



Making
GOVERNANCE
work

12TH EDITION



REFLECTIONS OF THE DIVISIONAL HEAD

With the financial year 2022/3 behind us and a flurry of activities, the HSRC and Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) have started afresh with a new year. As researchers, we are blessed and burdened with the responsibility of providing evidence for positive change in our state, society, and communities. Each new year brings its own set of opportunities and challenges, and it requires a renewed commitment to the values that we hold dear.

In this issue of our newsletter, we celebrate both the people and the projects that make DCES exceptional. Our dynamic and diverse team is a source of pride for us, as it allows us to approach our work from multiple disciplinary perspectives, resulting in more impactful outcomes. Through this newsletter, we aim to highlight this strength of ours. Our team comprises of experts in various fields, including political science, law, sociology, economics, public administration, and development studies. Despite differences in gender, race, and age, we collaborate towards a common goal of producing research that has a positive impact. The collective effort of our team is truly powerful.

DCES has committed to two cross-cutting themes for the next three years: (1) democracy and constitutionalism at thirty and (2) climate change.

As we approach 2024, an election year, we commemorate the anniversary of the promulgation of our first democratic constitution which began on 27 April 1994 (known as the “Interim Constitution” Act 200 of 1993). At DCES, we recognise our responsibility in evaluating our progress – or lack thereof - over the past three decades and identifying ways to better serve the interests and needs of South Africans. In addition to reflecting on the past, we will also engage in a discussion about the **future of democracy** and our role in shaping it over the next few months.

As a global community, climate change remains the most pressing crisis we face today, with its effects manifesting in diverse ways depending on the local context. Within DCES, a team of researchers is focusing on how South Africans are affected by climate change, environmental pollution, ecological degradation, and natural disasters. As Greta Thurnburg states:

“To all of you who choose to look the other way every day because you seem more frightened of the changes that can prevent catastrophic climate change than the catastrophe itself, your silence is worst of all.”

At the HSRC, we strive to maintain a lively and dynamic environment, and we have no intention of changing that! Our commitment to speaking up remains unwavering

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HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

DCES
Developmental, Capable
& Ethical State



ITHUTENG UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH DRTLOU RAMOROKA

publish in refereed journals, establish national and international collaborations, and mentor junior researchers, among other duties.

What is your typical day like?

My day usually begins at 4:15 am when I wake up to prepare for my morning jog, which takes place from 5:00 to 6:30 am, on days when I work from home. Afterward, I drop off my children at school and return home to bathe and get ready to start work at 9:00 am. When I am work from the office, my routine is slightly different, and I typically wake up around 6:00 am to prepare for work.

As a researcher, my days are usually hectic, with various research activities and responsibilities requiring my attention. It can be challenging to find time to relax, particularly since being involved in multiple research projects demands a significant amount of time, which is often in short supply. Depending on the workload, I may also work in the evenings.

Favourite memory from work?

I had the opportunity to meet most of my colleagues for the first time in March 2022 at the Research Lekgotla. As I had joined the institution, during a period when my colleagues were working from home. I was eager to put voices to faces and finally connect with them in person.

What do you like most about your job?

What I enjoy most about my job is the diversity of the research projects. It keeps my work interesting and also me opportunities to continuously learn and develop my research skills. Everyday presents a new opportunity for growth. Additionally, I appreciate that I can use my research expertise to assist institutions of higher learning by sharing my research knowledge and skills with colleagues and post-graduate students. Giving back to the community in this way is a rewarding aspect of being a researcher.

INTRODUCTION

What's your name?

My name is Tlou Millicent Ramoroka and I prefer to be called Tlou.

What's your title?

I hold a Doctorate in Administration in Development and Planning. However, above all, I am a mother to my two wonderful children: a lovely 12-year-old daughter named Nare and an adorable 5-year-old son named JP. As such, my most important title is "Mama" even before "Dr Ramoroka".

How long have you worked at HSRC?

I became a part of the HSRC team in July 2021, which means I have been working at the institution for roughly 21 months.

ABOUT YOUR JOB

What does your job entail?

