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Who we are

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) is South Africa's statutory research agency dedicated to the social sciences and is the largest of its kind in Africa.

What we do

In line with the government's focus on poverty alleviation as a national priority, the HSRC supports development nationally, in the region and in Africa. It undertakes large-scale, policy relevant, collaborative research for government departments, national and international funding agencies, and the private sector.

How we do it

The HSRC is equipped to respond flexibly and comprehensively to national requirements by:

- radically re-aligning its research capabilities into eleven research programmes directly focused on user needs in the public sector
- recruiting top-quality research executives and specialists
- undertaking national research programmes which optimally integrate its work with that of other science councils, tertiary institutions and research entities.

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HSRC Review is available free of charge.
It can also be viewed on the web at www.hsrc.ac.za

ISSN 1726 9709



Introduction by Dr Ben Ngubane, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology

In the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) the people of South Africa have a resource unavailable in most other countries. This new publication indicates why it is one of which we can take great advantage.

Over the last two-and-a-half years the HSRC has restructured and expanded its core research function, growing from three to eleven research programmes, aligned to public-sector user needs. In almost every domain of government, the HSRC, frequently working with appropriate partners, can now respond to research requests and compete for research contracts or grants.

Last year Cabinet approved the Department of Science and Technology's national research and development (R&D) strategy, aimed at providing research capacity and ensuring the delivery of scientific and technological research to the benefit of our people, focused specifically at alleviating poverty.

The R&D strategy mobilises researchers from various institutions including the HSRC. In turning to the HSRC, government accesses highly qualified and able researchers, especially with the multi-year and multi-country projects which are increasingly the organisation's specialty.

I recently challenged the HSRC to make its findings more accessible to its end users, other stakeholders and the public at large. The *Review* is its first response, disseminating some of the excellent and innovative social science research emanating from this organisation, that contributes to social science development and understanding in southern Africa. My colleagues and I look forward to being regularly informed of the activities of the HSRC in this *Review*.



Message from the CEO, Dr Mark Orkin

Over the past couple of years, by focussing on national development priorities in a democratic South Africa, the HSRC has been able to double its complement of researchers, triple its rate of collaboration with other organisations and increase its research earnings ten-fold. There has been a correspondingly dramatic increase in the HSRC's research outputs, in the form of publications and presentations.

However, these outputs were not yet easily available to our many stakeholders and the wider public. Last year we were prompted by our Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr Ben Ngubane, and his Parliamentary Portfolio Committee to extend and improve the way we communicated our results.

The new bi-monthly *HSRC Review* is one of our responses, giving brisk insights into our most recent work. Another response has been to make our publications available on our website. You can either download them, free, or order a print copy.

Whether in summary or at length, in print or electronic form, these articles indicate the capabilities of the organisation, and the professional commitment of our researchers. Enjoy sharing this passion with us.

Who will look after our children?

UNAIDS figures provided in 2001 show that an estimated 11 million children under the age of 15 in sub-Saharan Africa have already lost a mother or both parents, with 780 000 children in Zimbabwe and over 660 000 in South Africa orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The WK Kellogg Foundation has awarded the HSRC \$5 million to undertake a research project over the next five years on the care of orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The project will be carried out by two research programmes in the HSRC, namely Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health, and Child, Youth and Family Development.

HSRC and Chinese counterpart sign research co-operation pact

The People's Republic of China is vast; some of its many provinces have more than twice South Africa's population. It is an incipient superpower with a burgeoning free-market economy, yet with a political system inherited from Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Mao. Given China's scale and history, comparisons with South Africa may seem forced.

Yet there are parallels, as pointed out by HSRC researcher Dr Seán Morrow in his address to the visiting delegation of the Chinese Academy of Social Science. In their respective continents, China and South Africa are of growing significance. Both struggle with extreme social and economic imbalances. Both have been convulsed by extraordinary recent change. For the first half of the 20th century, China underwent foreign invasion, civil war and intermittent famine.

After the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 the fabric of Chinese society was shaken by various revolutionary initiatives, most famously the Cultural Revolution. Also in 1949, another regime

committed to social engineering of a different kind took control in South Africa. The country still struggles with the consequences.

Chinese support for South African liberation was both direct and indirect. For example, in the 1970s, China financed and built the Tazara railway through Zambia and Tanzania, reducing dependence on routes to the south. In the late 1980s China began discreet contact with a South African government that was probing for a way out of its impasse.

In 1997 the ANC-led government agreed to terminate diplomatic ties with Taiwan, laying the foundation for relations with the People's Republic. That foundation was strengthened by South African participation in the forum on China–Africa co-operation in October 2000.

Moves towards active research co-operation between China and South Africa are part of these strengthening relations. Years of discussion between the HSRC and CASS culminated on 11 December 2002 in the signing of an agreement on research co-operation. Signed in Pretoria by Dr Mark Orkin of the HSRC and Prof. Wang Luolin, the Vice President of CASS, the agreement prepares the ground for what should be fruitful collaboration in social science research.

R&D comes under the microscope

The HSRC's Knowledge Management research programme is conducting a national survey on behalf of the Department of Science and Technology to evaluate the contribution of science and technology systems to research and development (R&D). South Africa spends about 0,7% of gross domestic product on R&D, compared to the 2,2% average in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The survey will assess the contribution of science and technology systems to creating a knowledge-based economy, improving quality of life, and developing human resources for science and technology.

NewsRoundup

Updating Nelson Mandela's CV

Former President Nelson Mandela's office receives approximately 3 000 requests per month from institutions around the world wishing to honour him for his unique contribution to peace and democracy. The Nelson Mandela Foundation has commissioned the Democracy and Governance Research Programme of the HSRC to compile a comprehensive list of all the awards and honorary degrees the former President has received over the years. If you have any information in this regard, please contact Arlene Grossberg at acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za.

Research on ageing – a first for South Africa

In the first study of its kind in South Africa, the HSRC's Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping research programme, led by Dr Craig Schwabe, produced a report on the minimum data set on ageing in March 2002. Compiled for the Department of Health, *Ageing in South Africa: Report on the minimum data set on ageing* will be used to inform government policy on the aged. The report examines a set of indicators for the aged population, evaluates the suitability of data sources and provides recommendations on what constitutes a minimum data set for researching the aged. The report is available on www.hsrc.ac.za/publishing.

