

Linda C. Theron

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Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria, South Africa
and
Extraordinary Professor, Optentia Research Entity, North-West University (NWU), South
Africa

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SECTION A: EDUCATION / TRAINING

Doctor of Education (Guidance & counselling)	University of South Africa 1998-2000
Internship: Educational Psychologist	School of Achievement 1998
Masters of Education (Guidance & counselling)	University of South Africa 1996-98
Honours Bachelor of Education	University of South Africa 1995
Bachelor of Arts	University of the Witwatersrand 1986-89

SECTION B: ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, Optentia Research Focus Area / School of Education Sciences, Faculty of
Humanities, North-West University, January 2011-July 2016
Associate Professor, School of Education Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, North-West
University, January 2008-December 2010
Senior Lecturer, School of Education Sciences, North-West University, January 2002-December
2007
Lecturer, School of Education Sciences, North-West University, July 2000-December 2001

SECTION C: PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

Awards (selected)

National Research Foundation Rating: Internationally acclaimed researcher (2017-2022)
National Research Foundation Rating: Established researcher (2011-2016)
NWU Vice-Chancellor Awardee: Service Excellence in Community Engagement (Applied
Research Results), 2015
Finalist, NSTF-BHP Billiton Award (individual/team research leading to innovation): Khazimula –
An indigenous strategy to support youth resilience
Education Association of South Africa Research Medal, 2013
Education Association of South Africa Medal of Honour: Young Researcher 2009
Golden Key Honorary Membership Award, 2009

Editorial affiliations

Associate Editor, *Child Abuse & Neglect* (2016 - ...)
Associate Editor, *School Psychology International* (2013 - ...)
Associate Editor, *South African Journal of Education* (2012-2016)
Guest Editor, *School Psychology International* special issue on school-based facilitation of
resilience, 2016
Guest Co-editor (with Dr. Relebohile Moletsane), *Agenda* special issue on resilience and
gender-based violence (2017)

Guest Co-editor (with Dr. Michael Ungar), *Child Abuse & Neglect* special issue on the Differential Impact of Resilience (2018)

Other academic affiliations (selected)

Member of Executive Committee (Treasurer), South African Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (2017 - ...)

Member of ISSBD Awards Committee, 2017, 2018

Co-chair, Pathways to Resilience Conference IV, Cape Town, June 2017

Chair, Humanities and Health Research Ethics Committee, North-West University, 2015-2016

Professional affiliations

Registered Psychologist (Educational), Health Professions Council of South Africa

Registered Teacher, South African Council of Educators

SECTION C: RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS (ABBREVIATED SELECTION)

Ungar, M. (PI), **Theron, L.**, Cox, R., Burke, S., & Reid, S. (2016, December – 2020, December). Patterns of resilience among youth in contexts of petrochemical production and consumption in the Global North and Global South. CIHR Team Grant Environments and Health. Value: \$2,000,000 over 5 years.

Hart, A. [PI], **Theron, L.C.** [South African lead], Ashworth, P., Nash, D., Ebersöhn, L., Reid, S., ... Ungar, M. (2016, December – 2018, May). Patterns of resilience among young people in a community affected by drought: Historical and contextual perspectives. Global Challenges Research Fund. Value: £120,000

Mitchell, C. [International site Co-PI, Canada] & Moletsane, R. [International site Co-PI, South Africa], [Co-applicant and co-investigator: **Theron, L.C.**] (2014-2020). Girl-led “from the ground up” policy-making: Addressing sexual violence and enabling resilience. Joint funding from the International Development Research Council of Canada and The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Value: \$2,000,000

Ungar, M. [International site Co-PI, Canada], & **Theron, L.C.** [International site Co-PI, South Africa] (2009, April – 2014, December). *Pathways to resilience: Formal service and informal support use patterns among youth in challenging social ecologies*. International Community-University Research Alliance, joint funding from the International Development Research Council of Canada and The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Value: \$2,000,000 over 5 years.