I currently hold the position of Chief Research Specialist in the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (Peace and Sustainable Security division) at the Human Sciences Research Council. My responsibilities include conducting high-quality research, analysis, and evaluation that has strategic and policy relevance, utilising both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. I also network with major users and funders of social science research to gain insight into their research needs, design interdisciplinary research programmes that address specific problems. I also manage research teams and large-scale, long term research projects, deliver quality results and reports within budget and on schedule, communicate research findings,

ABOUT YOURSELF

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

I hail from Lebowakgomo Township, in Polokwane, Limpopo Province where I spent most of my childhood. I am the eldest child of my biological parents, and the only daughter of my mother. I have been blessed with two younger brothers, Diketso and Judas Mokoena from my mother and two more siblings Pheladi and Tebogo Ledwaba, from my father's side.

As a child, I lived with my grandmother, alongside my cousins, for the first few years of my life which was quite an exciting experience. However, after my grandmother

passed away in 1994, I moved in with my mom, stepfather, and siblings. I lived in Lebowakgomo until December 1997 when I relocated to Mankweng Township to stay with my aunt, uncle (Mr and Mrs Mmethi), and their children until I went to University in 2004. I have fond memories of my childhood, growing up as a township girl and playing in the dusty streets of Lebowakgomo and Mankweng Townships. I am grateful for the collective upbringing and guidance by my grandmother, mom, stepfather, aunt, and uncle.



How did your parents influence you?

Throughout my upbringing, I was fortunate to have several influential figures in my life, including my mother, stepfather, aunt, and uncle (Mr and Mrs Mmethi). From a young age, my mother instilled in me the importance of education, particularly for girls. She emphasised that education was crucial for my future success and that I should not rely on marriage as a means of financial security. When I moved in with my aunt and uncle, they continued to support my education and encouraged me to work hard. Upon completing my bachelor's degree, my aunt and uncle presented me with options for furthering my studies to Honours and Masters levels. Together with my mother and stepfather (Mr Mathole), they created a conducive study environment and provided me with the necessary support to succeed. Their belief in me and my



aspirations positively influenced my academic journey.

Where did you go to school?

I began my education at Littlebedfordview Primary School in Lebowakgomo Township, where I attended sub-A (1992) to Standard four (1997), which are currently Grade 1 to Grade 6, respectively. I then completed my primary schooling at Dikolobe Primary School in Mankweng Township in 1998, where I finished Standard 5 (Grade 7). I started my high school education at Marobathota High School in Boyne in 1999 and matriculated in 2003. From 2004 to 2009, I attended the University of Limpopo, where I obtained my Bachelor's, Honours and first Masters degrees. I pursued my second Masters

degree at the University of Pretoria from 2012 to 2013, and returned to the University of Limpopo to complete my Ph.D. in 2015 and 2016. In addition, I earned a post-graduate diploma from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal between 2019 and 2020. Thus, I have been a student for a significant portion of my life.

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

The people who raised me have certainly had a strong influence on my success, as I previously indicated. However, the most significant influence for me has been my faith as a Christian. Believing in God and having faith in his provision gave me the confidence to pursue my goals and work hard towards them. Growing up, I had a fear of poverty and did not want to experience it. Although I faced difficulties in obtaining everything I needed and wanted, this fear motivated me to focus on my education. I kept a journal in which I recorded my goals and aspirations, which helped me stay motivated when faced with obstacles.

What led you to your career?

When I was a child, like many others, I dreamed of becoming a medical doctor. However, as I grew up and gained a better understanding of the world, my interest shifted towards Food Science. Unfortunately, my family's financial situation made it impossible for me to pursue this field of study. Instead, I enrolled in the Bachelor of Sciences programme in Community Water and Sanitation at the University of Limpopo. While completing my degree, I discovered a passion for Development Studies and pursued. I pursued Honours and a first Masters in this field. During my second year of my Masters, I was offered a junior lecturer position in the Department of Development Studies at the university. Teaching these courses expanded my interest in understanding development from a spatial perspective, which led me to register for a Master of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Pretoria. Although I never expected to become an academic, I found myself enjoying teaching, learning, and research so much that I decided to continue my studies and remain in academia.

What was your first impression of the HSRC?

During my Honours, I attended a research workshop in Pretoria offered by the AISA, it is where I first learned about the HSRC. After understanding the institution's mandate, my immediate desire was to work for them in the future once I qualified. The workshop impressed me with the knowledge shared, and I began to imagine myself possessing that level of expertise in research.

