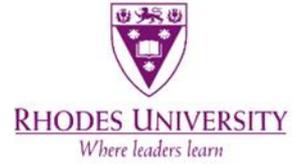


Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)



The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)





Annual Report 2022



Message from the Director

Twenty-twenty two (2022) was a year of consolidating key projects and administrative processes of the Institute. The consolidation focused on three main projects:

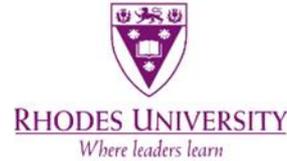
- a) The Journal of Contemporary Africa Studies (JCAS)
- b) The financial reporting system, and
- c) The launch of the *Interdisciplinary Honours Degree in Humanities*, focusing on *Social and Economic policy*.

These were low-key projects in terms of public attention, but they were very important to sort out or put in place for the ISER's long-term sustainability, relevance, and fluency. The *highlight* of the year was the launch and successful running of the Honours Degree programme. The programme was run in collaboration with the departments of Political and International Studies, Economics and Economic History, School of Languages, Sociology and Linguistics and Applied Language Studies. This is a strategic initiative for the ISER in the long term because not only does it contribute to research generation, but it also exposes students to interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge generation, which are useful for research organisations, like the ISER, and the Human Sciences Research Council at a national level. For the ISER the programme will also contribute to the mission of building its four thematic areas, which are described in more detail in the vision and mission section of this report. These are the reasons why the programme is a key project of the Institute's growth and sustainability.

Another important project that we made great progress in sorting out was the Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS). I am happy to report that with the help of the Advisory Board a new Editor-in-Chief for the journal was appointed in an open and fair and procedural manner. The journal welcomed Prof. Nthabiseng Motsemme of the University of Johannesburg in the role of Editor-in-Chief from July 2022 for a five-year term. We also bid Prof. Kirk Helliker farewell from the role and responsibility he took in saving the journal at its lowest political point towards the end of 2021. A team was also established to work through the backlog of almost 400 papers, some stemming from 2014 submissions. This team, led by Professor Emeritus Geoffrey Antrobus, has begun making important dents on the big backlog. This is great news for the stabilisation of the journal and its editorial and scholarly contributions to the continent.

The financial administration of the Institute presented unforeseen challenges during 2022. The Institute lost Ms Gail Bint, who was the most senior administrator since 2014. A temporary replacement for Gail was not that successful, and this put enormous pressure on the Institute's human resources. As Director I had to make hard decisions including limiting some of the essential activities or contributions that were initiated in the previous years. For example, we had to limit the number of Research Seminars/Webinars and media engagement that we had initiated during 2020 and 2021. We hope to put more effort into these activities again in the coming year.

Some of the highlights of 2022 include the launch of a book by Professor Emeritus Valerie Møller and Dr Benjamin Roberts of the HRSC on Africa Day. Also with the HSRC and Fort Hare University, a collaborative seminar was hosted by the ISER with a presentation of an HSRC paper exploring the international Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TiMSS) datasets. The ISER also co-organised and facilitated the launch of the first provincial Research & Innovation Round Table for the



provincial Human Resources Development Council (HRDC). On the research front the ISER launched the World-Wild Life Fund's (WWF) study on Grass-Fed Beef Value Chains and with the ELRC we ran a successful pilot course in the Western Cape (the Breede River Catchment) on financial investments into ecological infrastructure through a Water Research Commission funded project.

Looking ahead we received news that the WRC had approved a research project proposal submitted jointly by the IWR and the ISER to look into water drought politics in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro. Most exciting was the news that the National Research Foundation (NRF) had awarded the rights to intellectually host and lead the Africa Future Earth Leadership Centre to Rhodes University's ELRC, the ISER and IWR, alongside the University of Pretoria as the Future Africa host campus. This project should be a game changer for the ISER as it will co-lead the establishment and coordination of scientific networks across the continent, while building and developing emerging researchers and research areas on issues of sustainability. The activities in the Future Africa project will speak to the core of our TagLine "*Leading research for Africa*", which is based on our vision and mission statements. This excites me!

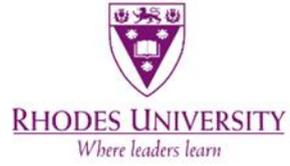
I am humbled by the dedication and hard work of the ISER's staff. This is a small team with big hearts. Thank you. I am grateful for the careful and wise guidance received from the ISER's Advisory Board. Without the friends of the ISER inside and outside the university our work would not be of any significance. A special *thank you* to the outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) for Research and Innovation, Prof. Peter Clayton who is responsible for the administrative leadership of the university's research institutes including the ISER. We all wish him a bright future into his retirement years after serving Rhodes University for more than three decades.

Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha

Table of Contents

Message from the Director.....	2
CHAPTER 1.....	7
VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS WITH VALUES.....	7
1.1 Introduction.....	7
1.2 The vision and mission statements of the ISER.....	7
1.3 The ISER team and research associates.....	9
The core team.....	9
ISER associates.....	13
CHAPTER 2.....	21
RESEARCH STRATEGY, OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES.....	21
2.1 Introduction.....	21
2.2 The core business activities.....	21
2.3 Research generation.....	21
2.4 How the ISER's work relates to selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)....	22
2.4.1 The current Research Implementation Strategy.....	23
2.4.2 For books, book chapters and other articles.....	24
2.4.3 Report on 2022 research activities.....	24
2.4.4. Formal programme: The ISER Interdisciplinary Honours Degree Programme....	27
2.4.5. Informal programmes and workshop engagement.....	29
2.4.5.1 Data Analysis short course.....	29
2.4.5.2 Short Learning Programme (Cost-Benefit Analysis).....	31
2.4.5.3 CBA training in the Breede River Catchment.....	31
2.4.6 Post Graduate student (M&D) supervision.....	31
2022 student supervision.....	32
2.4.7 Community engagement.....	33
The Calata Family Project.....	33
2.4.8 Academic citizenship.....	33
2.4.9 The operational strategy to support the vision and mission.....	34
CHAPTER 3.....	35
SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.....	35
3.1 Introduction.....	35
3.2 ISER seminar series.....	35
3.3 ISER Working Papers.....	42

3.3.1	Growing the Working Paper Series Strategy	42
3.3.2	Working Papers reviewed.....	43
3.3.3	Papers reviewed and published in 2022	43
3.3.4	Working Papers in progress	43
CHAPTER 4.....		45
CURRENT AND INITIATED PROJECTS.....		45
4.1	Introduction.....	45
4.2	Current research projects	45
Project 1:	The Water Research Commission (Social Learning)	45
Project 2:	WWF Project	47
Project 3:	ISER-HSRC.....	48
4.3	Pipeline research projects	49
Project 1:	Office of the Premier Eastern Cape Government	49
Project 2:	Eastern Cape Provincial Labour Markets Intelligence Project.....	49
Project 3:	WRC Nelson Mandela Bay Water Politics, collaboration with IWR	50
Project 4:	NRF: Collaboration with University of Pretoria and ELRC	50
Project 5:	UNAM Rhodes University Collaboration – Education Faculty, ISER, etc.....	51
Project 6:	Presidential Climate Commission RFP from the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies at WITS University and Rhodes University	51
4.4	Operational projects in 2022.....	52
Project 1:	The ISER Archives Restoration project	52
CHAPTER 5.....		53
PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS REPORT		53
5.1	Introduction	53
5.2	Key partners within Rhodes University	53
5.3	Key partners external to Rhodes University	54
5.4	NGO and private business partnerships	54
5.5	Pipeline Partnerships	54
5.6	Partnership plan going forward.....	54
CHAPTER 6.....		55
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING REPORT		55
6.1	Communications and marketing objectives of the ISER	55
6.2	Communications and marketing strategy	55
6.3	ISER Channel Focus	56
6.4	Execution progress report.....	56
6.4.1	Media coverage results	56
6.4.2	Webinar support	57



6.4.3 Social media	57
CHAPTER 7	60
THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN STUDIES (JCAS) REPORT	60

CHAPTER 1

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS WITH VALUES

1.1 Introduction

In part, this 2022 ISER annual report presents managerial, operational and research activities that were presented for approval by the Advisory Board throughout 2022 and after the last meeting of November 2022. The ISER's vision and mission statements, which were developed after the new Director joined the Institute on 1 May 2020, are also outlined below for continuous evaluation and reflection.

1.2 The vision and mission statements of the ISER

The vision and mission statements indicate the Institute's focus on advancing research that is not only locally or provincially based, but also has great relevance to national and continental social and economic challenges. At the ISER we believe that our shared values must guide us in navigating the collective journey to achieve and execute our vision and mission, respectively.

OUR TAGLINE

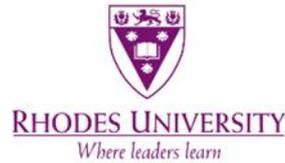
Leading research for Africa

OUR VISION

We strive to be a globally recognised centre of transformative social and economic research excellence that contributes towards a fairer, more just and equitable society through championing African-led enquiry, innovation and knowledge-sharing.

OUR MISSION

The ISER is a dynamic African hub of high quality and pioneering social and economic research that is opening gateways for community-rooted knowledge to be recognised and incorporated in policy and practice aimed at improving the natural environment and quality of human life.



OUR VALUES

Excellence in groundbreaking, ground-up, rigorous and multi-faceted research

We strive to achieve excellent and effective results through policy-relevant, community-led research that can be practically applied. We are equitable, transformational and inclusive in our subjects and methods.

Social transformation and environmental sustainability

We champion socio-economic justice for sustainable and improved livelihoods, ensuring equitable access and the preservation of bio-cultural diversity. Our research informs policy that recognises multiple and evolving values, including local natural resource stewardship, spatial justice and community sustainability. We provide platforms that promote diverse expressions and facilitate knowledge-sharing towards finding common ground.

Advancing and sharing Africa-led knowledge

We create, connect and enable knowledge networks across South Africa and the African continent. We support dynamic socio-economic research, innovation and development that comes *from the continent* rather than *to the continent*.

Social commitment and community engagement

The real value of what the ISER does depends upon the long-term, positive impact that we can make on the economic vitality of people, organisations, and communities through engaged and transformative research.

Innovation

We are open to ideas that challenge conventional views and drive innovation. We believe that in order to stay relevant, we must constantly improve with society's changing needs to develop work that pushes forward the boundaries of research.

