

HSRC International Brief

Vol. 4 No. 3 October 2010

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

HSRC's CEO co-chair roundtable



Dr Olive Shisana

CEO Dr Olive Shisana co-chaired a small group discussion on 6 September with Mrs Graca Machel.

The discussion was in preparation for Mrs Machel's visit to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit in New York, that took place from

20 to 22 September 2010. She participated in the Global Advocacy Group where she engaged with heads of states and policy makers on ensuring that the MDGs for women and children are met within the next five years.

A key component of this discussion was ensuring that she was provided with recommendations that looked at funding issues and the extent to which the MDGs on gender equality, maternal and child mortality can be achieved in a manner that strengthened systems and ensured real progress.

Much of Mrs. Machel's work has revolved around the rights of children and women. She also tracks issues related to girls' education.

Women scientists in a changing world

Dr Njeri Wabiri, a chief research manager in the HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB research programme at the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, presented a paper on Spatial GIS mapping with uncertain environmental data at the general assembly and international conference of the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS). The title of the conference, hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on 27 to 30 June 2010 in Beijing, China, was Women Scientists in a Changing World.



Njeri Wabiri and the Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Naledi Pandor at the general assembly and international conference of the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS)

Over 600 participants from 55 countries attended to present papers and hold discussions on the scientific contributions of women in four areas: Women Scientists and Frontiers of Sciences; Women Scientists and Global Change; Women, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Leadership Capacity; and Gender mainstreaming in the Global Scientific Community.

In her conference opening speech, South African Science and Technology Minister, Naledi Pandor, noted that in most developing world women's scientific skills and abilities are still underutilised. Women are still under-represented in the fields of science and technology (S&T) and in top research managerial positions. Women are also under-represented in policy-making in the areas of science, technology, and innovation.

She challenged TWOWS and its networks to continually ask themselves what they are doing to ensure that S&T is improving the lives of women, increasing their income, contributing to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Science, she said, should also be for the benefit of women and society at large.

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HSRC participation at the International AIDS Conference, Vienna



The International AIDS Conference is an important gathering for those working in the field of HIV, for policy makers, persons living with HIV and institutions committed to ending the pandemic.

The HSRC has been leading groundbreaking research studies in the area of the social and behavioural aspects of HIV/AIDS and identified the conference as an important opportunity and forum to present and disseminate our most recent work.

Many of our key staff and researchers therefore participated at the XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010), held in Vienna, Austria from 18 to 23 July 2010 to either present poster or oral sessions, or to participate in other activities.

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TWOWS undergoes a name change

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At the concluding ceremony of the occasion. TWOWS members voted to change the name of their organization to Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSDW).

The new name reflects, among other things, the ambitions of the organization's members to work for the developing world. It intends to reflect the need to transfer scientific results and technological development to the grassroots communities where they are needed most;

and social scientists will be eligible for full membership of OWSDW as previously they were only allowed to be non-voting associate members.

In addition, women scientists from the developed world who have a track record of working for the developing world can join OWSDW as associate members

The OWSDW members' acknowledged that progress towards gender equality in science, engineering and technology (SET) is occurring in many countries, but much

remains to be done before women can contribute equally with men and before girls have full access to education in science, engineering and technology.

The OWSDW members proposed several action points for governments and the international community, and re-emphasized the need for personal and collective networking and action at local, national chapter, regional and international levels.



HSRC participation at the International AIDS Conference, Vienna

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We utilised the opportunity to disseminate our most recent research outputs at a satellite session on 18 July titled: A Turning Tide Among teenagers?, and The Health of our Children, which emanated from the third South African National HIV Household survey. This provided us with the opportunity to invite important partners to participate in our session.

The session was titled "The position of children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa". The recently published and released research report titled The Health of our children formed the background of this session. Presentations ranged from the prevalence of orphans and vulnerable children, palliative care for children in Africa, clinical prevention of orphans and vulnerable children and assessing the capacity of children aged 12

and above to give informed consent for HIV testing.

Programme and presenters were as follows:



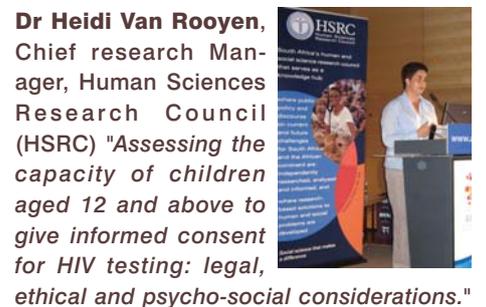
Prof. Leickness Simbayi, Executive Director, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) "*Prevalence of orphans and vulnerable children and child-headed households in South Africa in 2008.*"



Dr Richard Harding, Senior Lecturer Department of Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation Kings College London "*Pediatric palliative care in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic appraisal.*"



Dr Ashraf Grimwood, Director, Kheth'Impilo "*Clinical Prevention of orphans and vulnerable children - the update of PMTCT services in the region.*"



Dr Heidi Van Rooyen, Chief research Manager, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) "*Assessing the capacity of children aged 12 and above to give informed consent for HIV testing: legal, ethical and psycho-social considerations.*"

The HSRC also exhibited our institutional and research materials, reports and publications. The exhibition proved to be hugely popular and saw many people from many nations and countries pass through the space.



HSRC Press wins award for the most creative small publishers stand



From left: Claudia Kaiser, Shaun Stuart & Sadika Ahmed

The HSRC Press hosted a highly successful exhibition at the 5th Cape Town International Book Fair from 30 July to 2 August 2010. The Cape Town Book Fair is the largest book fair in sub-Saharan Africa with publishers from 31 countries represented on the exhibition floor. Over 30 000 people visited the fair this year.

