

HSRC International Brief

Vol. 1 No. 3 May, June, July 2007

HSRC International Liaison
bprince@hsrc.ac.za
www.hsrc.ac.za

New research co-operation strategy

Major international funders were among the 30 organisations that attended a donor meeting convened by the HSRC on 18 May. The meeting between HSRC senior staff members and funders introduced a new tradition of engagement.

Among the funders that attended were UNAIDS, CDC, the World Bank, the UN, USAID, the French Embassy, the Swiss Embassy and USAID. Local new-comers attended under the banner of Corporate Social Investment (CSI) and showed a keen interest in engaging with the HSRC.

Standard Bank CEO, Ms Nomsa Masuku, said: 'CSI has billions of rand that need to be spent and we are trying to get away from charity and donations. We want the money to be spent in a more responsible manner and we hope the HSRC could give focus and direction of where the money should be spent and how'.

HSRC CEO, Dr Olive Shisana was applauded for taking the initiative to convene the gathering and giving funders an opportunity to interact with the HSRC on a more personal level.

The HSRC will proceed with a series of round-table discussions with various stakeholders to explore ways to improve on research activities in general. This will include:

Continued on page 2

International Exposure of the HSRC Press



The HSRC Press stand at the ASA Annual Meeting in San Francisco in November 2006, where Garry Rosenberg and Karen Bruns took the opportunity to meet with authors, scholarly and university presses in North America and delegates from the academy.

In our continued efforts to raise the profile of the HSRC Press globally and to promote our authors internationally, 2007 marked the first HSRC Press exhibition stand at the London Book Fair (LBF). Briefcase-laden and on foot, Publishing Director Garry Rosenberg and Marketing Manager Karen Bruns participated in the 2007 Fair as exhibitors and picked up valuable information on the latest developments and publishing trends.

The annual London Book Fair has grown in size and importance in recent years and 23 000 publishers, booksellers, literary agents, librarians, media and industry suppliers from over 100 countries now attend the Fair. Most book publishers come to London to publicise their upcoming titles and to sell and purchase subsidiary and translation rights for books from other publishers.

In 2007, visitors flocked from over 109

Continued on page 4

4th SAHARA Conference



The Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA), a unit of the HSRC, recently held its fourth conference in Kisumu, Kenya.

As an alliance of research institutions covering East, West and Central Africa as well as southern Africa, SAHARA seeks to reduce the number of new HIV infections through the promotion of collaborative research and the effective

dissemination of research findings.

The SAHARA conference brings together global experts, in particular African experts, to share knowledge and experiences. The SAHARA conferences also seek to move beyond the traditional 'talk shop' by broadening the participants to include community members who are the end-users of innovations and interventions and are often excluded from scientific discussions and designs of interventions. The hope is that communities will give

Continued on page 2

New research cooperation strategy

Continued from page 1

- Better co-ordination of projects to avoid duplication of programmes by various donors;
- Sharing of datasets;
- Partner collaborations by leveraging various forms of resources; and
- Exploring collaborations with donors on aspects such as HIV and AIDS, education, youth, climate change, poverty and inequality.



Dr Namsa Masuku, Standard Bank; Ms Rietva Reinikka, Word Bank and a delegate from DBSA at the HSRC Donor event

Ideas for cooperation with the National Science Foundation

Several possibilities for collaboration were identified during a meeting in May between Dr Wanda Ward, Deputy Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the United States, and the HSRC in May in Pretoria. Areas of potential cooperation are the exchange of fellows between the HSRC and institutions in the US, issues around disabilities, innovation models and science, and innovation studies.

BRICKS in building innovation

Dr Glenda Kruss and Jo Lorentzen of ESSD attended the important 2nd International BRICS Workshop in Rio de Janeiro in April, which brought together innovation system researchers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICKS).

The workshop brought together innovation system researchers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It aimed at developing a joint, comparative research programme on national innovation systems in the five BRICS countries. The meeting was superbly organized by the hosts from REDESIST Network on local production systems at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, led by José Cassiolato and Helena Lastres and strongly supported by a host of institutions, notably Brazil's Ministry of Science and Technology and the country's innovation agency FINEP which participated with senior personnel, including the minister himself, in the event.

The other members of the South African delegation included Makhosini Mashele (DST), Josephilda Nhlapo-Hlope (DBSA), Rosemary Wolson (CSIR) who all contributed with presentations to different parts of the packed programme. South Africa now has a national BRICS steering committee that supports and coordinates South Africa's role in the BRICS Network.

Research meets the RoKs

The HSRC's Education, Science and Skill Development (ESSD) research programme met with Professor Dani Nabudere of the Marcus Garvey Pan-African Research Institute in Uganda and Dr John Adeoti of the Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research in May in Cape Town to plan a workshop on research on knowledge systems (RoKS).

