



HSRC
Human Sciences
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review
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Developing skills of young researchers

In the research process, the HSRC has empowered young people undertaking masters' and doctoral studies at universities to acquire research skills with the help of post-doctoral research fellows who plan to enter the research field. Many of these research trainees are later absorbed into government, public entities, academic institutions, non-governmental institutions and the private sector.

One major outcome of research is sharing of information with other scientists, enabling them to answer new questions based on data curated by the HSRC, thus reducing the cost of generating knowledge. This is of great benefit because new questions can be investigated quickly without the need to repeat data collection.

Embracing inclusivity; inform public policy

The HSRC has continued to transform itself into an organisation that is inclusive in terms of race, gender and the way in which it conducts its research. Examining a diverse society such as South Africa using multiple lenses produces a far more accurate image of the country than what is possible with a homogeneous lens. Unfortunately, the HSRC still struggles to recruit senior African women scientists to join its workforce, missing the target by a small margin.

By setting strategic objectives that reinforce the HSRC's commitment to conducting evidence-based research to inform public policy, the organisation has been able to secure funding from both government and external sources.

Three important performance indicators illustrate the HSRC's achievements in this regard: the government's financial contribution to the HSRC has exceeded external (domestic and international) funding; the external funding has increased

HSRC skilfully weathers the economic storm with exceptional performance

The HSRC presented its annual report for 2011/2012 to stakeholders from the government, civil society, academic institutions, scientific bodies and funding agencies on 12 October.

The HSRC has, over the last financial year, developed a five-year strategy with a focus on advancing social sciences and humanities for public use. This strategy guided the work of the HSRC, ensuring that its financial and human investment and activities are informed by this focus.

Meeting strategic targets

We have performed exceptionally well over the reporting period, achieving 83% of the set targets, which include indicators such as knowledge advancement through institutional collaboration, public dialogue, policy briefs and peer-reviewed publications (100% achievement); contribution to development and social progress in Africa through research which is informed by government, civil society and community needs (29% achievement); development of a skilled and capable workforce (75% achievement); preservation and sharing of data for further analysis (136% achievement); contribution to the ongoing transformation of the organisation (80%); and development and implementation of strategies to ensure financial sustainability of the HSRC (80% achievement).

The HSRC contributed to the creation of knowledge to further advance social science locally and internationally. The knowledge we produced also informed government policies designed to improve the lives of South Africans and society at large and to engaging with a variety of issues based on our research outputs. Some of the research we undertook was informed by the reality experienced on the ground but also by the consideration of future challenges the country is likely to face.

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substantially when compared to previous years; and the total income of the organisation has reached a record high, exceeding revenue in any previous year.

Weathering the economic storm

Unlike in the 2010/2011 financial year when the effects of the global economic crisis exerted a significant impact on the HSRC's revenue, the organisation has been able to skilfully weather the storm and has managed to grow its proportion of funding from government, while aggressively securing funding from international sources by presenting compelling arguments about the value of the work done to benefit the public. The funds used were spent well, with an unbroken record of unqualified audits by the Auditor General supporting this achievement.

With its financial base secure, the HSRC undertook more than 150 research projects, which were all reported in previous editions of this publication. The two largest projects in terms of financial contribution informed the development of the national strategic plan to prevent new HIV infections; and the second largest financial contribution allowed for a critical study on the education system.

Much of the success we achieved would not have been realised without the support of the HSRC Board, led by Mrs Phumele Nzimande. Their oversight and advice have made a significant contribution to our success.

The support of the Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor, Deputy Minister Derek Hanekom, as well as the Director-General, Dr Phil Mjwara and his staff at DST, is very much appreciated.

Funding received by various government departments and domestic as well as international funding agencies and/or partners have made a substantial contribution to the relevance of the work at the HSRC; for this we are appreciative. The executive management and staff of the HSRC have all contributed to the success of the organisation, without their input we would not have achieved our objectives.



Dr Olive Shisana



Putting heads together - The newly appointed minister of Science and Technology, Mr Derek Hanekom, and CEO Dr Olive Shisana in deep conversation at the launch of the HSRC's annual report for 2011/2012.



Sharing breakfast - Mr Imraan Patel, deputy director-general of the Department of Science and Technology, Dr Shisana, Mr Hanekom and chair of the HSRC Board, Ms Phumelele Nzimande

Managing valuable data for further analysis and posterity

The HSRC has recently established a Data Capture Unit to manage the large volume of incoming field-data from its various longitudinal and cross-sectional surveys. The in-house facility will allow for the integrity of the data management process to be controlled, and for quality control and assurance processes to be effected and stringently monitored.

Such a facility also allows for significant savings given that much of this work had been previously outsourced. The unit is currently capturing 133 000 questionnaires deriving from the most recent instalment of the SABBSM survey, and the inaugural SANHANES study.

In time, the unit will form part of a larger Research Data Management Centre at the HSRC. The centre will consolidate and integrate all facets of the data management process. The sub-units that will be established will include the following: data collection and capturing (the current unit but with a surveys component as well); data analysis; data curation, preservation and archiving; and data dissemination.

The ultimate objective is to bring together all facets of the data lifecycle so that the organisation's rich and robust data in consolidated form can assist the HSRC to address and answer some of the big social science questions intimately tied to the country's development needs and ambitions. The centre will also be a resource to the larger research and academic community.

Dr Udesch Pillay, executive director in the Office of the CEO, is driving both of these projects.

Umalusi and interpreting matric results

The National Senior Certificate (NSC) qualification has been researched over a number of years, says Vijayen Naidoo, senior manager of quality assurance assessment at Umalusi, the body that sets and monitors standards for general and further education and training in South Africa. He said the NSC has been benchmarked and assessed against international standards, including that of SADC countries.

He spoke at a seminar hosted by the HSRC in partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Umalusi Council. It is the third in a series that grew out of a roundtable following the release of the 2011 NSC results to the media, with the primary purpose of providing an opportunity to discuss the NSC results in a rigorous peer-review process.

The seminars were initiated by Professors Sizwe Mabizela, chair of the Umalusi Council, Mary Metcalfe, professor of Education, University of the Witwatersrand, and Linda Chisholm, HSRC director seconded as an adviser to the Minister of Basic Education.

Naidoo said the different demands on the matric results made by different sectors lead to a vicious cycle, resulting in a 'blame game' of universities criticising high schools and high schools in turn blaming primary schools for unacceptable quality standards.

He believes these assumptions need to be examined closely, for example, does a higher pass rate necessarily imply a drop in standards, or is the NSC of a lower standard than the previous Senior Certificate (SC)? He said the NSC and the SC are two different qualifications that cannot be compared.

By comparing these qualifications, cognisance must be taken of the structure and curriculum changes over the last decade, and also of the purpose of the qualifications. In this process the NSC becomes distorted as the same expectations are demanded from candidates falling into different performance categories.



Standards setting for matric - On the left, Dr Mafu Rakometsi, CEO, and Professor Sizwe Mabizela, the chair of Umalusi.

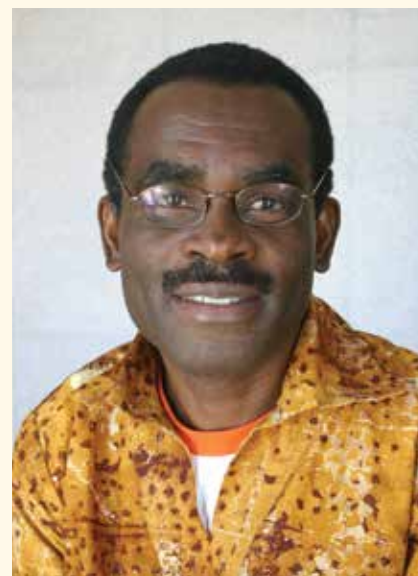
This point begs the question of whether the NSC is a school-leaving certificate or an indication of university entrance.

Naidoo indicated that with the promulgation of the General and Further Education and Training sub-framework, which forms one of the three legs of the NSC system, Umalusi would be able to move from maintaining standards to developing standards for the qualifications for which it is required to do quality assurance.

During the discussion Professor George Frempong of the HSRC demonstrated a model, called value added analysis (VAA), using the 2011 matric data to show how it could be used to understand how schools do make a difference in learners' matric results. The model can inform policy strategies to improve the quality of education in South Africa.

He suggested that the group work collaboratively towards a project that promotes application of VAA on education data sets and this suggestion was picked up by Dr Mafu Rakometsi, the CEO of Umalusi, who encouraged HSRC to initiate processes for this project.

The discussion will be taken further with the Minister of Higher Education, Dr Blade Nzimande.



Value add - Professor George Frempong, who designed a model to better understand how schools make a difference in learners' matric results.

The re-emergence of astronomy in Africa

A research conference under the banner of 'The re-emergence of astronomy in Africa - a transdisciplinary interface of knowledge systems', hosted by the HSRC at the Maropeng conference centre at the Cradle of Humankind in the North West, brought together scientists from varied disciplines, from astronomers, to anthropologists, sociologists, historians, philosophers and science communicators to linguists, poets, and environmentalists.

The conference was opened by the Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, who pointed out that South Africa has a proud history of research into our origins and identity. As an example, she mentioned significant palaeontological discoveries beginning in the 1920s and the transformation of South African history research in the 1970s that contributed in an important way to the transition to democracy. 'This proud history of research continues to influence how we think about ourselves and how we conduct our public arguments,' Pandor said.

The inspiration for the conference comes from the recent announcement of South Africa co-hosting the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) with eight African countries as well as with Australia. The idea behind the conference was that the humanities were integral to the early study and utilisation of astronomy on the African continent, and that the SKA represents a re-emergence of the systematic study and utilisation of astronomy on the continent.

Pandor said the SKA will bring in a billion Euros in capital and operational expenditure. Thousands of local jobs will be created at radio telescope station sites and will contribute to the provision of access to broadband connectivity in rural areas.

'Investment by African countries in astronomy, information technology and engineering skills development will position the continent to maximise the benefits that can be harnessed from hosting the mega telescope,' she said.

In her concluding remarks, Pandor mentioned that the emergence of Africa as a



Visions and synergy - Professor Sergio Colafrancesco, Radio Astronomy and DST/NRF SKA Research Chair, the School of Physics at Wits University, who addressed the enormous task of building the largest platform for multi-frequency astronomy on earth.

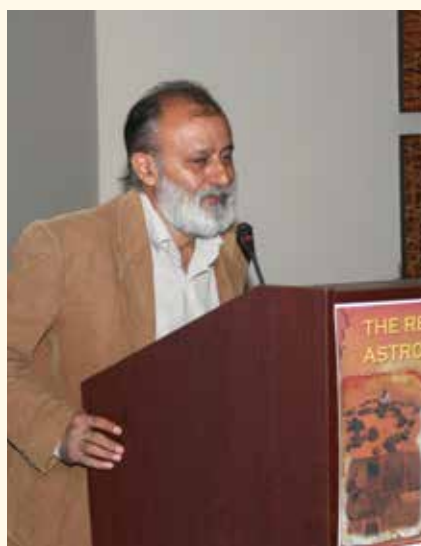
global astronomy hub has been strengthened by the African Renaissance Fund's decision to fund the initial phase of the African VLBI Network. This network will comprise new radio telescopes and communications antennae that have been converted into radio telescopes.

'We are at a point where many companies throughout the world are looking at the SKA to provide an impetus that will strengthen manufacturing, maintenance and operations capacity. African companies should also position their resources to harness benefits from the SKA construction and its substantial infrastructure requirements,' she said.

