



Making
GOVERNANCE
work

11TH EDITION



THOUGHTS FROM THE DIVISIONAL HEAD

It's good to be back in time to release our 11th newsletter brimming full of the passion, people and projects that make DCES special. Congrats to those colleagues who graduated last year despite all the demands and to Dr Yul Derek Davids and Dr Tim Hart for winning the HSRC senior researcher of the year and mentor of the year respectively. And thank you to Prof Charles Hongoro who kept us on the road to success.

As we face the end of yet another financial year we welcome to the HSRC our new CEO, Prof Sarah Mosoetse. Priority projects relating to our work have been identified as BRICS in SA 2023; the Post-Zondo Future of Democracy project and Democracy@30 initiative; Climate Change, the Just Energy Transition and the District Development Model (DDM). These topics all speak not only to the national interest but also to the public good.

South Africa and the world are not in a good place, to say the least. In SA the cost of living is squeezing the middle class and poverty and unemployment are causing desperation that places our communities at risk. We wait in the darkness of Eskom's rolling blackouts for some light at the end of the tunnel. It remains to be seen if new initiatives such as the declaration of a National State of Disaster so soon after COVID and the placement of a "Minister of Electricity" in the Presidency will provide such light.

As researchers in this division of the HSRC we need to keep our fingers on the pulse of the nation and be ready to provide evidence to policy makers that could assist in improving the lives of all South Africans. It is possible as we move towards election year 2024 that the State of the Nation will become even more precarious.

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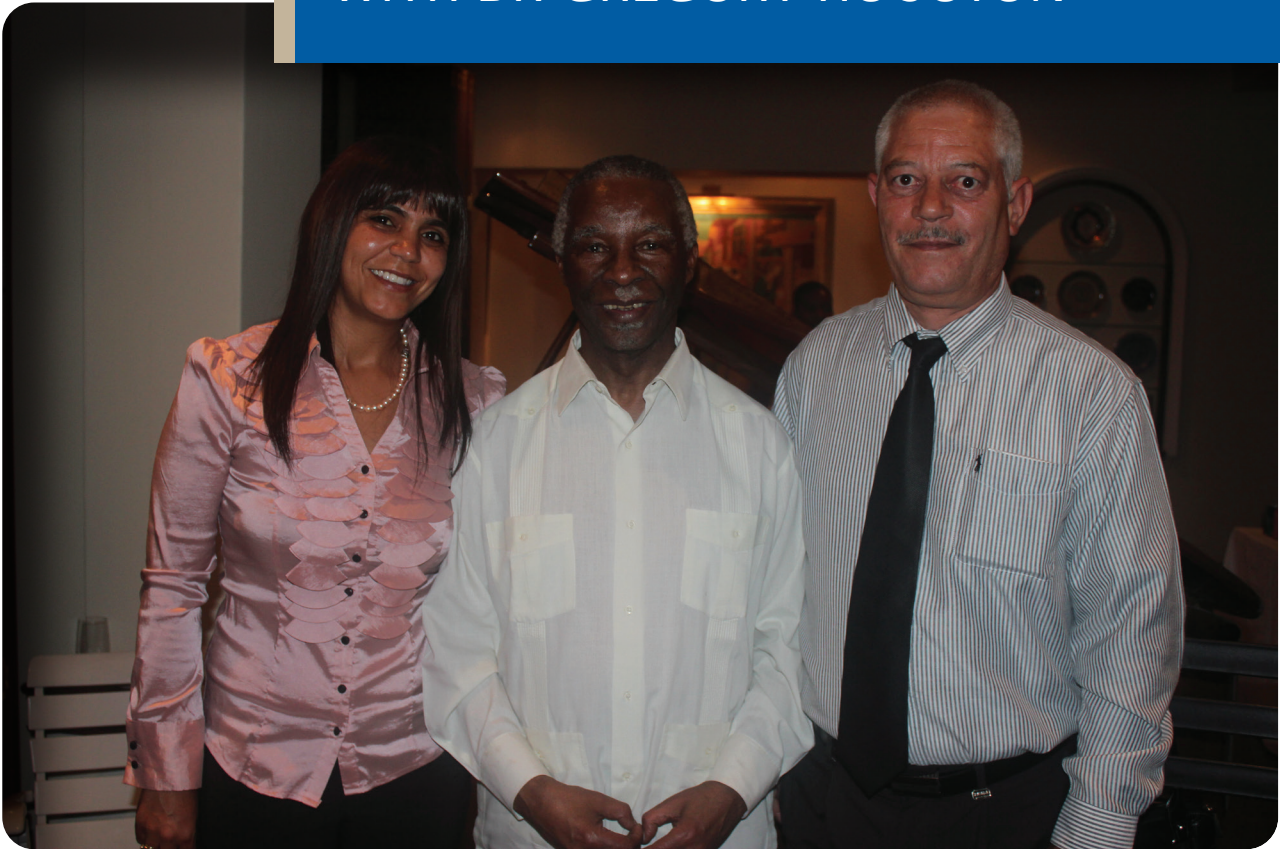
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ITHUTENG UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DR GREGORY HOUSTON



