



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

DCEO

Office of the Deputy
Chief Executive Officer



Developmental, Capable and Ethical State

Making governance work

13th Edition



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

Reflections of the DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller

The first quarter of the financial year has sped by, and we are in full swing again. It has been a time to say farewell to Dr Thanyani Madzivhandila and Mr Moremi Nkosi, both of whom served the HSRC and DCES well. It has also been a time of newness as we are hosting four more interns: Alyssa Gabbidon, Eliza Moore, Rachel Hendrix, and Sadie Sheridan from Duke University in the USA, and all of whom are introduced to you in this newsletter.

The highlight of the past few weeks has undoubtedly been the Post Zondo Future of Democracy colloquium held on 22 June 2023 at the CSIR Convention Centre. Present amongst the dignitaries were Chief Justice Raymond Zondo who delivered the Keynote Address, Minister Blade Nzimande, CEO of the HSRC, Prof Sarah Motsoetsa and Dr Cassius Lubisi, Chair of the HSRC Board. Former Constitutional Court Judges Richard Goldstone and Johann Kriegler also graced us with their presence.

Besides showcasing cutting edge research and progress towards an open access database for future generations to use and understand a momentous event in South Africa, the media and social media virtually exploded with news that the former Chair of the Commission, now Chief Justice Zondo, was not satisfied that enough has been done to protect us from another attempt at State Capture. Let's hope that this essential conversation continues. The research most certainly will.

In these pages you will encounter once more the richness and diversity of DCES - our people and projects. With a team such as this one we will succeed in having a positive impact on our citizens, communities, society, and the state. Our name really says it all!

We continue to be guided by the values and principles articulated in the Preamble of our almost 30-year-old Constitution.

We the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to—

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

May God protect our people. Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso. God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa. Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.



Contents

04



12



08



14



| | |
|-----------|--|
| <u>04</u> | UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH NGOAPHELI MCHUNU |
| <u>06</u> | MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS: BRIGHT NEW STARS |
| <u>08</u> | VISITING IN JULY: UNIVERSITY OF YORK CARIBBEAN SCHOLAR AND PROJECT PARTNER |
| <u>09</u> | SASAS FINDINGS: COGTA MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS SASAS FINDINGS IN BUDGET VOTE SPEECH |
| <u>09</u> | DR WILFRED LUNGA: JOINS ISC-UNEP FORESIGHT EXPERT PANEL |
| <u>10</u> | W20 SUMMIT 2023: PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY |
| <u>12</u> | BRICS RESEARCH CENTRE: CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION SESSION IN CHINA |
| <u>14</u> | EMPOWERING PARTICIPATION: EPPMOSA PROJECT'S QUEST FOR INCLUSIVE POLICY FORMULATION IN SOUTH AFRICA |
| <u>16</u> | SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES & ENGAGEMENTS |



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

NGQAPHELI MCHUNU

INTRODUCTION

What's your name?

Hi, my name is Ngqapheli Mchunu. To give you some background, my name is actually a shortened version of my full name, which is Ngqapheliyezizwe in IsiZulu. This name translates to 'the nation's observer' or 'the nation's protector' in English.

What's your title?

My title is senior researcher.

How long have you worked at HSRC?

It's been a full six years and some additional months since I became a member of the HSRC on April 3rd, 2017.

ABOUT YOUR JOB

What does your job entail?

My current job involves a lot of reading and writing, frequent travelling, and constant communication with others, all of which I happen to enjoy (LOL). Writing is an integral part of what we do and, although it can be challenging, it is also very rewarding. The varied nature of our projects requires individuals to draw upon a distinct set of skills for each. The recently concluded Future of Democracy colloquium was an event that required a great deal of preparation and planning from all those involved. Furthermore, the presence of the Chief Justice added to the formal nature of the event. The other facet of this undertaking requires extensive travelling for fieldwork, where we meet and interact with a vast array of ordinary South Africans from all walks of life by visiting their households.

What is your typical day like?

I'm accustomed to getting up quite early in the morning, usually around 4:30am. If I'm feeling motivated, I'll make my way to the gym between 5 and 7am and then head to work for 8am. Whenever there are tight deadlines, which is almost every other day, they are given priority over everything else for the day.

Favourite memory from work?

There are quite a few to pick from.

As part of our work on the Zondo Commission, we were privileged to undergo a virtual swearing-in ceremony conducted by none other than the Chief Justice himself, an experience that left me feeling truly exhilarated. I had the incredible opportunity to co-publish a chapter in the State of the Nation book, a book that we used to cite religiously during my undergraduate and honours level studies. It was such a surreal experience to be a part of. Another cherished memory that I have is related to the 2019 Election Satisfaction Survey, which I had the opportunity to work and contribute to. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been able to observe all the proceedings that took place after the elections at the Results Operation Centre in Tswane, which was an unforgettable experience for me. I never thought I would actually be there in person, as I used to watch all of these proceedings on television with my grandmother.