The HSRC co-hosted the conference with a whole array of partners, namely the Departments of Science and Technology and Arts and Culture, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the National Research Foundation, Freedom Park Trust, the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, the Africa Institute of South Africa, and the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. The conference papers will be collected in a book and published by the HSRC Press.



Science meeting art - Keynote speaker Dr Naledi Pandor, who addressed the conference on the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project, and Professor Pitika Ntuli, poet, writer, sculptor and academic, who spoke on Africa-centred critique of European thought and behaviour.



Mr Gauhar Raza, researcher and Head of the Science Communication through Multimedia Division of the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) in India and renowned Urdu poet, speaking on the meta-questions of science vs. extra science in astronomy.

Climate change and the effect on local staple crops



Climate change and crops – Dr Charles Nhemachena, leader of the team undertaking the economics analysis component of the project.

HSRC contributes to major new project

A diverse team of climate, crop, economic and IT researchers in southern Africa is collaborating in a regional climate change project that will evaluate the impacts of climate change on production of staple and nutritionally important crops. These include maize, sorghum, sugarcane, wheat and sweet potatoes in the region. The focus will be on South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia, using climate, crop and economic simulation models.

This two-year project uses integrated analysis combining climate, crop and economic modelling to assess a range of possible future adaptation and socio-economic routes that can be followed to lessen the impact of climate change on these crops. It will also build critical capacity among the team members in methodologies for conducting

integrated assessments that will be shared locally through targeted workshops, meetings, training, and stakeholder outreach.

The project, entitled the collaborative Southern Africa Agricultural Model Inter-comparison and Improvement Project (SAAMIIP), forms part of the global Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP).

The SAAMIIP regional research team is conducting a series of activities to support integrated climate change impacts assessments for agricultural systems in the region.

The regional institutions involved in the project include: Agricultural Research Council (lead institution), Human Sciences Research Council, University of Cape Town, University of Free State, South African Sugar Research Institute, Polytechnic of Namibia, National

University of Lesotho, Botswana College of Agriculture and Swaziland Meteorological Services.

The HSRC team, led by Dr Charles Nhemachena, is managing the economic analysis component of this multi-dimensional project. The main objective of the economics team is to assess the economic impacts for a subset of agricultural crops, with particular focus on sweet potatoes/potatoes, wheat, sugarcane, maize and millet, under future climate change, adaptation and socio-economic scenarios.

To achieve this, the economics team will assemble relevant socioeconomic data for regional economic analysis, using the Tradeoff Analysis Multi-Dimensional Impact Assessment Economic Model (TOA-MD Model) to estimate the impacts.

Key questions include:

- How will climate change affect the distribution of production, income, and poverty in the farm systems of a given region?
- How will various adaptations affect this distributional impact of climate change?
- How do uncertainties in the regional economic model calibration affect climate change impacts?

The project will focus on the effect climate change will have on food production, income and poverty in the Southern Africa region; emphasising important food crops and quantifying relevant uncertainties.

For further information, e-mail Dr Charles Nhemachena, cnhemachena@hsrc.ac.za



New@HSRC

Ms Judith

February

(BA LL.M., Commercial Law, UCT) accepted the position of executive director of the Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery

(DGSD) research programme. Before joining the HSRC she headed Idasa's Political Information and Monitoring Service Programme where she worked on issues of corruption and its impact on governance, Parliamentary oversight, institutional design and general political analysis.



Dr Chris

Desmond (PhD,

Development Studies, London School of Economics) has been appointed as a chief research specialist in the HIV/AIDS, STIs

and TB (HAST) research programme. Before joining the HSRC he was a research specialist at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. He has also worked for the Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) at the University of Natal.



Dr Hester du

Plessis (DLitt

et Phil, UNISA), formerly a senior researcher at the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture, and associate researcher and

co-founder of the Sustainable Energy Technology and Research (SeTAR) Centre, Faculty of Science, University of Johannesburg, has been appointed as a senior research specialist and head of Science Communication at the HSRC. She also holds a research chair at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.



Dr Jaya Josie

(PhD, Public Finance and Administration, University of the Western Cape) has been appointed as a senior research manager in the Economic

Performance and Development (EPD) programme. Before joining the HSRC he was a researcher and part-time lecturer at the School of Government, University of the Western Cape.



Ms Tebelo

Letsekha

(MA, Industrial and Economic Sociology, Rhodes University) is a researcher in the Education and Skills Development

programme. Before joining the HSRC earlier this year, she was a fulltime PhD candidate at Rhodes University.



Mr Nedson

Pophiwa (MA, Forced Migration, Wits; MA, African Economic History, University of Zimbabwe) has been appointed as a chief researcher in DGSD. He was

previously a research specialist at the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) where he conducted research in the Sustainable Development Programme.



Dr Rushil

Ranchod (PhD,

Geography, Durham University, UK) is post-doctoral fellow in the Education and Skills Development

programme. He previously worked as a guest lecturer and researcher at the University of Cape Town and an academic tutor and researcher at Durham University. He has also been a research fellow at the Institute of Society and Globalisation at Roskilde University in Denmark.



Professor Alinah

Kelo Segobye

(PhD, University of Cambridge) took up a position as deputy executive director and head of the Research Use and Impact Assessment unit

at the HSRC. She was previously associate professor of Archaeology at the University of Botswana, and acting coordinator of master's degree students in Development Practice Programme, the School of Graduate Studies at the same university.



Ms Priya

Singh

has been appointed as chief financial officer (CFO). She holds a CA (SA) and is registered with the South African Institute of Chartered

Accountants. She was previously employed as risk, audit and compliance manager at the South African National Space Agency (SANS) and was responsible for establishing an internal control environment, risk management processes and compliance framework.





CHOOSING GOOD NEIGHBOURS: Social tolerance and prejudice

in the past year the South African media has run a number of stories – the controversy of the Spear painting at the Goodman affair for example – that seem to suggest a fraying of social tolerance in post-apartheid society. But is this an accurate portrayal of the national landscape? Using recent nationally representative data, *Steven Gordon, Jarè Struwig and Ben Roberts* tested levels of social tolerance in South Africa and although there is evidence of prejudice towards certain groups, they found cohesion at the local societal level.

The South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) was used to measure tolerance among the adult population in South Africa. The survey, a repeated cross-sectional research instrument that has been conducted annually by the HSRC since 2003, consists of nationally representative samples of South African adults, aged 16 years and older and living in households.

Indicators developed by the World Value Survey (an international survey that captures values and beliefs in over 50 countries) were adapted for the South African landscape by SASAS researchers enabling them to measure intolerance in the 2011 SASAS survey round. In all, 3 057 individuals participated in the 2011 SASAS round.

By investigating how satisfied or dissatisfied an individual would be living next door to someone who was different from them, it was possible to measure animosity towards different groups in post-apartheid society.

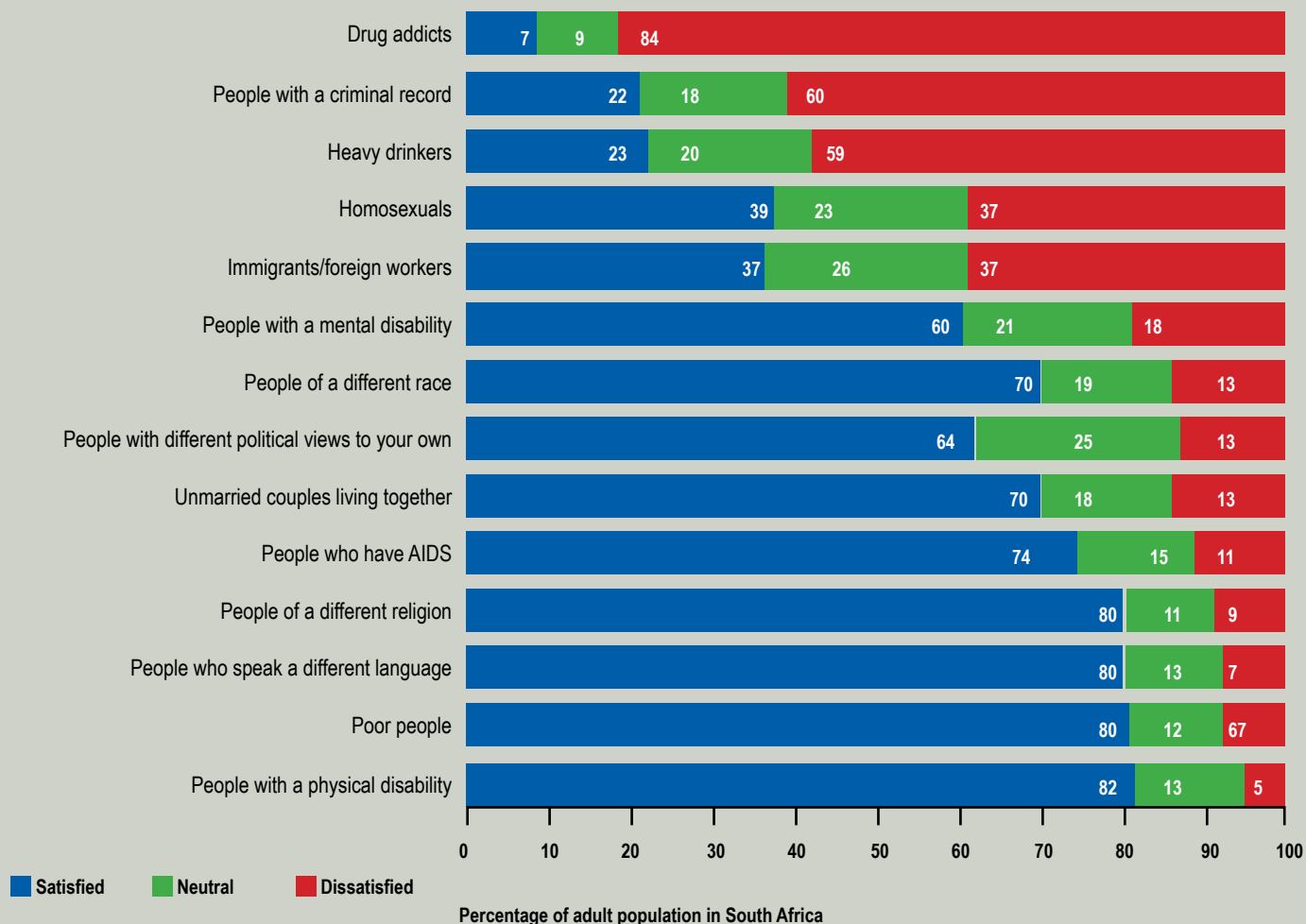
Tolerance in the rainbow nation

South Africans tend to be remarkably tolerant, and there was little evidence of prejudice against the more obvious out-groups. Eight out of every ten South Africans reported that they would be satisfied with a neighbour who was of a different religion, spoke a different language, was physically disabled or was poor.

Moreover, 70% of the nation's adults would be satisfied to have a neighbour of a different race, indicating the level of

This finding seems to suggest the success of the post-apartheid education system in promoting pluralism and an acceptance of diversity.

Satisfaction with different groups as neighbours in South Africa, 2011.



>> CHOOSING GOOD NEIGHBOURS: Social tolerance and prejudice (continued)

Measuring social intolerance is important for understanding and promoting national unity in South Africa, a nation still rebuilding itself.

progress that post-apartheid society has made in overcoming racial prejudice.