The workshop will initiate a collaborative research project, led by Dr Glenda Kruss and Jo Lorentzen of ESSD.

This project involves teams in South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda researching university-industry linkages and the developmental role of the university in sub-Saharan Africa. The project is funded through a grant

awarded by the International Development Research Centre of Canada, through its Research on Knowledge Systems (RoKS) programme.

It will open up work on innovation in sub-Saharan Africa, but also facilitate cross-continental collaboration with eight other countries in Latin America and Asia. The workshop focused on developing analytical templates and specifically an instrument for a firm survey to be conducted in each country later this year.

The workshop was also attended by colleagues from the HSRC's Knowledge Systems, who will be collaborating on the South African survey.



SADC



Ms Boema Sekgoma from the Parliamentary Forum of SADC visited the HSRC on the invitation of CYFSD to discuss the possibilities of sharing research outputs with members of parliaments from across the region. As part of this visit Ms Bridgette Prince, head of International Liaison, HSRC and Prof Leickness Simbayi, Regional Coordinator in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) of the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) network, met with the SADC Parliamentary Forum HIV/AIDS Officer representative, Ms Boemo Sekgoma, in June.

The discussion centred on the HSRC's previous engagements with SADC and explored areas of possible collaboration on projects which have already been undertaken in the SADC region by SAHARA and the research programme on the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA). The two partners agreed to look at the development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will outline future collaboration. One of the key areas outlined by Ms Sekgoma was packaging evidence-based research into briefs that can inform and update members of parliament on key issues in the area of HIV/AIDS.

CEO's paper presented at Commonwealth Secretariat forum

The 8th triennial Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers (8WAMM), one of the world's biggest summits on women's rights and gender equality, was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 11-14 June.

Under the theme Financing Gender Equality for Development and Democracy, delegates from 52 countries discussed ways to allocate and monitor resources for advancing women's rights and achieving gender equality in key areas, including trade, micro-finance, political participation, HIV/AIDS, and the public sector. As part of the documentation and materials presented to the ministers were a paper by Dr Olive Shisana, entitled Missing the women which she presented at the International AIDS conference in Toronto in August 2006. The recommendations from the meeting will be presented to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda in November 2007.

4th SAHARA Conference

Continued from page 1

feedback on their lived experiences, which could contribute to better policy formulation and programmes.

This year's conference was attended by around 420 delegates from 21 countries. Sessions covered the prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS. Dr Olive Shisana, conference chairperson, emphasised in the opening ceremony that it was time to come together to 'walk the talk' and that AIDS should be seen for the emergency that it is.

The conference tackled some potentially controversial topics head-on, for example male circumcision as a method of preventing HIV infection, and provided a platform for diverse stakeholders with divergent views to interact. Professor Cheikh Niang, Regional Director of SAHARA West Africa, cautioned that African social scientists should look beyond the evidence of trials conducted in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa on the protective effect of male circumcision, and 'reconceptualise' the findings to fit into African cultural

perspectives., This is particularly important as all African ethnic groups have some deep cultural and spiritual meaning attached to circumcision. This was illustrated by Mr Adera Osawa, Deputy Secretary-General of the Luo Elders - a Kenyan community that does not practice circumcision - who said there are strong cultural emotions against circumcision and some 'very derogatory words' are used for someone who is circumcised.

Professor Leickness Simbayi, Regional Director of SAHARA southern Africa, stressed the importance of waiting for the results of long-term follow-up studies on male circumcision before large-scale circumcision projects are implemented. He presented a South African study that indicated that there were no significant differences in HIV prevalence rates between the circumcised men and uncircumcised men (11.1% vs. 11.0%) in the sample of 3 025 men of 15 years and older.

Another controversial topic was that of

the need for HIV programmes to address the gay community. Homosexuality is still illegal in some African countries, and this can make it hard for programmes to address gay people effectively.

Serigne Mbodj, who heads a Senegalese gay rights advocacy group, said 'People pretend that homosexuality does not exist in society, but it has been a reality, even within our own African cultures, for a very long time'.

In contrast, Mr Osawa said 'I have heard of this habit [homosexuality], and it is unacceptable to us. We will never accept it; we do not know about it in our [Luo] culture.'

These controversies highlighted the need for further exploration of issues that are difficult to deal with, yet at the same time are critical for effective and appropriate HIV/AIDS interventions. The next conference will thus have the theme of socio-cultural responses to HIV, and will take place in March 2009 in South Africa.

International Exposure of the HSRC Press

Continued from page 1

countries, giving a truly international flavour, and presenting opportunities to access new markets. As always it was the perfect place for international rights trading and networking.