Accountability

We are accountable to society, marginalised communities, the research community, Rhodes University, our funders, our respondents, and all stakeholders. We accept personal responsibility and accountability for our actions and results. We respond to the needs and expectations of our research partners with urgency, exercising good judgement in addressing changing circumstances.

Integrity

We are driven by our commitment to enabling vulnerable groups to overcome poverty and improve quality of life, and not by personal gain or alliances with vested interests. We are honest, and act with integrity. We do not tolerate unethical behaviour; we challenge it as a matter of personal responsibility.

Respect, diversity and equality

We treat our colleagues, partners, donors, and research and community partners with fairness, respect and sensitivity. As part of this respect, we share co-engaged learning with all contributors. We value diversity and draw upon the different strengths, cultures, ideas, experience and talents of people.

Collaboration and partnership

Collaboration with internal and external partners is necessary to increase the effectiveness and relevance of our work and research.

1.3 The ISER team and research associates

The core team

Researcher: Dr Reesha Kara



Dr Reesha Kara is currently a researcher at the ISER focusing on human and economic development. She recently completed a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU) where her work looked at single motherhood among educated women in South Africa. This was closely linked to her PhD, also completed at NALSU which adopted a mixed methods approach and focused on identifying trends and characteristics of never married older mothers in South Africa. Her research interests include single motherhood, socio-economic wellbeing, gender relations, poverty and social issues concerning everyday South Africans. Specifically, Reesha has years of experience and training in quantitative research methodology, focusing on the analysis of nationally representative survey data. Many of her research projects have been developed around the use of social statistics to understand social and economic phenomenon. Reesha has a Master's degree in Population Studies, Honours degree in Sociology and Bachelor of Social Science (Industrial Psychology and

Sociology) degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Dr Kara will be on maternity leave from mid December 2022 until May 2023 as she is expecting her first baby.

Academic and research administrator: Ms Jamie Alexander



Jamie Alexander does a great job as an Academic and Research Administrator for the ISER, supporting the Institute with academic and research projects including the Institute's Seminar Series, Working Paper Series, Academic Networking and other related projects.

Jamie has embarked on completing her PhD on sacred cultural landscapes and their application for bio-cultural diversity conservation. Her MA explored children's cultural environmental narratives and their role in the transmission of cultural connection to and protection of biodiversity. Her honour's thesis focused on tourism, crime and benefit in relation to the tourism industry in Vilankulo, Mozambique.

In the past, Jamie has worked as a social anthropologist and environmental consultant, being involved in assessing the impact of numerous large-scale development projects in South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar, Egypt and Kenya. She has also been involved in the interactive environmental arts-based programmes of the Arkwork Collective and was one of the facilitators of the Arkwork Circus. This project, centred on vulnerable and at-risk youth, utilised arts-based education, drama and storytelling to enable participants to create a community production which was performed at the Grahamstown Festival.

Jamie's research interests include sacred spaces, cultural landscapes, cultural identity and belonging, environmental perceptions, Local Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, cultural environmental narratives, bio-cultural diversity conservation, participatory learning processes and tourism.

ISER Director: Prof. Nhlanhla Cyril Mbatha



Prof. Mbatha is the current Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University, after acting as Dean and CEO at the Unisa School of Business Leadership in early 2020.

In 2015 he was the first Director of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) - Regional Leadership Centre in Southern Africa (RLCSA), an initiative by the former US President, Barack Obama. Mbatha was also Chief Research Manager and Head of the Labour Markets Research Unit (LMRU) at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) from 2012 to 2013, before becoming Head of Finance and Economics at Unisa's Business School.

Before joining Unisa in 2009 as an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics he was a Senior Lecturer at Rhodes University's Department of Economics and Economic History, where he taught undergraduate and post graduate courses in Environmental Economics, Public Finance, Microeconomics, Development Economics. At Unisa's Business School he taught macro and microeconomics for business leaders and managers. He actively conducts research on natural resources management, including research on South Africa's land and water laws, agricultural economics and land reform projects across the African continent. His other research interests include topics on the interface of labour markets and skills development. In the last 15 years he has been a senior research consultant on topics including Public Finances Management, Labour Markets & Further Education and Training, International and Regional Trade Integration for numerous government departments and research councils in South Africa as well as for international donor organisations like the UNDP in Botswana and the World Trade Organisation.



Financial administrator: Ms Gail Bint

Gail completed her matric at Port Alfred High School. She worked in the finance industry for 18 years before joining the ISER in 2014. She has been doing an incredible job of ensuring that the ISER's finances are used appropriately, recorded accordingly and reported on and presented every month, using international standards of accounting. Gail has a great sense of humour and is a pillar of strength for the Institute.

Ms Bint has been on medical leave since March 2022 and was temporarily replaced by Ms Kim Green who assisted at the ISER for six months. A possible temporary staff member (Mr Lutho Mtwecu) has been identified for a contract by the Research Office. He is being engaged to start in January 2023.



General administrator: Mr Bulelani Mothlabane

Bulelani Mothlabane was born in Grahamstown. After completing his matric in 2007 at Graeme College he studied towards a National Diploma in Tourism Management at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). After completing his diploma Bulelani worked at Makana Tourism from 2012 till 2014 as an Information Officer. He was then appointed the Administrative Assistant at ISER in 2014. Bulelani does an excellent administrative job in the office, on the ISER's webpage and other social media platforms of the Institute. *In 2022, he assisted the ISER in filling some of the gaps left by Ms Bint going on medical leave.*

ISER associates

Professor Emeritus Valerie Møller



VALERIE MØLLER is Professor Emeritus at Rhodes University. She was appointed to the new chair of Quality of Life Studies at Rhodes in the Institute of Social and Economic Research in 2007. Before that she was director of ISER (1998–2006) and headed the Quality of Life Research Unit at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, in the 1990s. She grew up in the southern United States and Switzerland. A sociologist by training, she received her Ph.D. from the University of Zürich. She and her architect husband arrived in Africa in 1972 in a VW kombi and stayed. She has lived and worked in southern Africa since that time.

Together with South African colleagues, she initiated the South African Quality of Life (SAQoL) trends study that has tracked the personal well-being of South Africans from all walks of life since the early 1980s. In 1996 and 2004, together with Alex Michalos, editor of the leading international journal on quality-of-life, *Social Indicators Research*, she organised 'roving conferences' to promote social indicators and quality-of-life research among South African scholars. The 2004 'Roving Conference' held at Rhodes University formed part of the University's Centenary celebrations.

Valerie Møller has published some 200 research articles, chapters in books, and research monographs covering a wide range of topics related to quality of life and well-being. She has edited or co-edited a number of Springer volumes on quality-of-life topics including two focusing on South African quality of life (published in 1997 and 2007).

She is an international Society for Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) *Distinguished QoL Researcher* in recognition of her lifetime achievements and accomplishments in quality-of-life studies. She hosted the ISQOLS 7th conference at Rhodes University in 2006, and served as ISQoL's President (2007–8). She serves on the boards of a number of quality-of-life journals and received the 1997 (with Lawrence Schlemmer) and 2013 Best *Social Indicator Research (SIR)* Paper awards. The 2013 Best *SIR* Paper reported on three decades of the SAQoL trends study.

Communications and Marketing Strategist: Ms Tamaryn Brown



Tamaryn does a fantastic job working with the ISER on a part time basis as a consultant supporting the ISER team in its communications, marketing and branding activities.

Tamaryn worked in communications for General Electric in London, Belgium and New York, before joining Ogilvy in South Africa. She co-founded Kaelo Engage, a consultancy focused on cause communications, including the successful CSI multi-platform series Kaelo-Stories of Hope. She joined Connect Media in 2010 (then Chillibush PR), which she now owns.

Tamaryn has gained extensive local and international experience in public relations, communications and sponsorship, working on both the client and agency side in various sectors, including hospitality and entertainment, property, FMCG, financial services, technology, automotive, mining, construction, logistics and renewable energy. She has extensive experience working within the public and educational sector, serving clients such as the Unisa Graduate School of Business Leadership (SBL) and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA). Tamaryn has worked for Brand South Africa and the Industrial Development Corporation, and served as media liaison for Hyundai during their sponsorship throughout the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Tamaryn is passionate about cause-related work and development communications. Recent experience includes delivering integrated communications for KFC's Add Hope initiative, annual savings campaigns for the South African Savings Institute, CSI and cause-related marketing for Pandora, cause-related literacy campaigns for Pizza Hut across Africa and anti-tobacco campaigns for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, a global NGO based in Washington.

She has a proven record in developing breakthrough strategies and managing integration of paid, earned, shared and owned platforms to build powerful brand stories.



Editor in Chief, the Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS): Professor Nthabiseng Mutsemme

The ISER hosts the Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS), an interdisciplinary journal in the human sciences which seeks to promote a scholarly understanding of developments and change in Africa. Professor Nthabiseng Mutsemme was appointed Chief Editor in July 2022. Prof. Mutsemme is currently Associate Professor in Department of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg, where her key responsibilities include teaching, supervision, research and publication. She has contributed towards programme-specific frameworks, guidelines and administrative processes at the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) and University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), as well as being responsible for conceptualising and implementing research administration and post-graduate capacity development programmes and training.

VISITING PROFESSORS



Prof. Edward Webster: BA (Hons) Sociology (Essex), Msc Social Policy DPhil (Oxon)

Prof. Webster is currently Professor Emeritus in the Society, Work and Development Institute (SWOP), at the University of the Witwatersrand which he has served for almost 40 years. He is recognised both locally and internationally for his significant contribution to scholarship, especially in the field of Industrial Sociology.



Prof. Ben Fine: BA, BPhil (Oxon), PhD (London)

Prof. Fine is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He has (co)authored or edited over thirty books and published over 250 articles covering a wide range of economic theory, economic and social policy, development economics, political economy and the history of economic thought, with a strong intellectual commitment to interdisciplinarity.



Prof. Pantaleo Daniel Rwelamila: PhD, Construction Economics, (Liverpool, UK) (UCT)

Prof. Rwelamila is a professional project manager and a project procurement expert specialising in procurement policy, infrastructure procurement and management of risks and contracts management; international development projects; and strategic alliances. He read Construction Engineering Economics, Project Management and Construction Project Procurement at ARI/ARDHI University (Tanzania), Brunel University (United Kingdom) (CM-Project Management) and University of Liverpool/University of Cape Town (United Kingdom/South Africa)(Project Management & Procurement Systems) respectively.

