



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

During 2003/04 the ten Research Programmes of the HSRC were engaged in about 300 research projects at different stages of progress and of a remarkable variety, mostly intended to serve our main goal, namely to do 'social science that makes a difference' to the people of South Africa and the region.

These projects were supported by funds from many local and international sources, including Parliament. Here are some of the highlights of the year. More examples and details may be found in the other sections for each Research Programme and on our website at www.hsrc.ac.za.

Assessment Technology and Education Evaluation (ATEE)

- ATEE hosted the international meeting of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2003) in November 2003 in Cape Town, and delegates from the participating countries all attended. TIMSS is an international study to ascertain the performance levels of Grade 8 learners in mathematics and science across more than 50 countries. The emphasis of the analysis is on using data to provide information to South African policy-makers and practitioners. In the secondary data analysis, we incorporated data on poverty and examined how issues of poverty affect achievement scores. The TIMSS 2003 report will be released in December 2004.
- ATEE was requested to develop Assessment Resource Banks (ARBs) in numeracy and literacy for the Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 to 6) as part of the successful Assessment Modelling Initiative (AMI). The ARBs were developed and educator training was provided. An implementation assessment was conducted for Grade 3 learners at the end of 2003 to determine the sustainability of three years of interventions.
- The Psychological Assessment Unit, one of the four research foci of ATEE, undertook a research project, Psychological Test Development: A Needs Assessment. The study consisted of a comprehensive survey of the practices and needs of psycholog-

ical practitioners and key stakeholders regarding psychological assessment instruments. The study included a national survey by questionnaire, focus-group interviews with practitioners, and individual interviews with key stakeholders in the field. It is expected that the report will provide the necessary information to enable management to determine how the HSRC should be involved in this area.

Child, Youth and Family Development (CYFD)

- A comprehensive report on the *State of Children in Gauteng*, was commissioned by the Office of the Premier. It was researched and written in collaboration with partners at universities and NGOs. The report examined, amongst others, health issues, education, justice, children in poverty and the girl child.
- CYFD undertook a national survey of youth issues for the Umsobomvu Youth Fund. The survey covered education, employment, poverty, health, gender and civic engagement. The survey findings, *State of the Youth Report*, will be published by the HSRC in 2004.
- A multi-country trial of Community-Based Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) was started, with CYFD leading the site in Vulindlela, KwaZulu-Natal. This is the first behavioural trial in the world to examine the impact of VCT on sero-incidence, and includes a substantial costing element.
- A project was completed for Business Against Crime to examine Victim Support Programmes in several provinces – these include counselling and other services, especially targeted at women.
- CYFD collaborated with colleagues in IRRD to examine human factors in the success of service delivery projects, as exemplified by water and sanitation projects in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Two books were published by CYFD, namely *Changing Class; Education and Social Change in Post-Apartheid South Africa*, written by Linda Chisholm, and *Sexual abuse of young children in southern Africa*, edited by Linda Richter, Andy Dawes and Craig Higson-Smith.



Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Mosibudi Mangena, opened the annual HSCR Winter Research Conference. He is shown from left with: Dr Kealeboga Maphunye, D&G; Dr Mirriam Altman, Executive Director of EEPR; Professor Linda Richter, Executive Director of CYFD; Dr Olive Shisana, Executive Director of SAHA; Dr Mark Orkin, CEO; Minister Mangena; Professor Adam Habib, Executive Director of D&G; Dr David Hemson, IRRD; Dr Vijay Reddy, Acting Executive Director of ATEE and Professor G J Gerwel, Chair of Council.

