

## **Edu-HRight news and events...**

### **ADVANCED ACADEMIC WRITING WORKSHOP – 30 MARCH 2017 HELD AT OUDRIFT RIVERSIDE LODGE**

There is no doubt that for those of us speaking English as an additional language, academic writing can present multi-layered challenges. To that end, having English as a third language, I found the Advanced Academic Writing workshop presented by Prof. Johann van der Walt very informative. Generally, I find that the process of enhancing proficiency, especially of written English, is an ongoing process. This includes proper use of vocabulary and grammatical structures; clear and concise formulation of statements; as well as mapping moves in academic writing.

Offering this kind of a workshop reflects to some extent the preliminary findings from my post-doctoral research about development of globally competent researchers (GCRs). One of the research skills identified by the respondents as essential for GCRs was in fact fluency in English as readers and writers. The argument was that in order for researchers to participate in a broader international research community they need to have a good grasp of English as a mean of communication. The majority of respondents representing 17 countries recommended for higher education institutions to provide spaces where novice and expert researchers can enhance their English language skills. One of such spaces indeed is advanced academic writing workshop, such as this one hosted by the Edu-HRight Research Unit.

~ written by Dr Ewelina Niemczyk



*Front row:* Dr Joyce Dhlamini, Prof Johann van der Walt, Dr Aaron Nhlapo and Prof Ike Xaba

*Back row:* Prof Charlene du Toit-Brits, Dr Anna-Marie Pelsler, Prof Elsa Mentz, Dr Annamagriet de Wet, Dr Ewelina Niemczyk and Prof JP Rossouw

**Unique Retreat @ Stonehenge**  
**30-31 March 2017, Parys, Free State**

As Elize and I approached the parking bay, the convivial monkeys confirmed that Edu-HRight had managed to arrange an alternative workspace, away from the office, that would be memorable in more ways than one...and we were not disappointed at all, as time proved our definition of the potential of our brief 24-hour to be correct. Walking towards our rooms, the sounds of a small, low-level, shallow river rapid reminded us of both the promise of renewed energy levels and the possibility of getting flying and lying around matters done = yes, you have read correctly: **DONE**.<sup>1</sup>

The realities of comfortable accommodation, prepared meals and the quiet away from ringing telephones, meetings, student appointments, accumulating e-mails and walk-in feet, brought academic life to much-needed standstill: time to focus on research matters that do perhaps not hold No.1-position in our busy offices. Speaking from a personal point of view, there were instances where all of us could pop a joke or two, share brief remarks on life, motivate one another and/or share liquid refreshments while we dedicated ourselves to serious work efforts.

In my own capacity, Elize Küng and I found the time that had been slipping by us to continue working together on something that she had started following her PHD under my guidance, and Annamagriet de Wet and I could apply our minds to critical reader reports that needed urgent consideration.

As members of this significant Research Unit with its focal point being to advance human rights within diverse education environments – in my humble opinion one of our country's current social and political dilemmas – we were granted the opportunity to **be together yet separate** as we spent serious attention to our own research outputs in support of our unit's most important external evaluation next year... For those of us who could not attend this one, please note that this type of breakaway could play a vital role in how we support the output numbers of our unit as we draw nearer to the weighty external evaluation that will take place next year...

Hats off, Edu-HRight, especially Elmaré Mong, for this golden chance!

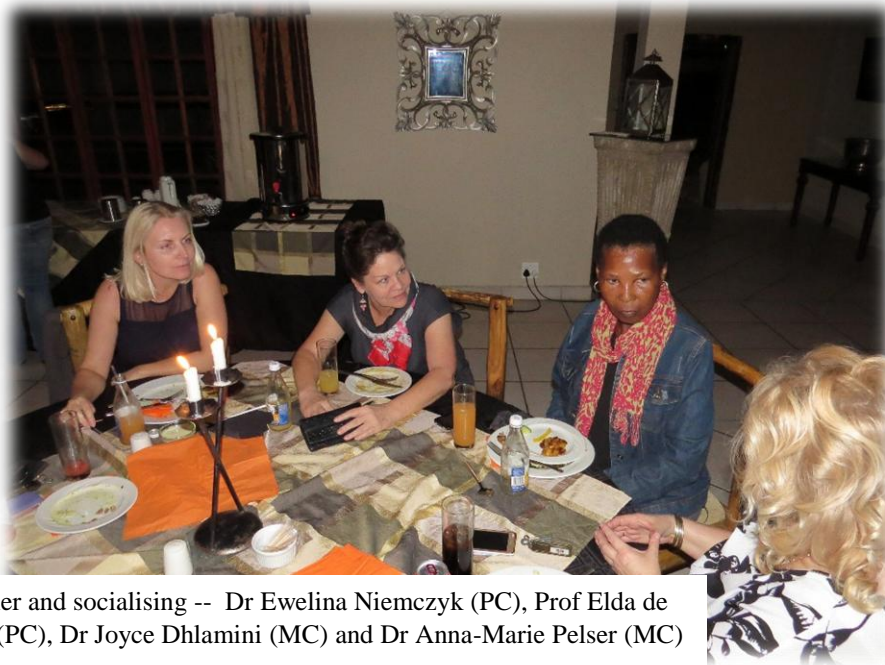
~ written by Prof Elda de Waal



Profes Elda de Waal, JP Rossouw and Dr Ewelina Niemczyk

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<sup>1</sup>. Definition of **done** for this review: completed / ready / prepared / sorted out / organised.



Dinner and socialising -- Dr Ewelina Niemczyk (PC), Prof Elda de Waal (PC), Dr Joyce Dhlamini (MC) and Dr Anna-Marie Pelser (MC)



Dr Ewelina Niemczyk, Prof Elda de Waal and Dr Annamagriet de Wet

## *FOR YOUR DIARY*

5 – 8 June 2017

Edu-HRight Article Retreat at Bona-Bona  
Game Lodge

14 – 25 September 2017

Dr Ida Sabelis  
(Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands)  
will be visiting Edu-HRight

9 – 18 October 2017

Prof Heidi Biseth  
(University College of Southeast Norway)  
will be visiting Edu-HRight