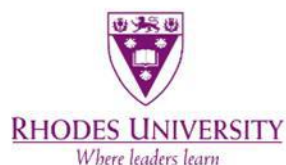


# **Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)**



**Annual Report 2021**



# The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)



## Annual Report 2021

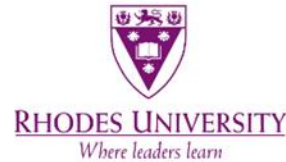




## **Message from the Director**

I am excited and grateful to present the second annual report from the ISER team to our Advisory Board and stakeholders. The year 2021 was my first full year at the ISER. It has been an eventful year, filled with promise and progress. Our financial position in terms of annual expenditure versus income has steadily improved since 2020 and income is projected to increase even further in 2022. We were also able to make improvements on a number of administrative systems, especially with regard to the Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS). We managed to fill our vacant academic post and welcomed the highly skilled Dr Reesha Kara to the team. Our funded research projects have increased, even at the height of the economically devastating Covid-19 pandemic. We managed to conduct and produce solid research outputs in three of our four strategic research areas, ensuring progress towards attaining our mission and vision. We also launched some strategic operational projects by carefully using our small existing funds. For the first time the ISER offered a data analysis training workshop, which was made more affordable by the hiring of Dr Kara. In supporting the training, Ms Woolfry of UCT's Data-First, Prof. Gustafsson of the Department of Basic Education, Prof. Rogan of RU's Department of Economics and Dr Babalwa Nogoqwana of Nelson Mandela University all contributed in kind and financially to the success of the training. In efforts to grow our timber, we successfully launched a new Honours degree in Social and Economic Policy under the umbrella of the Interdisciplinary Honours Degree in Development Studies. This will ensure a pipeline training ground for our potential M and D students. Together with our partners, our DHET accredited research outputs referring the ISER more than doubled compared to 2020. Our national public media presence also improved compared to 2020. This is illustrated by our comparatively high PR value for money reported for 2021. To ensure the growth of our African networks on the continent, I visited Rwanda's Vanguard Economics to explore a research and teaching collaboration in a MasterCard Foundation funded project. I also used the trip opportunistically to visit long-time research partners in Kenya. I am looking forward to fruits being borne from these efforts in the very near future. These all illustrate a year full of activity with positive impacts.

The institute did however face challenges on some fronts. We had to bid an unplanned and sudden farewell to JCAS's Chief Editor, Prof. Fred Hendricks. His sudden resignation put a lot of stress on the ISER and JCAS teams. Nevertheless, we pulled through from most of the crises with generous assistance from colleagues at Rhodes University, who volunteered to fill in the Acting Editor in Chief and some vacant associate editor positions all to protect the journal's continued normal functioning and good reputation. The ISER team is eternally grateful for the support received from both active and retired Rhodes University staff which has contributed immensely to the continued success of the journal.



With Covid-19 taking its mental toll, we received applications from some of our students requesting extensions of their studies, with some citing mental distress. In 2021, the ISER did not graduate any of its Masters and PhD students. Current indications however show that this picture will be different for 2022.

So there has been a lot to celebrate at the ISER, despite the challenges that we have faced. For this, I would like to thank our small ISER team, as well as our partners, stakeholders, and supporters inside and outside of Rhodes University. In particular, I would like to thank Rhodes University's management and the ISER's Advisory Board for the sterling leadership displayed in wisely guiding and steering the ISER team towards focusing on achieving its mission and vision.

Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha

Makubenjalo ! (Let it be!) – from Nkosi'sikelela iAfrica.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS WITH VALUES**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

This 2021 ISER annual report presents managerial, operational and research activities that were presented for approval to the Advisory Board on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The ISER's vision and mission statements, which were developed after the new Director joined the Institute on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, are outlined more fully below.

#### **1.2 The vision and mission statements of the ISER**

The vision and mission statements should 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. We believe that our shared values will guide 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, 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**

The ISER core team has now grown from four to five full-time members as the ISER welcomed Dr Reesha Kara in September 2021.



#### **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 does 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.



**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.

**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 PhD in Sociology, Master's degree in Population Studies, Honours degree in Sociology and a Bachelor of Social Science (Industrial Psychology and Sociology) degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

**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.

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. C.N. Mbatha is the current Director of the Institute of the ISER, after acting as Dean and CEO at the Unisa School of Business Leadership until 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. Prof. 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 and Development Economics. At Unisa's Business School he taught macro and microeconomics for business leaders and managers. He actively conducts research on natural resource 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 between 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 and 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 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Botswana and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

#### **ISER associates**

**Professor Emeritus Valerie Møller**



Professor Møller is a former Director of the ISER and Professor Emeritus at Rhodes University. She continues to be a member of the ISER team and contributes immensely to the operational work of the institute. We are grateful to Prof. Møller for continuing to enthusiastically support the research programmes and operations of the ISER. The Institute also benefits immensely from her collaborative quality of life studies that often bring visiting researchers, some of whom have ended up going on to develop their own collaborative studies within the ISER.

