SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES
SURPRISE WITH INNOVATIONS

HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
Dr Olive Shisana

Research strategy meeting at the HSRC – a new tradition

ON 18 MAY, the HSRC held its first research strategy meeting with over 30 development organisations. These partners included country directors from institutions such as the World Bank, UNDP, programme managers from UNAIDS, CDC, USAID, CIDA, World Education, diplomats, and foundations, including the Standard Bank Foundation, the Mark Shuttleworth Foundation and the Steve Biko Foundation.

Why this meeting? The HSRC's strategic objective is to strengthen research collaboration and network activities in partnership with individuals and institutions in SA and other parts of Africa. It also aims to engage development partners in policy discussions that stretch across the continent, using evidence generated from research. Jointly we would like to seek ways to support South Africa and other countries on the continent.

The HSRC's mission and vision is to be a non-partisan organisation that provides critical information to a variety of role-players, whether in policy development, media analysis, advocacy, or in debates. We hope that this will help role-players to make informed decisions.

To be able to do this, the HSRC generates scientific knowledge through its research and analytical work in the human and social sciences, striving to be an instrument for providing independent information, free from political, religious and/or racial bias.

The business of the HSRC is to exercise its public purpose mandate by informing public policy through research, analysis and implementation monitoring. The organisation focuses on national priority areas, including poverty, unemployment, education, HIV/AIDS, service delivery, climate change and crime. In conducting our research, we make every effort to collaborate nationally, with the rest of Africa, and with development and multilateral organisations in conducting research.

This was the message we conveyed to our partners at the meeting, emphasising our policy-relevant research, namely poverty reduction, employment and growth, education, HIV and AIDS, service delivery, crime, youth, climate change and science indicators.

The development partners agreed that the meeting came at an opportune time, and many expressed surprise at the fact that they were doing almost similar work in South Africa and other parts of Africa. In summary, the wish expressed by all was how to use the limited amount of funds available to move beyond sporadic, short-term, project-based approaches to a position where they collaborate to dovetail their efforts in addressing the various issues facing the country.

The HSRC was requested to spearhead the coordination of major research and also focus on capacity development and leadership development. This will be one of our priority activities in the coming years. This meeting will be followed by a series of roundtables to formalise strategies on how best the HSRC could work together with its partners.

News**Roundup**

YOUTH POLICY INITIATIVE AIMS TO BRING FUSION BETWEEN RESEARCH AND POLICY

The HSRC embarked on a Youth Policy Initiative on 23 May in Pretoria, bringing together experts from the policy, programme and research environments and young people.

This was the first of a series of six roundtable meetings to examine the key questions of youth development, in collaboration with the major role-players in the youth sector. The initiative will highlight key challenges to young people; debate the nature of these challenges and their possible solution; and discuss multi-sectoral approaches to addressing them. The roundtables will be part of 18 months of activities, including public lectures and seminars.

The topic of the first roundtable was the question, Who takes policy decisions in the youth sector?

Dr Temba Masilela, executive director of the HRSC's Policy Analysis Unit, explains that over the next ten years, South Africa is expected to experience a 'demographic dividend' where the youthful population will peak. A large proportion of the population will fall into the working age range and will have fewer children and elderly people to support. These conditions will last for 20 to 30 years.

'This is a time-limited opportunity that will eventually dissolve in the next 2–3 decades, which is a compelling argument for urgent investment in young people, bringing a unique opportunity for rapid human capital development and economic growth, according to the World Bank's 2007 World Development Report,' Masilela says.

Similar demographic conditions are estimated to have contributed almost 40% of the growth in East Asia (Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and Singapore) from 1960 to 1990.

Professor Linda Richter, executive director of the HSRC's Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme, says the current youth cohort is better educated than before, they are the healthiest sector of the population, and the constitution grants them agency and platforms to influence political processes and civic life. Yet they still face considerable challenges.

Some of these challenges include:

- When access to schooling is expanding, how can we assist more young people to complete their education?

- Given that our youth are better educated, how can we draw them into the economy and benefit from their talents?
- With expanded access to family planning, how can we enable young people to choose when and with whom they want to have children?
- When institutions and opportunities exist for young people to participate meaningfully in civil society, how can we help them get, and stay, involved?
- And what second chances can we offer the large cohort of youth who didn't get a good deal the first time round?

The roundtable debates will attempt to stimulate creative thinking and move the youth development agenda beyond describing the extent of the challenges, to proposing viable policy and programmatic directions that can be undertaken in a coherent and integrated manner.

Roundtable 2, on 17 July 2007, will be on the topic: Why youth and why now? For more information, e-mail media@hsrc.ac.za.

NEW @ HSRC

DR ORLI BASS has been appointed as a post-doctoral fellow in the Urban, Rural and Economic Development research programme. Before joining the HSRC she lectured in a temporary capacity at the School of Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal (Howard College Campus).

DR JEFFY MUKORA, a previous employee of the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed as a post-doctoral research fellow in the Education, Science and Skills Development (ESSD) research programme. He has also worked as a biology teacher in Zimbabwe and in Scotland.

DR ZITHA MOKOMANE has been appointed as a senior research specialist in the Child, Youth and Family Development research programme. Before joining the HSRC, she was a senior lecturer in the Department of Population Studies at the University of Botswana.

DR CILY TABANE has been appointed as a post-doctoral fellow in the Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health research programme. Before joining the HSRC, she was a consultant for various companies, conducting research and training on various aspects ranging from change management to health.

MR PAUL LEIGH, a graduate IT professional with 16 years consulting experience in the United Kingdom and South Africa, has been appointed as the acting director of IT. Before his appointment he was contracted as programme manager to oversee the implementation of HSRC IT-enabled projects in 2006.

Professor Linda Richter, executive director of the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme, with Ms Cynthia Yinusa, who presented the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at the roundtable, and the keynote speaker, Ms Febè Potgieter-Gqubule (right), the South African ambassador to Poland, who participated in the formulation of the Youth Policy during the early 1990s as a member of the National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee NYDCC) and secretary-general of the ANC Youth League.

News**Roundup**

COMMUNITIES GET OWN TOOL TO MEASURE WATER QUALITY

A new way of involving ordinary people in water regulation was presented by a team of HSRC researchers on 11 May at the HSRC. Dr David Hemson, research director in the Urban, Rural and Economic Development programme, says as the focus of the national Department of Water Affairs (DWAF) shifts from delivery to regulation, there is keen interest in ways in which citizens can participate.

The research team drew up ten indicators (including consultation, access, flow and children's health) which are central to water standards, and which can be used by communities to report to municipalities with the responsibility for water services. Community members have been trained to undertake exercises (such as in mapping and surveys) to provide the basis by which services can be measured and judged. A final scorecard in a set of tools provides the input into local regulation.

The strategy is to stimulate improved service delivery through these reporting exercises which lead to an increase in the responsiveness of municipalities providing and overseeing water services.

'We have experimented in training and awareness passing from community to community at the ward level, as agreed with local municipalities,' said Hemson. 'Successful regulation requires the involvement of thousands of communities and the tool is designed for this task.'

Local government officials from the Mbizana Local Municipality and the OR Tambo District Municipality were enthusiastic about the materials and training provided for community members through the project. This could be more widely undertaken by the municipalities in the future.

'This research has given a cutting edge to a concept,' said Jay Bhagwan, director, Water Use and Waste Management, at the Water Research

Dr David Hemson tests the water for quality in a site in KwaZulu-Natal, with a community member looking on.