Democracy and Governance (D&G)

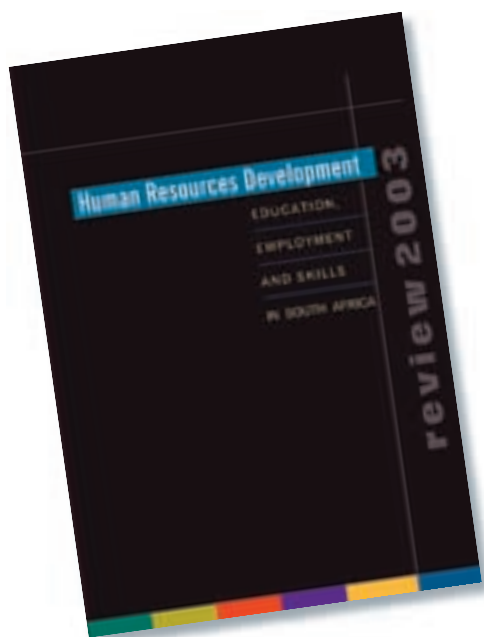
- D&G edited and co-ordinated *State of the nation: South Africa 2003/04*, the first in a series of annual publications. The volume comprises 17 original essays focusing on the current political, social and economic developments in South Africa. It featured both HSRC and non-HSRC authors, and was designed to encourage reflection and debate.
- D&G was invited to coordinate a workshop on ten years of democracy in South Africa for the internationally renowned *Review of African Political Economy*. A special edition based on the proceedings, featuring HSRC as well as university based academics, appeared in August 2004.
- D&G led a consortium of four research organisations (D&G, the Centre for Public Participation, the Centre for Policy Studies and the Institute for Democracy in South Africa) in the production of four issues of *Election synopsis*. These featured punchy analysis of the 2004 general and provincial elections, as well as providing extensive coverage of the elections.
- The Durban members of D&G pioneered studies in the Mapping and Analysis of Post-Apartheid South Africa's Corporate Expansion into Africa. Findings were reported in *State of the nation* and a number of popular publications.
- D&G researchers presented an analysis of the current system of allocation of powers and functions to municipal, provincial

and national governments for the Department of Provincial and Local Government.

- The Bloemfontein office of D&G undertook a study on The Role of Farm Workers' Unions in Land Reform for the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Employment and Economic Policy Research (EEPR)

- The EEPR was actively involved in improving the availability of information that enables Government, institutions and individuals to make effective decisions. This included work in the chemicals, mining, forestry and services industries, and with the Department of Labour to improve skills forecasting methodologies. Currently it is working with the Ethiopian Government to produce forecasts of middle level skills to support planning for its vocational education system.
- The Programme continued to pursue its work in contributing to methodologies and gathering empirical information on the impact of HIV/AIDS on industries and the economy. The work is meant to ultimately inform industry-wide strategy to combat HIV/AIDS. It received financial support from the Joint Centre for Political and Economic Studies, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida) and the Department of Labour.



- EEPR and Mintek co-operated to offer support to the Department of Science and Technology's Resource Based Technology Cluster strategy. This programme focuses on how innovation and diversification in inputs industries are leveraged off the needs of large resource based companies.
- The EEPR has supported promoting procurement as a growth and black empowerment strategy. The procurement of large firms, state-owned enterprises and the state should be an important influence on industrial diversification. EEPR has built thinking about these approaches into a number of its projects, not least in supporting key resource-based companies in Mpumalanga to move toward collaborative strategies.
- Employment through the stimulation of construction, social services and food, has been part of Government's RDP agenda. In 2003/4, EEPR produced a number of papers, and supported the Department of Public Works in policy formulation and in the design of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Expanded Public Works Programme.
- EEPR supported Government in framing policy strategies for services sectors in both the public and private domains to meet growth and equity targets.
- EEPR continued its process, initiated in 2002, to improve tracking of employment and unemployment statistics, in co-operation with key government departments, the Presidency, the Reserve Bank and Statistics South Africa.
- The process of initiating employment scenarios will be a flagship in the EEPR, enabling the development of evidenced-based employment and unemployment scenarios. This is a multi-disciplinary project that looks at the labour market, demand conditions, and the character of economic linkages. We intend to develop a tool that should enable the assessment of policy interventions and policy balance.

Human Resources Development (HRD)

- The first phase of projects funded by the Department of

Science and Technology, through a generous ring-fenced grant of R5 million per annum over the past three years, came to a very successful conclusion in March 2004 with the launch of four substantive research outputs, namely three inter-related books, and a website on human resources development and skills in South Africa.

