

HSRC International Brief

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World Social Science Forum 2015 comes to Africa

The next World Social Science Forum (WSSF) will, for the first time, take place on the African continent in Durban, South Africa, from 13 – 16 September 2015.

The Forum is a global event of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and brings together researchers and stakeholders to address current global issues and future priorities for the social sciences. It promotes innovative and cross-disciplinary work, cross-science collaborations in the natural and human sciences, and engagement with donors and decision makers in the science community.

Professor Olive Shisana, former President of the International Social Science Council and CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council, will chair WSSF 2015, with the theme *Transforming Global Relations for a Just World*. A broad range of topics will be addressed, many of which are open to multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches. The topics will include global inequalities as it relates to governance; patterns of production and consumption; cultural exchanges; quality health and education; climate change and adaptation; and human rights and social justice.

In organising the 2015 World Social Science Forum, CODESRIA and the HSRC will be joined by a consortium of universities and research centres from across the African continent.

For further information on the WSSF 2015, go to

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/events/events/WSSF2015> or <http://www.wssf2015.org>.

World Social Science Forum 2013 key papers published

The HSRC and its partner organisations, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), presented their research at the World Social Science Forum held in Montreal, Canada. The theme of the conference was *Social transformations and the digital age*. Seven articles, based on papers delivered during joint panel sessions, were published in a special edition of the *HSRC Review*. The papers cover a wide range of topics, such as citizen engagement through the internet; the successes achieved by home owners using social media; transformation through human rights films; an analysis of how the media reports on Africa; access to ICTs in rural areas; the social dynamics of innovation for rural development, and social media's role in democracy.

To download, visit: <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/hsrcreviewMarch>.

MoU signed with colleagues in Uganda



Dr Khangelani Zuma (L), Uganda Technology and Management University chancellor Venansius Baryamureeba (2nd R) and other university officials.

The HSRC and the University of Limpopo (UL) joined forces with Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU) to undertake educational activities in a bid to improve the quality of higher education on the continent. The consortium will develop a specialised PhD programme.

Dr Khangelani Zuma, an executive director at the HSRC and adjunct professor in the School of Business and Management of Uganda Technology and Management University, will be involved in teaching, research, innovation and engagement activities.

Hasselt University



Dr Zuma is also involved in an on-going collaboration with Hasselt University. He was a speaker at the International Workshop entitled, *Modelling Infectious Diseases in Uganda and Africa - Current status and future challenges*, and also attended the first international meeting of the International Biometric Society (IBS), held in Uganda. The workshop focused on infectious diseases modelling and in particular on applications of such modelling in Africa. The workshop provided a platform to discuss the most up-to-date modelling methods for several diseases such as malaria, air borne diseases and HIV/AIDS. As part of this collaboration, Dr Zuma presented a joint workshop at Jimma University, Ethiopia, convened by Hasselt University.

Monash University



Prof. Olive Shisana was conferred the degree of Doctor of Law honoris causa on 15 February 2014, at Monash University, South Africa.

The Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aubrey Redelinghuis, introduced Prof. Shisana in his reading as ‘an experienced public health professional with a wealth of research, management and policy development experience. Her vast local and international experience has been instrumental in her expansive career, spanning over 30 years.’

In her acceptance speech Prof. Shisana said that she was ‘thrilled and honoured to address graduates of one of the world’s most highly rated academic institutions’, saying that Monash University is regarded as one of the top 100 universities in the world and ranks 38 in clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences.

Building Collaboration Efforts

The HSRC and Mzumbe University, based in Tanzania, initiated discussions in December 2013 to establish a collaborative framework for joint research. On 17 March, an initial meeting was held with researchers from the two institutions to identify opportunities for working together. Researchers agreed on the following three areas:

- a) Democracy and governance,
- b) Economic performance and growth, and
- c) Public health and impact assessment.



Follow up discussions will take place to formalise the agreements.

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)



The HSRC's partnership with the AERC, led by Dr Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu, resulted in a joint policy dissemination workshop on 28 March. The workshop, entitled *Health, Productivity and Gender* was a policy dialogue on the socioeconomic effects of health, aimed at spurring on discussion and disseminate policy messages drawn from a few interesting studies on health.

Three studies were presented. In the first study, Prof Nicholas Ngepah addressed the issues of life expectancy and economic productivity in South Africa. The study examined the relationship between health (as measured by life expectancy) and productivity in various economic and statistical frameworks, controlling for quality of life with HIV and AIDS.