Commission. 'This is a very innovative and enlightening tool and reflects a lot of in-depth research and hours spent with communities engaging in the field.'

Ms Bongiwe Msane, DWAF, stated that the department is very interested in the tool to encourage greater citizen participation.

CULTURAL BELIEFS KEY TO ACCEPTANCE OF MALE CIRCUMCISION AS PROTECTION AGAINST HIV

Social scientists need to study the deep cultural meanings attached to male circumcision among different ethnic groups to be able to guide the debate on the latest biomedical findings on the protective effect of circumcision against HIV. This is according to Professor Cheikh Niang of the Institute of Science and Environment, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal.

Niang said in a roundtable discussion at the 4th SAHARA Conference, held in Kisumu in April, that African social scientists should look beyond the evidence of male circumcision trials conducted in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa, and 'reconceptualise' the findings to fit into the African cultural perspectives. All African ethnic groups have some deep cultural and spiritual meaning attached to circumcision and these should be uncovered and reintegrated into African sexual life.

Professor Agot Kawango, the project coordinator of the Kenyan study on the protective impact of male circumcision on HIV released in February 2007, kicked off the discussion, emphasising the importance of the social acceptance of male circumcision, especially in areas where circumcision is not a cultural practice.

Three studies have now shown remarkably consistent findings of the protective effect of male circumcision against HIV/AIDS: the Orange Farm randomised trial conducted in South Africa (60% protective effect), the Kisumu study (53%–59% protective effect), and the Rakai study in Uganda (51% protective effect). None of the studies showed that circumcision was harmful.

He said for circumcision to be accepted as a means of protection, there are key social aspects that need to be resolved, including communicating the benefits while also explaining that circumcision is not 100% effective; the costs of a hospital procedure in communities where circumcision is not a cultural or religious obligation; the safety of traditional circumcision; wound care and after-care.

Mr Adera Osawa, deputy secretary general of the Luo Elders – a community that do not practice circumcision – said there exists strong cultural emotions against circumcision and some 'very derogatory words' are used for someone who is circumcised.

But since AIDS is 'a very dreaded disease that scares us all', the Luo community do not challenge the scientific findings. 'We as the Luo Council cannot force people to accept circumcision as a policy. We don't reject people who do it, but we accommodate them.'

In an earlier session that morning, Professor Leickness Simbayi, a research director at the Human Sciences Research Council, warned that before governments consider male circumcision as a potential public health policy and HIV prevention strategy, it would be prudent to wait for the results of long-term follow-up studies of the Kenya and Uganda studies, due in 2009.

HSRC SIGNS PACT WITH GOVERNMENT

In a landmark event, the HSRC Council has signed a Shareholder Compact with the Minister of Science and Technology, setting out nine key performance measures and indicators for the organisation. The concept of a shareholder's compact originates from a Cabinet decision that commits public entities to certain good governance principles.

According to the document, the HSRC intends to become a human and social sciences research council serving as a knowledge hub. The institution will independently research, analyse and inform public policy and discourse on current and future challenges for South Africa and the African continent. It will also develop research-based solutions to human and social problems.

The Compact describes the HSRC as 'a non-partisan organisation that provides critical information to different role-players [so that they can make informed decisions], whether in policy development, media analysis, advocacy or in debates… It aims to be an instrument for providing independent information, free from political, religious and/or racial bias.'

As for the organisation's strategic objectives, the HSRC strives to attain the following:

- consolidate and strengthen its public-purpose research activities;
- contribute to prioritised policy issues of national importance through the work of a cross-cutting policy unit;
- strengthen research collaboration and network activities in partnership with individuals and institutions in other parts of Africa;
- increase the relevance, utilisation and potential impact of human and social science research by means of implementation networks;
- confirm the excellence of research work by emphasising peer-reviewed publication of scholarly articles by senior as well as emerging researchers;
- contribute to human capital development in the human and social sciences through the consolidation and expansion of research internship and fellowship;
- accelerate transformation in the HSRC, with particular reference to representation in under-represented groups (African and coloured) senior research and management positions;
- retain and empower critical staff and skills in the HSRC;
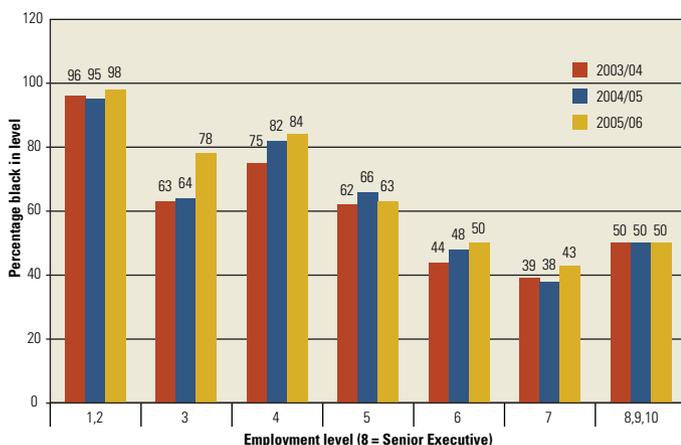- ensure the financial sustainability of the HSRC.

Figure 1: *Black employees at different employment levels, HSRC 2003/04 to 2005/06*

Table 1: *Publications 2005/06*

Category	No. in 2005/06	No. in 2004/05
All HSRC research staff		
Books and chapters in HSRC books	119	59
Books and chapters in non-HSRC books	35	50
Journal articles	166	144
Refereed	116	93
Non-refereed	50	51
Research reports to clients/users	124	92
Total	444	345

Category	Per capita 2005/06	Per capita 2004/05
All research staff from SR upwards		
Books and chapters in HSRC books	1,02	0,50
Books and chapters in non-HSRC books	0,30	0,43
Journal articles	1,42	1,23
Refereed	0,99	0,79
Non-refereed	0,43	0,44
Research reports to clients/users	1,06	0,79
Total	3,79	2,95

The Compact sets certain targets to be achieved by the end of 2009/2010, which entail the following:

- **Public purpose:** 92% (currently 90%) of all research projects should serve a public purpose, i.e., they should be conducted to the benefit of the public.
- **Africa focus:** 40% (currently 30%) of all research projects with a budget of R1 million and above should be done in collaboration with African researchers in other parts of the continent, and the HSRC should have 20 (currently 12) visiting research fellows from other African countries in its service.
- **Implementation networks:** 70% (currently 50%) of all large research projects should engage implementation networks by means of collaboration with strategic partners.
- **Transformation:** 50% of all researchers at senior level should be African (currently 40%), 8% coloured (currently 9%), 5% Indian (currently 6%), and 37% white (currently 45%), and the attrition rate of permanent staff should be 10% (currently 11%); and 75% (currently 50%) of staff should be trained in gender sensitivity.
- **Excellence:** the number of peer-reviewed publications per senior researcher in an internationally accredited scientific journal should be 1.50 (currently 1.10), and the number of peer-reviewed publications in a scientific journal per researcher and lower should be 0.65 (currently 0.50).
- **Capacity building:** 45 interns should be enrolled in a Master's programme, 35 in a PhD programme, and 18 appointed in post-doctoral fellowships.
- **Financial sustainability:** the HSRC's income from contracts and grants should come down from 61% to 65%, and 45% (currently 35%) of all grants should be multi-year (at least three years).

According to the agreement, the HSRC Council undertakes to continue to practice principles of good governance and financial accountability.