VISITING FELLOWS



Dr Steffen Otterbach Doctoral Degree in Economics (Hohenheim)

Dr Otterbach is currently a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer at the Institute for Health Care and Public Management, University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany.

A long time ISER associate and a dynamic, vibrantly enjoyable visiting researcher, Dr Otterbach has collaborated most closely with Prof. Møller and Prof. Mike Rogan, producing a number of publications together.

His specialisation is in empirical economics and his research focuses on the impact of working conditions (e.g. working time and mismatches between actual and desired working hours) on health and wellbeing. His research interests also include food security and nutrition aspects in developing countries.

Dr Otterbach will be visiting the ISER and the Department of Economics and Economic History in 2023, with financial support from the Hobart Houghton Research Fellowship.



Prof. Martin Gustafsson PhD, Economics (Stellenbosch)

Prof. Martin Gustafsson is an education economist and associate professor attached to the Research on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) unit, which in turn is linked to the Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University. He moreover provides technical assistance on a part-time basis to the national Department of Basic Education. He is based in Pretoria.

The following are key areas of experience: analysis for government and global organisations, academic analysis, policy formulation for government, production of management tools, fostering partnerships between the academic and government spheres, and teaching.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES



Mr Wandile Sihlobo Master's Degree, MSc in Agricultural Economics (Stellenbosch)

Mr Wandile Sihlobo is the Chief Economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz) and the author of "*Finding Common Ground: Land, Equity, and Agriculture*".

He is a Senior Lecturer Extraordinary at the Department of Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Wits School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand.



Dr Dumisani Hompashe PhD, Economics (Stellenbosch)

Dr Dumisani Hompashe has over eight years of experience working in the higher education sector. He started working as a lecturer at the University of Fort Hare in 2013. He also serves as Research Associate at the Research for Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) unit and the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Stellenbosch University and Rhodes University respectively.

He obtained a Secondary Teacher's Diploma from the then Griffiths Mxenge College of Education in 1990. In 1998, he acquired a Certificate in Environmental Education from Rhodes University. He got his BA degree in Economics and English from the University of South Africa in 2001. He also attained BA Honours (Financial Economics) and MCom (Financial Markets) from Rhodes University in 2004 and 2009. In March 2021, he graduated with a PhD (Economics) from Stellenbosch University.

His research interests include the quality of education and healthcare, inequality of education outcomes, and development economics.

Competencies: Data analytic techniques, Qualitative data collection methods, use of various statistical software packages including Stata, SPSS and Eviews.

RESEARCH FELLOWS



Dr Samuel Dominic Sadian PhD, Sociology (Barcelona)

Dr Samuel Sadian studied Political and International Studies at Rhodes University up to Master's level. After working as a political researcher and academic editor, he did a PhD in Sociology at the University of Barcelona. His doctoral dissertation focused on overcoming the conceptual and empirical shortcomings of narrowly productivistic approaches to modern social change in the humanities and social sciences, building on the work of Marshall Sahlins, Manuel Castells and Axel Honneth, among others. It portrays consumer practices as an essential dimension of struggles for recognition in material and symbolic circuits of market exchange, centralised redistribution and social reciprocity and develops an approach to consumption potentially applicable to a wide range of modern social settings, drawing on case studies from South Africa in the fields of housing, healing and clothing. His current research focuses on neoliberal and laissez-faire economic, social and political reforms in comparative perspective from the 1980s, considering also the manner in which these have been promoted in South Africa within academic institutions, think tanks, media outlets and platforms, and Third Way-style political parties in ways that appear problematic from an egalitarian critical perspective.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW



Dr Charity R. Nhemachena

Dr Nhemachena is an Agricultural Economist with nine years of professional experience in research, programme / project management, monitoring and evaluation in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Dr Nhemachena secured funding for six months from the ELRC NRF Chair and is supporting JCAS. Her current role focuses on implementing multidisciplinary research across diverse socio-economic challenges in rural and urban spaces, locally, nationally and on the African continent. Subject areas include socio-economic research activities on the use of agricultural land and environmental water resources, cross border trade, rural to urban livelihoods, informal to formal economic sector activities, development and education issues for youth employment.

CHAPTER 2 RESEARCH STRATEGY, OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of the overall strategy devised for the ISER to build its key research areas. It provides an understanding of the strategic direction and the five-year vision that the ISER undertook from 2020 onwards. The chapter outlines the ISER's research focus areas and includes an overview of some of its core activities, for example the research generation strategy, an outline of the scholarly and media efforts, highlights of network building, *student development through supervision and teaching capacity*, and finally the basic strategic plan to execute the Institute's mission.

2.2 The core business activities

The list outlines the Institute's core business activities, with strategies for their execution laid out sequentially. Reports with further details on what has been performed for each activity are presented under the following headings / chapters:

- a) Research generation and dissemination
- b) Scholarly public engagement
- c) Community engagement
- d) Continuous research network building
- e) Post graduate student (M&D) supervision
- f) The ISER co-ordinated Interdisciplinary Honours Degree in Development Studies
- g) Academic citizenship
- h) Overall supporting strategy for building resources

The ISER began the process of actioning these areas of activities in 2020, although some only commenced in 2021 and some in 2022 (e.g. The Honours Degree offering). The details of reasons for this are made apparent in the specific parts of the report.

2.3 Research generation

Given the available expertise and experiences in the ISER, the Institute strives to generate research mainly in the following **four research focus areas**:

Research area number	Short description
1	THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES a. Land use and management reform b. Water use and management reform
2	EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
3	HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
4	INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

These research areas are detailed more expansively on the ISER's webpage.

[\(https://www.ru.ac.za/iser/research/\)](https://www.ru.ac.za/iser/research/)

2.4 How the ISER's work relates to selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The research activities and focus areas of the ISER primarily support contributions towards the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Research area	Sustainable Development Goal
The use and management of environmental resources (land & water)	Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Education and skills development	Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Human and economic development	Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
International trade in goods and services	Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

2.4.1 The current Research Implementation Strategy

With the Institute’s resource constraints, all research areas above would not be able to receive equal attention at all times. Rather they will be gradually and sustainably developed as the Institute acquires more human capital. Of the ISER’s four strategic research areas, the area of *environmental resources management* now seems fully established, with donor funded research projects, *and more projects coming in the coming year*. Nevertheless, research outputs were also internally produced in the Human and Economic Development and also in the area of cross border trade in Africa. *A research report was also produced and nationally presented* in the area of Education and Skills development through a collaborative research effort between our fellows (Dr Hompashe and Prof. Gustafsson) and the HSRC, using the TIMSS datasets.

At the Advisory Board’s first meeting in 2020, the Director presented *the plan of hosting at least two multi-year projects per year*. The plan is to house one project in two of the four identified research focus areas. To generate output from each project area, there will be focus on *a minimum of at least two main academic/research outputs per year*. The big research project outputs would in turn lead to various smaller outputs, including at least one working paper and two policy briefs. These outputs would then lead to at least two seminar presentations, and at least two or more media articles to support our communications and marketing strategies. This was accepted as the core map plan to drive the research activities of the Institute. With more human resources becoming available, the accepted plan is to then kick-start the development of the next area, which would then duplicate the research output and activities as described. Table 1 presents the blueprint plan for each multi-year project.

Table 1: Academic research generation

ACADEMIC RESEARCH GENERATION						
Multi-year project 1			Multi-year project 2			
Main research report per year			Main research report per year			
At least one academic article	At least one policy brief	At least one seminar discussion	At least one academic article	At least one policy brief	At least one seminar discussion	
Dissemination through communications strategy: a) At least two print media articles b) At least one broadcast discussion			Dissemination through communications strategy: a) At least two print media articles b) At least one broadcast discussion			

Reflection:

So far, the ISER does host two main multi-year research focused projects per year (i.e. the WWF and WRC). These projects have produced a number of draft reports for funders, but have not generated media reports or working papers. We need a sub-strategy on Human Capacity to get technical reports turned into other types of outputs.

2.4.2 For books, book chapters and other articles

Outside of the multi-year research projects, at least one post-doctoral position will be made available with funds applied for from channels such as the NRF and Rhodes University's post doc funding programme. The post doc positions will be focused around supporting the Institute's research generation and outputs. The post doc plan is to have at least a two-year post-doctoral fellowship that generates either a book or a series of book chapters or a series of journal or working papers (two per year and four in two years).

Reflection:

At the moment the ISER has one post-doctoral fellow (Dr Nhemachena) funded by the NRF, although at the moment most of her energy is spent on the JCAS backlog emergency project. In December 2022 we advertised for two more post-docs, one to stand in for Dr Kara while on leave and another to add to the JCAS backlog team.

2.4.3 Report on 2022 research activities

In 2022 the focus has been on submitting technical research reports, supervision of potential ISER policy briefs with post graduate students, solicited book chapters. These are presented below.

Accredited journal articles submitted

Møller, V., Cocks, M., and Vetter, S. Nature-connectedness and well-being experienced during best and worst times of life: A case for safeguarding biocultural diversity. *The Journal of Social Indicators Research* (accepted for publication in 2023)

Technical research reports

Hompashe, D.M. 2022. Do instructional leadership practices drive educational improvement gap in South Africa? Evidence from Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition analysis of TIMSS 2015 and 2019 study. TIMSS Working Paper Series. Human Sciences Research Council. Available online: <https://www.timss-sa.org/publication/do-instructional-leadership-practices-drive-educational-improvement-gap-in-south-africa-evidence-from-oaxaca-blinder-decomposition-analysis-of-timss-2015-and-2019-study>

Mbatha, CN, Kara, R, McCloed, N. 2022. An overview of the grass-fed beef value chain and associated environmental impacts in the Matatiele region of the Eastern Cape Province, SA. ISER-Enviros Interim technical report 1 to the WWF-SA. Rhodes University, Makhanda.

Mbatha and Kara, 2022. Future impacts and threats of climate change and socio-economic conditions on the Grass Fed Beef Value Chain in the Matatiele region of the Eastern Cape Province, SA. ISER Interim report 2, WWF-SA.

Mpolwana, M., Mbatha, C.N., Lotz-Sisitka, H., Thifulufhelwi, R., and Kuse, M. 2022. Monitoring and evaluation framework and workplan (2022/2023). A report to the Water Research Commission (WRC), Pretoria.

Mbatha, C.N. 2022. Cost-Benefit Analysis Framework for informing Xabisa Indalo for Water. A report to the Water Research Commission (WRC), Pretoria.

