C.V.

Erna Alant
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Qualifications

1984 Graduated with the degree D.Phil at the University of Pretoria. Thesis Topic: The development of a procedure for analysing communication of pre-school children.

1978 Graduated with the degree MA (LOG) at the University of Pretoria. Degree obtained with distinction.
Thesis Topic: Communication and speech and language pathology; a theoretical exploration.

1977 Graduated with the degree BA (LOG) at the University of Pretoria.

1976 Completed Communication Studies 1 and 2 at the University of South Africa. Both courses completed with distinction.

Professional Experience

Name of Employer: Indiana University, Indiana, USA
Date: January 2009 - 2018
Position held: Professor & Otting Chair in Special Education
Duties involve: Training courses in: Language learning disorders (K370), AAC (K500) Assistive technology (K361), Developmental Disabilities (K780), Evidence-based practice in Special Education (K681), Introduction to Scholarship in Special Education (K601). I am also the coordinator of the PhD in Special Education.

Name of Employer: University of Pretoria
Date: 1984 – December 2008
Positions held: Clinic co-ordinator; Senior lecturer; Associate Professor; Full Professor,

Director & Founder of the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC)
in the Department of Communication Pathology. The CAAC became an independent inter-faculty degree-granting unit at the University of Pretoria in March 1999.

Duties involved: Co-ordinating clinical and theoretical training, supervision of clinical staff (1984 – 1992)
Lecturing: Applied Linguistics to final year B. (Log) students (1994-1999)
Post graduate tutoring (1992 – 2013) : Special focus on Multilingualism, Augmentative and Alternative Communication & Research Methodology.
Chairperson: Departmental Research Committee (1994-1997)

Responsible for general management (staff and finances), and funding as well as promotion of the CAAC.

Main person responsible for curriculum development and management of five degree courses in AAC and severe disabilities: Honours in AAC, Masters in AAC, PhD in AAC and Further Diploma in Severe Disabilities as well as the Masters in Early Childhood Intervention M (ECI) which is web-base

Name of Employer: National Education: Open Air school for the Physically Disabled, Durban.
Date: 1982 - 1983
Position held: Speech and language therapist
Duties involve: Communication intervention with severely disabled children.
In-service training of all staff.

Name of Employer: University of the Witwatersrand: Dept. Speech Pathology and Audiology
Date: 1978 - 1982
Position held: Clinical tutor, Lecturer.
Duties involve: Clinical tutoring of Speech therapy students
Lecturing: Cerebral Palsy (3rd years)
Semiotics (4th years)
Computerization of data bank

Additional experience

Name of Employer: Part-time private practice
Dates: 1979 - 1982
Duties: Diagnosis of communication problems and therapy to clients
Counselling to parents and teachers

Name of Employer: Learning Technologies
Dates: 1988: Seconded for 6 months by the University of Pretoria
Position held: Subject Matter Expert (SME): English
Duties involve: The development of an interactive-video computer programme for the improvement of communication skills of English second language speaker.

Grants and Contracts

Research grants

2012-2013   Empathic Listening and Intergenerational Communication. Fund for the Advancement of Peace and Education: Creative Paths to Peace, School of Education, Indiana University ($20 000).

2009-2012   Incentive funding for rated researchers program. National Research Foundation, South Africa. (R 80 000 per annum for 4 years)