Education and poverty reduction strategies:
Issues of policy coherence

Is there a link between education and poverty reduction? SIMEON MAILE discusses the debate, introduced at a recent HSRC colloquium on *Education and poverty reduction strategies – Issues of policy coherence*.

MOST RESEARCHERS and development practitioners agree that education leads to accelerated human development, poverty reduction and sustained economic growth. This group claims that education improves health and nutrition, benefits personal health and empowers girl children in particular. This has spin-offs for better reproductive health, lower child mortality rates and improved welfare through better nutrition and higher immunisation rates. Education may be the single most effective preventative weapon against HIV/AIDS.

The argument is that education increases productivity and earnings. Research has established that, worldwide, every year of schooling translates into increased individual income of about 10%. In poor countries, the gains are even greater.

Researchers also claim that education reduces inequality as the great 'leveller' against illiteracy – which is one of the strongest predictors of poverty. Primary education plays a catalytic role for those most likely to be poor, including girls, ethnic minorities, orphans, disabled people and rural families. By enabling larger numbers to share in the growth process, education can be the powerful tide that lifts all boats.

In contrast, there are scholars who argue that education alone does not necessarily solve development problems – poverty in particular. They point out that it persists in states rolling out education for all. Leaders who have committed themselves to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with better educated children, equal opportunities for women and a healthier environment, have not eradicated poverty in spite of their vision for a world without poverty, hunger and disease. In many countries who record high scores on net enrolment in primary and secondary education, poverty remains a challenge.

This debate raises an important reality: the reduction of poverty is complex and needs to be approached from multiple perspectives. Yes, education can help to reduce poverty, but countries need a holistic approach to take this further. The lack of consensus among development practitioners, policy-makers and researchers may even be exacerbating the problems of poverty.

The colloquium set out to build on recent national and international conferences on poverty reduction strategies. The main argument emerging from the discussions was that human deprivations can be radically reduced, but to harness and benefit from educational endeavours requires a coherent and concerted effort. As policy-makers, development practitioners and researchers become aware of the limitations of narrow approaches to poverty reduction, they are realising the importance of a coordinated and coherent policy.

The purpose of the colloquium was to answer the following questions:

- What impact has there been in recent years on education levels and outcomes in the general population and in specific demographic groupings?
- Where are the key gaps and areas that need strengthening in terms of the impact of education in poverty reduction?
- Which specific areas require coherence?

A case study, developed from the rich data provided by extensive literature on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), might provide some answers to these questions from the perspective of people who live in abject poverty, and who are sliding deeper into the quagmire, posing a serious challenge to the fight against poverty.

A primary school in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

Yes, education can help to reduce poverty, but countries need a holistic approach to take this further. "

Case study

Nthabiseng lives 12 kilometres from her primary school and has to walk to school and back on a narrow path stretching between thick bushes. She also has to get a sibling ready for school.

There are days when she is absent from school because she has to beg from neighbours or work on farms for food. Her only decent meal is two slices of bread, which she gets from the school's feeding scheme. Her parents have died and she now lives with her poor grandparents.

She cannot access other sources of income since she does not have a birth certificate.

To make things worse, Nthabiseng has not been able to pay school fees and for that reason her teachers refused to give her a school report. As a result, she was not promoted. Sometimes she is refused entrance to the classroom because she has no uniform.

These circumstances make her a candidate for dropping out or even falling pregnant. Recently she has begun coughing badly and is unlikely to finish primary school.

Nthabiseng's problem is multi-dimensional. For her problems to be adequately addressed, an inter-departmental approach is needed. The Department of Education deals with problems related to schooling, such as school fees or the feeding scheme. The Department of Home Affairs do registrations for birth certificates, which will help Nthabiseng to gain access to a social welfare grant scheme. The Department of Social Development will have to help her get a grant to supplement her grandparents' grant. The Department of Health needs to roll out health programmes for Nthabiseng to get help for her worrying cough. The Department of Transport should help overcome transport problems and the Department of Public Works should invest in infrastructure development in Nthabiseng's village. Finally, the Department of Labour should protect children from being utilised for cheap labour.

Nthabiseng's problems will require all these departments to work together. To align the work of different departments, priorities (as reflected in strategies, policies and budgets) and systems of the government and those of local communities should be synchronised. For an effectual answer to Nthabiseng's needs, coherence would require consistency in approach within and across government departments.

International research and experience reveal that where governments adopt 'whole-government' or 'joined-up government' approaches and where policies among policy-makers, civil society and concerned communities converge, governments can address the plight of the poor more consistently. A break in any part of the chain that connects the whole will result in failure.

In practice, achieving full coherence in policies has proven an unrealistic goal. Yet, my plea for coherence does not mean that there is no current solution to Nthabiseng's problems. A more modest, realistic approach that accepts a certain level of inconsistency seems to be required.

The current policy trajectory is such that different government departments will probably be able to address some of Nthabiseng's problems. For example, the Department of Education has put policies in place that are specifically designed to address such children's learning needs; many schools run feeding programmes; and an equity policy framework has been introduced to help overcome school-fees and uniform difficulties. These policies now need to be communicated clearly to school managers and learners, so that children will not continue to suffer even when policies in fact exist to help them.

In conclusion, the world does not come neatly packaged in issue areas, ripe for policy intervention. Policies designed to address one issue are bound to have an impact on other issues. Policy coherence takes this into account. It can be achieved and can address development problems when policies across a range of issues support, or at the very least do not undermine, the attainment of development objectives.

Professor Simeon Maile is a research director in the Policy Analysis Unit.

Better than expected results
from first official innovation survey

South Africa's first official innovation survey, which was carried out by the HSRC's Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII), revealed that the country's enterprises are more innovative than previously thought, WILLIAM BLANKLEY, CHERYL MOSES and MICHAEL KAHN found.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL INNOVATION SURVEY 2005, commissioned by the Department of Science and Technology, found that nearly 52% of the enterprises surveyed reported innovative activity. This rate of innovation is well above the average for European enterprises of 42% for 2004.

At the launch of the highlights of the research at the Johannesburg Securities Exchange in Sandton on 11 April 2007, deputy minister Derek Hanekom expressed delight at the findings.

The 52% of enterprises that reported technological innovation activities, comprising both products (goods and services) and process innovations (Figure 1), is at the same level as that recorded in Denmark and Ireland and slightly more than Belgium (51%) and Sweden (50%).

To remain competitive and keep pace with global and local trends and developments, firms have to be innovative. Innovation is considered to be the key driver of economic progress. Business innovation is vital for raising the productivity, competitiveness and growth potential of modern economies.