Voters want more accountability

Most South African voters would like to see a move away from proportional representation towards a mixed electoral system, according to Prof. Roger Southall, Executive Director of the Democracy and Governance research programme, and Robert Mattes, Associate Professor for Political Studies at the University

of Cape Town, authors of a recent HSRC Occasional Paper. The research on which this finding was based was undertaken for the Electoral Task Team headed by Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert. The paper is available at booksales@hsrc.ac.za, or can be downloaded for free at www.hsrc.ac.za/publishing.

Domestic tourism worth R16,6 billion

Internal or domestic tourism in South Africa contributes R16,6 billion to the national economy. This emerged from a study by the Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping research programme of the HSRC, published in a report entitled the *South African Domestic Tourism Survey: Marketing the provinces*. The survey was based on interviews with 9 527 adults about trips they had made in the preceding 12 months and revealed that out of 34 million domestic tourism trips, 58,5% were visits to friends and relatives, 20,6% were for holiday or leisure, 14,1% were for religious purposes, 4,4% were for business and 2,4% were for medical treatment. For copies of this report please email freagon@hsrc.ac.za.

Unravelling our African genes

In March the HSRC will host the *Genome in Africa Conference*, taking its place in investigating one of the greatest scientific developments of our time: the unravelling of the mysteries of the human genome. (Also see back page)

Tapping into the power of youth

Previous studies have shown that, in the last decade, about six million young people between the ages of 15 and 34 are unemployed. The HSRC's Child, Youth and Family Development research programme and the Umsobomvu Youth Fund (UYF) have agreed to collaborate in research on development, employment and entrepreneurship concerning the 15 to 34 age group, which makes up 36% of South Africa's population. The survey will examine these statistics and explore ways in which this significant segment of the population can access the job market.

Peace in Burundi: Mandela and Zuma's roles

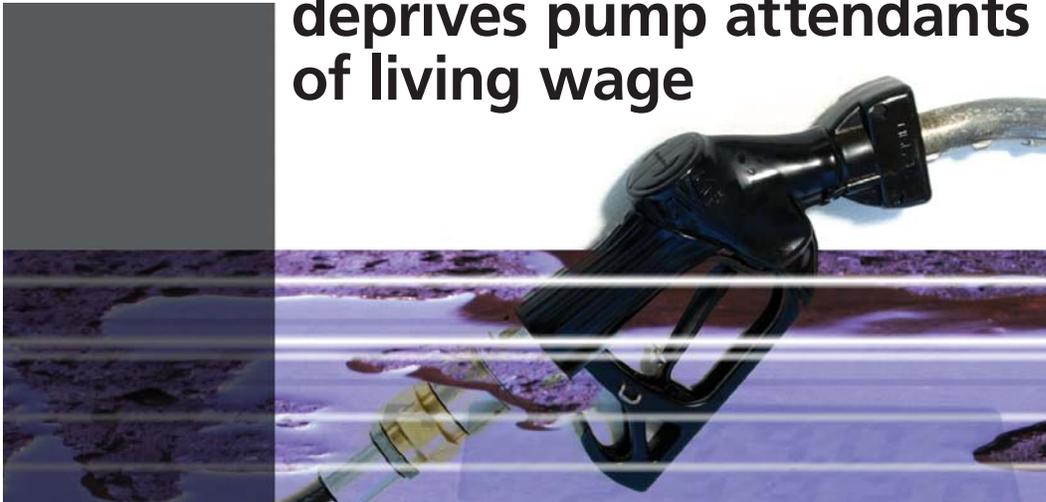
The Nelson Mandela Foundation has commissioned the HSRC to compile a report on the involvement of former President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Jacob Zuma on the Burundi peace process. Produced by the Democracy and Governance (D&G) research programme, the report will be completed shortly. It will examine the historical context of the civil war in Burundi and the credentials which Nelson Mandela brought to the peace negotiations to help explain why he succeeded where others had failed. It will also consider Deputy President Jacob Zuma's efforts to mediate a ceasefire, as well as South Africa's involvement in peacekeeping operations in Burundi.

UNIVERSITIES PUT COMMUNITIES ON THE CURRICULUM

The Education Policy research programme of the HSRC in collaboration with Fort Hare University and the University of the North, has embarked on an 18-month research project to examine how historically black universities can make a direct impact on, and contribution to, the communities they serve. Funded by the Ford Foundation, the project aims to develop a framework linking each university to a local support environment comprising business, community and government networks.



Petrol industry policy deprives pump attendants of living wage



on a superb report, the level of detail and the validity of the recommendations. Morgan said, 'We have a monthly forum meeting with the Department of Minerals and Energy and I will table service station security as issue one in our January meeting and use your recommendations as the core to our requests ... In closing, thank you again – you have contributed to the wellbeing of the lives of pump attendants in South Africa.'

The families of the five murdered Grassy Park attendants – Sazisho Bashe, Julius Mjali, Alfred Nyumbeka, Arthur Ngxumza and Sibongile Same – were actively involved in the study. Each family group was invited to make submissions to the working group and family members participated in the launch by

The execution-style killing of five young attendants in June 2002 at a petrol station in Grassy Park, Cape Town, highlighted the problem of security and working conditions at South Africa's 4 000 petrol stations. The HSRC responded by launching an urgent investigation into these issues by the Social Cohesion and Integration (SCI) research programme, in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Community Chest and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

The investigation revealed that at least one violent crime is committed every day at a petrol station, that petrol attendants are amongst the most poorly paid employees in South Africa's formal economy, and that they are frequently subjected to verbal abuse.

A report of the findings and recommendations, *In Terror and In Silence: An investigation into safety levels and standards at petrol stations*, was released in December 2002 at a public launch attended by many dignitaries, including the Minister of Safety and Security for the Western Cape, Mr Leonard Ramatlakane, and representatives of media organisations.

The report revealed that the country's 50 000 petrol attendants have become increasingly vulnerable to violent crime, including robbery and lethal assault. The majority of the 150 petrol attendants interviewed in the study admitted that they lived and worked in constant fear. In one case, a petrol station in Khayelitsha had been hit by armed robbers more than 50 times in the past year – a rate of almost one armed assault per week. Another key finding was that the basic minimum wage set by the industry's bargaining council amounts to R4,65 an hour

excluding tips, which seldom reach R70 per week.