Commented Rosenberg: 'We were pleased by not only the quantity, but also the quality of enquiries and visitors to the stand. We see the London Book Fair - the international meeting point for publishers to share cutting edge ideas and global trends - as intrinsic to our efforts to make a global impact and to profile our authors'.

'We were able to meet with our North American, UK and European sales agents to discuss progress and new initiatives which makes it extremely practical for us to attend,' reports Karen Bruns. 'But it's more exciting yet. Our participation in the Google Books initiative began at the London Book Fair, as well as our participation in the Amazon Affiliates programme. We're able to garner plenty of ideas, details and cautions from the various peer-to-peer seminars offered at the Fair. It is a reinvigorating experience.'

Over the last five years, the HSRC Press has also attended and exhibited at the African Studies Association (ASA) annual meetings in the USA. These meetings migrate to different centres each year - San Francisco hosted the 2006 meeting - and this year the ASA will celebrate its 50th anniversary of its founding during the Annual Meeting in New York in October. The HSRC Press plans to launch and promote a number of its titles to the North American-based African studies academic market on this occasion, meet with the African Studies Librarians and track progress on projects such as HNet and eGranary.

Both projects began at the University of Michigan and the HSRC Press is a partner in the eGranary Digital Library which provides millions of digital educational resources to 105 African educational institutions lacking adequate Internet access. Through a process of securing permissions, copying web sites, and delivering these to intranet web servers inside partner institutions in developing countries, the eGranary delivers millions of multimedia documents that can be instantly accessed over local area networks at no cost.

Key discussion with CODESRIA



A working meeting between the HSRC and CODESRIA, resulting from a MoU concluded in Pretoria in July 2006, was attended by the Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, Professor Adebayo Olukoshi, Suleiman Adebawale, Roseline Achieng and Marie Ndiaye.

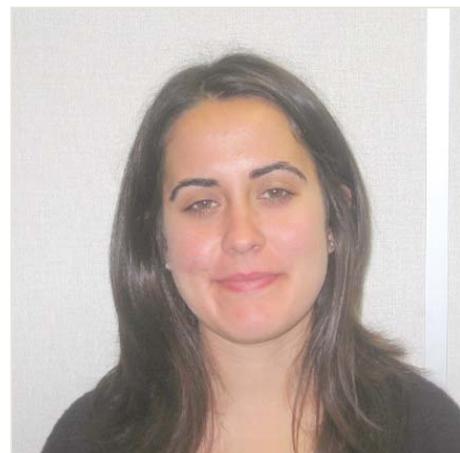
Several key projects were discussed for joint collaboration, including the South Africa in Africa project and on how to reach the rest of the continent with research publications and reports.

Interns from a far-off land

Two Canadian interns joined the HSRC in June as part of our partnership agreement with the Dalhousie University's Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health under the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) International Youth Internship Program (IYIP).



Kate Rice, a medical anthropologist with a specific focus on sexual health education aimed at children, adolescents, and young adults in the context of HIV/AIDS, is based in the CEO's office in Cape Town. She recently completed an MA, and will be working on analyzing data from the 2005 South African National HIV prevalence behaviour and communication survey, with an eye on gender. She will also help implementing the 2008 qualitative survey.



Claire Walsh, who for the past two and a half years has focussed on public health and social justice, is based in the International Liaison office in Cape Town. She will create and pilot a gender-based analysis tool kit for researchers, programmers and policy makers that will benefit the HSRC and the Atlantic Centre for Excellence in Women's Health. She will also evaluate the use of gender-based analysis in SAHARA's projects and outreach activities.

Satellite session at the AIDS Impact Conference



The HSRC co-hosted a satellite session with the World AIDS Campaign at the 8th AIDS Impact Conference in Marseilles, France in July. The session was entitled, The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa: What will it take to reverse the tide?

Professor Arvin Bhana from the HSRC's Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme chaired another satellite session on the Collaborative HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Mental Health Project (CHAMP), a developmentally-timed family research intervention, targeting children between 10-12 years old.

HSRC Press coordinated an exhibition booth at the Conference, with poster and oral presentations by HSRC researchers.



HSRC staff out and about



Professor Yaw Amoateng, Director of the research programme Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD), was invited by the British High Commission in Pretoria to attend a reception in honour of the Queen's 81st Birthday in June at the Reserve Bank Conference Centre in Pretoria. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair was there to toast this occasion and so were several diplomats and politicians.



