academic appointment following UJ and UNISA during a 30-year academic career. As a Master's in Business Administration graduate and former well-being counselor in the Mining Industry that included Anglo American and Chamber of Mines, he has a keen interest in employee well-being issues and the organizational responses.</p> <p>Dr. Hanelie Malan Dr Hanelie Malan obtained her PhD in Social Work in 2010 at the North-West University. She has extensive practice experience in social work in child protection and medical social work field. She has been appointed as senior lecturer and programme coordinator of the Masters of Social Work: Child Protection programme in the subject group Social Work at the North-West University in 2014.</p>

THEME 4:

Quality management and enhancement of social services

Sub-theme 4.6: (3)

Supporting the mental wellbeing of social service professionals working with adversity under adverse conditions

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	The Impact of Disasters on the mental well-being of social workers: Developing Resilience informed social work guidelines towards navigating mental wellbeing during disasters. (Unique Number: 055)	Session 2 Plenary Venue	Social workers play fundamental roles in disaster response, recovery, preparedness and planning for future occurrences, by being among frontline practitioners who respond to the complex challenges posed by disasters. However, they get exposed to similar mental stressors and societal shifts as the public. Working in the frontline setting has been repeatedly identified as a risk factor for poorer mental health among social workers. This means that social workers are not immune to disasters' damaging and traumatic effects. Despite this, the frontline workers' mental well-being, especially social workers, is often overlooked. There is an evident gap in the literature on the mental well-being of social workers during disasters. This is the case against the urgent need to ensure that social workers are	Ms. Lehlogonolo Poopedi Ms Lehlogonolo Kwena Poopedi is a lecturer and PhD candidate in the Department of Social Work Criminology at the University of Pretoria. Her research interests lie within the field of healthcare, more specifically Mental Health. Her other research interests include Disability, Gender-Based Violence and Disaster Management. As a young academic, Lehlogonolo is actively working towards building a successful academic career and collaborating with other researchers to significantly contribute towards the broader body of knowledge.

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			well supported to respond to the overwhelming needs of service users emerging during disasters. It is important to explore the mental well-being of social workers in mitigating the ravages of disasters and developing strategies to safeguard their mental well-being during similar disaster scenarios.	
2	<p>Employee Health and Wellness (EH&W) Performance Indicators for the Gauteng Department of Health.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 90)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 5</p>	<p>Employers use EHWP to improve employee health and performance, but it needs management and financial support to be successful. EHWP effectiveness in South Africa is unclear due to a lack of evaluation of localized and indigenous programs. The purpose of this paper is to thoroughly examine crucial factors that significantly impact the well-being of employees at three Gauteng state hospitals. This in-depth analysis will enable EHWP administrators to more accurately assess the effects of local conditions and dynamics on employees' health and overall well-being investigating the extent of EHWP implementation</p>	<p>Ms. Palesa Seodi I am currently working as assistant director for HIV, TB&STI management in the workplace under employee wellness directorate at the department of Health, Gauteng Provincial office. I am a social worker by profession, studied at the UWC, furthered my studies with NWU where I completed master's in social work. My work experience started at SANCA, later joined the Department of Health, and worked with PLWHIV, and currently working as a wellness specialist. My research experience started when I became involved with the employees, assisting them with their health and psycho-social issues. I am currently a PhD candidate with NWU, My Study is focusing on two strategies, focusing on positive effects health outcomes of employee and secondly to develop a mobile based software application that would encourage employees and their family members to personally manage their health information.</p> <p>Prof. Willem Roestenburg Meet Willem Roestenburg, a knowledgeable academic and social work professor at North-West University who is passionate about creating measurement instruments and</p>

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			in the program budget and how this directly affects the program's effectiveness. Using a structural equation model, the study identifies objective and subjective factors that contribute to employee well-being, namely Work Engagement and Psychological Capacity. Based on these findings, the study provides insightful recommendations on how this knowledge can be utilized to improve the effectiveness of service offerings for employees.	tools relevant to the indigenous local societal context and its rich dynamics. He has conducted several studies focused on the well-being of employees in workplace settings, and community contexts. He has explored other phenomena, such as youth diversion, and alcohol and substance abuse. Willem's research approach is a blend of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
3	<p>The well-being of social workers in remote areas, who cares?</p> <p>(Unique Number: 106)</p>	<p>Session 3 Breakaway Room 3</p>	<p>Social work is a poorly understood profession that is rarely taken seriously. Social workers assist people in addressing a wide range of challenges by providing supportive and empowering environments. While social work is intended to promote and ensure the well-being of a constantly changing society, relatively little attention is paid to the well-being of the social worker. The basis of the article is primarily based on these areas</p>	<p>Ms. Veronica Nmutandani</p> <p>Ms. Veronica Nmutandani is a lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the University of Venda. She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Limpopo and is in the final stages of her Doctoral studies at the University of the Western Cape. Ms Nmutandani has more than 10 years of teaching experience in higher education. Her interest in research includes Sustainable Community Development and Families and Children. She is currently involved in teaching undergraduate students and research supervision. Before joining the university, Ms Nmutandani worked for various social services organisations.</p>

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			as outlined by (Nortje, 2021): continuous self-development and growth, good social connections, the belief that one can overcome obstacles, and the belief that life has meaning, life has a purpose and a positive self-image about oneself. This choice is also based on recognising that a social worker's professional development is centred on these areas. Mental well-being is also a positive factor in workplace productivity. Therefore, a well-cared-for social worker will lead to effectiveness and efficiency in all aspects of her work.	