Publication of the report evoked widespread comment. The HSRC was praised for its prompt, constructive response to the killings in Grassy Park, and for exposing the extent of the security problem and working conditions generally within this sector. A Business Day editorial on 17 December 2002 commented that the report 'could finally force government, and the South African liquid fuels industry, to confront the problem of security and working conditions at petrol stations.' The editorial described most of the 26 recommendations as making 'common sense' and urged that they be implemented without delay, including a recommendation that government impose a 1% levy on the price of petrol to fund the urgent implementation of safety measures within the sector.

The CEO of the Fuel Retailers Association, Peter Morgan, praised the HSRC and the SCI

...at least one violent crime is committed every day at a petrol station...

unveiling a ceremonial plaque in memory of their loved ones. The average age of the victims in Grassy Park was 28. The working group also arranged to assist the families to complete and submit applications for workplace compensation.

The working group, chaired by SCI Executive Director Dr Wilmot James, will reconvene shortly to advise Parliament on the draft of the pending Petroleum Products Amendment Bill. •

[Purchase a printed copy or download a free digital copy of this report from www.hsrc.ac.za/publishing.](http://www.hsrc.ac.za/publishing)

CRIME CATEGORY	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	2 336	3 361	3 780	4 819	6 201
Other robbery	3 422	4 383	5 171	6 105	7 145
Burglary and attempted burglary: business premises	7 528	8 895	8 645	8 361	8 090
Shoplifting	4 811	4 871	5 175	5 280	5 461
Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4 422	5 497	5 860	5 678	6 130
Theft out of or from motor vehicles	18 446	23 632	23 297	22 765	24 988
Carjacking (accounted for under robbery with aggravating circumstances)	148	183	228	284	333
Hijacking of trucks (accounted for under robbery with aggravating circumstances)	18	34	47	83	92

Protecting children against violence in schools



15% of rape victim-survivors in South Africa are younger than 12 years old, and 41% are under 18 (police statistics)

Child sex abuse can be prevented, as it mostly occurs with the unacknowledged awareness or undeclared witness of one or more adults. In this, neighbours and schools are key components, as found by two HSRC studies aimed at assisting schools to protect children. Among the startling facts presented to Parliament in 2002 by Prof. Andy Dawes, was the extent of the problem. Prof. Dawes, who works in the Child, Youth and Family Development (CYFD) research programme of the HSRC, quoted police statistics showing that 15% of South African rape victim-survivor are younger than 12 years old, and 41% are under 18.

Yet these cases represent only a fraction of the young children who are sexually assaulted every day, as many children and their families don't report sexual violence for fear of being blamed, disbelieved, intimidated or stigmatised. The HSRC is involved in ongoing research to assist in formulating strategies, and developing programmes

and interventions to curb this growing crisis.

In October 2002 CYFD convened a meeting in Johannesburg of leading social scientists and child protection activists from South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Delegates confirmed that their countries face similar problems of growing sexual violence against young children.

Child abuse is a complex and diverse phenomenon, as illustrated by the following examples: the preschool child raped by a drunk stranger; the 10-year-old whose father/uncle/grandfather or neighbour has raped her continuously for three years; the 12-year-old girl who is sold by her stepmother for sex; the 7-year-old boy who is groomed with attention and gifts by a pederast in preparation for a sexual relationship.

Observes Prof. Linda Richter, Executive Director of CYFD, 'As long as we fail to distinguish child sexual abuse into different kinds of crime, we will make little progress in identifying

Key factors which appear to shape the level of violence against girls in schools:

its real underlying causes, and will continue to struggle to prevent something which we have failed to understand.'

'We need to know what is most important to protect children and prevent long-term ill effects on them, and what can wait; what works best for most children and their families, and what needs to be put aside as less useful at this stage of development,' Richter says.

An important strategy in this regard is neighbourhood programmes where child protection activists and specialists can help caring adults to protect children. Schools form a key component of such community programmes, hence the HSRC studies are aimed at assisting schools to protect children.

Violence Against Girls in South African Schools, commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and conducted by Dr Heather Brookes of CYFD, is an in-depth, participant-observation study to identify the factors that prevent or contribute to violence against girls in schools. The key findings included: the most common form of violence is bullying and beating by boys which occurs from the Grade 1 through high school; sexual harassment of girls by boys (including touching, kissing and sexual remarks) begins as early as Grade 4; girls are at risk of sexual harassment and violent crime on their way to and from school; and male educators and learners use the threat of violence to gain and maintain power over female educators and learners.

most abuse occurs with the implicit knowledge or undeclared witness of one or more adults

While some schools reported only a few incidents of gender violence, others reported many, ranging from minor bullying and verbal abuse to cases of assault and rape. •

Attitudes and beliefs

In schools with a high incidence of gender violence, there is confusion about what constitutes sexual abuse and socially unacceptable behaviour towards girls and women. Females are often blamed for violence perpetrated against them. As a result, schools fail to prevent, or deal with, cases of gender violence appropriately.

Recognition and acknowledgement

In these situations, educators are often reluctant to acknowledge the problem of gender violence, or to prioritise it. At schools where sufficient numbers of educators (particularly males) publicly acknowledge the existence of the problem, preventative measures are put in place.

School policy and implementation

If there is little understanding about gender violence and insufficient acknowledgement of the extent of the problem, school policies on violence and appropriate behaviour are often undeveloped and unspecific. These schools fail to address confusion about rape, sexual abuse, harassment, inappropriate behaviour and culpa-

bility. Even where schools have developed adequate policies, these are often not implemented. There is less violence against girls where there are clearly established guidelines detailing every step of prevention and disciplinary processes. These are most effective when communicated clearly and repeatedly among staff, parents and learners, and where there are established mechanisms to report the outcome of cases of violence and sexual abuse.