We would be closely following the election results as they trickled in, and since it was usually a holiday, we would also be busy baking while being glued to the television. Another project we worked on was for the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), where we provided our services as part of their Armed Forces Day commemoration in Kimberly in the year 2018. The project enabled me to gain a greater understanding of the SANDF and their operations. This was a fortunate opportunity that resulted in a truly wonderful learning experience for me. It taught me invaluable lessons in project management, creative thinking, and in the unwavering pursuit of excellence.

What's a common question you get from stakeholders?

"So, when will the report be ready?"

Our clients usually want us to make it snappy and deliver their reports, so they often ask us when we can have their results ready.

What do you like most about your job?

When it comes to my job, there is a great deal that I find to be enjoyable and fulfilling. One of my favourite things is to acquire knowledge and expand my understanding of new concepts, ideas, and unique insights that pertain to topics of public interest. Discovering the kind of research that individuals are involved in brings me great pleasure and I enjoy meeting new people in the process. Being part of various research studies over the years has been a great privilege for me. Regardless of the countless obstacles that we may encounter, the most fulfilling part of my work experience has always been building strong relationships with my colleagues. This is particularly true when we share a common goal. In addition, I find travelling to be a great source of enjoyment, especially when it involves exploring different parts of South Africa. Through these experiences, I have come to appreciate how much we share in common as human beings, despite our differences. I take pleasure in the process of acquiring knowledge about languages, especially since I originate from a province that predominantly uses only two or three languages. Thus, visiting Limpopo, where individuals are capable of communicating in various languages, is a delightful experience for me. I find media to be a very enjoyable platform, and I once had an experience where I was invited to Ukhozi FM, but I failed to inform my mother. As the interview was live, my mother heard it and within a few minutes, and I received numerous calls from my cousins, all of whom were curious as to what I was doing on Ukhozi FM. Observing the exceptional abilities of my colleagues, many of whom are highly respected figures in their fields, brings me great joy. Your reputation and character can be influenced by the people you associate with, hence the saying "you are the company you keep."

ABOUT YOURSELF

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

My childhood memories are centred around Pietermaritzburg, a city in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.



Our grandma, who was a bit of an iron lady, raised us and as a result, my family was quite fun to be around. The reason we had to wake up early every day, even on holidays, was because she firmly believed that waking up early was a crucial component of overcoming laziness. Although my grandma has passed away, I am grateful for the constant presence of both my parents in my life and feel fortunate that they are still alive.

How did your parents influence you?

The ways in which they influenced me were many, and some are only now coming to light. My mother's work ethic was incredibly strong and I believe I have inherited a portion of it. My father is a bit of a maverick, meaning that he likes to think independently and do things his own way. Additionally, he is very extroverted, which is a trait that I believe I inherited from him. I hold a great deal of respect for both of them, not only for who they are as individuals, but also for their unique perspectives. They have each been incredibly supportive of me and have worked tirelessly to ensure that I am able to reach my full potential. Even though they may occupy different corners of the world, they both remain steadfast in their support for me and my goals.

Where did you go to school?

It may be hard to believe, but I actually attended school in the same city, Pietermaritzburg, for my entire life. In terms of my educational background, I have attended both primary and high schools in Pietermaritzburg, and I also had the chance to enrol at UKZN PMB Campus. Prior to enrolling in a doctoral programme in political science at Stellenbosch University, I had not relocated cities for the purpose of pursuing my tertiary education.

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

There is no doubt that my grandmother holds a very special place in my heart. Additionally, my passion for sports contributes to my inspiration, as I draw quite a bit of motivation from it. The people I work with are truly amazing individuals with excellent skills and yet they remain extremely modest and reliable, which is why I have a great deal of respect for them.

What led you to your career?

Lady Luck, along with hard work and dedication, can help you achieve success in your endeavours. It has been a true blessing to be a part of a unit that has enabled me to flourish by placing such a strong focus on my areas of research interest. The support that I receive from my seniors has been instrumental in my ability to learn and try new things.

What was your first impression of the HSRC?

Wow, I cannot believe how fast-paced the work is here.

What's your first memory of working here?

Although I cannot recall my first fondest memory, one that stands out in my mind is the opportunity I had to present at an international conference hosted at the University of Tampere in Finland. The excitement of my first international trip was palpable and I can confidently say that it was an unforgettable and wonderful experience.



MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS BRIGHT NEW STARS



Exploring the Nexus of Psychology, Politics, and Social Justice: Alyssa Gabbidon's Impactful Journey

Alyssa Gabbidon, a rising Junior at Duke University, is undertaking a major in Psychology & Political Science. Passionate about understanding the intricate dynamics between race, culture, and interpersonal interactions, she actively engages with Duke's Identity and Diversity Lab while in North Carolina. Her work within the lab revolves around studying the influences of race and culture on these interactions. Additionally, Miss Gabbidon dedicates her efforts to the Duke Justice Project and the Wilson Centre for Justice, where she contributes to various projects centred around criminal justice reform. Her previous internships have been focused on shedding light on critical issues of inequality. These include exploring the challenges faced by BIPOC survivors of human trafficking, investigating stressors impacting the mental health of public defenders, and examining factors that influence the acceptance of plea bargains. With her presence at the HSRC, Miss Gabbidon seeks to deepen her understanding of how race and other factors contribute to mental health disparities and inequality in South Africa. Guided by her mentor, Dr Benjamin Roberts, she aims to make significant contributions in this area.



Eliza Moore: Duke University Undergrad and HSRC Intern with a Passion for Policy and Social Change

Eliza Moore is a rising third-year undergraduate student at Duke University, specializing in Public Policy as well as African and African American Studies. Her dedication to her studies and interest in making effective change through policy action has led her to the HSRC, where she is thrilled to be interning for eight weeks in Cape Town.

Growing up as a military child, Eliza relocated numerous times across the United States and abroad due to her father's service in the US Air Force. However, she completed her high school education in Sicily, Italy, at the base located there. Since enrolling at Duke, Eliza has been focusing on understanding the US policy-making process and delving into the history of Blackness on a global scale.

As an intern in the DCES-HSRC program, Eliza has gained valuable insights into how research can be utilised to analyse and influence policy decisions. Guided by her mentor, Dr Derek Davids, she has been developing crucial skills and expanding her knowledge, which will undoubtedly shape her future work as an advocate and volunteer.

Eliza expresses her gratitude for the enriching experience she has had thus far as an intern. She has had the privilege of learning from dedicated and passionate DCES colleagues who have shared their impactful work with her. This incredible opportunity to learn from such individuals has further fuelled her passion for creating positive change.

Upon completing her undergraduate studies at Duke, Eliza plans to attend law school and actively engage in the politics of her local community. With her combined background in Public Policy and African and African American Studies, she aims to utilise her knowledge and skills to contribute meaningfully to society.

Eliza Moore's journey as a rising advocate and agent of change is driven by her commitment to addressing structural inequality, understanding Black identity and culture, and effecting policy action. The HSRC is honoured to have her as an intern, and we eagerly anticipate witnessing her continued growth and impact.



Unveiling History's Impact: Rachel Hendrix's Quest for Human Rights and Social Change

Rachel Hendrix, a 20-year-old student at Duke University, hails from Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in History with a focus on Human Rights and Social Movements, Rachel is in her second year of studies. Her passion lies in understanding the impact of history on contemporary conditions and policies within diverse communities. Of particular interest to her are historical instances of human rights violations and the corresponding resistance movements across the globe. She finds the history of South Africa and the anti-apartheid struggle to be exceptionally captivating.

At Duke, Rachel explores academic avenues in human migration, art history, education, and reproductive freedom. She actively engages with the local community near Duke through her role as a tour guide at the Nasher Museum of Art and her volunteer work with the Community Empowerment Fund. The latter organisation aims to connect North Carolinians with vital financial and housing resources. Additionally, Rachel nurtures her love for reading and writing, encompassing academic writing, creative writing, and journalism. In her leisure time, she indulges in playing the piano, spending time with friends, and exercising.

Rachel's experience working in a digital art history research lab at Duke sparked her interest in interning at the HSRC. Under the guidance of Dr Fubah Alubafi, her mentor at the HSRC, she has gained invaluable insights into the methodologies employed in conducting high-quality social science research. Rachel eagerly looks forward to deepening her understanding of complex societal and political issues in South Africa. She expresses sincere gratitude for the opportunity to learn from the exceptional HSRC team.



Empowering Change: Sadie Sheridan's Journey in Social Justice and Research

Sadie Sheridan is a 20-year-old student on the verge of entering the third year of her undergraduate education at Duke University. She possesses a deep passion for studying how social systems perpetuate inequality. Pursuing dual areas of study in Public Policy and History, she has the opportunity to delve into the mechanisms that breed conflict in society. Her Public Policy courses provide her with insights into contemporary social issues, while her History courses allow her to analyse the historical outcomes of decisions driven by various beliefs. At Duke University, Sadie actively seeks out opportunities to engage in humanities and social science research that pertains to social justice initiatives.

