

HSRC International Brief

Vol. 5 No. 1 June 2011

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

BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT IN NORWAY

Professor Leickness Simbayi, head of the HAST programme and Professor Thobeka Mda, of the Capacity Enhancement unit, attended the Expanded Joint Committee of the South Africa-Norway Programme Meeting on 17 February 2011 and was also invited to attend some of the bilateral projects in Bergen the following day.

The meeting was co-hosted by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the Research Council of Norway on behalf of the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Education and Research of Norway.

Professor Simbayi was part of an eight-person South African delegation and an HIV/AIDS expert.



Page 2

Re-introducing the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa



The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) recently underwent a restructuring process to ensure that all research programmes and activities are well-integrated and streamlined to be able to effectively tackle the development challenges set by government and inter-national development agencies.

The HSRC was established in 1968 as South Africa's statutory research agency. It has since grown to be the largest dedicated research institute on the social sciences and humanities on the African continent, often doing cutting-edge research in areas that are crucial to development.

Page 2

Methodology workshop hosted by the Association of African Universities (AAU) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)



The Association of African Universities (AAU) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) hosted a methodology workshop for a team of researchers from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ghana, and Cameroon in Accra from 24 to 28 January 2011. The team's research focused on improving the quality and relevance of university research within national innovation systems of West - and Central Africa. This is the first such study of its kind in this part of Africa.

Page 3

From page 1

We conduct large-scale social and humanities research for public-sector users, non-governmental organisations and international development agencies.

Appropriately, our research activities and structures are policy-relevant and therefore closely aligned with South Africa's national development priorities. The most notable of these are poverty reduction through economic development, skills enhancement, job creation, education, the well-being of children and families, and the promotion of democracy, good governance and effective service delivery.

Another large research area covers the behavioural and social aspects of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, TB, and other health issues that affect the population. We also contribute to the better understanding and use of health care systems and health financing in South Africa and the African continent.

The HSRC's collaborative approach to research enables productive and beneficial interaction with research experts in South Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), elsewhere in Africa, and outside the continent.

A balance is always sought between the undertaking of contract and commissioned research for users on one hand and more fundamental enquiry on the other. More information on our users and funders is available on <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/Document-3816.phtml>.

Our research outputs include reports for users, occasional papers, and scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals and books. These are disseminated in print and online through the HSRC Press (www.hsrcpress.co.za), an extensive research output database on our website (www.hsrc.ac.za) policy briefs aimed at government and policy makers, the media, conferences, seminars, public lectures and through our extensive research networks.

Our 150 dedicated professional research-

ers, located in four provinces in South Africa, undertake between 160 and 180 research projects per year, of which many are long-term research contracts stretching over several years.

Our researchers are supported by a strong physical and institutional infrastructure, including technical and support positions, deployed countrywide to enable the organisation to respond efficiently and comprehensively to current and emerging research needs.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND ACTION

On another level, the HSRC seeks to serve as a knowledge hub to bridge the gap between research, policy and action, thereby increasing the impact of research. This role is implemented through collaboration with key constituencies, including government and other research organisation, multinational agencies, universities, non-government and donor and development organisations.

RESEARCH STRUCTURE

The following research programmes provide a firm foundation for the undertaking, promoting and coordinating of research efforts in the social sciences and humanities. They also allow the HSRC to provide single points of entry - complete with a critical mass of researchers - for interdisciplinary, systematic reviewed, problem-orientated research in these areas.

Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery (DGSD) proposes strategies for intervention which will assist our nation's policy decision makers to make informed decisions and choices that will propel South Africa's new democracy forwards.

Economic Performance and Development (EPD) aims through improved knowledge of the spatial economy to create a dynamic growth path that redresses previous inequalities and creates an improved life for all South Africans.

Education and Skills Development (ESD) contributes to the development of educated, skilled and capable South Africans, redressing inequalities in society and motivating an inclusive growth path for all South Africans.

HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB (HAST) undertakes research on socio-epidemiological determinants of these infections, their implications, and potential preventative measures to mitigate their effects in sub-Saharan Africa, especially South Africa.

Human and Social Development (HSD) promotes research concerning the social conditions and identity markers that shape people's life opportunities and promote social cohesion in the midst of ongoing and dynamic change.

Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation (PHHSI) conducts primary and secondary research on health, science, technology and innovation, which enables evidence-based decision making by our partners working in different sectors.

These programmes provide a firm foundation for the undertaking, promoting and coordinating of research efforts in the social sciences and humanities. They also allow the HSRC to provide single points of entry - complete with a critical mass of researchers - for interdisciplinary, systematic reviewed, problem-orientated research in these areas.

RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND IMPACT

Work in various areas has been consolidated into a new unit called **Research Use and Impact Assessment**. The unit aims to improve data curation and improved research uptake by expanding the organisation's research dissemination, enhance our utilisation of new media, and work together with HSRC Press to increase its reach. This unit will lead the expansion of the HSRC's portfolio of work in impact assessment.

For further information and contact details, go to www.hsrc.ac.za

BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT IN NORWAY

From page 1

The Expanded Joint Committee Meeting reviewed all five-year projects between the two countries that were coming to an end. Recommendations were made for

funding the next five-year cycle of collaborative projects between South African and Norwegian researchers. The new call for proposals for funding through this bilateral

mechanism will be shared with all research institutions in South Africa.

From page 1

Methodology workshop hosted by the Association of African Universities (AAU) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

The organisers invited Professor Jo Lorenzen from the programme on Education and Skills Development (ESD) as a resource to introduce the national innovation systems framework and discuss appropriate

research methodology and instruments with the group. Jo also explored opportunities to link this project with ESD's research on the developmental role of universities in the SADC countries and beyond,

led by Glenda Kruss.

It is with extreme sadness that the HSRC notes the loss of Prof. Jo Lorenzen who passed away in February 2011.

Training 21st Century mathematics teachers

The first of two major capacity building and enrichment workshops on preparing for a research project on training mathematics teachers took place between 22 and 25 March 2011 in Durban.



Participants listening attentively during one of the sessions

The workshop, conducted by the HSRC's programme on Education and Skills Development with the Michigan State University (MSU) as partners, was also aimed at exchanging ideas on how to tackle the project, known as the MT21 study. The study entails research into five South African universities to find out how they train mathematics teachers for general education and training, as well as for the further education and training bands.

The study has the support of Chief Director Dr Di Parker, of teaching development, Department of Higher Education and Training.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop mainly focused on sharing the following major research skills:

- The conceptual and methodological framework of the MT21 study, which was geared toward seasoned researchers; and
- Data coding targeting mainly research trainees.

The workshop was attended by HSRC researchers and interns, MSU researchers, and representatives of the five participating universities, namely Tshwane University of Technology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of Fort Hare and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

STUDY IMPORTANCE

The MT21 study is important on a number of levels:

- It builds on another international study, the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), also led by HSRC. The countries participating in the MT21 study have been chosen because they rank high, middle or low in the TIMSS study while South Africa falls in the lower ranking category.
- The study is ground breaking as the first large-scale international study to examine how future mathematics teachers are prepared. It examines links between teacher education policies, practices and outcomes. For the participating universities, there are several benefits; they are presented with an opportunity to conduct research on their own teacher education programmes and systems and to learn from other universities and other countries. It has a strong capacity development opportunity for researchers and the potential to create space for more studies, as well as publishing projects.



Professor P. Nkhoma head of Mathematics faculty at TUT making a university presentation

Launch of policy and research briefs

The HSRC in partnership with George Washington University is launching a set of policy and research briefs to highlight current research conclusions to the widest set of stakeholders.



One of the first in this series, *Decisive action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, captured key issues in improving the lives of people in southern Africa through implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The need for change, as identified in progress towards key MDGs, is most urgent in southern Africa, but the opportunities for improvement are also the

greatest. There is a mixture of hope and realism as the target date of 2015 approaches.

The research, funded by the Southern African Trust, is directed towards the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and constituent governments. It concludes that in a number of MDG targets

were approached but that the pace of change in others was too slow. In a minority of targets there was no progress. The intention of the southern African researchers in producing the brief was to engage SADC and governments in research initiatives to support regional initiatives that could encourage interventions to bring the MDG to realisation in 2015.