What's your first memory of working here?

When I joined the institution, it was during the Covid-19 lockdown and many of my colleagues were working from home. I felt anxious about how I would be able to learn, understand, and meet the expectations of my job while working remotely and being unable to meet my colleagues in person. However, on my first day of work, I went to the Pretoria office to collect my working tools and received a reassuring call from Prof Hongoro on my way back home. He assured me that my colleagues would support me and that I would be fine.

THE SABBATICAL CHRONICLES OF NARNIA BOHLER-MULLER

What is sabbatical for?

Academics, scholars, researchers often lack the time and space to focus on their research due to teaching, projects, meetings, administration, management or fundraising responsibilities. A sabbatical provides the opportunity to reflect, focus, and improve one's skills and status as a researcher without such distractions. Researchers can often become overwhelmed by their duties, causing them to lose touch with what matters to them: thinking, reading, writing and publishing.

Over the past ten years at the HSRC, I have worked diligently to grow and strengthen DCES (previously DGSD) and have assisted in acting positions when necessary for AISA and GE:SS. However, in doing so, I lost touch with my passion for research and needed to recharge in order to continue adding value to the HSRC and DCES.

What did you do during your sabbatical?

During my sabbatical, I wrote more in the last six months than I have in the last ten years! I was able to not only focus on my research but also take time to reflect and gather my thoughts at a self-funded writing retreat in Zanzibar. This break allowed me to feel more liberated and creative, and I was able to work on some projects that I am deeply passionate about. Along with successfully publishing an edited book, I presented a paper at several online conferences, including an interesting one for the University of Salamanca in Spain. I spoke about the struggles of Iranian women against patriarchy. In addition, I completed two chapters for State of the Nation 2023 and wrote a book review. Although there were times when I had to return to work on big client contracts, I made sure to prioritise my sabbatical, even beginning by finalising all the performance assessments in the first week (not the best place to start).

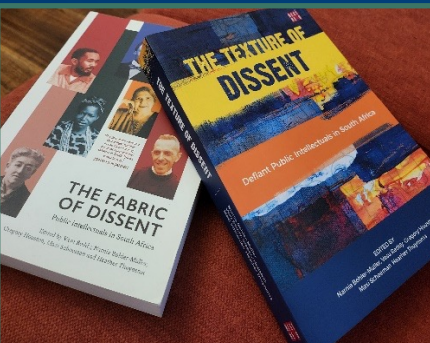


Do you think it is beneficial?

Without a doubt, yes! It has allowed me to refocus my energy and renew my passion for writing. Coming from a university background (previously NMMU), the culture at the HSRC was initially a shock to my system. As Acting DE of DGSD for the first few years, I was so focused on securing funding, managing people and projects, and putting out fires that I didn't have the time or energy to work on my research. As I gradually settled in, I found some balance, but taking up two jobs simultaneously didn't make things easier. However, I now have recalibrated and regained my balance.

How do you feel coming back?

I must admit to being a workaholic ... it took me a while to adjust to being able to find my own rhythm and not to read work emails! I wish to sincerely thank the HSRC Sabbatical Committee for approving this leave. Fortunately, I could trust Prof Charles Hongoro to run the show and so I was able to let go (thank you Charles). But DCES is a great division to lead, so I have been happy to return, although my timing could not have been worse as I am now facing the end of the financial year with all its craziness. At least I now have the stamina to deal with the difficulties that always arise at



INTRODUCING NEW STAFF



Gadija Khan

Dr Gadija Khan is a senior research specialist in the HSRC's Developmental, Capable & Ethical State (DCES) research division at the HSRC. She obtained her doctoral degree in psychology from the University of the Western Cape in 2022. Khan's research focuses on public health, health systems and policies, with a particular emphasis on the mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations, including children, adolescents, and women.

Prior to joining the HSRC, Dr Khan worked as a research officer in the Health Policy and Systems Division at the University of Cape Town, where she focused on health systems' responsiveness. She also served a project manager for a multi-site epidemiological trauma care study in the Western Cape, under the supervision of Stellenbosch University. During this role, she facilitated the study's execution, managed the data collection team across 7 sites, and worked alongside an international research team and collaborators from the University of Colorado, Denver, USA.

