



**Developmental, Capable  
and Ethical State**

*Making*  
**GOVERNANCE**  
*work*

4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION



## THOUGHTS FROM THE DIVISIONAL HEAD

Those of us who have survived 365 days of COVID-19 and the lockdown are feeling very grateful as we look to an uncertain future. We are unsure about how long we will “work from home”; we are concerned about super spreaders and a third wave, and we are wondering about the possibility of a post-pandemic world. On 1 April 2021 DCES celebrated its first birthday, and there is indeed much to celebrate. As a new research division within the HSRC we have performed exceptionally well against all odds as our researchers, administrators and interns worked tirelessly for the common good from their various locations. Congratulations to Ithuteng Sekaledi for completing her MA during lockdown. What an achievement!

In this, the fourth edition of our newsletter, we share some of our experiences over the past few months, including our increasing engagement with communities and our impactful interface with policymakers. We also bid farewell to two remarkable colleagues, Dr Michael Cosser and Dr Stephen Rule, our very own stalwarts and veterans of the HSRC. We will miss the day-to-day interactions with Michael and Stephen, but we wish them well in their old and new adventures and look forward to further collaborations.

In the past month we have also been fortunate to have three talented young women join us as interns for a while. You can learn more about Zahra, Dudu and Lindiwe in these pages. As an institution and division, we pride ourselves in providing the space for young researchers to grow and flourish.



As we wait for the vaccine to roll out we will continue - as individuals and collectively - to make a difference that matters, because that is what we love to do.

In parting we wish to express our sadness at the passing of Sister Hermina Fourie who was our resident nurse and carer in the Pretoria office. COVID-19 has certainly taken its tragic toll. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

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# IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Finally, the moment has arrived to say goodbye to Michael and Stephen, which is never easy. There's never a right time to say goodbye, But we know that we've got to let you go. It is hard and it is killing us because there's never a right time to say goodbye.



## MICHAEL'S REFLECTIONS ON A CAREER AT THE HSRC

I was recruited to the HSRC in November 2000 by Dr Andre Kraak, then Executive Director of the Human Resources Development (HRD) Research Programme, while working at the South African Qualifications Authority. Andre was a member of one of the twelve National Standards Bodies, of which I had oversight. HRD subsequently became, under Dr Vijay Reddy, Education, Science and Skills Development (ESSD), then Education and Skills Development (ESD), and eventually, under Prof Sharlene Swartz, Inclusive Economic Development (IED) – its current iteration.

Those were heady days at the HSRC. Dr Mark Orkin had recently been appointed CEO. His first mandated task had been to improve the research-to-support staff ratio

(there were twice as many support as research staff), his second to attract top-quality researchers to the HSRC – which he was able to do through offering them attractive salaries and, crucially, allowing them to work from their preferred provinces (thus was born the provincial office model). I was immediately thrust into large-scale survey work, in 2001 leading the first national study of student choice behaviour. Our monograph *From school to higher education?* stirred up a hornet's nest in the Department of Education (DoE), since it showed Pretoria Technikon – the forerunner of the Tshwane University of Technology – to be overwhelmingly the most popular choice of institution for further study (the higher education branch of the DoE were embarrassed by one of the universities not being the first choice institution of students nationally).

I spent twelve years in the education-oriented research space, managing projects ranging from the student choice behaviour study to a study of technical college responsiveness (2001-2002), human resources development profiles of the Eastern Cape (2003-2004) and KwaZulu-Natal (2004-2006), a multi-million-Rand multi-organisation teacher education programme (2005-2008) of which my own Grade 12 learner destination tracer study formed a part, a graduate destination survey (2009-2010), an FET colleges audit (2010) – an audit of all 50 FET colleges, and a national skills survey (2011).

In 2012, after a three-month sabbatical to work on my PhD, I decided I needed a change, and was fortunate that there was an opening in the Learning & Development (L&D) unit within HR. I spent three years in L&D, overseeing staff training and the research intern programme. It was during this period – when Dr Olive Shisana was CEO of the organisation – that BRICS was hosted by South Africa for the first time. In early 2013 Dr Shisana was tasked by government with putting together an HSRC team to manage preparations for hosting the think tanks of the five BRICS countries. Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller and I were appointed members of this BRICS Secretariat. We organised and participated in the May 2013 meeting of what was subsequently dubbed the BRICS Think Tanks' Council, Olive and Narnia playing prominent roles by representing the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) in this and subsequent meetings of the BTTC. Later, Dr Jaya Josie joined the team, and together Jaya, Narnia and I wrote the first draft of a strategy document setting out a long-term vision for the BRICS.

Having completed my PhD in Education (on the 2005-2008 learner destination study) in November 2015, I was keen to pursue my research career, and again fortunately there was an opening in the BRICS unit of the Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery (DGSD) research programme. I spent only a few months in the BRICS unit before transitioning into the mainstream DGSD programme – from which I retired after a three-year post-retirement contract on 31 March 2021.

As I reflect on my career path, I am struck by the significance of the notion of being the right person in the right place at the right time. I have used the word “fortunate” twice in the above account; together with hard work, chance plays a major role in the pathways we pursue in our careers. An example outside of my HSRC career perfectly illustrates this. While a junior lecturer in the Department of English at Wits I applied for the position of Lecturer. I knew that I and a colleague were the main contenders for the position; we had both applied. A day after the announcement of the successful candidate (not me) I happened to be chatting to the head of department in the staff common room and mentioned that I had heard a few weeks before that an article I had submitted to a prestigious New York-based journal had been accepted for publication. There was visible startlement in his demeanour, which he quickly controlled, congratulating and wishing me well for my future research. I realised shortly after this incident that, had I brought this to his attention a week earlier, I would have been offered the position of Lecturer, since my competitor had not published anything. I had simply been too naïve, not realising that journal article publication was the big deal it is. A year later I had left the department, having been appointed Lecturer in the Academic Staff Development Centre – a move which set me up for a shift from English literature to education and marked, therefore, a sea change in my career trajectory.