Conference papers

Møller, V. 2022. What are the Prospects for Future Happiness in Africa south of the Sahara? From the book: Møller, V. & Roberts, B.J. (2021). *Quality of Life and Human Well-Being: Prospects for future happiness*, published by Springer. International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Conference: Quality-of-Life for Resilient Futures: Sustainability, Equity, & Wellbeing, 3 – 6 August, 2022. Burlington, Vermont, U.S.A.

Møller, V. 2022. Nature-Connectedness and Well-Being experienced by Xhosa-speaking people during Best and Worst times of life: a case for safeguarding biocultural diversity. International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Conference: Quality-of-Life for Resilient Futures: Sustainability, Equity, & Wellbeing , 3 – 6 August, 2022. Burlington, Vermont, U.S.A. (submitted to *the Journal of Social Indicators Research*).

Master's and PhD theses

Hala, M.M. 2022. 'Memoirs of an Umkhonto WeSizwe Cadre'. Unpublished Master's Thesis. Rhodes University (ISER), Makhanda. (Supervisors: Dr S. Magadla and Prof. J. Peires).

Honours research projects

Goeieman, J.P. 2022. Investigating the Ability of the South African School Curriculum to Impart Meaningful Climate Change Education. Honours Research Project. Rhodes University (ISER), Makhanda.

Van Aardt, B. 2022. Will zero compensation save the land reform project in South Africa? Honours Research Project. Rhodes University (ISER), Makhanda.

Potential ISER policy briefs from post graduate Master's and Honours projects

The Honours Degree programme generated a number of potential research outputs, including draft policy briefs by six post-graduate students (Masters and Honours) who participated in our course/module on Public Policy Analysis. These have the potential to contribute towards the ISER's Policy Brief Series in 2023.

The potential policy briefs that may result from all student research outputs and respond to three of the ISER's four thematic research areas, namely **Environmental Resources Management, Human and Economic Development**, and **Education and Skills Development**, are listed below.

- a. **Van Aardt, B. (2022).** *What is the relationship between the type of land tenure or access on the Household's agricultural production? Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset. ISER Policy Brief, Rhodes University, Makhanda.*
- b. **Hall, M. (2022).** Making happiness and subjective well-being a policy priority in South Africa. Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset. ISER Policy Brief, Rhodes University, Makhanda.
- c. **Myataza, K. (2022).** English language competency: What are the links between English competency, attending a tertiary institution and being computer literate? Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset. ISER Policy Brief, Rhodes University, Makhanda.
- d. **Mkumbeni, K. (2022).** Interrogating Unemployment amidst the economic decline in South Africa. Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset. ISER Policy Brief, Rhodes University, Makhanda.
- e. **Goeieman, J.P. (2022).** Integrating International Indicator Data into the South African CAPS curriculum. Analysis based on the International Climate Change Datasets. ISER Policy Brief, Rhodes University, Makhanda.

- f. **Naeser, D. (2022).** *Socio-economic impediments to water access in Rural South Africa. Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset. ISER Policy Brief, Rhodes University, Makhanda.*

Not all these students' reports can be turned into books, therefore I have Ms Alexander to start working with the best two.

Invited book chapters under construction:

- a. **Mbatha, CN, Nhemachena, C. and Kara, R.** The growth and sustainability of the urban regional economic environment in Urban and regional political economy: South Africa an emerging market economy (**eds Vil-Nkomo, S. and Mokate, R.**). Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs.
- b. **Mbatha CN, Nhemachena and Kara, R.** In Human Rights, Development and Growth: African Search of Maps of Survival and Sustainability – Comparative Contemporary Perspectives (**eds. Djoyou-Kamga, S. and Msila, V.**) Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs.

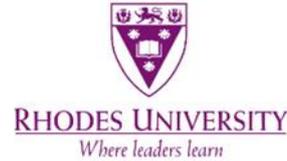
Dr Nhemachena and Prof. Mbatha are already working towards these book chapters. But progress is still slow.

2.4.4. Formal programme: The ISER Interdisciplinary Honours Degree Programme

The proudest moment of 2022 was the launch of the ISER's Interdisciplinary Honours Degree in Development Studies in the Humanities faculty.

The strategic goal of this programme is to prepare students for Master's and PhD research on public policy topics as well as to generate research outputs, including papers and policy briefs from good student submissions.

Eight (8) students registered for the ISER module from Politics and Sociology. Half the students were registered for their Master's. Participating departments include the ISER, Political and International Studies, School of Languages and Literatures, Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Sociology and History.



Special thanks go to the following facilitators for supporting the honours programme from the ISER:

- a. Prof. Martin Gustafsson (Stellenbosch University and ISER Research Fellow)
- b. Ms Lynn Woolfrey (UCT, DataFirst)
- c. Prof. Tally Palmer (RU, retired)
- d. Prof. Mike Rogan (RU, Economics)
- e. Mr David Fryer (RU, Economics)

Background

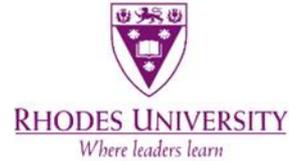
The ISER recognised a national lack of the type of research skills that are required for it to execute fully on its mission and vision. Because of this, discussions were initiated with a number of academic departments at Rhodes University to launch an honours degree programme to train and prepare students for the kind of work that relates to applied research and policy, using as the vehicle the Interdisciplinary Honours Degree in Development Studies in the Humanities faculty. The initial discussions catalytic to the launch of the ISER-facilitated degree began with discussions with the head of the Department of Political and International Studies and colleagues in the Department of Economics and Economic History.

The ISER Honours Degree Programme for Social and Economic Policy Research Analysis under the banner of the Interdisciplinary Honours Degree Programme of the Humanities was included in the Rhodes University calendar for 2022. Thank you to all Rhodes University staff and members of the Board who contributed to discussions in shaping this programme.

For 2022, as many have indicated, we will get an appetite for the programme. So far, the questions most asked by potential students include those about available funding for applicants and whether the programme can be taken part time or online by working students. Given that this is an interdisciplinary programme which requires the participation of many departments, it may take some time before the course is offered on a part-time or online basis.

With respect to funding the Director has linked up potential applicants with the Post Graduate Office and spoken to one of the Research Chairs if they can fund the students for 2023, given the NRF requirements. And this has been agreed.

Nevertheless, the advertisement (posted on social networks) for the degree programme attracted many responses towards the end of 2022. More than twenty (20) applications were received from potential students across the country (Universities of Wits, UWC, Mpumalanga, North West, etc). This means that social media advertising is effective for the ISER.



2.4.5. Informal programmes and workshop engagement

This section provides detail to any training, workshops, etc. that were conducted or led by the ISER.

2.4.5.1 Data Analysis short course

The ISER hosted the Data Analysis short course from 27 to 29 June 2022. The course was presented by Dr Reesha Kara from the ISER (Rhodes University), Ms Lynn Woolfrey from DataFirst (UCT) and Prof. Martin Gustafsson from the Department of Education.

The course was attended by paying participants from:

- a. Rhodes University, Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction (CSSR)
- b. Rhodes University, Human Resources Department
- c. Rhodes University, Journalism and Media Studies Department
- d. Environmental Rural Solutions, Matatiele
- e. Rhodes University, History Department
- f. Rhodes University, ISER



Participant Samkelo Ntobeko Vukani Mngadi

Reflection:

In future, the plan is to run a parallel workshop with the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, supported by the provincial government of the Eastern Cape province.

2.4.5.2 Short Learning Programme (Cost-Benefit Analysis)

The ISER submitted its Short Learning Programme application for Cost-Benefit Analyses for public officials to the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, which was approved by UNISA for presentation from 2023.

Reflection:

The TMASPIA at UNISA asked for the module overview for this course in November 2022. I refused to submit the overview because there was still no contract in place, with more work expected. The Dean Prof. Vil-Nkomo was informed accordingly.

2.4.5.3 CBA training in the Breede River Catchment

The first training workshop on the Cost-Benefit Analytical framework for water sector stakeholders (government, researchers, businesses, etc.) was run successfully by the ISER and the ELRC in the Breede River Catchment of the Western Cape (WRC funded research) and took place from early November 2022. It will be concluded in January 2023.

Reflection:

This was a great pilot led by the ISER and supported by the ELRC. I have the WRC to expand it to other catchments.

2.4.6 Post Graduate student (M&D) supervision

The supervision of students is guided by the current ISER's research policy. The policy outlines a registration process and procedures document in place for the admission and supervision of students as follows:

Master's and PhD students can register directly through the ISER. When ISER had enough academic members of staff (Mike Reynolds, Robbie van Niekerk, Laura Alferts and Mike Rogan), the ISER had a research committee that decided on student applications and assigned supervisors. The ISER Director approved applications on the system. The ISER Research Committee approved the research proposals of Master's and Doctoral students before those went to the Humanities Higher Degrees Committee or the Commerce Higher Degrees Committee for approval. This approval by a higher degrees committee is required before fieldwork can commence, as is the ethical clearance by the Rhodes University Ethical Standards Committee (RUESC).

Now that the ISER as an academic department or entity is too small (i.e. has too few academic members of staff), the ISER currently works through the research committee of other relevant departments which ISER has collaborative ties with, e.g. Economics (2021), the Business School (2022) to get its students' proposals approved for submission to the faculty under which the department falls in the university. This can work especially well with students who are co-supervised between ISER and other Rhodes University departments.

A person who wants to apply to do a Master's or PhD through the ISER has to apply on the university's online system and indicate that the ISER is the department to which they are applying. That application is then routed to the ISER Director for approval. The Director can get support and input from other RU discipline-relevant academics to make a decision to accept or reject the student. As the ISER grows it will be closer to being able to host its own internal research committee.

Applying students are asked to supply a writing sample and CV in addition to degree certificates, academic transcripts and the like to give more insight into the applicant's writing ability. ISER also has the right reserved to interview applicants if needed before making a decision.

2022 student supervision

The ISER currently provides student research supervision or co-supervision across the university. The supervision is provided based on available supervisors. In 2022 supervision was provided to students registered in the departments of Economics and Economic History (dropped out), Political and International Studies (Masters and Honours; one of the best students for 2022¹) and the ISER.