In addition, there is evidence of progress made in combating the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. Almost three quarters of the national population reported that they would be satisfied living next to a person with HIV/AIDS.

Clouds across the rainbow

The picture presented above should not blind us, however, to forms of intolerance that persist in our multicultural society. Certain groups seem to have been commonly identified by the public as objectionable. A strong aversion, for example, was found towards individuals with a criminal

record. More than six out of every ten adult South Africans reported that they would be dissatisfied living next to a person with such a record. Although this aversion is perhaps justifiable given the extensive prevalence of crime in the country, it does suggest challenges for the reintegration of paroled criminals into post-apartheid society. Two of the most despised groups in South Africa seem to be homosexual people and foreign nationals. Less than two-fifths of the public would be satisfied living next to such individuals. Social intolerance towards homosexual people may be related to a moral objection to homosexuality.

More than 80% of those who would be very dissatisfied to have a homosexual neighbour believed that it is always wrong for two adults of the same sex to have sexual relations. Of those who would be satisfied with a homosexual neighbour, only 41% shared this belief.

Intolerance towards foreigners may be associated with a perception of immigration and social ills. Of those who indicated that they would be very dissatisfied to live next to a foreign national, more than 83% believed that immigrants caused crime and unemployment.

A significant minority of South Africans are opposed to sharing their neighbourhoods with those who have different political positions. Two fifths of adults in the rainbow nation would be dissatisfied if they had a neighbour that did not share their political views.

Who are the most tolerant?

The social acceptance of difference was particularly evident among the well-educated and those South Africans with a matric or

tertiary education. They were considerably more tolerant than their less educated counterparts.

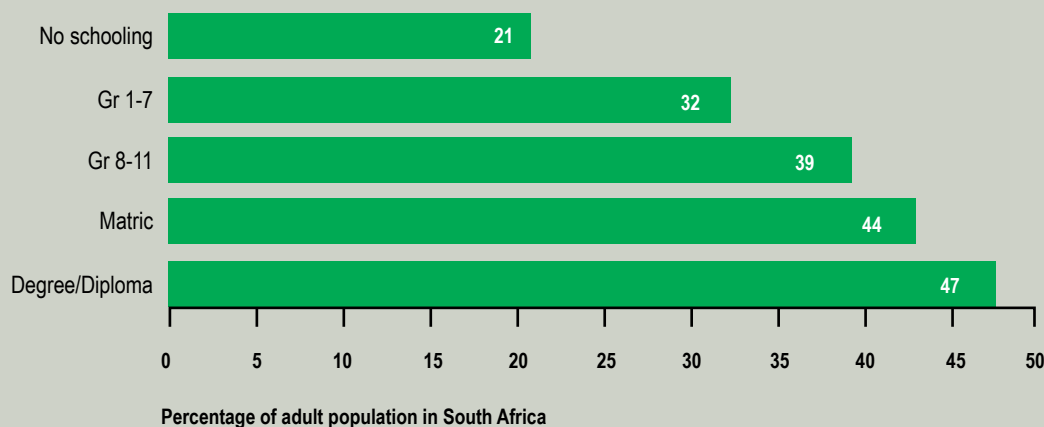
For example, the well-educated were found to be more tolerant of homosexual persons than their less educated counterparts as the figure below attests. A strong relationship was also most evident when considering attitudes towards people of a different race, a different religion, and a different language.

This finding seems to suggest the success of the post-apartheid education system in promoting pluralism and an acceptance of diversity. Age was also found to be associated with progressive attitudes. Being born during the 1990s - the years when the apartheid laws were repealed and the nation was transformed into a democracy - was found to be a significant predictor of tolerant attitudes.

The government has invested sustainably in promoting the cohesiveness of post-apartheid society. The wisdom of such an investment is supported by the positive association in this survey between tolerance in post-apartheid South Africa and neighbourhood solidarity.

Those individuals who felt that they could rely on their neighbours for help and support were found to be most tolerant of differences. Individuals who reported living in neighbourhoods with low social cohesion reported high levels of animosity towards individuals who were different from them. In particular, low neighbourhood solidarity was associated with prejudice towards people who had AIDS, immigrants, the physically disabled and individuals with opposing political views.

Tolerance of homosexuality



Building tolerance through social cohesion

Measuring social intolerance is important for understanding and promoting national unity in South Africa, a nation still rebuilding itself, less than 20 years after the end of apartheid. Using a Neighbourhood Solidarity Scale (NSS), with '0' representing a complete lack of solidarity and '100' complete solidarity

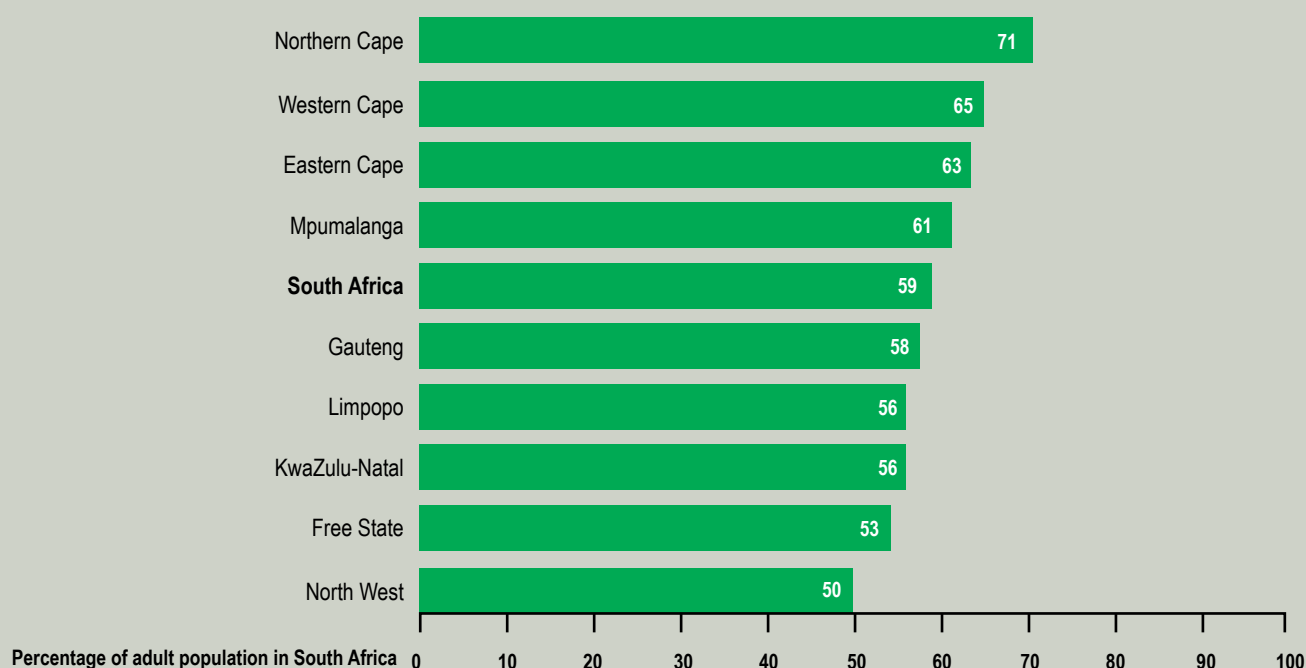
it is possible to measure cohesion in South African neighbourhoods.

This scale was based on questions on whether South Africans would be comfortable seeking help from their neighbours. There is a strong relationship found between this score and social tolerance in South Africa.

Employing this measure reveals that many communities in South Africa report high

levels of solidarity. Of the adult population, a third reported an NSS score of 78, indicating the high level of community solidarity present in many South African neighbourhoods. However, certain provinces, particularly the North West, score very low on the NSS scale, which might partly explain recent incidences of social unrest, given the link between social intolerance and neighbourhood solidarity.

Neighbourhood Solidarity Scale (0-100) by province



If the ideals of our democratic Constitution are to be maintained and realised, neighbourhood solidarity should be encouraged.

Conclusion

Promoting social tolerance is a key aim of not only the current South African government but the South African Constitution. There is a need for an even greater effort to study and encourage social cohesion at the community level. If the ideals of our democratic Constitution are to be maintained and realised, neighbourhood solidarity should be encouraged.

The importance of current government efforts to promote social tolerance, through the national strategy on social cohesion and nation building, cannot be overestimated. To ensure the success of former President Nelson Mandela's rainbow national project, and the spirit of tolerance and togetherness that project embodied, it is essential that neighbourhood solidarity is understood and researched.

Authors: Steven Gordon, Master's intern; Jarè Struwig and Ben Roberts, SASAS coordinators, Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery research programme, HSRC.

TRANSFORMING excluded communities into inclusive cities

Across the country we face painful dilemmas of social transformation that threaten to draw communities into a downward spiral. The predicament is worsened in the current period of economic uncertainty and austerity. *Ivan Turok* reflects on recent events in an ordinary suburb of Msunduzi (Pietermaritzburg) to illustrate the need for stronger local cohesion and development in order to accommodate and manage urban growth more successfully.

Over the last few months, residents of Northdale, a suburb of Msunduzi, have been forced to endure increasing blackouts because their neighbours in the Nhlalakahle informal settlement have been hot-wiring the municipal electricity boxes for illegal connections. These extra connections overload the electricity network and cause it to fail. The informal settlers have also been stealing electricity cables to make their connections.

When the municipal engineers disconnect the illegal cables the lights go back on for the suburban ratepayers, but the informal settlement is thrown into darkness. This provokes an angry reaction and threats of revenge attacks against both the suburban residents for reporting them in the first place, and the municipal workers for cutting them off.



The informal settlers protest that they are only stealing electricity because the municipality refuses to supply them with power.

Dilemmas of entitlement, financial shortfalls and hostility

The informal settlers protest that they are only stealing electricity because the municipality refuses to supply them with power. They believe they are fully entitled to electricity as voters and citizens. They know their makeshift illegal connections are dangerous because members of their community are electrocuted every so often. This reinforces their general sense of insecurity and vulnerability.

The municipality is cash-strapped and reluctant to electrify the settlement because it's on a slope and not ideal for formal housing. It is hard to justify the fixed investment unless the place has permanent, formal status.

Officials worry about the ability of the city's fragile electricity network to cope with the extra demand, after a decade when maintenance has been seriously neglected and sub-stations regularly fail.

They're also concerned that upgrading the settlement will attract more families from outlying rural areas and further intensify the pressure on all kinds of municipal services. This chimes with a deeper national ambivalence towards rural-urban migration and urban informality.

Balancing needs and resources crucial

Without financial support from national government to upgrade the area properly, the local authority ends up 'just managing' the problem and reacting to events as they unfold. The ongoing vandalism is squandering scarce municipal resources to replace the stolen cables, to remove the illegal connections and to hire special security to guard the infrastructure.

Over time different groups of local residents are becoming less tolerant and more suspicious of each other. This is eroding the goodwill required to create a more integrated and inclusive urban community. The municipality feels increasingly pressurised by the ratepayers to 'eradicate' shack areas and to relocate their occupants to leftover land on the periphery.

The obvious solution for the municipality is to electrify the settlement and thereby remove the immediate source of the problem. This fits squarely with the core service delivery function of local government. It should take the heat out of the situation and improve the living conditions of destitute communities.

Having a proper electricity supply will remove the health hazard and fire risk of using paraffin, wood and candles. Street lights will improve community safety and internal lighting will enable learners to study after dark. As conditions stabilise and prospects

improve, the settlement might expect to have fresh water and sanitation services installed within a year or two.