INTRODUCTION

What's your name?

My name is Gregory Frederick Houston, and I hail from a working-class township, Wentworth, in the South Durban Basin that is historically “coloured”.

How long have you worked at the HSRC?

I joined the HSRC on 1 April 1998, after lecturing in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Transkei for just over 12 years. When I informed the then Head of Department that I was offered a post at the HSRC he said he was also leaving the university soon. In that split second, I decided to take the HSRC post because I was in line to lead the department as the next most senior member. I ran away.

ABOUT YOUR JOB

What is a typical day like?

Research is similar to studying for, and writing examinations daily, because a typical day involves a lot of reading and writing, interspersed with a variety of tasks that could range from working on a project proposal and literature, document, qualitative or quantitative data review, conducting fieldwork, attending meetings, mentoring, negotiating with a client, and writing up

memos, contracts, reports, journal articles and book chapters, to reviewing drafts of any of the above and marking dissertations and theses. The day is often spoilt when an administrative task such as completing time-billing reports and writing memos pops up.

Favourite memory from work?

One day being asked by the then CEO, Olive Shisana, where I was going when we both knew I was going for a smoke. We had a good laugh. What stands out most are the opportunities working at the institution opened up for me. I was seconded from the HSRC in September 2000 and given the privilege of leading a Presidential project to write the history of the South African liberation struggle. Added to this was the opportunity to lead a project to write the history of the HSRC. I am currently co-leading a project to write the history of the area I grew up in, despite not being an historian.

What is the most common question you get from clients?

Will you be able to complete the project before the end of the financial year? I often wonder if government officials understand what research entails or are unaware that HSRC researchers work on several projects at the same time.

What do you like most about your job?

Research is a continuous learning process, and not a



working day goes by when you are not learning something new. It is also an opportunity to generate new knowledge, as well as to train and guide others who are entering the field.

ABOUT YOURSELF

Tell me about where you grew up and what your family life was like.

I am the eldest of six children of the late Johnny and Dorothy Houston, and the eldest of the grandchildren of Fred and Julia Fayers, who owned a small sugarcane and fruit farm in Malakazi, which is about 30 minutes-drive from Wentworth. So, I had a wonderful childhood, living and schooling in a typical “coloured” township, and spending weekends and holidays on a farm within ten minutes-drive from Isipingo beach. My father was a foreman at a sawmill and then at a shipbuilding firm, while my mother, who passed away in 2021 at the age of 93, had numerous job titles over the years.

How did your parents influence you?

My parents stopped punishing me when I was twelve years old because that was not stopping me from doing what I wanted to do. That taught them not to interfere and left me with a distaste for any form of authority. I hate both being the person who exercises authority, and the person over who authority is exercised. This is probably why I have been so successful in avoiding the institution of marriage, which often brings authority into the home. I have one child, 19 year-old Jonathan Daniel Houston.

Where did you go to school?

I started schooling a few weeks after my fifth birthday at Assegai Primary School and completed my matric at Wentworth High School.

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

It is not “who” but “what.” When I matriculated, I was totally oblivious of the political situation in the country. I went to the University of the Western Cape to do a basic science degree, and the first lecture was presented in Afrikaans. After a few months, several of us just gave up on attending classes. But the university was a hot-bed of political activity, and I was hooked. The following year I registered to study Political Science at Natal University.

The person I can credit with having an influence on where I eventually ended up is Professor Sandy Johnstone, who gave me the highest marks in the class for the first politics assignment in my second year. I became the top student in the class from then right up to the honours class. Another major influence was Professor Bernard Magubane, who lectured to me informally at least once a week in the nine years we worked together on the project to write the history of the liberation struggle.