I am grateful, however, for the opportunities I have had to pursue my interests in research of any kind at the HSRC – and I have loved most of it. I have missed English literature; but I look forward in my “retirement” (we never retire, by the way – though we may leave formal employment) to pursuing my writing, especially of poetry. Who knows, the wheel may come full circle: you may one day come across a volume of poetry by an obscure South African poet and say, “Cosser? I knew him at the HSRC. Didn’t realise he was a bard in his spare time.”

## STEPHEN RULE AND THE HSRC

Within a few days, my full-time contract at the HSRC will end. This will have been the third time that I have been employed by the organisation. My early career experience of lecturing geography in Soweto (who can remember Vista University?) during the transition to democracy in



South Africa and my Wits PhD on the electoral geography of Southern Africa, were exponentially expanded and enriched by my subsequent exposure to the HSRC.

Each of the three periods at the HSRC has been simultaneously fascinating and personally developmental. The first was from 1999 to 2001, during which time I managed the Evaluating Public Opinion Programme, conducting national surveys of people’s attitudes on social, economic and political issues. I enjoyed working with Yvonne Muthien, Meshack Khosa, Richard Humphries and others, as we explored the immense research possibilities of the newly democratizing society. The new CEO Mark Orkin led the transformation of the HSRC from a parliamentary-funded SOE into a partially self-funded, consultancy-like outfit. This entailed large-scale and traumatic staff retrenchments, extensive building refurbishments, opening of regional offices, and energetic pursuit of government tenders and other research funding opportunities. Mark was hands-on and he continually injected his statistical expertise and humour into frequent late-night project deadline-chasing efforts. We also conducted a study of the social impact of gambling, and the first nationally representative domestic tourism survey.

I then took a year’s ‘break’ from the HSRC, and worked as a research director for the Minister of Social Development Dr Zola Skweyiya, in the same HSRC building in Pretorius Street. There I focused on the distribution of social grants, addressing the impact of gambling, and developing a policy for Older Persons. I returned to the HSRC’s Democracy and Governance Programme in 2003 when the ED was Udesch Pillay. With Ben Roberts, Jarè Struwig, Joseph Kivilu and Zakes Langa, we pioneered the new South African Social Attitudes Survey, which has been fielded annually ever since then. I recall having to explain representative samples telephonically to some irate senior

politicians who disagreed with our findings on voting intentions. Thankfully our projections were pretty accurate. Other projects involved assessing BEE compliance by the National Roads Agency, an 'i-community' established in Limpopo by Hewlett-Packard, and voting exit polls for the Independent Electoral Commission. They were all uniquely interesting and each presented its own challenges of data collection in remote parts of the country. For example, picture me visiting polling stations starting at 6am in Johannesburg, transiting Soweto, the East Rand, parts of Mpumalanga, and eventually arriving exhausted at a polling station on a cool winter's night in Madadeni, KwaZulu-Natal, amidst ANC-IFP tensions. In 2005, I established an independent research consultancy in Johannesburg, and got involved with projects across Africa, while occasionally continuing to participate in HSRC research. The latter included analysing perceptions about the re-routing of the N2 in the Eastern Cape, and the groundbreaking study of the troubled State-Owned Entities during the Zuma presidency. I had opportunities to serve on the boards of the National Development Agency and the SA Monitoring and Evaluation Association.

Finally, I returned to the HSRC in 2016, based in Cape Town this time, and worked with Temba Masilela and

his colleagues in the RIA Programme, especially Saahier Parker, Yamkela Majikijela and Rachel Adams. We did quite a bit of research and writing about migration settlement patterns, and the impact of the Western Cape drought, as well as a big project for the World Health Organisation. For the past year, I was privileged to join Narnia Bohler-Muller and DCES, although this was shortly before Covid-19 struck us all with such a blow. Almost immediately we catapulted into the Democracy Survey with UJ, to track perceptions of social, emotional and economic impact, as well as the schools reopening survey with the National Education Collaboration Trust. In general, I think DCES adapted well to lockdown circumstances, and we all upped our game phenomenally, using remote and online methodologies to collect data and collaborate extensively.

The next step in my trajectory will be research freelancing once again. This will initially include working on some current DCES projects as well as others that come my way. What a pleasure it has been to work with and befriend so many dedicated, sharp, lateral-thinking researchers all these years. I will miss the camaraderie and collaboration, but hope that our interactions will continue as I wear a different hat.

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## WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE **THREE NEW INTERNS!**

Welcome to the team! We are thrilled to have you at DCES. We know that you are going to be a valuable asset and cannot wait to see what you accomplish.



### HISTORIAN ACTIVIST COMES TO THE DCES

Fathima Zahra has an undergraduate and Honours degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Johannesburg. She has also taken classes in conversational

Arabic. She is currently in the final stages of acquiring a Masters in Historical Studies. The focus of her dissertation is segregation in education between 1652 and 1948 as well as the effects segregation and global events had on teacher associations in South Africa. Her research also includes a brief history of the HSRC.

Zahra is the treasurer of Protect the Rohingya, a South Africa based awareness organisation that highlights the plight of the Rohingya. She was a member of the South African Working Committee for the Women's Boat to Gaza during 2016 and has also interned at Action Aid's media department. Her four years as a university tutor, have left her with the need sometimes to over-explain concepts. In 2018 she participated in the Cultural Immersion Initiative (CI2), an exchange programme between Tennessee State University and the University of Johannesburg. Zahra recently achieved one of her long-term goals when she swam the virtual Midmar Mile (1.6 kilometres) in fifty minutes earlier this March.

