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Developmental, Capable and Ethical State

Making governance work

14th Edition



science & innovation

Department:
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HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

Reflections of the DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE

Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller

The DCES research division of the HSRC has had another few months of hard work and celebration. We have been able to celebrate the two new Senior Research Specialists joining as well as four PhD trainees and two MA interns all of whom you will meet in the pages of this newsletter. We are also happy to welcome our new DSI interns. Our family is growing and thriving. One of our young researchers and a former PhD intern, Ngqapheli Mchunu, has passed his PhD thesis and will be graduating in December of this year, a testament to the tenacity and talent of our young researchers and our commitment to capacity building and growing our own timber within the HSRC.

In keeping with this trend of celebrating our youth, all the DCES trainees presented papers at the HSRC Emerging Scholars Conference and did us all very proud. At this same conference hosted in Cape Town in September, the South African Social Attitudes Survey team led by Dr Benjamin Roberts received an award for its 20th anniversary. This recognition was received alongside the 20th anniversaries of the CESTII R&D survey and SABSSM. This is a significant milestone for SASAS, DCES, and the HSRC.

Another highlight was our strategic planning retreat from 1 – 2 August at Irene Country Lodge in Gauteng. Our team worked hard (once again) and also took the opportunity to get to know one another better and to have some fun while we were at it! We focused as a collective on how we can do better and the kinds of work that we want to focus on in the near future, including Democracy@30, the human aspects of climate change, and building capacity around the digital economy and the social aspects of AI. Our work on the human aspects of climate change will be showcased at Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) in December this year.

We are halfway through this financial year, which has been full of change. Now is a good time to reflect on where we are and where we want to be in the future as individuals, teams, and employees of the HSRC.



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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

DR MATHIAS ALUBAFI

INTRODUCTION

What is your name?

Mathias Fubah Alubafi. I prefer to be called Fubah because it is my family (father's) name. But I don't mind if you decide to address me as Mathias.

ABOUT YOUR JOB

What does your job entail?

- Developing and promoting research and publications in the humanities and social sciences
- Initiating and formulating project proposals
- Responding to calls for funding applications (fundraising)
- Networking with funders and users of humanities research
- Overseeing successful implementation and completion of research projects focusing on South Africa and the African continent
- Preparing, presenting, and submitting client reports
- Organising and attending conferences/seminars and workshops
- Writing and publishing peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, books, and policy briefs, and
- Mentoring junior staff and research trainees.

What is your typical day like?

During my workday, I read and respond to work emails; attend work meetings; initiate, and formulate ideas for project proposals, journal articles, and book chapters; and I assist research trainees as they progress on various assignments. A common question that I gets from stakeholders is "what type of work do you do at the HSRC?" I like this question because it constantly reminds him about my responsibilities as a researcher at the HSRC.

Favourite memory from work?

I have so many favourite memories. The one that comes to mind frequently is when I decided to move from PHSB to DCES after the restructuring of the HSRC. I didn't know who to approach and did not have the courage to approach anyone. But since it was a well-thought decision, I approached Prof Narnia and presented my case to her and she accepted that there was space for me at DCES.

What's a common question you get from stakeholders?

A common question that I get from stakeholders is about the type of work that I do at the HSRC. I like the question because it constantly reminds about my role as a researcher at the HSRC.

What do you like most about your job?

The fact that my research is interdisciplinary is something I like most. It allows me to learn from various disciplines and projects, but also my job serves as a means of sustenance, thus giving means to support myself and family.

ABOUT YOURSELF

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

I grew up in Bambui village in the Northwest Province of Cameroon. I spent my early years accompanying my parents to the farm, and to family and community gatherings and functions. Through this, I learnt some of the basic things about family and community life, especially that, as a man, I must work hard to be able to support myself, my family and the community.

How did your parents influence you?

My parents inspired me through the work we did in the farm, in the community, and in the events and functions that we attended. My parents supported us from the income they generated from the farm and from their jobs and succeeded in sponsoring my siblings and I up to at least degree level. One thing I learnt from my parents was that money is not about how much you earn but about whether you know what to do with the little you earn. This has greatly contributed to the way I perceive life and do things.

Where did you go to school?

I did my primary, secondary and high school in the Northwest province of Cameroon before moving to the Southwest for my undergraduate studies. My postgraduate was in South Africa and my doctoral studies in the United Kingdom.

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

My parents have been my strongest influencers in life, but friends, school, university colleagues, and my supervisors have also influenced my life in one way or another.

What led you to your career?

I was a bit disappointed with some of the stories written about historical African art and started looking for a way of contributing to the debate. This encouraged me to study African history, Archaeology, Heritage Studies, and History of Art. And when I saw a job advert at the HSRC looking for someone with a background in Heritage Studies, I thought this was the right opportunity.

What was your first impression of the HSRC?

My first impression when I joined the HSRC was very positive. The people I met and spoke to at the time made me feel at home. They were good listeners, and good researchers – and shared positive experiences about their early days in the organisation. But most of them left shortly after I joined the HSRC.