2007-2008	International Science Cooperation Grants for the India/Brazil/South Africa research programme on: The self-efficacy of caregivers of children affected by HIV/AIDS: a cross-cultural study. *(Seed Funding sponsored by the National Research Foundation)*
2006-2008	Including disability within the context of development: Opportunities, challenges, constraints and strategies". (*Sponsored by the South African-Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development*)
2005-2007	Appropriateness of icons used in AAC in SA. *(Sponsored by the National Research Foundation)*
2004-2006	Research grant for collaborative research project between the Centre for AAC (CAAC, University of Pretoria) and CHILD project (Mälardalen University, Sweden), funded by SIDA/NRF. (Swedish Institute for Research development and the National Research Foundation of South Africa)
2000-2003	Multi-professional training in working with infants and young children with disabilities and their families: a team approach. (*Sponsored by the South African-Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development*)
1997-1999	Employment and life-skills for young people with disabilities. *(Sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation: Africa Program)*.
1997-1998	The use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Strategies in the education and rehabilitation of children and adults with severe disabilities. (*Sponsored by Foundation for Research Development (NRF)/Human Sciences Research Council Team Award (HSRC): Inter-university research and capacity building project between University of Pretoria and University of Durban-Westville, KwaZulu-Natal*).
1997	Launch of the first National Co-ordinated Research Effort in Disability (*HSRC/CAAC and Disability Stakeholders*)
1994 - 1995	The needs of children with severe disabilities in special schools in the Pretoria metropolitan area: with specific reference to non-speaking children. *(Sponsored by the HSRC)*
1990 - 1993	The development of a community-based service for non-speaking people using augmentative and alternative communication strategies. (*Sponsored by Human Sciences Research Council: Social Affordability Program*).
1989 - 1991	The narrative abilities of Northern Sotho speaking children. (*Sponsored by University of Pretoria*).
1988	The development of a programme for the improvement of communication competency of Black Teachers in English. *(Sponsored by Learning Technologies)*
1987	The strengths and weaknesses of written English of Black high school pupils in Mamelodi. *(Sponsored by Learning Technologies)*.
1984 – 1986	The language abilities of preschool children and school beginners in Eersterust, Pretoria. *(Sponsored by University of Pretoria)*

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Training grants

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2014-2015	The Art and Science of Empathic Listening: The development of a training course for graduate students. Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching and Collaboration Innovative Curriculum Fellowship, Indiana University ($20 000).
2006 - 2008	Community-based educator training project North West Province. *(First Rand Foundation Momentum Fund)*
2005	Training youth with disabilities in becoming more independent by using a variety of communication strategies e.g. communication devices, www and cellular phone technology. (*May and Stanley Smith Foundation*)
2003- 2005	SA Lottery Fund support for the training infrastructure of the CAAC/INTERFACE
2002	Supporting teacher training (*Hexagon Foundation*)
2001-2002	Teacher training (*Goldfields Foundation*)
2000-present	Teacher training for inclusion *(First Rand Foundation*)
1990-2000	A community-based program for training teachers of children with severe disabilities. (*Liberty Life Educational Foundation*)
1998-1999	Training of teacher in working with students with severe disabilities. *(Sponsored by Carl & Emily Fuchs Foundation)*
1997-1998	Teacher in-service training *(BP South Africa Educational Foundation)*

In addition to the above grants, the CAAC was allocated various smaller tender grants/contracts from provincial education departments to train teachers in dealing with children with moderate to severe disabilities in the classroom over the years.

Special Awards

2017	**Neville Cohen Memorial Lecture**, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
2008	**AIDD: International Award:** American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities recipient of the AAIDD 2008 International Award. (May 2008)
2006-2008	**Exceptional Achiever Award**: Presented by the University of Pretoria.
2005	**Ambassador for Innovation Awards**: Department of Public Service and Administration.
2004-2006	**Exceptional Achiever Award**: Presented by the University of Pretoria.
2004	**Top Women in Business and Government**: Department of Trade and Industry
2004	**T-Systems Age of Innovation & Sustainability Awards:** Excellence in Innovation and Sustainability: Social
2003	**National Science and Technology Awards:** Corporate Organization over the last ten years: Centre for AAC.
2003	**Rotary Award:** For Vocational Service Recognition on 7 Nov 2003
2002	**The Shirley McNaughton Exemplary Communication Award**: Presented to the Centre for AAC for exemplary communication throughout the AAC community in South African and beyond. Awarded by the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative communication (ISAAC).
2002	**Mellon Foundation Mentoring Program Award**: Alant, E. & Dada, S.

