

# *Mainstreaming Peace and Safety Promotion at UNISA*

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **This project is envisaged to take place over four years and will therefore be conducted over four phases**
- **Phase II , III and IV (2011 onwards) will involve detailed data collection and analyses as well as implementations of safety and peace initiatives**
- **Phase I (2010) of the project consisted of two sub-components:**
  - **Photo documentaries conducted by eight MARC students**
  - **Unobtrusive field observations, the development of a 95-item checklist, thematic analysis, and report write-up conducted by Luciana Rodriguez under the supervision of Sherianne Kramer and Bronwyn Sherriff**
- **These sub-components culminated in today's Campaign Day and mini-photo exhibition**

# AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- **To investigate perceptions of “safety” and “peace” within the UNISA community**
- **To identify factors that may compromise and/or support safety and peace on campus**
- **To enhance the awareness of protective factors for safety and peace at UNISA and, in turn, to promote a safe and peaceful environment on the UNISA Muckleneuk campus**
- **To facilitate an ongoing dialogue and network relating to issues of peace and safety on campus**
- **To build and strengthen the collaborative work between the UNISA ISHS and the UNISA Department of Psychology**

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What are the environmental risk factors that impinge on safety and peace on campus?**
- 2. What are the environmental safety promotion factors which enhance safety and peace on campus?**
- 3. What do the identified risk factors indicate for potential peace and safety promotion interventions?**

# DATA COLLECTION

## *Sub-component A*

- Eight MARC students
- Disposable cameras
- Photographs: 12 risk factors and 12 safety factors
- Focus group discussions
- Photographs used to develop a 95-item Safety and Peace checklist
- Culminated in mini-photo exhibition at Campaign Day