What's your first memory of working here?

My first memory was attending the Human and Social Development (HSD) Lekgotla which took place from Friday 11th to Saturday 12th September 2015 in Durban. The objectives were: Team building and envisioning; Opportunity to meet the new CEO; Identifying opportunities to improve the work environment; and developing, sharing and combining/coordinating research plans. Because it was my first Lekgotla, I enjoyed the ambiance of interacting with colleagues, learning about the work of the HSD, and most importantly meeting the new CEO. That Lekgotla gave me the opportunity to create connections with colleagues and friends, some of which have survived until the present day.



PRESENTING:

DR. DANE ISAACS:

SHAPING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Position, qualifications, expertise and current work:

Dr Dane Isaacs is a Senior Research Specialist in the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division. He holds a PhD in Psychology from Stellenbosch University (2021). Dane specialises in disability studies and issues of social justice, specifically in the context of people who stutter, men's perpetration of gender-based violence against women, and mental health.

Previous and current experience and special projects:

Dane was formerly a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer in the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice at the University of the Western Cape, a position which he held from 2022 until 2023. His postdoctoral study explored the lived experiences of adults who stutter, with a focus in the Western Cape..

Publications and highly relevant or major achievements/positions:

Dane has published 13 scientific articles in local and international peer-reviewed academic journals, 2 book chapters, and presented 10 papers at local and international conferences on various topics, which include intimate partner violence, masculinities and disabling experiences of people who stutter, and race and racism.



In his spare time, Dane loves working out at the gym, cooking, and socialising in the beautiful spots of Cape Town.

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[Google Scholar](#)

DR. ODILILE AYODELE:

A TRAILBLAZER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Odilile Ayodele, a Senior Research Specialist in the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) division, holds a Doctorate in Political Studies from the University of Johannesburg (2017) and a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Witwatersrand (2006). She was previously the head of the Digital Africa Research Unit at the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, University of Johannesburg. In addition, she has taught Pan-African Thought and Leadership at Honours and Master's level. She has been a guest lecturer for the following post-graduate courses: Conflict Resolution in Africa, Critical Development Studies, and Qualitative Research Methodology. Her research interests are primarily on the International Relations of Technology, the Political Economy of Communications Technology in South Africa, and the Politics of Emerging Technologies.



Odilile enjoys reading speculative fiction but spends an unhealthy amount of time watching science fiction and anime. She also dabbles in writing poetry – though most of it never sees the light of day.

THE JOURNEY OF:

BATHABILE (S'THO) NHLEKO:

EXPLORING SOCIO-ECONOMICS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Position, qualifications, expertise and current work:

Bathabile Sthobele Nhleko is a PhD Research Trainee in the HSRC's Development, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division of the HSRC. She holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Zululand (2023). Nhleko specialises in socio-economics in relation to community development, the kind of educational opportunities that exist, employability of graduates and individuals especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, and poverty and inequality in Africa. Bathabile is also interested in knowing what lessons South Africa can draw from countries with low unemployment rates.

Previous and current experience and special projects:

Nhleko was formerly an Economist Intern at the National Treasury, a position which he held from 2020 until 2022. Before joining the HSRC, Nhleko spent one year as an academic during which she assisted students in writing skills and research methods. She further taught business calculations to commerce foundation students at the University of Zululand.

CAIPHUS BALOYI:

NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Caiphus Baloyi is a PhD Research Trainee in the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division. He holds a master's degree in sociology from the University of Limpopo (2022). Caiphus is a doctoral candidate at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. His research focuses on climate change and its impacts on human development, particularly in the context of sustainable development. His research aims to inform policy and practice in South Africa and other developing countries and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

From 2021 to 2022, Caiphus served as a fieldwork team leader for the National Food and Nutrition Security project with HSRC-AISA. In 2023, he worked at the HSRC as a freelance researcher at the Impact Centre (IC) Research Division for a four-month period. During this time, he contributed to the IC project which focused on developing a National Framework to examine an overview of exclusive and contextualized science engagement practices.

Caiphus is heavily engaged in soccer, playing the roles of both a player and the owner of a soccer team. He plays an active part in aiding rural soccer teams prepare for festive tournaments. He is widely recognized as "Makay" within the soccer community. He acts as a source of inspiration for young children, holding a strong belief that achieving a PhD will provide even greater motivation for those in high school and those pursuing tertiary education.



Publications and highly relevant or major achievements/positions:

Nhleko was a lead author of QLFS and QES at the National Treasury (2020 – 2022) and has presented at MBALI conference twice (2022 and 2023) and at the ESSA conference 2023. She provided comments on the paper entitled Expanding a Wage Subsidy During Lockdown, which was published by Unu-wider.

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CLEMENTINO NCHABELENG: EXPLORING DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Position, qualifications, expertise and current work:

Mr Clement Nchabeleng is a PhD Research Trainee in the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division in the HSRC. He holds an MSc in Public Policy and Management from Corvinus University of Budapest (2020). His master's degree thesis focused on the reform of social security in South Africa. He further holds a BA Honours in Political Studies (2016), and a BA in International Relations (2015) from the University of Venda. Clement specialises in international politics, democracy, governance, regional integration, and socio-economic conditions (poverty and inequality).