She is in the process of completing the Auwal Socio-Economic Research Institute (ASRI) Future Leaders

Fellowship. Her internship at the HSRC forms part of the fellowship. Zahra joined the DCES in February of 2021. The DCES is a novel space with so much knowledge and experience and not enough time to learn from everyone. Every project is relevant and exciting, and she has to physically restrain herself from volunteering on all of them. So far, she has edited a journal article, assisted with writing a literature review for Advocate Gary Pienaar and is in the process of completing three profiles for 'The Fabric of Dissent'.

She is hoping to gain as much knowledge as she can during her time at the HSRC and in return lend all her skills to the DCES and their current projects.

## SASSY WITH AN ATTITUDE



My name is Dudu Mthetwa. I obtained my Social Sciences degree in 2020 from the University of Johannesburg. I majored in Development Studies and Sociology. Currently, I am pursuing my Honours degree in Sociology at the University of Johannesburg. In our honours programme, we are required to do a 120-Hour internship to gain entry-level work experience. That is how I became a member of the HSRC as an intern in March. I am an intern in the DCES division, assisting with media analysis on the project funded by The Presidency on State Capacity. My first week as an intern was quite challenging. I had difficulties with my assigned task, but my mentor assisted me, and I was able to proceed. So far, I have learned that when working on something, it does not mean that you will always be right and when you face difficulties, it is okay to seek assistance from your supervisor, mentor or colleagues. As an aspiring social researcher, I hope to learn more from my seniors and receive the best knowledge that will help me get a complete picture of all the essential aspects of research.

## AN ASPIRING DYNAMITE IN A SMALL PACKAGE



I am Lindiwe Ndzeco, a 21-year-old from Lawley, Gauteng. I am currently doing an honours in Sociology, and I came to HSRC because I wanted to expose myself to a new environment addressing social issues with which I am not familiar. Hence, the DCES is contributing to the exposure, in terms of focusing on corruption in institutions, as well as honing my interview skills and knowledge.

### About my first week

I was nervous as this is my first internship experience. However, I received a very warm welcome from Mr. Gary Pienaar and some of the team members.

### My impression

The week was interesting as I attended a literature review and fieldwork meeting to refine the quantitative questionnaire. It was an insightful one as I discovered the different types of corruption and the anti-corruption organisations. The literature made me realise the limited exposure and access to such information by the general public. I was also unaware of most of the content until I joined the DCES. Thus, I saw the importance of the DCES' role in filling this knowledge gap.

### My expectations

To gain practical experience and wisdom from social research experts to groom me as an emerging scholar and be more knowledgeable about corruption in institutions, as it is not something that one is closely exposed to daily.

# CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

## TIM HART APPOINTED AS RESEARCH FELLOW AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY



The Stellenbosch University has appointed DCES's Tim Hart as a research fellow in the university's Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. This non-remunerative post is for three years from 1 March 2021 and gives Tim and the department the option to renew the collaboration after three years. According to the university, 'this category of appointments was created to give recognition to individuals for their proven specialised expertise, and to involve them in the research programmes of the relevant organisational unit'.

Tim welcomes this appointment because it 'enables me to work closely with fellow anthropologists and sociologists, who are experts in diverse fields'. He says it will allow him to share his experiences with department colleagues and postgraduate students. It is a fantastic opportunity, and he thanks the University and Professor Lindy Heineken of the department for making this appointment. He says 'I am honoured at this appointment in the third highest-ranked university in South Africa. I believe that it will strengthen the ties between DCES, the HSRC and the department and encourage more robust knowledge exchange between these units'.

## DR WILFRED LUNGA APPOINTED AS THE FOCAL POINT AT THE CONVERGE FACILITY, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER



The CONVERGE facility hosted by the Natural Hazards Centre, University of Colorado, Boulder has appointed Dr Wilfred Lunga as the Focal Point of a Research Working Group for the COVID-19 Public Health and Social Science Research Working group on Children, Youth and Schools for East and Southern Africa countries. This non-remunerative post is for 5 years from 1 March 2021 and gives Wilfred and the DCES the opportunity for collaboration in joint research on Safer School Facilities, WASH, and Nutrition in Schools including publications, webinars. According to the COVERGE facility, 'this category of appointments was created to give recognition to individuals for their proven specialised expertise, and to involve them in the research programmes related to:

1. Education Sector Governance & School Safety Management
2. Economic Impacts of School Disruption & Resource Allocation
3. Safer School Facilities and WASH
4. Family Safety, Risk Reduction and Resilience Education
5. Participatory Research with Children & Youth.

Wilfred welcomes this appointment because it 'enables him to work closely with fellow disaster risk reduction (DRR) experts who are experts in diverse fields. It will

allow him to share his expertise and experiences with department colleagues and postgraduate students. It is an opportunity that is likely to open multiyear funding and realise DCES Africa research agenda. Wilfred believes that the appointment will strengthen the ties between DCES, the HSRC and other international research institutions that encourage more robust knowledge exchange.

