

# ARE THEY REALLY 'BORN FREE'?

Assessing and addressing experiences of stigma  
and the intersection of discrimination around race, language, class,  
gender and sexual orientation, of UCT HIV positive students in  
2006 and 2012.



Cal Volks





**Cal Volks, MA is the Director of the HIV Inclusivity and Change Unit (HAICU) in the Transformation Office at the University of Cape Town (UCT).**

Cal's research and project intervention interest areas involve shaping graduate skills in and out of class in the areas of HIV support; addressing HIV stigma as an issue of inclusivity; the intersection of HIV stigma with intergenerational trauma, race, class, gender and sexual orientation discrimination; apologies and forgiveness construction and reception post holocaust and post-apartheid; biopsychosocial models of educating and researching female condom use in relationships; peer education about the human papiloma virus vaccine, counselling and treatment policy for South Africans with HIV-and- infertility, and change and HIV community adaptation. Cal has a background in counselling; drama in education; health promotion and management. She has pioneered, and together with a powerful team at HAICU, adapted a highly creative method of researching and working with students around HIV stigma over the last twenty years, that has relevance for current inclusivity work around race, gender, sexual orientation, violence and climate change community adaptation. Cal has studied at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Rhodes University and Unisa. Cal has received 2 Rotary International scholarships, 2 Raymond Pullen awards and an Erasmus Mundus award. She has published, chaired sessions and spoken at numerous conferences around the above issues. She lives with her life partner Sascha and her two daughters Leila and Kiera.