The ISER had the following registered students in 2022:

- a) **Mr Mike Hala** – MA by full thesis in Political and International Studies. Topic/Area: The History of the ANC's Armed Struggle (ISER registered and co-supervised in Politics and History). **Graduated and congratulations!**
- b) **Mr Vusimani Khubhayi** – Master's of Commerce by half-thesis. (Department of Economics registered and co-supervised at ISER). **Dropped out.**
- c) **Ms Namirembe Hudah Bawonga** – PhD in Social and Economic Policy. Topic/Area: A framework of public private partnership projects value creation process in Uganda. (ISER registered and co-supervised in the Faculty of Commerce by Prof. Rwelamila and Prof. Mbatha). **In progress.**

¹ Applied for Masters degree studies in 2023 in the ISER

- d) **Mr Jordyn Goeman** – Honours project on Climate Change. Integrating International Indicator Data into the South African CAPS curriculum. Analysis based on the International Climate Change Datasets (Supervised by Proffs. Mbatha and Gustafsson). **Passed.**
- e) **Ms Brynley van Aardt** – Honours project on Land Reform. *What is the relationship between the type of land tenure or access on the Household's agricultural production? Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset* (Supervised by Prof. Mbatha). Best student.

The long-term strategic plan in this supervision is to develop the students to become experts in these areas to enable them to take intellectual and administrative leadership roles in ISER's research focus areas.

Graduating students under the ISER in 2022:

Mr Mike Hala – MA by full thesis in Political and International Studies.

We still believe the ISER can offer degrees and qualifications for those who are already working professionals, who may be in very demanding positions, e.g. in government or national organisations. Here the option for facilitated part time study can be considered. This is something that will be especially attractive to those who will be attending ISER workshops and research programmes in the future.

Being able to teach, supervise and mentor young and emerging researchers in this manner is one distinctive advantage that the ISER has over other research organisations including the HSRC. As a result the ISER, even though much smaller, is still able to influence and drive public policy at both provincial and national level, public discussions through media engagement, conduct and produce research, etc., in a similar way to the bigger research organisations.

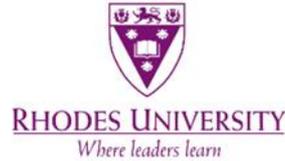
2.4.7 Community engagement

The Calata Family Project

After consultations with different stakeholders in the university the Rhodes University Communications office is now coordinating support for this foundation across the university. The ISER is on the advisory committee set up for this purpose.

2.4.8 Academic citizenship

The ISER Director participated at various academic and research committees across the university, including the boards of the faculties of humanities and commerce, as well as the Senate and other committees or task teams set up for specific purposes by the Chairs of the faculty boards and Senate.



The ISER participated in the development and fine-tuning of Rhodes University's strategic vision for the next five years.

In 2022, the ISER alongside Community engagement and the Circle of Unity contributed to the University's strategy (IDP).

The Director continues to participate in internal and external teams including the Makhanda Circle of Unity Steering Committee and the Eastern Cape Province's Human Resources Development (HRD) Council. The ISER led the organisation and execution of the first HRDC round table on research and innovation.

2.4.9 The operational strategy to support the vision and mission

The vision for the ISER is to have in place four fully functional research areas or units, each led by senior researchers to provide leadership and execute the requisite activities in the identified focus areas. For this, funds are required to hire human resources and to support research activity costs.

The initiated plan for building human resources is to train researchers internally by identifying postgraduate students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds in South Africa who can be groomed into playing the lead researcher roles. *This process of targeting students is already underway with early successes reported across this report, for example through the Honours Degree programme.*

Dr Hompashe was identified for mentorship by the ISER. He currently works with Prof. Gustafsson on the small HSRC funded project using TIMSS datasets. A draft research report under this effort was submitted to the HSRC in December 2021, published in 2022 and presented in August 2022 at a seminar organised by the ISER in collaboration with Fort Hare University and the HSRC.

As mentioned, the vision of the ISER is to have the four research areas capacitated with leaders and functioning as independent research units. The time-period, approach and process to developing each of these research areas will not be uniform. Ultimately the ISER will be looking to target calls for multi-year projects in the four areas sequentially. The immediate target for 2023 is to focus on developing the Environmental Resources Use and Management area (in Table 1) through initiated WRC funded projects *and now the Future Africa Hub through the NRF.*

CHAPTER 3 SCHOLARLY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Introduction

The ISER's research and engagement plan centres on the fulcrum of "Leading research for Africa". The Institute's primary focus is to be a dynamic African hub promoting innovative social and economic research with a focus on knowledge sharing across multiple platforms and co-engaged participatory research which can contribute to improving livelihoods, well-being, and social and environmental justice. Rather than being confined to an academic setting, the ISER aims to elevate the discussion by creating platforms and incentive for the sharing new research and the discussion of current debate and concerns, from participatory engagement to policy and economic development planning.

Researchers and practitioners whose work falls within these arenas have been invited to engage and share their work via webinars and online platforms, which are in turn designed to function as knowledge-sharing platforms that can grow and synergise organically. There is a particular focus to support and promote African researchers, particularly women and vulnerable groups, to ensure that we are growing and supporting research networks by and for the continent, especially in arenas where these voices have been historically silenced and unheard.

3.2 ISER seminar series

The ISER seminar series is designed around hosting seminars every three months (one per quarter), with additional seminars added in to respond to timely, seminal research as well as national and international events that relate directly to the Institute's research fields. The seminars were focused around new and emerging research, for example engaged research, academic papers, chapters or books or theses, and other study reports relating to policy, governance and socio-economic development.

The seminars took the form of online webinars or hybrid events. The online forum lends itself to increased accessibility and dissemination of research, while also allowing digital records to be available for anyone to access in perpetuity. The ISER seminar series mailing list grew to over 600 recipients in 2022, with more being added after each seminar.

The seminars were carefully designed to fit around other ISER events to ensure there is adequate time to devote to their planning and execution. With the increasing plethora of academic webinars we also needed to strive to avoid research fatigue and to avoid potential clashes with research partners' seminar series.

Each ISER webinar was planned and executed with a working group that is made up of ISER staff, our social media strategist, and the presenters and discussants for the seminar in question. This ensured a smooth and engaged process that included email and WhatsApp group updates and dry test runs and checks. ISER's seminar series in 2022 provided further avenues to grow our research partnerships, for example, co-hosting seminars with other departments at different universities and including collaboration with government and industry. Ultimately, the Institute aimed to ensure that participation in the seminar series was a vibrantly useful, comfortable and enjoyable experience for all participants.

The following seminars were hosted by ISER in 2022:



The poster features the ISER and Rhodes University logos at the top left. The main text is on a purple background with a silhouette of a herd of cattle and a herder against a sunset sky. The text reads: 'Livestock production and marketing value chains for small farmers: A comparative study of South Africa and Kenya' and '24 March, 14h30'.

Livestock production and marketing value chains for small farmers: *A comparative study of South Africa and Kenya*

Date: 24 March 2022

Poor production methods and limited market access constitute some of the key challenges that prevent emerging farmers from becoming sustainable producers and developing into viable businesses. In livestock farming, poor grazing practices and a lack of vaccinations contribute to producing poor quality animals. Limited information, poor infrastructure (no fencing) and other socio-cultural issues have also led to low rates of participation of these farmers in commercial livestock markets. The list of market barriers is extensive, and they can also be observed beyond South Africa's borders in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In a recent study conducted on livestock farmers at specific sites in eastern parts of Kenya and the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, comparisons were made on what constitute common

challenges and possible lessons for small and emerging farmers in the two countries. The study focused on acceptable processes that form common practice in the respective countries' livestock production-to-market value chains. In this webinar we discussed some of the important features of the livestock value chains in the two country studies, identified possible comparative lessons and presented an outline of future research to be done in collaboration with partners in the uMzimvubu river catchment of the Eastern Cape province.

Presenter: **Prof. Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha** - Director, Rhodes Institute of Social and Economic Research

Respondent: **Dr Binganidzo Muchara** - Senior Lecturer, Unisa Graduate School of Business Leadership

Chair: **Dr Sam Sadian** - ISER Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Researcher, Unisa Graduate School of Business Leadership

Registrations: 62

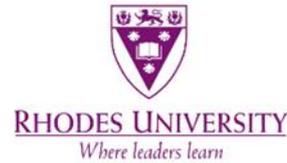


New study on Sub-Saharan Africa's wellbeing and prospects for happiness: *Turning the youth bulge into a youth dividend*

Date: 25 May 2022

This was ISER's first hybrid seminar, conducted both in person at the ISER Seminar Room and online.

Prominent quality of life researchers **Valerie Møller**, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), Rhodes University and **Benjamin Roberts**, Chief Research Specialist in the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) division at the Human Sciences Research



Council (HSRC) discussed seminal research focused on youth wellbeing, drawn from their recent book: “Quality of life and human wellbeing in Sub-Saharan Africa: Prospects for Future Happiness Series: Human Well-Being Research and Policy Making.”

As South Africa draws close to its milestone of four decades of quality-of-life tracking and research, the study provides vital insights to guide practitioners and policy makers as it retraces the largely untold history of wellbeing in Africa, highlights the success stories and progress of our age, and looks to the future wellbeing of sub-Saharan Africa. This book is informed by the authors’ contributions to a number of ambitious global projects on human well-being, as well as drawing from The Conversation Africa, which reports evidence-based news and analysis from expert researchers across Africa.

With a focus on the youth, we discussed the clash of the generations, exploring the disconnect between Africa’s youth bulge and ageing leaders. We looked at how drought and commodity prices become risk factors for uprising and discontent, how the mobile phone revolution has impacted Africa, and how youth vote with their feet. We explored inter-regional and international migration in pursuit of opportunities, the creation of jobs for Africa, skills training, youth leadership and Covid-19 youth initiatives. In looking to the future, we looked at options to harness the continent’s youthfulness as an asset, turning Africa’s youth bulge into a youth dividend.

Presenters: **Dr Benjamin J. Roberts** - Chief Research Specialist in the Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) research division at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa, and coordinator of the South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) since its inception in 2003.

And **Prof. Valerie Møller** - Professor Emeritus of Quality of Life Studies at ISER, Rhodes University, South Africa.

Respondent: **Thomas Salmon** – Doctoral Researcher, Education Faculty, Rhodes University

Chair: **Prof. Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha** - Director, Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University

Registrations: 70



**Leadership practices at SA schools:
how do they drive performance?**

25 August, 14h00

**SEMINAR
SERIES**

Logos: ISER, RHODES UNIVERSITY, University of Fort Hare, HSRC

Leadership practices at SA schools: how do they drive performance?

Date: 25 August 2022

Quality school leadership and management is an important determinant of quality teaching and learning, especially in low-resourced schools.