School climate

The values, beliefs and practices encouraged in schools strongly influence the extent of gender violence. The lack of systems to monitor learners, the use of physical violence as a form of discipline, inconsistent discipline, poor attendance, tardiness by educators, and unequal gender roles and responsibilities within the school, all contribute to higher levels of violence against girls. In contrast, where respect, caring, shared values and common goals are encouraged, and where educators engage closely with learners' beliefs and experiences, schools show lower levels of violence against girls.

The report *Violence Against Girls in South African Schools* is available from hbrookes@hsrc.ac.za. Further, this report will be published by the HSRC Publishers in the course of 2003.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

A second study, *The impact of community networks on the protection of primary school children*, led by Craig Higson-Smith from CYFD, places South African primary schools under the spotlight and examines ways in which existing networks might better protect younger children. Although the study will be completed only in March 2003, preliminary findings revealed that:

- Almost all the schools surveyed are struggling with difficult and ongoing cases involving sexual abuse of children. Child abuse cases are a source of enormous stress to educators, and some prefer to ignore the signs to save themselves the frustration and distress of trying to intervene to assist the child.

- In many cases, educators do not understand the requirements of the South African law, or the departmental policy regarding the sexual abuse of children. For this reason, where abuse is suspected, it is commonly reported to parents, but no official report is made.

- Most schools struggle to get parents to participate in school activities. Questions of child protection are often seen as interference by the school in the family's

privacy. Educators are sometimes afraid to confront the situation because of the potential damage to relationships with parents, or the parent body.

- Some poorly resourced schools are unfenced and older children and adults have unrestricted access to school premises. This situation has been linked to violence against children at several schools.

- Many children travel alone through dangerous areas to and from school. Where children are collected from school by parents or carefully monitored lift schemes, children are exposed to fewer dangers.

- Many children spend substantial time unsupervised outside school property after school.

- Even Grade 1 children included in the study had a clear idea of what constitutes sexual abuse and related stories of sexual abuse that had happened to them or their friends.

- The first person in whom a child confides about sexual abuse is often another child, and the disclosures tend to remain secret.

Both studies strongly highlight the need for greater support for educators from the community and provincial departments of education in dealing with child abuse.

HIV/AIDS study shows change in sexual behaviour



Accurate planning is about accurate information. It's with this in mind that former President Nelson Mandela commissioned the most authoritative study yet on HIV/AIDS prevalence, backed up by oral-swab saliva HIV tests.

Officially called the Nelson Mandela/HSRC Study of HIV/AIDS, it includes a full cultural and demographic survey on prevalence. It provides information on different races, genders and age groups in urban and rural areas. It looked at sexual behaviour and current prevention, education and awareness programmes and campaigns; identified obstacles to reduce risky behaviour; and examined whether media messages were understood and accepted.

The study was a massive undertaking. It was based on a representative sample of 9 963 people drawn from households across the country, of whom 8 428 consented to submit saliva for testing. The study assumed

that there were 10 million households in South Africa, and expressed its findings in percentages, but stayed away from translating percentages into numbers.

One of the significant findings of the report was that behaviour changes were taking root. Since the 1998 Demographic and Health Survey, many more people were practising safer sex. Condom use among women (15–49) at last sexual intercourse has more than tripled (from 8% in 1998 to 28,6% in 2002), and in the age group 20–24 it has increased from 14,4% to 47%.

Young people (15–24) were most likely to use condoms, with 57,1% of the sexually active men and 46,1% of women having used a condom the last time they had sex.

Encouragingly low numbers of sexual partners and quite high levels of abstinence were found among the young. It also found that reported positive behaviour change was high, and knowledge of HIV/AIDS was quite

Mr Mandela with members of the research team and collaborators.

Back: Mr Nelson Mandela, Dr Mark Orkin, CEO of the HSRC, Dr Kevin Kelly, Research Director, Centre for AIDS Development, Research and Evaluation (CADRE), Dr Leickness Simbayi, Project Director (HSRC), Warren Parker (CADRE), Julien Chauveau, French Agency for AIDS Research (ARNS), and Yoesrie Toefy (HSRC).

Middle: Dr Olive Shisana, Principle Investigator (HSRC), Dr Heather Brookes (HSRC) and Prudence Ditlopo (HSRC).

Front: Dr Mark Colvin, Medical Research Council (MRC).

high, although there were still high levels of uncertainty over, for example, the relationship between HIV and AIDS.

Among young people (15–24), 55,6% of men and 57,9% of women had previously had sex, and there were very low levels of partner turnover. Among the sexually active in this age group, 84,7% reported having had only one partner in the past year. For adults aged 25–49, the rate was 93,5%.

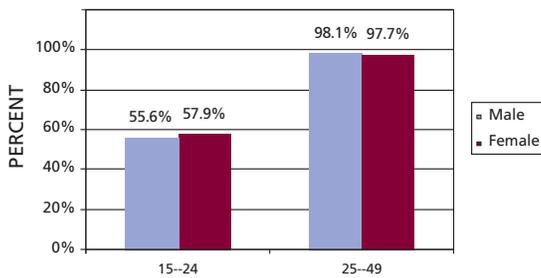


Figure 1: Proportion of males and females with sexual experience

Nearly half of all men and over a third of women over 15 years of age reported that they had changed their behaviour as a result of HIV/AIDS, including being faithful to one partner, reducing the number of sexual partners, abstinence and condom use. Those who knew someone living with HIV/AIDS, or knew someone who had died of AIDS, were more likely to take the epidemic seriously.

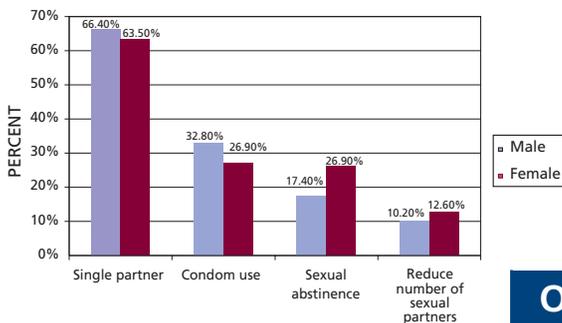


Figure 2: Strategies of sexual behaviour change in the face of the AIDS threat by sex (15 years and older), South Africa, 2002

Overall, mass media communication campaigns were finding their targets. Key HIV/AIDS messages were generally well understood, although there is a dire need for more information on sexual abuse, condom negotiation with partners, sexually transmitted diseases, counselling and testing, symptoms and treatment, and caring for orphans and people with HIV/AIDS.