Consultation on alcohol and HIV prevention



Prof. Simbayi

Professor Leickness Simbayi attended the three-day PEPFAR Southern & Eastern Africa technical consultation that explored approaches to alcohol risk reduction programming in sub-Saharan Africa, with input from WHO, PEPFAR, national governments, non-governmental programmes, and subject matter experts. The consultation, that was held from 12 - 14 April 2011 in Windhoek, Namibia, provided an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange and promote best practices for reducing alcohol-associated sexual risk behaviour.

Representatives from 16 African countries attended. Prof. Simbayi made two presentations, one keynote on research and epidemiology entitled *Alcohol and HIV: epidemiology in Africa and research updates* and the other on programmatic approaches entitled *"The Phaphama brief risk reduction intervention to reduce both alcohol use and HIV/STI risks in clinical and community settings*.

African Diaspora and African descendants in the Caribbean

The UN declared 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent. The year also marks the bicentennial of independence in several countries in Latin America, a region with approximately 150 million people of African descent, representing about one-third of the total population.

Drawing on these important commemorative efforts the South-South Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS), in collaboration with the Institute

of Caribbean Studies, University of Cartagena, hosted a three-day conference in March 2011, entitled 'Equity, Justice, Development: People of African Descent in Latin America in Comparative Perspective.

The HSRC was represented by Diana Sanchez, who presented a paper on The Economic Empowerment of African Descendants: lessons from South Africa's Black Economic Empowerment Strategy. The conference provided participants with an

opportunity to assess the progress of people of African descent over the last 200 years, especially in multi-ethnic societies in Latin America where they still form an ethnic minority.

For the HSRC, the gathering offered a space to establish important networks with the academic African Diaspora in the Americas and Afro-descendent academic communities in the Caribbean. SEPHIS intends to publish in Spanish some of the papers and conclusions towards the end of the year.

HSRC Press focuses on Africa

The HSRC recently launched the first edition of its latest publication titled, Africa Focus.

This publication will serve to:

- provide a platform for a discourse on Africa by Africans
- include the view of emerging African scholars
- be multi-disciplinary in its perspective
- focus on governance with subthemes on the state, knowledge production, resources, economics and livelihoods,

public health, and Africa in a global perspective.

To underscore both the concept of the series and the themes of the 1st edition, it was titled Africa in Focus: Governance in the 21st century on Africa day, 25 May 2011.

The launch was well attended by representatives from the following embassies: Republic of Ghana, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Egypt. Several

government departments sent representatives and other organisations represented were the World Health Organization (WHO), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as well as the Youth Development Agency (YDA).



Missouri University visits the HSRC



The HSRC hosted 30 staff members from Missouri University on 27 May from various fields and disciplines. The HSRC used the

opportunity to show case and share information on some of our flagship projects undertaken in the following programmes:

1. HIV/AIDS, STIs, TB and Health,
2. Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation
3. Economic Performance and Development
4. Human and Social Development

Missouri has a very vibrant relationship with universities in South Africa and it was agreed

that we will look at possible areas of cooperation.



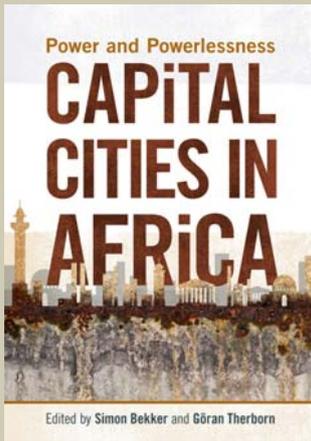
HSRC Exhibits at 5th South African AIDS Conference



The 5th South African AIDS Conference took place in Durban from 7 - 10 June 2011. The theme of the conference was Leadership, Delivery and Accountability and gave participants the opportunity to reflect on what has been done to date and the failure of comprehensively responding to HIV/AIDS.

The HSRC used the opportunity to exhibit and disseminate some of our key reports and surveys to the participants at the conference. Key staff members also chaired sessions and participated in panel and satellite sessions.