South Africa has continued to see improvements in mathematics scores in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), with the strongest gains between 2015 and 2019 observed among the most disadvantaged students. To sustain these improvements, it is crucial to understand why this upward trajectory in learning outcomes has occurred.

This seminar centred around a new study by **Dr Dumisani Hompashe** which investigates the improvement between 2015 and 2019 Grade 9 mathematics scores in South Africa, exploring the extent to which the difference in performance can be related to specific instructional leadership practices within schools. The study provides a holistic and policy-focused South African perspective on the relationship between instructional leadership and educational outcomes.

The seminar discussed two essential research questions and their relation to guiding policy:

- What is the association between instructional leadership and student learning outcomes in South Africa, across differently resourced schools?
- How is the increase in South African Grade 9 mathematics students' learning outcomes from TIMSS 2015 to 2019 associated with changes in instructional leadership?

Presenter: **Dr Dumisani Hompashe** - Research Associate at the ISER, Rhodes University

Respondent: **Dr Rethabile Mawela** - Alan Macintosh Research Fellow - Institute for the Study of the Englishes of Africa (ISEA), Rhodes University

Chair: **Dr Reesha Kara** - Researcher, Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University

Registrations: 75

The Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU) hosted a seminar in the Labour Studies Seminar Series. The series is run by the NALSU in partnership with the Departments of Sociology & Industrial Sociology, and Economics & Economic History, Rhodes University and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). The presenter was Dr Reesha Kara from the ISER.

NALSU LABOUR STUDIES SEMINAR & WEBINAR

Hosted by the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU) and the Departments of Sociology & Industrial Sociology, and Economics & Economic History. In partnership with Friederich Ebert Stiftung (FES)





ALL WELCOME!

Wednesday,
20 July 2022
16:00

SCREENING at EDEN GROVE SEMINAR ROOM 2 & LIVE ON ZOOM

NON-MARITAL FERTILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN ANALYSIS OF TRENDS AND SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS

Presented by: Reesha Kara

THE PAPER: In 2016, 15% of the world's 240 million births were to never-married mothers. This global increase in non-marital fertility is characterised by variations across countries and regions. Levels of non-marital fertility in South Africa are far higher than the global average. Common reasons cited for this increase, in the global north and south include delayed marriage, changing gendered roles, an increase in cohabitation and in educated and employed women and changes in societal perceptions of having a child outside of a marriage. Economically, marriage is postponed until the couple become financially stable and importantly, never-married motherhood is linked to lower levels of education and a lower socioeconomic status. Given this backdrop, the study aims to identify whether there has been an increase in the levels of non-marital fertility among women in South Africa (aged 15-49) and to identify determinants of non-marital fertility amongst these women.

Using data from the National Income Dynamics Study, a trend analysis revealed a significant increase in the prevalence of non-marital fertility in South Africa between 2008 and 2017. Further analysis showed that non-marital fertility is influenced by economic factors as never-married mothers are more likely to belong to low-income households, female-headed households or have low-paying jobs. These findings triangulate with wider findings on births outside of a marriage and thus, contributes empirically to understanding the dynamics of non-marital fertility in a middle-income country.

SPEAKER: Reesha is currently a researcher at the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University focusing on human and economic development. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU) where her work looked at single motherhood among educated women in South Africa. Her research interests include research methodology, single motherhood, socio-economic wellbeing, poverty and social issues concerning everyday South Africans. Reesha has years of experience and training in quantitative research methodology, focusing on the analysis of nationally representative survey data.







Summary of seminar areas:

	Research Area	Topic	Presenter	Comment
1	Environmental resources	Livestock auctions	N. Mbatha	Fully online
2	Human and Economic Development	Human happiness in Africa	V. Moller	Hybrid
3	Human and Economic Development	Non-marital fertility in South Africa: An analysis of trends and socioeconomic factors	R. Kara	Hybrid
4	Education & Skills	Leadership practices at SA schools: how do they drive performance?	D. Hompashe	Hybrid
5.	Trade in Africa	Not done		

Distribution and operational aspects

As mentioned, the ISER seminar list grew to over 600 subscribers, as well as being advertised across various media platforms.

The ISER team has now taken over several aspects involved in running the seminar series, including designing and sending out the invites, advertising on social media and related sites, and running seminars ourselves via MS Teams.

Seminars moved to 2023

There were several seminars that have been deferred to 2023. The presenters would be Mr Wandile Sihlobo (ISER Fellow) and Mr Mike Hala (ISER student).

3.3 ISER Working Papers

ISER Working Papers have been designed as a means to share research findings, be they fieldwork findings, research reports, collaborative project findings, or pre-publication versions of articles, research reviews, book chapters or specialised project reports.

3.3.1 Growing the Working Paper Series Strategy

For the last few years, the ISER Working Paper Series was run by the Neil Aggett Labour Studies Unit (NALSU), with work focusing on research around labour studies and social policy. The ISER's reinvigorated vision re-expands this arena, and the Working Paper Series has been redesigned as a research sharing platform which is working in conjunction with the ISER's research partnerships with a strong focus on support for African researchers, emerging scholars, activists and practitioners working within ISER's key focus research areas.

Collaboration and engagement within our various research networks and monitoring related publications, newsfeeds and ongoing discourse brings to light new potential collaborators. These may be top of their game experts who are too harried to share research findings outside of select academic spaces, young researchers focusing on academic workloads rather than research publication, or those whose work falls within industry or local governance rather than academia. In all cases our aim is to provide incentive and easily accessible platforms that encourage knowledge sharing and debate.

Young academics who have just submitted Master's and PhDs are particularly keen to explore publishing via the Working Paper Series but may have some reservations around where to start and how to repackaging their work for publication purposes. To this end, the Working Paper Series has been designed to work alongside research collaboration and mentorship partnerships, for example with young scholars being partnered with more experienced colleagues who can provide insight and guidelines for publication strategies.

To assist in the running of the Working Paper Series a review committee was put together and we are very pleased to have some very senior academics to assist on this - including Prof. Møller and Prof. Antrobus.

3.3.2 Working Papers reviewed

Submissions received during the course of 2022 were inadequate for publication. No Working Paper was published. However, potential working papers/policy briefs were identified from students' work as discussed in preceding sections.

3.3.3 Papers reviewed and published in 2022

Homphashe, D. 2022 Do instructional leadership practices drive educational improvement gap in South Africa? Evidence from Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition analysis of TIMSS 2015 and 2019 study. HSRC research report (for the TIMSS Working Paper Series).

Read paper here:

<https://www.timss-sa.org/publication/do-instructional-leadership-practices-drive-educational-improvement-gap-in-south-africa-evidence-from-oaxaca-blinder-decomposition-analysis-of-timss-2015-and-2019-study>

3.3.4 Working Papers in progress

Challenges

Despite numerous invitations it is still quite challenging to get scholars to publish their work as Working Papers. Many, for example, prefer to rather submit to JCAS as the journal is more recognised and academics are under enormous pressure to publish in recognised journals. Others get feedback and then fail to submit revised versions, or submit them to recognised journals instead.

Factors to consider are how to grow better quality papers, and how to make it easier for authors to know what could potentially work well as a working paper or policy brief. For example, we have 'pieces of thesis' papers submitted which try to do too much at once. Younger authors will get feedback and then seem to struggle with refining and focusing their articles into a working paper.

Possible ways to overcome this would be

- a. For ISER to introduce an annual Working Paper Series competition, where the best working paper wins a prize – this prize could potentially be named after a prestigious African scholar.
- b. For ISER to co-host a writing workshop which assists postgraduate students. *The Conversation* offers such partnerships. Another potential partner would be *This is Africa*. Both offer the opportunity for authors to create articles which will be widely read, taking their work out of the ivory tower.
- c. Once ISER is more involved in teaching we could also work this into teaching modules.

- d. One area which offers untapped potential is to consider creating a short brief/opinion piece out of each seminar which takes into account the main points as well as the discussion and debate afterwards, something which can be quoted and used in a similar way to working papers. We are getting a lot of engaged and thoughtful seminar questions which would be nice to work with a bit more, especially considering our mandate for the seminars, which is to elevate the debate.

For 2023 the ISER is already working on the following potential working papers or policy brief:

Mr Jordyn Goeman – Honours project on Climate Change. Integrating International Indicator Data into the South African CAPS curriculum. Analysis based on the International Climate Change Datasets (Supervised by Proffs. Mbatha and Gustafsson). Passed.

Ms Brynley van Aardt – Honours project on Land Reform. What is the relationship between the type of land tenure or access on the Household's agricultural production? Analysis based on the National Income Dynamic Study dataset (Supervised by Prof. Mbatha). Best student.

CHAPTER 4 CURRENT AND INITIATED PROJECTS

4.1 Introduction

The ISER's activities are not only research-related, but as discussed previously, relate to areas including community engagement, seminar or webinar organisation, training workshops, communications and branding, etc. Nevertheless, research projects generate third stream income for the university and the Institute. Other projects, such as hosting of seminars, training or soliciting of working papers may require funds from the ISER coffers if there is no external sponsorship for them. While these communications, marketing and branding activities require the ISER or its fellows to produce research for dissemination and public discussion on various platforms, the estimated brand awareness value in monetary terms that is created from these activities outweighs the cost (refer to the media coverage report for 2022 in Chapter 6). Below is the outline of ongoing and planned projects in 2022.

4.2 Current research projects

Project 1: The Water Research Commission (Social Learning)

Title: ***Participatory course to activate Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security Learning Networks*** (Project Number: C2020/2021-00639)

Aim: The “Participatory course to activate Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security (EI4WS) Learning Networks” project aims to pro-actively design and develop a participatory course for strengthening the Social Learning and Knowledge Mediation and Management practices around EI4WS financing, policy, planning and development. Briefly, the project aims to support capacity development through a training course for investing in ecological infrastructure. This is reflected in the project slogan: “*Xabisa Indalo for Water*” an isiXhosa phrase which translates to “*learn to invest in nature for water*”.

The project will be implemented in three phases: 1) a contextual profiling, training needs and knowledge asset analyses to inform development of course materials and tools for mediation of EI4WS practices; 2) course curriculum deliberations and course piloting; and 3) to consolidate a Training of Trainers course that can be scaled into other catchments. The course will support EI4WS Change Projects and strengthen learning networks in the Berg-Breede and uMngeni catchments, which are demonstration catchments for the bigger EI4WS project implemented through partnership led by Development Bank of Southern Africa, SANBI, WRC, and other agencies.