MORE ONLINE PRESENTATIONS (11)

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	Spirituality and Religion as Coping Strategies for Older Persons Living in Korogwe District.	Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online	In this paper, I explore religion and spirituality as coping mechanisms assisting Older Persons Living with HIV (OPLHIV) in Korogwe District in Tanzania. Specific attention is to OPLHIV religious conduct, how OPLHIV perception of God	Ms. Abigail Kiwelu I have been a Social Work Educator for about ten years. Currently pursuing a PhD in Social Work. My area of interest is Older Persons Living with HIV particularly in less privileged areas. Specifically I am looking into their lived experiences and informal social support to help them in managing their lives.

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	(Unique number: 041)		<p>influence their wellness, influence of religious and spiritual practices in coping mechanisms applied by OPLHIV. Findings of the study result from in-depth interviews conducted with 13 purposefully selected OPLHIV living in Korogwe. In the article, findings are categorized as follows; (i) OPLHIV consider being spiritual or more religious after being diagnosed with HIV, (ii) Understanding God, His Messengers and his ÒmessengersÓ directly affects the health of OPLHIV and (iii) Religion and Spirituality bring optimism about the future the older one grows with HIV infection. Thorough analysis of the findings direct the study towards recommending thatÉ (i)Religious leaders must state clearly their health policy before the central, local government and the people (ii) More awareness is needed, backed by empirical evidence on religious and spiritual practices that have taken OPLHIV to their doom (iii) Social works must have adequate knowledge and context related skills to make people</p>	

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			aware on how to apply spirituality and religious practices to improve their quality of life physically, mentally and socially.	
2	<p>Understanding the perspectives of caregivers labelled neglectful in a selected local community, KwaZulu-Natal.</p> <p>(Unique number: 042)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online</p>	<p>Child neglect in South Africa remains complex in terms of causes, forms, and required interventions. Caregivers/parents are often labelled as neglectful either wilfully or circumstantially, or both by social service professionals when children are removed from their care. This study was in line with supporting families in reducing vulnerabilities. A qualitative study was conducted in KwaZulu-Natal, with 12 caregivers using in-depth interviews. In this study four main themes were identified. The study findings revealed that parents understood neglect as inadequately providing for children. The study also found that parents/caregivers faced numerous social adversities such as poverty, unemployment, and domestic violence. These social adversities were found as the contributing factors to the high rates of child neglect. The study recommended that the</p>	<p>Ms. Zinhle Mqadi</p> <p>Zinhle Mqadi is a social worker with 10 years working experience under the Department of Social Development. Currently working as an Acting Probation Officer. She has acquired a BA Social work as well as a Master of Social Work at the University Of KwaZulu-Natal. Prior to employment she has gained experience through completing practical's at Ithembalabantu Organization and Umlazi Place of Safety, both situated in Umlazi location, in Durban. In addition, she has been afforded with an opportunity to prior work for 2 years under DSD at Greenfields CYCC, as a facility social worker. She further envisions growth in working with various stakeholders and expand her knowledge in order to develop herself with the gains of the academics she has assumed.</p>

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			Department of Social Development link caregivers/parents with facilities for life skills training.	
3	<p>Insider and outsider positionalities: Reflexive log on a supervision research partnership on HIV-seropositive patients' adherence on antiretrovirals.</p> <p>(Unique number: 043)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online</p>	<p>The study that informs this reflexive log, interrogates a HIV-seropositive supervisor and HIV-seronegative supervisee's relationship while engaging in a qualitative master's study on the Factors affecting adult patients' adherence on antiretroviral therapy at Municipality clinics in Alfred Duma Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Both team members narratives explore their insider/outsider positionalities that is based on honest disclosure and their transparency while highlighting their challenges, similarities, and strengths in an endeavour to develop and complete an ethically sound, and relevant study. This was achieved through the use of reflexive bracketing, reciprocal communication, disclosure of both positionalities and HIV status, a respectful research relationship and the recognition of the fluid relationship of both. The research team recommends</p>	<p>Dr. Delarise Mulqueeny Dr Delarise Mulqueeny, is a Senior Lecturer in the Social Work Department of University of Zululand. Her background is in social work, education, family therapy, business administration, industrial psychology, and criminology. She is a social worker, educator, and family therapist by profession. She is grounded in HIV programmes and patient-centred care, being an HIV-positive woman, whose Masters in Family Therapy and PhD navigated HIV programmes and health systems strengthening.</p> <p>Mr. Bheki Dlamini Mr Bheki Dlamini works for Health Systems Trust while completing his Masters in Community work at the University of Zululand. His career focus is on health strengthening and patient-centred care; hence his dissertation focusses on the factors affecting HIV-seropositive patients' adherence to Antiretroviral treatment. His undergraduate degree is in the Social Sciences.</p>

