

# HSRC International Brief

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## METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP



A two-day methodology workshop on South Africa's Role in Africa between the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Council for Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) explored a series of critical thematic issues, including the conceptualisation of South Africa as an actor in Africa; its role in governance, peace and security; trade relations and corporate expansion; the role of non-state actors and social movements; south-south linkages; and involvement on the international scene.

The meeting was the first in a series of collaborative engagements between the two African institutions arising from a memorandum of understanding signed in September last year. The workshop paves the way for joined fund-raising, research, and publication on the subject. The workshop's immediate outputs include a report and an article on South Africa in Africa.

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## ESSD hosts visiting scholar

Professor Hassana Alidou, Alliant International University, San Diego, USA, joined the HSRC's research programme on Education, Science and Skills Development (ESSD) as a visiting scholar from Africa for a seven-week period during July and August 2007. Prof. Alidou, who is regarded as one of the foremost scholars of literacy and language education in Africa, will resume her association with ESSD in December 2007 for another six-week period.

Her expertise is particularly focussed on West Africa (francophone Africa), however, she has an international reputation as an expert in this field across sub-Saharan Africa.

During her first visit she participated in a large-scale evaluation of literacy teaching in Limpopo province and, in collaboration with Kathleen Heugh of ESSD, the identification of the key implications of recent studies across Africa in which the two have participated on behalf of various ministries of education and UNESCO bodies.

Arising out of this collaboration the two researchers were invited to present their work in the final plenary session on Effective Practices in Africa: Languages in Literacy and Basic Education, at the African Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy. The session was hosted by UNESCO from 10-12 September 2007, in Bamako, Mali.



Professor Hassana Alidou

## HSRC meets with Princeton University

Professor Leickness Simbayi of the programme on Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA), Dr Vincent Agu (SAHARA) and Ms Bridgette Prince (International Liaison) met with Evan Lieberman, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, Princeton University. The main purpose of the meeting was to look at possible collaboration and forming a partnership between the two institutions. Possibilities ranged in the area of AIDS/health/infectious disease, policy and governance. It was decided that the two institutions will develop a proposal of joint activities for consideration.

## ANSA-Africa provides a platform for promoting social accountability expertise

In the nine months of operation since the launch ANSA-Africa, a new network advocating of citizen involvement in demand-side governance initiatives, has achieved much success, including:

- Facilitated engagement between social accountability practitioners and stakeholders, the GTZ of Germany and the government of Ethiopia, by organising a workshop in Addis Ababa in August 2007;
- Launched the African Social Accountability Profile (ASAP), beginning with Malawi. The first phase of this scoping study will include Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo;
- Laid the groundwork for a sourcebook on social accountability methods

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# METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

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The meeting, which took place on 12 and 13 October, witnessed a high-quality debate by academics, policy researchers and analysts, largely from Africa, but with representation from Asia and Latin America. The discussion was led by Dr Peter Kagwanja, acting executive director of the HSRC programme on Democracy and Governance, and Professor Adebayo Olukoshi, executive secretary of CODESRIA.

The workshop's immediate outputs include a report and an article on South Africa in Africa. The methodology workshop to launch this multi-year collaborative research project was generously funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa, for which the two institutions are profoundly grateful.

## LIBRARIES FOR THE FUTURE

HSRC Press took part in the exhibition at the 73rd International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Council in Durban from 19 - 23 August. IFLA is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users and is the global voice of the library and information profession. The congress takes place annually in varying parts of the globe, with the assistance of a national managing committee.



The theme of this year's conference was Libraries for the Future: Progress, Development and Partnerships, with a focus on new development models for libraries in developing countries in particular. To this end, 450 librarians from other parts of the continent attended the congress, together with a large contingent of South African librarians.

HSRC Press marketing coordinator Shaun Stuart with Alison Kinengyere from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda

## Collaboration with George Washington University

Key areas for partnership and joint collaboration between the HSRC and George Washington University were discussed at a meeting on 7 November in Cape Town. The areas of cooperation includes policy discussions and seminars; research, workshops and training initiatives; extending the partnership; executive leadership development; and funding.

At the meeting were Dr Temba Masilela, Prof. Simeon Maile and Ms Bridgette Prince. The George Washington University was represented by Mr. Leroy R. Charles, Dr. Joseph M. Bocchino, Dr Sylvia Silver and Ms. Alyson B. Lipsky.

## Farewell to (aiding) Arms

HSRC staff in Cape Town bid farewell to two Canadian interns, Claire Walsh and Kate Rice, who joined the organisation for five months as part of a 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).