Previous and current experience and special projects:

Prior to assuming responsibilities as a PhD Research Trainee, Clement was a DSI-HSRC intern at the DCES, a position he held from 2021 to 2023. He worked on a number of projects such as Evaluating the Education White Paper 6 wherein he conducted interviews and focus group interviews with teachers and management of special schools in Limpopo and Gauteng. He also worked on a social integration project wherein he participated in dialogues with immigrants and other stakeholders. He is currently working on a book chapter emanating from to social integration study.



Clement also participated in the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Kempton Park (Emperors Palace) from 27 – 29 September 2023.

Publications and major achievements/positions:

Clement recently presented a paper at the Human Science Research Council's Research Conference held in Cape Town from the 18th – 20th of September 2023. His paper was on rethinking higher education models of teaching and learning in South Africa. Clement is also co-working on a paper titled "To the left, to the left? East or West? Where does Africa and its emerging democracies from the global south go?". Lastly, Clement has participated in the China-

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SAMANTHA TSHABALALA: UNRAVELLING LABOUR MARKETS AND GENDER DYNAMICS

Africa Relations workshop which was held in China, Wuhan from 28 May – 07 June 2023 with African leaders and emerging researchers from a number of African countries.

Position, qualifications, expertise and current work:

Samantha Tshabalala is a PhD research trainee in the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division. She holds a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Johannesburg. Samantha specialises in labour markets, precarious work, unemployment, and gender-based violence.

Previous and current experience and special projects:

Samantha Tshabalala is a PhD research trainee in the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division. She holds a [master's degree] in sociology from the University of Johannesburg. Samantha specialises in labour markets, precarious work, unemployment, and gender-based violence.

Previous and current experience and special projects:

Samantha was formerly a student intern at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies (AMCHES), a position which she held in 2020. From 2021 to 2022, she played a pivotal role in supporting academics and researchers at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) by accurately transcribing audios and video materials. In 2022, she assisted a team of dedicated researchers at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) in collecting, analysing, and synthesizing data from various sources aimed at understanding and addressing gender-based violence in South Africa. Before joining the HSRC, Samantha spent seven years as an academic. During the past two years, she conducted research on humanities graduates' experiences of participating in work integrated learning with a specific focus on precarious work.



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EMBRACING FRESH TALENT:

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAMPIONS!

MS FEZEKA KATISE:

A RISING DSI-HSRC RESEARCH INTERN IN PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

In the dynamic world of research and academia, fresh faces and innovative minds are constantly emerging. One such bright young talent is Fezeka Katise, a 23-year-old DSI-HSRC intern, working under the guidance of Prof. Charles Hongoro. Hailing from Benoni on the East of Johannesburg, her journey is one of ambition and a deep passion for understanding human behaviour and societal issues.

Fezeka's journey began in Benoni, where she spent her primary and high-school years. Seeking new horizons, she ventured to Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha. Graduating in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, she also earned recognition as a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Her choice of majors reflects her profound interest in human behaviour and societal dynamics, solidifying her commitment to addressing these critical issues in her future career.

Fezeka's vision for the next five years is clear: she aspires to make a tangible impact on the world. Her unwavering goal is to pursue a Master's in Psychology and, ultimately, a Ph.D., reflecting her dedication to advancing her knowledge and expertise in these fields.

Currently, Fezeka serves as a Research Intern at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Here, she's eager to contribute to meaningful research projects, grow professionally, and establish valuable connections in academia.

Outside of her academic pursuits, she is a sports enthusiast. She passionately supports Formula One's Mercedes team and cheers for Liverpool in the Premier League. Her love for running, cultivated since her school days, demonstrates her discipline and determination. Fezeka also values quality time with friends and family, enjoying good food and drinks while creating lasting memories.

Fezeka Katise's journey from the bustling streets of Benoni to becoming a DSI-HSRC intern is marked by her dedication to understanding human behaviour and societal issues. With a promising future ahead and a commitment to further academic achievements, Fezeka is poised to make a significant impact. Her passion for sports and balanced lifestyle serves as additional sources of inspiration. We eagerly await her contributions to academia and society.



A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY: DIMPHO MAKITLA REFLECTING ON HER DSI-HSRC INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

OH MAN where do I even begin? Of the two internship programmes I've been blessed to be a part of, I thoroughly enjoyed this one the most. What an adventure!

I was part of the 2021/23 DSI-HSRC interns at HSRC and honestly, I really didn't know what to expect when I first started the job - were my days going to consist of predominantly doing breakfast runs? Were the seniors only going to allocate me the mundane tasks they didn't want to deal with? What was the working environment going to be like? All I knew for a fact was that I was going to work my cerebrum off and leave better than when I had started.