2002	**Certificate for Educational Innovation:** Laureate Award for Educational Innovation. Presented to the Centre for AAC by the University of Pretoria.
2001	**Chancellor's Award for Education and Training**: University of Pretoria.
2001	**Mellon Foundation Mentoring Program Award**: Alant, E & Campbell, N.
2001	**Award of Excellence: Women in Research:** South African Association of Women Graduates.
1999	**Mellon Foundation Mentoring Award**: Alant, E & Bornman, J.
1999	**Certificate for Educational Innovation**: Presented to the Centre for AAC by the University of Pretoria.
1998	**Rolex Award for Enterprise:** Associate Laureate award for the project: Communication for Life of the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.
1997	**Team Award:** Collaborative effort for the promotion of inter-university research. Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria.
1995	**Education Africa**: Presidential Award for People with Special Needs. The Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC) was the winner of this award which was presented to the Director on 2 December 1995.
1995	**Research Award from the Human Sciences Research Council**: Established Researcher: Extended overseas visit for three months.
1994	**Award from the University of Pretoria** for a special contribution made to the marketing of the University.

Professional Activities

2017	PhD Defense, Main Opposer for Dissertation by Skogdal, S entitled, *Participation in schools for students who use AAC*. University of Stavanger, Norway.
2014-2016	External reviewer of Promotion and Tenure Portfolios: University of East-Illinois; Syracuse University, University of Virginia, Penn State University, Harvard University.
2012-	Member of the Organizing committee: Biennial Clinical AAC Research Conference
2013	Chair: Clinical AAC Research Conference, September 26-28 2013, Bloomington, Indiana.
2010-2012	President of International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)
2011	ISAAC Executive Board Meetings: Toronto, Canada February, 17-19 and June, 8-9. 2012
2011	ISAAC Presidential Activities: Weekly Skype Meetings with Secretariat in Toronto, Developing a New Strategic Plan for the Society, New Website Development, Responsibility for the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Journal and Chairing of Executive Board Meetings.

2009-present	Consultant to Speech & Hearing Therapists and Special Educators, Monroe County Community School Corporation on AAC intervention in Schools.
2010	Appointment to the Graduate Faculty, Department of Educational Studies, Purdue University, West Lafayette.
2010	External Examiner for PhD study of D Klop: The relationship between narrative skills and reading comprehension. University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.
2009	External portfolio review for promotion and tenure for University of Virginia, USA.
2006	Visit to the Schiefelbusch Institute of Lifespan Studies, Kansas University, USA and Georgia State University, USA.
2006	Certified Master Coaching Course, Behavioural Coaching Institute, Sydney, Australia.
2005	Visit to USA: Lifespan Institute, University of Kansas, Frank Porter-Graham Institute, University of North Carolina, and the Puckett Research Institute, North Carolina.
2007-2013	Associate Editor: Journal of Augmentative and Alternative Communication.
2005	Joint guest editor with Prof L. L. Lloyd, *Disability and Rehabilitation*. Topic Research Issues in Augmentative and Alternative Communication - September 2005.
2004	Main role in planning and organisation of *First African Regional AAC Conference and AAC research symposium* which were held from 23-27 February 2004 at Birchwood, Johannesburg.
2004	Invited Guest Editor for a special issue on Early Childhood Intervention of the journal: *Perspectives in Education*. June 2004 edition
2003	Reviewer for Economic & Social Research Council, Swindon, United Kingdom.
2001	Project Management course: Principles and Practices - University of Pretoria
2000	Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers - University of Pretoria
2000	Invited presenter for instructional course: AAC and distance education ISAAC, Washington D C.
1998- present	Editorial consultant for: International Journal of Special Education Augmentative and Alternative Communication Disability and Rehabilitation The South African Journal of Communication Disorders.
1998:	ISAAC conference program advisor (Dublin, Ireland)
1995 – 2008	Involvement in medico-legal evaluations and court appearances
1995,1997, 1999 & 2003	Invited Lecturer/Scholar: Department of Special Education, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA
1994, 1993	Editor, *Quarterly Newsletter*: Interface/CAAC.
1993- 2008	Organiser of Annual National AAC Research Seminar, February, Pretoria
1990 – 2008	Director and Founder of: Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC). University of Pretoria

