

THE 7TH AFRICANA POST-GRADUATE ACADEMY (AGPA)

17 AUGUST 2017

BUSINESS SCHOOL, TUT.
159 NANA SITA STREET
FLOOR 4



SARChI Innovation Studies



Tshwane University
of Technology



The 7th Africana Post-Graduate Academy was held on August 17, 2017. The postgraduate students came from all the human, social, natural and engineering sciences. The lectures started with Prof. Mammo Muchie strongly arguing why in countries like South Africa there is a need to establish a continuous researching and learning process with the establishment and inclusion of all universities in South Africa through consolidating, resourcing and activating the Africana post-Graduate Academy (AGPA). It is the best way to create an avenue for creating high quality and inspired graduates by removing any supervision deficit in all the universities both in South Africa and in much of the rest of Africa.

The lecture started by analysing and critically reviewing the different approaches of cognition of science and knowledge. Dr. Diran started with the journey of discovering the different ways of knowing and researching. He critically and reflectively presented on ontology, epistemology, axiology, pragmatism, constructivism, normativism, interpretivism, by relating these concepts with contextual considerations such as experience, reason, thoughts, beliefs, fears, imagination, revelation and a variety of variables that continue to influence how researchers embark on the journey of discovering the relevant ways of knowing. The students fully responded with total engagement demonstrating in the process to all of us very insightful questions and feedbacks.

The second lecture was delivered by Dr. Geci. It was truly a very moving account of the personal journey on how she completed her doctorate by starting in TUT and finally completing her thesis in Wits University. She brought out incredibly touching accounts of how a journey to a doctorate research is not easy; but no matter how much obstacles and zigzags the researcher faces on the way everything can be overcome. In her own case she worked on an original research of applying innovation to the township transformation in Gauteng province and revealed how her translator whom her supervisor also met during her field work time sadly got murdered whilst he continued to do the work of translation with another researcher after he finished with hers. There were amazing accounts she openly and frankly explained her difficult journey she successfully has overcome. Her presentation truly moved all the students.

After her presentation the opportunity was open on how to undertake research using quantitative and qualitative research methods. What came out clearly is how both methods have their strength and weaknesses and what was truly fascinating was the unstoppable response that the presentations generated by inspiring the students. Dr. Mulatu did an excellent presentation on quantitative methods, and Dr. Shambere was represented by a scholar who delivered so ably on the qualitative research methods. It emerged what we achieve in terms of knowledge creation with quantitative or qualitative research methods have their own limitations that require proper recognition.

After lunch we had two critically important presentations on how to publish in highly rated and high impact factor journals. Prof. Sunday Ojo did amazing research that stimulated all the students. Prof. Mammo Muchie complemented his presentation.

Most of the students that joined the APGA were at the stage of writing research proposals, and as I luckily as a matter of coincidence the series of the day's lectures they were exposed to by APGA was timely and relevant. They all wrote feedback where they found the day very educational and productive. They would like to even establish a google group for APGA and continue actively to have the opportunity to run APGA more regularly. Their feedback was fully inspiring. We had students coming all the way from Namibia participating in the 7th AGPA.

Overall the 7th APGA was a great success. All the power point presentations will be uploaded on the SARChI website (www.sarchi-steid.org.za)