What was your first impression of the HSRC?

I had just come from an institution where over 110 staff members and senior students used one computer to access emails and print documents. The only administrators in the faculty were the Dean’s secretaries. The library had none of the books for any of the courses I taught, and there were no funds for research. At the HSRC I joined in 1998, I had a computer and printer in my office. Forms were completed by administrators. Books were located by a librarian and brought up to my office. And I was given a large sum of money to conduct a major study in my first year at the institution. It was heaven!!

What’s your first memory of working here?

Stress. After running away from the University of Transkei to avoid becoming an administrator, I was soon made one at the HSRC. Within a short period of time, I found myself managing several research projects, which mainly involved chasing after people for progress reports on their projects, writing some of these reports for project leaders myself, constantly reminding people to complete their time-billing, and conducting performance appraisal interviews. It reached a point where I had stress pains in several parts of my body. But it was good preparation for what was to come, which was to do the administrative work as Project Co-ordinator and then Executive Director at the South African Democracy Education Trust for nine years during my secondment. Both these experiences have left me with the greatest appreciation for those people working at the HSRC who combine administration and research – it is torture!

MEET OUR RESEARCHERS: A **SPOTLIGHT** ON THE MINDS BEHIND OUR BREAKTHROUGHS



Dr Precious Tirivanhu is Senior Research Specialist with the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) Research Division, he joined the HSRC in 2018. Precious holds a PhD in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Free State, MA in Environmental Policy and

Planning and BSc Honours in Agricultural Economics from the University of Zimbabwe. His research areas of interest are in community operational research, food systems and agricultural development, community driven development, gender and youth inclusion, climate change and resilience building, and innovative approaches for monitoring and evaluation.

Precious has more than twenty years' experience in rural development programming, research and consulting work in several African countries including Benin, Botswana, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, with several funding agencies including the WK Kellogg Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Sida, DFID, IOM and USAID among others. This experience spans across various areas including monitoring and evaluation (M&E); agricultural value chain development; food security; institutional development for local authorities; youth and gender inclusion; building community resilience to external shocks; small and medium enterprise development; and community driven development. He sits on several Boards including Africa Centre for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation (ACPC) and is a Founding Trustee of Pathways Autism Trust.

Before joining the HSRC, he spent more than 15 years as a Rural Development Practitioner in several southern African countries. He was also a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results for Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), at the University of Witwatersrand. Precious has published more than 20 scientific articles in both local and international peer-reviewed academic journals, several

book chapters, and policy briefs. He co-edited a book entitled *Evaluation Landscape in Africa: Context, Methods, and capacity*, which was published by Sun Press in 2019. He is currently co-editor for the *South African Journal for Agricultural Extension* and a peer reviewer for several journals. Outside the office, he enjoys travelling and site seeing. He dreams of becoming a big farmer one day.



Dr Jare Struwig is a Chief Research Specialist in the DCES research programme. She holds a PhD in Tourism Marketing Management and a MA in Research Psychology from the University of Pretoria and is registered as a Psychometrist and Research Psychologist at the South African Medical and Dentistry Council

(SAMDC). She was a part time lecturer at UNISA and TUT where she taught courses in research methods and statistics, both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is also the South African representative on the International Social Surveys Programme (ISSP) where she advises on best practices and research methodologies in surveys research in Africa. She has served as a member of the HSRC's ethics and Bid Adjudication Committees.

Prior to joining the HSRC she worked at the University of Pretoria as an assistant lecturer and did her research internship at Afrosearch. At the onset of her research career at the HSRC she focussed on media monitoring, undertaking formative evaluations to determine the impact of TV on South Africans. During the 1994 elections, she was seconded to the Independent Broadcasting Authority to undertake the quantitative media monitoring of elections to ensure fairness in terms of the Broadcasting Act. This set the scene for her involvement in all subsequent elections, undertaking media monitoring, voter participation surveys and exit polls for the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) - determining the freeness and fairness of elections.

For the past 20 years, her interest has shifted to large-scale national quantitative surveys. She was one of the researchers who established the longstanding annual South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS). This survey won the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Data for Research Award in 2017. Clients of this survey include the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa; the Financial Services Board; the Open Society Foundation South Africa; the Nuclear Energy Cooperation of South Africa; the Department of Education; the Department of Energy; the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); the South African Revenue Services; the Department of Science and Technology; the Department of Defence; the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA); the National Consumer

Commission (NCC) as well as higher educational institutions such as the University of Pretoria and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). International clients include the European Social Survey and from the National Opinion Research Center's (NORC) in the US. In addition to specialising in quantitative studies, she has also been involved in various qualitative studies on a variety of topics and environmental assessments.