- An important visitor, Professor Michael Young of the Institute of Education, University of London, was appointed Visiting Fellow at the HSRC for four months in early 2004. He worked with Jeanne Gamble on developing an analysis of the different curriculum options that might be developed for the Further Education and Training (FET) sector. The project did not undertake empirical research but drew on previous international and South African research. Its aims were to stimulate discussion on a range of issues relevant to the future FET curriculum in South Africa and to provide tools and concepts for analysing and thinking about curriculum alternatives.
- The above-mentioned project commissioned papers by a number of South African specialists on topics related to the FET curriculum. These papers were discussed during a workshop in Cape Town on 17 to 18 March 2004 and ideas were taken forward at a colloquium held in Pretoria on 21 April 2004 to which policy stakeholders at national and provincial level were invited. The project will culminate in a book that approaches the FET curriculum from a knowledge perspective. The book is aimed at both the local and international market.
- The second important visitor was Hugh Lauder, Professor of Education at Bath University and a leading international scholar on skill formation systems. Professor Lauder was the keynote speaker at the book launch of the *HRD Review 2003* and at the two HRD Colloquia held in Pretoria and Cape Town in late March 2004 to stimulate debate about the Review's key findings. The costs of Professor Lauder's visit and colloquia were generously borne by the British Council.

Integrated Rural and Regional Development (IRRDR)

- IRRDR played a leading role in research for the Presidency's Ten Year Review of democracy in South Africa – two demanding exercises led by IRRDR but undertaken with several other research programmes to help assess the impact of public sector programmes on poverty.
- IRRDR received a commission from the Department of Science and Technology to undertake a survey and analysis of initiatives in the public and private sectors that involve the use of innovative technology for poverty reduction. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the University of



The Ford Foundation has funded some important HSRC projects. Here Mr Gerry Salole (second from left), the southern African regional representative of the Ford Foundation, attended the launch of a book the Foundation has sponsored. With him is Professor Linda Richter (left), Executive Director of CYFD, Dr Olive Shisana, Executive Director of SAHA, and Mr William Okedi, Programme Officer, Sexuality and Reproductive Health, also from the Ford Foundation.

Fort Hare were major partners, and participants came from a wide range of other bodies, including five historically disadvantaged universities

- The Programme won a tender from the Department of Agriculture to assist it with the analysis, design and development of a model for a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS) for South Africa. IRRD's major partners, in this instance, are the CSIR and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), but three universities and several NGOs and private sector organisations are also participants.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to form the platform from which to undertake joint research, focused initially on land restitution and environmentally protected areas in South Africa.
- The Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) website met with extraordinary success. Support was received from international donors for SARPN, and the network has undergone an evolution from an HSRC project into a regionally inclusive, independent NGO.

Knowledge Management (KM)

- The publication of *Flight of the Flamingos*, a study on the mobility of Research and Development (R&D) personnel conducted for the National Advisory Council on Innovation, received wide media coverage as it deals with topics of current national interest. KM expects to maintain an ongoing interest in the mobility question, as it is a central aspect of the vitality of the national system of innovation.
- The design, conduct and compilation of the national survey of R&D inputs for the Department of Science and Technology was complex and labour intensive work that involved con-

siderable learning on KM's part, as well as on the part of the respondent communities, many of whom were completing such a questionnaire for the first time. Added to the complexity of the task was the policy ferment characterising the higher education sector, as well as the pressures that the business community experiences. It is now intended that the survey will become an annual event, with the depth of the questionnaire alternating between 'lite' and 'full-bodied'.

- This R&D work for the Department is now being recognised as sufficiently important for KM to be requested to develop and house a national resource, namely the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) for which purpose ring-fenced annual funding of an initial R4,5 million is being provided.

Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA)

- The five-year project, Strategy for the Care of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is the largest project in the HSRC, with a budget of over R53 million. The main aim of the project is to identify evidence-based best practice OVC interventions and to reduce HIV infection. Excellent progress has been made on the project in all three countries and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has now decided to provide additional funding to extend the project to Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland. The participation of policy-makers, researchers, NGOs and academics in jointly generating knowledge, planning its use and participating in its implementation is extremely rewarding. This is social science that makes a difference in action.
- The project on theory-based HIV/AIDS risk reduction counselling in South Africa has tested a 60-minute, theory-based,

HIV/AIDS risk reduction counselling strategy for sexually transmitted infection (STI) patients presenting with repeat infections. It is funded by the World AIDS Foundation (WAF) and co-funded by the University of Connecticut through a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) with a budget of R1 million. Overall, the counselling demonstrated significantly greater use of HIV protective behavioural skills, a greater proportion of protected sexual occasions, and greater likelihood of HIV testing following counselling, compared to the information/education comparison. SAHA is now involved in behavioural intervention research.

- A two-year ground-breaking study on the determinants of demand and supply of educators in public schools and further education training colleges, aims to understand the determinants of attrition and its relation to the demand for educators by the system. The Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC) funds the study with a budget of R21 million. An important feature is that the study resulted from a demand by policy-makers for better evidence for decision-making. It is guided by a technical task team involving all the teacher trade unions, the South African Council for Educators, the Department of Education, higher education institutions responsible for training teachers, the HSRC, the Medical Research Council and the University of Natal Mobile Task Team on HIV/AIDS and Education. This is probably the largest study of educators that involves measurement of biological, social and educational measures and obtains information on HIV. It will allow for better planning on a district level. Again, policy-makers work side by side with unions and researchers to try to gather evidence to inform policy.

Social Cohesion and Integration (SCI)

- SCI co-hosted a major international conference in Cairo on The Future Health of Africa in collaboration with Egypt's Ain Shams University. The conference, under the broad theme of Genomics and Society, brought together 300 delegates from across the world to discuss the ethical, social and scientific implications of genomics for health in Africa. Five editions of a daily conference newspaper were published at the conference amid wide media coverage in the Arab media. Scholarships were awarded to 13 academics from under-resourced African institutions to attend while 112 research papers were presented.
- The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), a statutory body established in 2002 by Parliament, commissioned and was presented with important founding research conducted by SCI this year. The research was published in May as a monograph under the title: *The people's voice: The development and current state of the South African small media*

sector. The work set out for the first time the location and status of small media organisations in the country, created a national database, presented current international thinking on the development of small media and made a series of recommendations on how to enhance media diversity.

- The inspiring life stories of some of South Africa's best-known artists, musicians and scientists found their way into schools this year due to SCI's Living Treasures project. The project was taken up by the Department of Education and in 2004 booklets and posters highlighting the lives and achievements of 12 famous South Africans will be distributed to every one of the country's 6 000 FET schools. The Living Treasures whose examples are expected to inspire a new generation include Nadine Gordimer, Helen Sebidi, Pieter Dirk-Uys, Hugh Masekela, Sibongile Khumalo and Himla Soodyall.

Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM)

- The Surveys Unit conducted the first round of its South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) during August and September 2003. This yielded public opinion responses from a nationally representative sample of 4 980 adults selected from the HSRC Master Sample. The first part of the survey, on voting intentions, was released in November in Parliament and was widely reported in all media. These results were used as a basis for comparison with following surveys conducted by other institutions. Other responses on topics such as household poverty, national identities and patriotism, racism and xenophobia, crime, and gender and moral issues will be released during the course of 2004.
- A comprehensive study of the country's non-business public entities and Government business entities, including the HSRC, CSIR, Water Boards and public-funded museums was done in collaboration with Inkwazi Consulting. The study was done on behalf of the National Treasury and Department of Public Service and Administration. The resultant report assessed the extent to which these entities are operating in compliance with the corporate governance principles of the King Report and the Public Finance Management Act.
- The Urban Renewal and Development Unit was established on 1 September 2003 in response to a gap in the HSRC's key priority research areas, and owing to scattered urban expertise across the HSRC. The Unit is intended to facilitate the HSRC's urban social research activities by doing applied research with urban space and processes as key analytical variables. It aims to complement existing developmental research programmes, such as the IRRD and D&G Research Programmes and to become a national hub of urban social research.