

HSRC International Brief

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Dear Colleagues and Friends

It is once again the time of year when we take time to wind down and to re-energise. On behalf of the HSRC and the Business Development and International Liaison (BDIL), in particular, we wish all our partners and friends a happy festive season and hope that 2013 will bring new opportunities and experiences for us all.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2013.

*Warm regards
 Bridgette*

THE RE-EMERGENCE OF ASTRONOMY IN AFRICA:



A transdisciplinary interface of knowledge systems

10 - 11 September
 Maropeng Conference Centre, Cradle of Humankind

A research conference under the banner of 'The re-emergence of astronomy in Africa - a transdisciplinary interface of knowledge systems', hosted by the HSRC at the Maropeng conference centre at the Cradle of Humankind in the North West, brought together scientists from varied disciplines, from astronomers, to anthropologists, sociologists, historians, philosophers and science communicators to linguists, poets, and environmentalists.

The conference was opened by the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, who pointed out that South Africa has a proud history of research into our origins and identity. As an example, she mentioned significant palaeontological discoveries beginning in the 1920s and the transformation of South African history research in the 1970s that

Page 2

Climate change and the effect on local staple crops

HSRC contributes to major new project

A diverse team of climate, crop, economic and IT researchers in southern Africa is collaborating in a regional climate change project that will evaluate the impacts of climate change on production of staple and nutritionally important crops. These include maize, sorghum, sugarcane, wheat and sweet potatoes in the region. The focus will be on South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia, using climate, crop and economic simulation models.

This two-year project uses integrated analysis combining climate, crop and economic modelling to assess a range of

possible future adaptation and socio-economic routes that can be followed to lessen the impact of climate change on these crops. It will also build critical capacity among the team members in methodologies for conducting integrated assessments that will be shared locally through targeted workshops, meetings, training, and stakeholder outreach.

The project, entitled the collaborative Southern Africa Agricultural Model Inter-comparison and Improvement Project (SAAMIIP), forms part of the global Agricultural Model Inter-comparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP).

The SAAMIIP regional research team is conducting a series of activities to support integrated climate change impacts assessments for agricultural systems in the region.

The regional institutions involved in the project include: Agricultural Research Council (lead institution), Human Sciences Research Council, University of Cape Town, University of Free State, South African Sugar Research Institute, Polytechnic of Namibia, National University of Lesotho, Botswana College of Agriculture and Swaziland Meteorological Services. The HSRC team, led by Dr Charles Nhemachena, is managing the economic

Page 2

From page 1



Dr Charles Nhemachena

analysis component of this multi-dimensional project. The main objective of the economics team is to assess the economic impacts for a subset of agricultural crops, with particular focus on sweet potatoes/potatoes, wheat, sugarcane, maize and millet, under future climate change, adaptation and socio-economic scenarios.

To achieve this, the economics team will assemble relevant socioeconomic data for regional economic analysis, using the Tradeoff Analysis Multi-Dimensional Impact Assessment Economic Model (TOA-MD Model) to estimate the impacts.

Key questions include:

- How will climate change affect the distribution of production, income, and poverty in the farm systems of a given region?
- How will various adaptations affect this distributional impact of climate change?
- How do uncertainties in the regional economic model calibration affect climate change impacts?

The project will focus on the effect climate change will have on food production, income and poverty in the Southern Africa region; emphasising important food crops and quantifying relevant uncertainties.

For further information, e-mail Dr Charles Nhemachena, cnhemachena@hsrc.ac.za

The re-emergence of astronomy in Africa

From page 1



Ms Pandor, Ms Nzimande and Dr Shisana

contributed in an important way to the transition to democracy. 'This proud history of research continues to influence how we think about ourselves and how we conduct our public arguments,' Pandor said.

The inspiration for the conference comes from the recent announcement of South Africa co-hosting the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) with eight African countries as well as with Australia. The idea behind the conference was that the humanities were integral to the early study and utilisation of astronomy on the African continent, and that the SKA represents a re-emergence of the systematic study and utilisation of astronomy on the continent.

Pandor said the SKA will bring in a billion Euros in capital and operational

expenditure. Thousands of local jobs will be created at radio telescope station sites and will contribute to the provision of access to broadband connectivity in rural areas.

'Investment by African countries in astronomy, information technology and engineering skills development will position the continent to maximise the benefits that can be harnessed from hosting the mega telescope,' she said.

