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CAAC releases two books

"A book stays behind as a legacy to thought - to inspire and to trouble people." For Prof Jonathan Jansen, Dean of the Faculty of Education, the two books launched by the University of Pretoria's Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC) and "written from the perspective of change" manage to do both. "Let it inspire us to act as responsible global citizens."

Prof Erna Alant, Director of the CAAC, co-edited the book: *Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Severe Disabilities: Beyond Poverty* with Prof Lyle L. Loyd from Purdue University, USA. According to Prof Alant, the book aims to present a different perspective on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) intervention and severe disabilities, by focusing on the application of various AAC-related issues within a poverty context.

It is intended for advanced students and professionals across disciplines who are interested in extending their knowledge and critical thinking to advance issues surrounding AAC intervention within a poverty context. This book is about exploring innovative strategies to facilitate AAC intervention within a developing country context.

The book, *Just the Same on the Inside, Understanding Diversity and Supporting inclusion in Circle Time*, co-authored by Dr Juan Bormann of the CAAC was inspired by her young son, Heinrich. "The book is an attempt to explain to him and to all the other children who wonder why they have friends who cannot walk, talk, see or hear."

The book, aimed at young learners, contains 10 different stories that look at each of the 10 major disability types, such as autism, intellectual impairments, deafness, blindness, learning disabilities etc. These stories are set within the framework of information for adults and also include age-related Circle Time activities for young learners. According to Dr Bormann, the book will be particularly useful in an inclusive educational setting as it encourages reflection on differences and individualism.



From left, Prof Lyle Loyd, Prof Erna Alant and Dr Juan Bormann.

These two books are a good reflection of the different dimension of the CAAC staff's involvement in issues related to severe disabilities and AAC in this country and the diverse impact of the work of the CAAC.