1990 - 2008	External examiner for Speech Pathology 2, 3 and 4, University of Durban Westville, Kwa-Zulu/Natal. External examiner for final year scripts: University of the Witwatersrand and University of Stellenbosch
1988-1990	Consultant to various computer firms dealing in the development of educational course ware.
1984 - 1988	External examiner to the following courses: Speech and language pathology 2 and 4: University of Cape Town. MA Projects: Rand Afrikaans University.
1986	Invited lecturer to University of Durban-Westville: two day lecture course on: Theoretical and practical issues of a communication approach to speech and language therapy.
1984	Main organizer of a symposium on 'Multi-lingualism' at the University of Pretoria.
1983	Appointed inspector by the South African Medical and Dental Council for Speech and language therapy.

Boards, Committees and Appointments

2016-	Member of Promotion and Tenure Committee, School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington.
2015	Chair: Search Committee for Executive Director for the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University: Office of the Provost for Research.
2013- present 2014-2015 &	Member of the Steering Committee – Clinical AAC Research Conference
2010-2012	Member of International Committee in School of Education, Indiana University.
2013 -	Member of the Advisory Board of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.
2009-2013	Member of the IU Campus Tenure Committee
2010-2012	President: International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).
2009-present	Appointed as Extraordinary Professor in the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, University of Pretoria, South Africa
2009-present	Appointed as Adjunct Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University from August 1, 2009.
2007 -2012	Associate Editor of the Official Journal of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.
2008 - 2010	Vice President, Member of the Executive Committee - International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. (ISAAC).
2004- present	Editorial Board: University of Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics. Spil Plus
2003 - 2005	National Research Foundation (NRF): Member of Assessment Panel for Health Sciences.
1999-2008	Member of Senate of the University of Pretoria, South Africa
2002 -2008 (2nd term)	Elected board member: International Society for AAC (ISAAC)

2001 - 2004	Co-chair of Standing Committee for Developing Countries of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).
2000 - 2004	Interface National Executive Committee member.
2001 - 2003	Member of the Senior Appointing Committee of the University of Pretoria.
1997 - 2000	Member of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Committee for the Evaluation of Research Applications for Team Awards.
1997 -1999	Member of the Research Committee for Social Sciences of the University of Pretoria.
1996:	National Representative for Special Needs on LANGTAG sub-committee on Heritage Languages, Sign Language and Augmentative Communication Systems: Dept of Art, Science,
1989 - 1995	Chairperson: Interface, Pretoria. (South African Association for People with Severe Communication Disorders) Culture and Technology
1986/1987	Member of the following committees: Department of Health: Work group for Speech Disabled People. Department of Education and Training: The development of an English curriculum for black hearing disabled children. Human Sciences Research Council: Work committee on education for black disabled people.

Presentations

2017	Meaning-making in interactions between users of AAC and their communication partners: Exploring a new scale, ASHA Convention. Los Angeles, November, 11-13 2017
2016	Meaning-making in AAC Intervention. ASHA Convention. Philladelphia, November, 15-17 2016
2016	Beyond Exchanges in AAC Intervention. AAC Summit, Bradford Woods, Indiana, September 23-24 2016.
2016	Meaning-making in AAC Intervention. ISAAC conference, Toronto, August 11-16 2016.
2015	What is a Competent AAC User? Research and Clinical Explorations. (Alant, E & Ogle, L). ASHA Convention, Denver, November, 20 2015.
2015	A Systematic review of iPads for communication and academic purposes with students with Autism (Alhajeri, O & Alant, E), Clinical AAC Research conference, University of Virginia, October, 8-9 2015
2015	Supported Decision-making of Adults with Severe Communication Problems (Ogle, L & Alant, E) Clinical AAC Research conference, University of Virginia, October, 8-9 2015
2015	Communication Competence in AAC: What are we working for? AAC Summit, October 2-3 2015, Bradford Woods Conference Center, Indiana.
2015	The Art and Science of Empathetic Communication: One day Workshop at University of Pretoria, South Africa, May 27 2015. (Alant, E; Samuelson, B & Ogle, L)
2014	What is a competent AAC User? Perspectives from AAC Interventionists. Clinical AAC Research Conference, St Louis, Missouri, Sept, 19-20 2014 (Alant, E; Ogle, L & Alhajeri, O).