Jare has published over 50 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters in both local and international journals and over 200 research reports. She also co-edited a book entitled Family Matters: Family cohesion, values and strengthening in South Africa which was published by HSRC in 2019.

NEW TEAM MEMBER ALERT:



INTRODUCING MR LWANDO KONDLO

Lwando is a Data Manager in the DCES unit. He holds a MSc in Statistics from the University of the Western Cape and currently pursuing a PhD in (bio) statistics at the University of Fort Hare (UFH).

Before joining the HSRC, he worked at the UFH as a Lecturer of statistics. He has also worked for organisations such Project Phidisa (South African Military Health Services), Statistics South Africa and the Medical Research Council as a statistician.

His areas of research interest include survey research methods, joint modelling of longitudinal and survival data, multivariate spatial statistics.

Mr Kondlo's publication record spans the authoring and co-authoring of several research papers as lead statistician and has presented his work at national and international conferences. His most recent work investigated Morbidity and Mortality according to latest CD4 count among HIV positive people in South Africa. More articles are awaiting publication in peer reviewed journals.

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND CITIZENSHIP (DGC)

Democracy Capable and Ethical State (DCES) of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), cordially invite you to the launch of the “Evaluating The District Development Model: A Review, With Case Studies” report on the 10th February, 2023



The launch of the report on the District Development Model (DDM) took place on-line on 10 February 2023. Hosted by the Developmental, Capable & Ethical State (DCES) research division of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the launch reported on a study undertaken by DCES in 2021/22 in response to a call by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA) for a new, district development, approach to municipal governance that would lead ultimately to improved service delivery in South Africa.

The DDM is a practical intergovernmental relations (IGR) mechanism that aims to ensure an integrated and single strategically focused “One Plan” and “One Budget” for each of the 44 districts and eight metropolitan geographical areas (referred to as “fifty-two spaces”) in response to service delivery challenges.

With funding from the Office of the CEO of the HSRC, DCES conducted a multi-faceted investigation into the DDM, which had been piloted in three municipalities in the country – Waterberg, in Limpopo; eThekweni, in KwaZulu-Natal; and OR Tambo, in the Eastern Cape. The investigation took the form of an extensive literature review of the governance context in which the DDM in South Africa was situated, a literature review of similar district development approaches in other countries both on the African continent and in Asia, and case studies of the three municipalities in which the DDM had been piloted. The results of the study were captured in an extensive DCES client report, a more accessible Summary Report, and a policy brief currently in the process of review and publication..

e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA)

Yul Derek Davids, Paul Plantinga, Moremi Nkosi and Tlou Ramoroka

Building a capable and developmental state is one of the six priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030). The realisation of this priority requires that the public sector, in particular municipalities, adopts innovations and uses technology to improve service delivery. The 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) echoes this call by proposing the creation of an enabling municipal/public sector policy environment for the adoption and upscaling of innovative technology solutions to improve the quality of basic services in government. The White Paper further recognises the need for an appreciation of STI in all spheres of government,

and the use of STI in municipal planning, delivery and operational processes.

In response, the Viability and Validations of Innovations for Service Delivery Programme (VVISDP) has been established as a programme by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), with funding from the European Union Sector Budget Support Programme and the National Treasury. The programme is designed to help municipalities to pilot technology and innovations that could assist in improving the delivery of basic services and the functioning of municipalities.

VVISDP comprises six, separate, innovation-enabling projects. Project 5 of VVISDP, the e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA), aims to pilot e-participation and policy modelling technologies and methods in approximately six municipalities between 2022 and 2025, with the goal of supporting and enhancing existing local government public participation initiatives.

During 2021, the DSI invited municipalities to apply to take part in the ePPMOSA project by hosting e-participation and policy modelling pilot project. In May 2022, the DSI

appointed the HSRC as lead implementing partner on the ePPMOSA project, and the HSRC team is working closely with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) as implementation partners. DCES and the Impact Centre jointly manage the project in the HSRC.