Dr Wilfred Lunga is a social scientist and qualitative researcher with research interest in Vulnerability Reduction, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience Strengthening, Health Promotion, Indigenous Knowledge, Climate Change and Policy Analysis. He joined the HSRC as African Research Fellow in the Research Use and Impact Assessment (RIA) Unit, where he contributed to several research projects, fundraising initiatives, journal article publications and policy briefs, and managed Wave Three of the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE). He designed a Monitoring and Evaluation framework, with an associated Theory of Change for the Gauteng Safety Strategy (GSS), and participated in a Study on the Prevailing Forms of Stigma And Prejudices Against The Khoi-San Communities In South Africa and an evaluation of the Service Delivery Improvement Plan. Since joining DCES, he has led research, trainings, and collaboration in Integrated

Risk Identification, Analysis, Assessment, Prospective Risk Management toward household and community Resilience Strengthening. His expertise in disaster risk management has seen DCES Collaboration with the National Disaster Management Centre in development of Standard Operating Procedure for National Joint Operations Advisor to the National Disaster Management Centre and Gauteng Provincial Disaster Management Centre. Wilfred has successfully supervised a PhD and two Masters students at the North West University who are graduating in 2021. Wilfred has contributed to adcepts in a variety of ways. Recent Projects include the South African Cities Network study; evaluation of National Education Collaboration Trust; the national food and nutrition security survey (funded by the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development); the New District Development Model; and the evaluation of State Capacity. His most recently published work is a book chapter:  
- Mathentamo O., Lunga W. (2021) Happiness Inequality and Income Inequality: Theories, Measurement, and Trends. In: Leal Filho W., Azul A.M., Brandli L., Lange Salvia A., Özuyar P.G., Wall T. (eds) Reduced Inequalities. Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-71060-0\\_117-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-71060-0_117-1)

## OUR INCREASING ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES

### SHARING OUR RESEARCH FINDINGS WITH A LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Cape Town offices of the HSRC are located on the periphery of the historic Bo-Kaap neighbourhood, a focal point of research for linguists, historians, geographers and sociologists. In terms of HSRC Performance Indicator 3.1, which entails research-related engagement with communities, we convened a meeting with members of the Bo-Kaap community on Saturday 27th February 2021 at the Bo-Kaap Cultural Hub. The meeting took the form of three presentations, interspersed with comments, questions and discussion with attendees, and breaks for socially-distanced networking and refreshments.



The meeting was opened by Diana Sanchez Betancourt (Impact & Research Development) with a brief overview of breadth of the HSRC's research and mandate. She explained the intention of the meeting as being to share our research findings and to gauge the opinions and insights of attendees. This will assist the HSRC in exploring future avenues of research endeavour that could increase our positive impact in and beyond South Africa.



were those who think he has done a 'bad' or 'very bad' job. Stephen further explained the counterintuitive dynamics underlying differential responses to the prospect of taking a vaccine. Of particular interest was that the most educated people emerged as the most hesitant to take the vaccine when it becomes available.



pointed out that within a short period, South Africans had learned to wash their hands, wear masks, be gentler to one another, kinder to the environment and had gained a deeper understanding of our complex society.



(female, 48) expressed appreciation for the presentations, but lamented the community and personal stress that had resulted from the virus. Her way of coping was by means of eastern philosophies and practices. Another (female, 56) complimented the efforts of the community 'soup kitchen' volunteers, who had rescued many like her, whose livelihoods in the local tourism industry had evaporated. A third participant regretted the regulations that prevented religious gatherings and the associated sense of community. Additionally, a request was made (male, 58) for HSRC research findings to be communicated more widely in order to disempower prevailing myths about COVID-19 vaccines. Another comment (female, 44) was that "COVID has taught me patience, gratitude and also restored my faith in my creator, I have however lost my faith in people as I believe the spread is from human to human and we don't adhere to the simple rules"

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Dr Stephen Rule (Impact & Research Development) shared key findings from the UJ/HSRC Democracy Survey conducted at different stages of the COVID-19 lockdown. In particular, he highlighted the correlation between public compliance with COVID-19 regulations and opinions about the President's handling of the pandemic. For example, those who were of the view that President Ramaphosa has done a 'very good' or 'good' job (constituting about 80% of adults in early January 2021) were far more likely to say that they always or frequently wear face masks, than

Dr Saahier Parker (Impact Centre) presented findings from the survey of COVID-19 impact conducted by the Human and Social Capabilities research division. He mentioned some positives in the country's response to the pandemic. These included the high levels of awareness of the pandemic that rapidly permeated society, and the relatively good response to government regulations imposed in order to curtail the spread of the virus. Convergence in the messaging of government and community organisations had effectively decelerated the rate of infection. He

Bo-Kaap community members liberally shared their personal experiences of the effect of COVID-19 on their lives, at a social, economic and emotional level. Impact on community interaction, religious meetings, economic livelihoods and personal psychological and emotional well-being were prominent amongst the responses. The tourism sector, which forms the backbone of the Bo-Kaap local economy has been particularly devastated. Nonetheless, community activists have enthusiastically addressed the resultant poverty and food insecurity with practical interventions. Community members were requested to write short notes about their experiences. One

# PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE SECURITY (PASS)

## *The South African National Youth Policy 2020-2030 – A decade of accelerated youth development outcomes*

Youth policies are intended to ensure that the existing institutional framework enables implementation of multisectoral programmes and initiatives for youth empowerment and monitor progress. The *National Youth Policy 2020-2030 – a decade of accelerated youth development outcomes* is the third generation of the policies adopted since the African Union Commission (AUC) developed the African Youth Charter (AYC) in 2006. South African government prioritises youth development, and young people are part of the designated groups identified in economic and social policy. Youth development is integral to government's strategies adopted to transform the South African society and its institutions. The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities through the financial support of the UNFPA commissioned the HSRC to review and draft an updated National Youth Policy for the current decade taking into consideration the findings of the 25 Year Review and the new national priorities of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration.

