

Constitution @25: ill-being to well-being, fragmentation to social cohesion?

WEBINAR:

Date: 10 DECEMBER 2021
Time: 09h00-10h30 (SAST)



Lwando Xaso, Constitution Hill Trust
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Moderated by Mark Heywood



Our Fragile State



THE
NELSON
MANDELA
SCHOOL
of Public Governance



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



Sharlene Swartz
10 December 2021



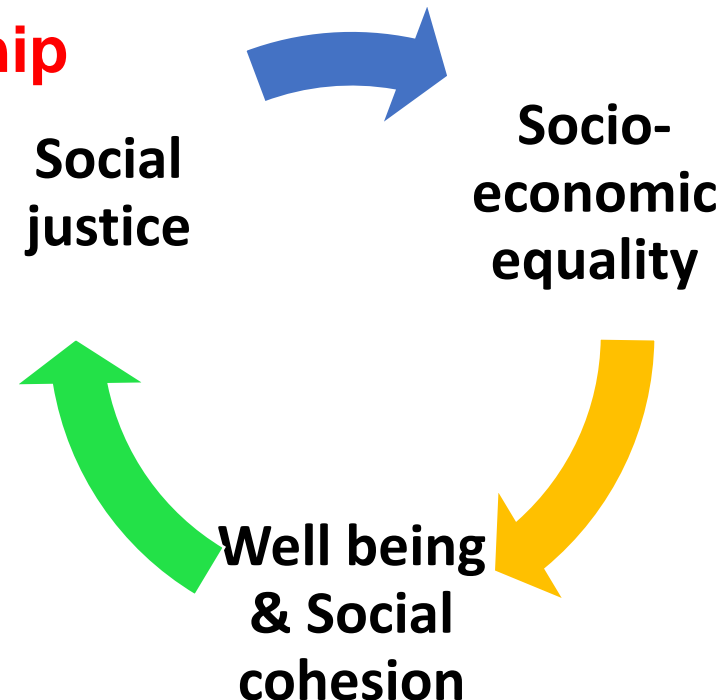
science & innovation
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. Social cohesion - a complex phenomena - **between people from different groups** and **between people and the state and its institutions.**

2. Social cohesion (and well being) depends on:

- The realisation of **socio-economic rights**
- The elimination of all forms of **discrimination**
- A strong sense of **active citizenship**

3. **Inequality** and levels of **violence** are associated – and are the enemy of social cohesion and well being