The second study was carried out by the HSRC's Economic Performance and Development programme in conjunction with Prof. Miracle Benhura of Wits University. Using robust methods, it investigated whether South African women have worse health conditions than their male counterparts.

The third study was carried out by the HSRC's HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB research programme. The study is conducted every three years since 2002 and is used as a yardstick to measure the prevalence of HIV, behaviour and attitudes towards people living with HIV.

International Federation of Library Associations



Participants at the International Federation of Library Associations training workshop

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) funded a four-days training on building strong library association in Africa. It took place in Kumasi, Ghana from the 11- 14 February. Segametsi Molawa, head of the HSRC's Information Services (IS), the president elect of the Library and Information association of South Africa (LIASA), and Ujala Satgoor of Rhodes University, the president, were invited to join the training team from IFLA to facilitate the skills sharing and success stories of LIASA.

Amidst the challenges of Public Libraries being burned down and budgets reduced, there has been a significant development in various areas of libraries in South Africa through the direct or indirect support of LIASA.

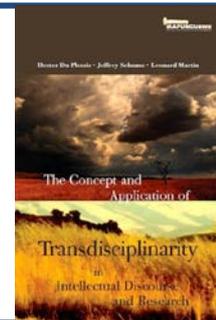
Major issues in the training were:

- Focus areas in building strong library associations
- External fundraising for libraries
- Maximising access to information
- Information literacy to various clientele
- The librarian of the 21st century

The following 15 African countries participated in the training: Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, South Africa, Mauritius, Zambia, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, and Namibia. As an outcome, the teams are now enjoying ongoing information sharing and bench marking of good practice for the development of libraries in their countries.

MISTRA

The HSRC and the Mapungubwe Institute for Social Reflection (MISTRA) have been working together since 2012, with Dr Hester du Plessis leading the partnership. She is a fellow at MISTRA and lead author of a book launched in 2013 titled: *The concept and application of transdisciplinarity in intellectual discourse and research*. The book has received good reviews internationally. In addition, Hester and MISTRA launched a new project with the title: *The Philosophy of China: rise, decline and rise of civilizations*.



UK Economic and Social Research Council and HSRC host Seminar on SAGE

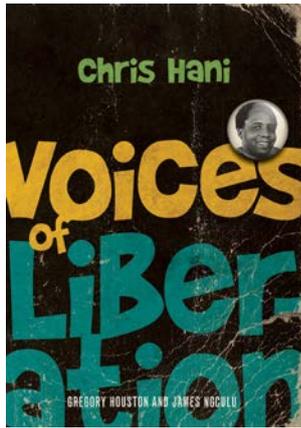


Peter Lloyd-Sherlock, Professor in Social Policy and International Development, School of International Development, University of East Anglia, presented a seminar at the HSRC on 4 February, entitled *Pensions and the health of older people in South Africa: is there an effect?* Prof. Pamela Naidoo from the Population Health, Health Systems and Innovation research programme was a discussant.

The seminar focussed on the World Health Organisation's Survey of Global Ageing and Adult Health (SAGE), which provides nationally representative data for the health and wellbeing of people aged 50 and over in South Africa and five other countries. The presentation examined SAGE data with particular reference to hypertension prevalence, awareness, treatment and control among older people. It considered the social determinants of these health outcomes, and paid particular attention to the potential effects of old age grants in South Africa.

Prof. Naidoo highlighted the fact that the results of a study by the HSRC, the South African National Health and Nutrition Survey, (SANHANES I) is probably the only national survey that can serve as a comparative measure to SAGE. However, it is important to remember that the methodology of the two surveys is not exactly the same. A similar trend was found in SAGE and SANHANES I in that the prevalence of hypertension increases as people get older. It is, therefore, important to pay special attention to the health of this vulnerable age group and more especially pensioners by enabling them to access health care, having regular health screening and most importantly making health care affordable. To access the presentations from the seminar visit:

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/events/seminars/pensions-2014>.