Dr Khan had previously worked as a researcher at the HSRC from 2014 to 2018. During this time, she was involved in several national and regional projects focusing on women and child health, including the Improving the Maternal and Infant Morbidity and Mortality Surveillance System, where she served as a provincial coordinator and contributed to the technical report. Additionally, she has co-managed an intervention study (using sport) for substance abuse reduction among adolescents and young adults in three low-income communities in South Africa, which later became the basis for her PhD research.

So far, Dr Khan has authored or co-authored seven scientific papers in both local and international peer-reviewed academic journals, as well as three research reports and two book chapters. In her free time, she enjoys going to the gym or reading in a garden or park to destress. She cherishes making memories with her loved one while indulging in delicious food, taking leisurely walks on the beach with a cup of coffee, and designing and sewing clothes using YouTube as her guide.

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Simangele Dlamini

Senior Research Specialist, Dr Simangele Dlamini, is part of the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division at the HSRC. He earned his Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Johannesburg in 2020. Dr Dlamini has expertise in geo-spatial analysis and visualisation, as well as community-based studies with a focus on identity, attachment, and belonging.

Prior to joining the HSRC, Dr Dlamini held various positions such as a lecturer at Vista University (2000-2005), a Sustainability Researcher at Mintek (2005-2010), and an Environmental Audit Manager at KPMG SA (2011-2015). During Dr Dlamini's time at the University of Johannesburg (2016-2017), he taught Geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Environmental Management. During his time at Mintek, Dr Dlamini conducted research on mine environmental management, and at KPMG SA, he led environmental audit teams

for various South African companies, including ABSA, Lonmin, Eskom and Wesizwe Platinum mine. Following the completion of his Ph.D., Dr Dlamini focused on studies related to identity, place attachment, environmental perceptions, an spatial characterisation of these concepts. Since joining the HSRC in 2018, he has provided assistance to multiple researchers on the geospatial analysis and visualisation of their work, such as the Karoo Innovation Project, led by the Equitable Education and Economies division.

Dr Dlamini has authored over 10 peer-reviewed academic articles published in both local and international journals, as well as six editions of *Spatial Insights*, an internal publication of the HSRC. He has presented numerous papers at conferences both locally and internationally, including a entitled *Hidden Geographies* presentation at the EUROGEO 2019 Annual Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Dr Dlamini is scheduled to present a paper on urban sustainability in Bangkok, Thailand in 2023.

Dr Dlamini resides in Johannesburg South, near Klipriviers Nature Reserve. He enjoys hiking there with his daughter and two when he needs a break. Friends call him Smanga, which is short for Simangele. He is inspired by his 92-year-old mother, who still cooks traditional dishes for him occasionally. While he is not an avid soccer fan, he supports any team that beats Kaiser Chiefs. Dr Dlamini enjoys traveling, both locally and internationally.

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DCES: SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & ENGAGEMENTS

PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN A ERA OF INCREASING DISTRUST

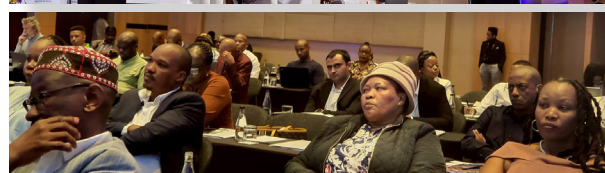
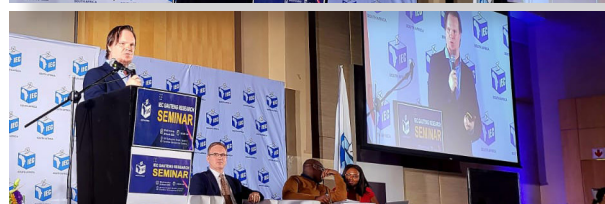
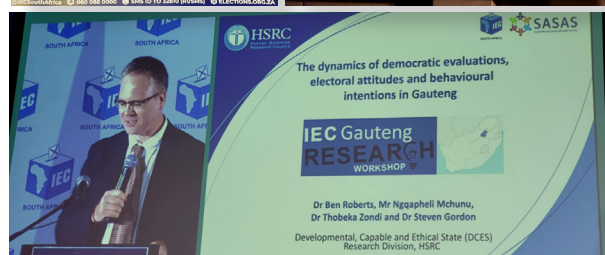
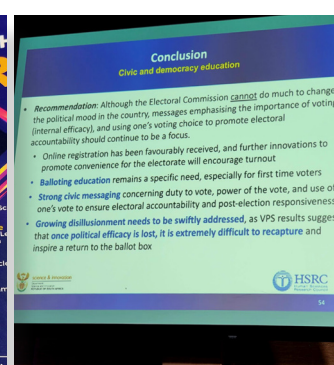
The HSRC in partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa held a research seminar on 29 March 2023 in Midrand, Gauteng entitled: 'Safeguarding Electoral Democracy in the Age of growing Mistrust'. The workshop formed part of a series of workshops across the country.