A notable contribution of Sadie's is her involvement in a digital humanities project on Nazi-Occupied Krakow, conducted through the Digital Art History and Visual Cultures Research Lab at Duke (DAHVC). This project aims to preserve the narratives of Holocaust victims by creating a digital recreation of the concentration camp based on archived photographs and victims' stories. Last summer, she conducted data science research for the Community Safety Department in Durham (CSD). This project shed light on how local organisations can distribute mental health services more equitably and compassionately. While Sadie values the granular details studied in the classroom, she finds her greatest fulfilment in working with people, forging new relationships, and learning from the lived experiences of others. She actively participates in community-based work and firmly believes in the transformative power of individuals' stories to drive positive social change. During her free time, Sadie enjoys tutoring young students, singing in the choir, and dancing in Duke's ballet and contemporary companies.

This summer, her aspiration is to acquire social science research skills at the HSRC while contributing to projects that aim to enhance the lives of South Africans through both large-scale and small-scale efforts. She is currently involved in a project that memorialises the history of Langa through interviews with residents. Additionally, she is part of a project that studies how weaknesses within public sector institutions create a hostile environment for immigrants in South Africa. The determination exhibited by HSRC researchers in creating a positive impact within South Africa serves as a profound inspiration for Sadie. She considers herself fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from such knowledgeable researchers during her time at the HSRC this summer.

VISITING IN JULY

UNIVERSITY OF YORK CARIBBEAN SCHOLAR AND PROJECT PARTNER

We are delighted to announce that Professor Henrice Altink, a Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre (IGDC) at the University of York, United Kingdom, has been appointed as a Senior Visiting International Research Fellow at DCES from June 2023 to March 2024. She has a PhD from the University of Hull and has been actively involved with the Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS) and the Social History Society. She served as deputy editor of the *Women's History Review*. Henrice's primary research focuses on social inequalities in the Caribbean. She has worked extensively on gender during slavery and in the post-emancipation period. Her latest book examines race and colour discrimination in Jamaica from 1918 till 1980. It maps the multiple and often covert forms of discrimination in various settings – for example, work, education, and law, and explores how they were discussed and the extent to which they were contested.

Her most recent work examines the intersection between social inequality and environmental vulnerability in the Caribbean. Henrice will visit DCES at the HSRC Pretoria office from the 16 to 28 July 2023. As one of two Co-PIs from the University of York who are partners with the HSRC and Prof Alex Hughes (PI) of Newcastle University of the *British Academy Knowledge Frontiers project on Traditional Food Systems in Rapid Urbanisation* (TFSRU), she will be working with the HSRC Co-PIs, Drs Precious Tirivanhu, Fubah Alubafi, Blessing Masamha and Tim Hart. Besides working on the TFSRU project, she will network across different HSRC programmes.

On the 24 June from 11:am to 12:30 pm, she will be giving a virtual public talk titled: '*Using transdisciplinary socio-historical data to understand the evolution of food systems in Low and Middle-Income Countries: a Caribbean case study*'. We ask you to join us at this exciting seminar.

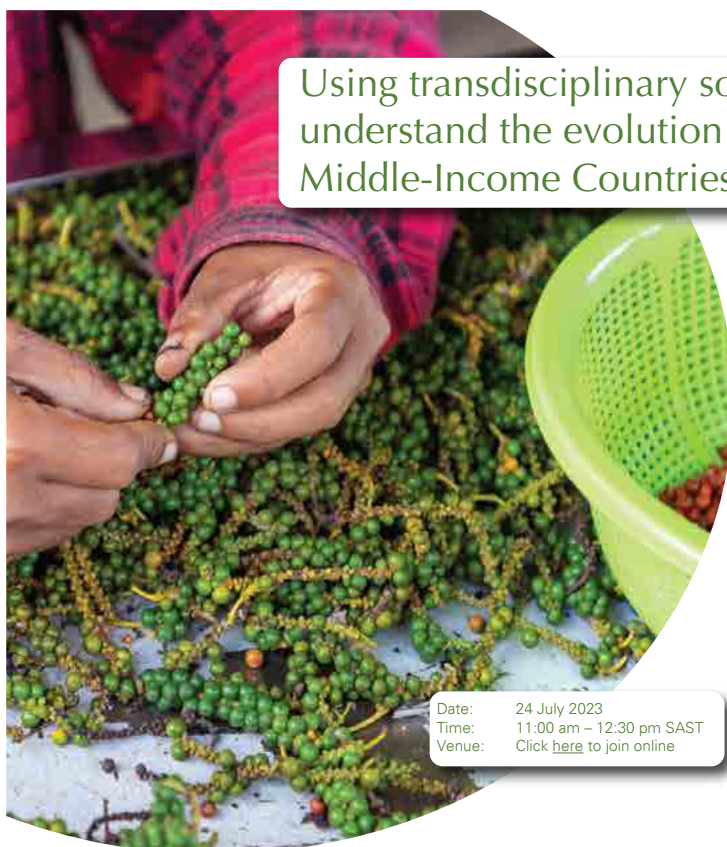
Please see the link below and register for the workshop.