Fresh off the HSRC Press



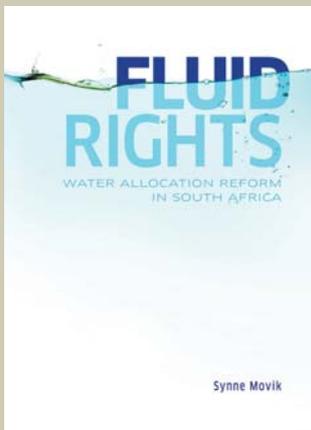
Capital Cities in Africa

Power and powerlessness

Simon Bekker and Göran Therborn (Editors)

ISBN: 978-0-7969-2350-9

This volume focuses on capital cities in nine sub-Saharan African countries, and traces how the power vested in them has evolved through different colonial backgrounds, radically different kinds of regimes after independence, waves of popular protest, explosive population growth and in most cases stunted economic development. Starting at the point of national political emancipation, each case study explores the complicated processes of nation-state building through its manifestation in the 'urban geology' of the city - its architecture, iconography, layout and political use of urban space. Although the evolution of each of these cities is different, they share a critical demographic feature: an extraordinarily rapid process of urbanisation that is more politically than economically driven. Overwhelmed by the inevitable challenges resulting from this urban sprawl, the governments seated in most of these capital cities are in effect both powerful - wielding power over their populace - and powerless, lacking power to implement their plans and to provide for their inhabitants.



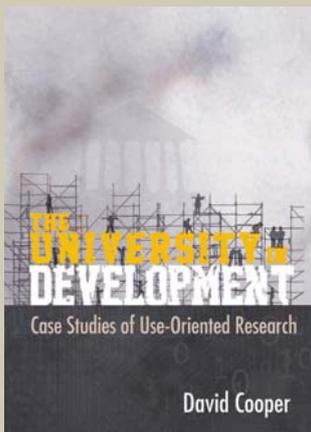
Fluid Rights

Water allocation reform in South Africa

Synne Movik

ISBN: 978-0-7969-2353-0

This book gets to grips with the complexities of policy change in South Africa, asking how evolving doctrines and policies shape the way water use rights are conceptualised and governed. It offers an historical overview of the evolution of water resources policy and legislation, before going on to explore in-depth the process of formulating the Water Allocation Reform policy. This is then contrasted with an 'on-the-ground' case study that brings into relief the dynamics occurring at the policy level. The book offers a new perspective that emphasises the discursive construction of rights - how different principles are privileged in diverging discourses around scarcity, equity, efficiency and sustainability, and how such 'allocation discourses' are transformed at the local level by new processes of politics and power. The book sets these processes within the wider context of political and economic change in South Africa, and draws lessons for the broader experience of water policy and legislation in an international context. The book is aimed towards researchers, policymakers and practitioners and a broader international readership interested in water policy and development.



The University in Development

Case studies of use-oriented research

David Cooper

ISBN: 978-0-7969-2347-9

A seminal study, *The University in Development* explores how the university is indeed 'in development': pursuing a new 'third' mission of external societal development (alongside its two existing missions of teaching and research), and experiencing a major internal revolution as this impacts on its structural organisation. Already prevalent in many institutions internationally, this third academic mission has begun to pose troubling challenges to existing academic research cultures and systems in South Africa.

Emerging from an extended longitudinal study, *The University in Development* provides a powerful analysis of the complex nexus of transformation occurring between universities and the rapidly changing global society of which they form a part. Embedded within the book is a central theoretical claim: that driving this new international transformation within universities is a global post-1970s new capitalist industrial revolution, with economies seeking out use-inspired basic research at universities in order to survive and grow within the competitive international market. The analysis thus provides new understandings of current concepts of 'globalisation', 'use-oriented' research, 'knowledge society and economy', and 'national system of innovation'.

The book is structured in three parts. While the first considers case studies of this academic transformation globally, the second part homes in on new research centres at Western Cape universities to examine the combination of creativity and disruption arising as this third academic mission evolves in South Africa. Part 3 argues that new visions, concepts and policies of research are needed, if our universities are to unlock their 'knowledges' for societal development, with greater social justice not only for industry but also for civil society.

The University in Development will be of interest to scholars in the fields of higher education, innovation studies and the sociology of knowledge, and is of critical relevance to policy-makers.