Radio, television, schools, parents and health workers were the main source of information. Asked what HIV/AIDS messages they remembered, most participants recalled condom messages, followed by messages that AIDS was fatal, faithfulness, abstinence and partner reduction.

Concern was expressed that African languages (particularly seSotho, Tshivenda and Xitsonga) and Afrikaans seem to have been marginalised. Only 0,8% of Africans have English as a home language, while 83,5% of coloureds and 60,2% of whites have Afrikaans as a home language. •



Other key findings

The overall HIV/AIDS prevalence in the South African population (over the age of two) is estimated at 11,4% (4,5 million). Among the age group 15–49 it was 15,6%.

GENDER: Women are biologically more susceptible to HIV infection than men, explaining the fact that 12,8% of women were HIV positive, compared with 9,5% of men. Among the youth (15–24), 12% of women and 6% of men were infected.

RACE: HIV prevalence was the highest among Africans (12,9%), followed by whites (6,2%), coloureds (6,1%) and Indians (1,6%).

PROVINCES: HIV prevalence was highest in the Free State, followed by Gauteng and Mpumalanga. KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) – until now regarded as the province with the highest HIV rate – came in fourth.

AGE: The highest prevalence was among the 25–29 age group (28%), followed by the 30–34 age group (24%). Prevalence among children 2–14 was unexpectedly high at 5,6% and it remains unclear how these children were infected – an important area for further investigation.

LOCALITY: People living in urban informal settlements had the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence (21,3%), followed by formal urban areas (12,1%), tribal areas (8,7%) and farms (7,9%).

The study includes several pages of recommendations, which require serious consideration by all involved in HIV/AIDS policy, education and implementation.

Purchase a printed copy or download a copy of the Nelson Mandela /HSRC Study of HIV/AIDS from <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/publishing>.

Hearing the voice of the rural poor ...

They don't stray off the tarred roads and avoid the rainy seasons.' This is how Robert Chambers, one of the foremost authors in rural development, characterises researchers who claim to have captured the reality of impoverishment. The really poor are not seen, far less heard.

These words are a challenge to HSRC researchers who are involved in research in rural development, says Dr David Hemson, Research Director in the Integrated Rural and Regional Development (IRRD) research programme. Researchers have to try new approaches to capture the voice of the marginalised poor who are often not confident to speak, even in community meetings.

Research into rural development requires that the voice of the really poor be heard on key issues relating to the implementation of services. This involves staying in the rural communities, meeting with community health workers, and ensuring that poor families are interviewed for their opinions and perspectives.

'Researchers don't stray off the tarred roads and they avoid the rainy seasons...'

Dr Hemson himself is involved in a water and sanitation project for the Department of Water Affairs, looking at issues of sustainability and poverty eradication in rural areas – initially within KwaZulu-Natal and later countrywide. Since water delivery has been made one of the top priorities of government, services have to be seen to be reaching the truly poor and also to be sustainable.

The HSRC and IRRD specifically, is involved in a host of similar projects in rural areas, including the survival strategies of rural women, patterns of migration, and the access of child benefits by rural mothers.

The main question these researchers want to answer is whether government initiatives to



'...POORER PEOPLE... TEND NOT TO BE SEEN, FAR LESS TO BE MET'



improve the lives of the rural poor are reaching the most remote areas and making a difference.

Dr Hemson believes there is some way to go: 'Although progress has been made in some sectors in delivery, broadly the goals of rural development have yet to be met.' The reasons for this are varied and complex. At one level, there is the problem of sufficient resources, at another the capacity to manage projects. In rural areas there is also the issue of changing structures of government; although rural local government is at the centre of development, its structures are often weak.

Even if these problems are taken on board, poverty itself limits people's ability to access services. It is enormously expensive for rural poor people to travel to the nearest urban centre to register for child grants, for instance. Access to services therefore has become central both to the definition of poverty as well as its alleviation.

He points out that research into rural service delivery has to grapple with a number of important questions which HSRC researchers are trying to answer. One is what researchers into public health services call the 'inverse equity hypothesis', the tendency for the most needy to be the last to receive the benefits of a new order. Power is often clustered around the very few

The conditions of the rural poor are a key measure of social progress in the new South Africa

better off and educated individuals in communities, and the poor appear powerless and detached. Women are at times involved in community decision-making, but often in a subordinate role.

In rural areas there is generally an absence of a layer of well-educated, younger people who are confident in dealing with external agencies and well capable of managing a project. Often rural communities are also driven by a number of conflicts which hinder real change. Effective local government, which would provide a forum for the solution of many of these issues, is still mostly at the infant stage.

The conditions of the rural poor is a key measure of social progress in the new South Africa, Dr Hemson believes. 'The HSRC is in the forefront of monitoring and evaluating these changes. Its researchers are also engaging in the development of genuinely pro-poor policies.' He concludes: 'But most of all it is dedicated to ensuring that the voice of the rural poor is heard in the corridors of research, policy and implementation.' •

From school to higher education – what Grade 12 learners choose

Why do Grade 12 learners choose certain universities or technikons for further study? What fields do they choose, and why?

These were some of the questions HSRC researchers Michael Cosser and Jacques du Toit of the Human Resources Development (HRD) research programme tried to answer in the first phase of a national study on Student Choice Behaviour. More than 12 000 Grade 12 learners from 288 schools across all provinces participated in the study.

The study, published in 2002, aimed to investigate the factors affecting the choices of South African Grade 12 learners with regard to three variables: intention to enter higher education (HE); institution; and field of study. It is pitched at addressing two of the key objectives in the *National Plan for Higher Education*: to increase the participation rate from 15% to 20%; and to shift the balance in enrolments from the current ratio of 49% humanities, 26% business and commerce, and 25% science, engineering and technology to a ratio of 40% : 30% : 30%.

While the study gathered a huge amount of information on all three variables, what drew media attention was some surprise findings on choice of institutions. It revealed that, at a national level, technikons were clearly more popular than universities (55% versus 35%) with the top two positions being occupied by Technikon Pretoria and Technikon Witwatersrand.