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			that such honest disclosure of both positionalities from the onset, provides opportunities for discordant supervisor-supervisee relationships to pursue and engage in more HIV research and destigmatise HIV and other chronic and sexually related illnesses.	
4	<p>Lived Experiences of Single Teenage Mothers at Mtubatuba Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 068)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 Online</p>	<p>In an era marked by the complex challenges confronting young people, addressing teenage pregnancy requires a comprehensive multisectorial response that empowers and supports adolescents on multiple fronts. This qualitative study's objectives were to explore the psycho-social experiences of single teenage mothers from northern KwaZulu-Natal, understand their experience of absent fathers in the parental relationship, identify sources of support, and provide recommendations to multiple sectors. Thirteen participants were sampled by snowballing, data and participated in face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions, that were manually coded and thematically analysed.</p>	<p>Ms. Nontobeko Mthethwa Nontobeko Mthethwa is a qualified social worker and master's student at the University of Zululand. She also holds a higher certificate in Local government and development management from Mancosa. As a teenage mother herself, conducting research on teenage mothers inspired her to write a book called 'I was a teenage mother ' in 2021, which is her second publication. The first book she wrote is called 'Thorns in my path', which was published in 2020 during Covid-19. She writes about her lived experiences with the sole aim to educate and empower the younger generation. She is also a public speaker who has been invited in various platforms to conduct teenage pregnancy awareness programmes.</p> <p>Ms. Thobeka Ntini-Makununika Thobeka Ntini-Makununika is a social work lecturer at the University of Zululand. She pursues her PhD, holds Master of Social Work with Families and Children from University Institute of Lisbon and Master of Social Sciences in Social Work (Cum Laude) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.</p> <p>Dr. Delarise Mulqueeny Delarise Mulqueeny is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,</p>

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			The empowerment theory was used as a framework. The study's findings highlight several key areas for multi-sectorial interventions to address teenage pregnancy, that include psycho-social challenges, social rejection, disrupted life plans, academic difficulties, financial problems, father absenteeism, and poor mental health.	University of Zululand, and an Honorary Lecturer in the Discipline of Public Health Medicine, School of Nursing and Public Health.
5	The perspectives of social work supervisees on the quality of supervision. (Unique Number: 46)	Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online	The study was intended to explore the perspectives of social work supervisees on the quality of supervision in the Giyani region of South Africa. A qualitative research approach was adopted to explore, describe and contextualize their perspectives. The data for the study was collected from 13 social work supervisees through semi-structured interviews and was analyzed using Creswell's (2014) steps of data analysis. The study concluded that majority of the participants 10 of 13 are not offered quality supervision by their supervisors in the Giyani region. The participants, amongst other reasons, attributed the poor quality of supervision to the fact	Mr. Tsunduka Maluleke Maluleke Tsunduka is a qualified and designated social worker grade 03 working for the Limpopo Department of Social Development since March 2011 to date. He holds a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University of Venda (2010) and a Master's of Social Work degree from the University of South Africa (2021). He is currently a Doctor of Social Work candidate at the University of South Africa. His doctoral research focuses on social work and gender-based violence. currently he has 18 career development certificates under his name. Dr. Gladys Bathabile Bhuda Gladys Bathabile Bhuda is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the University of South Africa. She is involved in teaching and learning of social work management, supervision and administration to the undergraduate students. Gladys is also involved in the supervision of postgraduate social work students with the focus on supervision management and health. Gladys has conducted two major research projects titled "abortion and contraceptives: an exploratory study" and " Supportive

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			that supervisors were not appointed to their supervisory positions but that they are employed as social workers who are then delegated to the supervision tasks without any remuneration for the supervision duties that they render.	supervision: a model for social work supervisor" for her master's and PhD Degrees in social work respectively.
6	<p>Factors influencing the decision-making processes of social workers rendering foster care services.</p> <p>(Unique number: 044)</p>	<p>Session 1 Breakaway Room 5 Online</p>	<p>This paper examines the factors that influence the decision-making processes of social workers providing foster care services, with a focus on quality management and enhanced social services. Evidence shows that social workers adopt a mixed approach, leaning strongly toward intuition in decision-making. The study on which this paper is based is qualitative namely a case study design, informed by the explorative, descriptive and contextual designs. The populations of the study were social workers rendering foster care services in government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and their supervisors. Triangulation of data collection methods were utilised, namely, case file analysis and semi-structured interviews with social</p>	<p>Dr. Pat Naicker Dr Pat Naicker is the General Manager: Monitoring And Evaluation at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). She completed her PhD at UNISA in 2022 with the title <i>factors influencing the decision-making processes of social workers rendering foster care services: a decision-making matrix as a guideline for social workers.</i></p> <p>Prof. Petro Botha Prof Petro Botha is a professor at the Department of Social Work at UNISA. She was the supervisor for Dr Naicker's PhD titled: <i>factors influencing the decision-making processes of social workers rendering foster care services: a decision-making matrix as a guideline for social workers.</i></p>