My experience at HSRC has been nothing short of joyful, as a Research Intern, I got the experience that is in line with my academic qualification and I absolutely loved the fact that they pair you with a mentor that studied what you studied so you basically speak the same language, and you get to pick their brain on how the PhD life is like in that particular field.

I integrated myself very early on into the various projects within our division, as an undergraduate I feel this really exposed me to the various fields that exist within the Humanities, because there are so many of them that I did not even know existed. Working at HSRC also rekindled my love for learning new things that are rooted in empirical findings so of course I went back to school and am currently doing my Honors in Anthropology.

While there is a common belief that senior academics are knowledge hoarders, I can honestly state that this was not the case for me -once the seniors are aware that you're invested in developing yourself, THEY WILL PUT YOU ON. They were always willing to share knowledge and resources one needed.



We were going on writing retreats and coaching workshops with the aim of acquiring skills and knowledge to help us academically and professionally. This also boosted my confidence and made it easier to tackle work projects because it can be quite intimidating to be a junior researcher amongst such distinguished individuals.

I will eternally be grateful for this experience. To the Internship Management Team: keep up the great work, and to the Development, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) division: I met some really amazing people, some that I will keep in touch with beyond the tenure of my internship. A Unit just full of rock stars, glad our paths crossed .



CONGRATULATIONS

DR SIMANGELE DLAMINI ON BEING APPOINTED HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND



We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Dlamini, a valued member of our HSRC/DCES staff, on a remarkable achievement. The University of the Witwatersrand has bestowed upon Dr Dlamini the esteemed title of Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Geography, Archaeology, and Environmental Studies. This prestigious appointment, recognizing his significant contributions, is effective from 1 August 2023 to July 31 2026.

Celebrating a Remarkable Accomplishment

Dr Dlamini's appointment as an Honorary Research Fellow by the University is testament to his outstanding dedication and expertise in his field of study.

This recognition not only highlights his exceptional professional eminence but also underscores his enduring association with the University, from which, incidentally, he obtained his Honours and Master's degrees.

A Bright Future Awaits

We celebrate Dr Dlamini's exceptional achievement and eagerly anticipate the valuable contributions and fruitful collaborations that will undoubtedly enrich his academic landscape during this tenure.

Warmest congratulations once again to Dr Dlamini on this well-deserved honour. We look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our esteemed colleague.

DCES FORMER STAFF MEMBER PROF KANYANE IS A CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE) AND A MEMBER OF THE RESEARCH, MONITORING AND ADVICE COMMITTEE (RMAC)



Prof Jan Crafford, Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, on hearing about the good news said "What an honour – another feather in your cap! You are establishing an impressive profile in SA higher education and at the same time doing UNIVEN proud. This is wonderful, congratulations!".

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management, Commerce and Law, Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane has been appointed as a co-opted member of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and a member of the Research, Monitoring and Advice Committee (RMAC).

His appointment is from 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2026. The CHE also considered his expertise and appointed him to serve on the Research, Monitoring and Advice Committee of the Council.

In congratulating Prof Kanyane, Rev. Vuyo Memani-Sedile, the CHE Chairperson said "I take this opportunity on behalf of the CHE to congratulate you on this important call to national duty. I have no doubt that you will make valuable contributions to the governance of the CHE given your vast experience and knowledge. I look forward to working with you".

Prof Kanyane is a renowned scholar in South Africa who has an extensive range of experience in governance, public service ethics and intergovernmental relations within the broader field of Public Administration, Management and Development coupled with decadal social sciences research at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

In his acceptance, Prof Kanyane said that he feels honoured by this appointment to have an opportunity to contribute especially in the areas of governance, monitoring and research.

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is an independent statutory body established by the Higher Education Act, No. 101 of 1997, as amended. It is also governed by the NQF Act No. 67 of 2008 which declared it the Quality Council for Higher Education, and further operates as a Schedule 3A public entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA, Act 1 of 1999), as amended.

The Council has the overall responsibility for oversight of the CHE and is accountable for the performance of the organisation. In carrying out their functions, Members of the Council, the HEQC and all subcommittees are expected to possess a high level of expertise in their fields, are required to be knowledgeable about the higher education sector and are required to uphold the highest standards of ethics.

Issued by:

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University of Venda
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Date: 01 August 2023



POST ZONDO THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY



A colloquium entitled “**Post Zondo: The Future of Democracy**” was held on 22 June 2023 at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) International Convention Centre, in Pretoria, South Africa. The three-fold purpose of the colloquium was:

1. To reflect on state capture and the findings of the “Judicial Commission on Inquiry into allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud in the Public Sector including Organs of State (known popularly as 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.

The colloquium constituted a key outcome of a project being conducted by the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa’s statutory institution for research into the human and social sciences and the largest body of its kind on the African continent. Dubbed the “Future of democracy”, the project seeks to continue the work of the Zondo Commission, in the first instance by recording, for posterity, the outputs of the Commission, to be housed in a legal library accessible to legal practitioners and scholars, the three arms of the state (the executive, the legislature and the judiciary), academics, organised business, organised labour, civil society, and the public at large.