National innovation surveys of the business sector are the main statistical instruments used to measure the amount of innovation in

Figure 1: Share of enterprises with innovation activities (%), 2002–2004
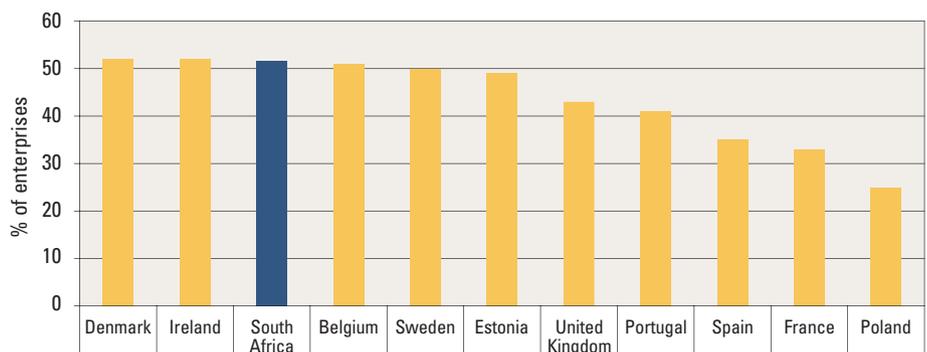
Table 1: Proportion of innovative enterprises that reported significant organisational or marketing changes, 2002–2004 (%)

Proportion of enterprises with innovation activities	Total	Industry[1]	Services[2]
Organisational innovations			
Knowledge management systems to better use or exchange information	52.6	48.3	56.4
Major changes to the organisation of work	54.1	36.3	69.9
External relations with other firms or public institutions	27.3	13.7	39.4
Marketing innovations			
Design or packaging of a good or service	36.4	30.8	41.3
Sales or distribution methods	22.6	18.7	26.1

> ## Successful innovations are more likely to result in greater production and outputs leading to increased demand for labour.

Oslo Manual. Such surveys also form the basis for those conducted in China and those being planned in India.

According to the results of the South African National Innovation Survey 2005, innovative firms in South Africa spent a total of R27.8 billion on innovation activities in 2004, representing about 2.4% of the total turnover of all enterprises covered in both the industrial and services sectors.

Good news for government is that at least 10% of firms reported having received public funding for innovation activities from public support programmes. These include funding agencies such as the National Research Foundation (NRF) and public support programmes such as the Innovation Fund and the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP). The innovation survey has been able to demonstrate objectively that these programmes are having a penetrating effect in the private sector and are contributing demonstrably to the bottom line performance of South African businesses.

The benefits of supporting innovation are also clear. More than 10% of turnover from product innovators, or R67.8 billion, was accounted for by goods that were new to the market. If the contribution of products sold that were only new to the firm is included, the total of sales generated by new or significantly improved products exceeds R147 billion.

Previously, innovation surveys were confined to technological innovation, but they have recently been extended to include other forms of innovation, such as organisational restructuring and new marketing methods. In innovative businesses in the service sector nearly 70% of innovative enterprises with

product innovations also introduced major changes to the organisation of work[3] during 2002-2004 while about 56% adopted new knowledge management systems (Table 1).

Marketing innovation[4] was also more prominent in the service sector with more than 40% of innovative enterprises reporting significant improvements in design or packaging of goods and services and at least 26% introducing new distribution and sales methods.

In terms of the outcomes of innovation, innovative firms clearly have a focus on customers or clients and nearly 45% of them indicated that the most important outcome of innovation was the improved quality of goods and services. Still focusing on customers, other important effects of innovation were increasing the range of goods and services offered and gaining entry into new markets as well as increasing market share. The reduction of labour costs and material and energy costs were considered less important, indicating that innovation should not be feared as labour-reducing. Successful innovations are more likely to result in greater production and outputs leading to increased demand for labour.

In conclusion, the innovation survey has been very useful in bringing South Africa in line with international best-practice reports on innovation. The methodology was generally the same as for all EU and most OECD countries and thus we can benchmark ourselves internationally.

The survey results are the property of the department of science and technology and once accredited should form part of the series of official S&T statistics of the National Statistics System. The survey results provide policy-makers with new insights into the dynamics of innovation and R&D and should contribute to the development and improvement of policy.

William Blankley is a director in CeSTII; Cheryl Moses is a researcher and Michael Kahn the executive director of knowledge systems and CeSTII at the HSRC.

a country. Innovation activities comprise the generation, use and diffusion of new knowledge, as well as methods, processes and products within organisations and in the market. These surveys also provide data on the importance of different sources of information for innovation, barriers to innovation and sales of innovative products.

It is important that South Africa is able to compare itself internationally, and for this reason the South African National Innovation Survey 2005 was conducted in accordance with the latest European Union Community Innovation Survey (CIS4) that was used in all EU and most Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. The base guidelines for such surveys are embodied in the OECD/Eurostat

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[1] Industry = Mining and Quarrying; Manufacturing; Electricity, Gas and Water Supply.

[2] Services = Wholesale and Retail Trade; Transport, Storage and Communication; Financial Intermediation; Architectural, Engineering and other Technical Activities.

[3] Organisational innovation is the implementation of new or significant changes in firm structure or management methods intended to improve a firm's use of knowledge, the quality of goods and services or the efficiency of work flow.

[4] A marketing innovation is the implementation of new or significantly improved designs or sales methods to increase the appeal of goods and services or to enter new markets.

Justin van der Merwe

Safaris, soccer and the silver screen:
South Africa's emergent soft power

South Africa is a nation that has actively sought to 'punch above its weight' in world affairs, relative to its actual size and strategic importance. This could be partially because of the increasing 'soft power' that South Africa is projecting globally.

NELSON MANDELA'S ICONIC STATURE and the marketing success of 'Mandela Mania', the winning of the rights to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the accolades for the movie *Tsotsi* and, most recently, South Africa's appointment to a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council, all point to substantive levels of recognition in the hearts and minds of the international community. The rising levels of tourism, perhaps most pronounced in the latest slew of celebrities visiting South Africa for adventure or business tourism – becoming involved in humanitarian initiatives and, in some instances, choosing to adopt or have their children born in Africa – are also indicative of the increasing allure of this part of the world. In a recent letter to the *Cape Argus,* Joe Adams labelled this phenomenon 'the celebrity scramble for Africa'.

What is it about 'third world chic' – and, increasingly, the novelty and charm of things African and, it is argued, South African – that renders it so fashionable? Perhaps part of the answer lies in the increasing 'soft power' that South Africa is projecting globally and, closely related to this, the remodelling of its national identity as a truly African state.

The term 'soft power' was coined in 1990 by Joseph Nye in *Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power.* Nye, former Dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and currently a professor at the same university, specialises in International Relations. He argued that, globally, the nature of power was changing and – in order for the United States to maintain its superpower status – American leaders would have to become increasingly aware of the type of power they chose to exercise globally. Thus, according to Nye, soft power is used to describe a situation where states get others to want what they want or to consent to a system that will produce such effects, as opposed to hard power, which is conveyed through commanding or shunting others around. Soft power works primarily through means of attraction and appeal, while hard power operates through threat or coercion. Soft power is commonly associated with intangible forms of power such as culture, ideology and institutions, while hard power is purveyed through the military, population size and often, although not always, economic influence.

In 2004, Nye refined the concept in *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics.* If one were to apply Nye's definition to South Africa, one would have to explore South Africa's three main soft power resources: first, its foreign policies, which are viewed as being legitimate and carrying moral authority; second, the attraction of its cultural media; and, third, the view that it tries to live up to its political values, both domestically and abroad.

Traditionally, soft power was conceived as being the exclusive reserve of world super-powers. In a globalised and technologically driven world, however, nations increasingly have to harness non-traditional forms of diplomacy in order to enhance their international status. This argument bears particular relevance to developing nations, which do not have extensive diplomatic and structural power resources at their disposal and, consequently, have to rely on other means to compete globally, such as enhancing their attraction and appeal – expanding their soft power. The exotic allure of the Bollywood film industry and the flamboyant flare of Brazilian sports are common examples.