Hot off the Press

Voices of Liberation

Chris Hani

By Gregory Houston and James Ngculu

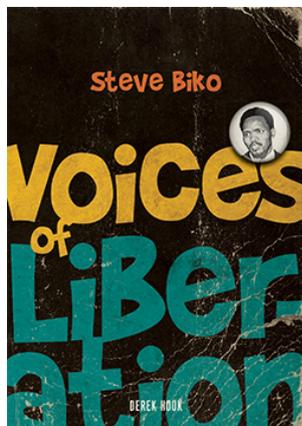
What the book is about

The Voices of Liberation series celebrates the lives and writings of South African and African liberation activists and heroes. The human, social and literary contexts presented in this series have a critical resonance and bearing on where we come from, who we are and how we can choose to shape our destiny.

This series ensures that the debates and values that shaped the liberation movement are not lost. The series offers a unique combination of biographical information with selections from original speeches and writings in each volume. By providing access to the thoughts and writings of some of the many men and women who fought for the dismantling of apartheid, colonialism and capitalist legacy, this series invites the contemporary reader to engage directly with the rich history of the struggle for democracy and the restoration of our own identity.

The title of the series has been carefully chosen as it speaks to its purpose – which is not only to make a particular voice resonate but to strengthen the voice from the South and Africa in particular.

Chris Hani was a key figure in the South African liberation struggle, yet little has been written about this enigmatic leader of the SACP and Chief of Staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe. The year 2013, marks the 20 year anniversary of his assassination and HSRC Press views the publication of this book as extremely important, not only to commemorate his death but to highlight the principles and values for which he stood. As Chief of Staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Chris Hani was prepared to support the cessation of the armed struggle in the interests of the negotiations which would benefit the country as a whole; he represents the importance of dialogue and the relationship between identity, agency, citizenship and social action. Chris Hani believed in restoring people to their humanity and the need is now greater perhaps than ever before to hear his voice loud and clear.



Voices of Liberation

Steve Biko

By Derek Hook

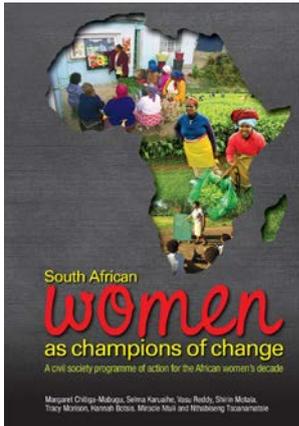
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Bantu Steve Biko is an icon of liberation whose voice and actions continue to contribute to the shaping of national discourse, identity, culture and values. HSRC Press views this as an extremely important contribution to the series, not least because he represents the importance of dialogue and the relationship between identity, agency, citizenship and social action. Steve Biko believed in restoring people to their humanity and the need is now greater perhaps than ever before to hear his voice loud and clear.



South African women as champions of change

By Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu, Selma Karuaihe, Vasu Reddy, Shirin Motala, Tracy Morison, Hannah Botsis, Miracle Ntuli and Nthabiseng Tsoanamatsie

What the book is about

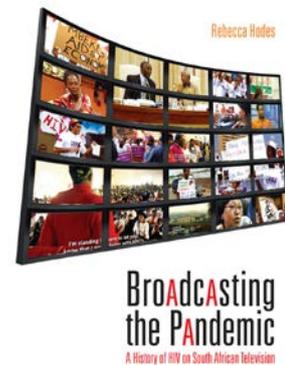
The publication of this book forms part of a civil society programme of action for the African Women's Decade, co-ordinated by South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID). It reports on the main issues facing South African women, namely: 1) poverty eradication in the context of gender; 2) early childhood development (ECD) in the context of gender; 3) violence against women; and 4) co-ordination of civil society initiatives. A fifth theme which cuts across all the others is employment creation.

Broadcasting the Pandemic

By Rebecca Hodes

What the book is about

Broadcasting the Pandemic tells the story of a South African television show, Beat It! Created during the aspirational years of the political transition in which the broadcast media were poised to democratize the airwaves, Beat It! was first screened on public television in 1999 and developed into one of the most powerful health education initiatives in contemporary history. Broadcasting the Pandemic traces the show's evolution, exploring how Beat It! used the medium of television to inform its viewers about HIV at a time of increasingly rapid infection rates, but in which government education and treatment campaigns were largely absent.



Broadcasting the Pandemic pioneers a new methodology in scholarship about South Africa – using a television programme to explore the history of AIDS activism and policy. It provides a contemporary history of television in South Africa, and of its role in the most influential social movement to have emerged from the democratic transition: the HIV activist movement. Its content will interest readers from a wide array of disciplines, including African Studies, journalism, public health, sociology, cultural studies and the history of medicine.