

Transforming Audiology at the University of Cape Town, South Africa – a work in progress

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Abstract:

Influences of centuries of colonialism and imperialism, and the institutionalised racism imposed by the Apartheid government created a society the white minority enjoyed political, cultural and economic power. Enforced segregation kept people in regional and racial groups, so that people were not allowed to interact outside of their assigned groups and areas. Provision of government services (civic, public health and education) was prioritised for white South Africans only. This allowed for the systemic degradation and dehumanisation particularly of our country's indigenous peoples, the effects of these still evident from blatant economic and social disparities seen today. The re-boot in government and adoption of a new constitution and implementation of new policies and laws, have allowed acknowledgement that we are all human and equal before the law. The inequities experienced as legacy of the past continue to be addressed across the South African landscape today. Audiology in South Africa was and still is influenced by the political landscape. Join us as we share the changes, accomplishments and challenges we've experienced over the past 20 years at the University of Cape Town in an attempt to change the face of Audiology.