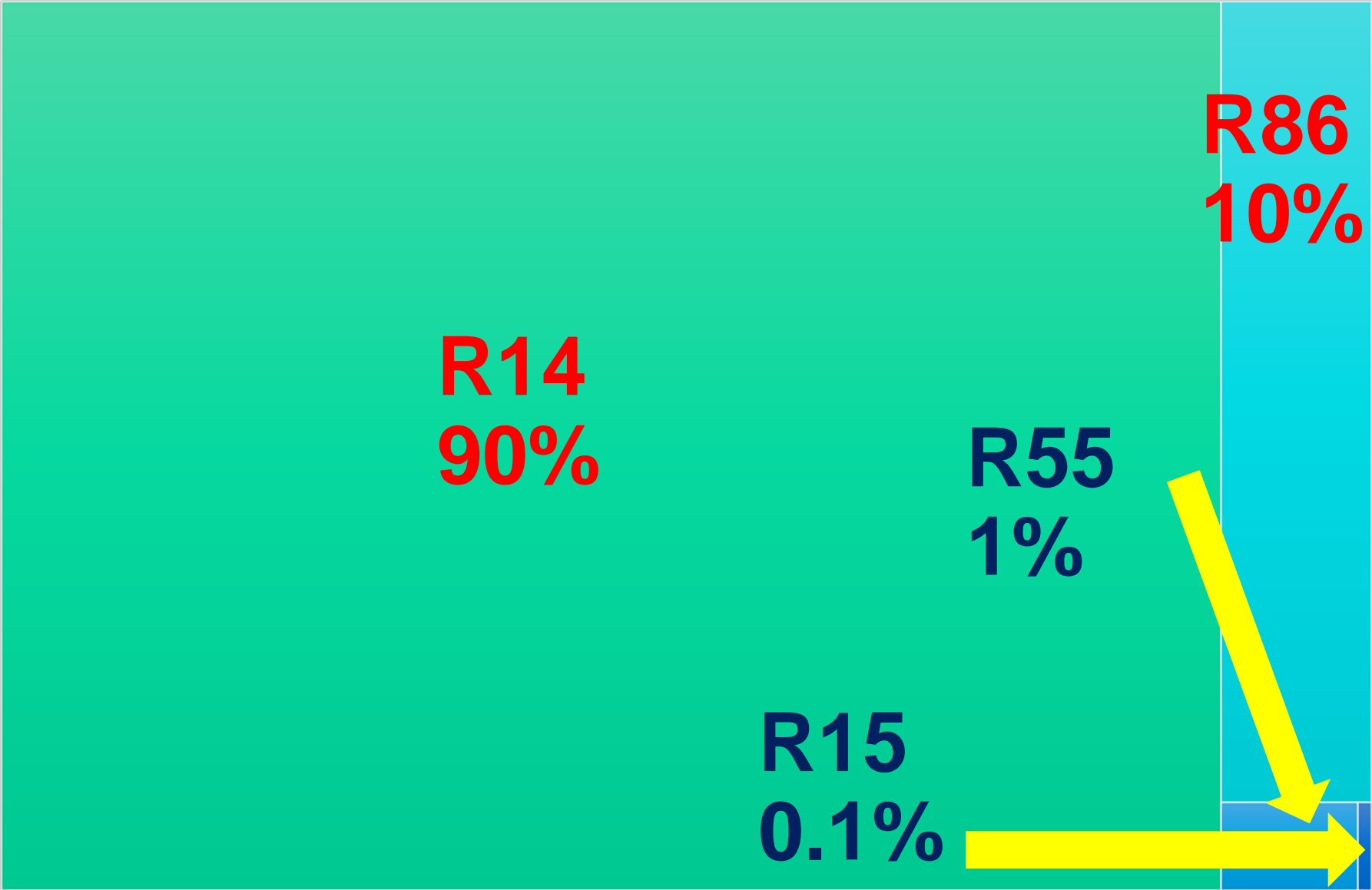
The background of the slide is a collage of various African national flags, including the South African flag, the Kenyan flag, and the Ethiopian flag. A large, solid blue geometric shape, resembling a triangle or a stylized arrow, is overlaid on the left side of the image. The text 'THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters within this blue shape.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