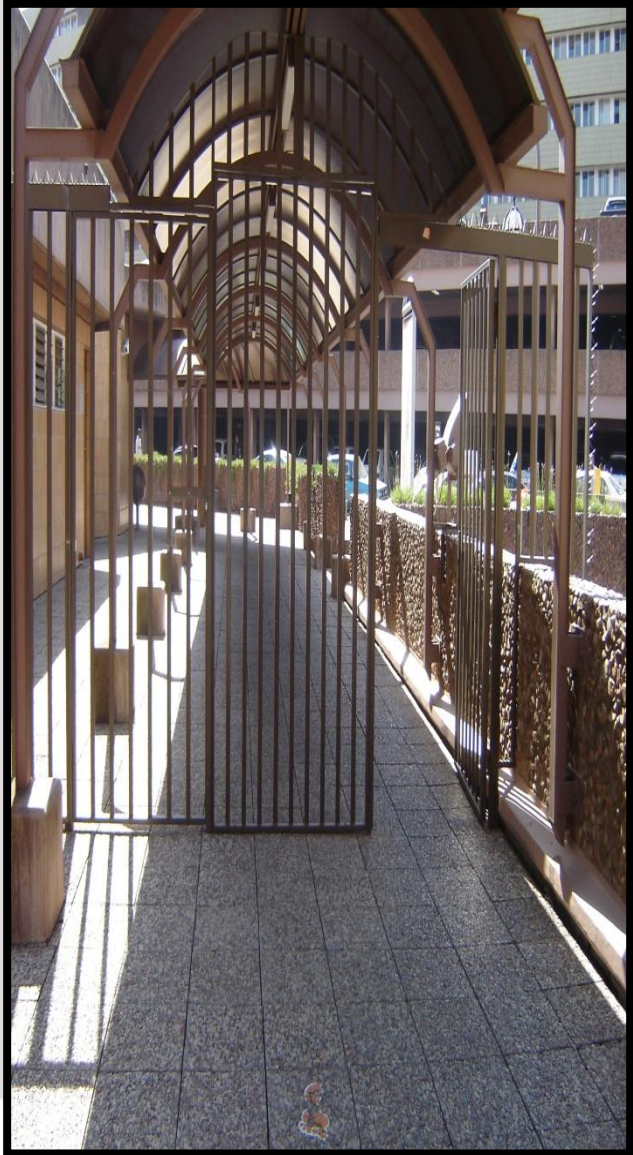
## *Sub-component B*

- Unobtrusive observations
- Field notes
- Safety and Peace checklist

# DATA ANALYSIS

- Transcriptions of field notes field notes
- Thematic analysis to identify themes in:
  - photographs
  - field notes
  - Checklist
- Four global themes emerged from the thematic content analysis:
  - (1) Crime
  - (2) Fire and electrocution
  - (3) Traffic
  - (4) Other unintentional injuries
  - Each theme consisted of a risk and safety component

# CRIME



## Access Controls

### Safety promotion

- The most prominent form of access control are security gates, security barred windows, laser beams, security fencing, security access points, and access control cards
- All of the entrances have a security checkpoint counter, security guards and access card gates

### Risk factors

- Broken window (ORT building)
- Missing ceiling panels (Samual Pauw).
- Short alley-gates at cafeterias
- No consistent burglar bar windows across campus
- Inconsistent security checks of vehicles entering campus

# CRIME II

## Security Controls:

### Safety promotion

- The most prominent form of security controls are surveillance cameras, lights, security locks and security guards
- Surveillance cameras monitor most of the campus grounds and buildings
- *Crime Watch* and *Whistle Blowers*

### Risk factors

- No cameras on Preller Street and Good Hoop Street, walkways and grounds surrounding ponds
- Insufficient external lighting on campus
- Improper boundary fencing surrounding campus



# CRIME III

## High Risk Areas:

### Safety promotion

- “Hi-jacking hotspot” sign corner of Mears Street and Leyds Road

### Risk factors

- High-risk areas include:
  - open fields
  - hi-jacking hotspots
  - dimly lit areas
  - parking areas not fenced off from surrounding fields
  - covered parking without lighting
  - Tunnel under Preller Street



# Fire and Electrocution

## Fire Control

### Safety Promotion

- The most prominent forms of fire control are fire alarm points, fire and emergency procedures posters, fire escape signs/routes, fire exit doors and stairwells, smoke detectors, alarm intercoms, and fire brigade telephones
- Buildings and parking areas are fitted with fire escape routes, fire extinguishers, fire hoses, fire hydrants, and boosters

### Risk Factors

- Improperly parked vehicles obstruct fire hydrants and fire extinguishers
- Some external fire exit doors are not marked



# Fire and Electrocution II

## Electrical-risk

### Safety Promotion

- All the electrical cupboards have warning signs

### Risk factors

- The most prominent form of electrical-risk are open, exposed, frayed and damaged electrical wires or cables.
- Theo van Wijk building and Samuel Pauw building pose highest fire and electrocution risk:
  - High-voltage cupboards open
  - Exposed wiring along corridors
  - Exposed wires on balcony



# Fire and Electrocution III



## Smoking Policy

### Safety Promotion

- The smoking policy within the UNISA campus is conveyed to staff, students and personnel through the use of no-smoking signs and designated smoking bins
- No-smoking signs are visible inside and outside all of the building entrances, cafeterias, restaurants, and walkways
- Designated smoking bins are located in suitable outside areas i.e. East entrance student sitting area

# TRAFFIC

## Parking

### Safety Promotion

- The most prominent safety features include safe parking areas, risk/illegal parking, drop-off/pick-ups areas, and reduced traffic effects due to drop-off/pick-up
- Facilities for disabled persons, which are located nearby wheelchair access routes

### Risk factors

- Insufficient parking facilities
- Orange-cones to deter vehicles from causing parking obstructions also create traffic obstructions
- The ground level of Theo van Wijk parking has concrete foundation which is damaged and cracked and is in need of repair
- No ticketing system in place to prevent illegally parked vehicles