The policy recognises progress made in relation to previous goals and acknowledges on-going challenges affecting young people, such as, *high dropout and low transition rates from school to work; low skills levels and skills mismatch; endemic structural youth unemployment and low entrepreneurial spirit; poor physical and mental health outcomes; untapped cultural and creative industries; eroding social fibre and active citizenry; and inadequately resourced youth development and poorly coordinated services*. The policy focuses on changing the lives of young South Africans in relation to quality education and training at all levels, creating quality jobs, promoting entrepreneurship, protecting mental and physical health and reducing inequality. It will be implemented through innovative programmes in five focus areas, including, quality education, skills and second chances; economic transformation, entrepreneurship and job creation; mental and physical health including sexual and reproductive health promotion; social cohesion and nation-building; and effective and responsive youth development machinery.

The new National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020-2030 has been adopted for implementation and will be critical as South Africa pursues the National Development Plan 2030 vision and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Certainly, its implementation will benefit from a realistic monitoring and evaluation framework and the Department of Women in the Presidency is in the process of developing this crucial tool. Like the previous youth policies, the NYP 2020-2030 draws attention to the need to implement agreements on collective societal action involving government, business, and civil society to improve youth participation in the mainstream economy whilst also navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. HSRC Team: Mokhantso Makoe, Precious Tirivanhu, Mathias Fubah Alubafi, Ntombizodumo Mkwana.

# DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND CITIZENSHIP (DGC) CORNER

## **PROJECT: SYNTHESIS EVALUATION OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL (DDM)**

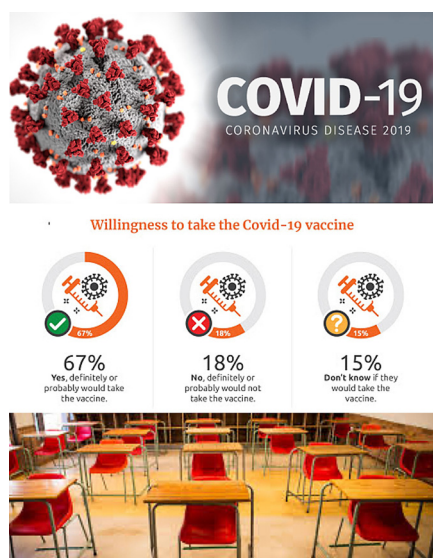
In the 2019 SONA, President Cyril Ramaphosa identified the *“pattern of operating in silos”* as a challenge which led to lack of coherence in planning and implementation and has made monitoring and oversight of government programmes difficult. Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane together with the team is embarking on *“A Synthesis Evaluation Study of DDM – the case of the three piloted municipalities in LP, EC & KZN provinces”* with the research team that includes Mr Gumede from Sol Plaatje University. The study has gained traction and is plans to release the findings after the empirical analysis in May 2021. The research team has participated in several DDM webinars, among which is the National Planning Commission and also Northern Cape Provincial Policy, Planning and Research Forum where we presented the preliminary findings.

## **CORRUPTION WATCH PROJECT**

DCES has been contracted by Corruption Watch to develop objective rating metrics for a scorecard to assess South Africa's compliance with Articles 5, 6, 8 and 10 of the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption (AUCPCC). These Articles relate to strengthening anti-corruption institutions, money laundering, illicit enrichment, and political party funding. Advocate Gary Pienaar is leading the Project with the capable research team. The study follows a mixed-methodology approach in collaboration with Corruption Watch to develop the metrics for the scorecard. We have received approval from the Research Ethics Committee for the planned fieldwork, which will include about 15 key informant interviews and an online survey, to be followed by consultations with an expert panel. The draft literature review completed, will inform the finalisation of the interview instruments.

## NDA PROJECTS

DCES recently completed three research projects for the National Development Agency (NDA) looking at various aspects of the NDA's mandate: 1) Creating capacities and capabilities of the civil society sector; 2) Requirements for transforming the civil society sector and 3) Regulatory frameworks to promote the civil society sector's active participation in a developmental state. Based on these research projects, the first of three planned virtual policy dialogues co-hosted by the HSRC and the NDA was held in December 2020 on the subject of 'Civil Society Capacities and Capabilities'. Civil society organisations of diverse types play an important role in the social, political and economic development of the country. While civil society organisations are contributing to the progressive realisation of human rights, they are often confronted with capacity and capability challenges. The National Development Agency (NDA) and Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) invested in the growth of a vibrant civil society in South Africa, and inputs from this public dialogue will be important for helping to prioritise collaborative actions by the NDA and its partners which can speak to the capacity needs of civil society organisations. Against this backdrop, the NDA and the HSRC hosted a virtual Public Dialogue to launch its latest Civil Society Capacities and Capabilities Report and accompanying Policy Paper on 2 December 2020. We anticipate that, in the coming months, the NDA and the HSRC will collaborate to co-host the remaining virtual policy dialogues on the topics of civil society transformation and regulation.



## UJ/HSRC COVID-19 DEMOCRACY SURVEY

DCES continues to contribute towards providing the necessary evidence-based social science insights with which to guide Covid-19 decision-making and enhance our understanding of the varied impacts of the pandemic on society. Through a partnership with the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Social Change, an initial round of online surveying was conducted during the country's hard lockdown phase (13 April – 11 May). Use was made of the #datafree Moya Messenger app, with more than 12,000 respondents completing the survey. A second round was administered between 3 July and 8 September, with approximately 8000 respondents. The data were benchmarked to StatsSA population statistics and weighted by race, age and educational attainment, making the findings broadly indicative of the attitudes, beliefs and behavioural predispositions of the adult population (18+ years). A third round of surveying was rolled-out between 29 December and 6 January in the context of the second wave of the pandemic. The results are being used to address pressing issues such as schooling decisions and vaccine hesitancy.