Inequality in SA – R100

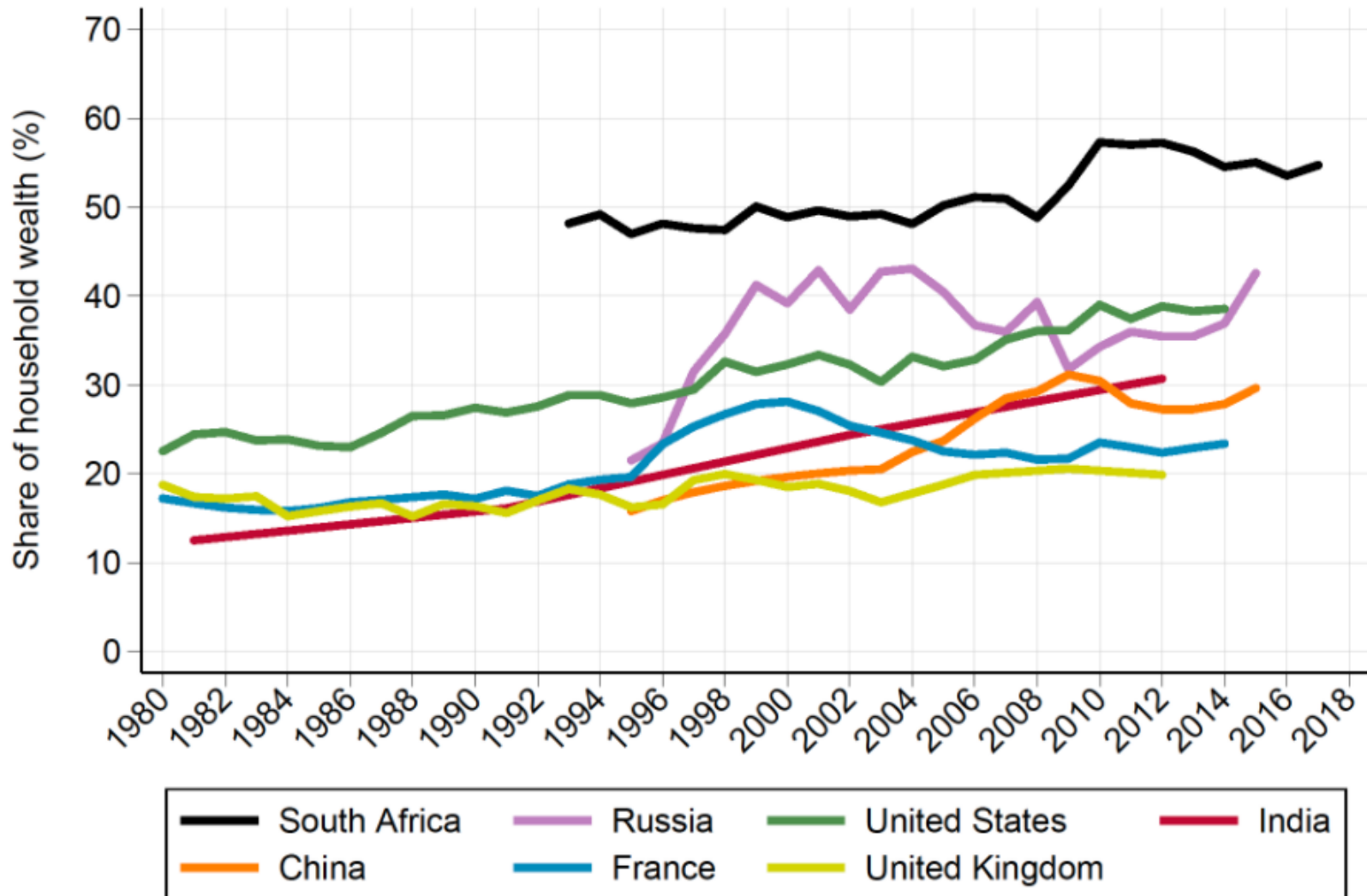


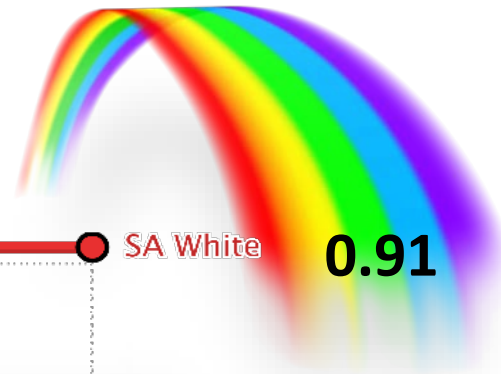
Inequality in SA – R100



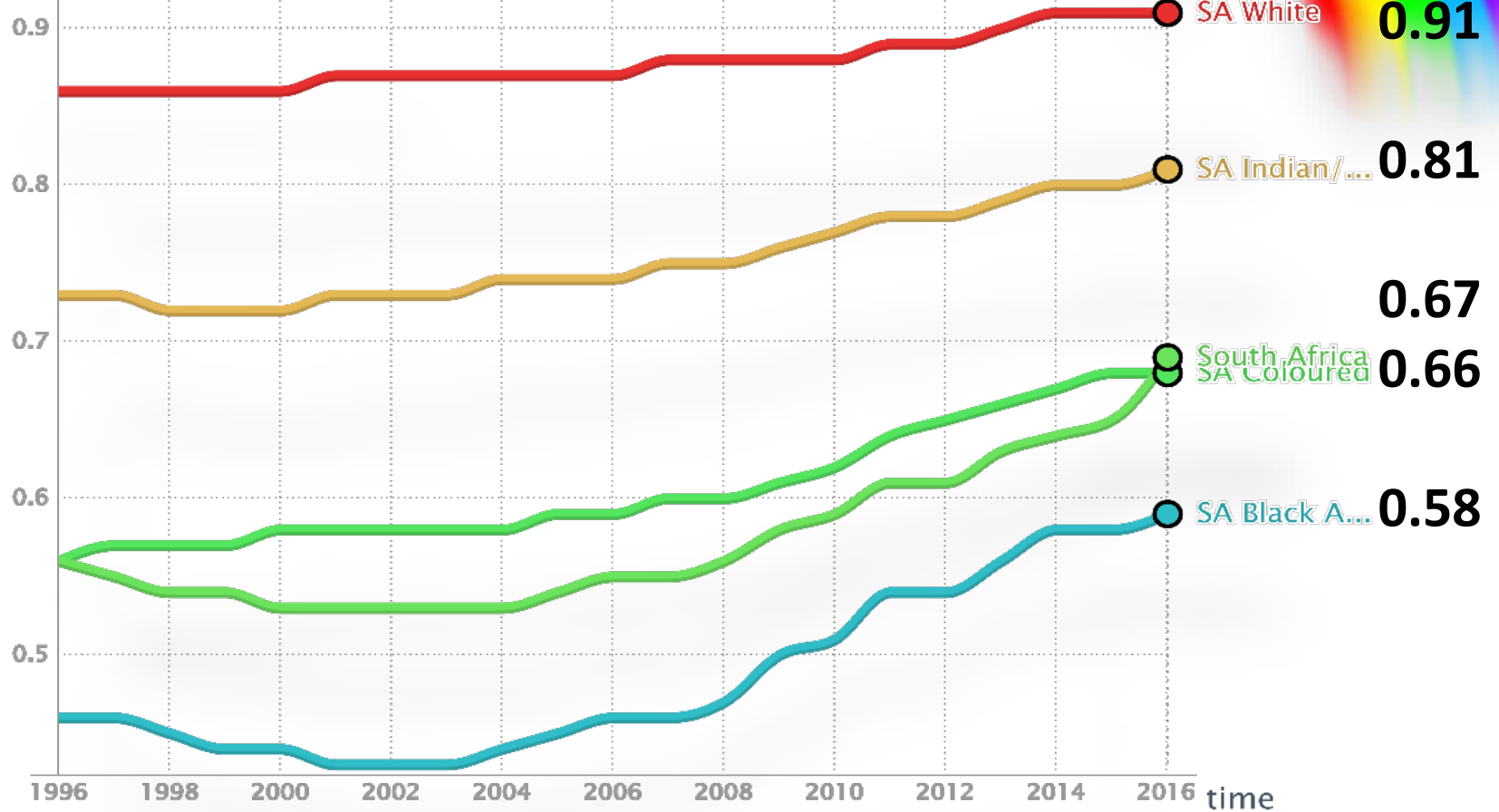
Inequality: SA v. rest of the world (Source: Chatterjee et al 2021)

Figure 1 South African inequality in comparative perspective: Top 1% wealth share