Professor Linda Chisholm (CYFSD) travelled to the University of Genoa (DiSA) in Italy, which coordinates the Trans-national Research on Second Generation Youths research network

(TRESEGY), an EU funded project, to with the following in mind:

- to advance discussions on a proposal on the theme of Images of Europe for the 7th Research Framework Programme's (FP7).
- to present a paper with Roberto Alzetta, Department Social Anthropology, University College London at a conference hosted jointly by the Universities of Luxembourg and Metz on Migrants, Cities and Citizenship. The paper was entitled, From Europe's images to an imagined Europe: comparing migrants' constructions of the idea of Europe in South Africa and Morocco."



Dr Ursula Hoadley (CYFSD) attended a UNESCO Consultation meeting in Gaborone, Botswana on school-centred HIV and AIDS care and support in southern Africa. The purpose

HSRC staff out and about

of the meeting was to create a forum for dialogue and debate around the issue of schools as centres of care and support for vulnerable children, particularly in the context of HIV and AIDS. Participants included researchers and Ministry representatives, NGO representatives, Commonwealth and UNESCO representatives from South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana.



Dr Catherine Ward (CYFSD) met with colleagues at the Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente, which is headquartered in Oakland, California in June. She also attended the 11th

Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action (Division 27, Community Psychology, of the American Psychological Association) in Los Angeles, California.



Mr Michael Cosser (ESSD) was invited to attend the conference on Global Studies of Discrimination, one of the programmes of research organised by the Princeton Institute for Inter-

national and Regional Studies (PIIRS). The research programme is a north-south collaboration between researchers from four countries - India, South Africa, Brazil and the US - designed to:

- highlight areas of discrimination in each of the countries,
- make cross-country comparisons, and
- identify areas of research that will draw public attention, where possible through uptake in policy formulation, to discrimination as it is practised in education and labour market systems.



Professor Michael Kahn (Knowledge Systems) travelled to Panama and Canada to participate as a discussant in a project meeting of the Canadian International Development Research

Council (IDRC) in Panama and at a roundtable at the IDRC headquarters in Ottawa.

He also accompanied the Minister of the Department of Science and Technology to Argentina as part of a delegation for the Social Science and Humanities (SSH) component of the SA-Argentina collaboration in Science and Technology.

The delegation made three site visits that included the Universidad Nacional General Sarmiento, the Instituto Desarrollo Economico y Social and the Centra de Estudios sobre Ciencia, Desarrollo y Education Superior. It was clear from the visit that Argentina is keen to strengthen ties with South Africa in all spheres, and that S&T is to be the means to start this relationship. Argentina is re-orienting itself more toward South-South collaboration as opposed to the South-North that has characterised its foreign policy to now. The visit itself was successful in bringing the two communities of SSH researchers closer together. The resolutions of the SSH parties arising from the one and a half days of discussion were included in the official record of the visit as signed by both Ministers.



Dr Miriam Altman (Employment, Growth and Development Initiative) was invited to the second annual IZA (German Institute for the Study of Labour) / World Bank conference on

Development at the Deutsche Post World Net Headquarters in Bonn, Germany. She gave a presentation on the topic of the informal economy.



Dr Claire Benit-Gbaffou (Urban, Rural and Economic Development) attended a workshop at the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), New Delhi, India. She met with Dr

Stephanie Tawa Lama-Rewal, coordinator of the research programme Democratic Renewal in India, which forms part of the French Research Institutes (IFRE) programme on Democratic Transformation in Emerging Countries. She was a discussant of two papers in the final seminar of the research programme on Democratic Renewal in India. She also participated in an exploratory meeting to discuss future comparative research programmes on local democracy in South

African and Indian cities. The comparative South African perspective at the final seminar was extremely stimulating and received great response from the audience. Several contacts have been made with both Indian and French researchers, focusing on similar topics, and there are prospects for future cooperation.



Dr Vijay Reddy (ESSD) was invited to present a paper at the International Institute of Educational Planning Policy Forum in Paris. The focus of the Policy Forum was 'Confronting

the Shadow Education System: What government policies apply for private tutoring'? Dr Reddy also met with the Director of IIEP for the purpose of setting up collaboration between IIEP and ESSD/HSRC and met with the co-ordinators of the Southern African Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality III study (SACMEQ is co-ordinated from IIEP). The Director of IIEP will visit the HSRC in the new year and we will explore setting up joint research studies.



Dr Catherine Ward (CYFSD) attended the World Health Organisation-sponsored conference: 3rd Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. This is the third WHO conference

since the publication of its World Report on Violence and Health in 2002. The format consisted largely of panel discussions, followed by brief addresses on violence prevention initiatives in Mexico, Scotland, Ghana, Uganda, Canada, and the USA. South Africa featured a presentation of Richard Matzopoulos from the South African Medical Research Council on work done on violence and injuries as part of the Burden of Disease project in the Western Cape. There was also an opportunity to attend workshops on integrating alcohol and violence preventive interventions into medical settings, outcome evaluations, and policing and criminal justice.



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council