2014   Invited presentations in Taiwan February, 20-27 2014 :
-       Building Relationships to facilitate learning of children who use AAC. National Chiayi University, Chiayi – February, 22 2014
-       Communication in the Classroom: How to use core vocabulary to facilitate learning. Plenary, TWSAAC Conference, Chiayi – February, 23 2014.
-       How can we support teachers who work with children with severe communication problems more effectively? Maria Social Welfare Foundation, Taichung – February, 24 2014
-       Dementia and AAC Intervention, Chung-Shan Medical University, Tauchung – February, 25 2014.

2013   Special Educators' Perceptions of Children with Severe Communication Problems in the Classroom: A Cross-Cultural Study. ASHA Convention, Chicago, November, 16-18. (Alant, E & Ogle, L)

2013   Special Educators' Perceptions of Children with Severe Communication Problems in the Classroom: A Cross-Cultural Study. CEC convention, San Antonio, Texas, April 3-6. (Alant, E & Ogle, L)

2013   Teachers' Instructional Language use with students with mild and severe speech-language impairments. CEC convention, San Antonio, Texas, April 3-6. (Zheng, W & Alant, E).

2012   Dementia and End of Life Communication (Plenary talk). Annual Research seminar, Centre for AAC, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. October, 12 2012.

2012   Implementation and effects of an aided language stimulation training program in classroom settings. ISAAC Conference, Pittsburgh, August, 1. (Champion, A & Alant, E)

2012   Using peer-mediated instruction to support communication in students with autism in a mathematical context. ISAAC conference, Pittsburgh, July 31, (Tan, P & Alant, E)

2012   Teaching graphic symbol combinations during storybook reading. ISAAC Conference, Pittsburgh, August, 1 (Tonsing, K & Alant, E)

2012   Identification of Emotions using Graphic Symbols by children with Autism, ASHA Convention, Atlanta, November, 16 (Alant, E; Zheng, W & Ogle, L).

2011   Developing videos for Training Retail Personnel Serving Customers with TBI. ASHA, San Diego, November, 19-22 2011 (Goldblum, G & Alant, E)

2011   Perception of Graphic Symbols by Children with Autism. Clinical AAC Conference, University of Minnesota, Minnesota. October, 14-16 2011 (Alant, E; Zheng, W & Lloyd, L.L)

2011   Communication and Ethics. Plenary Presentation: Eighteen AAC Research Seminar, Centre for AAC, Boksburg, South Africa.

2011   Leadership in Promoting Augmentative and Alternative Communication. (Invited Opening Speech). Second Regional African AAC Conference, Birchwood, Boksburg, South Arica (July 31-August, 1 2011).

2011   Leadership in Promoting Augmentative and Alternative Communication. (Invited Opening Speech). Let's Talk together – AAC in Europe, Warsaw, Poland (June 30-July 1 2011).

2010   Developing Local Interagency Support for AAC Intervention: A Case Study . Council for Exceptional Children, Nashville. (Champion, A; Alant, E & Peabody, E).

2010   A Meaning-based Paradigm for Communication: Implications for AAC Intervention. American Speech and Hearing Association, Philadelphia.

2010   A Framework for understanding AAC outcomes from Computational Linguistics. International Society for AAC, Barcelona (Nyberg, E; Baker, B & Alant, E).