They spent the five months working on analysing data from the 2005 South African National HIV Prevalence, HIV Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey, with an eye to gender and assisted in implementing the qualitative survey. They also assisted in developing a gender analysis toolkit for researchers to be used in the area of HIV/AIDS and gave seminars as part of the capacity development programme in the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS (SAHA). We wish them well with their new endeavours.

## ANSA-Africa provides a platform for promoting social accountability expertise

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which, along with ASAP, will enable the development and implementation of appropriate capacity and training programmes;

- Allocated the first grant from the initial seed funding provided by the World Bank, to the Municipal Development Programme in Zimbabwe, committed to implement a workshop on participatory expenditure tracking; and
- Begun planning a second stakeholder conference in February 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The ANSA-Africa web portal ([www.ansa-africa.net](http://www.ansa-africa.net)) sources and disseminates news, resolutions, insights and techniques on social accountability, and provides a platform for practitioners to share their views and achievements. Our monthly newsletter, *Full Circle*, also announces the latest developments and upcoming events. To receive *Full Circle*, e-mail [ansa@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:ansa@hsrc.ac.za).

## East meets West

The HSRC generates a considerable amount of information every year, and the archiving of this information was shared with a delegation from the Hubei Provincial Archives in the People's Republic of China. The Chinese delegation met with Ms Bridgette Prince, International Liaison, and Alison Bullen of Information Services, in Cape Town.

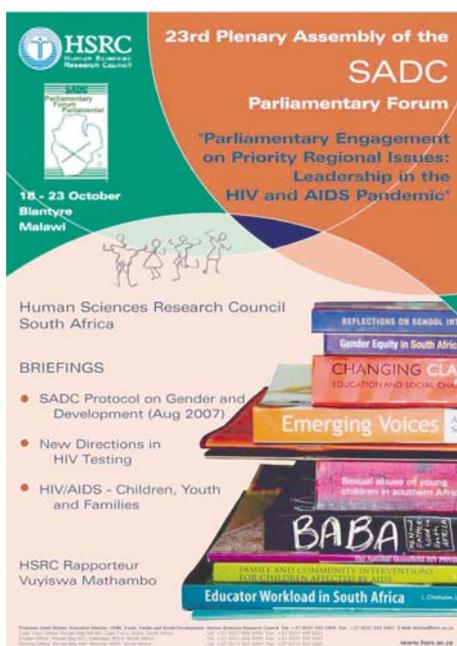


# SADC Parliament takes note of HSRC research on HIV

Professor Linda Richter, executive director of the HSRC's Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD) programme, addressed the 23rd plenary assembly of the SADC Parliamentary Forum on the impact of HIV and AIDS on children, youth and families. The assembly met from 17 - 26 October in Blantyre, Malawi. Dr Zitha Mokomane and Ms Heidi van Rooyen addressed the Regional Women's Caucus and the HIV/AIDS Committee during the working meetings before the opening of the plenary.

In a statement, the assembly says it notes with concern that children living with HIV/AIDS comprise 6% of all people living with the virus and child deaths currently stand at 16% all AIDS mortality. The assembly concluded that 'addressing the plight of children affected and infected by AIDS should be treated as an urgent priority'.

The assembly also says in the statement that the prevention of infections among adults would have a preventative effect on children. And gender inequalities, negative attitudes and stereotypes are of particular concern since they significantly increases the vulnerability of young women to HIV and AIDS. It recommended the improvement of access to voluntary counselling and testing for young adolescents.



In the statement, the assembly says 90% of mother-to-child transmission of the virus can be prevented and called for 'the urgent improvement in access to PMTCT programmes'. It also called for HIV testing of infants, treatment for mothers and children, and family-based approaches to address the epidemic.

Says Professor Richter: 'I am absolutely delighted that our work and reflections were so well received. We also received an invitation to address the Pan-African Parliament on the same issue next year.'

# HSRC meets Namibian peers

A meeting between the HSRC and the Namibian Multidisciplinary Research Centre (NMRC), based at the University of Namibia, considered the HSRC's fundraising and growth strategy, networking and collaboration, as well the open access strategy of HSRC Press and the organisation's research mentorship programmes. The meeting took place on on 29 November in Cape Town and also explored areas of collaboration that could be captured in a memorandum of understanding.

Present at the meeting were Drr Olive Shisana and Christa Van Zyl, Prof Akim Mturi, Mr Garry Rosenberg and Ms Bridgette Prince, all from the HSRC, and representing the NMRC were Messrs Gert Van Rooy, Martin Shapi and Dr Kenneth Matengu.



