

The ISEA mounts an extra-curricular **Creative Writing Programme** each year during the first semester, which is open to staff, students and members of the public. Contact [isea@ru.ac.za](mailto:isea@ru.ac.za)

The Institute runs **Wordfest**, a multilingual, multicultural celebration of language and literature held annually during the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. The event includes lectures, book launches, poetry performances and readings, exhibitions, short courses, its own newspaper, live interviews and word-based shows.

### Publications

Periodicals published by the ISEA include *English in Africa* (from 1974), a scholarly journal devoted to African writing in English, *New Coin Poetry* (from 1964), and *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* (from 1987). In addition, the ISEA publishes research reports, scholarly monographs, anthologies and collections of poetry.

The ISEA is a research institute within the University subsidised largely by private donations and endowments, and it retains complete independence in its research.

## INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

### Associate Professor of Social Policy & Director

Robert van Niekerk, BA(Hons) (UCT), MSc Sociology (LSE), MPhil, DPhil (Oxon)

### Professor and Matthew Goniwe Chair in

### Development and Society

*Vacant*

### Senior Researcher & Head, Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU)

John Reynolds, BA, BSocSc(Hons) (UCT), MSocSc, PhD (Rhodes)

### Senior Researcher, Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU)

Michael Rogan, BA (Washington-Seattle), MA, PhD (UKZN)

### Project Administrator, Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU)

Valance Wessels

### Administrative Assistant

Bulelani Mothlabane

### Editorial Assistant, Journal of Contemporary African Studies

Jamie Alexander, MA (Rhodes)

### Financial Administrator

Gail Bint

### Professor Emeritus

Valerie Møller, Lic. Phil, PhD (Zurich)

### Visiting Professors

Wale Adebanwi, MSc, DPhil (Ibadan) MPhil, DPhil (Cam)

Ben Fine, BA, BPhil (Oxon), PhD (London)

Di McIntyre, MA, PhD (UCT)

Michael Noble, MA, MSc (Oxon), CBE

Edward Webster, BA (Hons) (Rhodes), MA (Oxon),

BPhil (York), PhD (Wits)

### Senior Research Associate

Gavin Williams, BA (Stell), MPhil (Oxon), DLitt (Rhodes)

### Research Associates

Rebecca Surender, BA(Hons) Sociology (Essex),

MSc Social Policy, DPhil (Oxon)

Yusuf Sayed, PhD(Bristol), MBA(Brighton)

Gemma Wright, BA, MSt, DPhil(Oxon)

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) was established in Rhodes University in 1954. Strongly grounded in the Eastern Cape since its inception, the ISER soon developed a diverse portfolio of research initiatives involving its own staff and staff members of other Rhodes academic departments. Throughout its existence, engagement by academics from a range of departments within the university in the work of the ISER contributed not only to the content and quality of ISER's research work, but also enriched teaching within those academics' home departments.

Scholars associated with the ISER in the early period of its establishment produced a series of scholarly volumes comprising the Keiskammahok Rural Survey (1947-1952) and the Border Regional Survey (1956-1964) amongst others. Although the former documented changes in Keiskammahok since the establishment of the apartheid regime in 1948, the ISER, in its early years, generally did not systematically engage with the consequences of apartheid for the well-being of the black majority, and did not challenge the status quo of repressive, white minority rule. This approach gradually changed in later years, when the ISER came to engage more actively with the social conditions and development problems of the Eastern Cape through empirical research and public policy engagement.

Under Prof Peter Vale's Directorship from 1984, the ISER's research agenda directly and indirectly exposed the consequences of the apartheid political economy on the black inhabitants of the Eastern Cape. The ISER developed a research specialisation on well-being studies under Professor Valarie Møller, a leading internationally recognised scholar in the field and Director of the ISER between 1998 and 2006. From 2006 to 2010, the ISER was led by Professor Greg Ruiters, who introduced a vibrant, large-scale programme of research rooted in concerns of political economy and municipal service provision in the Eastern Cape. Prof Ruiters also introduced the annual ISER Winter School, which drew together community-based organisations and leading academics into in-depth discussions on topical social, developmental and political concerns for the province and the country. Renamed as the Vuyisile Mini Winter School in 2015 in honour of the famous trade unionist and liberation fighter from the Eastern Cape, the Winter School continues to form an important part of the ISER's portfolio of external public engagement activities.

Since 2009, the ISER has been developing Social Policy as a core research and teaching focus area, joined, in late 2012, by Labour Studies. Led by Prof Robert van Niekerk, the Social Policy focus area has developed into a number of collaborative research programmes including programmes on the universalisation of public health, redistributive social policy, the developmental role of the state, social citizenship, as well as social democracy and the public good.

The establishment of the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU) in 2012 under the leadership of Dr John Reynolds has laid the foundation for the development of a vibrant programme of engaged scholarship in the field of labour studies. NALSU leverages its location in the Eastern Cape in its engagement with the broader South African political economy. NALSU undertakes both academic and applied research, and contributes to policy development.