In the wake of the capturing of the state investigated by the Zondo Commission, however, the project seeks also to explore societal attitudes not just to the outcomes of the Commission but to democracy itself, which has come under threat as the high levels of corruption epitomised in the attempted capture of the South African state have necessitated a reassessment of the best form of governance for South Africa. A final outcome of the project will be a book on the future of democracy that synthesises the body of work on the Zondo Commission, the colloquium here reported upon, and perspectives on the future directions of democracy in and for South Africa.

Download the full report [here](#).



Video links:

Link to Part 1 of the colloquium: https://youtu.be/vvuM_V2iVb1Q

Link to Part 2 of the colloquium: <https://youtu.be/F6W3BndwNlk>

Link to tribute to Chief Justice Zondo by Albie Sachs: <https://we.tl/t-E04q6CtWT9> (Wetransfer link expires 31 December 2023).

INSPIRING INSIGHTS:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ATTENDED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

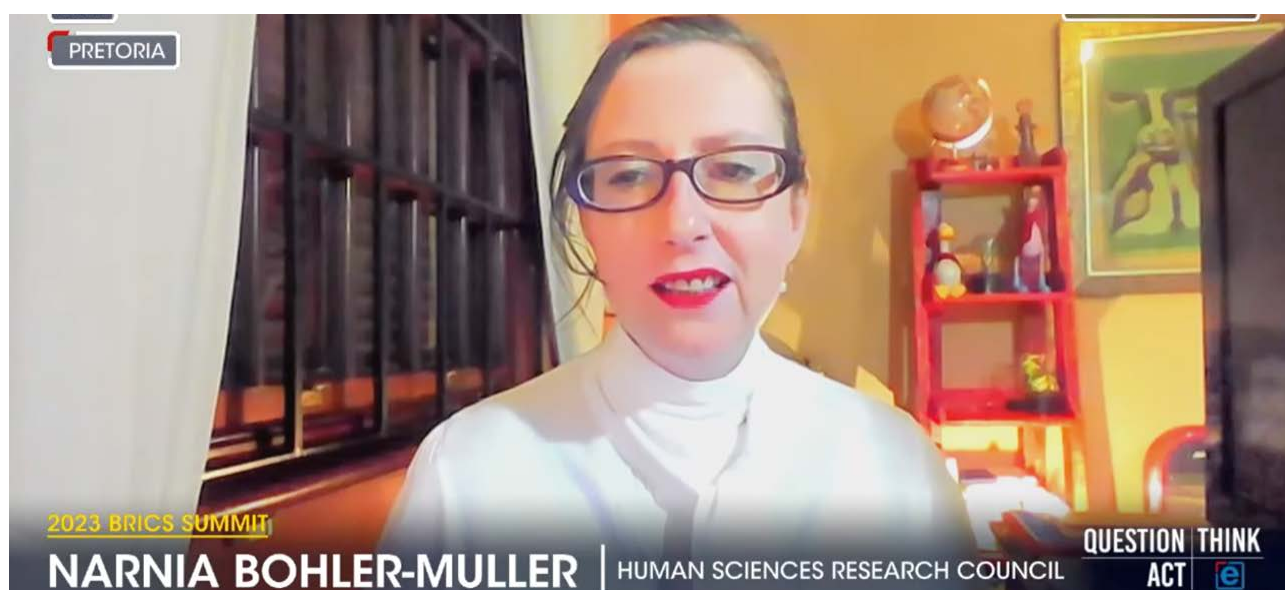
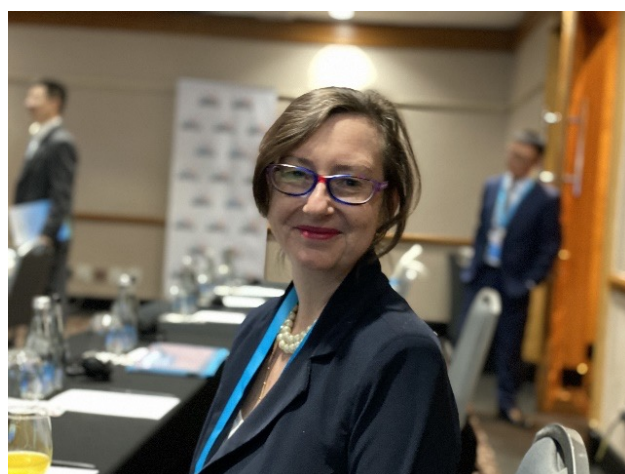
GOVERNANCE AND THE BRICS FORUM ON PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES 2023

On August 19, 2023, The BRICS Seminar on Governance and the BRICS Forum on People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges 2023 conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The event was hosted by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee of the China International Communications Group, the HSRC BRICS Research Centre, and the National School of Government in South Africa, and it was organised by the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies (ACCWS).

HSRC staff participating at the event included Professor Narnia Bohler-Muller (divisional head of the Developmental Capable and Ethical State division), Krish Chetty (research manager in the Equitable Education and Economics division), and Dr Funeka Yazini April (coordinator of the BRICS Research Centre).