In her concluding remarks, Pandor mentioned that the emergence of Africa as a global astronomy hub has been strengthened by the African Renaissance Fund's decision to fund the initial phase of the African VLBI Network. This network will comprise new radio telescopes and communications antennae that have been

converted into radio telescopes.

'We are at a point where many companies throughout the world are looking at the SKA to provide an impetus that will strengthen manufacturing, maintenance and operations capacity. African companies should also position their resources to harness benefits from the SKA construction and its substantial infrastructure requirements,' she said.

The HSRC co-hosted the conference with a whole array of partners, namely the Departments of Science and Technology and Arts and Culture, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the National Research Foundation, Freedom Park Trust, the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, the Africa Institute of South Africa, and the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. The conference papers will be collected in a book and published by the HSRC Press.



Hosting of delegation from Nepal

On the 12 and 13 September, HSRC Business Development and International Liaison hosted a delegation from Nepal.

The delegation was from the Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF) that was on a study visit to South Africa and met with the HSRC's research programmes to explore the role and establishment of a Social Science Council in Nepal.

SIRF was established in 2005 to encourage scientific research that would contribute to understanding and enhancing knowledge

in social exclusion and inclusion in Nepal. The Fund supports and promotes original, competitively-selected research through funding and capacity building of researchers understanding and enhancing knowledge in social exclusion and inclusion in Nepal.

The fund seeks to produce high-quality and critical research on causes of social

exclusion in Nepal and ways to accommodate and manage diversity, make social science research more relevant to the excluded and disadvantaged groups and their agendas, and ensure that research contributes more effectively to policy and public debate and a deliberative democratic process.

Meeting with DFG (German Research foundation)

On Monday 1 October, the CEO Dr Olive Shisana, the BDIL director Ms Bridgette Prince, and managers of different HSRC research programmes met with the German research foundation, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

The members of the DFG were Dr Manfred Nielsen, the head of the division Humanities and Social Sciences, and Mr Christoph

Mühlberg the director of International Affairs.

The engagement provided the research programmes the opportunity to present their key priorities and research areas.

Exploring an academic partnership with Geneva Graduate Institute

The HSRC hosted Prof Jean-Luc Maurer, a professor in development studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies on 7 December in Cape Town.

The main purpose of the meeting was to explore his mandate, which was to consolidate and develop the academic partnership programme with universities in so-called "emerging countries of the Global South".

This programme is well advanced and the institute has already signed MoUs with such partners in China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mexico. Senior researchers Drs Peter Jacobs (Economic Performance and Development), Greg Houston (Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery) and Glenda Kruss (Education and

Skills Development) presented their work and respective research programmes to him.

The general academic partnership policy with the Global South is to identify in each of the emerging countries where they anticipate to be involved, a partner with which they could possibly work in all the five disciplines constituting the domains of the institute, namely international history, politics, economics and law, as well as development anthropology and sociology. Other partners met on this exploratory visit were:

- The Witwaterstrand University in Johannesburg, and more particularly the Faculty of Humanities and School of Social Sciences;
- Pretoria University, and more particularly its Faculty of Humanities and its Institute of Strategic and Political Affairs;
- University of Western Cap in Cape Town, and more particularly its Faculties of Arts and Economics as well as its Institute for Social Development; and
- Stellenbosch University and more particularly its Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

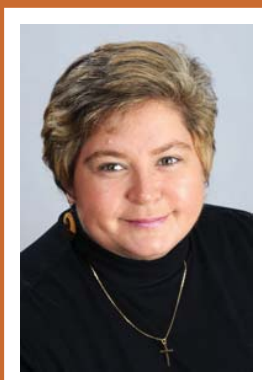
International conferences



Dr Hester du Plessis, a senior research specialist and head of Science Communication in the Research Use and Impact Assessment at the HSRC, presented several papers at international conferences during 2012. In January she addressed the topic of *Communicating Science in Africa: shifting boundaries of perception* at the International Conference on Science Communication for Scientific Temper. The conference was hosted by the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR), CSIR, New Delhi, in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi, India.

In April she presented two papers at the 12th International Public Communication of S&T Conference. The conference theme was The Art of Communicating Science. Quality, honesty and beauty in science communication. Her first paper was on *Communicating social sciences: following a transdisciplinary research approach in the Public Understanding of Science (PUS)*, and the second, *On the meaning of participation and democracy in different cultural and social contexts*.