These seminars served as a platform for presentations that examined and highlighted research findings on the state and quality of electoral democracy in South Africa. The South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) team, comprising of Dr. Benjamin Roberts, Dr. Steven Gordon, Dr. Jarè Struwig, Mr. Ngqapheli Mchunu, and Dr. Thobeka Zondi, led these presentations, drawing on years of studies to reflect on patterns and trends in various aspects of electoral democracy, including voter registration, participation, voter turnout, citizen engagement levels, and trust in electoral democracy, and other related issues.

The SASAS research work forms part of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) Research Programme who conducts research in the area of electoral democracy and politics. This study and report was also supported by other members of staff, including Prof Joleen Steyn-Kotze, Samela Mtyingizane, Dr Kombi Sausi and Dr Mercy Ngungu. Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller, the Divisional Executive of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) provided general oversight for the project.

The research outputs and reports have a continual impact on the planning and implementation of electoral projects. The IEC has released a significant resource, the Elections Indicators Report, to facilitate such reflection. Phatudi Simon Mamabolo, the Chief Executive Office (CEO) of the IEC of South Africa, stated that this report is the initial instalment in a series of developed 'Elections Indicators Reports'. This series is the outcome of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research collaboration between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

The Commission takes pride in an election management body that relies on evidence-based decision making and places great importance on conducting high-quality research to inform its operational planning. This new series is a testament to this commitment. The project is centred on gaining an understanding of the opinions, preferences, evaluative, and behavioural predispositions of the South African voting public, the young and the old, rural and urban areas, and taking into account gender sensitivity and distribution.



HSRC SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS INTO HOST COMMUNITIES PROJECT DIALOGUES



A two-day dialogue was held in Hatfield, Pretoria as part of the HSRC Surplus Funds-funded project focused on the social integration of immigrants into sub-Saharan African communities on the 23rd and 24th of February.



The objective was to disseminate the findings of the project's first phase and gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by immigrants and host communities in achieving social integration. To achieve this goal, a diverse group of interdisciplinary scholars, researchers, faith-based organisations, civil society groups, policymakers,

businesses, and non-governmental organisations were brought together to facilitate conversations that incorporated various perspectives, including political, sociological, economic, cultural, and psychological in order to identify opportunities for integration.

Moreover, the discussions aimed to identify policies that could enhance the manner in which host communities receive immigrants, while also making recommendations for future priorities in social integration.

The dialogues were co-facilitated by Dr Mathias Alubafi Fubah and Dr Mokhantšo Makoae from the HSRC. Among some of the key presentations at the dialogue were:

- Welcome address by Prof Charles Hongoro (HSRC)
- Keynote address on the *"Social Integration of Immigrations in Sub-Saharan Africa"* by Prof Jephias Matunhu (Midlands State University, Zimbabwe)
- *Interrogating the Political Economy of Xenophobia against the Professional Integration of Black Foreign Workers in Resource-Rich Equatorial Guinea* by Dr Dongmo Christophe (Credit Foncier, Yaounde, Cameroon)
- *Challenges to the Integration of Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in Tunisia* by Geraldine Tematio Medonnang, from Tamk-In Academy in Tunisia
- *Human security of immigrants and host communities in South Africa: Is integration a sufficient precondition for safety and security?* by Prof Sylvester Maphosa, (HSRC)
- *Local South Africans and immigrants as neighbours in the neighbourhoods*, by Dr Mathias Alubafi Fubah and Ms Dimpho Makitla (HSRC)
- *Analysis of factors that inhibit social integration of immigrants and propositions for a cohesive inclusive society* by Clement Nchabeleng and Noncedo Maphosho (HSRC)
- *The exclusion of African Immigrants in South Africa: A threat to social integration, peace and unity* by Lebohang Ndaba (HSRC)
- *Coping with migrants status: the case of Central African refugees in Cameroon* by Dr Louis Aghogah Wihbongale and Dr Ernest Dzelamonyuy, from the University of Bamenda, Cameroon
- Vote of thanks by Dr Palesa Sekhejane (HSRC)