Within the developing world, South Africa has emerged as a nation that has explicitly, and often implicitly, sought to use its unique brand of persuasion and charm to good

> Soft power works primarily through means of attraction and appeal, while hard power operates through threat or coercion.

effect on the international stage, in a manner complementary to its economic muscle. Having achieved democracy in the last decade of the twentieth century, up to four decades later than most of its African counterparts, South Africa is often viewed as the 'new kid on the block'. However, it appears to have brought with it an array of novel and exciting ideas. The belated re-emergence of South Africa within the international community, coupled with various strategic interests in a post Cold War era, has driven South African state elites twice as hard to impress internationally by pursuing a range of boosting strategies. Principal among these have been the hosting of a string of mega-events and the ideational power of President Mbeki's African Renaissance,

The rising levels of tourism are also indicative of the increasing allure of this part of the world.

which has provided substance and style to various foreign policy initiatives.

Politicians commonly draw on the country's experience in the political realm (in particular, the 'miraculous' nature of its transition) as a source of moral authority in world affairs. The manner in which South Africa tries to model itself as a spokesperson or ambassador for Africa and the developing world – coupled with South Africa's role as a peacemaker – is seen as a crucial aspect of the exercise of soft power through its foreign policy.

Nevertheless, the image of South Africa has not always been received with glowing adoration abroad, not least on the African continent itself, where South African corporate behaviour sometimes has seemed to be at odds with the country's overall foreign policy message. Further, South Africa's inability to grapple effectively with the scourge of crime and the AIDS pandemic has had an adverse impact on its ability 'to play the moral card' in world affairs. Most recently, issues of corruption in the civil service and allegations of misbehaviour and sexual abuse levelled against South African peacekeeping troops have also tarnished its image abroad.

What is interesting about recent events is the headway being made in terms of increased leverage in the international community. Recent events, such as the granting of a Security Council seat to South Africa, point towards a more global Southern orientation – with President Mbeki commonly framing the North-South divide as the 'new apartheid'. The relative political stability and good economic governance that South Africa has displayed undoubtedly put it in a strong position to articulate the interests of the developing world. South Africa appears more poised than ever to take up the good fight on behalf of not only Africa but the entire developing world.

Despite the deepening of South Africa's diplomatic and structural power resources, and hence its greater access to, and increased responsibility towards, the developing world, the African motif is likely to remain the strategic marketing feature and major source of identification in the near future. By attaching itself to Africa – and through a process of becoming more African – South Africa is able to consolidate its national identity as an African state after years of white rule under apartheid. This provides South Africa with a channel through which it can respond to issues of broader relevance to developing nations and world affairs, but also plays into the interests of global markets. In an increasingly globalised world, re-branding the South African state as a truly African state is not only the natural evolution of South Africa's political identity, but also makes increasing commercial sense.

Mr Justin van der Merwe is a researcher in the Democracy and Governance research programme.

Is anyone **listening** to the poor?

Does institutional participation work for the poor? A French-South African conference, documented by CLAIRE BÉNIT-GBAFFOU, raises questions about access to power and resources.

POOR PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA participate in democracy in greater numbers than the affluent do: they turn out to vote as well as play their part in civic structures and forums. But what do they get for their faith in democracy and their loyalty to party structures? Not much, suggests a recent French-South African research project.

A November conference, jointly led by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS) and Wits University Centre for the Urban Built Environment (CUBES), looked for ways to give the urban poor greater access to power structures and resources.

Though urban residents may be consulted about local needs, their voices seldom reach policy-makers. Integrated Development Planning (IDP) workshops at eThekwini, for example, produced a predictable list of concerns (housing, unemployment, crime, services), but their compilation does not translate into influence upon decision-making processes, said Richard Ballard. Budget priorities, he pointed out, are set by more powerful actors, namely, provincial ANC structures and business.

The autonomy of political decision-making, often ANC-led, does not take the concerns of the poor into account. In this regard, the absence of a pro-poor party outside the ANC alliance does not help build accountability; local ANC branches could play a more meaningful role in fostering internal debate, said Vincent Darracq. Steven Friedman also distinguished between 'invited' or institutional forms of participation, which are often deemed to be a failure and discarded when conflict arises,

> Though urban residents may be consulted about local needs, their voices seldom reach policy-makers.

and 'invented' or alternative forms, which may be more meaningful platforms for participation.

Nevertheless, institutional forms of participation such as those offered by IDPs do have their advantages. Researchers Alison Todes and Amanda Williamson pointed out the social importance of participatory platforms in empowering marginalised women. At these forums people are given a voice – giving the state a 'sound from the ground' – but the poor can also get a 'sound from the state', as mentioned by Robyn Rorke.

Involvement by the urban poor is probably more effective at a local level in local projects than at metropolitan, provincial and national levels, where there is a need for a social movement or political party to represent the cause of the poor in a broader context.

Suggestions to emerge from the conference, then, include a multi-scalar approach, enabling political mobilisation at the local level to reach and influence metropolitan power structures and decision-making processes.

This means that researchers must take the scales and territories of political mobilisation into consideration when seeking ways to ensure that the poor will be heard. Practically, there is also a need to take participation more seriously at the metropolitan level and in the ANC structures. Consolidated participatory structures, at least, should accompany every project that is implemented in poorer areas. These minimalist participatory platforms could contribute to decrease tensions and frustrations on the ground as well as 'make local government work better'.

Continuing a debate:
The challenges of organising an academic conference in a divided society

Two important points were raised at the conclusion of the HSRC-IFAS-CUBES conference: the status of intellectual and academic debates and their legitimacy in a society with a dire need for practical solutions and immediate responses; and questions about transformation and affirmative-action practices within academia. CLAIRE BÉNIT-GBAFFOU, ALAN MABIN and AURELIA WA-KABWE SEGATTI provide some thoughts for debate.

IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA, researchers' activities traverse different planes. On one hand, workshops develop exchanges between researchers and activists, practitioners and politicians. They create links between research and policy-making by disseminating research results and by formalising answers to questions and problems encountered. They also help to re-scale research questions by giving academics contact with 'real-life' contingencies.

On the other hand, there are scholarly events – conferences, colloquia, seminars – whose objectives are to raise questions, build new ways of conceptualising a topic, inspire new ways of thinking and to place the South African case and debates within broader, international scholarly and theoretical perspectives. Both workshops and conferences have their own legitimacy, usefulness and richness. Both need to exist in a democratising and transforming South Africa.

At Wits in November, the audience was large, active and very mixed. Half of it was composed of vocal ward councillors and political activists, who sometimes understood the matters debated in their own context-specific ways, taking as political criticism what were merely analyses on how local democracy works – and does not work – in South African cities. The challenge of finding a common language was stimulating, but also frustrating at those times when the political issues deprived the researchers of the platform for scholarly debate. The conference organisers chose to open attendance to the public free of charge to broaden access to scholarly debates. This is a way of being inclusive and participatory, but it is not common in South Africa – and it can work only if academic debates are given a legitimacy of their own.

> The challenge of finding a common language was stimulating, but also frustrating at those times when the political issues deprived the researchers of the platform for scholarly debate.

The question of the profile of conference presenters – predominantly white academics, as is often the case – was also raised. As this conference remained at all stages of its preparation an open process with a public call for papers widely advertised, the actual response is a reflection of the country's overall non-representative composition of academic staff. We might regret it and regularly attempt to counter it, but we nonetheless have to face it.

The reasons for this imbalance are many-fold. As black academics are a scarce resource, the few who have expertise in the focused field of research targeted in the conference are not necessarily available for specific events. Some are primarily involved in activism or policy-making, which, while having their own social utility, are not necessarily in line with the objectives of a scholarly discussion. Some argue that the scarcity of black academics is a consequence of systematic discrimination by still predominantly white academic hierarchies. Furthermore, government and business positions may be financially more attractive to learned black individuals than academia.