Prof. Møller was director of the ISER from 1998 to 2006. She was appointed to the ISER's new Quality of Life Studies chair at Rhodes in 2007. Before coming to the ISER, she 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 and 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.



#### **Chief Editor, Journal of Contemporary Studies: Professor Emeritus Fred Hendricks**

The ISER hosts the Journal of Contemporary African Studies and Professor Emeritus Fred Hendricks (former Dean of Humanities and international scholar) held the position of the Chief Editor of the Journal from 2012 until November 2021. We are more than grateful to Prof. Hendricks for his support for the broad African academic project and the ISER.

### **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.



**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.

Prof. Gustafsson's key areas of experience are 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 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 focussed 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.





**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.

## **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 supervision capacity, and finally the basic strategic plan to execute the Institute's vision.

#### **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 in the following 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) Introduction of the ISER Interdisciplinary Honours Degree
- 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. The 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	<b>THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES</b> a. Land use and management reform b. Water use and management reform
2	<b>EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</b>
3	<b>HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>
4	<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES</b>

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

(<https://www.ru.ac.za/iser/research/>)

## 2.4 How ISER's work relates to the Sustainable Development Goals

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)	<b>Goal 1:</b> End poverty in all its forms  <b>Goal 2:</b> End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture  <b>Goal 6:</b> Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all  <b>Goal 15:</b> 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	<b>Goal 4:</b> Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Human and economic development	<b>Goal 3:</b> Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages  <b>Goal 8:</b> Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
International trade in goods and services	<b>Goal 17:</b> 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 current resource constraints, all of the research areas mentioned above will not be able to receive equal attention. Instead they will be gradually and sustainably developed as the Institute acquires more human resources. Of the ISER's four strategic research areas, the area of *environmental resources management* now seems fully established, with its own funded research projects. Nevertheless, research outputs were also internally produced in human and economic development and also in the area of cross border trade in Africa. A draft research report was also produced 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 initial 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 kickstart 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:			Dissemination through communications strategy:		
a) At least two print media articles			a) At least two print media articles		
b) At least one broadcast discussion			b) At least one broadcast discussion		

## 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 focussed 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).

## 2.4.3 Report on 2021 research activities

### ***Published journal articles***

Otterbach, S., Oskorouchi H.R., Rogan, M., and Qaim, M. 2021. Using Google data to measure the role of Big Food and fast food in South Africa's obesity epidemic. *World Development* (40).

Mbatha, C.N., 2021. Livestock production and marketing for small emerging farmers in South Africa and Kenya: comparative lessons. *South African Journal of Agricultural Extension*. 49 (1), 141-161.

Møller, V., 2021. Jan Bernheim: A Pioneer/Prophet in Getting Serious Answers to the Serious Question 'How are you?'. pioneer/prophet in getting serious answers to the serious question 'How are you?' *Applied Research in Quality of Life* 16, 911–915. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-021-09929-3>

Møller, V. 2021. Lawrence Schlemmer – South African pioneer of social indicators and applied quality-of-life research. *Applied Research in Quality of Life* 16(1), 461–466. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-020-09890-7> share link: <https://rdcu.be/cfgn3>

Webster, E., 2020. The Uberisation of work: the challenge of regulating platform capitalism. A commentary, *International Review of Applied Economics*.

### ***Encyclopedia article***

Møller V., Roberts B.J. 2021. South Africa, Quality of Life. In: Maggino F. (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*. Springer, Cham.

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-69909-7\\_2812-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-69909-7_2812-2)



### **Technical and working papers**

Gustafson, M. 2021. A critical stocktaking of recent analyses and policies: ISER Working Paper Series 2021. Available at:

[[https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/iser/documents/Carbon\\_tax\\_in\\_South\\_Africa\\_-\\_ISER\\_WP\\_-\\_August\\_2021-Gustafsson\\_\(3\).pdf](https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/iser/documents/Carbon_tax_in_South_Africa_-_ISER_WP_-_August_2021-Gustafsson_(3).pdf)]

### **Books**

Møller, V. and Roberts, B. 2021. *Quality of Life and Human Well-Being in sub-Saharan Africa: Prospects for Future Happiness*. Series: Human Well-Being Research and Policy Making. Springer, Switzerland.