# HSRC staff out and about



**PROFESSOR ARVIN BHANA** of the HSRC's programme on Child, Youth, Family and Social Development (CYFSD) attended a report-back consortium meeting in Accra, Ghana, on

progress on Phase 1 of the Mental Health and Poverty Project (MHAPP) with country partners, the principal investigator and lead partners, held on 8 - 12 October 2007. MHAPP Phase 1 is a situational analysis of the mental health policies of Ghana, Zambia, Uganda and South Africa. The countries also presented Phase 2 of the project, introducing the intervention phase, which includes communication strategies to be implemented over the next three years.



**PROFESSOR LINDA CHISHOLM** of the HSRC's programme on Education, Science and Skills Development (ESSD), presented a paper at the UK Forum for International Education

and Training on Going for growth: School, community, economy, nation, at Oxford, England, in a session on Education and Economic Growth. She also presented a paper in a special session on education, skills and sustainable development, jointly authored with Ramon Leyendecker from the University of Twente in the Netherlands.



**PROFESSOR ANDY DAWES** of CYFSD represented the CEO and delivered a keynote address at a meeting, jointly hosted by the Research Council of Norway and the South African

National Research Foundation (NRF), with the South African Embassy to Norway from 28 October - 2 November.

Prof. Dawes also attended a meeting with Mrs Upjeet Chandan (also from CYFSD) on behalf of Professor Linda Richter, executive director of CYFSD, showcasing

# HSRC staff out and about

various research projects funded by the South Africa-Norway Programme on Research Cooperation. The meeting was organised by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the South African National Research Foundation (NRF), with strong leadership from the South African ambassador in Oslo and Fanny Duckert of the Psychology Department at the University of Oslo.



**DR ANIL KANJEE**, executive director of the HSRC's National Education Quality Initiative, attended a three-day meeting of the General Assembly of the International Association for the

Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) on 15 October in Hong Kong. The meeting reported back, *inter alia*, on different international studies and the discussion of plans and possibilities of further studies, including ITC in education and a joint 2011 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). PIRLS is a large international comparative study of the reading literacy of young students.

Dr Kanjee also presented a paper at the 33rd Annual Conference of the International Association for Education Assessment (IAEA). The focus of the conference was on the interdependence of national education assessment systems and education standards.



**DR ANDRE KRAAK** of ESSD presented two papers at the second meeting of the project on Understanding the Relationship between Knowledge and Competitiveness in the Enlarging European Union (U-Know), from 26 - 28 September. The first paper was entitled, Knowledge circulation and the learning economy: Opportunities and constraints in the South African context, and the second paper (on behalf of Dr Glenda Kruss, also ESSD) was on science-industry relationships in South Africa. The project is funded by the EU Commission, Framework Programme 6, Priority 7 on Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based Society.

**PROFESSOR THOBeka MDA**, deputy executive director of ESSD, presented a scientific paper on Education and national



identity/ identities at the XIII Congress of the World Council of the Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) in Sarajevo, Bosnia, from 3 - 7 September 2007. The congress theme was Living Together: Education and Intercultural Dialogue. Prof. Mda, who is president of the Southern African Comparative and History of Education Society (SACHES), also represented SACHES at the WCCES executive meeting.



**DR SAADHNA PANDAY** of CYFSD, who was instrumental in compiling the African Youth Charter, attended a meeting on 8 August to finalise a strategy to popularise, ratify and implement the charter. The strategy aims to empower African youth to realise their potential and effectively contribute to Africa's development. The strategy, to be presented to the ministers in charge of youth for adoption, will be circulated to member states for localisation and implementation.



**PROFESSOR KARL PELTZER** of the programme on Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA) attended the 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion & Health

Education in Vancouver and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence's 69th Annual Scientific Meeting in Quebec. He also attended the International Forum of the United States' National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA), which is a satellite to the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.

**DR UDESH PILLAY** presented two papers at an international conference on human rights indicators in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The



first paper was on Promoting socio-economic rights through survey evidence: A case study of land reform in South Africa, also known as the Metagora

Project. The second paper, in May, was on a harmonised set of land indicators. Participants included members of human rights commissions, associations, research organisations and partnerships from Africa, Latin America, and East and South-East Asia, and part representation from the US and UK.



**MS BRIDGETTE PRINCE**, the HSRC's International Liaison, attended a three-day conference entitled Research Partnerships and Collaborations for Development: Strengthening Structures of Reciprocity and Responsibility, from 8-10 October in Cape Town. It was convened by the Emory University in the US, bringing together researchers from Emory University, collaborating partners from South Africa and several other African countries, as well as regional research institutes and NGOs that support higher education in sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference explored the ethics of collaboration, the potential benefits and pitfalls of research collaborations in and across particular fields of scholarship (law, anthropology, arts, social science, and public health), and the role of institutions in supporting and encouraging collaborative research.