Theron, L. C. [Co-PI, South Africa] & Kupulainen, K. [Co-PI, Finland] (2013, June -2016, June). Social ecologies of resilience among at-risk children starting school in South Africa and Finland: A visual participatory study (SISU). Joint funding from National Research Foundation, South Africa and Finnish Research Foundation. Value: \$200,000

Theron, L. C. [PI] (2009-2011). Read-me-to-Resilience. South Africa Netherlands research Program on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD). Value: \$60,000

Theron, L. C. [PI] (2005-2010). Resilient Educators. National Research Foundation, South Africa. Value: \$70,000

SECTION D: PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (ABBREVIATED SELECTION)

- Schwartz, K. D., **Theron, L. C.**, & Scales, P. C. (2017). Seeking and finding positive youth development among Zulu youth in South African townships. *Child Development*, 88(4), 1079–1086. doi: 10.1111/cdev.12869
- Theron, L. C.** (2017). Adolescent versus adult explanations of resilience enablers: A South African study. *Youth & Society*, advance online publication: doi: 10.1177/0044118X17731032
- Theron, L. C.**, Cockroft, K., & Wood, L. (2017). The resilience-enabling value of African folktales: The Read-Me-to-Resilience Intervention. *School Psychology International*, 38(5), 491-506.
- Ungar, M., Connelly, G., Liebenberg, L., & **Theron, L.** (2017). How schools enhance the development of young people's resilience. *Social Indicators Research*, 1-13. doi:10.1007/s11205-017-1728-8
- Van Rensburg, A. C., **Theron, L. C.**, & Ungar, M. (2017). Using the CYRM-28 with South African young people: A factor structure analysis. *Research on Social Work Practice*, ahead of print, doi: 10.1177/1049731517710326
- Van Rensburg, A., **Theron, L. C.**, & Rothmann, S. (2017). Adolescent perceptions of resilience-promoting resources: The South African Pathways to Resilience Study. *South African Journal of Psychology*, ahead of print. doi: 10.1177/0081246317700757
- Hall, A. M., & **Theron, L. C.** (2016). Resilience processes supporting adolescents with intellectual disability: A multiple case study. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 54(1), 45-62. doi:10.1352/1934-9556-54.1.45
- Theron, L. C.** (2016). Towards a culturally- and contextually-sensitive understanding of resilience: Privileging the voices of black, South African young people. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 2016, 31(6), 635–670. doi: 10.1177/0743558415600072
- Theron, L. C.** (2016). Researching resilience: Lessons learned from working with rural, Sesotho-speaking South African young people. *Qualitative Research*, ahead of print, doi: 10.1177/1468794116652451
- Ungar, M., **Theron, L.**, Liebenberg, L., Restrepo, A., Tian, G., Sanders, J., Munford, R., & Russell, S. (2015). Patterns of individual coping, engagement with social supports, and use of formal services among a five-country sample of resilient youth. *Global Mental Health*, 2, e21.
- Van Rensburg, A. C., **Theron, L. C.**, & Rothmann, S. (2015). A review of quantitative studies of South African youth resilience: Some gaps. *South African Journal of Science*, 111(7/8). <http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2015/20140164>.
- Theron, L. C.**, & Theron, A. M. C. (2014). Education services and resilience processes: Resilient black South African students' experiences. *Child and Youth Services Review*, 47(3), 297–306. doi:10.1016/j.chilyouth.2014.10.003
- Theron, L. C.**, & Donald, D. R. (2013). Educational psychology and resilience in developing

contexts: A rejoinder to Toland and Carrigan. *School Psychology International*, 34, 51–66. doi:10.1177/0143034311425579

Theron, L. C., & Theron, A. M. C. (2013). Positive adjustment to poverty: How family communities encourage resilience in traditional African contexts. *Culture & Psychology*, 19(3), 391–413. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1354067X13489318>

Theron, L. C., Theron, A. M. C., & Malindi, M. J. (2013). Towards an African definition of resilience: A rural South African community's view of resilient Basotho youth. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 39, 63–87. doi:10.1177/0095798412454675

Cameron, C. A., **Theron, L. C.**, Tapanya, S., Li, C., Ungar, M., & Liebenberg, L. (2013). Visual perspectives on majority world adolescent thriving. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 23(1), 149–161.