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			workers and supervisors. This paper aims to shed light on the decision-making processes of social workers in all phases of rendering foster care services, contributing to the improvement of services and outcomes in this critical domain.	
7	<p>Navigating complexities in supervising social work students with multi-faceted challenges during their field placement.</p> <p>(Unique number: 045)</p>	Session 2 Plenary Venue	<p>Practicum placements offer learning opportunities to apply knowledge and skills in real-life situations with diverse and vulnerable populations. Effective supervision of internships becomes uniquely demanding when guiding students through field placements characterised by a confluence of challenges such as unethical behaviours, incompetence, or vulnerability, e.g., suicidality. Field instructors must balance adequate support and maintaining professional boundaries to ensure optimal learning, skill development, and ethical practice. Existing literature reviewed to explore the potential strategies for addressing this interplay recommends a supportive and empathetic education and supervisory environment, promoting ethical</p>	<p>Ms. Aisha Abrahams I am a Lecturer at the University of the Free State teaching Group Work, Child Protection and coordinating 4th-year Field Instruction. My area of interest is the Supervision needs of undergraduate Social Work students during their field placements.</p>

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			practice and providing effective self-care strategies. These strategies have not delivered the desired results. The presentation will showcase selected case studies of the experiences of field instructors and lecturers confronted with these challenges. The aim is to start conversations with colleagues on how they address or mitigate the issues. The outcome will aim to inform social work education to build the capacity of the undergraduate social work student to become a professional, ethical, and competent practitioner able to render effective and efficient interventions to service users.	
8	<p>Boetto's Transformative Eco-Social Model for Social Work as a way to address Ecological Social Work and Environmental Citizenship in South Africa.</p> <p>(Unique number: 174)</p>	Session 5 Breakaway Room 3	The role and responsibilities of social workers over the years had to adjust according to the specific needs and challenges, which at the time presented themselves and required the social work profession to adjust. It is believed that the social work profession once again is at a crossroad where a possible paradigm shift is needed if it not only wants to match the rapid changes of the 21st century, but also wants to	<p>Dr. Issie Jacobs</p> <p>Issie Jacobs is a senior lecturer at the North-West University and forms part of the Centre for Child, Youth and Family Studies which is situated in Wellington. She is responsible for post-graduation supervision of master's and doctorate studies. Her fields of interest are family members' reciprocal responsibility for family relational wellbeing and recently also aspects pertaining to climate change with a specific focus on ecological social work and disaster management.</p>

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			stay relevant in its service delivery to communities and vulnerable populations. Boetto's "Transformative Eco-Social Model for Social Work" is proposed as the way forward as the characteristics of this model address aspects such as ecological literacy and justice, indigenous perspectives, eco-feminism and criticality, the incorporating of global perspectives, a focus on sustainability and de-growth, and rethinking the concept of wellbeing.	
9	<p>The what, why and how of capacitating social service professionals regarding their roles in social protest actions.</p> <p>(Unique number: 064)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 Online</p>	<p>The mandate to engage in socio-political action to attain social change is endorsed by both the Global definition of social work and the South African Council for Social Service Professions' ethical code. However, genuine activism for human rights and social justice remains contentious to operationalise by social workers in South Africa. Among other factors, professional boundaries, reliance on government funding, professional and personal threats, and ineffective collaboration of the social work fraternity are central to the lack of involvement</p>	<p>Dr. Nyasha Hillary Chibaya Dr. Nyasha Chibaya is a Post-graduate researcher at the Department of Social Work, University of Montreal, Canada. He recently completed an Erasmus+ post-graduate mobility at the University of Trento, Italy. Dr. Chibaya's research foci includes social work supervision and management, social action, human rights, social justice and ethics in social work. Currently, he is conducting research on social action with transgender parents in Canada.</p> <p>Prof. Lambert Engelbrecht Prof Lambert K Engelbrecht is the Editor in Chief of the Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk journal. He publishes widely on topics related to social work, social development, management, supervision, and the impact of a neoliberal discourse on social welfare in both a global and South African context. He is a B-rated researcher by the NRF, editor of "Management and supervision of social workers: Issues and</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			in social actions by social workers. These were some of the key findings in a qualitative study with four sampling cohorts, consisting of frontline social workers, their supervisors, organisational managers and academic experts on radical social work. The paper reflects on this research and presents recommendations to strengthen multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary responses that are essential to building the professional capacity of social service professionals regarding their roles in social protest actions.	challenges within a social development paradigm” (2014; 2019), and co-editor of “The Routledge international handbook of social work supervision” (2021).
10	<p>A work-life perspective on the subjective wellbeing of social workers</p> <p>(Unique Number: 067)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 Online</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic an array of situations needed the attention of frontline social workers, who already faced high caseloads and who were expected to push aside their own families’ challenges to render services in often unsafe environments in uncertain times. This paper reports on a study, which seeks to gain an understanding of the subjective wellbeing of social workers from a work-life perspective. In this qualitative study, a semi-structured interview</p>	<p>Dr. Sandra Bredell Dr Sandra Bredell is a lecturer at Hugenote Kollege, Wellington. Her PhD research focussed on social work as a profession in the South African context, the subjective wellbeing and work-life balance of social workers. She co-presented a paper at the ASASWEI conference and presented a paper at the SWESD conference in 2022. She co-authored a chapter on "Fieldwork practice for social work students during COVID-19 pandemic" in "Resilience in a VUCA world: Reflections on teaching, learning and health in turbulent times."(2022)</p> <p>Prof. Lambert Engelbrecht Prof Lambert K Engelbrecht is the Editor in Chief of the Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk journal. He publishes widely on topics related to social work, social development,</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			schedule was used to interview 11 frontline social workers and 12 supervisors. Key findings suggest that participants felt stressed and overworked and they do not receive adequate supervisory support, other than related to work issues, and they admitted to struggling with work-life balance.	management, supervision, and the impact of a neoliberal discourse on social welfare in both a global and South African context. He is a B-rated researcher by the NRF, editor of “Management and supervision of social workers: Issues and challenges within a social development paradigm” (2014; 2019), and co-editor of “The Routledge international handbook of social work supervision” (2021).
11	<p>“Didn’t they teach you that at varsity?” A scoping review of continuing professional development for enhancing work readiness of newly qualified social workers.</p> <p>(Unique number: 065)</p>	<p>Session 2 Breakaway Room 2 Online</p>	<p>Newly qualified social workers (NQSWs) are expected to be work ready; however, certain professional development can only take place within the work environment. The bridging process between obtaining a degree and entering the work place therefore requires specific support and development to enhance work readiness. A scoping review was conducted to map existing support and development needs, as well as the structures that have been developed for addressing these needs of NQSWs. The review followed Arksey and O'Malley's methodology. Based on the PRIMSA Sc process of 10 electronic databases, 40 articles met the inclusion criteria for thematic analysis. Identified support</p>	<p>Ms. Leanne Jordaan</p> <p>Leanne Jordaan is a lecturer and doctoral student in the Department of Social Work and Criminology at the University of Pretoria. With an interest in practice education, and after several years as a practice lecturer, she has recently shifted focus to specialisation in working with families and children. After 20 years in various social work fields in practice, include social work in schools, she is currently interested in the continuous professional development of newly qualified social workers and the importance of collaboration in the endeavour to achieve this goal.</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			structures for NQSWs include protected caseloads, supervision and orientation programmes. The findings of the scoping review signal ways to cultivate a work environment characterised by lifelong learning and professional capacity building of NQSWs as they transition into the workplace. The paper contributes towards sub-theme 4.2, i.e. building professional capacity in social services professions.	

