



Winter School

DAAD Dimensions of Diversity – Winter School

The Faculty of Education collaborates in an international project funded by DAAD with the University of Groningen (Netherlands), NHL Stenden (Leeuwarden, Netherlands), and the Carl Von Ossietzky University (Oldenburg, Germany). One of the outcomes of the project is an annual Winter school in November of each year. In November 2022, staff and students from the Faculty had the opportunity to visit the University of Oldenburg for a week-long Winter School. This year, the Winter School took place over three days and coincided with a visit by the University of Oldenburg to Nelson Mandela University. During the three days, Students and staff engage around various research topics.

On 2 November 2023, NHL Stenden (Netherlands) hosted the first day of the DAAD Winter School, with many of our staff and students in attendance virtually. Friday, 10 November 2023, the Faculty of Education at Nelson

Mandela University embraced the opportunity as host for the day. Our DVC Learning and Teaching, Dr. Muki Moeng, welcomed the participants and communicated her excitement regarding the topic of this year's Winter School, Diversity in the Classroom: Critical Literacies for World Citizenship. The faculty choir delivered a sterling performance and set the ambiance for the day's presentations.

Friday's presentations combined music, drama, critical reflections, and thought-provoking discussions, which characterised collaboration and engagement between all involved.



Cape Recife

Our students savored the opportunity to engage with international counterparts in shared experiences. During lunch, further discussions occurred around the critical topics of the day.

Day 2 of the Winter School – Hosted by Nelson Mandela University, Gqeberha

9:00 - 9:15	Opening & Welcome	Dr Muki Moeng – NMU DVC Learning & Teaching
9:15 – 10:45	Employing creative approaches to enhance critical literacy and to support the development of world citizenship	Prof Logan Athiemoolam (NMU) & Dr Sylke Bakker (UOL)
10:45 – 11:30	Fostering critical literacies in Music Education that may cultivate awareness of world citizenship	Dr Marelize Van Heerden (NMU) & Prof Mario Dunkel (UOL)
11:30 – 11:50	TEA	
11:50 -13:20	How to enhance world citizenship through fostering critical literacies in Inclusive Education	Prof Ulla Licandro (UOL), Dr Sanet Deysel (NMU), Prof Cina Mosito (NMU), Prof Deidre Geduld (NMU), Prof Mathabo Khau (NMU) & Mr. Obakeng Kagola (NMU)
13:20 – 14:10	Lunch	
14:10 – 15:20	Developing & Implementing Social Justice Curriculum For World Citizenship Using Critical Literacies	Prof Shervani Pillay (NMU), Dr Lucky Maluleke (NMU), Dr Walters Doh Nubia (NMU) & 4 NMU students
15:20 – 15:40	Critical dialogue on teaching human reproductive system to diverse classrooms: the porcupine in the curriculum.	Dr Ayanda Simayi (NMU) – 20 minutes
15:40 – 16:00	Closing Remarks	

During the week long visit colleagues from the University of Oldenburg also visited two schools in Gqeberha. We invited them to visit Charles Duna Primary School and Cape Recife High School. Charles Duna Primary School is a community school with a dynamic principal and staff whose passion, vision, and warmth drive them to excel above challenges. The school is the epitome of innovation to uplift, and empower the community and learners. Thank you to Ms. Sume and Mr. Jarren Gangiah for sharing their unwavering dedication and commitment to their learners with us.

Cape Recife High School accommodates learners with Special Educational Needs. The



therapists at Cape Recife shared their experiences working with learners with special needs and explained how their integrated approach contributes to the holistic development of the learners. Our German and South African colleagues engaged around the similarities and differences between the German and South African education systems regarding learners with special needs. Thank you to Ms. Maritz and Ms. Olivier for hosting us in your warm and inviting space for the holistic development of learners.

The DAAD project creates opportunities for staff and students to discuss and reflect on burning issues in teacher education nationally and internationally. We look forward to further collaboration on 17 November when Oldenburg (Germany) hosts the final day of this year's DAAD Dimensions of Diversity Winter School!

PGCE PLAYS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



Students registered for the PGCE programme of study in the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela were required to produce and present plays on various social issues as part of their English methodology module offered by Professor Athiemoolam.

The students produced plays of a high standard that focused on the themes of drug abuse and peer pressure, issues of memory and reliving the past, psycho-social issues focusing on schizophrenia embedded in violent behaviour, lack of parental support to children and the importance of being appreciative for what we have and who we are.

The plays were extremely well received by all those in attendance including faculty members, parents and students who found the themes that the students explored in their plays very relevant to their lived experiences.

The adjudicator, Dr Sylke Bakker from the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, commended the students on the high standard of the productions, the range of themes explored, the impact of their characterisation on the delivery of the productions and their overall engagement with the play-making process. Dr Bakker was part of a delegation of colleagues from Carl von Ossietzky who participated in the 'Dimensions

of Diversity' programme, which is a DAAD sponsored programme involving faculty of education members from both the Nelson Mandela University and Carl von Ossietzky University.

Professor Athiemoolam and Dr Bakker, both of whom are involved in teaching English methodology to pre-service teachers, have been involved in online lecturer exchange classes since 2020 as part of the DAAD, 'Dimensions of Diversity' programme. They met for the first time in person in Gqeberha in November during the Summer School hosted by the Faculty of Education, Nelson Mandela University.

TEACHING ACROSS BORDERS WORKSHOP (TAB III)

The Teaching Across Borders (TAB) Winter School Programme, which forms part of the broader DAAD initiative aimed at globalising teacher education, is an international virtual course in which students from the Universities of Oldenburg, Groningen, NHL Stenden and Nelson Mandela University (South Africa) share their insights and analysis of lessons and lesson planning in their respective contexts, hoping to expand their methodological and professional competence as student teachers. The winter school is offered hybrid, where participants present in person in a venue at the host institution and others join online.

On 8 November 2023, the Faculty of Education hosted the final of the three-part TAB workshops. Prof Heloise Sathorar (NMU), Prof Dr Till-Sebastian Idel (UOL), Dr Naadirah Abader (NMU) and twenty-seven workshop attendees reviewed and commented on the lesson plans submitted by four groups. The level of engagement among the participants and academic contributions enhanced the participants' awareness of diversity and appreciation of context.

The feedback regarding the workshop's effectiveness was positive, with some participants expressing an appreciation for the variations in schooling systems and resources across different countries. Additionally, participants conveyed a desire for increased in-person contact sessions and a broader scope in the realm of lesson planning. Additionally, some attendees highlighted that TAB provided them with a fresh perspective on the world, fostering mutual learning and enabling the implementation of strategies observed in other countries within their own classrooms.

Badroen Ismail