Dr du Plessis was a keynote speaker at the International Conference on Science Communication, 'Les journées Hubert Curien' in Nancy, France, from 3 - 7 September. The topic of her paper was *The fault lines between scientific knowledge and local knowledge*.



Professor Sharlene Swartz, a director in the programme on Human and Social Development at the HSRC, visited the US to present a paper and attend board meetings at the annual meeting of the Association for Moral Education (San Antonio, Texas). She was also invited to present two seminars at Harvard University. The first was entitled *Emancipatory methodologies for youth research: Social network interviewing in South Africa*, delivered at the FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights at the School of Public Health.

The second was *Old scars, new wounds: Youth, inequality and restitution in South Africa*, presented at the Civic and Moral Education Initiative Colloquium at the Graduate School of Education (her alma mater). She also visited Professor Elazar Barkan at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs with a view to collaborating on research on restitution, justice and social transformation.



Mr Julien Rumbelow, a PhD intern in the Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation research unit at the HSRC, presented his PhD work on innovation in knowledge-intensive services at the inaugural Africalics Academy in Nairobi Kenya, which took place from 19-30 November 2012.

Africalics is the newest regional arm of Globelics, the Global Network for the Economics of Learning, Innovation and Competence Building Systems. The academy also hosted 30 PhD students in innovation from around Africa with visiting students from the Middle East, Caribbean and India. A further 15 Masters Students from Kenya attended.

All students were selected on merit and the Academy provided opportunities for students to present their work and attend lectures by a host of about 20 global innovation experts, many of whom were African. All agreed it was a valuable opportunity and the start of great things to come from the Africalics Academy.



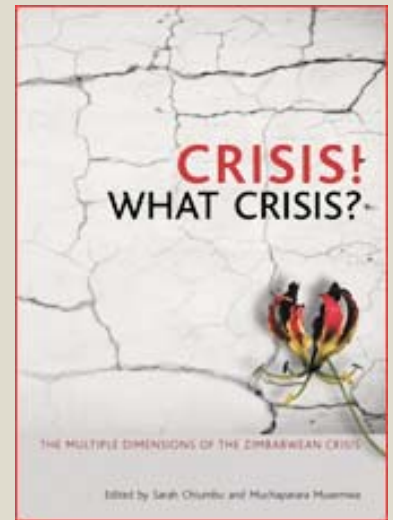
NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM HSRC PRESS

Crisis! What Crisis?

The multiple dimensions of the Zimbabwean crisis

About the book

Crisis! What Crisis! The Multiple Dimensions of the Zimbabwean Crisis argues that the Zimbabwean crisis is in fact a series of crises. From infrastructural problems and disease to a depreciating currency and an increasing muscular militarism, the citizens of Zimbabwe have faced an ongoing struggle to survive. The book explores the resilience of a people as they navigate the multiple challenges they face in the country of their birth. In an inter-disciplinary approach, the authors of *Crisis! What Crisis!* engage with issues as diverse as resource politics and livelihoods, migration and disembedding, language, and humour to demonstrate the ingenious ways in which citizens mediate the crisis. Topically, the book explores how social media offers a subversive space that flies in the face of increasing restrictions placed on conventional media within Zimbabwe and the government's aggressive efforts to suppress freedom of speech and spread their nationalist agenda. The book concludes with a sobering reflection on the past and what the future might hold.