WORKSHOPS (4)

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	South African Social Workers Unemployment: Opportunities within Customary Initiation Act 2 of 2021 (Unique Number: 178)	Session 5 Breakaway Room 5 Workshop 3 - 30 minutes	Male initiation ceremonies have historically played a significant role in South African society. Most people who follow these traditions are from the Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho, and Ndebele ethnic groupings. A rite of passage from adolescence to manhood, the initiation ceremony is seen as a significant cultural and social event. Older men with knowledge of the community's traditions and customs supervise the initiation procedure. These men oversee imparting	Mr. Andrew Spaumer. Andrew is Lecturer and Doctor of Social Work student at UNISA. His area of research interest is child protection. He has worked as social worker both in South Africa and the United Kingdom where he worked as child protection social worker. As public speaker he represented the social work profession both on television and radio in South Africa. He is presently serving as board member for the International Association of Social Work with Group.

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			<p>knowledge about cultural values, obligations, and customs related to manhood. They are frequently seen as mentors or advisors for the initiates. Social workers must safeguard vulnerable populations in accordance with their legal, ethical, and professional obligations. Indigenous knowledge is a recognized foundation for professionalizing social work, therefore social workers are expected to be culturally competent and ethically engage with various clients. The Customary Initiation Act (Act No. 2 of 2021) gives social workers the chance to offer counselling to initiates and their parents, particularly in the event of a death. The Act also gives social workers who have undergone initiation the chance to employ their newly learned abilities as initiation school principals and caregivers. The unemployment of social workers may be addressed by such an opportunity.</p>	
2	<p>Gender based violence of substance abusers during the Covid 19 pandemic (Unique Number: 179).</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 5 Workshop 4 - 30 minutes</p>	<p>The presentation will address the manner in which Gender Based Violence manifested during the Covid 19 pandemic in relation to people with substance abuse disorder. The content is rather more experiential than research driven</p>	<p>Mr. Clifford Matthews. I am a social worker that has been in the field for 30 years. I have a BA Social Work from Wits (a four year degree) and an Honours In Psychology. Most of my work has been in the psychiatric environment, in Crisis and Trauma Intervention and for</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			with the use of case studies to illustrate major content.	the past 6 years in the field of substance abuse in a private rehabilitation centre.
3	<p>Co-generating indigenous and decolonised curricula from the ground: An imbizo for the helping professions</p> <p>(Unique Number: 176)</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 4 Workshop 1-30 minutes</p>	<p>We are six social work academics from five different universities in South Africa researching in a project funded by the NRF that spans three years (2021-2023) entitled: Decolonising and indigenising the social work curriculum by co creating african knowledge production incubators at higher education institutions. The imbizo (workshop) aims to interact with academics, students, researchers and helping professionals so as to critique, reflect and share their experiences of decolonising and indigenising their teaching, learning and practice within the historically colonial work and study environments. The first segment of the workshop entails a brief presentation of the work done thusfar which is aligned to the following main project objective: To tell stories of our lived experiences of being an African. The next segment of the workshop will be based on prompts pertaining to colonialism and higher education to encourage critical self reflection culminating in robust conversations among participants linked to the following</p>	<p>Dr. Nevashnee Perumal Nevashnee is a lecturer at the Department of Social Development Professions at Nelson Mandela University (NMU), researching and teaching in the areas of social work supervision, management, ethics and indigenising the social work curriculum.</p> <p>Prof. Veonna Goliath Veonna Goliath is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Development Professions at Nelson Mandela University (NMU). She lectures, supervises research and publishes in the area of social issues, clinical social work, substance use disorder, mental health, family dynamics and youth development.</p> <p>Dr Mbongeni Sithole Mbongeni Sithole is a social work educator, with 12 years of academic experience. He is a self-driven, life-long learner with practice expertise in community development, corrections and skills development. His research interests involve supervision, Afro</p>

