



## Abridged Biography | Prof Monique Marks

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Prof. Monique Marks currently heads up the Urban Futures Centre (UFC) at the Durban University of Technology. Initially trained as a social worker, she holds a doctorate in Sociology from the University of Natal. She writes predominantly in the fields of criminology and sociology, and more recently also in the field of public health. She has published seven books, three monographs and four edited works. She has also published over 60 peer reviewed articles. She is an NRF B-rated researcher indicating that she has substantive international recognition.

Over the past five years she has developed a special interest in drug use disorders and drug policy. She, together with a team from TB HIV Care, directed South Africa's first opioid substitution demonstration programme. This programme has been fundamental in shaping government policy and implementation planning. Currently, the UFC, together with public health NGO, Advance Access and Delivery, manage South Africa's first comprehensive harm reduction centre. The Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre provides medical and psycho-social services to roughly 500 homeless and low-income people who use drugs. This centre is also a hub for research on drug use and for service learning across multiple disciplines.

Prof. Marks is the vice-chairperson of the eThekweni Homeless Committee which is chaired by Deputy Mayor, Belinda Scott. She sits on advisory committees for a number of international boards focused on public safety and public health. She is the chairperson of the Human Science Research Council Editorial Board, and is the founder of the KwaZulu-Natal Harm Reduction Advocacy Group which is linked to national and international harm reduction networks.

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