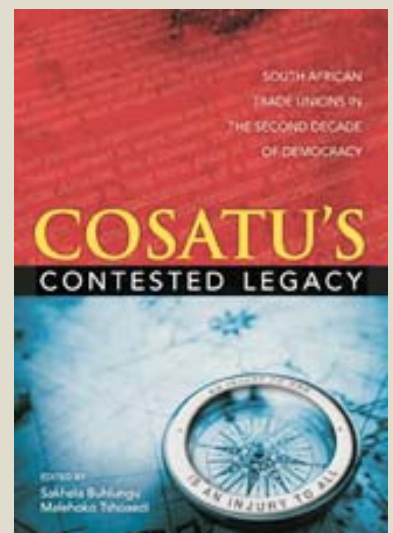


COSATU'S Contested Legacy

South African trade unions in the second decade of democracy

About the book

Images of striking COSATU workers, singing, marching and *toyi-toying* are a familiar sight for most South Africans and external observers of the country's politics. Similarly, COSATU's feisty general secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi has become a household name, commanding respect and admiration among millions and loathing and fear among his enemies and those who are on the receiving end of his fiery political oratory. But how much do we know about what COSATU workers think about their workplaces, their unions, politics and the economy? What influences COSATU members' decisions to vote for a particular political party? Why has COSATU women members' support for the ANC declined? Why do some union members think there may be good reasons to assault non-strikers and scabs during strikes? What do unionised workers think of service delivery and what role did they play in the recent spate of service delivery protests? These and many other questions are examined in this volume which is based on the fourth run of the COSATU Workers' Survey conducted a few months before the 2009 elections. Contrary to stereotypes reproduced in the media and other public platforms which portray trade union members as a herd led by all-powerful 'union bosses', *A Contested Legacy* deftly presents a picture of a multifaceted organisation whose members are steeped in the traditions of internal democracy, leadership accountability and mandated decision-making. But these traditions are not static. They are fiercely contested among different groups and categories of union members - women and men; migrant and urban workers; skilled and unskilled workers; blue collar and white collar and professional workers; permanent and part-time and casual workers.



Academic interaction with social partners

Investigating the contribution of universities to economic and social development

About the book

A lively debate on the relationship between the university and society in a developing country like South Africa is emerging. *Academic Interaction* looks at the main results of a research study on university interaction with external social partners. It centres on definitional boundaries around whether engagement requires new forms of knowledge that differ from traditional academic modes and around who is defined as 'the community' - at local, regional, national or international levels. There is general agreement that the field is conceptually under-specified and theoretically rather thin.

Academic Interaction presents a comprehensive data set stemming from research conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) on behalf of the National Research Foundation (NRF). The study aims to present not only an analysis of 'what exists' but also utilises an



analytical approach that will encourage future debates to be more empirically informed, contextually grounded and hence conducted in a more rigorous and robust manner.

This book will be of interest to higher education scholars across the globe as well as innovation systems scholars and university academics.

Static **Race & Representation in Post-Apartheid Music, Media & Film**

About the book

Static: Race and Representation in Post-apartheid Music, Media and Film critically examines music, cinema, social media and the politics of change after apartheid. It cuts across academic disciplines, the creative arts and the media and poses two central questions: Is South Africa changing for the better, or are we static? Is there too much static for us to hear each other clearly?

Static provides key insights into recent media phenomena, such as Die Antwoord; the 2010 Soccer World Cup; Bok van Blerk; Tsotsi; Kuli Roberts' Sunday World column on 'coloureds'; revisionist film Afrikaaps and the University of the Free State's Reitz video scandal.

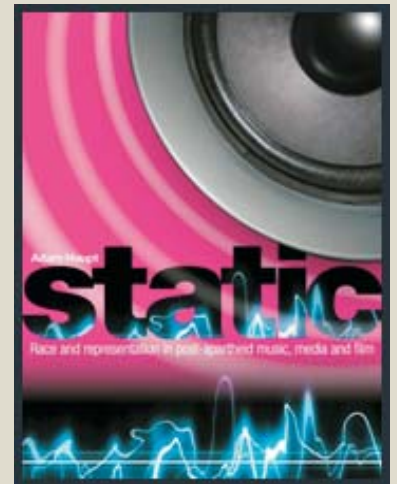
The book will appeal to scholars in media, sociology, anthropology, music, African and cultural studies as well as to anybody with an interest in music, media, identity politics and debates about change in post-apartheid South Africa.

Static is a sophisticated and well-argued analysis that establishes a new context for understanding post-apartheid culture in South Africa. The close readings of lyrics, videos and films are loaded with keen insights explaining what the cultural issues are and why they matter.

Murray Forman, Associate Professor, Media and Screen Studies, Northeastern University

As in the United States, music in general and hip-hop in particular are fertile ground for the articulation, examination, and contestation of racial identity. Seen by some as 'trash talk' and by others as art, hip-hop and other forms of popular music take lofty discussions of identity politics out of the academic stratosphere and place them decidedly in the public square. Haupt brilliantly engages readers at both levels.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