The theme of the seminar was “Implementing the Global Civilisation Initiative and Jointly Exploring a Path to Modernisation”. Four parallel sessions focused on the sub-themes, “Adhering to the concept of fairness and justice, maintaining the multilateral international pattern”, “Promoting economic transformation, deepening inclusive and balanced development”, “Deepening think-tank cooperation, gathering consensus on modernisation”, and “Adhering to mutual learning among civilisations, jointly promoting stable and far-reaching BRICS development”.

A manuscript titled ‘The BRICS in Africa: Promoting Development?’, edited by Funeka Y. April, Modimowabarwa Kanyane, Yul Derek Davids and Krish Chetty, and published by the HSRC Press in March 2023, was also showcased at the event.



[Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller speaks to eNCA about the outcomes of the BRICS summit](#)

NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS WORKSHOPS ON THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL

A collaborative effort aimed at enhancing the skills and capacities of councillors in understanding and implementing the District Development Model (DDM) was organised by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) North West in partnership with esteemed institutions including the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), North West Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury, The National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), and the North West CoGTA. These workshops took place across the four districts of the North West Province during August 2023.

The objective of these workshops was to provide councillors with comprehensive insights into the District Development Model, covering essential aspects such as legislative compliance, budget allocation, funding opportunities, project execution, and technical support. By fostering a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the DDM framework, the partners aimed to equip councillors with the necessary tools to contribute effectively to local governance and service delivery.

During each training session, the host districts had the opportunity to showcase their advancements in the implementation of district One Plans. This sharing of experiences and successes promoted valuable knowledge exchange, facilitating the growth of a collaborative and informed approach to local governance. Furthermore, the HSRC underscored the significance of its study conducted on pilot municipalities titled "Evaluating the District Development Model: A review with case studies."

Workshop Details:

Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District: Date: August 15, 2023 | Venue: Vryburg - Banquet Hall

Ngaka Modiri Molema District: Date: August 17, 2023 | Venue: Mafikeng - Civic Centre

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District: Date: August 22, 2023 | Venue: Potchefstroom - Banquet Hall

Bojanala Platinum District: Date: August 24, 2023 | Venue: Rustenburg - Civic Centre

During this presentation, the findings and valuable lessons learned from the study were spotlighted. The dissemination of a DDM policy brief reinforced the critical importance of this research endeavour.

It is anticipated that this training initiative will enable councillors to assume a more proactive role in overseeing service delivery executed through the District Development Model. By enhancing their capabilities, councillors are poised to elevate service delivery standards within their respective communities, resulting in a positive impact on the lives of the citizens they serve.

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Advancing Smart City Development: Dr Simangele Dlamini's Participation at ICOSS 2023, Bangkok, Thailand



Dr Simangele Dlamini, a prominent researcher from the Democracy, Governance, and Citizenship unit within the Developmental, Capable, and Ethical State (DCES) division, recently attended the 10th International Conference on Social Sciences (ICOSS 2023). Held on September 7th and 8th in Bangkok, Thailand, this conference served as a platform for fostering deeper understanding of social sciences, facilitating connections among like-minded social scientists and nurturing collaborative partnerships among researchers..

The event attracted a diverse array of scholars, research practitioners, academics, and students from around the globe. Their presentations covered a wide spectrum of topics, including democracy and governance in developing nations, migration and xenophobia, poverty and inequality, sustainability, and the dynamics of rural and urban areas.

Dr Dlamini delivered a captivating presentation titled "Opportunities and Challenges for the Development of a Smart City: The Case of the City of Johannesburg, South Africa." This presentation was co-authored with Ms. Mbali Letebele from the University of Johannesburg and Dr. Emmanuel Fundisi from eRKC, HSRC. It explored the possibilities for Johannesburg and other cities in the developing world to harness the potential of artificial intelligence, big data algorithms, and other technological advancements in order to implement smart governance and city management practices.

The presentation emphasized the relevance of these approaches in addressing the unique challenges faced by cities, particularly in South Africa, which often leads to public unrest. Challenges such as electricity shortages, threats to infrastructure, and governance issues were discussed in detail. Dr Dlamini's presentation struck a chord with attendees who identified parallels with their own cities and engaged in discussions about potential solutions for developing smart cities in the global south.

Furthermore, the conference served as an excellent networking opportunity for Dr Dlamini and other researchers. It opened doors for future collaborations in the domains of governance, democracy, and spatial analysis. The research paper stemming from this presentation is currently undergoing peer review for possible publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal. This participation at ICOSS 2023 reaffirms Dr Dlamini's commitment to advancing the discourse on smart city development and fostering international partnerships in the field of social sciences.



Highlights from the August *DCES Lekgotla*



In August, the Developmental, Capable, and Ethical State (DCES) research division convened for a significant gathering that marked a pivotal moment in our Division's calendar. This Lekgotla brought together all staff members, providing a platform for insightful discussions and collaborative planning. The Lekgotla served as an opportunity to reflect on achievements, discuss ongoing research projects and chart a course for future endeavours. It was a gathering for knowledge exchange, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among staff members as we continue our commitment to addressing critical challenges through research, education and engagement.