However, municipalities have legal obligations to operate prudently and are under financial duress in this period of austerity. This limits their ability to electrify new settlements and install services in situations where most residents are unemployed and can't afford to pay. They are reluctant to act in the knowledge that the scale of theft could escalate if the electricity poles are within easier reach of people's shacks.

Municipalities with a narrow economic base and burgeoning informal settlements will go bankrupt if they get the balance wrong between spending and revenue generation. Their capacity to spend also depends on the tacit support they receive from local ratepayers, without which the viability of local government would be jeopardised.

Breaking out of the vicious circle

Cities clearly need a way to break out of the current impasse and turn the vicious circle of frustration, dispute and conflict into a more positive atmosphere of mutual understanding,

Municipalities with a narrow economic base and burgeoning informal settlements will go bankrupt if they get the balance wrong between spending and revenue generation.

trust and optimism about the future. There are at least three approaches that would help.

Social contracts: First, some kind of social contract at the city level would give communities greater confidence about their long-term prospects and help to shift horizons beyond short-term grievances.

Informal settlements need stronger assurances that their services will improve within a specific timeframe. Suburban fears about municipal decay, collapsing infrastructure and wasteful spending also need to be allayed. City residents share a common destiny that goes beyond partisan politics and has not been effectively articulated by our civic leaders to date. Citizens from different communities need to be encouraged to be more respectful and work together within a shared vision of the future.

National policy to urbanise and upgrade: Second, an unambiguous national policy to support urbanisation and settlement upgrading would send a powerful signal of commitment and help to overcome municipal doubts. National cohesion is an abstract idea that to become

authentic needs to be built on a foundation of strong and cohesive local communities. There are exceptional costs incurred in accommodating and managing growing urban populations in decent, liveable environments. It is unreasonable to expect these up-front infrastructure costs to be borne by existing local ratepayers alone.

There are likely to be substantial payoffs from national investment in improved living conditions through enhanced workforce productivity and transformed life chances. Timely investment in community infrastructure will also save on the costs of rectifying failure and repairing damage to the social fabric later. Therefore there is a compelling case for the upgrading of informal settlements to feature prominently in the national infrastructure programme.

Boosting jobs and income in poor communities: Third, we urgently need to find more effective ways of boosting jobs and incomes in and around our poorest communities, townships and cities. Employment is the surest way of improving people's dignity and self-respect, and the only genuinely sustainable route out of poverty. Stronger local economies give

municipalities the resources to repair, upgrade and extend essential infrastructure, and enable people to afford higher quality services.

Closer dialogue with community leaders, NGOs and the private sector would improve the understanding of the economic obstacles and constraints they face and help to identify joint opportunities to promote enterprise, attract investment, and enable accelerated development and inclusive growth.

Municipalities have a role to play in redirecting their expenditure from current consumption and inessential functions towards investment to overcome bottlenecks and facilitate all kinds of productive activities. They cannot deliver prosperity on their own, and therefore need to develop meaningful partnerships and collaborative arrangements with other stakeholders.

Author: Professor Ivan Turok, deputy executive director, Economic Performance and Development research programme, HSRC. He has recently compiled a report for the SA Cities Network on service delivery and socio-economic transformation in South African cities.

FACING MARIKANA:

Inequality, fragmentation, violence and challenges for leadership

Following the tragic series of events which culminated in the shooting of 34 striking Lonmin workers on 16 August when police opened fire on the workers, the HSRC hosted a seminar to create a platform for participants to reflect and explore the questions arising from the Marikana-Lonmin tragedy. Since then, a formal Commission of Enquiry was established by government. *Lindiwe Msengana-Ndlela* reviews aspects of the discourse that could assist the research community, policy makers and citizen-activists.

There is a dislocation between the factory floor leadership and community leadership, leading to angry people taking to the streets in the absence of an organisation.

The HSRC is one institution, among others, with a responsibility to respond to societal concerns and contribute in building critical linkages between research, policy and action, thus enhancing the development impact of social science research in South Africa.

This seminar served as a platform for a discursive conversation on questions that deserve evidence-based research by the HSRC in collaboration with other partners, particularly the public and the private sector, labour unions, community-based organisations, local and international research institutions and international development agencies. Obviously some themes arising from the topic (inequality, fragmentation, violence and leadership) are not new, but what nuances does this tragedy bring into sharper focus?

The context is that since 1994, South Africa has been involved in a democratic and a transformation project which has encountered both recognisable progress and complex problems, as stated by Minister of Finance Pravin Gordhan in his Medium Term Policy Speech, 25 October 2012. Some of these problems are exposed by this tragedy. What do the struggles of workers and ordinary South Africans, such as those we saw in Marikana, mean in a post-apartheid democracy? How can they be characterised and what do they explain about historical and contemporary changes in society, power relations and implications of the dominant political-economic paradigm in our world?

Again, the call here is for intellectual rigour in our country as we research, debate and positively seek to contribute in addressing the challenges of our times. That is why we need greater investment in collective effort and resources to increase the depth of our analysis and a qualitative change in policy impact.

In proposing a potential research agenda that could have useful policy benefits, I suggest four interrelated focus areas which, while they are not intended to be exhaustive, deal with the economic, social, democracy, governance and leadership themes, as depicted in Table 1.

Table 1: Facing Marikana - potential research areas to inform policy and practice

ECONOMIC	SOCIAL
<p>Inequality in SA: patterns and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamics of inequality, unemployment, job reservation, poverty; class, race, gender discrimination, structure and agency relations <p>Economic sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining, Charter processes and outcomes Mining companies, domestic and international operations Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) <p>Industrial relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing patterns of interaction Wage setting and labour regulation Industrial action, patterns of fragmentation and violence 	<p>The migrant labour system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survival: The individual and family context Money flows, coping with indebtedness Quality of life Basic services Re-thinking human settlements Mining towns and social life



Table 2: Facing Marikana - potential research areas to inform policy and practice

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE	LEADERSHIP
<p>Citizenship and modes of collective engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voices of the poor, listening • Intra and inter-organisational dynamics (labour organisations, political organisations) • The role of the media and social networks <p>Perceptions and attitudes towards public institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive, the three spheres of government; policing and conflict mediation • Judiciary, the courts and social justice system • The legislature and its role in the wake of such tragedies 	<p>At all levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community leadership • Political leadership • Business leadership • The social distance between leaders and constituencies • Trust • Ethics • Accountability

It is impossible, in an article of this nature, to summarise all the inputs of panel members, including Reverend Sakhumzi Qiqimana who lives in Marikana and was involved in the negotiations between the mineworkers and mine management, Mr Jay Naidoo, a former Cabinet minister, Professor Ivan Turok, HSRC and Dr Temba Masilela, HSRC, and other participants in the seminar. Suffice to say that they debated and reinforced the various elements of these potential research areas.

In highlighting some of the economic development challenges, Prof. Turok posed the challenge: 'We own 80% of the world's platinum. We can do much more both to beneficiate and to research how we can influence the price of this resource'.

On perceptions about BEE, Reverend Qiqimana suggested that the voices of

miners were unheard and 'Even people who were supposed to speak for them changed their position to own some shares in the mining companies'.

In dealing with matters of leadership, Mr Naidoo pointed out that, 'There is a dislocation between the factory floor leadership and community leadership, leading to angry people taking to the streets in the absence of an organisation. Law and order has to be built street-by-street, family-by-family and the leaders must have a legitimate voice and channels to raise their grievances'.

In dealing with the migrant labour system, Mr Naidoo called for improved research efforts and policy interventions, stating that migrant workers are to be found all over the country and the SADC region: 'How do we understand that environment?'

There are different tendencies and contradictions at play. He went on to suggest that, 'We haven't understood that. That's where social research would have been so fundamentally important about trying to find solutions to these intractable problems, and there are no short-term solutions. This is painstaking work that has to be done'.

In closing the seminar, Dr Masilela emphasised the need to strengthen research on political economy and the important role of the HSRC in developing a research agenda that responds to some of the questions arising from the Marikana-Lonmin tragedy.

Author: Dr Lindiwe Msengana-Ndlela, post-doctoral fellow, Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery programme, HSRC.

Mr Jay Naidoo.

Dr Lindiwe Msengana-Ndlela.

Reverend Sakhumzi Qiqimana.



Post-traumatic stress prominent in TB and HIV patients

High rates of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV co-infection are often linked to mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which contribute further to poor health. *Karl Peltzer et al* conducted a study to establish the extent of PTSD symptoms associated with TB, TB/HIV co-infection and the retreatment of TB patients whose first treatment was unsuccessful.



In South Africa approximately 60% of people with TB are co-infected with HIV. It is an area of concern that there is limited or no data available on the prevalence rates of mental disorders such as PTSD and its associated factors. Therefore, the aim of this study was to establish the prevalence of PTSD symptoms and associated factors in patients in TB, TB retreatment and/or TB/HIV co-infected primary public health-care patients.

PTSD describes a set of symptoms that may occur after exposure to a traumatic event such as rape, physical assault, mugging/robbery and/or a life threatening accident or serious or sudden medical illness. This event can be protracted and continuous but is more frequently a single, time-limited event (e.g. rape and natural disaster). In this context, for the person who has experienced a diagnosis of TB, the exact nature of the trauma is unclear.

Other studies have found depression and anxiety in HIV-infected and HIV and TB co-infected individuals, but little is known about PTSD in TB and/or HIV co-infected patients.

Methods

A survey was conducted among 4 900 TB patients in 42 public primary care clinics in three health districts in South Africa, namely eThekweni, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan area and Siyanda. These areas have the highest TB caseloads in South Africa.

The survey measured PTSD symptoms, psychological distress (anxiety and depression) and alcohol misuse. Other relevant measures, such as adherence to medication, stressful life events and sexual risk-taking behaviours, were obtained through structured questions within one month of anti-TB treatment.

The interviews were conducted by trained external research assistants for a period of six months from mid-April to mid-October in 2011.

Questionnaires were translated and back translated into the major languages of the study participants (Afrikaans, Tswana, Xhosa and Zulu). About 60 fieldworkers were employed during the period of data collection, at least one per clinic, and in larger clinics two fieldworkers.

Measures

The following socio-economic characteristics were measured: age, gender, educational level, marital status, income, employment status and residential status were assessed. Poverty was assessed with five items on the availability or non-availability of shelter, fuel or electricity, clean water, food and cash income in the past week.

Results

For those who had tested for HIV, 59.9% were HIV-positive, 22.1% of the HIV-positive patients were on ART and 9.6% had never tested for HIV.

One in five patients (20%) were daily, or almost daily, tobacco users and 23.3% were hazardous or harmful alcohol users. Regarding non-adherence to TB medication, 33.9% indicated that they had taken less than 90% of their TB medication in the past three to four weeks.

Of those who were on ART, 42.1% reported that they had taken less than 90% of their antiretroviral drugs in the last four weeks. A large proportion (81%) reported psychological distress and 3% had attempted suicide. Overall, 29.6% screened positive for PTSD, 28.5% among men and 30.8% among women.

Treatment for depression

Of those who screened positive for PTSD and anxiety/depression (severe psychological distress), 21.4% and 17.3% respectively, were using anti-depression medication. Of those who screened positive for both anxiety/depression and PTSD, 32.7% were using anti-depression medication.