### **Book chapter/s**

Møller V. 2021. Hamba Kahle, 'Go Well', from Africa. In: Michalos A.C. (Ed.) *The Pope of Happiness*. Social Indicators Research Series, vol 82. (pp. 191-194). Springer, Cham.

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-53779-1\\_19](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-53779-1_19) ISBN 978-3-030-53778-4

### **Preface for International handbook**

Møller, V. 2021. Preface: A place and a time for a Handbook on Active Ageing and Quality of Life. In: F. Rojo-Pérez. & G. Fernández-Mayoralas G. (Eds.), *Handbook of Active Ageing and Quality of Life – From Concepts to Applications*. (pp. vii-xii). International Handbooks of Quality-of-Life, Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature.

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/bfm%3A978-3-030-58031-5%2F1.pdf>

### **Conference paper/s**

Kara, R. 2021. Non-marital fertility in South Africa: An analysis of trends and socioeconomic factors. International Population Conference 2021. Hyderabad, India.

#### **2.4.4. The ISER Interdisciplinary Honours Degree Programme**

The ISER has recognised a national lack of the type of research skills that are required for it to fully execute its mission and vision. Because of this, we initiated discussions 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 the Interdisciplinary Honours Degree in Development Studies in the Humanities faculty as a vehicle. The initial catalyst 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 was included in the Rhodes University calendar for 2022 under the banner of the Interdisciplinary Honours Degree Programme in the faculty of Humanities. Thank you to all Rhodes University staff and members of the Board who contributed to discussions in shaping this programme. During 2022, as many have indicated, we will get an appetite for the programme. So far, most frequently asked questions include if funding is available 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 able to be offered on a part-time or online basis.

With respect to funding, the Director has linked up potential applicants with the Post Graduate Office. He was also able to have discussions with one of the (SARCHI) Research Chairs to see if they are able to fund students for 2023, given the NRF requirements. This has now been agreed upon and will be an option for next year's students.

#### **2.4.5 Post Graduate student (M&D) supervision**

The supervision of students is guided by the ISER's current research policy. This policy outlines the registration process, procedures and documents 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 Alfes 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 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).

While 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, 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 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 can be 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 reserves the right to interview applicants if needed before making a decision.

### **Current research student supervision**

The ISER currently provides student research supervision or co-supervision across the university. This supervision is provided based on available supervisors. In 2021 supervision was provided to students registered in the departments of Economics and Economic History, Political and International Studies, Sociology and the ISER. The supervision provided in 2021 is as follows:

- a) **Mr Vusimani Khubhayi** – Masters in Financial Markets. Topic: Navigating towards Effective Financial Arrangements Under the New Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement. (Supervisor: Prof. CN Mbatha, co-supervisor Prof. T. Mutambara - Alan Gray Bursary funding secured for the student in 2021).
- b) **Mr Thomas Salmon** – ISER funded PhD in Education. (Supervised by Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka). Topic: Teacher education and the roles of teachers as agents of social cohesion in South Africa.
- c) **Ms Namirembe Hudah Bawonga** – PhD in Social and Economic Policy. A framework of public private partnership projects value creation process in Uganda. (Supervisor: Prof. Rwelamila, co-supervisor Prof. Mbatha).
- d) **Mr Mike Hala** – MA in Political and International Studies. Topic/Area: The History of the ANC's Armed Struggle. (Co-supervised by Prof. Jeff Peires and Dr S. Magadla).

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 2021: No students graduated in 2021.

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.

#### **2.4.6 Short Learning Programme (Cost / Benefit Analysis)**

The Thabo Mbeki School of Public and International Affairs invited the ISER to present a proposal for a short learning programme on Cost Benefit Analyses, which they then accepted. We are in the process of developing a three month programme for this to be offered hopefully in the third or fourth term of 2022.

#### **2.4.7 Community engagement**

##### **The Calata Family Project**

The VC asked if we could consider supporting the Calata Family Foundation. We replied that we had to first find out what happened with the Goniwe Family Foundation collaboration. So, far we have reached out to the chair of the foundation for a discussion on what we think we can do. We had discussions with previous Directors Prof. van Niekerk and Prof. Jeff Peires who led the Goniwe family engagements.