The two-day event commenced with reflections on DCES's targets within the broader context of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Participants discussed the strategic position of DCES and its significance within the HSRC community. The first day's discussions revolved around team strengths, consistency in meeting DCES targets and the internal and external identity of DCES within the broader HSRC context.

Day two featured a presentation by Dr Lucky Ditaunyane, which delved into media and communications. Attendees considered what distinguishes DCES within the HSRC and the desired DCES brand within this context. Key questions revolved around the target audience for communication and the projects to be shared. The morning discussions centred on dissemination, impact and communication strategies.

Prof. Charles Hongoro presented on Future Projects and Priority Areas, sparking strategic thinking about DCES's future priorities, vision, and mission.

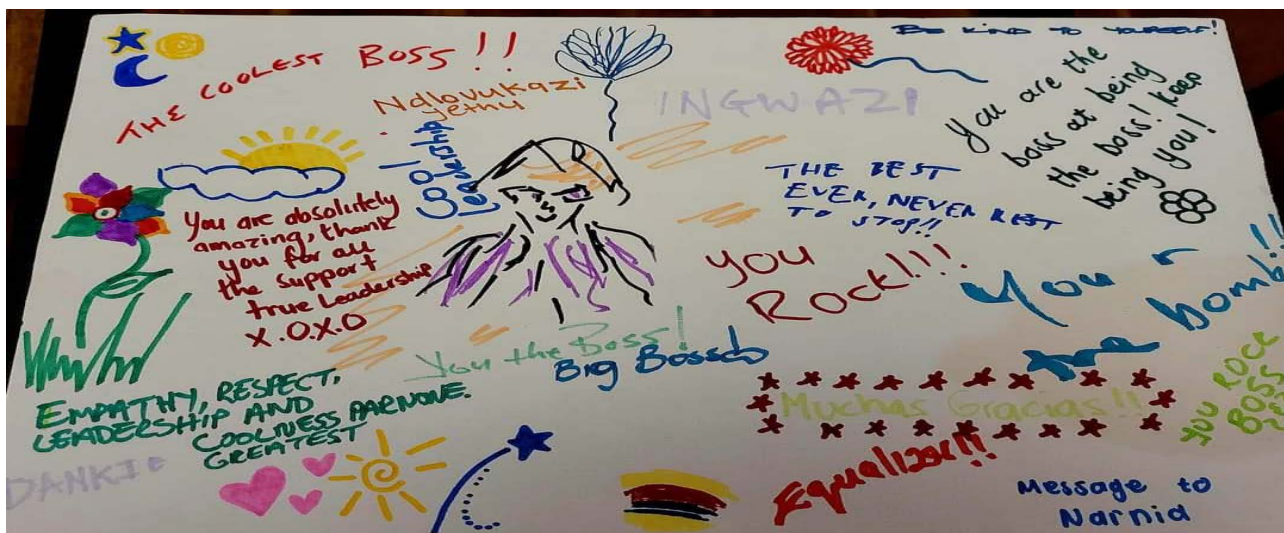
These discussions examined the alignment of national priorities with international developmental goals and emphasized an Africa-focused research agenda.

Prof. Bohler-Muller acknowledged the Lekgotla as a learning opportunity and praised DCES's dedication and hard work. She underscored the division's mission to conduct cutting-edge research addressing complex social issues. The financial results of the 2021/2022 fiscal year demonstrated DCES's commitment to excellence, ethical research practices, and societal impact.

Prof. Narnia highlighted the division's outstanding achievements, including a wide range of publications covering governance, politics, social challenges, and climate change justice. The team's engagement with the media was noted for translating research into accessible information for public discourse.

The successful execution of major research projects, addressing governance challenges, electoral behaviour, climate change, and gender dynamics, was celebrated for its policy influence and societal impact. Securing funding for critical initiatives was acknowledged as a testament to DCES's expertise and dedication.

Collaboration, teamwork, and context-specific research were recurring themes in the discussions, fostering an atmosphere of optimism and shared purpose. The Lekgotla served as a platform for networking and idea exchange, reinforcing the importance of strategic meetings in driving positive change. Researchers left the event energized and motivated, confident in their collective efforts to shape a better future.





HSRC

RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Honing the skills of young academics to improve the flow of research into policy

HSRC CEO, Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, and honoured Professor Leickness Simbayi, who will retire as Deputy CEO of the HSRC in March 2024 after 23 years of service to the organization and South Africa.

The conference was a vibrant celebration of the HSRC's history, its present achievements, and the promising future represented by South Africa's emerging researchers.

The HSRC's biennial conference, last held in 2018, took place from September 18-20 at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town. The theme was "Next Generation Insights on Intractable National and Global Challenges." The event brought together 261 delegates, including 81 emerging researchers from the HSRC and 61 from South African universities, as well as HSRC senior academics and support staff.