# TRAFFIC II

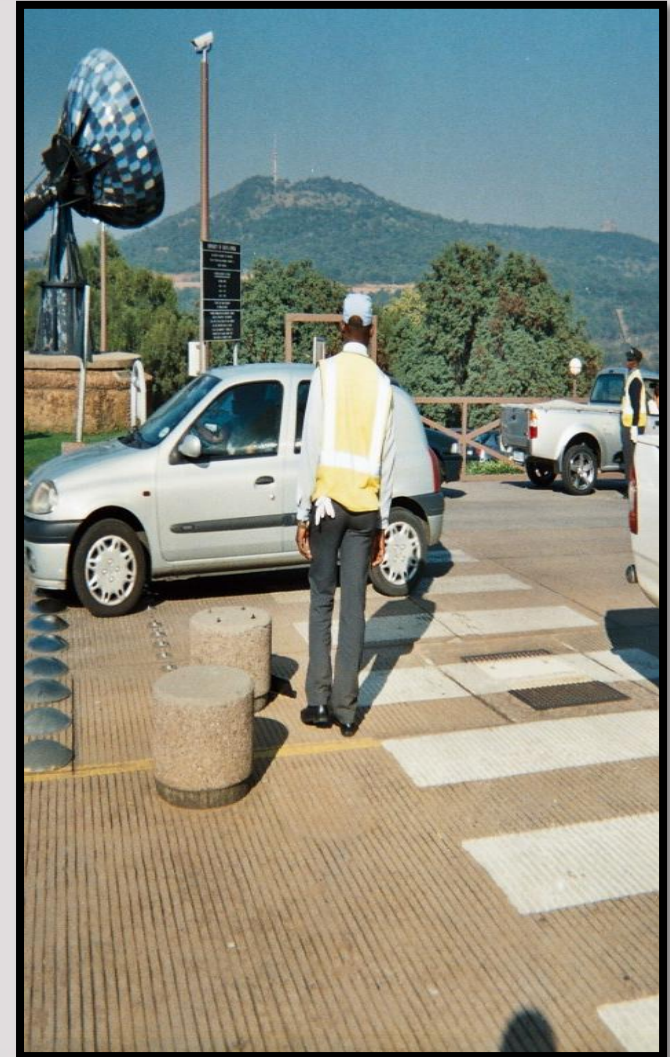
## Road measures

### Safety Promotion

- The most prominent traffic control mechanisms include speed bumps, appropriate and clear road markings and road signs.
- Overall, Preller Street and Good Hoop Street are well maintained with no significant wear and tear such as potholes.
- Suitable speed limit of 35km/h

### Risk factors

- Insufficient speed limit signs across campus
- Some speed bumps missing metal buttons
- No enforcement of speed limit → drivers frequently exceed the speed limit



# TRAFFIC III

## Pedestrian crossings

### Safety Promotion

- Pedestrian crossings and pedestrian road signs are present across campus
- Pedestrian crossings are bright and visible
- Crossing and yield signs are visible to drivers

### Risk Factors

- East parking crossings have faded
- No crossing between the Good Hope pond and AJH van der Walt parking
- No crossing on Mears Street
- Main entrance crossing located on a blind rise for oncoming traffic → drivers cannot see pedestrians



# OTHER UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

## Walkways and stairs

### Safety Promotion

- The most prominent features included sufficient lighting, tiles, water sprinklers/drainage and stairs

### Risk factors

- Ponds: absence of fencing/railing and no hazards signage
- Uneven grid-type drainage systems pose as a fall injury risk
- Insufficient pedestrian walkways within parking areas and on road ramps
- Maintenance problems:
  - Some non-slip stairwell grips are missing
  - Insufficient railings for stairs in various buildings
  - Loose ceiling panels and fixtures
  - Loose steel extraction panel hanging (Samuel Pauw)
  - Cas van Vuuren and OR Tambo building terraces: tiles damaged and lifted and resultantly pose as a fall injury risk