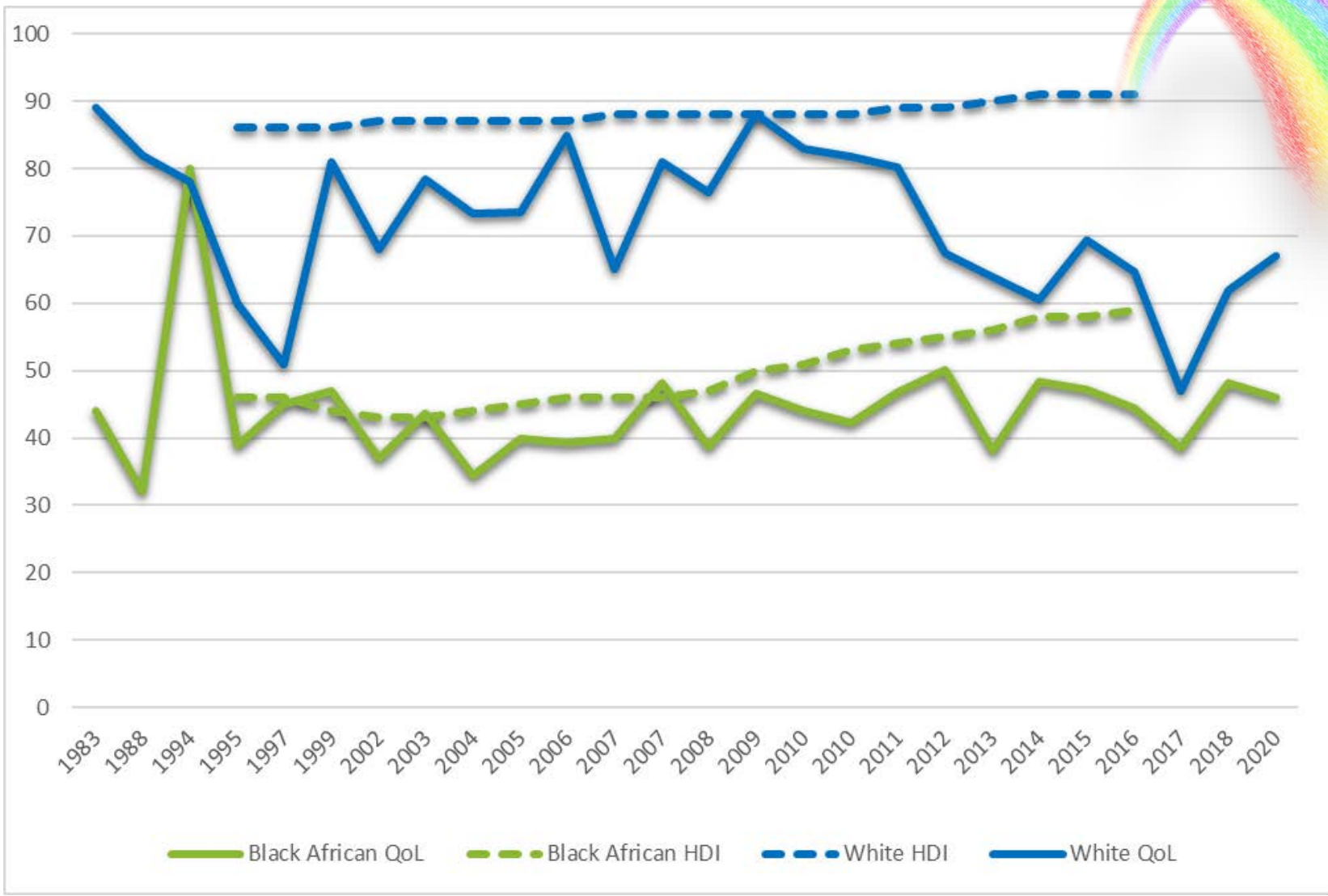
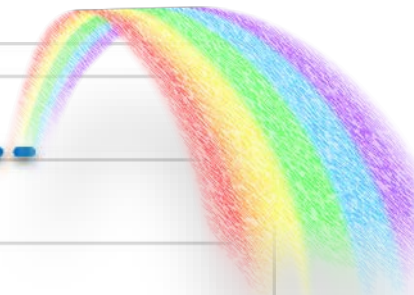