Using transdisciplinary socio-historical data to understand the evolution of food systems in Low and Middle-Income Countries: A Caribbean case study

In recent years, many Low and Middle-income countries (LMICs) have been experiencing rapid increases in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) related to poor diet. There is an urgent need to develop cross-disciplinary networks and methods that make more systematic and innovative use of existing data sources that can significantly inform policy action to improve local healthy food production and consumption to reduce the rate of diet-related NCDs. Data describing food systems - from food pricing, consumption patterns, import rates, and land usage to disease trends - are inherently relational and transdisciplinary and require researchers to cross-disciplinary and sectoral boundaries to inform evidence-based policy. However, data sources in LMICs are often underused, overlooked, fragmented and unlinked. Based on two research projects on food systems in Jamaica, this paper outlines an approach to how transdisciplinary socio-historical data can be systematically assembled to understand the temporal complexity of food systems in LMICs and provide a basis for policy action.

Henrice Altink is a Professor of Modern History and Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre (IGDC). She has a PhD from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom. She joined the department in 2004. Henrice has been actively involved with the Society for Caribbean Studies (SCS) and the Social History Society for many years and has served as deputy editor of the *Women's History Review*. Henrice's primary research focuses on social inequalities in the Caribbean. She has worked extensively on gender during slavery and in the post-emancipation period.

Professor Henrice Altink, Co-Director of the Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre at the University of York, United Kingdom and Human Sciences Research Council Senior Visiting International Research Fellow



Date: 24 July 2023
Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm SAST
Venue: Click [here](#) to join online



SASAS FINDINGS



COGTA MINISTER, THEMBI NKADIMENG HIGHLIGHTS SASAS FINDINGS IN BUDGET VOTE SPEECH

In her Budget Vote Speech on 26th May, COGTA Minister Thembi Nkadimeng drew attention to the findings of the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), citing its relevance to the country's democratic processes. The Minister emphasized the importance of addressing declining trust and hope in democracy, as revealed in recent research conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) for the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC).

Minister Nkadimeng stated, "Why do I preface my remarks in this manner? Please allow me to reference the Human Sciences Research Council in its recent research for the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC). The HSRC found that, on average, the growing critical views of democracy, its institutions and accountability measures, may erode voter turnout at next year's elections. In fact, 'Hope and trust in democracy, its institutions and processes has declined substantially, especially since 2009, reaching an all-time low in 2021, the research revealed'. In conclusion, you would agree that this HSRC finding alone demonstrates the need to move towards a result-based planning framework that is developmental and guarantees

the change we want to see by 2030."

The Minister's remarks underscore the urgency of addressing the declining trust and confidence in democratic institutions, particularly in light of the upcoming elections. The SASAS findings, as highlighted by the HSRC, reveal a significant decline in hope and trust in democracy since 2009, reaching its lowest point in 2021. This concerning trend raises the need for a comprehensive and result-oriented planning framework that prioritizes development and works towards achieving the desired change by 2030.

The COGTA Minister's speech, available on the official COGTA website, highlights the importance of addressing the challenges identified by the HSRC and emphasizes the significance of a robust and accountable democratic system in South Africa.

Link to the speech: <https://www.cogta.gov.za/index.php/2023/05/26/2023-24-budget-vote-speech-by-minister-thembi-nkadimeng-at-the-parliament-good-hope-chamber/>

For more information on the SASAS survey please contact Dr Benjamin Roberts BRoberts@hsrc.ac.za

DR WILFRED LUNGA

JOINS ISC-UNEP FORESIGHT EXPERT PANEL TO SHAPE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

Dr Wilfred Lunga has been announced as one of the esteemed experts selected to join the International Science Council and United Nations Environmental Program (ISC-UNEP) Foresight Expert Panel. This distinguished panel comprises world-renowned scientists dedicated to tackling climate change challenges head-on.

The Foresight Expert Panel assumes a pivotal role in shaping global environmental outcomes by providing invaluable guidance, facilitating evidence gathering, and fostering an inclusive and evidence-based process. Through their collective efforts, the panel ensures that the forthcoming Global Foresight report becomes a beacon of knowledge, guiding policy decisions, driving innovation, and paving the way for a sustainable and resilient future.

The culmination of the panel's endeavours will be the publication of the Global Report in 2024. Anticipated to be a comprehensive compendium of insights and recommendations, the report will serve as a vital resource during the deliberations of the sixth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) in February 2024 and the Summit of the Future.