# OTHER UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES II

## Emergency and Medical facilities

### Safety Promotion

- The most prominent safety promotion facilities include the campus health clinic, first aid facilities, health education, emergency vehicles, emergency policies/procedures, and facilities for disabled persons
- Wheelchair ramps available
- Emergency procedures and contact number signage available

### Risk factors

- Theo van Wijk First Aid Room looks unhygienic
- Students are unsure of Campus Clinic's operating hours



# OTHER UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES III

## Construction

→ **Transient theme**

### Safety Promotion

- Most prominent safety mechanisms include the waste management and construction hazard signs
- All of the construction sites use clear warning signs, and netting around potentially harmful areas

### Risk factors

- Abandoned escalator
- Dumping of fluorescent light bulbs and other construction material around campus



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## *Crime*

- **Smart card pedestrian gates at road entrances**
- **Higher alley-gates at cafeterias**
- **Repair ceiling panels**
- **Place cameras along Preller Street, Good Hoop Street, surrounding areas of walkways by ponds**
- **Implement Campus Walk Service**
- **Fence off parking areas from open field areas**
- **Install additional external lighting in dimly lit areas**
- **More stringent security checks of vehicles entering and exiting campus**
- **Implement annual crime and injury statistics report within the campus, which details existing strategies as well as ones which are being implemented to prevent further injuries or criminal activities**
- **Dissemination of a monthly newsletter for staff and students containing statistics or current criminal activities occurring on-campus**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## *Fire and Electrocutation*

- Clearly mark fire exit doors with retro-reflective signs
- Place emergency lighting on the floors of the corridors
- Repair electrical wires or cables (this also includes broken or hazardous light fixtures)
- Regular emergency evacuation drills
- Procedures for staff, students and personnel to report dangerous maintenance problems which require urgent attention



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Traffic

- **Construct a drop-off and pick-up area**
- **Place additional pedestrian crossings on Good Hoop street, Leyds Street and Mears Street**
- **Repaint faded pedestrian crossings**
- **Construct additional safe parking areas**
- **Place more speed limits signs, enforce speeding fines and repair missing metal buttons of speed bumps**

## Other Unintentional Injuries

- **Place railings and/or hazard signs near ponds**
- **Cover or replaced grid drainage**
- **Increase walkways along parking ramps, parking areas**
- **Repair Cas van Vuuren and OR Tambo tiled floors**
- **Disposal of fluorescent lights and other hazardous materials in a legal and regulated manner**

# LIMITATIONS

**This study is limited by contextual and temporal factors and merely represents findings over a limited period of observation**

**However, since three more phases are envisaged in the research design, longitudinal data is likely to emerge over time**

**Data collection and analysis are potentially biased by the methodology as well as the researchers and MARC students' individual understandings and perspectives of the topic**

**Future research should consider individual interviews with various role-players concerning peace and safety on campus in addition to examining existing mechanisms which are currently in place**

**A peace and safety needs assessment might be useful for the purposes of identifying longitudinal factors which enhance or impinge peace and safety promotion on campus**

**The findings are not necessarily applicable to the Sunnyside or Florida campuses**

**It might be beneficial for future phases of the project to include the other two campuses in order to provide a comparative view of mechanisms which directly relate to safety and peace promotion**

**The findings are not generalisable to other tertiary institutions in South Africa**

**Future phases of the project could implement a mass survey involving staff, personnel and students to investigate different viewpoints with regard to crime, injury, peace and safety within the campus as well as across the three campuses**

# PHASE I: OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

- 1) **Safety Promotion Campaign Day in October 2010**
- 2) **Basic data collection skills training with MARC UNISA students**
- 3) **Mini-photo exhibition of findings**
- 4) **Article for *African Safety Promotion* (ASP)**
- 5) **Development of awareness of risk factors for injury and violence and promotion of peace and safety on campus**
- 6) **Facilitation of an ongoing dialogue and network relating to issues of peace and safety on campus**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND  
FEEDBACK ARE WELCOME**