Stressful life events

Overall, 38.6% of the TB patients reported having experienced some traumatic event in their lives and 29.6% of the sample screened positive for PTSD symptoms in response to a traumatic life event. The most common traumatic events reported by TB patients with PTSD symptoms are shown in **Table 2**. They included death of family, partner or friend (33.4%), followed by disease-related worst event, including being diagnosed with HIV, TB or with HIV and TB (17.9%).

Discussion

The present study found that 29.6% of the TB public primary care patients screened positive for PTSD symptoms in South Africa, which is similar to findings in HIV patients in other countries. This study found that the common 'worst events' experienced by these patients included death of family, partner or friend and being diagnosed with HIV, TB or HIV/TB co-infection. A study conducted in Tanzania had similar findings.

This study also found that HIV/TB co-infection was associated with higher rates of PTSD or PTSD symptoms, as in some other studies. The HIV/TB co-infected patients have a greater chance of contracting multiple drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) as well as extra drug-resistant TB which are life-threatening and often lead to death. Being a TB retreatment patient was, in this study, not associated with higher rates of PTSD symptoms than in new TB patients, indicating that the diagnosis or re-diagnosis of TB may not lead to more PTSD symptoms.

Further, this study found an association between HIV risk behaviour (unprotected sex, alcohol and drug use before sex) and PTSD, which is a finding supported by several other studies. This calls for intensified HIV broad-based behavioural prevention interventions to address risk-taking behaviour among TB patients.

Contrary to other studies, however, this study did not find an association between PTSD symptoms and ART and anti-TB drug non-adherence.

This study found an association between HIV risk behaviour (unprotected sex, alcohol and drug use before sex) and PTSD.



Table 2:
Reported worst event by tuberculosis patients who screened positive for PTSD symptoms

Traumatic event	N=1891	%
Death of family member, partner, or friend	632	33.4
Being diagnosed with HIV	257	13.6
Witnessed killing, shooting or assault of family member or other person	184	9.7
Accident, injury, disability	164	8.7
Major family problems, divorce	83	4.4
Family member, partner or friend diagnosed with HIV	81	4.3
Domestic and intimate partner violence	77	4.1
Raped (self or family member such as daughter)	73	3.9
Physical assault	65	3.4
Victim of serious crime, robbery, hijacking, shooting	61	3.2
Miscarriage, suicide of family member, suicide attempt	58	3.1
Being diagnosed with TB (second/third time, MDR)	43	2.3
Diagnosed with HIV and TB	37	2.0
Poverty (no shelter, no food, lost job, no job, imprisonment)	34	1.8
Natural disasters (lightning, burnt house, floods)	29	1.5
Diagnosed with other chronic illness (other than HIV) (mental illness, cancer, stroke, epilepsy, child paralysed, ..)	13	0.7

Conclusions

The present study found high rates of PTSD symptoms. Health-care systems should be strengthened to improve delivery of mental health care, by focusing on existing programmes and activities, such as those which address the prevention and treatment of TB and HIV. Further studies should continue to clarify issues in the assessment of traumatic events and PTSD and treatment guidelines for co-morbidity.

Author: Karl Peltzer, director, HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs research programme, HSRC

This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in the journal *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, by Karl Peltzer, Pamela Naidoo, Gladys Matseke, Julia Louw, Gugu Mchunu & Bomkazi Tutshana (2012): Prevalence of post-traumatic stress symptoms and associated factors in tuberculosis (TB), TB retreatment and/or TB-HIV co-infected primary public health-care patients in three districts in South Africa, *Psychology, Health & Medicine*.



The full article is available on <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13548506.2012.726364>



For humanity's sake let's restore the humanities

In conversation with Vasu Reddy about the HSRC's role in fulfilling its mandate to promote research in the field of human sciences to improve an understanding of social conditions, and the process of social change.

What are the 'humanities'?

The humanities are academic disciplines that study the human condition, using methods that are primarily analytical, critical, or speculative, as distinguished from the mainly empirical approaches of the natural sciences.

The humanities include ancient and modern languages, literature, history, philosophy, religion, and visual and performing arts such as music and theatre. The humanities that are also regarded as social sciences include history, anthropology, area studies, communication studies, cultural studies, law and linguistics.

Source: www.wikipedia.org

In 2011, two reports on the decline of the humanities and social sciences in South Africa appeared within a month of each other, pointing to a crisis in this field of study with student numbers in these subjects dropping at an alarming rate: namely the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) report and the Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHCC).

The ASSAf report expressed concern about the 'intellectual stagnation' in the humanities over the last 15 years, posing the single most important threat to the growth of intellectually vibrant scholarship in the humanities, whereas the CHCC report noted 'extremely worrying signs of decline that need to be arrested and reversed as a matter of urgency given the important role the humanities have to play in our society'.

Why are the humanities important?

The humanities mirror and reflect society and culture. If we look at the early writings of Wally Serote, Siphiso Sepamla, Mafika Gwala, they remind us not only about the experiences under apartheid, but also how, as writers, they mobilised audiences and drove the momentum for change through their writing.

In considering Mazisi Kunene, we remember not just the writer of great epics such as *Emperor Shaka the Great* and *Anthem of the Decades*, but one who was able to be cosmopolitan, national and socially relevant beyond the period in which he wrote.

Ingrid Jonker, an Afrikaans poet who died in the sixties, was cited by President Mandela in her classic poem 'The Child', written in the wake of Sharpeville to remind us about her insight into South African township life, as well as about our task to instil a common humanity that transcends violence. This also helps us to see our challenges and problems in creative and critical ways and should compel us to ask questions about ourselves visually, musically and through performance in a holistic way.

So, why are the humanities on the decline?

Since the nineties universities have tended to emphasise vocations, which implies the training of experts focused on the use and purpose of skills, such as engineers, chartered accountants, the medical profession, and others. This in itself is not bad, but the emphasis became strongly aligned to application in a narrow way.

The global financial crisis had an impact on funding; competition for resources has increased; and there is a perception that training in the humanities does not guarantee jobs.

There is also a belief that methods to conduct research in the humanities are time consuming and results are perceived to lack an evidence base because they do not provide statistics and numbers that quantify facts. The qualitative nature of humanities methods is seen by some as ineffectual in the face of 'hard science' research.

As a result, policy makers are sometimes reluctant to accept outcomes of qualitative research as 'authoritative' and therefore claim that it is insubstantial.

But contrary to popular perception, the majority of humanities graduates are indeed employed because the training they receive is broad enough to enable them to speak, write, and think laterally, making them ideally suited for and adaptable to most jobs.

The funding formula in higher education tends to favour science and technology subjects over humanities, which partially explains the decline. This formula should be changed. While science and technology subjects drive economic development, the humanities in turn take up the problems that science and technology throw at us. Poor working conditions, poverty and inequalities, communicable diseases, women's and workers' rights, population growth, changing structure of families are issues addressed by social sciences and humanities that feed into social policies as well.

What are the recommendations to restore the humanities?

There are many proposals, but the most concrete proposals include a council with statutory standing to advise government on how to improve the status of the humanities; and doing a review of government funding allocations to humanities. The areas requiring special attention are African languages, creative and performing arts, philosophy, and history; and better and stronger integration of the humanities into government policy into tertiary teaching, policy making and research in humanities.

The reports also propose a dedicated national fund for humanities research; the establishment of centres of excellence and researcher chairs to build capacity for future humanities scholars. At the public level, the value of the humanities requires more coverage through major awards, televised lectures, and a national medal for humanities. All of these are great ideas but require resources, active collaboration and leadership at several levels.

How does the HSRC respond to these two studies since our core function is social sciences and humanities research?

The HSRC should lead and drive the humanities. We believe the formation of another institute for the humanities implies duplication of what we already do. The HSRC has a national mandate to play a leadership role in respect of reinvigorating the humanities in longitudinal projects with a strong interdisciplinary focus, as well as public engagement in national conversations.

We have introduced a series of lectures that bring high-calibre scholars, policy makers, business and activist leaders, writers and

artists to speak on topics of relevance in the arts and humanities. The series recognises a broad and specialised audience to share compelling perspectives, experiences and ideas that show intersections across the hard and soft sciences to highlight intellectual enquiry, creative expression and free debate.

We use these forums to ask speakers to stimulate debate on pertinent topics that we as a council should also engage in our research. We are exploring ideas on research impact in the humanities and social sciences within the institution. We are focusing on morality and issues of healing and restitution in the context of our divided histories across race and heritage. We are also beginning work that explores the value and meaning of art and social justice in South Africa. For example, we are asking what role art has played post 1994 in healing the wounds of the past and promoting social justice and national transformation. We ask how art has contributed to social justice; and we ask what the building blocks of our nation are, and what facilitates and what restricts our nation building attempts.

Answers to these questions may help to restore the human dimension of our experience as South Africans.

The majority of humanities graduates are indeed employed because the training they receive is broad enough to enable them to speak, write, and think laterally.

Professor Vasu Reddy is the deputy executive director of the Human and Social Development Research Programme, HSRC.



The original artwork of this illustration was done by John Velickovic when he was seven years old. This was awarded a 2nd place prize in the category for Grades K, 1, 2 by the Cray-Pas Wonderful, Colorful World Contest in 2001. He is currently in his second year, studying towards a Bachelor's degree for Studio Art at the University of California, Irvine, USA.

SCIENCE AND THE PUBLIC: building trust for development

The discipline and practice of an area called science communication has become increasingly important for development. *Ina van der Linde* explores.

During the night of 6 April 2009 an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck the small town of L'Aquila in Italy, killing 309 people. The earthquake came after four months of continuous seismic activity.

In an area that is prone to earthquakes this event was neither unusual nor unexpected. What was unusual, though, was the subsequent actions by prosecutors backed by the population of this small town. They took six scientists, who they claimed had underplayed the danger of the possibility of such a massive earthquake, to court.

What followed was a 13-month trial, and on 22 October, six scientists and one government official were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to six years in prison. The verdict was based on how the scientists evaluated and communicated risk before the earthquake that hit the city.

This verdict has sent shock waves through the scientific community worldwide, who called the decision 'bizarre', stating that the risk of litigation will deter scientists from advising governments and, in this case, working in seismology and risk assessments.

But the verdict also has consequences for the relationship of trust between scientists and the public, as well as for researchers and communicators working in the area of Science Communication (SC) and its protégé, the Public Understanding of Science (PUS).

Scientific culture is a society-wide environment that appreciates and supports science and scientific literacy.

Why was this event important for SC?

One of the guiding principles in SC is to provide the public with '... effective communication of science [that] gives people accurate information upon which to base decisions. By making science accessible, science communicators help counter the misinformation and misconceptions which clutter public debate,' says Jesse Shore, National President of the Australian Science Communicators.

In the case of the six scientists from Italy, the townsfolk of L'Aquila felt the communication between scientists and the public was deficient and the information misleading, thereby causing preventable suffering.

SC and the case for development

Trust between science and technology and the public is even more important in the developing world. As David Dickson, editor and founding director of www.SciDev.Net, states: 'The biggest single factor determining any country's potential for achieving sustainable social and economic growth – and particularly in the case of developing countries to attaining the Millennium Development Goals – is its ability to access and apply the fruits of modern science and technology in a responsible manner'.

Achieving this goal is more complex than it sounds, says Dickson. There are many political and economic obstacles to accessing science and technology, ranging from high costs to a lack of absorptive capacity.