Human Development Index



Human Development in South Africa

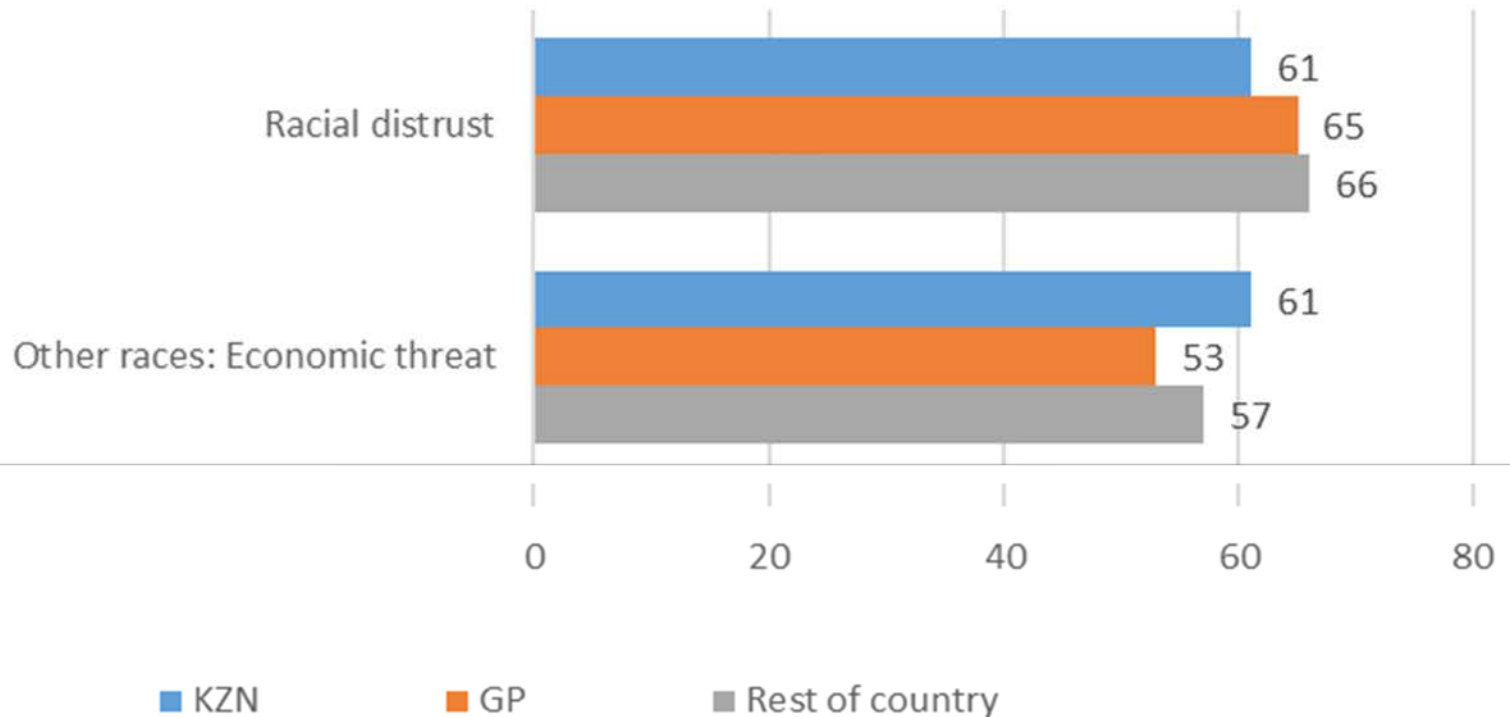


Quality of Life perceptions versus Human Development in South Africa

Social cohesion: racial mistrust, xenophobia and violence



Racial trust, economic threat (Source: SASAS 2020/21)