What is the way forward? Training, integrating promising black students in research networks, allocating fellowships and study grants; making the research world attractive and exciting, if not lucrative, by aiming for excellence (and the presence of committed, brilliant black researchers shows this is possible); workshopping with activists, practitioners and politicians as a parallel activity to, not in substitution of, scholarly debates. These tracks can be pursued by state and civil-society institutions, both South African and foreign. These are, etymologically, the real *res publica*.

Dr Claire Bénit-Gbaffou is a senior research specialist at the HSRC's Urban, Rural and Economic Development research programme; Alan Mabin is a professor and head of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand; and Aurelia Wa Kabwe Segatti is the director of research at the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS). For a copy of the full conference report, e-mail media@hsrc.ac.za. The draft papers are available on www.ifas.org/democratic_transformation.

Can the
2010 World Cup
be a truly African one?

The prospects for positioning 2010 as a continent-wide event look promising provided South Africa begins a dialogue with African heads of state without delay. The dialogue should be initiated by the South African government in partnership with other bodies, writes UDESH PILLAY.

South Africans react with joy at the announcement that South Africa will be the first African country to host the World Cup Soccer in 2010.

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK recently about the potential of the 2010 FIFA World Cup to leave behind a lasting African legacy. Some analysts even suggested, without necessarily substantiating the claim, that this could be the event's biggest legacy. But it is not that simple and bears further scrutiny.

Africa is at somewhat of a crossroads at the moment. On the one hand, the continent seems mired in problems; on the other hand, there seems to be much to celebrate.

On the negative side, there is a vast amount of political conflict currently afoot, some of which seems distressingly to be escalating. Conflict in Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and Uganda suggests there is much regional instability, at different times requiring intervention by the international community, including the EU and the UN. Along with high levels of poverty and underdevelopment, large trade and balance of payment deficits, a lack of progress on trade liberalisation negotiations, high levels of HIV/AIDS rates, and the consequences associated with global climate change, prospects for the consolidation of democracy, economic growth and sustainability throughout the continent – especially in some countries – look bleak.

On the positive side, Africa's economy is growing at an average of 7 per cent (albeit driven by high performance among a few nations) and there has been considerable foreign direct investment over the past five years. Debt cancellation and trade concessions – despite the failure of the recent post-Doha talks – have also resulted in positive gains.

Then there's the African Renaissance and NEPAD which, while seemingly dormant over the past two years, has the potential to revive the ailing fortunes of the continent. In this regard, the African Union has done commendable work over the past year, especially in Sudan, and the peer-review mechanism is working effectively.

Additionally, there are all the positive spin-offs for the continent should South Africa's non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council bear fruit. Encouragingly, regional bodies in Africa have been transformed to meet the objectives of NEPAD and regional trading blocs have been established, most notably in the SADC region, following a summit in Maseru a month ago.

So, against this background, can Africa celebrate and hope to benefit from 2010 as a truly continental event? The concerns and challenges for Africa posed above, plus time constraints and a host of technical specifications from FIFA, seem to be hindering widespread collaboration and a true sense of partnership between South Africa and the rest of Africa. However, drawing on the current strengths of the continent, prospects for positioning 2010 as a continent-wide event look promising, provided South Africa begins an immediate dialogue with African heads of state. This should be initiated by the South African government in partnership with the AU, and followed up by the 2010 Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the National Communication Partnership, with FIFA's support being critical.

> A programme of action grounded in what is realistically achievable for the continent requires hasty formulation as well as uncompromising commitment. "

The agenda for the first of such meetings – a summit of sorts – must coalesce around the following issues, inter alia: what are the likely tourism (and other positive economic) spin-offs from 2010, especially for neighbouring SADC states?; what are the benefits that are likely to accrue to Africa from successfully staging a mega-sporting event like 2010? (for example, will this enhance the prospects for countries with similar aspirations?); does the event have the potential to drive elements of the African Renaissance programme, including the opportunity to celebrate the continent's unique culture, diversity and identity?; do prospects exist through 2010 to enhance integration of the continent into the global economy as an equal global trading partner?; and how do event-based economic growth and development relate to arrangements for good governance?

This first meeting must conclude with the establishment of a pan-African co-ordinating committee entrusted with making sure that, through constant debate, dialogue and intervention, the prospects for 2010 to deliver across Africa will be realised. The South African government, in partnership with the LOC and Africa's newly restructured regional bodies (mandated by nation states) must drive such a process and assume ownership. The global community must also play a supportive role.

Time constraints suggest that this formative summit occur in the first quarter of next year, and that the coordinating committee tasked with driving this initiative immediately develop a programme of action, with a specific set of time-bound deliverables. The coordinating committee and its many sub-committees – these modalities must be decided on once the programme of action is finalised – must meet regularly and liaise closely with the South African government, the LOC, the regional bodies referred to above and FIFA.

If this happens, we could be well on our way to seeing a World Cup in 2010 that truly benefits the continent. It is time that Africa made its mark in consolidating and celebrating its position internationally, and 2010 represents a real opportunity to do so. It must be embraced and nurtured by the continent with spirited determinism and enthusiasm, as well as unfailing belief. Talk alone will not suffice. A programme of action grounded in what is realistically achievable for the continent requires hasty formulation as well as uncompromising commitment.

While we may be tempted to base such a plan on the recent experience of Germany – and there is much to be learnt from the 2006 event – the Africa initiative must be grounded locally, yet be simultaneously marketable and relevant globally. I strongly believe the international community must play a supporting role to all the African stakeholders that come together to drive this process.

An additional but no less important spin-off for our country would be the opportunity such a partnership creates to change African perceptions of South Africans as the moral custodians of the continent. An Africa-wide dialogue will also help repair relationships with Morocco and Egypt, countries still smarting from unsuccessful bids to host the 2010 World Cup.

Dr Udesh Pillay is an executive director at the HSRC and head of the Urban, Rural and Economic Development (URED) research programme. URED coordinates the country's largest programme of 2010 research.

Difficulties in coping, or disabled?

How to measure the difference

Disability surveys provide important information to national government which helps in the planning and development of policies and related services. Yet, disability can be defined in a number of ways, writes MARGIE SCHNEIDER. The way it is defined in surveys is crucial in determining how and what we measure.

WHO IS DISABLED? The elderly gentleman who walks with two sticks because of two hip replacements? The 16 year old with Down's syndrome? The 26 year old with moderately severe cerebral palsy who struggles to walk and communicate? The homeless person who mumbles to himself? The person with a mood disorder? The child with recurring middle ear infections and loss of hearing?

If we say disability is a physical or visible impairment, the last three people are not disabled. If we say it is when a person experiences disadvantage and discrimination in various aspects of life, then maybe the last two people are not disabled. If it is defined as when a person is born with a disability, then only the second and third of

our people are disabled. And if we say disability is about having difficulties in doing various activities, such as hearing, walking, learning, communicating or interacting with others, then all our people have difficulties or are disabled.

Not only is the definition of disability important, the wording used in surveys plays a significant role in how people respond to questions on disability.

Disability is seen as something that is physical (and sometimes mental), permanent, and for which nothing can be done. Difficulties, on the other hand, are usually less severe than disability and can be managed and solutions found, as expressed by a range of disabled and non-disabled South Africans.