Progress Report 2022

Deliverable	Budget ZAR	Expected date	Progress	Comment
1. Review of Knowledge Assets and Absences for Training Materials Development; Navigation Tool	R263 730.00	31 May 2021	Done in February 2022	Agreement was signed late by a few months, lead researcher left in August 2022. Workplan had to be revised for extension.
2. Participatory course materials (core texts and case studies)	R87 910.00	31 August 2021	Done in April 2022	
3. Course piloting report and year-end progress report 2021/22,	R140 881.05	28 February 2022	Done in August 2022	
4. Monitoring and Evaluation plan, and 2022/23 workplan	R113 292,00	30 April 2022	Done October 2022	
5. SEMI-FINAL report on Course Implementation and Revised Training of Trainers course materials	R50 000,00	31 August 2022	Coming soon	Piloting done on 10-11 November, December 2022. To be finalised in January 2023
6. DRAFT final report for peer review, including M&E reports and ToT course materials.	R50 000,00	30 November 2022	late	Revised workplan submitted

7. FINAL PROJECT REPORT, COURSE MATERIALS AND SOCIAL LEARNING TOOLS	R268 000,00	1 March 2022	late	Revised workplan submitted
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Project 2: WWF Project

Title: ***Future proofing the grass-fed beef value chain: A case study in the Matatiele area of the Umzimvubu Water Source Area in the Eastern Cape, South Africa***



Umzimvubu.org

Aim: This ISER project was introduced in 2021. The ISER was approached in May 2021 to undertake this project by the WWF given our previous comparative livestock auction/marketing models in the Umzimvubu Catchment (Matatiele) area in the Eastern Cape Province versus in Western Kenya (Rift Valley).

There are five planned deliverables which are linked to the project's objectives as follows:

- a. Provide an overview of the grass-fed beef value chain, and its environmental impacts, in the Matatiele area of the Umzimvubu Water Source Area in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.
- b. Socio-economic benefits of the value chain (size of the sector, contribution to GDP, employment, livelihoods and food security) and
- c. Current / historical climate-related impacts of the value chain making reference to specific extreme weather events such as the impact of the 2015/18 drought.
- d. Identify future climate change and socio-economic threats to, and impacts on, the grass-fed beef value chain in the Matatiele area of the Umzimvubu Water Source Area in the Eastern Cape, South Africa in 2050.

- e. Environmental (climate, water and biodiversity) and socio-economic (GDP growth, employment, livelihood, food security) benefits and risks associated with potential solution.

The timeline for the project is to run from December 2021/January 2022 to April 2024. However, we have a small budget of R950 000 from Nedbank, of which R350 000 has already gone to the WWF's administration costs. Therefore, the ISER must deliver on the above objectives for R600 000.

Progress Report 2022

Four research assistants have been engaged: two from Rhodes University and two from Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha.

Deliverable	Budget ZAR	Expected date	Progress	Comment
1. Contract	R300 000	1 January 2022	Done	On time
2. Interim report 1	-	15 July 2022	Done	On time
3. Interim report 2	-	15 September 2022	Done	On time
4. Interim report 3		15 November 2022	-	Draft submitted

Reflection:

With Dr Reesha Kara (lead researcher) going on leave we will experience delays in this project. The WWF will be informed and request for extension on submission dates will be made.

Project 3: ISER-HSRC

Title: ***Hope and optimism for the future in the post Covid-19 and global reset period***

Aim: Using the SASAS 2022 survey data of the HSRC to interrogate and discuss quality of life indicators on personal and national wellbeing, the Cantril-ladder that explores hopes and fears, and items from the Snyder hope scale for good measure.

Progress Report 2022 from Prof. V. Møller

We shall be working with my HSRC partner Dr Benjamin Roberts. His HSRC SA Social Attitudes Survey is in the field. I'm really excited, SASAS 2022 will include several key quality of life indicators on personal and national wellbeing. We surveyed the PWI, NWI, and Cantril measures in earlier SASAS surveys. When Ben visited us for the book launch, he also showed me results for the Snyder hope items that he'd collected in 2015 as a favour for an international colleague, but had never analysed or written up the results. So, we shall have comparative data over time to report. I shall likely be involved in coding the qualitative data on hopes and fears as I did for the earlier survey. We look forward to publishing one or two papers based on SASAS 2022 survey results. This time, we might split up the measures so we produce more papers for the Rhodes brownie points.

4.3 Pipeline research projects

Project 1: Office of the Premier Eastern Cape Government

Title: *A spatial framework for local municipalities' socio-economic development planning in the Eastern Cape Province*

Aim: This project was agreed as a collaborative effort between the School of Journalism and Media Studies (SJMS) and the ISER. It was supposed to be undertaken over the 2021 year, but it has not taken off. The contract between Rhodes University and the Premier's office was signed by the university's registrar in May 2021, but it has not been signed by the Premier's office representative.

Progress Report 2022

Signed at Rhodes University and not signed at Premier's office. There has been no formal communication indicating the reasons for the delay.

Reflection:

Still waiting for the Premier's Office official to reply to our communication on this project.

Project 2: Eastern Cape Provincial Labour Markets Intelligence Project

Title: *Towards the development and implementation of the provincial labour markets intelligence framework and related programmes*

Aim: The proposed research aims to address the conceptualisation, development and execution of data from which signals for potential economic growth can be identified in time for:

- a) The skills and education supply sectors to respond on time;
- b) For potentially growing sectors where public and private sector investments can be made to ameliorate potential economic growth.

Progress Report 2022

<p>Delayed by the fact that it had to go to the Board first. Then the August 2022 deadline and communication to MerSETA was missed.</p>	<p>Communications from ECSSEC (Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council)</p> <p>The Department approached MerSETA to fund the project we will know in 2023 of the outcome.</p>
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Project 3: WRC Nelson Mandela Bay Water Politics, collaboration with IWR

Title: *Equity dimensions of the Nelson Mandela Bay water crisis and the implementing context as enabler or barrier for uptake of translatable lessons from the Cape Town Water crisis*

Aim: Analyze the distributive, procedural and contextual equity dimensions of the NMBM drought and the municipal response.

Progress Report 2022

Project awarded in December 2022.

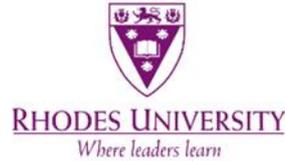
A strategic decision was for Ms Jamie Alexander to be given most time on the project to allow her to become a more engaged researcher and motivate her to start her PhD and become a contributing researcher in the ISER.

Project 4: NRF: Collaboration with University of Pretoria and ELRC

Title: *Hosting the Africa Hub Leadership Centre for the Green Economy*

Aims:

- a) Network strengthening and expansion
- b) Strategic support for Africa Hub research
- c) Communication and co-ordination of knowledge sharing



Progress Report 2022

The project was awarded jointly to Rhodes University and the University of Pretoria. Final proposal to be resubmitted and agreements signed in 2023.

Project 5: UNAM Rhodes University Collaboration – Education Faculty, ISER, etc.

Title: ***Developing Leaders for Future-Oriented Educational Systems and Practices***

Aim: Collaboration among Namibian partners and Rhodes University for teaching, research and supervision.

Progress Report 2022:

Long-term projection under construction.

Project 6: Presidential Climate Commission RFP from the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies at WITS University and Rhodes University

Title: ***Employment Strategy for the Just Transition***

Aim: The main objective of this work is to develop a demand-led employment strategy and implementation plan for Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape. The scope of work for the first phase has three components:

- I. To collate existing work and identify priorities for stimulating employment, focusing primarily on Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape, through desk research and top-down modelling.
- II. To empirically identify opportunities for employment, enterprise, and economic diversification through surveying employers/industries
- III. To develop an operationalisation roadmap and initial design of high-impact pilots. This should provide a clear focus for early-stage partnerships and PCC support leading to job creation opportunities in the next 3 – 5 years.

Progress Report 2022:

The application was not successful.



4.4 Operational projects in 2022

Project 1: The ISER Archives Restoration project

Aims

- a. ISER Archive Redux – finding the ISER’s missing publications
- b. ISER Archives – Restoration to website
- c. ISER Archives – Physical collation and cataloguing of the publications available
- d. ISER Archives – Digitisation of papers currently missing from the archives
- e. ISER Archives – Restoration of the physical archives to the ISER Archive room

Progress Report 2022:

About 50% on aims, but on hold in 2022 given the JCAS crisis.

CHAPTER 5 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS REPORT

5.1 Introduction

Given the human resources size of the ISER, establishing working partnerships and collaborations with people and organisations, both within Rhodes University and externally, is critical for all core activities of the Institute. These include partnerships we currently have, as well as new partnerships we are establishing to host seminars, solicit working papers, co-write journal articles, co-bid for projects, host training workshops and various other activities. This chapter presents a picture of current and initiated partnerships and collaborations in 2022.

Reflection:

Collaborations and partnership are looking great in the future. This will especially be the case around the Future Africa Hub hosting project on behalf of the NRF. The very aim of the Hub is to build partnerships, networks and emerging researchers and new research areas.

5.2 Key partners within Rhodes University

Every person and every unit at Rhodes University is a potential ISER partner. However, given the new research focus of the Institute, the ISER has established strong collaborative relationships with the following departments and units:

- a) The Institute of Water Research (IWR)
- b) The Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) and its SARCHI Chair of Global Change and Social Learning Systems
- c) Rhodes Business School
- d) Department of Political and International Studies
- e) Department of Economics and Economic History
- f) Department of History
- g) Department of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
- h) The School of Languages
- i) Department of Sociology
- j) Department of Environmental Science
- k) School of Journalism and Media Studies

5.3 Key partners external to Rhodes University

- a) University of South Africa: the Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, and the Graduate School of Business Leadership
- b) University of Johannesburg: Faculty of Humanities
- c) University of Fort Hare: Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension. Fort Hare ISER, will be a key partner in the Future Africa Hub project.
- d) Nelson Mandela University: Faculty of Humanities
- e) University of Pretoria, Wits University and University of Limpopo (Africa Future Earth Leadership Centre)
- f) World Wide Fund for Nature, South Africa
- g) Water Research Commission
- h) The National Research Foundation (Africa Future Earth Leadership Centre)
- i) Provincial Government
- j) The Academy of African Business and Development

5.4 NGO and private business partnerships

- a. Environmental and Rural Solutions (ERS) in Matatiele Eastern Cape Province, South Africa (NGO)
- b. The Shamba Developments, Mtwapa, Kenya (Private farming business)
- c. Pathways Institute led by Mr Mazibuko Jara

5.5 Pipeline Partnerships

The focus on these partnerships will have to be redesigned within the Future Africa Hub.

