



KNOWLEDGE AND TRANSFORMATION:
**Social and human
sciences in Africa**

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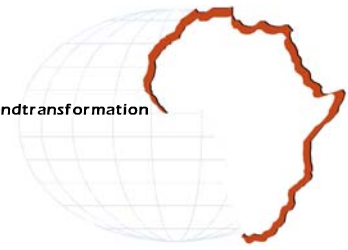
26 September 2008

Notification on the international symposium 'Knowledge and Transformation: Social and Human Sciences in Africa' to be held in November 2008 in Cape Town

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa, together with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPSH), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), the Academy of Sciences of South Africa (ASSAf), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, are hosting a symposium on 27 and 28 November 2008, entitled *Knowledge and Transformation: Social and Human Sciences in Africa*. The symposium will comprise the scientific highlight of the joint General Assemblies of the ISSC and CIPSH and will be held at the Spier Wine Estate in Cape Town, South Africa.

The symposium will take place against the background of a number of events that frame its scope and direct its commitments:

- The 30th anniversary conference of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) held in 2003, whose theme was "Intellectuals, Nationalism and the Pan-African Ideal";
- The lives and work of the late Professors Joseph Ki-Zerbo and Archie Mafeje in recognition of the quality of their scholarship, the trans-disciplinary discourses in which they engaged, the ways in which they influenced our collective imaginations, their commitment to social transformation, and their immense and lasting contributions to human and social science in Africa; and
- Preparations for the first-ever World Social Science Forum, to be held in Bergen, Norway, from 10-12 May 2009;
- Preparations for the production of the 2009/10 World Social Science Report, which UNESCO has commissioned the ISSC to produce, as well as the 2009 UNESCO World Report on Research in Philosophy.



The scientific agenda of the symposium and its topical focus will be on:

- a) The production of knowledge by Africans and the production of knowledge on Africa;
and
- b) The contributions of human and social sciences to innovation and development in Africa.

This will entail understanding the contexts, conditions and cultures within which knowledge production occurs; clarity about what is meant by the humanities; addressing the role of human and social science researchers as citizens; and examining the challenges facing and prospects for human and social sciences. More details on the conference are available on:

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/knowledgeandtransformation>.