Achieving this access in a responsible manner, for example ensuring that it reduces rather than increases the gap between rich and poor, presents its own problems, particularly where much scientific knowledge comes wrapped as privately-owned intellectual property.

'And even where access is achieved, using science and technology effectively to meet local needs in a way that is appropriate to local conditions remains a challenge, particularly when supply is dominated by commercial considerations,' he says.

In reference to the devastating events at L'Aquila, Dickson's opinion becomes even more telling: we live in a world where almost every social need – from food security through good health to productive employment – increasingly depends on some form of science-based technology. Not only is it necessary to help developing countries to develop their own capacity to use science and technology but appropriate information is a global necessity.

Science communication and building trust between scientists and the public

Science communication was globally established as a field of study and practice some 30 years ago. This field of study is currently gaining momentum across the world, and recently also in South Africa. It is propelled forward by an enthusiastic global group of social and natural scientists and communications professionals who believe in the communication of science and technology for development. This group is progressively participating in collaborations towards linking the opinions and findings between the so-called developed and developing countries.

Dr Terry Burns, University of Newcastle, New South Wales and colleagues, states that 'science communication (SciCom) is not simply encouraging scientists to talk more about their work, nor is it an offshoot of the discipline of communications'. It involves several well-defined fields, each with a specific focus on an aspect of communicating science. Such concepts include public awareness of science (PAS), public understanding of science (PUS), scientific culture (SC) also known as 'scientific temper', and scientific literacy (SL).

- Public awareness of science aims to stimulate *awareness* of, and positive attitudes (*or opinions*) towards science.
- Public understanding of science, as the name suggests, focuses on *understanding* science: its content, processes, and social factors.

By making science accessible, science communicators help counter the misinformation and misconceptions which clutter public debate. Jesse Shore.



Minuscule technology – visitors to the CSIR's Centre for Nano (a prefix used in the metric systems, meaning a billionth, denoting a factor of 10^{-9} or 0.000000001), organised by the South African Agency for Science Advancement (SAASTA). Photo with permission from SAASTA.

- Scientific literacy is the ideal situation where people are *aware* of, *interested* and *involved* in, form *opinions* about, and seek to *understand* science.
- Scientific culture is a society-wide environment that appreciates and supports science and scientific literacy. It has important *social* and *aesthetic* (affective) aspects.

Recently these fields have also branched out into what we call a 'transdisciplinary' approach to research, says Dr Hester du Plessis, newly appointed head of science communication at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

'The growing awareness of the complex relation between science and society and the scientific impact on the application of our daily common sense activities (including those of indigenous knowledge systems) is gaining attention during the growing interaction between researchers from the west and those from developing countries,' Du Plessis maintains.

Trying to define 'transdisciplinarity' is more complicated. Helga Nowotny, President of the European Research Council, says: 'Transdisciplinarity responds to an underlying need to regain the loss in what is felt to have been a former unity of knowledge of all disciplines; and an inherent belief that transdisciplinarity contributes to joint problem solving.

'It is more than juxtaposition; more than laying one discipline alongside another'. If joint problem solving is the aim, then the means must provide for an integration of perspectives in the identification, formulation and resolution of what has to become a shared problem. It integrates disciplines and treats them as complementary, converging to understand a problem holistically without losing their identities.

A current collaborative project at the Research use and Impact Assessment (RIA) unit at the HSRC looks at the concept

and application of transdisciplinarity in partnership with the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA). The project studies various institutions and cross-examines the application of transdisciplinarity on both institutional and academic level.

The long-term aim of this project is to make room for the production of new knowledge that is appropriate for Africa's future intellectual development. The team members are seeking evidence that a transdisciplinary approach to research will assist in remodelling South Africa's political and socio-economic inheritance.

This quest is already bearing fruit. One interesting example is illustrated in the next article by research done by Professor Himla Soodyal and her team of researchers on genetics and tracing our ancestors.

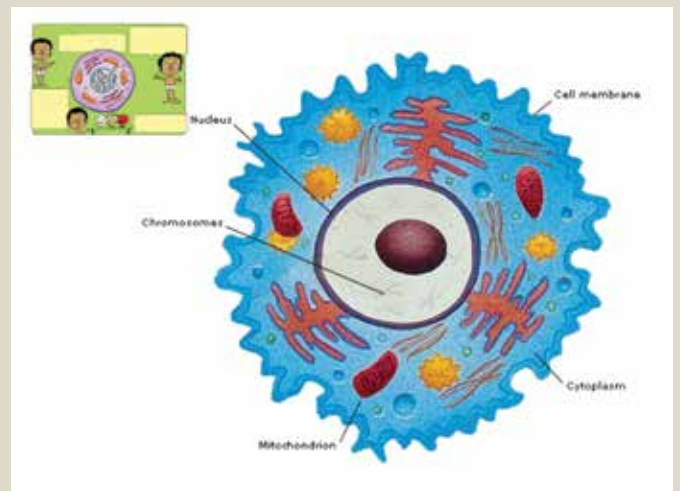
Author: Ina van der Linde, Science Communication Unit, HSRC.

WE WERE ALL AFRICANS: Stories about our past engraved on our DNA

This is a story of how etymology, molecular biology, anthropology and history can all add a piece to the puzzle of where we come from, as told at an HSRC seminar by *Dr Himla Soodyall*, director of the Human Genomic Diversity and Disease Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand.

On the East Cape coastline lives the amaPondo clan, who call themselves the Abelungu Jekwa. In stories handed down from generation to generation and recorded during anthropological and genealogical studies in Mpondoland, the clan regarded themselves as 'white' and claimed to be descendants of two white men, believed to be brothers by the clan, who were washed up on the beach after a huge storm. The Xhosa word for Europeans, *abeLungu*, means 'foam from the sea'.

Scientific evidence in the form of genetic material gathered from 36 individuals bears out the oral history showing that 80% of the samples have Eurasian ancestry. However, no evidence could be found that the two sailors were brothers.



ADAM AND EVE: The human cell consists of two areas: the nucleus carries the chromosomes, containing 50% of each parent. The Y chromosome in the nucleus understands paternal history, while the mitochondrial, which surrounds the nucleus, contains a relic of the DNA we get only from our mothers. The mitochondrial DNA structure is inherited through the matrimonial line.

The Human Genomic Diversity and Disease Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand maps and models genetic diversity in sub-Saharan African populations to reconstruct the history of African populations. One of their activities is to do genetic ancestor testing through both the male and female lines of past generations. The tests can determine one's first grandfather and grandmother. The Y chromosome in the nucleus understands paternal history, while the mitochondrial, which surrounds the nucleus, contains a relic of the DNA we get only from our mothers (MtDNA). The mitochondrial DNA structure is inherited through the matrimonial line.

Tracing the ancestors of mPondo clans along the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape
Using a genetic approach to validate Oral history

The collage includes: a group of people in a lab looking at a map; a person in a traditional hat; a group of people sitting on the grass in a rural setting; and a person in a blue shirt. Logos for National Geographic and IBM are visible at the bottom.

SHIPSHAPE: During the centuries of European navigation towards the Indian Ocean, Portuguese ships, as well as ships from other colonial empires, ran aground at different spots along the coast of Pondoland. Some of the castaways stayed in Pondoland and were absorbed into Mpondo communities.

Genetics connect the dots

There are many stories about our past and how different societies originally came about: some have come down through the oral history tradition, others from historians' log information, cultural practices, archaeological excavations, climate change and from research into the origins of language. All these disciplines have their tools to understand the spread of the human journey.

But genetics bridges the gap between the hard sciences and the human sciences. Genetics is unbiased and written in every single cell in our body; it tells the story of human movement across the globe over hundreds of years; and all can be traced back to Africa.





LEAVES ON A TREE: Each living person is the equivalent of a leaf on a tree. What genetics can trace is the process to find a common trunk. In this picture different colours show different regions. The branch of the Koi and San people sits right at the bottom of the tree, indicating that they carry the oldest human genes on the planet.

Analysis of the DNA of the Koi and San shows that it sits right at the bottom of the tree; the most ancient DNA lives in the Koi and San people – they retained the antiquity of the human genetic story. And so every single person on earth shares a common ancestral point in Africa. This means the history of mankind is deeply imbedded in Africa.

These ancient genes are still to be found in the previously ‘invisible’ and forgotten ‘first people’ of South Africa, known as ‘Karretjiemense’ (Donkey Cart People) of the Great Karoo. They are the direct descendants of the /Xam (San/Bushmen), who were the earliest inhabitants of much of the Karoo interior. Today, as itinerant sheep-shearers, the ‘Karretjie people’ are nomadic and extremely poor. They live in informal settlements near Colesberg and makeshift overnight shelters.

Father Abraham in Africa

A group of people in Limpopo, called the Lemba, have a fascinating oral tradition, handed down from generation to generation, that they have Jewish ancestors. Some of the traditions practised by the Lemba are similar to those practised by Jews, such as circumcision, rituals around funerals, the offering of animal sacrifices, cutting the throats of animals during slaughter, kosher eating customs, the first and seventh days of the moon being regarded as sacred, and keeping ritual purity and shunning marriage to ‘gentiles’.

The Lemba are highly skilled metal workers (including iron, copper and gold) and potters and the men wear long cotton garments. Even their language has remnants of another language spoken by their forefathers.

Now genetic techniques pioneered by the Wits unit support their legend. Using mtDNA the Lemba were indistinguishable from other Bantu-speaking groups. However, analysing the Y chromosomes, it was found that approximately 50% of the Y chromosomes in the Lemba clan was of Semitic (Jewish or Arab) origin, 36% of African origin, and the ancestry of the remaining 14% could not be resolved. This study sparked a great deal of interest among researchers investigating the origins of the ‘Black Jews’ of South Africa.

Y chromosome DNA



“Karretjie” people and their ancestry



LIVING ANCIENTS: Karretjiemense

Flow of genetic pool

When looking at the map of human migration through the ages, genetic data shows that modern humans left Africa between 50 000 to 70 000 years ago and that all non-Africans are descendants of these early travellers.



What genetics tells us about humanity is that before the world’s human population left Africa to create the vast range of different races and ethnic groups - we were all Africans.

Author: Dr Himla Soodyall, director of the Human Genomic Diversity and Disease Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand

In emerging economies, there are growing claims that science, technology and innovation-led growth can in fact result in higher levels of poverty and inequality *within* a country.

Universities: driving inclusive development through innovation

With the economic crises, the thinking about the role of universities in industrial and other innovation processes has shifted from innovation to drive global competitiveness, to how shrinking resources can be mobilised to address growing inequality, poverty and unemployment. Glenda Kruss reports on a major new study underway on how universities may contribute to innovation for inclusive development.

The emphasis in debates is on how universities can support economic development and growth through industrial innovation processes, and what research, new knowledge and technology can contribute, particularly in relation to high-technology formal sectors. The questions centre on how to enhance technology transfer, establish effective incubation facilities, support patents and licensing, or other forms of profitable commercialisation of intellectual property.

But this discourse tends to obscure a more inclusive and developmental form of engagement and interaction that could contribute to innovation.

In countries that belong to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the recent economic crisis has shifted debate from innovation for global competitiveness, to consider mobilising shrinking resources to best address growing inequality, poverty and unemployment. In emerging economies, there are growing claims that science, technology and innovation-led growth can in fact result in higher levels of poverty and inequality *within* a country.