**INVITATION**

Sociology, Anthropology and Development Studies  
WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES 2021

**Who wants the vaccine, who doesn't, and why? Findings and analysis from the UJ/HSRC COVID-19 Democracy Survey.**

**GUEST SPEAKER 1 - Professor Kate Alexander** holds the South African Research Chair in Social Change at the University of Johannesburg. She was joint principal investigator of the UJ/HSRC COVID-19 Democracy Survey. Her research interests are comparative labour history, social movements and protests, and race, class and the state.

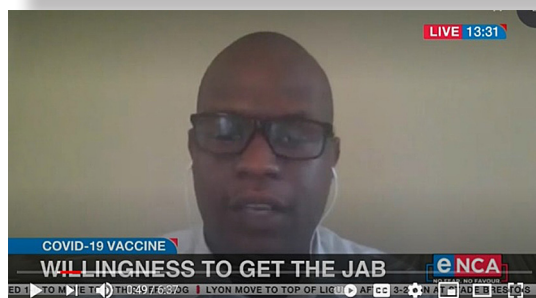
**GUEST SPEAKER 2 - Ngqapheli Mchunu** is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at Stellenbosch University. He holds a Master of Social Sciences in Political Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He was a senior researcher in the UJ/HSRC COVID-19 Democracy Survey. His research interests are corruption, governance, public opinion studies and service delivery.

**DATE - 17 February 2021**  
**TIME - 15h00 CAT**  
Please use <https://zoom.us/j/94298002423> to join.

#ujlibrary  
@ujlibrary

## UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES WEDNESDAY SEMINAR SERIES 2021

Ngqapheli Mchunu was a guest speaker along with Professor Kate Alexander in a seminar session titled 'who wants the vaccine, who doesn't and why? Findings and analysis from the UJ/HSRC Covid Democracy Survey'. The seminar was held on Wednesday the 17th of February 2021.



## ENCA MEDIA INTERVIEW ON VACCINE WILLINGNESS

Ngqapheli Mchunu appeared on ENCA to discuss findings from the COVID-19 democracy survey relating to vaccine willingness. The interview took place on the 20th of February 2021.

## WHO IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID?



This seminar presented by Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller was based on a policy brief titled 'COVID-19 and human rights limitations: Taking public opinion into account.' The presentation used the data from Rounds 1 and 2 of the online UJ/HSRC COVID-19 Democracy Survey to show that a significant majority express a willingness to sacrifice human rights temporarily, but that polarisation increased as the country moved through the various stages of lockdown. While a general consensus exists on rights sacrifice, a more differentiated view emerged regarding which rights individuals would be prepared to forego. Willingness to sacrifice human rights is associated with compliance with COVID-19 regulations, illustrating the behavioural impact of these attitudes. People's emotional experiences during the pandemic influenced their attitudes towards human rights, with certain emotions (e.g. anger, frustration, and sadness) reducing the willingness to sacrifice, and fear promoting it. A seminar was held on this topic with the CEO of the South African Human Rights Commission, Adv Tsheliso Thipanyane and human rights activist Mark Heywood participating as discussants.

## SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY

The South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) is a nationally representative, repeat cross-sectional survey that has been conducted annually since 2003. The DCES team is currently finalising the 17th annual round of fieldwork. This field round began in February 2020 but was interrupted due to the Covid-19 national lockdown. Following ethical resubmission and approval, the survey was completed between November 2020 and February 2021. The data were cleaned and weighted and the team has since completed and delivered a client report to the CCMA. Two other client reports (NCC and SANDF) are due soon. The pandemic has posed significant challenges to research involving face-to-face interviewing, and the DCES team was at the forefront of developing strict COVID-19 protocols that would ensure the safety of interviewers and survey participants. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in South Africa kindly assisted with the donation of personal protective equipment and thermometers, which contributed significantly to ensuring that our teams were safe in field. To promote shared learning about social data collection in the context of the pandemic, the HSRC DCES team partnered with the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) and Social Surveys Africa (SSA) to host a virtual seminar series.



In the previous edition of our newsletter, we reported on the development of a COVID-19 related comic strip, which was being circulated during the SASAS field work as a means of providing key Coronavirus-related health promotion messages to communities country-wide. Apart from disseminating hard copies of the comic strip in six languages, the interviewing teams shared electronic copies with households and community members upon request. Positive feedback has been received from fieldworkers and community members, with gratitude being expressed for the information and for the referral numbers provided. In many instances, people voiced concern that COVID-19 health promotion information was not adequately reaching them through local structures. In the more rural locations where surveying was undertaken, there was circumscribed knowledge of the pandemic. For these reasons, there was general appreciation that the HSRC had taken the initiative and provided basic COVID-related health promotion information. Apart from the HSRC SASAS survey, the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO) expressed interest in the comic strip, and is currently distributing it as part of their provincial Quality of Life survey, which began in late 2020 and which will run until mid-2021.

## IEC DATA CURATION PROJECT



The DCES research division has a long-standing research partnership with the Electoral Commission of South Africa. In order to better understand the electorate and maximise the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the Electoral Commission follows a specific framework of survey-based research on electoral matters. This framework of surveying includes a pre-election survey, the Voter Participation Survey (VPS), and an Election Day survey, the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS). Both of these surveys are nationally representative series which have been conducted in a similar format for national and provincial as well as municipal elections for more than a decade. Additional ad hoc research studies have been conducted, focusing on internal surveying of electoral staff on issues such as gender mainstreaming and the institutional vision, as well as research into ballot paper design, usability, and spoiling. A recent data curation project was undertaken for the Commission, that focused on examining trends on key electoral indicators over time, with an emphasis on combining public evaluations together with administrative data. As part of the project, a national and provincial Elections Indicators Report series was developed, which showcase trends in key electoral indicators over time. In December, the drafts of these reports were handed to the Commission for executive review. These will be published during the course of 2021. The team is currently negotiating for a five-year contract with the IEC to conduct research, including a Voter Participation Survey ahead of the 2021 elections and the Election Satisfaction Survey.