To learn more, please visit the following link: (<https://council.science/what-we-do/our-work-at-the-un/strategic-foresight/>)

Together, let us celebrate Dr Wilfred Lunga's appointment to this prestigious panel and eagerly anticipate the transformative impact of their collective efforts on global environmental stewardship.



**International
Science Council**



भारत 2023 INDIA

W20 SUMMIT 2023

PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

The W20 Summit is a prestigious event that has been making waves since its inception in 2015. As an official engagement group under the G20, its mission is clear: to champion gender equity and women's empowerment on a global scale. This year, the Women 20 (W20) Summit held in Mahabalipuram in the Tamil Nadu region of India took centre stage, and among the esteemed presenters was the remarkable Prof. Narnia Bohler-Muller.

For those unfamiliar, the G20 is an influential platform that brings together leaders from the world's major economies. Within this framework, the W20 plays a pivotal role, advocating for gender considerations to be at the forefront of discussions and translated into actionable policies and commitments. With a mandate to influence the G20 agenda and promote gender-sensitive approaches, the W20 tackles a range of pressing global challenges. Under the umbrella of the G20, the W20 identified five key priorities under India's leadership: Women's Entrepreneurship, Grassroot Women's Leadership, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education & Skills Development, and Climate Change.

These focal areas serve as the driving force behind the W20's initiatives, propelling meaningful change and fostering opportunities for women across the globe.

The W20 is a transnational network comprising delegates from non-government women's organizations, civil society, female entrepreneurs, businesses, and think tanks. This vast network extends its reach across G20 member states, ensuring a diverse and inclusive representation of voices and perspectives. W20 India assumed the presidency from W20 Indonesia in December 2022, marking a new era of leadership. The W20 India Summit unfolded with great anticipation on the 15th and 16th of June 2023. The summit's theme, "Women-Led Development: Transform, Thrive, and Transcend," set the stage for inspiring discussions and critical dialogues on women's empowerment.

So, what were the key highlights of this impactful event? The summit delved into breaking the invisible barriers and biases that impede women from reaching higher positions and leadership roles in various fields.

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE

W20

INDIA 2023 WOMEN

It showcased government initiatives such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the PM Mudra Scheme, and the GeM portal, which empower women with access to markets and finance.

Gender disparities in economic participation was highlighted, as the summit shed light on the inequalities women face in accessing economic opportunities, including financial resources, markets, and trade networks. Participants engaged in conversations surrounding systemic barriers such as limited access to credit, property rights, and discriminatory practices that hinder women's economic empowerment.

Amidst the serious discussions, the W20 Summit also celebrated the strength, resilience, and progress made in women's empowerment. It provided a platform for acknowledging the remarkable achievements of women across various sectors and emphasised the need for continued support and collaboration to further advance gender equity globally.

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller's presence and contribution as a member of the W20 India Communique drafting group along with representations from India, EU, USA and South Korea leading up to the W20 Summit exemplified the commitment and expertise necessary to drive meaningful change.



A copy of the 2023 Communique can be found at <https://w20india.org/>. Her insights and perspectives undoubtedly left a lasting impact, inspiring attendees to continue championing the cause of women's empowerment in their respective spheres.

As the curtains closed on the W20 Summit, it left behind a trail of inspiration, hope, and renewed dedication to creating a world where women can thrive and transcend barriers. The summit served as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and unwavering resolve required to build a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Brazil will lead the G20 and its engagement groups including W20 in 2024 and then South Africa takes over leadership in 2025. There is much work to do before then to ensure that South Africa makes its mark during the G20 Presidency and builds on the valuable inputs of Italy, Indonesia and India.



धैव कुटुम्बकम्
ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION SESSION IN CHINA

Mr. Clement Nchabeleng, a DSI-HSRC Masters intern at HSRC's Developmental, Capable, and Ethical State (DCES) division and BRICS Research Centre, attended the Africa Think-Tank and Media Workshop from May 29– 07 June 2023, in Hubei Province, China. The African delegation included officials from Nigeria, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. The Communist Party of China extended the invitation with the aim of sharing their country's progress as well as discussing ways forward for China-Africa cooperation.

The team was first received at Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei province, the city that first confronted and led the entire human race in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. There were interesting factors based on the post-COVID-19 era such as the social response to the health and socioeconomic crisis caused by COVID-19. Despite the devastation and loss, efforts made in science and innovation, expansive research in virology and epidemiology made by the Hubei Province was truly impressive.