The complementary focus areas of social policy and labour studies currently form the core of the ISER's work, which is driven by a commitment to the building of a more equitable society and a

more inclusive form of social citizenship based on social solidarity. A joint research project is being developed between scholars at Wits University and the ISER (drawing on both its Social Policy and Labour Studies themes) on the state, social change and public policy drawing on the intellectual legacy of Harold Wolpe. This follows an agreement with the Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust that the ISER would host a project on the intellectual legacy of Harold Wolpe. A comparative research project on "the formation, development and undermining of cultures of social solidarity" is being developed with Cuban academics based at the University of Havana which is intended will result in joint research and academic exchanges between academics at Rhodes University and those at the University of Havana.

The ISER's Social Policy and Labour Studies focus areas have attracted Masters and Doctoral students from a range of academic backgrounds, including politics, sociology and economics. Those students contribute to a vibrant research programme that probes some of the most challenging social questions of our time.

The ISER publishes its own books and research reports, and has been the home of the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (JCAS) since 1991. Historically, the ISER has published a *Working Paper Series*, which was re-launched in 2015 in a new format.

Between 2011 and 2015 the ISER offered a post-graduate taught module on *The Politics of Social Policy: the Case of South Africa* convened by Prof Robert Van Niekerk. From 2016 the ISER will offer a post-graduate taught module on *The Politics of Social Policy and Labour: The Case of South Africa*. The course will be jointly convened by Dr John Reynolds and Prof Robert Van Niekerk. The ISER also runs an annual programme of public lectures, seminars and its Winter School. The public lectures include the annual Dr AB Xuma Memorial Lecture and the annual Neil Aggett Labour Studies Lecture. The ISER also co-hosts the annual Harold Wolpe Memorial Lecture with the University of Witwatersrand as part of an academic programme drawing on his intellectual legacy. Seminars support both the social policy and labour studies focus areas within the ISER, with the labour studies seminar series held jointly with academic colleagues from the

Departments of Sociology, History, and Economics and Economic History.

The ISER has had an abiding influence on a number of institutions within Rhodes University and the wider Eastern Cape. In 1979, the International Library of African Music was moved to Rhodes University under the auspices of the ISER, where it was hosted until its incorporation into the Rhodes Department of Music and Musicology in the mid-nineties. Also in 1979, a Development Studies Unit, headed by a Chair in Development Studies, was started; that unit was discontinued in 1994, when its head Prof Bill Davies joined the new Eastern Cape Provincial Government. An International Studies Unit was established in the ISER in 1988 and, in 1992, was migrated to the Rhodes Department of Political Studies, into which it was fully incorporated in the early 2000s, changing the name of the department to the Department of Political and International Studies. In 2003, the East London branch of the ISER was incorporated into the University of Fort Hare as the Fort Hare Institute of Social and Economic Research (FHISER).

## THE INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESEARCH

### Incorporating the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality (UCEWQ)

#### Professor and Director

DA Hughes, PhD (Wales), Pr.Sci.Nat.

#### Senior Research Officer and Director of UCEWQ

N Odume, PhD (Rhodes)

#### Professor

CG Palmer, PhD (Rhodes).

#### Senior Research Officer

SK.Mantel, PhD (University of Hong Kong)

#### Research Officers

N Griffin, PhD (Cape Town)

P Mensah, PhD (Rhodes)

A Slaughter PhD (Rhodes)

#### Emeritus Professor

C de Wet, PhD (Rhodes)

#### Research Fellow

BR Allanson, PhD(UCT), DSc(Natal), FSSAf, Pr.Sci.Nat.

The Institute for Water Research (IWR) is a multi-disciplinary group that contributes to the understanding and sustainable management of water resources in southern Africa. These objectives are achieved through fundamental and applied research into the structure, function and components of natural water systems and the dissemination of research results. Consulting services are offered to solve specific problems through the application of research developments. The IWR contributes to teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as offering professional training courses and other capacity building initiatives. Specifically, postgraduate students can register in the Institute for MSc and PhD degrees (by thesis) in both Hydrology and Water Resource Science. Staff members of the IWR serve on various research, management and policy making committees both within South Africa and overseas. The staff of the Institute actively collaborate with other departments and institutes at Rhodes University including the departments of Geography, Zoology and Entomology, Environmental Science, Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity and the Albany Museum. The Institute also cooperates with other universities, state departments and private consulting companies, both in South Africa and internationally.

The Institute has expertise in several areas within the broad field of water resource science, including hydrology, integrated and transdisciplinary water resource management, freshwater ecology, water quality and toxicology, biomonitoring, the management of water services and community education. The combination of research and practical problem solving within the IWR allows recently developed research methods to be rapidly deployed for water resource planning and management. Within the field of ecology, the Institute has focused on understanding the processes and requirements of aquatic ecosystems and the effects of flow variability. Much of the work has been directed at assessing the environmental water quantity and quality requirements of rivers, an important component of the 'Reserve' determination process designed to ensure the sustainable use of water resources under the national Water Act of 1998. This research has been supported by the IWR's long history (over 30 years) of research into the development and