SECTION E: BOOKS, MONOGRAPHS and SPECIAL ISSUES

Theron, L. C. (2016). The everyday ways that school ecologies facilitate resilience: Implications for school psychologists. Special issue of *School Psychology International*, 37, 87-103. doi:10.1177/0142723713503254

Theron, L., Liebenberg, L., & Ungar, M. (Eds.) (2015). *Youth resilience and culture: Commonalities and complexities*. London, UK: Springer.

Theron, L. C., Mitchell, C., Stuart, J., & Smith, A. (Eds.). (2011). *Picturing research: Drawings as visual methodology*. Rotterdam, the Netherlands: Sense Publishers.

SECTION F: BOOK CHAPTERS (ABBREVIATED SELECTION)

Theron, L. C. (2017). The resilience processes of black South African young people: A contextualised perspective. In U. Kumar (Ed.), *Routledge handbook of psychosocial resilience* (pp. 136-147). New York, NY: Taylor and Francis.

Theron, L. C. (2017). Facilitating adaptability and resilience: Career counselling in resource-poor communities in South Africa. In J. G. Maree (Ed). *The Psychology of Career Adaptability, Employability and Resilience* (pp. 145-159). Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Liebenberg, L., & **Theron, L. C.** (2015). Innovative qualitative explorations of culture and resilience. In L. C. Theron, L. Liebenberg, & M. Ungar (Eds.), *Youth resilience and culture: Commonalities and complexities* (pp. 203–216). Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer.

Theron, L. C., & Phasha, N. (2015). Cultural pathways to resilience: Opportunities and obstacles as recalled by black South African students. In L. C. Theron, L. Liebenberg, & M. Ungar (Eds.), *Youth resilience and culture: Commonalities and complexities* (pp. 51–66). Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer.

Theron, L. C. (2014). Being a “turnaround teacher”: Teacher-learner partnerships towards resilience. In M. Nel (Ed.), *Life orientation for South African teachers* (pp. 203–216). Pretoria, South Africa: Van Schaik.

Theron, L. C. (2013). Teacher pathways to resilience: Interpretations of teacher adjustment to HIV&AIDS-related challenges. In M. P. Wissing (Ed.), *Wellbeing research in South Africa* (pp. 73–96). Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer.

Theron, L. C., & Engelbrecht, P. (2012). Caring teachers: Teacher-youth transactions to promote resilience. In Ungar, M. (Ed.), *The social ecology of resilience: Culture, context, resources and meaning* (pp. 265–280). New York, NY: Springer.

SECTION G: INVITED KEYNOTES AND ADDRESSES (ABBREVIATED SELECTION)

Theron, L. C. (2017, November). *What can South African adolescents teach service providers about championing youth resilience?* Invited keynote presented at the 5th Annual Street Child Consortium Research Conference, London, UK.

Theron, L. C. (2017, September). *In search of resilience in adolescence*. Invited keynote presented at the 19th Congress of the South African Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Ungar, M., & **Theron, L. C.** (2017, June). *Innovations in Resilience*. Keynote presented at the Pathways to Resilience Conference IV, Cape Town, South Africa.

Theron, L.C. (2016, August). *African pathways of resilience: What do culture and context have to do with beating the odds?* Invited address, 3rd World Congress of Resilience, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Canada.

Theron, L.C. (2016, March). *“I know how to handle my problems in life because of school and teachers” -- Mobile SA young people’s perspectives on how education is protective*. Invited World Education Research Association plenary symposium paper, 25th Congress of the German Educational Research Association (GERA/ DGfE), Kassel, Germany.

Theron, L. C. (2014, February). *Stories of South African youth: Doing well in challenging contexts*. Invited public lecture, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Theron, L. C. (2012, July). *Promoting resilience processes for youth with complex needs: Cross-cultural experiences of service use*. Invited symposium, IACCP 21st International Congress, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

SECTION H: THESIS / DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

Completed PhD students: 16 (2003-2018)

Current PhD students: 3

Completed Masters students: 24 (2003 -2018)

Current Masters students: 10