To date, there have been several engagements with participating municipalities, and the HSRC is currently convening inception workshops in the City of Cape Town, Emalahleni and eThekweni. In October 2022, the project team hosted a one-day introductory workshop with a number of municipal and provincial government public participation and planning officials from across South Africa. The workshop formed part of the Civic Tech Innovation Forum in Braamfontein. Other important preparatory work has also been taking place, including an e-participation policy analysis and a project map covering more than 300 e-participation initiatives globally and locally.

Ultimately, the project team aims to work with municipal champions to explore technology possibilities and co-design e-participation pilot projects that can help local stakeholders assess the potential benefits and implementation requirements around such initiatives.



COMMUNITY-BASED AND ENGAGED RESEARCH WORKSHOP: FORGING A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE HSRC AND WENTWORTH

– Dr Gregory Houston, Marilyn Couch (DSI-HSRC intern), Darian Smith, Theresa Saber and Maree Harold (Wentworth Community Based Researchers)

Project Background

The Wentworth Social History project team held a community engagement meeting at the Blue Roof Life Space, Wentworth, Durban, on Saturday 26 November 2022 at 10h30. The main objectives of the community engagement were to formally introduce the project and research team to the community and to solicit participation in the project by members of the community, engage with the community on the best ways to proceed with the project, and explore ways to work with the community in developing a long-term project plan.

The Wentworth Social History Project research team is using interviews with past and current residents of Wentworth, a historically 'coloured' community in the South Durban Basin, to develop a social history of the community from its inception in the late 1950s to the present. The objectives of the project are, in the short-term, to produce a book of edited interviews titled *Wentworth: A social history in life stories*, and, in the long-term, to develop an open digital archive.

The Participants



Participants in this workshop consisted primarily of key stakeholders from the Wentworth community, the Project Investigators, an intern from the HSRC, and three community-based researchers. An estimated 15 community members attended the engagement in person. Several participants from the community joined the Zoom meeting and the Facebook group broadcast.

The Engagement

The co-Principal Investigators made the initial presentations. Dr Gregory Houston welcomed the participants and described how the project came about, and why it is necessary, while Professor Heidi van Rooyen discussed the significance of social histories and Dr Bronwynne Anderson introduced the Wentworth research team and progress made thus far. A Panel Discussion then took place:

- Greta Apelgren-Narkedien, a social and political activist, outlined her involvement in the struggle against apartheid.
- Pastor Colin Lafoy, a religious leader, described life under apartheid, and how he came to live in Wentworth.
- Albert Stephens, a retired educator, discussed his sporting and educational contributions to the community of Wentworth and how the nurturing of the young minds would provoke change.

A young person from the community, Laurel Bernon, then described what stood out for her during the presentations made by the panellists and presented her own views about the project and why it is needed. Her description of her early experiences of apartheid was one of the painful memories that she felt needed to be captured in the history of the community. In the subsequent discussion amongst community members:

- It was noted that the project could lead to the revival of organisations such as the Wentworth Improvement Project (WIP) that had existed during the apartheid era as well as the role played by prominent community leaders of the past in drawing the youth into productive activities.
- It was felt that such a project would draw attention to how many young people from the community who lived in the apartheid era had faced similar challenges such as gangsterism, violence and substance abuse that they had overcome in various ways.
- Promoting memory of the past and present for current and future generations was seen by some participants as the beginning of forging a future for Wentworth.

Concluding Remarks

The engagement was intimate and yielded a positive response from the community. This was an engagement that involved both in-person and online participation via Zoom and a facebook group broadcast, and all three platforms worked quite well. The participants were some of the major influencers in the community, including the ward councillor.

The link to the recording of the community engagement is:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/2mRNRrSVEmZzjmYJsLnR3ELq8sL8LdZ8ABr8mPOqjaez6SiXselcQObZoKTlzZ8.2_5-BNjyko2PTbSn

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Public opinion surveys for the Information Regulator of South Africa – Adv. Gary Pienaar



The Information Regulator of South Africa approached the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research programme in the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) for assistance in undertaking an initial study of public and stakeholder awareness of and opinion relating to the Regulator. The latter indicated that it is a relatively new institution with recently promulgated powers, some of which it has taken over from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

The birth of a democratic South Africa resulted in a country that benefits from a unique human rights and constitutional framework designed to enable its transition to a society based on the fundamental values of human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms. Enshrined in section 32 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution is the right of access to information, while section 14 enshrines the right to privacy.