Internationally there is a move towards asking questions about difficulties people have because of an underlying health condition. This move away from asking about disabilities has important effects on how people respond to questions.

South Africans who are wheelchair users, blind, deaf, or suffer from a serious mental illness like schizophrenia respond that they have difficulties and that they are disabled. People who are older, living with HIV/AIDS or who have a chronic illness, report having difficulties but state categorically that they are not disabled. And young adults indicate a few instances of having some difficulties but state categorically that they are not disabled.

The response options that are provided for a question also have an important influence on how people will respond to questions. If the options are 'yes' or 'no', people are less likely, for example, to respond yes to the question 'Do you have difficulty walking?' unless they feel the problem is serious enough to warrant such a response. Otherwise they will respond with no. So a no response incorporates 'I have some difficulty but I am not sure it is severe enough to say yes!' If more than two response options are given (for example, no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or unable to do), the person is more open to use the 'some' and 'a lot' options.

This approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of population functioning when using these questions in a census or national survey. The results can be categorised into those people who have some difficulty doing one or more activities, those who have a lot of difficulty and those who are unable to do one or more activities. This gives three points on the continuum of functioning that can be used for different purposes. For example, people who are unable to do one or more activities are most likely to be those requiring technical and personal support. This group together with those with a lot of difficulty are most likely to be the sector of the population eligible for the disability grant.

We are moving to a better understanding of disability statistics as obtained in surveys, therefore, and are able to start incorporating these questions in surveys to allow for analyses that include disability in an integrated manner.

Ms Marguerite Schneider is a chief research manager in the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme.

profile: Professor Linda Richter

Q&A

Executive director, Child, Youth, Family and Social Development research programme

BORN: 7 October 1950, Brakpan (now part of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality)

QUALIFICATIONS: BA, BA Honours, PhD

MARRIED TO: Professor Dev Griesel, neuropsychologist. We have three children: Dev's two daughters from a previous marriage and our son, Stefan, who is completing a Bachelor's degree at UKZN, with majors in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Our characterful three-storied Victorian house on the Berea, Durban, is now a bane, as Dev, who is fighting against a rare form of cancer, has difficulty walking.

CURRENT BEDTIME READING: Always a miscellany. The leftovers of the day's papers, particularly the crosswords, *Time Magazine*, *The Economist;* several books at the same time – at the moment, Mark Bowden's *Road Work,* Umberto Eco's *The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loane,* Edward Hall's *The Silent Language,* Paul Bloom's *Descartes' Baby,* and *The Undercover Economist* by Tim Harford.

Some personal history/milestones in your personal life? And the people who had the biggest influence on you and what you learned from them?

Apart from my parents – both remarkable people – my paternal aunt, the first South African woman to be awarded a medal for bravery, had a big influence on me. She was in charge of an underground hospital at Marśa Matrûh, near El Alamein, during the North African campaign against Rommel in World War II. She inspired me with stories of adventure, bravery and heroism. My parents started out extremely poor; my mom sold her flowers and vegetables in the street in Johannesburg. But they went on to make a great success of their lives. My dad was the Shaft Sinker for the St Helena Gold Mine in Welkom, and introduced several innovations.

I have two brothers – one is the Managing Director of Triumph South Africa (underwear, not bikes!) and the other is a retired ballet dancer, formerly with the Swiss and Dutch National Ballet Companies.

My schools, St Agnes Convent in Welkom, and Eunice High School in Bloemfontein, and the girls I met there, have also been big influences in my life. They taught me how fulfilling work could be. In sport, debating and other activities, I came to value team work and friendship – we still spend holidays on the Free State farm of my best friend from high school!

At university, Professor Ronald Albino, head of the Department of Psychology, helped form my passion for research and child development. With his encouragement, I went to the UK for a post-doctoral fellowship where I was enormously influenced by Colwyn Trevarthen from Edinburgh University in my theoretical orientation, and by John and Elizabeth Newson at Nottingham University, who inspired in me a commitment to applied work with children. Karsten Hundeide, from the University of Oslo, has been a long-term collaborator and challenges my thinking in very productive ways. Dev provided the academic environment in which I matured into research. Some of my best years as a scholar were spent doing joint studies with him.

More recently, my son and the young researchers with whom I work, extend my interests, provide me with multidisciplinary perspectives, and encourage me by writing with me. My son, who is an accomplished sportsman, recently did the literature search for me for an article I was doing on sport involvement and psycho-social adjustment.▶

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Highlights and achievements of your career?

I regard these highlights as not mine alone, but of the groups and communities of which I have been, and are, a part.

- Appointed to Chairs at two universities – University of South Africa and the University of Natal. The downside was to give two Inaugural Addresses! The first, in 1990 at UNISA was entitled *Wretched childhoods: The challenge to psychological theory and practice*; the second, in 1999, was called *Looking after psychology tomorrow*. It was also a great honour to be elected a Fellow at the University of Natal in 2001. Since 1989, only 50 Fellowships have been conferred at UKZN, only five of them on women.
- Being a member and then chairing the Technical Steering Committee of the Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development at the World Health Organization in Geneva for three years (1996–2001), and also chairing Future Think, a roundtable to anticipate threats to children's wellbeing, in preparation for the United Nation's General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001.
- Starting CYFSD and building it up, with the support of colleagues, to the size, scope, achievement and reputation that it enjoys today.
- Being invited by the editor, Professor Don Kennedy, to contribute a peer-reviewed paper to *Science*, for a special issue on the social sciences with a focus on lifecycles.
- Directing and sustaining, with the help of colleagues, the Birth to Twenty study over 18 years. This unique study, one of the few large longitudinal studies in the world, of more than 2 300 children and their families in Soweto-Johannesburg, addresses some fundamental theoretical and methodological issues and is creating a picture of children growing up in a democratic South Africa (see http://www.wits.ac.za/birthto20).

CYFSD was the first programme in the HSRC to undergo an external 5-year review. What do you regard as the main achievements of CYFSD according to the External Review document that you compiled for the review panel?

Some highlights include:

- the CYFSD programme employs the largest number of staff in the HSRC on indefinite term and contracts longer than one year. We have 17 full-time researchers, 3 administrators, and more than 60 long-term contract staff
- CYFSD has the largest proportion of external to baseline income, a ratio of some 4 to 1.
- In the five years from mid July 2001 to 2006, we produced 95 peer-reviewed articles, 27 books and monographs, 64 book chapters and 86 research reports; we delivered papers at 78 international and 87 local conferences.
- CYFSD was awarded a National Science and Technology Forum Award in 2006 for an organisation's outstanding contribution to science, engineering and technology. This exceptional recognition of a social science group in the research terrain, dominated by natural sciences, was a great achievement for us all.
- CYFSD has research links with 17 African countries and as many international universities and research organisations.
- CYFSD is the only programme in the HSRC whose senior staff – the executive director and three directors (Professors Arvin Bhana, Andy Dawes and Yaw Amoateng) – has remained stable over the last five years.

Although the final report is not yet available, the reviewers gave CYFSD some feedback, most of it overwhelmingly positive. They were extremely impressed by feedback they received from CYFSD's stakeholders – funders, clients, collaborators and beneficiaries. The review panel expressed concern about the pressure of work in the HSRC and succession in CYFSD, particularly given that our stable senior tier is ageing. The review panel would also like programmes, and the HSRC as a whole, to demonstrate the impact of its research, and to ensure that results are widely disseminated, including to communities who could benefit from findings.

Most challenging aspects of your job and what would you still like to achieve?