Notable keynote speakers included Ms. Chida Mpemba, the African Youth envoy; Professor Patricia Hill Collins, a prominent sociologist, who discussed the intersection of youth, violence, and race, along with the potential for intergenerational activism; Professor Musawenkosi Saurombe, the youngest PhD graduate on the African Continent; and Professor Thabo Msibi from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the youngest dean in South Africa, who addressed the transformation needed from young academics.

Presenters covered diverse topics, including poverty, inequality, unemployment, technological disruption, climate change, violence, education, and health. The overarching theme was the substantial divides in each of these areas:

- Educational disparities between poor and quality education, parental involvement, and access.
- Local versus global action on climate change.
- The digital divide in technology access and use.
- Short-term employment opportunities versus the lack of long-term prospects for young people.
- Widening divisions based on race, gender, and nationality.
- Divides between cultural rights and human rights.
- Age disparities among South African farmers.
- The ongoing gap between research and policymaking.

The conference provided a platform for emerging researchers to enhance their science communication skills, with each presenter having a mentor from their university or the HSRC.

The conference also hosted members of the HSRC's board, including Dr. Cassius Lubisi (Chair), Ms. Shameme Manjoo, Professor Ibbo Mandaza, and Dr. Kgomoitso Kasonkola. A gala dinner celebrated the best papers and commemorated 20 years of three flagship HSRC research studies: SASAS (The South African Social Attitudes Survey), SABSSM (South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey), and CeSTII (Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators).



BRICS Parliamentary Forum 2023: Building Bridges for Global Cooperation

Parliament hosted the **9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum**, an inter-parliamentary forum that fosters cooperation on socio-political and economic issues between BRICS Member States, in Johannesburg

This forum was held under the theme: **“Harnessing Multilateralism and Parliamentary Diplomacy to Deepen BRICS and Africa Partnership for accelerated implementation of the Africa Free-Trade Agreement.”**

South Africa assumed the BRICS Chairmanship in January 2023 based on the governance principle of chairmanship rotation. About 250 parliamentary delegates from BRICS Member States - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa attended the event which was held at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park from 27-29 September 2023.

One of the central themes of this year's forum was the strengthening of ties between BRICS nations. Parliamentarians and delegates engaged in discussions on economic collaboration, trade relations, and investment opportunities. With a focus on inclusive growth, these leaders explored ways to enhance economic cooperation and ensure that the benefits of development reach all segments of society.

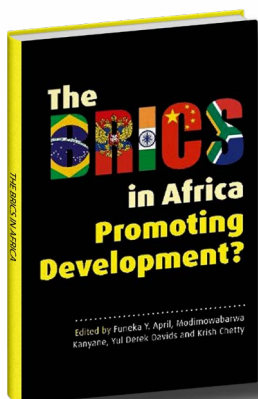
The BRICS nations are united by their commitment to addressing global challenges. Climate change, sustainable development, and healthcare were some of the pressing issues discussed. Participants recognized the need for joint efforts to combat climate change and pledged to work together to achieve carbon neutrality. They also emphasized the importance of affordable and accessible healthcare for all, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Security concerns were not overlooked, as discussions on regional and global peace were a significant part of the forum. Parliamentarians deliberated on strategies to maintain stability in the face of regional conflicts and threats to international security. This included conversations on counter-terrorism measures and diplomatic solutions to conflicts.

Beyond policy discussions, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum also celebrated the rich cultural diversity of its member nations. Participants had the opportunity to explore South Africa's vibrant culture through cultural exhibitions and artistic artefacts. These cultural exchanges not only fostered mutual understanding but also strengthened the bonds between nations.

After all the commissions had made their reports, leaders of delegations from all member parliaments signed a memorandum of understanding. The Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation will host the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.





Book Buzz: Find Your Next Must-Read Here

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The Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) nations have become a strong engine of South-South Cooperation. The most significant outcome of the emergence of the BRICS is the shift they have brought to the balance of power in global affairs. The past decade has steadily accelerated commercial and strategic engagements between BRICS and Africa. The BRICS countries constitute Africa's largest trading partners and new investors. It has nourished Africa's economic emergence and elevated the continent's contemporary global positioning.

This book seeks to determine the impact of intra-BRICS-Africa cooperation and partnerships, mainly through the New Industrial Revolution, financial technologies, infrastructure, economic growth and development in health. It also critiques the relevance of the BRICS New Development Bank in the post-COVID era and examines the governance and accountability mechanisms required to entrench the BRICS governance cooperation with the continent as well as strategies that address gender developmental disparities and inequalities in BRICS and Africa.

This book is an essential reading for all scholars, researchers and policymakers who are interested in multilateralism, the BRICS, and the peaceful and constructive transformation of the global system. Humanity's quest for perpetual peace and common prosperity are at the heart of the BRICS agenda and long-term vision. This important study makes a very significant intellectual contribution to the realisation of that vision. Readers will be inspired, motivated and challenged to contribute to the BRICS debate going forward.





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

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