The Information Regulator is established in terms of the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information

Act, 2013 (POPIA). The Regulator's mandate includes responsibility for promoting awareness and effective implementation of the provisions of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (PAIA), and of the provisions of POPIA, which came into full effect in July 2021. The Regulator is also mandated to enforce these laws. PAIA provides mechanisms for access to information held by public bodies, such as government departments agencies, and to information held by private bodies, such as banks and other commercial entities, or private associations, if that information is required to protect one's rights. POPIA protects privacy by protecting personal information. It does so by, among other things, requiring 'responsible parties' to process, i.e., handle and manage, an individual's personal information with due care for the individual's right to privacy.

The purpose of the studies commissioned by the Regulator is to assess a selected sample of responsible parties' understanding of their rights and responsibilities, as well as the mandate and authority of the Regulator. The studies also aim to assess the broader public's understanding of their right of access to information and their right to privacy; their understanding of how to exercise and protect those rights; and to ascertain the public's knowledge of the Regulator's role in the promotion of the right of access to information. The study is aimed at assisting the Regulator to assess its impact to date in promoting the right of access to information, as well as the right to privacy and protection of personal information, and to identify gaps in its advocacy and awareness programmes. The study's results are also intended to further inform the intensification of the Regulator's organisational strategy in realising its mandate of monitoring compliance with and implementation of the provisions.

While the Information Regulator has already begun to undertake an extensive public awareness and education programme about the institution, and its powers and functions, it needs a reliable, evidence-based understanding of the level and extent of stakeholder and public awareness and knowledge of the Regulator, and its powers and functions. This understanding will enable the Regulator to have a more accurate basis for understanding the range of different needs among the South African population and, therefore, for any changes and improvements to its public education and outreach programme. This understanding will also inform the manner in which it undertakes its enforcement responsibilities.



INSIDE LOOK AT PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE SECURITY'S (PASS) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Promoting the human rights of children and young people with disabilities through implementation of inclusive education policy *Mokhantso Makaoe,*

The Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) has been commissioned by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to conduct research on the evaluation of access to education support and services for children and youth with disabilities. This work specifically entails evaluating the implementation of the Education White Paper 6 – Special Needs Education: Building an Inclusive Education and Training System for All policy following its launch in 2001. The key objective of Education White Paper 6 in relation to children and young people with disabilities was to ensure their meaningful inclusion in education and to move the country's education system towards eliminating children with disabilities' segregation and isolation which resulted from placing them in special schools.

In South Africa, it was envisaged that inclusive education would be provided in line with the principles and ethos of this practice and in accordance with the human rights culture promoted and protected by the Constitution, the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA), the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified in 2007) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. Accordingly, this

evaluation study will assess the extent to which children with disabilities are not merely physically placed in mainstream schools but are also provided with accessible, inclusive, quality education with the relevant multi-disciplinary support and services they require to thrive in these environments and become citizens with dignity.

The study will be conducted in Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape provinces. A sample of full-service schools and special schools has been selected from various education districts to assess progress made and identify factors that contribute to successful and inadequate implementation of the White Paper 6. The results of this study will lead to recommendations for the Department of Basic Education and stakeholders in the education sector that will illuminate where we are with the implementation of the policy and what still needs to be done to realise a rights-based approach to education that promotes access, participation, and achievement of all learners and supports dignity and development of everyone's capabilities towards independent living. The results will be available in June 2023.

Social integration of immigrants and social capital building to improve social cohesion in Gauteng communities

- Mathias Fubah Alubafi, Mokhantso Makaoe, Moremi Nkosi, Sylvester Maphosa, Neo Mohlabane, Tlou Ramoroka, Emmanuel Mkhize, Dimpho Makitla, Clement Nchabeleng

In the HSRC 2021 Report on “Understanding Violence between South African nationals and African immigrants in Gauteng Province”, the qualitative findings suggested that, it may not be possible to effectively prevent and respond to xenophobia in South Africa by identifying and addressing triggers. Dealing with the causes of frequent violence between South African nationals and African immigrants, the report noted, requires a multi-dimensional approach. It requires social integration of immigrants, it requires social capital building and above all, it requires improving the level of social cohesion between South African nationals and African immigrants in the communities in which they live.