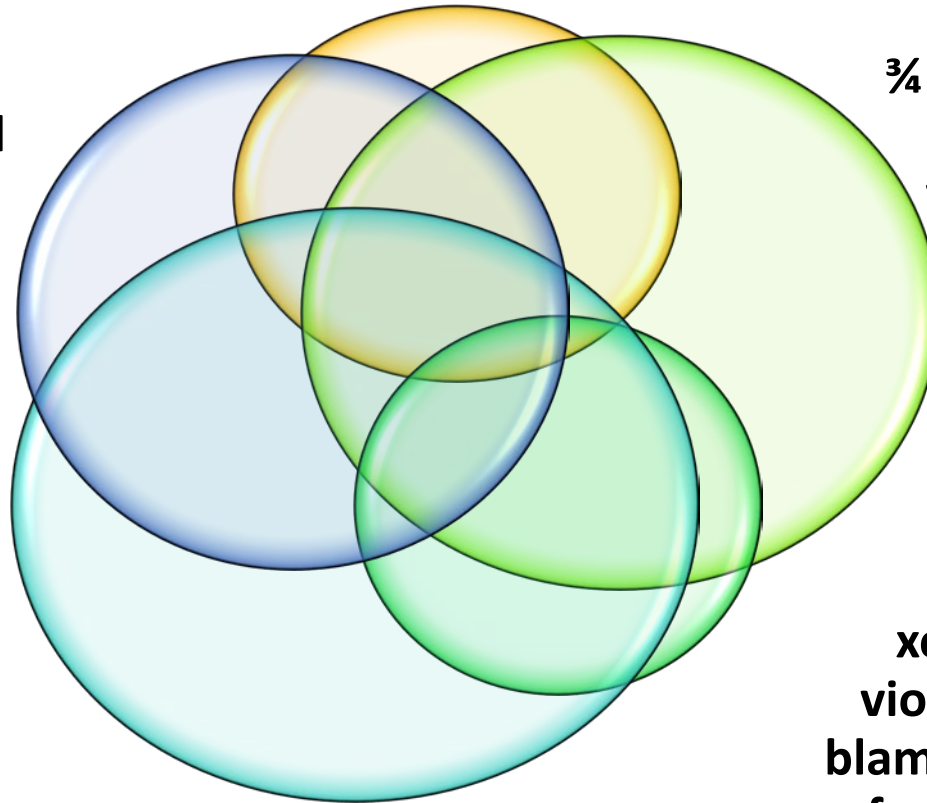
1. 2/3 say **they distrust people** of 'other races'
2. 57% see those from 'other race groups' as an **economic threat**
3. Also see 'others' as a **cultural threat**
4. Fairly consistent across provinces and time.

A history of outward directed violence...