Achieving balance – particularly in two areas:

- The demands of HSRC-wide activities and deadlines – meetings, reports, information – and the pressures to deliver on research grants and contracts.
- Responsiveness to the needs of CYFSD staff with the demands of my own research activities. Sometimes it's a hard choice – someone wants me to read their proposal at the same time as I have something urgent to do on one of my projects. I am very glad that I received training in the management approach of Stephen Covey, and the principles of *servant leadership*. This has helped me prioritise – it is a manager-leader's responsibility to facilitate the work of others.

What do I still want to achieve? I have four books in mind, two of which are in progress. I'm busy writing the first, which is on principles for assisting children in extreme adversity. This is funded by a book award from *Zero to Three* (USA). The other, on the childhood years in Birth to Twenty, is in the planning stage. I am editing it with my long-standing colleague, Dr Shane Norris, and it is being supported by a grant from the Oppenheimer Foundation. In the future, I want to edit a book on the adolescent years in Birth to Twenty and also one on child and family issues in South Africa, bringing together the work of CYFSD over a decade.

I would also like to contribute to the HSRC becoming a 'scientific organisation' – in which all sections, including the Support Services, draw down and use cutting edge technologies, procedures, interactions and strategies to address what we consider our core functions. There is so much more we could do on this score.

Who is the person you would most like to meet and what would you discuss with him/her?

I have a huge admiration for broad-thinking scholars on poverty and development, such as Amartya Sen, Jeffrey Sachs, William Easterly, Mary Douglas and others. If I had a chance to talk to them, my questions would centre on what are the critical parameters for determining the appropriate actions to address poverty and – given a particular set of parameters – what would be the most critical actions to take, and in what order.

How do you relax and recharge your batteries?

I don't draw a distinction between work and 'something else'. In my life, at home and at the office, we read, talk about and work on, the things that interest us – what is the role of family behaviour in malnutrition, tips for better searching on Google, how individuals can make a difference to global warming, reading my son's latest essay on game theory and altruism, and so on.

But work, in this sense, which I want to do all day, is something different from organisational demands. I get more than 40 emails a day and, quite frankly, it's got me down. I sometimes ignore the phone and e-mails, just to stay sane! As my staff knows, I get particularly irate with *reply all*, and *reply with attachments*, a simple and basic point, imperfectly applied across the HSRC.

I love red wine, delicious food and good company. I also like to be at our beach cottage alone with Dev, almost sleepless on the first night because of the crash of the waves outside our window and, over the December holidays, what seem to be endless days of sun, sea and afternoon naps.

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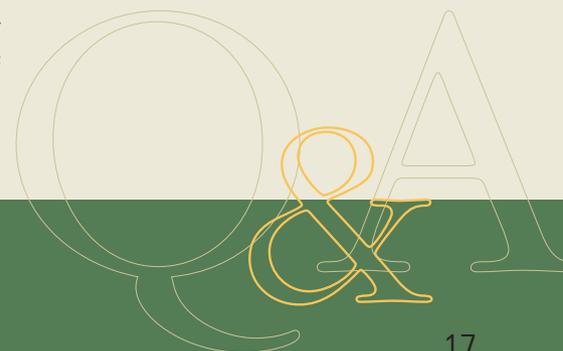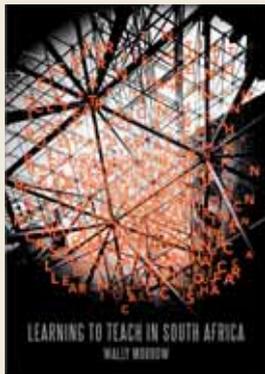
Learning to Teach in South Africa

Wally Morrow

A collection of key texts by one of South Africa's most respected thinkers in education, these essays span the crucial years of democratic transition and display the author's intellectual passion and incisive thinking as he reflects on the idea of epistemological access, a prominent feature of disciplined thinking about education in South Africa, as well as teacher education, the primacy of the practice of teaching in any system of education, and the continuing struggle with relativism, one of the strands of the apartheid and colonialism legacies. It is an intellectually flavoursome, essential read for all who can and will shape South African education today and in the future.

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Representation & Reality: Portraits of Women's Lives in the Western Cape 1948–1976

Helen Scanlon

Drawing on the personal narratives of women from across the political spectrum in the Western Cape, this well-researched account presents an unusual and regional perspective on the political history of diverse South African women. The author examines some of the local social and political forces that informed women's lives in the Western Cape and the women's narratives provide nuanced insights into how issues of identity, race, class and culture intersected with politics in their lives.

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Mapping ICT access in South Africa

Kholadi Thlabela, Joan Roodt & Andrew Paterson with Gina Weir-Smith

The current and future capacity of South Africa to generate and sustain access to information and communication technologies (ICT) for its citizens is an important development priority. Although the digital divide is visible in South Africa, the spatial dimensions of the distribution of ICT access in South Africa have not been systematically analysed. This report seeks to explore this important issue by mapping access to ICT, in order to maximise development opportunities, and to facilitate planning.

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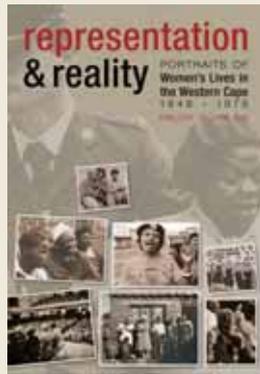
Mobility of Human Resources and Systems of Innovation: A Review of Literature

Thomas E Pogue

In any system of innovation, the constituency of participating individuals plays a determining role. A fundamentally mobile resource, individuals are influenced by a complex nexus of factors, prompting movement. This book is a review of the literature on the topic and is a resource for anyone interested in analysing human mobility and the factors and policies through which it influences innovation. The focus throughout is on the South African experience, and its relation to the African and broader international experience.

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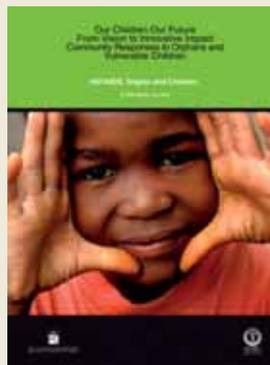
HIV/AIDS, Stigma and Children: A literature review

Harriet Deacon & Inez Stephney

While the literature on children and HIV/AIDS is extensive, as is the literature on HIV/AIDS-related stigma, specific research on HIV/AIDS-related stigma and children is relatively sparse. This title provides a review of the available literature in this regard. This report forms part of a series that examines the work undertaken as part of the W.K. Kellogg OVC Intervention Project from 2002 to 2005.

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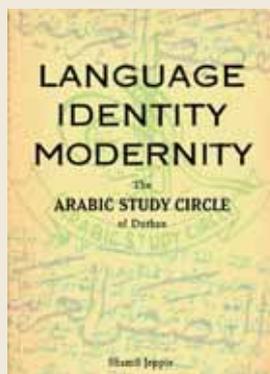
Language Identity Modernity: The Arabic Study Circle of Durban

Shamil Jeppie

A fusion of linguistic, religious and ethnic groups with rich, diverse roots and intersecting histories make up South Africa. However, the literature on most of the smaller groups tends to be thin and uneven and often relegates them to the margins of the country's major narratives. This innovative study introduces readers to a fascinating world of linguistic, religious and cultural politics in the South African port city of Durban from around 1950, the world of the Arabic Study Circle. Jeppie provides an intimate sense of who these men were and how they operated, their visions, as well as their international connections and contexts.

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