Given the issues that emerged from the HSRC 2021 Report on “Understanding Violence between South African nationals and African immigrants in Gauteng Province”, the PaSS Unit in the DCES prepared and submitted a proposal on “Social integration of immigrants and social capital building to improve social cohesion in Gauteng communities” to the HSRC Surplus Funds call for proposals. The overall aim of the study was to assess residents’ baseline levels of satisfaction with their neighbours and neighbourhoods by focusing on safety, trust, social problems, and access to local government basic services, and to pilot a civic innovation based on Know-Your-Neighbour strategy for improving social cohesion among South Africans and immigrants.

A mixed method approach was adopted for the data collection process. The mixed methods included largely qualitative data collection techniques such as community dialogues that were organised and facilitated in two urban areas and one informal settlement with a large concentration of both immigrants and local South Africans. The initial arrangement was to conduct four dialogues, two in Pretoria and two in Johannesburg, but because of the activities of “Operation Dudula” and the sensitive nature of the issues being investigated, the dialogue in Tembisa Ekurhuleni was suspended. Yet, despite the suspension, the research team thought the findings from the Tembisa would not have been very different from those obtained from the informal settlement in Pretoria.

The findings revealed that social cohesion between immigrants and local South Africans is lacking. This is because most South Africans don’t trust their neighbours especially when they realise, they are immigrants. Immigrants also do not trust some South Africans nationals when they realise they are local because they fear being targeted. However, some neighbours know and relate to their neighbours regardless of their identity.

The study is a major contribution to ongoing debates on issues of violence and xenophobia between South African nationals and African immigrants in Gauteng and will help guide government in its effort to promote social integration and living together.



The Identification of Smart Urban Agriculture/Agro-Processing Solutions, and Assessing the Feasibility thereof, in Addressing the Food Security Challenges in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ)



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 11 respectively call for the achievement of food security, improved nutrition as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture. The HSRC's DCES unit has successfully been awarded a contract by the CoJ to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of investing in innovative and smart agriculture technology, recommend options and develop appropriate selection criteria for prioritising these options to improve food security in the CoJ, in line with the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

Food and nutrition security are key issues and top priority for the government as outlined in the National Developmental Plan 2030

(NDP Vision 2030), with the major consequence arising from food insecurity being undernutrition in South Africa. This is primarily because many individuals and households are unable to afford a balanced diet and also because they have insufficient and irregular food intake. Admittedly, the current policy around promoting and entrenching food and nutrition security is fragmented and underfunded. The CoJ is aware that this is not an issue exclusive to rural areas but also affects urban areas, thus there is need to address it proactively. One way of doing this is through implementing smart urban agriculture/ agro-processing solutions such as rooftop and communal gardens. The CoJ's Food Resilience Unit, is mandated to implement a food resilience and security strategy to alleviate poverty and create sustainable opportunities for indigent families and emerging farmers.

The study aims to establish a range of initiatives including employing innovative technologies such as rooftop gardens, vertical gardens, aquaponics systems, communal gardens and others to address food insecurity in the CoJ. It also intends to identify new technologies that could be adopted and implemented by the CoJ to enhance infrastructure, increase productivity, and positively influence local level investments in food production. To assess the feasibility of smart urban agriculture solutions the project has adopted an explorative research design given that not much is known about urban food (in) security, urban household coping strategies and other hindrances to food security. The project is currently in its inception phase as methodological intricacies, international benchmarking, and relevant stakeholders are being ironed out through collaborative engagements between the DCES team and the CoJ.

The Smart Urban Agriculture project has strategic value for the DCES unit, and the HSRC broadly, as it addresses a key topic under the objective "peace and sustainable security", that is, food insecurity. Food (in) security is imperative for a developing country such as South Africa with high unemployment rates and an array of other social ills that act as health and nutrition barriers for urban dwellers.

DCES STRATEGIC PLANNING: CHARTING A COURSE FOR OUR FUTURE

– *Ithuteng Sekaledi*

On November 17-18, 2022 the DCES held its Strategic Planning Session at ANEW Hotel, Hatfield, Pretoria. The event brought together colleagues from all HSRC offices in Pretoria, Cape Town, Gqeberha and Durban. The objective of the event was two-fold: To ensure that colleagues could physically meet since the COVID-19 era. Secondly, the event was designed to critically reflect on DCES work performance, strategic reflections, and to eventually produce a business plan for 2023/2024.