At this point we think engagement with Calata Family Foundation will not mean extra work for the ISER. It includes, among other things, co-branding and hosting of seminars focused on Education. With suggestions from some Board members, we have also asked a young History Masters student (Mr Samkele Mngadi), who did his thesis on Chief Albert Luthuli to be our political link to the Calata Family. He formed part of the Rhodes University delegation that visited the launch of the Foundation on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.



Lukhanyo Calata talks with invited speakers Prof Janet Cherry, Minister Ronald Lamola and Prof Saths Cooper at the inaugural Fort Calata Memorial lecture in Lingelihle, Craddock on 5 November 2021

The ISER plans to use the Institute as a launching pad for local community organisations and business initiatives. The aim is to offer office space and mentorship to establish a hub for promising local NGOs or small businesses for a year or so while the entity finds its footing. This idea was presented to the Board and approved during 2020. The Rhodes University Research Office Director is now assisting ISER with ways to raise funds for the initiative. A proposal was submitted to Arigo, an organisation to support start-ups which is run by a Rhodes University alumnus. This effort has not yet produced results.

#### **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; the Senate and other committees or task teams set up for specific purposes by the Chairs of the faculty boards and Senate.

In 2021, some of the task teams included the VC's Mental Health Task Team during Covid-19 and the Dean of Humanities' Examinations Committee. Outside academia, but within Rhodes University networks, the Director participated in teams including the Makhanda Circle of Unity Steering Committee and the Eastern Cape Province's Human Resources Development (HRD) Council.

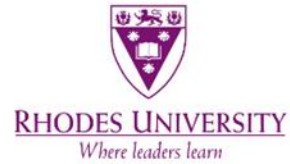
#### **2.4.9 The operational strategy to support the vision and mission**

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, for example, a Financial Markets student (Mr Kubhayi) identified for training and development into a position to lead researcher in the *International Trade area*, with a focus on *African Trade issues*. Funds have been secured for the student to be supervised to complete his Master's degree research project in this area. The student was also chosen for his strong quantitative skills to provide skills support across other research areas (or units) and to train other students and researchers who come into the ISER in the years ahead.

Dr Hompashe was also 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.





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 2022 is to focus on developing the Environmental Resources Use and Management area (in Table 1) through initiated WRC funded projects.

## **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, ISER aims to elevate the discussion by creating platforms and incentive for 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, 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 webinars. Should the situation change, the Institute will look forward to being able to engage directly and face-to-face with research partners and collaborators. The online forum, however, lent itself to increased accessibility and dissemination of research, while also allowing digital records to be available for anyone to access in perpetuity.

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 2021 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 2021:



### **An adaptive, systemic approach to community-led and engaged research**

Date: 25 February 2021

Co-hosted with The Institute of Water Research (IWR), this collaborative webinar focused on ways to ensure that impacts from scientific research are broadened, locally owned and lead to just and sustainable socio-ecologically transformative practices.

*Presenter:* Prof. Carolyn (Tally) Palmer, Director, IWR at Rhodes University and the African Research University Alliance (ARUA) Water Centre of Excellence

*Respondent:* Dr. Nontutuzelo Pearl Gola, South Africa National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

Registrations: 115



### **What does 'home' mean in the context of the urban housing crisis?**

Date: 15 April 2021

Dr Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon's research paper, [THE CITY OTHERWISE: The Deferred Emergency of Occupation in Inner-City Johannesburg](#), considers the socio-political crises facing the leadership and management of the City of Johannesburg when it comes to urban housing considerations.

This seminar, based around this research, was focused around the following questions:

- What is the long term solution to urban housing shortages other than relying on eviction, relocation and temporary emergency accommodation?
- What does 'emergency' and 'temporary' mean when most settlements have become long-term?
- What are the practical and political obstacles to expanding inner-city affordable accommodation?
- In the absence of a clear legal definition of home, how should we understand the social, emotional and political meanings of the term?

**Presenter:** Dr Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon, Lecturer in anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand Migration and Health Project Southern Africa (maHp)

**Respondents:** Ms Mpho Raboeane, Attorney, Ndifuna Ukwazi  
Ms Meloney van Eck, Executive leading Strategic Support, Housing Development Agency (HDA)

**Registrations:** 120



### **Great trade expectations – will AfCFTA deliver?**

Date: Wednesday, 9 June 2021

African countries opened their markets on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 under the African Continental Free Area (AfCFTA), a continent-wide free trade area that paves the way for a continental customs union. By creating a mutually beneficial trade agreement among the member states, the AfCFTA pact is expected to promote industrialisation, create jobs, empower women (by improving their access to trade opportunities) and improve the competitiveness of African industries on the global stage. Can we expect AfCFTA to significantly increase intra-regional trade? What are the results we're seeing so far?

