



International recognition for UCT Open Educational Resources: Dr Gina Ziervogel wins OpenCourseWare Excellence Award

We here at **OpenUCT** and the **Centre for Educational Technology (CET)** are proud to announce that going online with materials from one of her courses has won **Dr Gina Ziervogel**, a lecturer in the Environmental and Geographical Sciences Department here at UCT, an OpenCourseWare Excellence Award!

Dr Ziervogel's third-year level course, **Vulnerability to Environmental Change**, was one out of five selected as a Course Award winner for **OpenCourseWare Excellence**. OpenCourseWare Consortium (OCWC) member institution's nominated their best open, online course materials (out of 17 000 possibilities from around the world) and this UCT course was a winner in the text and still images category.



Top of the class! Award winner Dr Gina Ziervogel (centre) with Glenda Cox (right) of CET and the director of OpenUCT, Associate Professor Laura Czerniewicz. (Photograph: Katherine Traut, UCT)

The OCWC is a world-wide collaboration of over 250 higher education institutions and organisations (including UCT) with a mission to expand the body of shared knowledge and open educational content. The consortium aims to enhance global education by promoting free and open course materials of high quality.

The work to turn Dr Ziervogel's four-week, six-module course into teaching materials that can be shared openly (for anyone to access and use) on the UCT OpenContent site was funded through an OpenUCT grant. These grants aim to enable more UCT academics to create new and turn existing course materials into open educational resources.

Through a user-friendly layout, the **Vulnerability to Environmental Change** resource introduces and explores the concept of environmental vulnerability through different conceptual approaches and its relationship to climate change. Powerpoint presentations for each of the six sections, along with buzz group questions to promote class discussions and interaction, explore both globally relevant and South African specific elements and examples.

These award-winning online course materials can be found on UCT's **OpenContent** site. Check out all the other exciting open online resources that UCT has to offer while you're there and, if you're a UCT staff member, why not think about contributing?

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