The gathering successfully harnessed the enthusiasm and experience of participants and reached a wide ranging consensus. Fruitful discussions were held regarding DCES research relevance and output. Suffice to say a common understanding was established regarding the DCES mandate as well as the current and future plans of the Division.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP: THE 2023 HSRC/USAF CEO'S AWARD

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Universities South Africa (USAf), annually award and acknowledge scholars who have made an outstanding contribution to the social sciences and humanities through their research. The 2023 HSRC/USAf CEO's Awards aim to recognise research excellence under the "Social Justice" theme. Social sciences and humanities research influence and direct policymakers on how to improve socio-political and economic experiences. This year's theme seeks to identify innovative research projects that are centred on analysing social justice inquiry, theories and practice aimed at achieving transformative impact in communities – socially, scientifically and otherwise. As such, the awards will recognise scholars and researchers who approach social justice issues using sharpened analytical lenses, rigorous conceptualisation, and research methods characterised by meaningful engagement with their peers and the affected communities. These researchers focus on questions related to policies or interventions aimed at addressing inequities, inequalities, unemployment and poverty, and their work must include proposed solutions.

Long service awards



Ms Eileen Bees;

Dr Thobeka Zondi

Service Awards



Prof Narnia
Bohler Muller



Dr Steven Gordon;



Ms Tanya Shanker;

Service Awards



Ms Estelle
Krishan



Dr Mokhantso
Makoae



Ms Deshanie
Reddy



Ms Melissa
Walters



Ms Tshepiso
Kekana

Graduates 2021/2



Dr Jare Struwig
PhD UP



Ms Namhla
Ngqwala
Masters in political
studies



Catherine Maudi
BPA Honours
MANCOSA



Ms Busisiwe
Mamba
Bachelor of
Administration
UNISA



Dr Yul Derek Davids received **Senior Research Excellence Award** - The Award/s for Senior Research Excellence is to recognise and encourage overall research excellence, important research achievements, and research that has significant impact on society, policy and industry. This award/s considers scholarship, i.e. research output in peer-adjudicated journals, including original articles, research letters, research papers and review articles.



Dr Tim Hart received **Mentor of the Year Award** - This capacity-building awards recognise outstanding achievement by employees who strive to uplift, or bring on board, younger staff members.

EXPLORING GLOBAL SCIENCE: A RECAP OF THE 10TH WORLD SCIENCE FORUM; 6 to 9 December 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa.

.– *Ithuteng Sekaledi*



World Science Forum (WSF) is an outcome of the 1999 World Conference on Science. It is a biennial event that since 2003 has been successfully assembling scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, civil society and the media to discuss the role of science in meeting global challenges.

The 10th World Science Forum held under the theme of “Science for Social Justice” took place on December 6-9, 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa. It was held in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Science Council (ISC), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries (TWAS), the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), and the European Academies’ Science Advisory Council (EASAC), as well as the South African Department of Science and Innovation.

The WSF 2022 subthemes were: science for human dignity; science for climate justice; science for Africa and the world; science for diplomacy as well as justice in science.

The forum focused on how science can be used to promote greater equality and inclusivity in society, and examined the ways in which scientific research can be used to address issues such as poverty, discrimination, and marginalization. The program included plenary sessions, panel discussions, and workshops on a wide range of topics, including education, healthcare, and economic development.

One of the highlights of the forum was the opening, President Ramaphosa challenged delegates to ensure that the WSF would not only be a platform for debate, but that it would also result in “concrete action” towards the betterment of lives and livelihoods. The President

called for fair and equal access to scientific innovations and discoveries to close the gap between rich countries and developing economies. “Science for Social Justice expresses our conviction that inequality within and between countries is neither just nor sustainable. This event will inspire concerted global action for science to challenge and address inequality, injustice, poverty, environmental destruction and marginalisation,” he said.

The forum also featured an exhibition showcasing the latest scientific research and innovations, and provided a valuable opportunity for participants to network and exchange ideas with leading scientists and policymakers from around the world.

The 10th World Science Forum on Science for Social Justice was a great success, and demonstrated the importance of using science to promote greater equality and inclusivity in society. The participants left with a renewed commitment to using science to address the most pressing social issues of our time, and to work towards a more just and equitable world.





Thanks for reading!

I hope what you read is interesting and informative. This newsletter can only tell so much, so if you would like to partner with us, comment or ask for more information, please feel free to contact me:

isekaledi@hsrc.ac.za

*Or just complain about the weather. That's cool, too.
Until next quarter, many thanks! Ithuteng*

www.hsrc.ac.za


please see previous edition:


<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/dces/dces-newsletters>

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