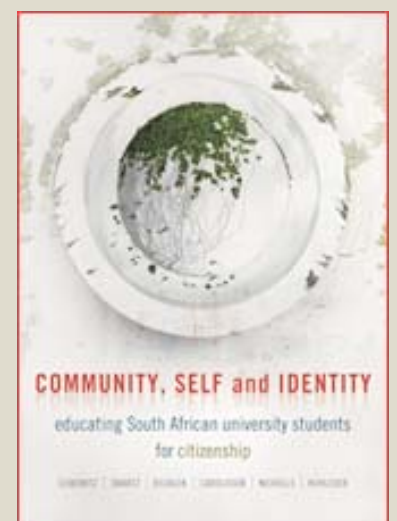


Community, self and identity **Educating South African university students for citizenship**

About the book

Education in South Africa is in crisis. Low literacy and numeracy rates, poor discipline, and a sense of despair pervade the education landscape. At the same time, educators are called upon to achieve more, with universities tasked to produce graduates capable of exercising responsible and reflective citizenship in a competitive and globalising world. However, universities face very complex demands and resource constraints. In this sobering context, this book provides an opportunity to learn from a bold experiment in teaching and learning taking place across two very different South African universities, one historically black, and one historically white and Afrikaans.

With a mixture of rigorous scholarship, thoughtful self-reflection, and insights which have relevance far beyond their own project, contributors to this ground-breaking volume take the reader systematically through an account of what is and is not possible in transforming higher education in South Africa. The contributors demonstrate the potential and limitations of imaginative innovations, and invite the reader into an ongoing discussion about the future and potential for higher education in South Africa and beyond.



The development of competition law and economics in South Africa

About the book

This is an important and timely contribution to the rapidly growing field of competition law in South Africa. While the South African competition authorities have established an enviable local and international profile for their work, there is a need for critical evaluation of the developments in this field since the Competition Act came into force in 1999. This book meets this need.

The Development of Competition Law and Economics in South Africa is an important source for students and practitioners of competition law and economics, as well as for those with an interest in the crucial questions of competition enforcement.

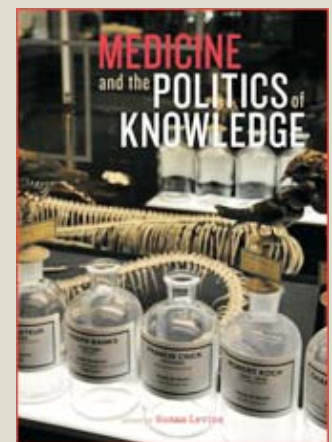


Medicine and the politics of knowledge

About the book

Medicine and the Politics of Knowledge situates South Africa - including its history of stances and political formations around HIV/AIDS-in the broader context of questions relating to science, medicine, human experimentation, and structural violence, all of which shape the cases in the book. Putting South Africa in the context of other cases of contention and contestation about science and medicine in India, Latin America and China helps us to understand the particular history of the South African case itself.

Conceived in response to the urgency of bioethical debates in medical anthropology, this ethnographic collection touches the borders of anthropology, philosophy, and public health. At a time in world history where medicine and medical practice is deeply contested in the everyday as well as in juridical terms, this book makes an essential contribution to global debates about tradition, about science, and about the politics of knowledge production.



RELAUNCHING IN 2013

State of the Nation: South Africa 2012-2013 Addressing Inequality and Poverty

About the book

Between 2003 and 2008, the HSRC published its annual flagship publication, *State of the Nation*. Since the launch of the first edition, the series has captured the attention of public intellectuals, scholars, policymakers and the media in South Africa and abroad. Internationally, the series has been acclaimed as one of the most in-depth and important independent analyses of the national agenda through the lens of the South African political, economic and social context, and has been selected by university departments across the world as prescribed or highly recommended reading. In view of its historically high demand and the need for vibrant national and continental debates, the HSRC will relaunch this authoritative publication in 2013. The new edition, *State of the Nation 2012-2013*, will continue to stimulate contemporary debates on key issues in a significant way, helping to shape public knowledge, policies, political actions and individual and collective decisions. The new edition will offer diverse angles on inequality and poverty in South Africa in one compelling and comprehensive collection.

This book presents:

- A retrospective on the 2012 ANC conference in Mangaung
- Cutting-edge analysis and data on inequality and its links to poverty
- Insightful reflections by scholars on one of the most significant watershed years in South Africa since 1994
- A definitive bridge between evidence-based, longitudinal studies and compelling narratives
- Critical views on the country that will challenge understanding of current affairs in South Africa
- The research reference for the next decade
- Introduction by Jonathan Jansen, Rector and Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State
- **Also available as an e-book**