2010   Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Roundtable Discussion Forum, Indiana University, Bloomington.

2009   What we know and where to go with graphic symbols. ASHA, New Orleans (Lloyd, L.L, Alant, E & Isaacson, M)

2009   Interactive Plenary Session on Graphic Symbol Research- Perspectives and Issues. 2009 Clinical AAC Research Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (Lloyd, L.L, Isaacson, M & Alant, E).

2008   AAC Intervention in Africa: How do we become more effective? Plenary speaker at the IASSID 13th World Congress, Cape Town.

2008   AAC Intervention: what are the issues? Paper presented at the Research Indaba, Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria.

2007   Disability, Poverty and Participation: Participation patterns of children in an inclusive play park developed to facilitate social reconstruction. Presentation at the ICF-Y: A common language for the health of children and youth conference. San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy.

2007   Augmentative and Alternative Communication: How do we start? Keynote speaker at the Rehabilitation Conference, Modern Rehabilitation: The Holistic Approach. Tawam Hospital, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

2007   Self-efficacy of caregivers of children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS: A cross cultural study. Seminar presented at the Indian Institute for Cerebral Palsy, Calcutta, India.

2007   Children with little or no speech in South Africa: The need for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Workshop presented at The SA Association for Scientific Study of mental Handicap, Johannesburg.

2006   Self advocacy & leadership in disability: a South African Perspective. Plenary presentation. Beit Issie Shapiro's 4th International Conference on Developmental Disabilities: Policy, practice and Research. Tel Aviv, Israel.

2006   How do we become more inclusive? Invited paper: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Annual Conference, Miami, Florida.

2006   Communication as a meaning-based process: Implications for AAC. 12th Biennial conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Conference, Düsseldorf, Germany.

2006   12th Biennial ISAAC Conference, Düsseldorf, Germany.

2006   Social inclusion and quality of life. Paper presented at the Disability and Inclusive Development Conference 2006 - Sharing learning and building Alliances, Johannesburg.

2005   Sustainability and intervention: What are the issues? 13th Multi-professional AAC Research Indaba. Pretoria.

2005   Not being able to speak does not mean one has nothing to say. Paper presented at the 2005 Annual Conference of the National Association for Persons with Cerebral Palsy, East London. South Africa.

2004   Support-based AAC Intervention. Paper presented at the 2004 11th Biennial ISAAC Conference, Natal, Brazil.

2003   Women and Disability: Exploring the interface of multiple disadvantages. Paper present at Gender Resource Centre, University of Pretoria

2003   Augmentative and Alternative Communication in South Africa. The Center for Research on Typical Development and Learning (CRADL); Georgia State University, USA Research issues in AAC.

2003   Paper presented at the 11th Multi-professional AAC Research Indaba, CAAC, Pretoria.

2003   University of Pretoria Leadership program. Paper presented at the University of Pretoria Leadership program on the basic philosophy of the Masters in Early Childhood Intervention.

2001   Intervention for change. Paper presented at RI Africa Regional Conference, Durban

2002   AAC Research Symposium. ISAAC conference, Odense: Denmark.

2002   Main organizer with Prof L. Lloyd of research strand: Multi-cultural issues in AAC, ISAAC, Odense: Denmark.

2002   Presenter: Multi-cultural issues in graphic symbol systems. ISAAC, Odense: Denmark.

2002   AAC Technology for development : Are we making headway? ISAAC, Odense: Denmark.

2001   Plenary session: AAC in South Africa. ISAAC Regional conference in Kolkata, India.

2001   Keynote: AAC intervention and training. ISAAC Regional conference in Kolkata, India.

2000   Enhancing AAC education through communication technologies. ISAAC conference instructional course (co-instructor with Dowden, P (University of Washington); Reichle, J (University of Minnesota); Romski, M (Georgia State University) & Iacono, T (Centre for Developmental Disability Victoria).