**PROFESSOR THOMAS REHLE** of SAHA participated in a meeting from 1-12 October on The Future of the AIDS Indicator Survey (AIS), sponsored by the PEPFAR Surveillance and

Surveys Technical Working Group. He also met with USAID colleagues to discuss new developments in programme M&E and UNGASS indicators, and with the Kaiser Family Foundation to discuss future joint activities in South Africa. He had technical discussions with colleagues from the Centers of Disease Control on HIV

# HSRC staff out and about

incidence-testing algorithms and assay-validation protocol.



**PROFESSOR LINDA RICHTER** of CYFSD travelled extensively over the last few months and attended numerous meetings and conferences, namely:

- The 3rd Global Conference on

Hope: Probing the Boundaries, at Mansfield College, Oxford University, from 18-21 September. She presented a paper on Changing perceptions of opportunities: Hope for young people in high HIV-risk environments, authored by David Harrison of loveLife, herself and Chris Desmond (CYFSD).

- A symposium of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS, Meeting Children's Needs in a World with AIDS, at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- A symposium of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health to report on the Early Child Development Knowledge Network, from 26-28 September. The symposium served as a forum for presentation and debate of the evidence base underpinning the Commission on Social Determinants of Health Knowledge Networks' (KNs) final reports, with a view to build a shared understanding of the methods of generating evidence, devise priority key messages, and make recommendations from the work of the KNs.
- WHO and UNICEF-sponsored expert meeting on Care for Development as part of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness at the International Children's Centre in Ankara, Turkey. Based on the momentum built by The Lancet journal's special issue on Early Child Development, the meeting re-viewed results of prior meetings and aimed at building linkages to other programmes for young children in WHO and UNICEF.



**MS MARGIE SCHNEIDER**, a disability expert in CYFSD, visited Geneva from 11-21 September to discuss a project proposal with collaborators in the German International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to develop core sets and assessment instruments to measure

functioning of people with HIV/AIDS.

This was followed with a visit to Dublin where she was an observer at the one day EUROSTAT meeting and a participant and presenter in the three-day Washington Group meeting as chairperson of the workgroup on extended disability sets.



**DR OLIVE SHISANA**, president and CEO of the HSRC, attended a meeting on 2 and 3 October, sponsored by the PEPFAR Surveillance and Surveys Technical Working Group, at Washington DC. The meeting aimed to achieve the following:

to clarify current goals of an AIDS indicator survey and consider new or expanded goals;

- to develop small working groups for each of the expanded goals or debatable issues. Each working group would develop pros and cons for each goal/issue, including logistical issues, effects on response rates, costs/benefits, and programme utility. These will be fleshed out for presentation to a larger group, tentatively set to meet in 2008.

Dr Shisana also visited Emory University where she serves on the Global Health Institute. She attended the first Institute, which aimed at addressing the most pressing health challenges around the world, particularly in poorer nations. Dr Jeffrey P. Koplan, Emory vice president for academic health affairs and former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will direct the new Institute, which builds on Emory's history of global health partnerships.



**PROFESSOR LEICKNESS SIMBAYI** of SAHA travelled extensively over the last few months and attended the following events:

- In August, he and a team of 7 staff

members travelled to the USA, to review a four-year National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)-funded project, where they presented findings on the completed 3-year Phaphama-Alcohol project were presented at a seminar to the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI) and they explored possible future

collaborations with the NDRI.



- The NIMH-funded Phaphama Men Project is a groups-based gender violence and HIV risk reduction intervention.
- Management meetings in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, concerning the year plan and budget for a National Institutes of Health-funded project, called Phaphama 2. He also discussed facilitating a grant for the Phaphama Community Alcohol project, awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).
- On a visit to New York City, he explored further possibilities of research collaboration on changing social norms and values with, among others, Dr Samuel R Friedman of the National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI).
- The 4th International AIDS Society (IAS) Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention Conference from 22-25 July 2007 in Sydney, Australia where he presented a poster entitled Metham-phetamine use and sexual risks for HIV infection in Cape Town, South Africa. He also visited the Australian Research Centre on Sex, Health and Society at LaTrobe University, Melbourne, where he introduced the SAHA research programme at a seminar and work done on the 2005 HIV prevalence, incidence, behavioural and communications study.



**MS GINA WEIR-SMITH** of the Geographical Information Systems Centre (GIS) at the HSRC presented the African National Mapping Agency web page, developed on the AGIRN

portal, at the 2007 Cambridge Conference. This bi-annual meeting for invited officials from mapping, cadastral and related agencies internationally, attended by 220 delegates from 75 countries, was hosted by Ordnance Survey (OS), the national mapping agency of the UK.