So, while in the recent past the link between innovation and growth was indivisible, recently a new debate has emerged, namely on the connection between innovation and social inclusion. Indeed, in transition and developing contexts like those in southern Africa, universities are increasingly challenged to establish a new social compact where they become key agents for inclusive social and economic development. Greater emphasis is accorded to the roles the knowledge work of university academics plays in poverty reduction and the ability of all social groups to create opportunities, share the benefits of development and participate in decision-making.

Major new study on innovation in southern Africa

Such an emphasis is driving a major new study in southern Africa, funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The study seeks to address the limited attention paid to how universities contribute to innovation for inclusive development, specifically, to innovation activities that provide livelihoods to the excluded and disadvantaged.

The project seeks to build a stronger African empirical research base in collaboration among universities in four SADC countries - Botswana, Malawi, South Africa and Tanzania - as well as Nigeria and Uganda. It combines networking activities with rigorous academic work and an agenda for research uptake and policy advocacy.

The project aims to make a significant conceptual and methodological contribution to research on innovation, development and higher education. It challenges the narrow focus of innovation studies - typically on science and technology - radical innovation and formal economic development, and extends the remit to encompass innovation that is incremental, takes doing, using, and interacting modes, and is integrated with social development. In turn, the tendency of development studies to focus on top-down development is challenged in favour of inclusive development that focuses on the marginalised as active agents.

In taking such an approach, the project contributes to a theoretical bridge between innovation studies and development studies that is under-explored and under-theorised.



Linking public good and social justice with innovation

Similarly, innovation studies literature is marked by a conceptual myopia towards the substantive knowledge-generation role of universities and their contribution to the public good. A corresponding myopia exists within the higher education literature, which has insufficient accounts of the role of universities in innovation, technology transfer and diffusion toward economic development. The project seeks to overcome this impasse by linking the democratic imperatives of universities in relation to the public good and social justice, with those of innovation and technology transfer.

Based on such ambitious conceptual integration, the research aims to conduct empirical research in African universities, in order to make innovation that is taking place below the radar visible; to make the nature of university-community interactions explicit; and to highlight the university as an actor in the innovation system engaging the community.

In terms of higher education governance, it addresses issues of accountability to social needs, and promoting scholarship that is more socially and economically responsive to (local) contexts.

In terms of the implications for higher education management, the issue is how to create a stronger coherence between research, teaching and community engagement. Finally, the research aims to identify what kinds of incentives will be appropriate as drivers and to address bottlenecks.

Methods and mapping

An interlocking set of research and policy oriented activities commenced in October 2012, founded on a survey methodology to map forms of university interaction with the full range of social partners in each country – whether firms, farmers, communities, government, or social organisations. Such a process will provide a picture of the main kinds of partners, the main types of relationships, channels of interaction, the outcomes and benefits of interaction and the main barriers and blockages, across distinct types of institution in each higher education system.

The analysis will draw on interviews with senior university management and academics, as well as analysis of institutional documents to understand the governance and management conditions within universities that support diverse patterns of interaction.

The mapping will provide a rich descriptive foundation of existing interactive practice within the universities in a national system of innovation, an empirically contextualised baseline for investigating specific cases of innovation for inclusive development.

We plan a set of comparative case studies in which universities and communities interact to innovate in informal settings to enhance livelihoods; for example, adaptations and diffusion of cell phone technology to inform small scale farmers' harvest and marketing practices or women market stallholders' cooperative practices; or exploiting local knowledge of local conditions in collaboration with university knowledge to establish commercially viable enterprises.

The project contributes to a theoretical bridge between innovation studies and development studies that is under-explored and under-theorised.

Comparing case studies within and across country contexts will provide an evidence base of the facilitators of and constraints on innovative and interactive practice in sectors critical to the informal livelihoods of marginalised communities. Such analysis allows for policies to be informed by insights from the local level and by the priorities of the poor.

Together, the mapping of university practice and the in-depth exploration of innovation in informal settings will allow us to interrogate critically the policy options and interventions typically proposed in the mainstream innovation systems literature. The research ultimately aims to inform better targeted policy adaptation and formulation in universities, and amongst the higher education, science and technology, and economic development communities in each country, towards inclusive development.

Author: Dr Glenda Kruss, director, Education and Skills Development research programme, HSRC.

Improving citizen participation mechanisms and processes is therefore essential for advancing service delivery initiatives and perceptions of municipal performance.



Infrastructure and service delivery – lessons from SA and China

The HSRC conducted a collaborative study with the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS) to explore aspects of best practice in service delivery in terms of water, sanitation and electricity. The study found that important obstacles to service delivery fall within the governance, policies, programmes and stakeholder relationships of local government practices, i.e the *intangible* aspects of service delivery. *Elmé Vivier and Marie Wentzel report.*

The Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000 establishes that it is the responsibility of local government to provide the basic household services necessary to ensure an acceptable and reasonable quality of life', thereby contributing to the social and economic development of the South African people. But pervasive challenges persist in the face of increased backlogs and subsequent service delivery protests. Some of the main obstacles to infrastructure development and enhanced service delivery fall within the systems of governance, policies, programmes and stakeholder relationships that characterise local government practices.

It is within this context that the HSRC conducted a collaborative study with the

Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS) to explore essential aspects of the intangible infrastructure, from government policies and partnerships to attitudes on citizen participation.

We selected three case study areas in South Africa and China respectively as municipalities of best practice across the service sectors of water, sanitation and electricity. The key lessons from the successes, as well as continuing challenges within each area, confirmed the significance of intangible forms of infrastructure.

The criteria for the selection were population size and good performance and/or improvement in service delivery. In South Africa, we identified Tswelopele, Moses

Kotane and the Cape Town Metro for the study; and in China, the municipalities of Xinyu City, Shaoxing City and Qingdao Municipality were selected. The research methodology comprised focus groups in selected communities and in-depth interviews with local government stakeholders.

The policy and planning environment

In South Africa, national policy informs municipal service delivery plans and basic service level standards. However, the study found that this policy context is often experienced as a hindrance to innovative thinking and scope for municipal management. For instance, the White Paper on Sanitation is still just a white paper whilst the MFMA is silent on certain issues that

leave grey areas', specifically with regard to informal settlements according to officials from the Cape Town Metropolitan Council. Furthermore, the mandate to provide toilet facilities on the basis of a 1/25 ratio is only achieved on average, but 'as a goal it is simply not good enough'. Thus standards set for municipalities are often felt as limiting or simply too minimal and should take into account differences in the challenges and capacities of local governments.

In China, the national government also sets the legal and policy framework and technical standards in terms of the provision of basic services. The provincial government plays a similar role while the municipal government administers the services. The study found that, as in South Africa, the national and provincial service standards should be more widely and stringently enforced to equalise services across a diverse population.

National policy... is often experienced as a hindrance to innovative thinking and scope for municipal management.

Another challenge identified by local government stakeholders in both countries was the need for better long-term planning for in-migration. In the Cape Town Metro, for example, the study highlighted migration as a critical factor that impacted on the demand for municipal infrastructure and services, but did not match the capacity of the Metro to meet that demand.

In Chinese cities, migration similarly impacted negatively on the provision of municipal services as government expenditure on infrastructure and public services was based on the taxes collected from the permanent residents. More migrants thus mean more extra-budgetary income to cope with the additional services.

Community participation and consultation

Residents and community and government leaders in both South Africa and China identified crucial well-established community consultation and participation processes in the municipalities as crucial. In China, the neighbourhood committee serves as a bridge between residents and government, enterprises and voluntary organisations,

while in South Africa, residents can engage with their local ward committee at regular meetings, and also with appointed community development workers.

However, in South Africa we found vast discrepancies between the perceptions of the quality and efficacy of participatory mechanisms of residents, on the one hand, and local government stakeholders, on the other. More often than not the stakeholders indicated that there was meaningful engagement with the communities while residents' responses were generally negative and suggested a range of issues from lack of local government interest in the community to a lack of knowledge of, or interest in, government representatives on the part of residents themselves.

Focus group participants in Khayelitsha expressed the following views with regard to their local officials: 'Once they get chosen you don't ever see them'; 'I don't even know who they are'; '...Overall once a person is elected in a position they don't bother because it's about money... they now have a status, they are not the same as the people on the ground'.

These perceptions were often compounded by the fact that citizens were not always aware of who was responsible for providing and maintaining a particular service (municipality or outsourced provider such as Eskom), as well as the appropriate channels to follow in the event of problems with a service, as was the case in Moses Kotane.

In China, some citizens perceived the neighbourhood committee as an extension of the Communist Party rather than an autonomous body aimed at actual engagement with and determination of community needs. In fact, although the committee was autonomous by law, in reality its degree of autonomy was not very high. A participant in the focus group at the Diangongchang Community, Xinyu City said, 'The community development needs the support of the government. But now most communities tend to serve the government'.

Improving citizen participation mechanisms and processes is therefore essential for advancing service delivery initiatives and perceptions of municipal performance. In China, the neighbourhood committee should be allowed to operate with due autonomy to be properly empowered. And in South Africa, standardised processes should be followed for ward committees' engagement with communities to improve communication and participation with residents. In addition, adherence to established reporting structures between councillors and municipal management is necessary for effective engagement.

Public-private partnerships

The study also indicated that public-private partnerships and engagement with local NGOs were effective tools to enhance service delivery, buttress limited skills and capacities, and assisted municipalities with services that were not their core competency. In the three selected Chinese cities, for example, water, electricity and sanitation services were provided by companies rather than the government-run institutions. However, these companies are public holdings rather than private enterprises.

In the City of Cape Town, recycling initiatives are provided through a private company. Public-private partnerships are also important to facilitate development initiatives through, for instance, partnerships with developers and banking institutions in order to improve access to land and housing.

Lessons of best practice

The case study areas selected for this study established that although real progress can be made in providing the most basic services to citizens, there will always be challenges. And although every challenge is unique and depends on the context, there are parallels and points of intersection which allow us to learn from one another.

Authors: Elmé Vivier, Master's intern and Marie Wentzel, chief researcher, Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery programme, HSRC.

Public-private partnerships and engagement with local NGOs were effective tools to enhance service delivery.

Land restitution: the price of choosing money over land

Many South Africans whose families had been forcibly removed from their homes and their land and forced into homelands, townships or other areas during apartheid, saw the transition of the country to a democratic state as an opportunity for redressing past injustices. *Mokgaetji Shadung* reports on a study presented at an HSRC seminar that posed the question of whether financial compensation for the loss of land had long-term benefits.

Families who had grown accustomed to living in a diverse environment comprising different ethnic groups were uprooted and removed to areas far from their familiar surroundings and the people they used to know.

Through the Land Restitution Commission, many citizens had the option of either receiving financial compensation, or negotiating with the current owners to purchase the land they had lost.

Why financial compensation?

A study conducted by Professor Bernadette Atuahene, assistant professor of law at Chicago-Kent Law School, entitled *Paying for the past: Addressing past property violations in South Africa*, sought to establish whether the financial compensation awarded to some of the claimants, in lieu of land, benefited them or their dependants over time.

In an effort to fast track the process of reimbursing the families of the victims who were forcibly removed, financial compensation was encouraged over land

restitution to minimise the lengthy process of bargaining for land to be returned to its original owners.

The study was based on 25 in-depth interviews with Land Restitution Commission officials and 80 in-depth interviews with claimants who received financial awards from the Gauteng and Western Cape Regional Land Claims Commissions.

Atuahene chose to focus her study on urban claimants rather than rural applicants, reasoning that the media tends to focus more on rural claimants and overlooks urban claimants when it comes to issues of land restitution.