DSI-HSRC WORKSHOP OF THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

On March 3rd, the DSI and the HSRC's DCES research division collaborated to host a one-day workshop focused on the social implications of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in South Africa. The workshop with aimed to develop a business plan relating for a work programme and included representatives from DSI, HSRC, CSIR, and other key stakeholders.



SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SALGA) LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dr. Yul Derek Davids presented the findings of the District Development Model (DDM) study at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Local Government Professionalisation Indaba, which took place from 8 to 10 March 2023 at the Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre – OR Tambo in Kempton Park Johannesburg.

This presentation was part of collective efforts to repurpose the implementation model of the Local Government Professionalisation Framework. The three-day hybrid format indaba aimed to address the defined challenges and bottlenecks in order to build an ethical state founded on Batho Pele principles and to co-create an implementation pathway informed by the commitments of various constituencies and role-players in the journey of professionalization.

The event brought together leaders and experts in governance, social partners including government departments, professional bodies, communities, and organized labour under the theme of "Strong Partnerships for Restoring Trust in A Capable and Developmental Local Government: A Clarion Call to Drive the Local Government Professionalisation Agenda".



"STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESTORING TRUST IN A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A CLARION CALL TO DRIVE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALISATION AGENDA"

RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S SCENARIO PLANNING PROCESS

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) partnered with the Mapungubwe Institute of Strategic Reflections (MISTRA) and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) co-host a research round table on scenario planning in South Africa.

The event, held on 7-8 March 2023 at the Protea Hotel, Sandton, aimed to address social problems such as inequality, poverty, unemployment, crime, and social unrest through scenario planning initiatives such as the Indlulamithi Scenarios 2035. The round-table engaged relevant stakeholders, explored strategies and mechanisms for improving planning, and focused on specific thematic areas that are priority areas for South Africa's development. The discussion also provided an opportunity to share relevant research evidence.

The event was well attended, and plans are underway to produce a proceedings report and convene a follow up roundtable, as part of the DPME and HSRC's existing Memorandum of Understanding to improve the country's planning system through research on national planning policies, systems, methodologies, instruments, and projects.



PROF NARNIA BOHLER-MULLER SPEAKS AT THE W20 INCEPTION MEET ON GENDER EQUALITY, EQUITY & DIGNITY AND WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT

Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller participated in the Women20 (W20) Inception Meet, which was held in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India on 27-28 February, 2023 as a delegate and speaker.

The event focused on the theme of 'Pursuit of gender equality, equity and dignity for women-led development'. During her presentation, Professor Bohler-Muller shared her insights on the "Experiences of women in law pursuing social justice".



The W20 is an engagement group of the G20 which was established during the Turkish presidency in 2015 with the aim of mainstreaming gender considerations into G20 discussions. Its goal is to translate these consideration into policies and commitments that promote women’s economic empowerment and gender equality, as reflected in the G20 Leaders Declaration.

During India’s presidency, the W20 focused on five priorities, namely Women in Entrepreneurship, Women Leadership at Grassroots, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education & Skill Development and Women & Girls as change makers Climate Resilience Action.

During the W20 Inception Meeting several panel discussions were held on different topics related to women’s empowerment. These included empowering women in nano, micro & start up enterprises, role of women as change makers in climate resilience action, creating an enabling ecosystem for women leaders at the grassroots bridging the gender digital divide through improved access to infrastructure and skill development, creating pathways for education and skill development, and entrepreneurship; and women-led development in India.

Delegates were also exposed to stories of unconventional women in India who broke barriers in various fields, including in the Indian Navy and grassroots entrepreneurship. These discussion aim to foster collaboration and promote gender equity and women’s economic empowerment.