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTISE: OCEAN ACCOUNT FRAMEWORK

The ocean-accounts framework (OAF) provides a common, consistent, and standardised information infrastructure for organising and integrating ocean data from various domains. It is increasingly being recognised as an important ocean-governance and policy-development instrument, which boosts the transdisciplinary power of data for marine spatial planning, integrated coastal management (ICM) and international reporting. The goal of this community of practice (CoP) is to assess the applicability of the OAF in South Africa and the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) as a central component of a wider strategy to ensure that ocean governance contributes as optimally as possible to the broader sustainable goals of South Africa and the other Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member States by ensuring the inclusivity, safety, security, and sustainability of coastal communities. Prof. Joleen Steyn Kotze leads Work Programme 4, entitled Gender and Ocean Accounts. WP4 focuses on the gender aspects of the OAF by assessing inclusivity and social equity of gender demographics in ocean-economy benefits through novel social accounts.

## MEDIA APPEARANCES



Yul Derek Davids was interviewed by the 'Tussen Ons' presenters on the upcoming Municipal Elections this year and service delivery failures (picture captured by Romano Fortuin). The episode was aired on Wednesday 13 January at 17:30 on DSTV channel 145 and can viewed on DSTV catch up:

Prof. Bohler Muller appeared on the MNET investigative journalism show, Carte Blanche, on 3 February. As part of a segment entitled "The COVID-19 Infodemic: Dispelling Disinformation". She discussed the findings on vaccine hesitancy in South African from the UJ/HSRC COVID-19 Democracy Survey.



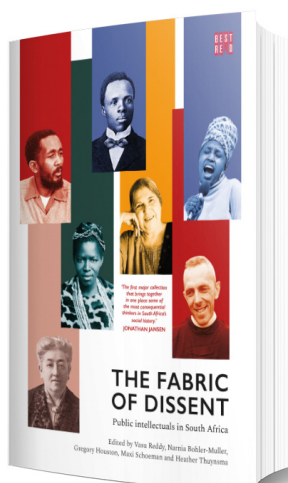


The BRICS Research Centre is pleased to present the BRICS Global Vaccine Impact Project 2021-2023 which is to be established this financial year. Vaccine diplomacy will be crucial in the global political economy for the next two years. Through their vaccine manufacturers, all the BRICS countries have a substantial and increasing role in the global vaccine market. According to WHO, BRICS countries have increased the production capacity for vaccines with a high global demand and vaccines that are required specifically in the developing world. BRICS are also generally replacing multinational corporations as sources of traditional vaccines. Setting up a BRICS vaccine global research project is critical in light of the current impact of the BRICS countries on vaccine development, and due to the Vaccine Centre the BRICS countries agreed to set up in South Africa at the 2018 Summit.

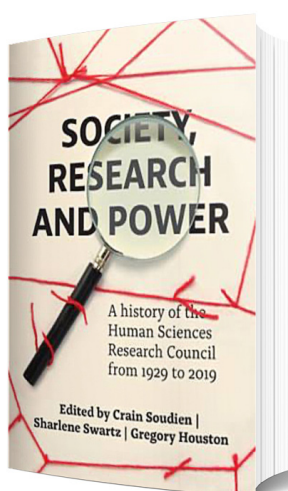
The BRICS Global Vaccine Impact project will be launched in the 2021-2022 financial year to examine global health and developmental policy solutions within BRICS and Africa. Through this flagship program, the BRC will partner with other think tanks and NGO's to analyse the growth of vaccine production, vaccine diplomacy, and public health development in BRICS and Africa over the next three years. The research will also evaluate the impact of that growth on the global vaccine market, by comparing vaccine production in each of the five countries, BRICS vaccine cooperation and its impact on Africa. The BRC will also identify some of the current limitations of BRICS' vaccine-related strategies and vaccine diplomacy in shaping public health amongst BRICS countries and the global community.

The output of this flagship programme will be a BRICS Vaccine Forum which will be held annually, and a book publication and journal.

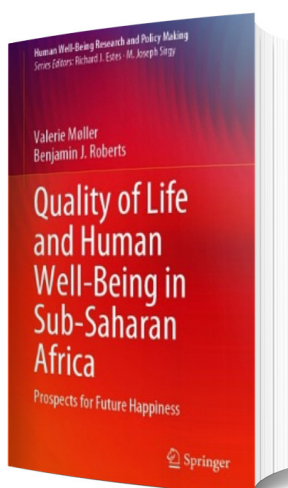
# DCES COLLABORATIVE BOOK PROJECTS:



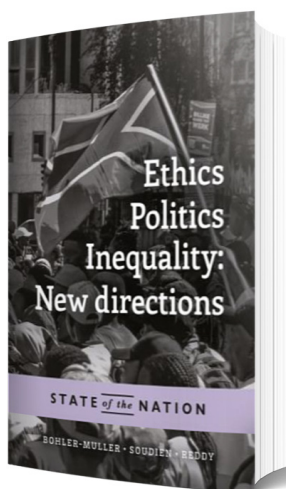
A collaborative book project, *Public Intellectuals in South Africa*, DCES and the Humanities Faculty of the University of Pretoria (UP) gave rise to a peer-reviewed book edited by Vasu Reddy, Narnia Bohler-Muller, Gregory Houston, Maxi Schoeman and Heather Tuynsma titled ***The Fabric of Dissent: Public Intellectuals in South Africa*** (Cape Town: HSRC Press, 2020). The publication consists of essays on 76 South African public intellectuals written by DCES researchers and members of the UP Humanities Faculty. Each essay is a critical biography that accounts for the public role and public exposition of the intellectuals in the fields of politics, academia, culture and what the editors categorised as organic intellectuals. Brief biographical accounts foreground their influence, impact and contributions to a range of domains – politics, culture, ideas, etc. – to illustrate how such individuals, through their work, ideas, actions and engagements, have intentions directed towards the public good, i.e. the benefit and well-being of society.