2000   Training teachers to interact with AAC users in the classroom. ISAAC conference, Washington DC.

1999   Key note: Understanding the need for Augmentative and Alternative Communication: A lifespan issue. 5th National NDT Conference, Johannesburg.

1999   Training Teachers in interacting with children using augmentative and Alternative communication (AAC) devices in the classroom. Crossroads Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.

1998   The development of a transdisciplinary curriculum for the training of multi-professionals in AAC. 27 August - ISAAC Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
Facilitator: Research Paper on Graphic symbol systems. 28 August – ISAAC Research Seminar, Dublin, Ireland.
AAC in special education, 2 March – Frances Vorweg Special School, Johannesburg.

1997   Keynote: Augmentative and Alternative Communication Methods: National Society of Community Nurses, 14 - 16 May, George.

1997   The development of a transdisciplinary course for health and education workers in the facilitation of communication for people with severe disabilities.   The Network of Community-orientated Educational Institutions for Health Sciences Conference, Mexico City.

1997   Inter-university research seminar (Purdue University & University of Nebraska): The use of Blissymbols in the facilitation of literacy skills in four Down syndrome

children.

1996   Nonspeaking children in Special Schools: Implications for health. First conference on Health Promoting Schools in SA, 17/1 - 19/1, Cape Town.

1995   Presentations to Faculty and Post-graduate students at Purdue University on AAC in South Africa, Service Delivery Issues and Multi-lingualism.

1994   AAC in developing countries: The challenge of the Future. ISAAC Conference, 8/10 - 15/10, Maastricht, Netherlands.

1994   Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Neuro-developmental Conference, 27-30 September, Pretoria.

1994   The use of facilitators with severely communicatively handicapped children. Interface Conference, 16-19 March, Cape Town.

1994   An integrated team approach to English as a second language. Second Stellenbosch Conference on Linguistics for the Language Professions. 6-8 April, Stellenbosch, Cape Town.

1993   AAC implementation in South Africa. Research Seminar, Purdue University, West Lafayette.

1992   AAC in South Africa: accessibility and implementation. ISAAC, Philadelphia, USA.

1992   The development of a profile for the description of communication skills with specific reference to AAC. CHASA, Johannesburg.

1992   Die relevansie van die linguistiek vir die Spraakheelkunde. Stellenbosch se Linguistiek Kongres, Stellenbosch.

1990   Precursors to literacy. Conference on Literacy and Basic Adult Education in Southern Africa, HSRC, Pretoria.

1989   The development of an interactive video programme for the improvement of communication abilities of teachers. Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.

1988   Language and development. Conference for Development in Southern Africa. University of Durban-Westville, Durban.

1987   A study into the language of prospective and school beginners in Eersterust. Conference of the South African Speech and Hearing Association, University of Pretoria, Pretoria.

1986   A functional analysis of the language of children in Eersterust. South African Linguistic Society, RAU, JHB.

1985   An investigation into the language of school beginners in Eersterust. South African Speech and Hearing Association, RAU, JHB.

1984   An orientation to multi-lingualism. Conference on Multilingualism, University of Pretoria, Pretoria.

1984   Language assessment: a critical appraisal. Brain and Behaviour Conference, UNISA, Pretoria.

1983   The development of communication competence in the classroom. National Education, Durban.

Graduate Supervision

Supervisor of various MA and PhD studies with special interests in: augmentative and alternative communication, language in poverty contexts, multi-lingualism, applied linguistics, discourse and supervision processes and employment for people with disabilities.

1992- present   37 students have completed research masters degrees, 20 with distinctions.
                21 Doctoral students have completed.

Publications

__Books & Chapters__

Alant, E. (2017). *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Engagement and Participation*. San Diego: Plural Publishers.

Alant, E; Samuelson, B & Ogle, L (2017). Empathetic communication: Bridging Differences in a Global Context. In Halder, S & Assaf, C (eds). *Cross-cultural and Cross-disciplinary Perspectives on Inclusion: an Auto-ethnographic Approach Traversing Abilities and Challenges.* Switzerland: Spinger.