India@G20 | First Women20 meeting gets underway in Maharashtra under #G20India

<https://twitter.com/ddsayadrinews/status/1630568585377767427?s=20>



BOOK BUZZ: FIND YOUR NEXT MUST-READ HERE

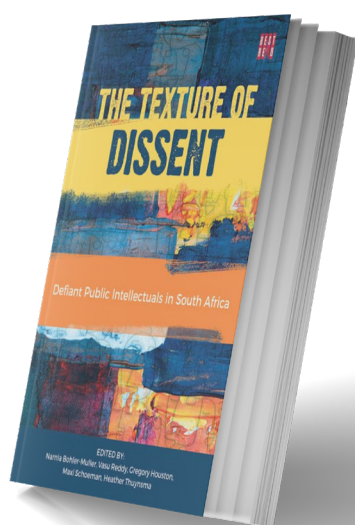


Houston, G., Kanyane, M. & Davids, Y.D. (2022) *(Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies; v.28)*. Leiden: BRILL.

When South Africa transitioned to democracy, there was a sense of hope for a new nation where all citizens would be equal in a country that had previously been discriminatory and racist. The promise was for a country where everyone would stand, walk and live equally, and no one would be discriminated against based on race. However, as the country approaches its third decade of democracy, the hope for a non-racial paradise

has dissipated. There has been an increase in racist incidents an intensified racialised politics, which have brought to light deep-seated feelings of inter-racial dislike and mistrust. These feelings are expressed both privately and publicly in the form of harmful stereotypes that perpetuate inter-racial hostility. This is concerning in a country that once held so much potential for building a reconciled and united nation rooted in its diversity. Despite more than a quarter-century of democracy, the promise of a non-racial paradise that many had fought for remains elusive.

BOOK REVIEWS/BOOK ENDORSEMENTS:



The Texture of Dissent: Defiant Public intellectuals in South Africa

The public intellectuals featured in *The Texture of Dissent: Defiant Public Intellectuals in South Africa* are distinguished by the differing contexts and issues that shaped their lives, and the period during which they began to play prominent roles and shape public discourse.

This volume intends to provoke rather than provide definitive answers to the topic, idea, and subject of public intellectuals in an African context. It provides a motivation of these thinkers and how their insights reimagine an inclusive society in the theatre of ideas. Those assembled in this volume are, in our view, people who ultimately leave deep imprints on what it means to be human in a very complex and divided society.

This book is a valuable contribution to bring to wider public knowledge intellectuals who have played critical roles throughout the modern history of South Africa – to challenge received wisdom that are outdated, to tackle the problems of the present,

defend individual freedoms against the autocracy of conformity. To tackle development problems imaginatively, rather than ideologically and challenge traditions, cultures and customs which impinge on human rights, individual dignity and freedom of choice. This is a book to be prized.

- **Professor William Gumede, School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand and Founder of Democracy Works Foundation**

A bold and refreshing selection of some of South Africa's key public figures whose voices, writing and presence speak truth to power. The Texture of Dissent: Defiant public intellectuals in South Africa is timely, daring and so necessary in probing on the current state of South Africa. From Bantu Biko, Brenda Fassie, Shireen Hassim to Simon Nkoli this book revives the spirit of revolution, nudging us to constantly imagine the possibility of freedom.

- **Zintombizethu Matebeni, PhD, SARCHI Chair in Sexualities, Genders, and Queer Studies, University of Fort Hare**

South Africa is an extraordinary country. Here it is exemplified in its intellectuals, a large and amazing array of men and women who courageously overturn all our tightly-clung to orthodoxies of enculturated conceit, be it raced, classed, gendered, sexualised or whatever, and offer us provocatively capacious ideas with which we might build worlds based on justice, equality, freedom and dignity.

- **Professor Crain Soudien, Former CEO of the HSRC and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town**



Innovation for inclusive development & transformation in South Africa

Charles Hongoro, Cyril Adonis, Konosoang Sobane are the editors of this volume. The book delves into the role of science, technology and innovation (STI) as drivers of growth and poverty reduction, but also examines how STI can exacerbate social exclusion and inequalities.