A book project, commissioned as part of the HSRC's 50/90 anniversary project, gave rise to a peer-reviewed book edited by Crain Soudien, Sharlene Swartz and Gregory Houston titled ***Society, Research and Power: A history of the Human Sciences Research Council from 1929 to 2019*** (Cape Town: HSRC Pretoria. This publication, consisting of 30 chapters, is a scholarly reflection on the history of state-based social science research. Contributions work with the archive of the institution and with its relationship with the dominant political structures of the day, from the pre-apartheid segregationist government to the apartheid order and ultimately the post-apartheid government. In a world where one is faced with bought science and junk science, the book also addresses the very topical issue of the role of evidence and scientific knowledge in policy-making. Although the overwhelming majority of chapters were written by people who are past or current HSRC researchers, several chapters were written by scholars based at the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Johannesburg, the University of Pretoria, the University of the Free State, the University of Cape Town, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, North-West University, and the University of the Third Age, London.

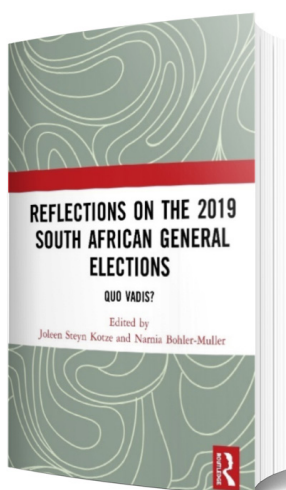


In collaboration with Valerie Moller of the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University, DCES researcher Ben Roberts recently published the Springer book ***Quality of Life and Human Well-Being in Sub-Saharan Africa: Prospects for Future Happiness***. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-65788-8>. The volume presents an account of how people in sub-Saharan Africa have fared under changing life circumstances of the past centuries until the present. It focuses on social indicators pointing to significant changes that have affected the health, education and wealth of sub-Saharan Africans and their outlook on the future. With case studies and vignettes the book highlights how individual citizens across the countries of sub-Saharan Africa experience well-being and express their aspirations for the future. The volume forms part of the Springer series The Human Well-Being Research and Policy Making, and represents the culmination of more than a decade of joint scholarship on quality of life in South Africa and the sub-Saharan Africa subregion. This volume presents an account of how people in sub-Saharan Africa have fared under changing life circumstances of the past centuries until the present. It focuses on social indicators pointing to significant changes that have affected the health, education and wealth of sub-Saharan Africans and their outlook on the future. With case studies and vignettes the book highlights how individual citizens across the countries of sub-Saharan Africa experience well-being and express their aspirations for the future.



The State of the Nation 2021 edition ***“Ethics, Politics, Inequality: New directions”*** builds on preceding volumes by showcasing cutting-edge thinking about social science research on poverty and inequalities by providing independent analyses of the national agenda in reducing poverty and inequality. The edition therefore speaks to the multi-layered inequalities and a sense of insecurity that has long been the hallmark of South African life. Recently, however, the uncertainties of Covid-19 have led to greater shared experiences of vulnerability among South Africans. This volume of State of the Nation therefore offers perspectives that may help us navigate our way through the ‘new normal’ in which we find ourselves. Foremost among the unavoidable political and socioeconomic interventions that will be required are interventions based on an ethics of care. Care as an essential attribute must be inserted into all of the diverse contexts that structure needs, desires and relations of power. An ethics of care requires us to reconsider relations of domination, oppression, injustice, inequality, or paternalism within the state. In a democratic post-apartheid state that confirms human connectedness, bodies matter and this knowledge must be driven by active citizenship. We are all caught up in webs of power that require of us, as individuals and as communities, the will and understanding to

combat and counter poverty and inequality and thus to improve the state of the nation. The effects of poverty and inequality are as insidious as Covid-19 and render the most vulnerable even more powerless in the face of this and similar ravages. Now, more than ever, we need to prioritise an ethics of care. The volume consist of nineteen chapters and the editorial team consists of Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller, Prof Crain Soudien and Prof Vasu Reddy.



A collaborative book project entitled ***Reflections on the 2019 South African General Elections: Quo Vadis?***, edited by Joleen Steyn Kotze and Narnia Bohler-Muller, is a critical reflection on the key lessons of Elections 2019 in South, with a focus on the future of the country’s electoral democracy. The volume brings together key thinkers and scholars in South African democracy and political development to reflect on critical themes that formed the foundation of electioneering and campaigning, as well as voter behaviour and the future of South Africa’s electoral democracy 25 years into its democracy. The volume engages questions on land, election campaigns, voter turnout, voter apathy, and how opposition parties will be forced to co-exist in the context of declining electoral dominance the ANC once comfortably held. An important reflection on the lessons of the 2019 South African General Elections, the contributors ask: Quo Vadis South Africa? The 2019 General Elections marked a watershed in South Africa’s political landscape. The ANC under the banner of a narrative of regeneration and getting back on the moral path dipped below the 60 % mark for the first time in South Africa’s democratic history. This decline in electoral support for the party may be interpreted as a degeneration of the ANC through the loss of its moral stature, the erosion of its integrity and disillusionment with its performance as a governing party. Opposition political parties

could not capitalise on this seeming disillusionment with the ruling ANC. Caught in their own factional battles and in the midst of corruption scandals, opposition parties were unable to successfully increase

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