	TOPIC	SESSION NUMBER	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
			project objective: To share our experiences of the curricula we teach and our own contribution to decolonial/indigenous knowledge production. The final segment will draw the main thrusts of the workshop to a logical conclusion encouraging further personal reflections among the participants within their professional spaces.	
4	<p>African knowledge production incubators: Approaching indigenous and decolonised social work from the ground up through stories of our lived experiences.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 177)</p>	<p>Session 5 Breakaway Room 4 Workshop 2-30 minutes</p>	<p>In keeping with the social work principles of doing no harm, respect for diversity and upholding human rights and social justice, it is imperative to decolonize the social work curricula in universities with the goal of shifting Euro American centric knowledge systems to the fringes and centering African knowledge. Six social work academics from five universities in South Africa embarked on an African Knowledge Production Incubators project using PALAR methodology. This paper reports on our first incubation aligned to the project's first objective viz. telling stories of our lived experiences of being an African. Our stories reflected the richness in the traditions and rituals we inherited from our ancestral and local knowledge</p>	<p>Dr. Nevashnee Perumal Nevashnee is a lecturer at the Department of Social Development Professions at Nelson Mandela University (NMU), researching and teaching in the areas of social work supervision, management, ethics and indigenising the social work curriculum.</p> <p>Prof. Veonna Goliath Veonna Goliath is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Development Professions at Nelson Mandela University (NMU). She lectures, supervises research and publishes in the area of social issues, clinical social work, substance use disorder, mental health, family dynamics and youth development.</p> <p>Dr Mbongeni Sithole Mbongeni Sithole is a social work educator, with 12 years of academic experience. He</p>

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			holders and wisdom bearers. The key learnings translated into guidelines for the extended incubation and the decolonisation of the social work curriculum.	is a self-driven, life-long learner with practice expertise in community development, corrections and skills development. His research interests involve supervision, Afro

POSTER (8)

	TOPIC	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
1	Multisector responses to young people and teenage pregnancy	The poster presentation will focus on the Multi - Sector responses to young people and teenage pregnancy by looking at the different sectors such as the social work, education and health care sector on how they respond to teenage pregnancy and how they help young people through teenage pregnancy since it can be traumatic for young people and make them to be more vulnerable.	Ms. Sinqobile Gumede I have a qualification in Higher Certificate in Early childhood care education and I'm still an undergraduate 3rd year student doing Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching. I have two Star Awards under the faculty of School of Education at IIE Rosebank College Durban Campus.
2	Supportive social work supervision: A model for social work supervisors	Social work practice is demanding on practitioners. Social workers handle high workloads and are often exasperated by the administrative demands associated with their duties. Dwindling resources further frustrate them and so do the ever-changing landscapes of social, political and health aspects brought forth by globalisation, technological ties, emigration and environmental challenges. Against this backdrop, there is a need for purposeful and constructive supportive social work supervision in practice. Consequently, this paper presents the supportive social work supervision model. The model was developed using the intervention	Dr. Gladys Bhuda Dr Gladys Bathabile Bhuda is a senior lecturer in the Department of Social work at the University of South Africa. Dr Bhuda obtained her undergraduate social work degree and her master of social work degree at the University of Pretoria while she obtained her PhD at the University of South Africa. Her field of specialization is social work management and supervision and is also interested in leadership in general and decoloniality.