On the face of it, this overturned popular – and even some informed – perceptions about the relative popularity of technikons versus universities.

While African and coloured learners preferred to study at a technikon rather than a university, Indian and white learners preferred a university. The popularity of technikons is largely attributable to ease of access (no matriculation endorsement is required) and the promise of jobs to follow.

The province in which learners went to school emerges as the most significant predictor of which institution they plan to study at. In the following graphs, the top five institutional choices of learners in each province are



displayed. As the first three graphs indicate, the HE institutions in the Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and the Free State are all more popular among learners in those provinces

than are institutions from other provinces.

Notable exceptions to such provincial loyalty, however, are to be found in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo and the North West:

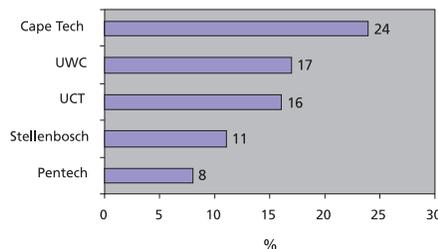


Fig. 1. Learner Choice - Western Cape

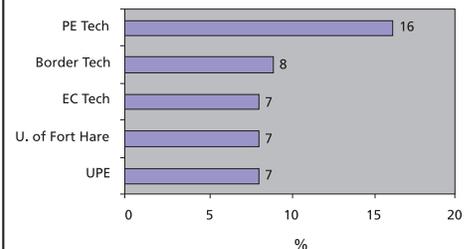


Fig. 4. Learner Choice - Eastern Cape

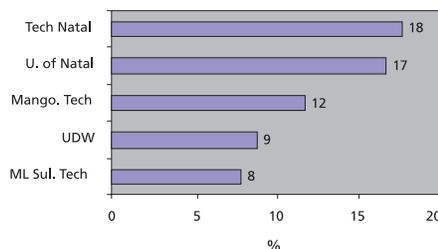


Fig. 2. Learner Choice - KwaZulu Natal

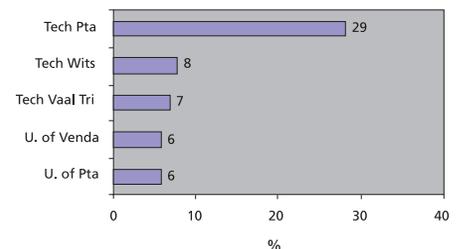


Fig. 5. Learner Choice - Limpopo

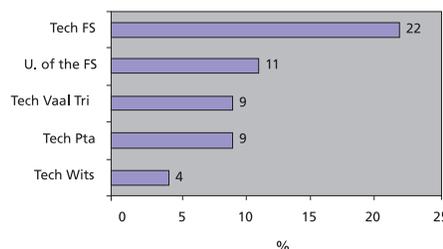


Fig. 3. Learner Choice - Free State

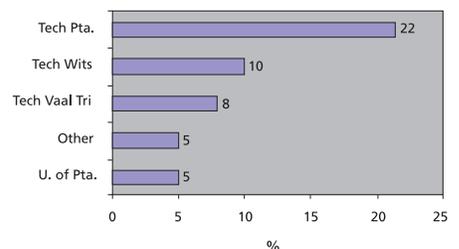


Fig. 6. Learner Choice - North West

While the top five places in the Eastern Cape profile are occupied by Eastern Cape institutions, UCT is preferred to Transkei, while five non-Eastern Cape institutions – UCT, other (private and foreign) institutions, Technikon Pretoria, Cape Technikon and Peninsula Technikon – are preferred to Rhodes.

In Limpopo, the three nationally most popular technikons (Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vaal Triangle) are all preferred to the University of Venda, while in addition four other Gauteng-based institutions – the University of Pretoria, Technikon Northern Gauteng, Medunsa and Wits – are all more popular than the University of the North. No North West-based institution features in the top five list in the province – Potchefstroom appearing in the seventh position.

In Gauteng, only the position of private and overseas institutions is remarkable. The profiles for Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape, which have no HE institutions, are largely geographically determined:

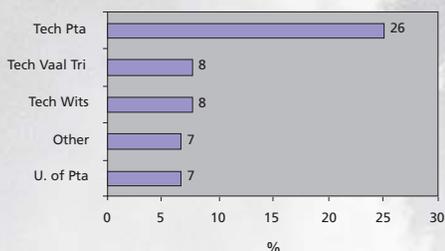


Fig. 7. Learner Choice - Gauteng

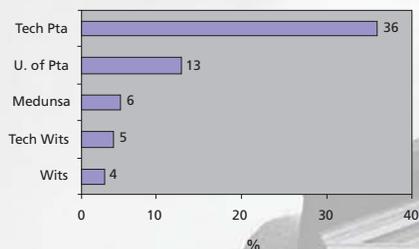


Fig. 8. Learner Choice - Mpumalanga

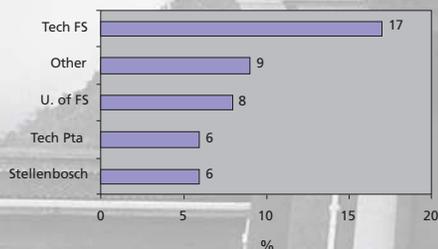


Fig. 9. Learner Choice - Northern Cape

That the first choice of learners in all nine provinces is a technikon (in four of the nine provinces technikons occupy the first three places) reinforces the national preference for study at technikons rather than universities.

When learners are regarded as a national pool, the study's ranking of institutions to which learners would prefer to go puts Technikon Pretoria at the top of the list, followed by Technikon Witwatersrand, University of Pretoria, Technikon Vaal Triangle and 'other institutions' (private and overseas).

Geographical location also plays a major part in the national preference profile: as this ranking demonstrates, the four most popular institutions are all in Gauteng, home to nearly a fifth of the country's population and conveniently accessible from three other provinces – Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West. Also significant has been the establishment of satellite campuses in neighbouring provinces (Technikon Pretoria, for example, has three in Mpumalanga and one in Limpopo) – giving institutions a presence which in itself has a strategic marketing function.

From among the listed factors influencing learners' choices of institution, reputation (whether of institution or field of study) emerges as the most important. Reputation, in turn, is largely a function of institutional positioning, achieved through a combination of strategic marketing and physical location. And as the foregoing analysis has shown, geographical location has the greatest influence upon choice of institution for HE study.