Other visits were spent observing research and scientific innovation along the Yangtze River by the Yichang Municipality. The optimisation of the river by Hubei Province in terms of water conservation, the building of the dam operations, passage lifts, and hydro energy production was impressive. Also, the Xingfa New Material Industrial Park laboratory saw research and development in new green energy materials and batteries, as well as ecological restoration and management of the river. The contribution of President Xi Jinping's thoughts, especially in advanced development, to balancing extensive development of productive forces with ecological sustainability for the future of mankind was notable.

Furthermore, Hubei Province demonstrated the need to utilise universities and research institutions for scientific development. The advancement in maritime research in the province provides primary examples for countries in the sub-Saharan region of Africa. A regional approach to resolving water security and optimising the utilisation and protection of riverbank communities requires that South Africa and other African countries coalesce efforts beyond just a single-country approach.

Finally, the Gorges dam visit was enlightening as it portrayed how strategic visions can be implemented. The Gorges Dam vision first began in 1918 and came to fruition in 2020, which means developing countries should not abandon strategic plans and despite setbacks and challenges, they can work progressively towards achieving their goals. The China trip demonstrated that capacity and the unlimited possibilities for building a capable state is a possibility.







EMPOWERING PARTICIPATION

EPPMOSA PROJECT'S QUEST FOR INCLUSIVE POLICY FORMULATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

The e-Participation and Policy Modelling Platform for South Africa (ePPMOSA) project is a transformative initiative aiming to pilot e-participation and policy modelling technologies and methods across six municipalities and other government entities from 2022 to 2025. The primary goal of the project is to support and enhance existing public participation and policy formulation processes, fostering a more inclusive and democratic decision-making landscape.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The ePPMOSA project is an integral part of a broader program established by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), focused on piloting technology and innovations that can improve the delivery of basic services. The programme is funded through the European Union Sector Budget Support Programme and National Treasury. The HSRC is the lead implementing entity, through a collaboration between IC and DCES. The project works closely with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN).

OUR APPROACH AND THEORY OF CHANGE

Central to this project is the implementation of e-participation pilot projects within municipalities. We employ an action research spiral, which involves understanding needs, implementing technologies or practices, evaluating and reflecting on outcomes, and then repeating this cycle in a more detailed or larger-scale form. This approach facilitates joint learning and gradual enrollment of key stakeholders. As part of the pilot projects, we also explore the policy and legislative environment surrounding (e-)participation, while building networks for knowledge exchange within this domain. Our theory of change outlines three main project outcomes and broader societal impacts.

MAPPING ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE E-PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM

For municipalities and provincial government entities, it is vital to consider their role in enabling public participation in policy development. Moreover, exploring the potential of digital technology to support these activities is essential. In October 2022, we conducted our inaugural workshop to delve into these themes. Each participating entity meticulously mapped their current public participation initiatives while identifying (e-)participation opportunities they aim to explore in the future. Guided by the e-participation spectrum from the 2021 UN DESA e-Government Survey, we provided a framework to guide their inputs and discussions.

WHAT NEXT?

As of May 2023, the ePPMOSA project actively collaborates with five municipalities, conducting follow-up workshops with three of them to gain deeper insights into their policy and public participation priorities. Over the next few months, we anticipate confirming additional government partners, conducting baseline assessments, and launching the first set of pilot projects. This marks an exciting phase as we pave the way for inclusive and participatory policy formulation processes throughout South Africa.

Contacts

- Derek Davids, DCES: ydavids@hsr.ac.za
- Paul Plantinga, IC: pplantinga@hsr.ac.za
- Simangele Dlamini, DCES: sdlamini@hsr.ac.za
- Tlou Ramoroka, DCES: tramoroka@hsr.ac.za



SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES & ENGAGEMENTS

POST-ZONDO: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY



INVITATION: 22 JUNE 2023
09:30-16:30 || [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

POST ZONDO THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) cordially invites you to the live streaming of a colloquium entitled **Post Zondo: The Future of Democracy** on 22 June 2023. The keynote speaker at the event will be Chief Justice Raymond Zondo, Chairperson of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State ("the Zondo Commission").

The colloquium has three purposes:

1. To reflect on state capture and the findings of the Zondo Commission in a public arena outside of the courts
2. To gauge public appetite for democracy as the best form of governance for South Africa; and
3. To read the mood of South African influencers (politicians, businesspeople, civil society activists, academics, and investigative journalists) who have been standard-bearers for the democratic project.

Besides the Chief Justice, the colloquium will feature presentations by a cabinet minister, senior government officials, the former Secretary of the Zondo Commission, HSRC researchers and civil society actors. Each presentation will be followed by a period of discussion in which specially invited guests with expertise in the areas under consideration will lead the conversation.

You will have an opportunity to post comments in the Chat which may be selected for discussion in the colloquium.