	TOPIC	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
		design and development (D&D) methodology. The model is derived from findings of exploring the nature and the extent of supportive social work supervision amongst social workers employed in Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. During the exploration, the mixed method approach, i.e. the QUAN-qual sequential dominant status-design, was adopted and data was collected through a self-developed questionnaire from social workers and through semi-structured interviews from supervisors	
3	Coming together to overcome, educate, support each other and rebuild hope for rural community using Ubuntu: Narratives of academics, community leaders and the Shembe women of UMbumbulu Community, South of Durban, KwaZulu Natal.	The community of uMbumbulu rural community located in the South of Durban, like many rural areas in South Africa lack resources including financial resources that affords them every day living. The uMbumbulu Community Empowerment Drive is a research projects that identified mental health education support as a major challenges as many had lost loved ones in 2020-2021, however, the deaths were never a result of the Covid-19 virus. Additionally, the province was hit by floods in April 2022 forcing the initial project deal with additional trauma and assist with basic necessity in order for families to bury loved ones with dignity. We identified Weyer's community asset-based community-led development (ABCD)to engage with communities. The team also followed a systematic process that follows 4 steps; community organizing, visioning, planning and implementation and evaluation.	Ms. Nyameka Mbonambi. I am an early career researcher with a desire is to produce research that bridges the gap between academia and communities with a particular interest in mental health, education, gender equality and environmental issues. I want to produce research that focuses on community engagement through engaging with real life narratives. I am passionate about knowledge dissemination to non-academic audiences and am excited about the differences educational institutions can make in communities and society.

	TOPIC	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
4	Psychosocial Damage to children who experience sexual and physical abuse in Mafikeng, Ha Motoko, Lesotho	<p>Child abuse, encompassing sexual and physical forms, is prevalent worldwide, often perpetrated by close relatives. This study explores the psychological and social repercussions of sexual and physical abuse on children, incorporating insights from victims, caregivers, and key informants. Results reveal a host of negative consequences, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, impaired relationships, and social isolation. Promoting awareness campaigns and educating caregivers on handling cases of abuse is recommended.</p> <p>The study aligns with interpretivism as the research paradigm and employs a qualitative approach and study design. Data collection was premised on in-depth interviews, which was meticulously analyzed and organized with the utilization of narrative and conservation data analysis techniques. Ethical considerations, such as confidentiality, informed consent, and trustworthiness were integral to the study's implementation.</p>	<p>Ms. Mashoeshoe Kalaoane A completing social work student. I was a social work intern at the Ministry of Social Development and Itjareng Vocational Training centre which deals with children and adults living with disability. Also have certificates in completing mental health and disability courses.</p> <p>Ms. Nkotseng Mokhele A completing social work student. I was a social work intern in the Child and gender protection unit at the Police station and also at Motebang Hospital where I was holding counselling sessions where needed.</p> <p>Ms Thato Mphatle A completing social work student. Interned at SheHive Association.</p>
5	Access to HIV-Testing Services Among Adolescents and Young People: Evidence to Strengthen multi-Sectoral Response	<p>Despite notable progress in HIV prevention and treatment, adolescents and young people (AYP) encounter specific obstacles when accessing these vital services. This study aims to provide evidence-based insights to strengthen the multi-sectoral response to HIV testing services (HTS) among AYP in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.</p> <p>An exploratory qualitative study was conducted in four geopolitical zones in Nigeria, using in-depth</p>	<p>Mr. Charles Nwaigwe Charles Nwaigwe is a dedicated professional with a background in the NGO sector, education, and social work. Born in Port Harcourt, River State, he has risen through the ranks in a non-governmental organization, from a data entry clerk to a monitoring and evaluation advisor. Charles holds a Bachelor of Science in education from the University of Abuja, Nigeria, and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in social work, focusing on youth and community practice at the University of Botswana. With a passion for making a positive</p>

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		interviews, comprising 10 participants (1-2 per campus) purposively selected from six campuses. Nigerian campuses offer inadequate HTS, and barriers such as limited awareness, insufficient access to HIV prevention commodities, and suboptimal services from campus clinics deter AYPs from accessing HTS. Furthermore, there is a lack of collaboration between tertiary institutions and other sectors in addressing this health challenge. Strengthening multi-sectoral collaboration between tertiary institutions and relevant sectors can enhance the impact of HTS among AYP. This requires a harmonized framework that prioritizes AYP on Nigerian campuses.	<p>impact, he continues to inspire others and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of communities.</p> <p>Mr. Emmanuel Nwala Emmanuel Nwala is a distinguished professional with a Master's in Public Health and a prominent figure in the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector. With a successful career trajectory within the NGO, he has climbed the ranks to become a senior management team member..</p> <p>Prof. Mogomotsi Ntseane Dolly Dolly Mogomotsi Ntseane is an esteemed professor of social policy at the University of Botswana. With a wealth of experience and expertise in her field, she has played a significant role in shaping the academic journeys of numerous students. As a dedicated supervisor, Dolly has guided and mentored countless students, empowering them to excel in their studies and research.</p>
6	Deconstructing Stereotypes: A Clinical Examination of Femmephobia in Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men's Health Perspectives	This research investigates the psychological impact of femmephobia on gay, bisexual, and queer men, focusing on the neglected conceptual differences between self-actualized and assigned/essentialized femininity. Femmephobia, interlinked with homophobia, exerts social pressure on men to present more masculine, often leading to the suppression of femininity. This study utilizes the Femininities Scale, based on Femme Theory, to assess the varied ways respondents enact or construe femininity, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of gender dynamics in these populations. The research aims to illuminate the gendered phenomenon brought forth by the Femininities scale, particularly relating to the mental and social well-being of gay and	<p>Mr. Justin Brass I am a Psychology Honours graduate from the University of Guelph, currently pursuing a Master's in Counselling Psychology under the supervision of Dr. Adam Davies, a distinguished scholar in education, gender, and sexuality studies. My academic interests span sexual health, neurological and developmental psychology, and nonlinear/chaos psychology. My passion for understanding the human mind's complexities and my current work in counselling psychology align with my aspiration to become a Registered Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Researcher.</p> <p>Ms. Victoria Mendonca I am deeply passionate about psychology, mental health, and close relationships. I am motivated to help others navigate their individual journeys and I am interested in research on relationships, love, attachment, and sexual dynamics.</p>