These findings, it must be emphasised, pertain to learner intention to study at specific institutions. They do not necessarily reflect either enrolment patterns or the quality of learning at these institutions. The results of Phase 2 of the project, to be released in 2003, will confirm the extent to which intention has translated into enrolment.

When it came to intentions to enter HE, there was a strong correlation between learners' average Grade 11 symbols and their intention to go into HE. Learners with an average A symbol were nearly nine times likelier than those with an F-G symbol to

say they would study at tertiary level.

Access to finance for study is clearly an important factor influencing the decision to enter HE – but unequally across the population groups. External sources of funding – such as the government's National Student Financial Aid Scheme, bank loans, bursaries and scholarships – are most important for African learners, followed by coloureds, Indians and whites.

Some key implications of the study for national policy:

- Since lack of funds emerges as one of the chief disincentives to entering HE, the Education Ministry needs to consider all possible avenues for increasing financial aid for needy academically capable learners.
- If the participation rate in HE is to be increased, the quality of teaching and learning in schools needs to improve dramatically, the numbers of Grade 12 learners achieving passes with matriculation endorsement needs to increase significantly, and more learners who are academically capable need to be encouraged to enter HE.
- Encouragement to enter HE, in the absence of guardian / parental guidance, needs to be provided through career counselling initiatives in schools; and since a higher percentage of learners who have received career guidance at school intend entering HE than those who have received none, dedicated resources need to be allocated for effective career guidance programmes. In particular, learners' choices of subjects need to be steered in the direction of Mathematics and Physical Science, which are key areas for human resources development in South Africa.

From School to Higher Education? Factors affecting the choices of Grade 12 learners is available as a research monograph. Purchase a printed copy or download a free digital copy from www.hsra.ac.za/publishing.

Profile

Dr Udesch Pillay



Executive Director: Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM) research programme of the HSRC

At 36, Dr Udesch Pillay heads up the largest and most proficient technical support entity for social science research in the country. About one year after joining the HSRC, he has built up a formidable team that brings together the organisation's capacity in surveys, quantitative and qualitative analyses, geographical information systems (GIS), statistical and econometric modelling, and data management under the Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM) research programme.

One of a new generation of research managers, Udesch is outspoken, charismatic, and demanding – of himself and of others. He

How to remodel cities and make them better and more liveable places became a lifelong passion

grew up in Durban – Isipingo and Greenwood Park to be precise – as part of a close-knit, middle-class 'family with a conscience'. A conscience that led to his father, a lawyer and then executive member of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) and founder member of the United Democratic Front (UDF), spending 10 years of his life under house arrest. Today his father is a High Court judge.

'One of my first early childhood memories is of my father having to sign a register at the Smith Street police station every Sunday evening for 10 years. Another is a particularly unpleasant security sweep of our home one Friday night, during which my dad was taken into solitary confinement for a period of three months in the midst of the 1980 school boycotts. These were very disruptive times.'

His mother, former associate director of health of the Durban municipality, kept things together during some 'difficult' times, including minding a son prone to squabbles with the security police.

Those were 'formative years' indeed. It made him acutely aware of impoverished, marginalised people living in cities and of how legislation like the Group Areas Act shaped their destiny. This led to a deep interest in urban geography and planning, and a fascination with cities, transport networks, local governance reform and restructuring, and the relationship of all of this to economic development. How to remodel cities and make them better and more liveable places became a lifelong passion.

After completing his MA in 1990 in geography cum laude from the University of Natal in Durban, and receiving the South African Geographical Society (SAGS) medal for best

masters thesis in the country, Udesch was awarded a MacArthur Foundation/Fulbright fellowship, and completed a PhD in geography at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in the USA with a 98% grade point average for coursework.

Back in South Africa he taught for several years at the Universities of Durban-Westville and Natal, publishing widely in books and refereed journals in the areas of urban development, local government reform, local economic development and electoral geography. His career took a turn during the first democratic election in 1994 when, as a consultant to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), he managed the geography of the elections in KwaZulu-Natal.

After a span as an urban policy analyst in Johannesburg, government urban development and local government white paper drafter, and consultant on urban development issues to the Tongaat-Hulett Group, the McCarthy Group, the Centre for Development & Enterprise (CDE), the City of Durban and the then RDP Ministry, Udesch was appointed head of the Delimitation and Planning unit at the IEC in Pretoria. As manager of the geography of the 1999 national and 2000 municipal elections, he was recognised as one of the country's 'big ops people', eventually landing him in the SAMM 'hot-seat'. Udesch was recently appointed an associate member of the World Bank's Urban Development Forum.

Besides his son, Kiaan (9) – a co-Manchester United soccer fanatic and supporter, and fierce Playstation rival – other interests include movies, gardening, good food, red wine, and authors Isabel Allende, Arundathi Roy and Rohinton Mistry.

Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM) research programme

SAMM is a 'crosscutting' entity, with a staff complement of 18. The four directorates assisting the organisation with technical and research support are:

- ❖ Surveys: designs appropriate survey methods and instruments to gather relevant and up-to-date information on public attitudes, and to assist other research programmes with their survey-based project needs.
- ❖ Analyses, modelling and statistics: provides technical research support and expertise internally and externally in data analysis, modelling and statistics.
- ❖ Data management: provides archiving, quality control and related data management support services.
- ❖ GIS: provides analytical and technical GIS support and services in project design, implementation and management.