Harty, M & Alant, E. (2016). Early Childhood Development and Intervention. In Landsberg, E ; Kryger, D & Swart, E (3rd Edition). *Addressing Barriers to Learning: A South African Perspective. Pretoria:* Van Schaik Publishers, pp. 118-134.

Alant, E; Samuelson, B and Ogle, L (2017-in press). Empathetic Communication: Bridging Differences in a Global Context. Book Chapter Accepted for Publication in Halder, S (Ed). Springer Verlag Publishers.

Harty, M & Alant, E. 2014. Early Childhood Development and Intervention. In E. Landsberg, E; Kruger, D & Swart, S. (2nd Edition). Addressing Barriers To Learning: a South African Perspective. Pretoria: Van Schaik Publishers.

Alant, E; Uys, K & Tonsing, K (2009). Communication, Language and Literacy learning in Children with Developmental Disabilities. In Matson, J; Andrasik, F & Matson, M (Eds). Treating Childhood Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities. New York: Springer, pp. 373-402.

Bornman, J; Alant, E & Uys, K (2008). From Caring to Education for Children with Severe Disabilities in a Rural Context. In Waddell, A & McBride, R (Eds). New Research on Early Childhood Education. New York: Nova Science Publishers.

Alant, E & Lloyd, L (Eds). (2005). *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Beyond Poverty*. London: Whurr Publishers.

Alant, E., & Harty (2005), M. Early childhood intervention. In E. Landsberg (Ed.), *Addressing barriers to Learning: A Southern African perspective*. Pretoria: Van Schaik.

Alant, E. (2003) A developmental approach to teacher training: A contradiction in terms? In von Tetzchner, S. & Grove, N. (Eds.) *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Developmental Issues* (p. 335-356). London: Whurr Publishers.

Alant, E. (1997) The use of technology for communication. *Clinica: Applications in Clinical Practice of Communication Pathology*. Departmental Publication, Department of Communication Pathology, University of Pretoria.

Alant, E. (1990). Language and development. In Alant, C. J. (ed). *Sociology and Society*.(pp. 157-162). Southern Books: Johannesburg, South Africa.

Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals

Alant, E. (2016). Ethics, Dementia and Severe Communication Problems. Special Issue: Ethical Sensitivity: A Multidisciplinary Approach, *Humanities and Social Sciences,* 4(2), 37-40

Tan, P. & Alant, E. (2016). Using peer-mediated instruction to support communication involving a student with autism during mathematics activities: a case study. *Assistive Technology. First online 10.1080/10400435.2016.1223209*

Alant, E; Geyer, S & Verde, M (2015). Developing empathetic skills among teachers and learners in high schools in Tshwane: An inter-generational approach involving people with dementia. *Perspectives in Education, 33(3) 5-21.*

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Other Creative Work

Documentary

2011 - I appeared in a documentary "*Only God Could Hear Me*" which was shown in theatres around the world. The documentary features three AAC users and focuses on the use of Minspeak as a strategy for communication. Director: Colin Sander.

Training package:

Alant, E & CAAC team (2006/2007). The development of a *Beginning Communication Package for use by community health workers* commissioned by the National Department of Health. The package includes a training manual, communication boards, 2 communication devices, a training video and adapted toys.

Communication devices:

Alant, E; Bornman, J; Smit, N & partners (1998). Development of a local 2 option beginning communicator, *Easy Talk*.
Bornman, J; Alant, E; Ludick, R & Meyer, L. (2000). Development of a local 4-option touch-to-talk beginning communication device (digital).

Video productions:

- Alant, E. Uys, C.J.E., Dada, S. & Harty, M. (2003). Develop video clips for AAC web page for recruitment of students for the MECI course.
- Rose, J ; Alant, E & Popich,E. (2000). Inclusion for children with severe disabilities.
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DVD program:
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