Professor Tsitsi Mutambara of Rhodes University presented her study examining the regional intensity of trade in Africa from 2001-2018 and the implications for intra-Africa trade in the African Continental Free Area (AfCFTA). The results are considered as an ex post indication of trade integration and intra-Africa trade, with the AfCFTA in place.

**Presenter:** Professor Tsitsi Mutambara, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Economic History, Rhodes University Faculty of Commerce

**Respondent:** Mr Simon Hess, Head – Monitoring and Evaluation, Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Initiative, World Trade Organisation

Registrations: 130



# Will tax policies reduce emissions?

Carbon taxes and the attainment of emissions reductions targets in South Africa

Thurs, 2nd September 14h15

**Speaker:**

**Prof. Martin Gustafsson**

**Respondent:**

**Mr Gray Maguire**

**Chair:**

**Prof. Nhlanhla Mbatha**

## **Carbon taxes and the attainment of emissions reductions targets in South Africa: A critical stocktaking of recent analyses and policies**

Date: 2 September 2021

The Working Group I report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), covering recent developments in the physical science of climate change, serves as a stark warning of the environmental dangers humanity faces. The reports of Working Groups II and III, dealing with action to reduce the harm resulting from climate change, and adapting to a changing climate, will be released in the coming months.

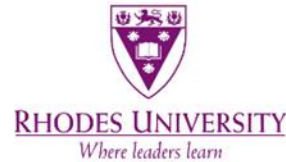
In his recently published ISER working paper, Prof. Martin Gustafsson reviews South Africa's carbon taxes and emission reduction targets aimed at bringing together the knowledge and sources non-specialists such as teachers and journalists may require to understand the complexities around the country's obligations to reduce emissions, and existing policies aimed at achieving this. In this ISER Webinar he analysed certain inconsistencies across the various policies and brought forward considerations for the way forward.

**Presenter:** Professor Martin Gustafsson, Associate Professor, Research on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) group, Department of Economics, Stellenbosch; Visiting Research Fellow, ISER, Rhodes University, South Africa.

**Respondent:** Mr Gray Maguire, Carbon Project Manager at Climate Neutral Group, South Africa; Columnist for Business Day Live.

Registrations: 73





## **The Politics of Knowledge Production in African Studies**

Online Colloquium: 29 September - 1 October 2021

This Colloquium was hosted jointly by the African Humanities Programme (AHP) Book Series, the Centre for African Studies (CAS) at the University of Cape Town, the Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS) and the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS).

It brought together a scholarly discussion of the politics of global knowledge production in African Studies with the practicalities of publishing, since this is where the asymmetries are sharpest and have real consequence.

### **Keynote Speakers:**

Minister of Higher Education in South Africa, Dr Blade Nzimande

Former Minister of Tertiary Education in Ghana, Prof. Kwesi Yankah

## **Distribution and operational aspects**

The ISER seminar list currently goes out to 534 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 2022**

There were several seminars that have been deferred to 2022, e.g. a seminar based on work which is currently ongoing, or because the seminar timing fitted in better with related projects or the university's curriculum and courses for 2022. While there has been great interest in the seminar series, the ISER needed to consider the current profusion of webinars and increasing webinar fatigue to ensure each seminar would be actively contributing to the Institute's research aims and agenda. In some cases delaying seminars allows them to be better showcased at a later time (i.e. when students are more readily available to contribute). After the Seminar in September 2021 it was decided to defer the last remaining seminars to the following year to allow more focus on project proposals to ensure there was adequate funding for 2022.

Possible seminar topics coming up in 2022:

- a. The right skills for economic growth
- b. Accountability and service delivery in health and education
- c. Quality of life, well-being and happiness (designed to work in collaboration with a potential visit by Benjamin Roberts who will hopefully be joining ISER as a visiting fellow in 2022)
- d. A historical memory of an ANC's MK veteran, ISER student Mike Hala - research seminar
- e. Steffen Otterbach seminar: ISER fellow

After each webinar there has been sufficient interest in the work being showcased, and it would be prudent to consider what kind of additional outputs could be synergised with the seminars, e.g. inviting discussants and respondents to contribute to the forthcoming:

ISER Policy Brief Series

ISER Review Series

ISER Policy Briefs will be initiated in 2022. The current plan is to have them based on the ISER's growing research partnerships and collaborations that host a variety of well-established scholars and experts as well as a growing contingent of practitioners and emerging academics. Research applications for policy are generally not well supported or taught outside of specific narrow fields. Where policy is engaged, there is still a need to ensure policy briefs are more widely debated and shared, particularly with the general public or those whom policies will impact most directly. The ISER aims to grow and encourage policy discussion through collaboration between experts and across disciplines. Some examples of this are in the arena of natural resource governance, where the Institute will be exploring the interface between land and water governance, economic valuation of natural resources, well-being, and communal property rights and access.