**240,000-400,000
people participated in
homophobic violence
(2016, TOF/HSRC)**

**Militarily trained
men (aged 45+)**

**$\frac{3}{4}$ men complicit in
gender-based
violence (2016,
TOF/HSRC)**



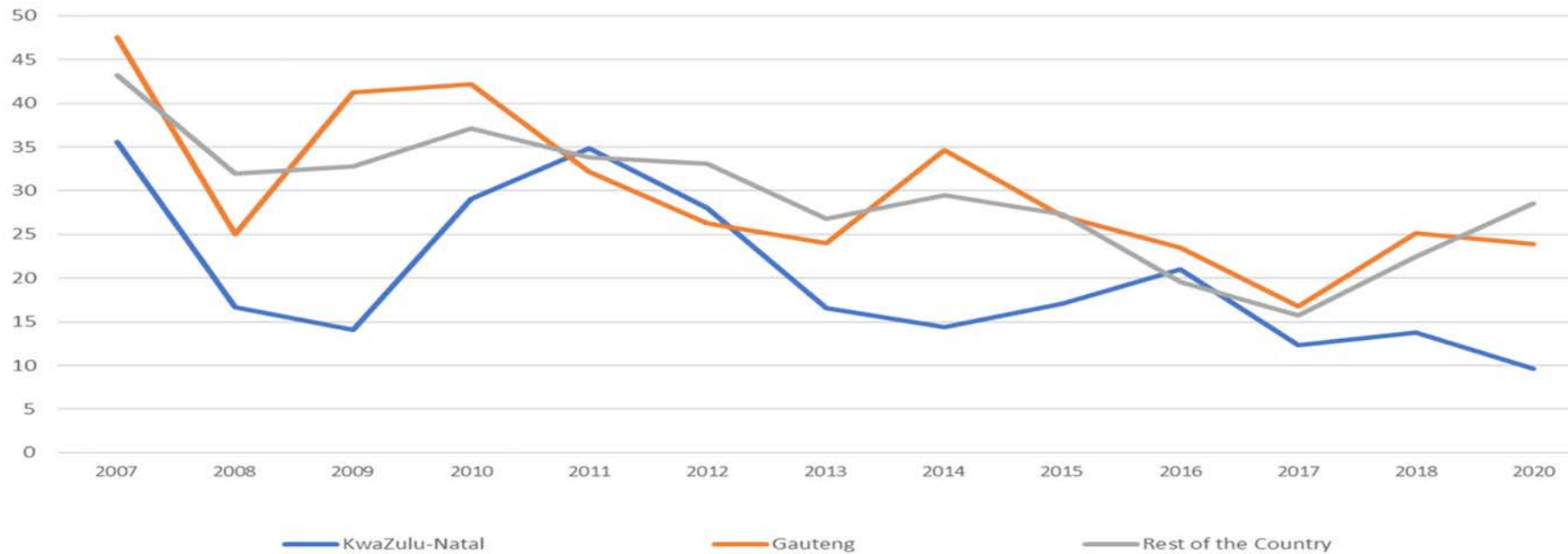
**Most violent
protests in the
world – increased 9
fold since
democracy**

**Ongoing
xenophobic
violence – 62%
blame immigrants
for taking jobs**

Anger and economic dissatisfaction

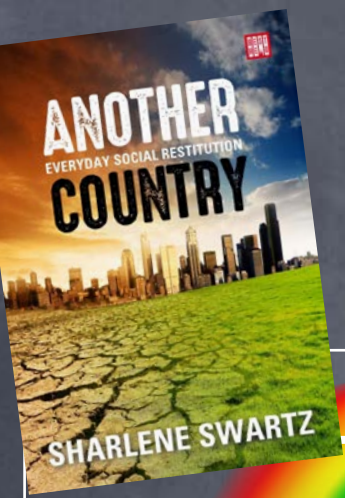


Economic satisfaction and beliefs about redistribution (SASAS: 2007-2020/1)



1. Economic satisfaction – dropped from a high of 47% in 2007 to 27% nationally; lowest in KZN at 10% in 2020/21
2. 70% of people believe that income differences between rich and poor are **too large** (2020/21)
3. 60% **demand** redistribution
4. 37% of South Africans are **angry** about income inequality

Views on Restitution (Source: SASAS 2017)



	<i>Agree</i>	
	Black	White
White South Africans must act to repair the past	60%	20%
Apartheid corruption should be investigated	56%	16%
A restitution tax	43%	8%
Small group discussions about restitution	56%	22%
Forget the past, move on	51%	76%

Do we
recognise the
fragility of our
social
compact?



Satisfaction with democracy (SASAS 2003-2020/1)

1. A downward trend in satisfaction with democracy in all provinces since the mid-2000s.
2. Upswing following Ramaphosa administration - muted in KZN.
3. Satisfaction in KZN fell from 53% in 2005 to an unprecedented low of 19% in 2020/21.



Institutional trust: Faith in government

South Africans have been losing faith in national government until 2017. In 2020/21 – 38% nationally (from a high of 72%), 20% in KZN and 30% in Gauteng.



Actions to make a big difference

OBVIOUS

1. Employment initiatives
2. Wealth tax and UBIG
3. National Youth Service Programme
4. Land Reform...

NON-OBVIOUS

1. Technological solutions to efficiencies
2. Public education campaign – gains, values, non-violent strategies for change
3. Urgent response to Zondo Com. report
4. Equality Court and SAHRC strengthened – to quash racial instigation, strengthen social cohesion
5. Strengthening existing policies (SETAs, BEE)...