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		<p>bisexual men. It seeks to fill the gap in research that potentially overlooks key conceptual differences between self-actualized versus assigned/essentialized femininity. By exploring the psychological impact of feminine multiplicities such as Patriarchal, Hegemonic, Essentialized, and Femme, the study will add to the limited literature that considers the multiple dimensions of femininity as a constructed unitary concept. This research seeks to promote positive role models in gender relational contexts, by challenging femmephobia and advocating for the acceptance and celebration of diverse gender expressions in gay, bisexual, and queer men's populations.</p>	<p>Currently, I work as an Employment Counsellor and volunteer as a Crisis Responder and Research Assistant. As a recent graduate, with a major in Psychology and minor in Family and Child Studies, I am always looking for new opportunities to get involved in academic research and counselling.</p> <p>Ms. Amanda Godes</p> <p>I am currently a fourth-year student at the University of Guelph in the Honours BA Psychology (Co-op) program. Recently, I have begun working on my undergraduate thesis, looking at the relationship between young adults' problematic use of social networking sites and their sexual consent attitudes and behaviour.</p>
7	<p>Exploring the Meaning and Life Satisfaction of 60 to 90 year-old Retired Individuals in Gamalakhe Township, Ray Nkonyeni Municipality:South Coast Of KwaZulu-Natal</p>	<p>The research study was a qualitative study from empirical research evidence. The aim of the study was to explore the meaning and life satisfaction of 60 to 90 year-old retired individuals. To understand the lived experiences of participants as unique individuals. The retired individuals face a multitude of social, economic and psychological challenges. They fall victims of rejection, isolation and social scorn. These experiences often lead to anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideations. Data collection was conducted through in-depth qualitative research interviews. The study was conducted during Covid-19 pandemic, therefore interviews were telephonically. The participants were selected purposefully. Thematic analysis of the transcripts revealed seven themes.</p>	<p>Ms. Pumeza Mpepho</p> <p>Pumeza Mpepho is a social worker at the Department Of Social Development, Gamalakhe Service Office. She has 10 years working experience as a generic social worker in the Department. She is particularly interested in working with children, adolescents and older persons. To ensure she improves sustainable and quality services to the above mentioned groups; in year 2020 and 2021, she furthered her studies and obtained Honours degree in Psychological Counselling and Honours Degree in Social and Behavioral Change Studies with Specialization in HIV/AIDS.</p>

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		Evidence shows that meaning and life satisfaction can be maintained during retirement age. The recommendations include that (i) Government should strengthen Laws and Policies which protects the elderly from abuse and neglect. (ii) The society should unlearn harmful myths and dangerous stigma associated with old age.	
8	<p>The interface between patriarchy, gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa: A review of existing literature.</p> <p>(Unique Number: 134)</p>	<p>Egalitarianism is a philosophical perspective that advocates against the leading factors of GBV and femicide, which are patriarchy and elite. Statistics show that women are more susceptible to gender-based violence (GBV). Gender-inequality has been observed to be ahistorical and eternal, with little focus on how its complexity contributes to GBV and femicide. Therefore, this review aims to explore how egalitarianism in intimate and other relationships can fight against GBV and femicide. Literature search from various databases was used. Retrieved articles were screened to incorporate peer-reviewed and grey literature. Thematic analyses were conducted on relevant studies with a focus on promoting egalitarianism as response to GBV and femicide. The screened studies revealed that in cultures where patriarchy is exercised, it grooms boys under the mindset of being dominant which leads them to be aggressive toward females while girls are passive, subordinate, and dependent. This somehow shapes women to be economically vulnerable, and inferior in refusing any form of GBV. Gender-inequality and exposure to GBV increase the risk of femicide in our communities. Religious</p>	<p>Ms. Samkelisiwe Ngubane</p> <p>My study intentions are very clear. To advance my knowledge through conducting research that will contribute positively to my community and reduce health-psychosocial stressors that are threatening to human health. And for that, I believe that I am a suitable candidate to be offered an opportunity to present based on my career field and my passion towards the social work profession. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate and working as a Trial Clinical Social Worker on various adolescent health, drug use prevention, and multilevel HIV prevention projects at Africa Health Research Institute. The concentration of my work and being exposed to clinical trials is greatly related and focuses on social work and public health which is to address human health aspects. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

	TOPIC	CONTENT	RESUME OF PRESENTERS
		leaders and community-based organizations can be used as medium of communication to promote egalitarianism in communities.	