### **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**

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 will be 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 Masters 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 repackage 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. A number of young scholars have already benefited from the guidance provided by the committee, and their papers were received and reviewed in 2021.

### **3.3.2 Working Papers reviewed**

A number of submissions were received for review in 2020 and 2021:

- a. The Youth, Agrarian Trajectories and State Formation: Lessons from Zimbabwe's Post-Land Reform Context  
Status: Authors received feedback on their initial submission and were advised to restructure the paper. Authors currently revising paper.
- b. Zimbabwe's Social Policy Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Reactive, Inadequate and Palliative?

Status: Authors received feedback on their initial submission and were advised to restructure the paper. Authors currently revising paper. There was some hesitancy over how much we want to focus on Covid related papers.

- c. The Dynamics and Complexities of Agricultural Commodity Circuits Post Zimbabwe's Land Reform: Lessons from Samir Amin

Status: Authors received feedback on their initial submission and were advised to restructure the paper. Authors currently revising paper.

- d. After the Fast-track Land Reform: Conduits for Agricultural Commercialisation and Value Chains in Zimbabwe

Status: Authors received feedback on their initial submission and were advised to revise the paper. Authors currently revising paper.

- e. Economic Development at municipal level in the Cape Metropole: A comparative study

Status: After review and careful consideration it was decided not to pursue this paper further.

### **3.3.3 Papers reviewed and published in 2021**

Gustafsson, M. 2021. Carbon taxes and the attainment of emissions reductions targets in South Africa. ISER Working Paper - 1/2021. Rhodes University, Makhanda.

*The paper can be read here:*

<https://bit.ly/3jZyDVY>

### **3.3.4 Working Papers in progress**

- a. Recognising livelihood rights for social, economic and environmental justice
- b. Missing Voices - Dyani Tshatshu

### **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.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **TRAINING WORKSHOP ENGAGEMENT**

#### **4.1 The ISER Winter School**

In 2020, we promised that we would run the ISER Winter School in July 2021. We were not able to do so because we did not get the indicated collaboration and financial support from the Eastern Cape Province Office of the Premier's office. In an attempt to do this on our own, we approached Profs Rogan and Gustafsson to be our partners in designing our own programme. We applied to the Vice Chancellor's Office to host a short course in July 2021. The short course was approved by Dr Nhadozie, Director of the university's Institutional Research, Planning and Quality Promotion division. We advertised the Winter School inside and outside Rhodes University, but being able to fill only 50% of class capacity to meet our cost, we postponed it to later in the year. Our full-time researcher would have started by the time the School would be run, further cutting the cost for facilitation. *The Centre for Women and Gender Studies* at Nelson Mandela University (NMU), through the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) contributed 50% towards our costs, and suddenly the School was over-subscribed. After consultation with most participants, it was decided the School would be run from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. Dr Kara had been getting feedback from participants to find out their needs for the right pitch for this particular group. Fifteen (15) participants came from NMU, NIHSS, The Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance, The Abalone Farm and Rhodes University. Additional facilitators included Ms Lyn Woolfrey from Data First, Prof. Martin Gustafsson from the Department of Basic Education, Dr Reesha Kara and Prof. Rogan (preparatory work) from Rhodes University. With feedback from the coming cohort solicited, the school has essentially started. Better late than never.





Prof. Nomalanga Mkhize, ISER Board Member and Director of Governmental and Social Sciences at Mandela University accepts certificates on behalf of course participants from Mandela University from the ISER Director, Prof. Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha.

## **CHAPTER 5 CURRENT AND INITIATED PROJECTS**

### **5.1 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 financial report for 2021). This is further illustrated in the communications report (Chapter 7). Below is the outline of ongoing and planned projects in 2022.

### **5.2 Current research projects**

#### **Project 1: The Water Research Commission**

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

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 river catchments, which are demonstration catchments for the bigger EI4WS project implemented through partnership led by the Development Bank of Southern Africa, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Water Research Council (WRC), and other agencies.