The Press handed out hundreds of catalogues, brochures, author guides, promotional stickers and corporate CDs to visitors to the stand. Press staff also engaged with prospective authors and colleagues on possible manuscripts for publication and also highlighted the role of the HSRC Press in opening access to quality social science in Africa and the world. The Press also promoted various titles at a variety of seminars and discussion forums. More than 300 publishers, librarians, academics, teachers, NGOs and others working in the publishing industry participated in the

trade and professional day of events organised by Cape Town Book Fair. Some of the events in which the HSRC Press participated, included seminars for librarians, discussions on buying and selling of rights, digital publishing and eBooks, introduction to various African markets, as well as a buyers and sellers networking forum.

Various meetings were held with HSRC Press partners such as CODESRIA and fellow scholarly publishers to explore possible co-publication deals and other forms of future collaboration.

At the conclusion of the book fair, the HSRC Press was thrilled to be announced as the winner of the best small publishers stand at the 2010 Cape Town Book Fair. The Director of the Cape Town Book Fair, Claudia Kaiser, presented the Press with a certificate of achievement and highlighted how impressed she was with the design, creativity, messaging and functionality of the Press stand.

HSRC welcomes two Canadian interns

The HSRC has enjoyed a very dynamic partnership with The Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and Dalhousie University for the past six years. The partnership started off when the two institutions co-directed the Inaugural International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS (IIGHA), held in June 2004 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Since 2004, the two organizations have signed a memorandum of understanding that outlines key areas of partnership, including capacity building on issues relating to gender and HIV/AIDS through internships and faculty exchanges. We have also collaborated on a number of research grant proposals, on workshops and gender themes at international conferences, and on publications and

conference proceedings. Through the joint application and placement of interns at our institution we have consolidated the partnership as well as our work in the area of gender.

Out of this collaboration the following publications have developed:

- Gender Mainstreaming in HIV/AIDS - 7th AIDS Impact 2005
- Skills-building for Gender Mainstreaming - 3rd SAHARA Conference 2005
- Exploring the challenges of HIV/AIDS - International AIDS Conference 2006

We have also seen the exchange of six interns funded by CIDA as part of the partnership agreement. Currently we have two interns

based in our Cape Town offices: James Hamilton Harding and Katharine Hagerman. Below are their reflections on their placement in South Africa.

James Hamilton Harding



I arrived in early July, during the final mad

HSRC welcomes two Canadian interns

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week of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Finals, and will be staying until December. As an intern in the Human and Social Development unit, I will be working primarily with Dr Sharlene Swartz on research dealing with gender, youth, citizenship and poverty. We have already co-authored and submitted for review a paper on youth and belonging in post-apartheid South Africa based on the findings of Dr. Swartz's book *Ikasi* and other recent studies.

My major project while at HSRC will be the design and implementation of a framework for collaborative and transformative research surrounding gender issues in the context of poverty. Drawing from Dr Swartz previous book *Teenage Tata*, which brought the voices and stories of young fathers from the townships around Cape Town to light, I will be exploring the possibilities of research and intervention methods to foment positive changes in the lived experience of young men as well as their families, partners and peers.

In a funding and planning environment increasingly interested in the lives of men, I believe it is essential to maintain gender equality, and specifically the wellbeing and empowerment of women, as a primary aim in any intervention. In this effort, I will be collaborating with NGOs and other practitioners around Cape Town to build consensus around research and programmatic initiatives dealing with men's lives to support the goal of gender equality.

Recently, I completed an MSc in Gender, Development and Globalisation at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

My major research interests are gender in conflict contexts, access to justice, masculinities, and the link between theory, research and practices. My Master's dissertation examined the construction of masculinity in the Western Balkans as a cause and consequence of enduring gender-based violence and the gendered atrocities of the Post-Yugoslav Wars. I'm hoping to build on this research during my time in South Africa, as well as continue to enjoy this wonderful country.

Katharine Hagerman



I was lucky to arrive at the beginning of July, just as the World Cup was finishing, receiving a memorable introduction to South Africa.

My research interests focus on understanding how community-led interventions can impact the social determinants of HIV/AIDS and my

work at the HSRC is focused on exploring these relationships. I recently completed a Master's in Public Health, wherein I led a participatory research and evaluation study that examined the role played by community ownership in the success of an HIV/AIDS intervention in a Maasai community in North-Central Kenya.

In my short time at the HSRC, I've worked on a number of projects. I will be analyzing the 2008 South African national HIV household survey results (SABSSM III for short), to look at a number of variables related to community-level participation and factors of HIV/AIDS risk and vulnerability.

As part of a formative focus-group study team for the upcoming SABSSM IV survey, I am facilitating focus groups in Cape Town and Durban, collaboratively analyzing the data and contributing to reporting and discussions to inform decisions about how the survey will be conducted.

In addition, I am writing an article for submission to a peer-reviewed journal based on my previous work in Kenya, and will produce short articles for public dissemination in South Africa and in Canada about my ongoing work at the HSRC. I would like to thank the International Liaison Office, the research programme on HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB (HAST) for the warm welcome to South Africa. I look forward to the next few months of working with this team and getting to know the surrounding Cape Town area.



Katharine and James engaging with HAST colleagues during Katharine's presentation on the role played by community ownership in the success of an HIV/AIDS intervention in a Maasai community in North-Central Kenya.