5.6 Partnership plan going forward

The ISER is establishing more collaborative partnerships for conducting research on the continent, especially around issues of cross border trade. A geographical spread of at least one formal partnership in each of the three regions - SADC, EAC and ECOWAS - is the target for 2023. The Future Africa Hub will now be the platform to do this.

CHAPTER 6 COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING REPORT

6.1 Communications and marketing objectives of the ISER

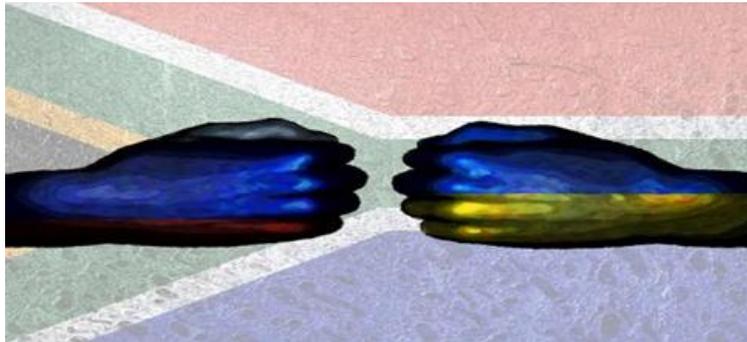
The communications and marketing objective is to build the ISER's reputation as a dynamic African hub of pioneering social and economic research, influencing policy and practice.

The broad communications and marketing objectives are to, a) attract donor funding to support research projects, b) attract new researchers and students from across the continent, and c) to leverage research so it can be practically applied and drive change.

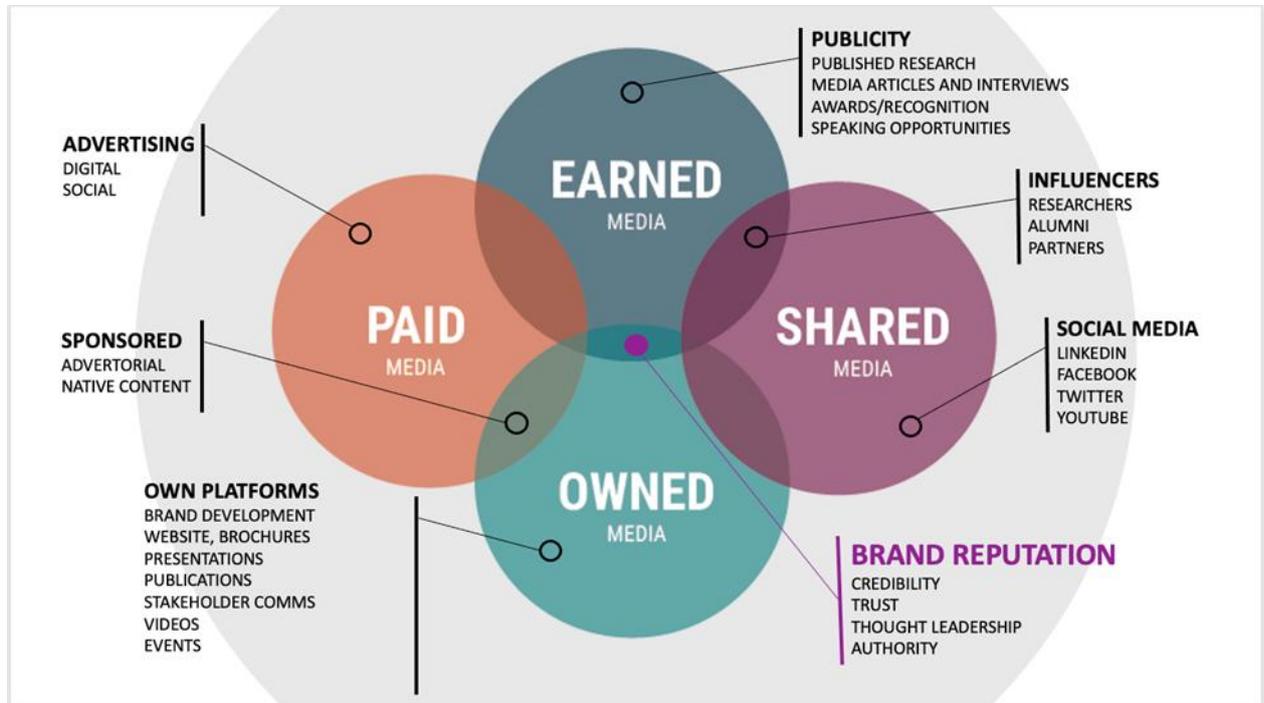
6.2 Communications and marketing strategy

The approach is to:

- a) present the ISER with a cohesive and clear brand, mission, vision and values aligned with the values of Rhodes University
- b) profile the ISER's research talent and partnerships
- c) amplify the voice of the ISER in discussions relevant to our research focus areas
- d) optimise ISER owned, earned, shared (social) and, where relevant paid, communication channels



6.3 ISER Channel Focus



6.4 Execution progress report

6.4.1 Media coverage results

The media coverage results for the period December 2021 to November 2022 can be summarised in the following monetary value:

- TOTAL Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) VALUE: **R 720,064.80**
- PR AVE VALUE: **R 2,160,194.40**
- REACH: **18 303 444**

ARTICLE	ISER FOCUS AREA	AUTHOR/GUEST	MEDIA	MONTH
The ANC-led government must take a moral and prudent stance against Vladimir Putin	Human and economic development	<i>Prof Mbatha</i>	News24 SABC News NewzroomAfrica	March
Study identifies best practice in livestock production and marketing for small emerging farmers	Environmental resources use/management	Based on ISER seminar	RU/ISER website	May

The time may be ripe to imagine a new African Dawn	Human and economic development	Based on Seminar – Rhodes Journalist	RU/ISER Website	May
Sub-Saharan Africa's wellbeing and prospects for happiness - Turning the youth bulge into a youth dividend	Human and economic development	Prof. Valerie Møller (ISER), Benjamin Roberts (HSRC)	RU/ISER Website	May
Non-marital fertility in South Africa: An analysis of trends and socioeconomic factors	Human and Economic Development	Reesha Kara (ISER), Rhodes University	RU/ISER Website	August
New study: strong leadership practices in schools drive improved performance	Education and Skills	Dumisani Homphashe (ISER Research Associate)	India Education Diary RU Website	September
Interdisciplinary degree in Development Studies promotion	Education and Skills	ISER	Online platforms	October / November
<p>AVE: R720,064.80</p> <p>PR AVE: R2,160,194.40</p> <p>REACH: 18 303 444</p>				

6.4.2 Webinar support

Social media campaigns took place for all the webinars reported under the seminar report (Chapter 3). Media were invited, and recordings were shared afterwards.

6.4.3 Social media

Social media should be used to proactively to:

- a. Build the ISER at Rhodes University brand awareness
- b. Promote and extend the reach of ISER events
- c. Profile areas of interest to trigger partnerships
- d. Foster brand connections with current and prospective partners and researchers
- e. Share the many different “voices” of ISER research
- f. Share key conclusions of published research with data visualisations and infographics
- g. Become part of national discussions relevant to research areas
- h. Provide open-access versions of primary research and engage with audiences in discussion

Social media report from January 2022 to December 2022.

Overall Engagement

Total Posts: **65**

Total Engagement: **2,680**

Facebook @RhodesISER

Followers – **97**, up **44.78%**

Total Engagement – **2556**, up **45.14%**

Impressions - **162 016**, up **140.77%**

Post Clicks – **2433**, up **133.49%**

Twitter @RhodesISER

Following - **100**

Followers - **86**

LinkedIn

Followers – **52**, up **85.71%**

Total Posts – **19**, down **51.28%**

Total Engagement – **45**, up **15.38%**

YouTube

Views – **215**

Followers – **11**

Paid promotions marketing the seminars and the new Interdisciplinary Honours Degree have shown successful engagement.

Facebook advertising

Campaign name	Results	Reach	Impressions	Amount spent (ZAR)	Ends
Africa Day Seminar (Wellbeing)	184	22140	35398	750	2022-05-24
Africa Day Seminar (Wellbeing)	615	36856	52328	797.17	2022-05-25
Education Seminar	741	63313	99821	793.49	2022-08-24
Education Seminar		15952	16138	498.81	2022-08-25
Interdisciplinary Honours Degree	1035	77328	156898	1399.99	2022-11-08
	2575	215589	360583	4239.46	

LinkedIn advertising

Campaign	End Date	Total Spent	Impressions	Clicks	Engagements	Reach
Honours Degree Development Studies	2022-11-14	1 000.00	11350	81	95	8247

All platforms still have less than 100 followers. The number of followers and engagement can be improved through the development of more frequent, valuable and relevant organic content, including thought leadership, as well as a concerted investment in targeted social media advertising, an essential investment for the brand to grow.

The limited advertising executed in 2022 for specific seminars and the Honours Degree in Development Studies yielded positive results.

CHAPTER 7 THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN STUDIES (JCAS) REPORT

The management of the journal has presented a number of challenges, starting in 2020. The biggest challenge remains the backlog left by the previous Editor-in-Chief, with the Director having to administratively manage and set up systems to process around 400 journal articles. A three-person team consisting of an associate editor and two reviewers (ISER Research Fellow and Post-doctoral Fellow) has been appointed to work through the backlog.

A special thank you goes to Prof. Kirk Helliker, one of the co-editors, for standing in as Acting Editor-in-Chief from December 2021.

Prof. Nthabiseng Motsemme (University of Johannesburg) was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of the JCAS in July 2022, with many other associate editors. The Editor-in-Chief will be responsible for the new articles starting in July 2022.

According to the annual Taylor & Francis publishing report, there has been a marked drop in published articles during 2022, as well as a drop in submissions and peer reviews. The newly appointed Editor-in-Chief and editing team are dealing with the challenges of processing delays and backlogs, and we look forward to the resumption of regular publication of volumes of the journal and growing its circulation.

The Director also organised two training sessions on the Taylor & Francis platform for all new co-editors in October 2022.

An agreement with Taylor & Francis has been reached for the journal to no longer have a limit on the number of articles that can be published online. In addition, discussions are underway for the journal to go fully online.

The focus for 2023 will be to meet the minimum required publications numbers while also working on reducing the backlog.