## **Planned deliverables and activities for 2021**

*Signed contract and advance 20% of Year 1 budget (R203 741,60)*

- a. *Inception report and workshop with key stakeholders:* Initial stakeholder engagement to inform training needs analysis and course curriculum deliberation (R219 775,00)
- b. *Interim training needs assessment report:* identify priority course participants, their knowledge needs and outline for course implementation (R102 670,35)
- c. *Final training needs assessment:* Review of existing knowledge assets to identify training gaps and needs to inform the course framework, to be incorporated into start-up course modules (R263 730,00)
- d. Course materials: core texts for course modules, case studies development, course implementation/ navigation tools and evaluation plan (R87 910,00)

## **Achieved deliverables and activities in 2021:**

- a. Done (due- April)
- b. Done (due- April)
- c. Not done (due- August)
- d. Not done (due- September)

## **Challenges deliverables not achieved in 2021:**

- a. Done
- b. Done
- c. Delayed due to Covid-19 challenges to engage the broader EI4WS project team and catchment stakeholders. The project is now prioritising virtual engagements and activities. Deliverable to be finalised by end of 2021.
- d. Delayed due to Covid-19 challenges to engage the broader EI4WS project team and catchment stakeholders. The project is now prioritising virtual engagements and activities. Deliverable to be finalised by end of 2021

## **Proposed remedies for 2022:**

### **Planned deliverables and activities for 2022 with associated budgets**

- a. *Course piloting report and year-end progress report 2021/22*: Course training activities and outcomes report, including report on participants EI4WS Change Projects in Berg-Breede and uMngeni demonstration catchments. Due February 2022 (R140 881,05)
- b. *Monitoring and Evaluation plan, and 2022/23 workplan*: M&E tools and report using the Value Creation Framework. Material for Train of Trainer course as recommendations for scaling and pilot the course in other catchments (April 2022, R113 292,00)
- c. *Revised Training the Trainers course materials*: Report on course implementation in Berg-Breede and uMngeni catchments; including report on course process and outcomes, and Change Projects; Revised ToT course materials for peer review, workshopped with project participants for scaling process (August 2022, R100 000,00).
- d. *Final project report*: Final project report, final version of course materials and social learning tools, including training needs analysis, course navigation tool, and evidence-based case studies (December 2022, R268 000,00)

## **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***

### **Planned deliverables and activities:**

This is a new ISER project 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 Matetiele 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.

#### **Achieved deliverables and activities in 2021:**

Difficult negotiations due to the tight budget have meant that the contract was only finalised in November 2021. The ISER received the contract from WWF's legal office on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and it is now up to Rhodes University's legal office to finalise for signature. It must be signed before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

#### *Planned deliverables and activities for 2022 with associated budgets*

<b>Interim Report 1</b>	R300 000 paid upfront for 4 interim reports (including one scheduled for 2023)	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2022
<b>Interim Report 2</b>		15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
<b>Interim Report 3</b>		15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022



### **Project 3: Office of the Premier Eastern Cape Government**

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

This project is agreed as a collaborative effort between the School of Journalism and Media Studies (SJMS) and the ISER. It was supposed to be undertaken during the course of the year 2021, but 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. There has been no formal communication indicating the reasons for the delay.

#### **Achieved deliverables and activities for 2021 by the ISER**

- a. Inception and scoping report: to identify three case study district municipalities for piloting the research. This process includes review of existing academic and grey literatures, datasets in identifying possible sources of data, gaps, and collaborating partners (completed without funding at the moment).
- b. The development of the survey instrument: developing the research questions, designing and calibrating selected indicators (not yet done – awaiting funding for the expensive exercise of designing the survey and data collection).

#### **Achieved deliverables and activities in 2021**

None of the planned activities and deliverables had been completed as of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. The ISER made the decision to start with deliverable number a) without a signed contract, because the research was originally proposed before the negotiations with the Premier's Office for funding. The arrival of a new ISER researcher in September 2021 meant that the inception and scoping report could be initiated in September 2021. Currently, a third of the scoping report has been completed. Submission of the final draft was estimated for 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

#### **Challenges for not achieving the planned goals and the revised plan**

The contract's non-finalisation and lack of HR resources (research capacity) have been the main obstacle to achieving proposed objectives. This means that many of the stated objectives would be moved to 2022 as they are planned in the contractual agreement. Failing the signing of the contract, the objectives will be revised to a slower pace, given that the project is entirely an effort of the ISER with limited HR resources and without external funding to hire additional resources.