[Click here to join the live-stream event](#)



POST ZONDO THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

PROGRAMME
22 JUNE 2023 || 09:30 - 16:30

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Ms Ferial Haffajee, Associate Editor, *Daily Maverick*

| | |
|-------|---|
| 09:30 | REGISTRATION; TEA / COFFEE |
| 10:00 | INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: <i>Prof Nanna Bohler-Muller, Divisional Executive, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)</i> |
| 10:10 | A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY PROJECT <i>Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science & Innovation</i> |
| 10:25 | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: <i>Chief Justice Raymond Zondo:</i> Has the capturing of the state placed our democracy at risk? |
| 10:55 | DISCUSSION |
| 11:25 | TEA / COFFEE |
| 11:50 | PART 1 <i>Dr Benjamin Roberts, Research Director and Mr Ngqapheli Mchunu, Researcher, HSRC:</i> South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) and online survey results |
| 12:20 | DISCUSSION |
| 12:40 | PART 2 <i>Adv. Gary Pienaar, Senior Research Manager, HSRC:</i> Implementation of recommendations to date |
| 13:00 | DISCUSSION |
| 13:20 | LUNCH |
| 14:10 | PART 3 <i>Prof Itumeleng Mosala, Secretary of the Zondo Commission into State Capture:</i> The role of academics and researchers going forward <i>Dr Dibuleng Mohlakwana, Director, HSRC & Mr Rethabile Khutlang, Research Group Leader, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):</i> Access to the State Capture archives |
| 14:40 | DISCUSSION |
| 15:00 | PART 4 <i>Adv. Vusi Pikoli, Senior Advisor, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime and former National Director of Public Prosecutions:</i> Organised crime and how to combat it |
| 15:20 | PART 5 <i>Prof Mboniseni Buthelezi, Executive Director, Public Affairs Research Institute:</i> The Zondo Commission and Civil Society |
| 15:40 | DISCUSSION |
| 16:10 | CONCLUSION <i>Prof Nanna Bohler-Muller, Divisional Executive, HSRC:</i> How can we ensure the protection of our democracy in future? |
| 16:20 | CLOSING REMARKS <i>Dr Cassius Lubisi, Chair, HSRC Board</i> |
| 16:30 | CLOSURE AND TEA / COFFEE |

The HSRC is grateful to the Department of Science & Innovation and the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development for their support for this project.

CALL FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

GLOBAL DYNAMICS OF COAL MINING AND JUST TRANSITION TO HYDROGEN ENERGY IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CONTINENT

18-20 OCTOBER 2023

ABSTRACT AND MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS:

- Abstracts should be no more than 250 words long.
- They must be submitted to: hydrogenenergyconference@hsr.ac.za
- Draft manuscripts of accepted abstracts must be between 6000 and 8000 words.
- The final manuscripts will be submitted for a hydrogen book publication.
- Finally, we encourage contributions from scholars at all levels.
- Abstract submission deadline: July 15, 2023
- Draft manuscript submission deadline: September 30, 2023
- Final draft manuscript submissions: February 2024

Sustainable Development Goal 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, which millions of Africans don't yet have. Coal has been a dominant energy resource in South Africa for more than a century, but along with other African countries must consider renewable energy sources to balance the effects of such a high-emitting industry.

Moreover, in pursuit of a just energy transition, South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission is also committed to ensuring that communities tied to high-emitting industries (e.g. through employment in the coal industry) are not left behind.

South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, and Namibia are looking towards green hydrogen as a potential alternative energy resource, and to achieve climate change objectives.

This conference which is co-funded by the National Research Foundation and the Human Sciences Research Council will explore the ability of these countries to implement a just energy transition from coal to hydrogen energy with global partners and stakeholders. It will also look at ways to balance the impacts of such a shift considering current socioeconomic and economic challenges.

Abstracts may be submitted on any topic relevant to the aforementioned theme or [click here](#) for more topics.



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



CALL TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FUTURES IN AFRICA CONFERENCE SERIES

*Towards Local Solutions to Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction in
the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and beyond*

08-10 November 2023 | Maputo, Mozambique

Abstracts to be submitted to climateconference@hsr.ac.za before **21 August 2023** and should contain the following information:

1. Rationale of the research
2. Method of investigation
3. Main findings
4. Conclusions and recommendations





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!

Thuteng

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

Pretoria: Private Bag X41, Pretoria, South Africa 0001, Tel: +27 12 302 2000
Cape Town: Private Bag X9182, Cape Town, South Africa 8000, Tel: +27 21 466 8000
Durban: Private Bag X07, Dalbridge, South Africa 4014, Tel: +27 31 242 5400



www.hsrc.ac.za



Developmental, Capable and Ethical State



DCES HSRC



DCES_HSRC



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwic9TgXjAZNtu-y_Kt00Gg



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council