Perceived disadvantages of financial compensation

Atuahene, who previously worked as a judicial clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, said the study showed that the Commission is moving away from the initial plan of encouraging claimants to opt for financial compensation.

‘They said financial compensation was a bad idea and had no economic impact because the perception was that people wasted the money,’ said Atuahene. The Commission assumed that the people lacked the financial acumen needed to capitalise on their financial gains.

However, through the interviews she conducted with those who had received compensation, she was able to ascertain that the amount of money granted to the claimants played a significant role in determining how it would be utilised.

‘Many of the claimants who received a pay-out complained that the amount of money they received was too little to do anything significant,’ said Atuahene. This was because, in some instances, the relatives of the families had been evicted years before and they received payments of as little as R30 000, which siblings then had to divide among themselves. This, in turn, left them with relatively small amounts hardly worth saving. Most of them opted to spend the money on improving their households.

Spending the money on renovating their houses was a way of honouring those relatives who had been evicted.



Many of the recipients explained that spending the money on renovating their houses was a way of honouring those relatives who had been evicted and had since died. Asked why claimants opted for the relatively modest financial compensation, many of the respondents cited a lack of interest in taking up farming as their reason for deciding against the option of acquiring land. Many were already living in their own homes and had no desire to return to the place their relatives had once called home.

Faced with the prospect of being awarded a modest amount of money and with no desire to own land, the claimants chose to spend their windfall on goods or on property improvements. This was regarded as wasteful by some of the officials interviewed during the study.

Difficulties of transferring land

Atuahene felt that it was important that the Commission should re-evaluate the amount of money awarded to claimants, rather than redirecting their efforts towards awarding land. This would be an effective way of dealing with the problems associated with transferring land and would produce a long-term economic benefit.

Some of the problems attributed to the difficulties of securing land from previous

owners included the continuously rising price of land, the limited capacity of the government to transfer land, and public disillusionment with the system.

Encouraging more constructive use of compensation

The solution, Atuahene believes, is to give people more options to channel their investments. Some of her proposals include:

- Making financial compensation more cost effective for claimants by, for example, increasing the impact of smaller financial awards. Claimants should be allowed to choose between various forms of equitable redress while being offered incentives, such as options that will produce a long-term economic benefit;
- Providing financial counselling to claimants who elect to receive financial compensation; or
- Increasing the financial awards by treating beneficial occupants on par with dispossessed owners.

However, others argued that in a country beset with problems regarding ownership of land, financial compensation was not the solution to deciding whether to choose money over land. Participants at

The focus on land restitution should be more on restoring land to claimants rather than looking for quick solutions by offering financial compensation.

the seminar argued that the focus on land restitution should be more on restoring land to claimants rather than looking for quick solutions by offering financial compensation. Since the money intended for the claimants rarely benefited the community, it was suggested that more effort should be focused on restoring land to people, thereby contributing to development, and ensuring that mechanisms were put in place to ensure sustainability of the land.

Author: Mokgaetji Shadung, journalist and web content writer, HSRC

Evidence and lessons from Latin America

Over the past decade Latin American countries have implemented successful governance initiatives that had facilitated the various positive social and economic impacts for which the region is now recognised. These ignited the interest of countries like South Africa, hoping for similar results. *Diana Sanchez Betancourt* relates some of the experiences on strengthening citizen oversight to improve overall governance.



Since April 2012 the HSRC's Democracy and Governance programme has been coordinating a knowledge exchange platform on citizen oversight, managed together with FUNDAR – a leading Mexican think tank doing research on Latin American policies and public institutions and Practical Action Consulting (PAC) in Peru. The project, called Evidence and Lessons from Latin America (ELLA), is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Latin American countries are at the forefront of developing innovative citizen oversight mechanisms, which are key for the success and sustainability of publicly funded and managed initiatives. ELLA focuses on the ways in which Latin American governments and civil society have promoted and used the right to information, transparency and participation to improve accountability, reduce corruption and advance social justice.

So, what are some of the key experiences in the region?



Latin American governments and civil society have promoted and used the right to information, transparency and participation to improve accountability, reduce corruption and advance social justice.

Transparency and access to information

Transparency and the right to access information is now a reality in many Latin American countries and a key element of good governance. The first module of the knowledge exchange focused on the legal frameworks and institutional conditions that have enabled the effective realisation and implementation of the right to information in this region. Currently, 65% of Latin American countries have freedom of information acts (FOIAs), some of which incorporate innovative elements that go beyond the minimum standard for transparency and access to information.

Mexico's 2002 Freedom of Information Act was the first in the world to create an autonomous oversight body with the authority to enforce compliance with the law. In 2011, as the culmination of a six-year advocacy process characterised by its extensive citizen and civil society participation, El Salvador passed one of the strongest freedom of information acts in the world. The same year, Brazil also took this first step in guaranteeing citizens' right to information and promoting government accountability, joining the other Latin American countries that have approved these acts.

Citizen participation at the local level plays a role in improving public policies and monitoring service delivery.

Comparative discussions around the implementation of freedom of information acts highlighted that a strong legal framework on access to information is critical for ensuring the right and effective enforcement. Coalitions among multi-stakeholder groups/ interest groups that include media, academia, civil society organisations and proactive bureaucrats have been a key enabling factor in the passing of comprehensive laws in Latin America as these coalitions reflect broad interests and expertise. But the real achievements are in the practical application of these mechanisms. Several Latin American civil society organisations have used the right to information to carry out independent assessments of policies and programmes which have directly benefited marginalised communities.

By using access to information laws, organisations in the region have been able to implement oversight actions that included monitoring farm subsidies in Mexico,

tracking oil revenue distribution in Ecuador and the elaboration of state of the nation reports in Costa Rica. Similar experiences included oversight of implementation of food security programmes and the use of community score cards for quality evaluation of services.

Lastly, using transparency as a tool to fight corruption, Latin American countries have launched useful electronic platforms to prevent misconduct in procurements and to monitor public officials' personal assets, with initial results pointing to success.

Budget and public policy issues

From results-based budgets, to transparency portals, to participatory budgeting Latin America has been leading the way in this field. Latin American countries have, for instance, pioneered participatory budgeting, an innovative mechanism enabling citizens to decide how public funds will be spent, while civil society organisations in the region have created the first budget transparency index that measures not only if budget information has been published, but if that information is useful.

In 2009, the Mexico City government implemented an innovative budgeting

approach – the first of its kind – to specifically link the budget with human rights. As a result, 75% of the Mexico City budget is now tied to implementing specific actions to promote human rights.

Another innovative tool in various Latin American countries is the budget transparency portals. These portals contain extensive budget information which is available to citizens and allows them to conduct social audits or monitor how much, and for what purpose, public money is allocated. The Peruvian and Brazilian budget portals are particularly illustrative of the power of well-designed and easy to use portals which become highly interactive tools allowing resources to be tracked in a very detailed way. Similarly, the experiences of Guatemala and Venezuela show that complex budget information can be transformed and presented in an easy-to-understand way through practical citizen budgets.

Citizen participation

The third and last module of the alliance focused on citizen participation, exploring government and civil society's collaborative mechanisms for promoting accountability and social justice. Citizen participation at the local level has long been acknowledged to play a role in improving public policies and monitoring service delivery. Over the last decades, citizen initiatives formed by academia, the private sector and non-governmental organisations in various Latin American countries have pursued greater participation in social oversight of public policies, particularly at the city level.

Since the 1980s, Latin American countries have used local councils formed by citizens and public authorities as an effective mechanism to create citizen participation. Knowledge shared around these mechanisms highlighted a variety of participatory experiences in local governance that have been conducted in the region, such as public management councils in Brazil, regional coordination roundtables (*Mesas de Concertación*) in Peru and self-management councils in Mexico.

Latin American colleagues also presented four different approaches to citizen and community report cards implemented in the region as a tool to benchmark public service delivery. This provided specific and valuable information on the use of these cards to assess quality of and access to health care services.

These and many other good practices and case studies have been shared through innovative 'knowledge products' in the form of videos, podcasts, interactive presentations, briefs and spotlights on publications and organisations.

The project has shown the relevance of Latin America's experience in increasing transparency to fight corruption, foster active citizenship and improve the impact of public spending. A total of 264 participants from civil society organisations, governments, think tanks and activists from South Africa and other countries participated, gaining access to a wealth of knowledge and network interaction with centres of excellence in Latin America.

Author: Diana Sanchez Betancourt, ELLA project leader, Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery programme, HSRC.



More information on the project is available on www.hsrc.ac.za, or e-mail dsanchez@hsrc.ac.za.

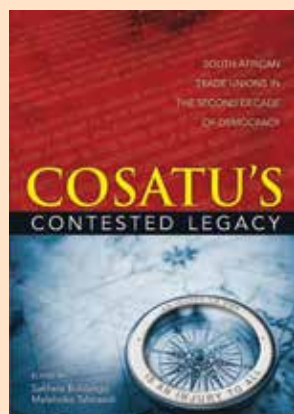
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BOOKS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

COSATU'S Contested Legacy

South African trade unions in the second decade of democracy



Author:
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Images of striking COSATU workers, singing, marching and *toyi-toying* are a familiar sight for most South Africans and external observers of the country's politics. Similarly, COSATU's feisty general secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi has become a household name, commanding respect and admiration among millions and loathing and fear among his enemies and those who are on the receiving end of his fiery political oratory. But how much do we know about what COSATU workers think about their workplaces, their unions, politics and the economy? What influences COSATU members' decisions to vote for a particular political party? Why has COSATU women members' support for the ANC declined? These and many other questions are examined in this volume which is based on the fourth run of the COSATU Workers' Survey conducted a few months before the 2009 elections.

Cosatu's Contested Legacy: South African trade unions in the second decade of democracy (HSRC Press), edited by Sakhela Buhlungu and Malehoko Tshoamedi, highlights the success and opportunities, setbacks and failures faced by the federation in the recent period. The publication focuses on COSATU and its members, particularly on their understanding of union democracy, politics and governance. Importantly, the book is not about paying homage to COSATU, nor is it about demonising the federation. It's about identifying patterns of power and inequality, co-operation and conflict within COSATU. The contributors to *COSATU's Contested Legacy* are all eminently qualified researchers and scholars from diverse backgrounds who share a passion for rigorous analysis that takes labour seriously.

Static

Race & Representation in Post-Apartheid Music, Media & Film



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Adam Haupt

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Static: Race and Representation in Post-apartheid Music, Media and Film critically examines music, cinema, social media and the politics of change after apartheid. It cuts across academic disciplines, the creative arts and the media and poses two central questions: Is South Africa changing for the better, or are we static? Is there too much static for us to hear each other clearly?

Static provides key insights into recent media phenomena, such as Die Antwoord; the 2010 Soccer World Cup; Bok van Blerk; Tsotsi; Kuli Roberts' Sunday World column on 'coloureds'; revisionist film Afrikaaps and the University of the Free State's Reitz video scandal.

The book will appeal to scholars in media, sociology, anthropology, music, African and cultural studies as well as to anybody with an interest in music, media, identity politics and debates about change in post-apartheid South Africa.

Static is a sophisticated and well-argued analysis that establishes a new context for understanding post-apartheid culture in South Africa. The close readings of lyrics, videos and films are loaded with keen insights explaining what the cultural issues are and why they matter.

Murray Forman, Associate Professor, Media and Screen Studies
Northeastern University.

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