This focus is on the concept of Innovation for Inclusive Development (IID) and its potential to address income and opportunities disparities in South Africa, a country grappling with deepening inequality, endemic poverty, and high unemployment. The book draws on original research and critiques existing literature to highlight specific issues and arguments related to IID in equitable and inclusive development. The contributing scholars possess a deep understanding of IID and its potential applications, and the book aims to provide relevant knowledge for policy, programmes, and practice.

UNLEASH YOUR INNER BIBLIOPHILE: OUR LATEST BOOK LAUNCHES

Why racism is persistent and how it could be erased in post-apartheid South Africa

Every year, South Africa commemorates Human Rights Day on 21 March in remembrance of the sacrifices that accompanied the country's struggle for democracy. As part of its celebrations, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) hosted a one-day dialogue on race and racism at the Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History in Pretoria on Thursday, 16 March 2023.



The dialogue was premised on the notion that the work of remaking the world in truly non-racial ways may proceed on a better and more informed basis if there is a better understanding of how race and racism work in a country that has recently emerged from a racist past.

The dialogue brought together close to 100 participants from the government, academia, the diplomatic corps, and civil society to discuss this contentious issue. The discussion was guided by themes found in a recently published book titled, *Paradise Lost: Race and Racism in Post-apartheid South Africa*.

The book was co-edited by Gregory Houston, Modimowabarwa Kanyane and Yul Derek Davids and published by Brill Publishers. It is about the continuing salience of race and the persistence of racism in post-apartheid South Africa.

Read more here.

<https://hsrc.ac.za/press-releases/dces/race-and-racism-dialogue/>

The texture of dissent: Defiant public intellectuals in South Africa

The HSRC's DCES division launched 'The Texture of Dissent: Defiant Public Intellectuals in South Africa' on 23 March 2023. The book was co-edited by Narnia Bohler-Muller, Vasu Reddy, Gregory Houston, Heather Thuynsma and Maxi Schoeman.

This book is the second volume in a series resulting from collaboration between researchers from the HSRC and academics from the University of Pretoria. The first volume, 'The Fabric of Defiance: Public Intellectuals in South Africa', was published in 2020.

'The Texture of Dissent' expands on the stories in 'The Fabric of Dissent', presenting an eclectic collection of perspectives on how public intellectuals of various backgrounds have influenced South African history and shaped the present landscape, after three decades of democracy. The book features short vignettes on political, academic, cultural, and organic South African public intellectuals.



OUR VERY OWN MRS SOUTH AFRICA FINALIST – **VOTING IS STILL OPEN**



Dr Thobeka Zondi is a senior researcher at the Development Capable and Ethical State Research Division. Hailing from KwaZulu-Natal, she is a devoted wife, mother and friend to many, guided by her faith. She is also in the bid to be in the top 30 of the MRS SA competition.

Dr Zondi's true passion lies in serving others. Dr Zondi founded her own company, Wordy Academic, which has since transformed into a foundation. The Wordy Foundation actively participates in local economic development initiatives, working to address development challenges specific to the community.

The Wordy Foundation's objective for this year is to make a positive contribution towards the improvement of South Africa's declining literacy rate through a range of community engagement initiatives. It recognises the significance of building the capacities of the youth as they are the future and will actively participate in development and transformation efforts. To achieve this, the foundation is launching an initiative aimed at enhancing learners' reading comprehension abilities through book drives and book donations in various communities based in Durban.

Thobeka is a highly educated individual with two master's degrees and has graduated in May 2023 with her PhD in Public Administration. She sees Mrs SA as a platform for women to come together and support each other, and she hopes to leverage her connections to make a positive impact in society.



As a Mrs SA Semi-Finalist, Thobeka is tasked with securing silver sponsorships, and individuals or companies interested in partnering with her, you can reach out to her at thobekar@yahoo.com.

You can still vote for our very own Dr Thobeka Zondi and help her become a Top 30 Finalist. The voting lines closes on Wednesday, 5 July 2023.

This is how you can vote by following these steps:

1. Liking her picture on the Mrs South Africa Instagram page. Make sure you also follow @mrs_south_africa on Instagram in order for your vote to count.
2. Liking her picture on their Facebook page, in order for your vote to count.
3. **SMS'ing her Name and Surname to 47587. Voting Lines are open from 7 February 2023 until Wednesday 5 July 2023 23h59. The SMS will be charged at R3/sms. Free SMS'es and SMS bundles do not apply.**





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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