

## Presidential Report 2018-2019

I am not one for long winded presidential reports, or any lengthy reports for that matter, so let me proceed with the highlights of 2018/19. Exco and Council have been working hard this past year in transforming the society as well as the journal, *Acta Criminologica*. More transformation activities will be implemented in 2019. Members are reminded to contact the Vice President, Dr. M. Thobane, with any ideas of reshaping, remoulding and advancing our society.

### Acta Criminologica

It was an exciting year for CRIMSA and *Acta Criminologica* in 2018. *Acta* is under the very capable hands of Prof. Lillian Artz and the journal is going from strength to strength. With the assistance of Prof. Minnaar the 2017 and 2018 journal editions and special editions were delivered. Congratulations on all the authors that had their academic papers accepted and published.

Furthermore, exciting changes under the leadership of Prof. Artz are taking place. *Acta* will soon move to an electronic online submission system. This new system will greatly improve the publishing process for the Editor-in-Chief, Editors, reviewers, and most importantly, authors, with the submission, review and publication process.

The economy, as we know, is not doing well. All prices have increased, from page costs to mailing. These increased prices do not only affect us as individuals but also our journal. Two important changes were decided in terms of the *Acta*:

- a) Processing fees: It has been decided that processing fees (formerly known as page fees) will have to slightly increase for the journal to still be viable.
- b) Soft copies: It has also been debated and accepted that from now on the *Acta* will only be available as a soft copy that will be electronically sent. Printing fees for hard copies have made sending and printing of hard copies unsustainable. The only hard copies that will be printed and posted will be copies for libraries and government.

A full report on the above, and all the other exciting developments, can be found in the reports of Prof. Artz our Editor-in-Chief and Leandri van Schalkwyk, CRIMSA Treasurer.

### The Biannual Conference of CRIMSA 2019

It has been debated and approved that the Biannual Conference of the Criminology Society of Africa will be held at The Ranch Hotel, Polokwane in the Limpopo province. The date for this exciting conference will be the **27 - 30 AUGUST 2019**.

The theme for this biannual conference is: *"History and Future of Criminology in Africa and the Global South"*. This theme reflects CRIMSA's aspirations for transformation and inclusivity, throughout or society. The Scientific Committee will be Co-chaired by Prof. Obioha (WSU) and Prof. Shanta Singh (UKZN). In addition, the days (26-27 August) leading up to full conference there will be an emerging researcher colloquium hosted by *Acta Criminologica*/CRIMSA under the very capable hands of Dr. Thobane and Prof. Artz.

Members are encouraged to submit papers for the conference and also asked to persuade emerging researchers to attend the emerging researcher colloquium.

### **Emerging Researcher Colloquium**

CRIMSA hosted its very first emerging researcher on the 27 September 2018 at the campus of Monash South Africa. This colloquium was well attended and the feedback from those emerging researchers that attended was overwhelmingly positive. It has been decided that these types of emerging researcher colloquiums will become a mainstay of CRIMSA. I would like to thank Dr. Thobane and Prof. Artz for the hard work they are doing in terms of these colloquia.

### **Professionalisation of Criminology**

It was decided at the 2018 AGM that CRIMSA should pursue the process of the 'professionalisation' of Criminology through the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) system. This decision was reaffirmed again during the 2019 annual general membership meeting. However, due to the complexities of working with the SAQA documents the EXCO requested from the AGM that we hire a consultant to help us with this process. This request was wholeheartedly supported by the AGM and Dr. Carin Stoltz-Urban was appointed as consultant to help push this process to its finalization.

Also under the ambit of profesionalisation, CRIMSA and the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners (ICFP) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This means, we as CRIMSA members, are allowed to attend their conferences and workshops on the same scale as an ICFP member and vice versa for them. Furthermore, once the Criminology Professional Board has been set up, CPD points obtained at conferences/workshops/training sessions will be transferable and recognized by the respective professional boards.

### **Membership and Finances**

Our membership is going strong and is slowly expanding. Our finances are doing moderately well, and we are in reasonable good financial health. However, for the same reason that processing fees for *Acta* have to increase, so as well do membership fees. A full report in regard to these decisions, and our finances, is in the Treasurers report.

I would like to sincerely thank the ExCo for all their incredibly hard work and for staying calm and reasonable under periods of extreme pressure. Remember, all Exco members and Journal Editors do CRIMSA/Acta work voluntarily and in addition to their fulltime employment commitments and workload(s). The exhaustive hours of managing CRIMSA and editing *Acta*, take up many of our evenings and weekends and public holidays. I extend my deepest appreciation to all of those involved.

Furthermore, I would like to sincerely thank Prof. Artz and Minnaar for the exceptional effort done on *Acta*. I would also further thank Prof. Artz for her initiative to take *Acta* into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the online platform, the reconstitution of the Editorial Board to be more diverse, and the emerging researcher activities.

We are a society of Criminologists, whether we are in academia or private practice, that share a common bond. That bond being our love for our sciences. Irrespective of class, race, political affiliation, we ARE Criminologists. On behalf of EXCO, we extend our hands to all members. Let's walk the path of building our society, profession and science together.

Prof. Jaco Barkhuizen

CRIMSA President (2018-2020)