Big flagship projects include:

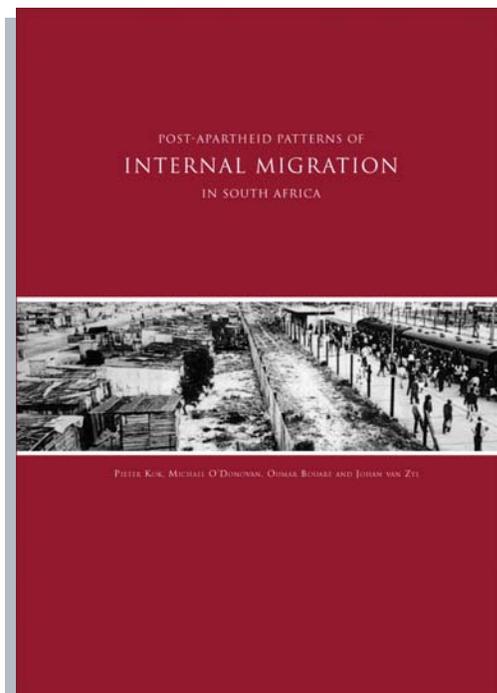
- ❖ The creation of an accurate and complete national 'master sample' based on statistics gathered from the census 2001 data set. It consists of a specified number of census enumerator areas, and a full set of 'navigational' kits that maps and lists all the households in each area. This creates the possibility of tracking national issues over long periods of time by conducting repeat visits of the same or a cross-section of households. The master sample was used as the sampling frame for the first time during the Nelson Mandela/HSRC Study of HIV/AIDS (see pages 6 & 7).
- ❖ HSRC Survey Programme (including the South African Social Attitude Survey – SASAS). The development and implementation of a conceptually and methodologically robust series of surveys that would cater for the needs of HSRC researchers and external clients through the introduction of longitudinal cross-sectional and panel research designs.
- ❖ Southern African Development Community (SADC) socio-economic profiling. The project involves the gathering of information in a GIS database on access to services and infrastructure that allows for a better understanding of the socio-economic characteristics of SADC countries at the equivalent of a district level.

Future developments:

The launch of SASAS in 2003, as the country's most formidable and comprehensive 'longitudinal' public attitude survey, is a key future development, as is the attempt to spearhead an initiative aimed at implementing a co-ordinated and dedicated urban research programme within the HSRC.

More generally, besides the provision of quality research support, SAMM aims to become strategic partners with all clients, at every stage of the project cycle, and draw on its resident skills and expertise. •

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT



Post-Apartheid Patterns of Internal Migration in South Africa

By Pieter Kok,
Michael O'Donovan,
Oumar Bouare and
Johan van Zyl

The complex and often controversial issues of migration in South Africa since the end of the apartheid era are examined in a new book published by the HSRC in March 2003. While most other studies have focused on the phenomenon of cross-border migration and, more often than not, depicted it in negative terms, *Post-Apartheid Patterns of Internal Migration in South Africa* concentrates on the movement of peoples within South Africa and the reasons why they move.

Drawing on census and other secondary data, this study is the most comprehensive, data-based analysis of migration patterns in post-apartheid South Africa yet published. Amongst its many observations and findings are ones that challenge existing stereotypes. One of these is that the ending of apartheid produced an uncontrolled flood of rural Africans seeking work and 'greener pastures' in the cities and peri-urban areas of South Africa. What this study shows is that this

has not happened and that, in fact, in the mid-1990s, patterns of black internal migration were almost identical to those at the height of the apartheid era of the late-1970s.

This study, by three senior HSRC researchers and one former HSRC staff member, fills a gap in the South African migration literature and reveals that the issue of intra-regional and rural-urban movement is a more complex one than previously represented. It is essential reading for decision-makers dealing with issues of migration and urbanisation, as well as for researchers and students in the broad area of development studies. •

Published by HSRC Publishers
120pp soft cover (170mm x 248mm)
ISBN 0-7969-2004-4
Price: R130,00 (including VAT)
To order:
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EVENTS 2003 EVENTS

Corporate seminar series

For bookings kindly contact the seminar convenor, Arlene Grossberg, by telephone (012) 302 2755, fax (012) 302 2216 or e-mail acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za. Seminar details are subject to change. Please verify dates, times and seating availability. Unless otherwise indicated, the venue for seminars is in the Video Conference Centre, 1st floor, HSRC Library, 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria.

18 March, 12h00 – 13h15	'Where have all the ambulances gone?' The role of GIS in injury surveillance. Presented by Adlai S. Davids, Chief GIS specialist, HSRC
8 April, 12h00 – 13h15	Preliminary investigation into agricultural education in the further education and training band (Grades 10–12). Presented by Fabian Arends, Specialist Research Technologist, Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), Human Resources Development research programme (HRD) – and Andrew Paterson, Chief Research Specialist and acting head of EMIS.
10 April, 09h00 – 16h00	Fertility: Current South African issues, teenage pregnancy, gender and service delivery. Presented in collaboration by the Child, Youth and Family Development research programme (CYFD), the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) and the Department of Social Development, at Forum 310, HSRC.
15 April, 12h00 – 13h15	The activity patterns of substance users, based on a 2000 national survey. Presented by Gina Weir-Smith of the Geographical Information Centre.
22 April, 12h00 – 13h15	Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission research: Implications for policy and programming. Presented by Christine Varga, Chief Research Specialist, CYFD.
13 May, 12h00 – 13h15	Urban convergance, international best practice and the urban policy process in South Africa. Presented by Richard Tomlinson, consultant and urban specialist.

Democracy and Governance (D&G) seminar series

26 March, 12h00 – 13h15	Dealing with the past in recent southern African political transitions: The Mozambican, Namibian, South African and Zimbabwean cases compared. Presented by Prof. John Daniel, Research Director, D&G, and Publishing Director, HSRC Publishers.
4 April, 12h00 – 13h00	Municipal commonage administration: Can the new-look municipalities promote emergent farming? Presented by Anja Bensler, Research Assistant in the Bloemfontein office of D&G.

Conferences and seminars

13 March, 14h00 – 17h00	Local government responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A seminar hosted by the Department of Social Development
19 – 22 March	The human genome and Africa: The historical, ethical, legal, educational, biomedical and biotechnical implications of the Human Genome Project for research and development in Africa, at Spier Estate, Stellenbosch. International keynote speakers include David Baltimore, Onesmo ole-Mio Yoi, Luidi Cavalli-Sforza, Chris Stringer, Evelyn Fox-Keller, Mark Stoneking and Gordon Dougan. Register at http://www.hsrc.ac.za/genome , or contact Angela at (021) 462 0416 or by e-mail angela@hwb.co.za .
23 – 27 April	Building democracy for peace, development and human rights. Hosted by the World Movement for Democracy at the ICC in Durban. For more details, visit www.wmd.org/conference/founding.html

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