#### **Project 4: EC Province SME evaluation project**

Title: **Evaluative research on the design and implementation of the Integrated SMME Development Strategy for the period 2015 - 2019.**

##### **Research questions and objectives:**

- b. Is the SMME Strategy being implemented as intended?
- c. What are the intended impacts and unintended impacts of the SMME Strategy?
- d. What implementation challenges were experienced in terms of what worked and what didn't?
- e. How can the implementation of the SMME strategy in the Province be improved and strengthened?
- f. Is the implementation of the SMME strategy contributing towards the achievement of the intended results?

##### **Update:**

A call from the Eastern Cape provincial government was responded to in collaboration with Mr Mazibuko Jara in April 2021. The research was planned to be led by Mr Jara and administratively supported by the ISER. Nevertheless, the ISER did not receive feedback on its application as of December 2021.

### **5.3 Research projects initiated or started in 2021**

#### **Project 5: Vanguard-Economics / MasterCard Foundation Project on MEL**

Working Title: ***Developing and managing the qualitative strand on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) services in Rwanda for a MasterCard Foundation funded project***

##### **Background:**

The ISER was invited to join a MasterCard Foundation (MCF) funded project on evaluating and monitoring the impact of MCF interventions in creating meaningful jobs for Rwandese youth. For this effort US\$400 000 is set aside to set up a short training programme for 12 young people on how to measure impacts of the interventions. At the moment the ISER has proposed that in partnership with the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) we develop a social learning informal course to train the youngsters, while helping Vanguard-Economics with piloting the social learning evaluation framework in Rwanda. This is going to be over a two year period if an agreement among parties is reached.

Parallel to this pilot study, the ISER is engaging with the lead partner on developing proposals for more projects of a similar nature to be rolled out in Rwanda and possibly other countries where the MCF requires this evaluative framework to be implemented.

## **5.4 Operational projects in 2021**

### **Project 1: The ISER Archives Restoration project**

#### **Planned deliverables and activities in 2021**

- 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

#### **Achieved deliverables and activities in 2021**

a and b: Done

Mr Tom Salmon was instrumental in assisting with the ISER archive redux, which allowed us to collate and combine past versions of the ISER webpage to start putting together a list of ISER publications that were previously available on the ISER website. The index pages of available reports gave an idea of missing papers, and extensive searching online enabled us to also collate digital copies which were available via alternative sources such as Cory Library and SEALS.

The publications were then separated out into various categories according to date and type, which Mr Bulelani Mothlabane then restored to the ISER website. Where possible, links were provided for papers which have digital copies available.

**1958 - 1983 - [ISER Occasional Papers](#)**

**1980 - 1996 - [ISER Working Papers](#)**

**2017 - 2018 - [ISER Working Papers](#)**

c: Done

The hard copies of the Working Papers etc. which had been relocated to the ISER printing room were moved to an office and sorted and catalogued, with Mr Thobani Mesani assisting in creating a list of what needed to be digitised and what needed to be reprinted as a hard copy for the archive room.

d. Not done

Digitisation of the ISER archives

#### **Total pages to be scanned**

Working Papers and Research Reports	5511
Total ISER publications	8228
With ISER reports added	9128

ISER still needs funding for the digitisation of the archives.

e. Not done

Refurbishment of the ISER archives room

Clarity was required over the current use of the archive room and this matter went through the university's official channels for clarification.

#### **Challenges for not achieving d and e**

Funding is required to pay for the digitisation of the missing archives, as well as the printing out of those papers without current hard copies.

There has been extensive debate around the use of the ISER archive room. Currently it is used by sociology students and has been since the archives were physically removed from the building by NALSU. After extensive debate it has been agreed to restore the archive room to the ISER, but funding is required to refurbish the room, which currently has no ablution facilities, is quite run down, and can only host a few students at a time.

#### **Proposed remedies for 2022**

There is a possibility the Rhodes Library may be able to assist with the digitisation of the ISER archives, potentially through a grant available for special collections. ISER needs to negotiate and finalise plans with the library.

Revamping the ISER archive room would allow a better use of the space so that a greater number of students are able use the facilities. Should the current car port adjacent to the archive room also be included in the plan, there is the potential to create a small mini-lab that nearby postgraduate students, such as those from Sociology could also benefit from. Should numbers increase for the ISER Honours course this would be an ideal place to house an influx of postgraduate students.

A potential template to look at would be the refurbishing of the CSSR (Critical Studies in Sexuality and Reproduction) student lab. This interactive area makes excellent use of space with shelving and desks to create a collaborative research environment – see pictures below.



CSSR student lab. Photo by Nangamso Myoli

While the revamping of the archive room is being negotiated, there is the possibility for ISER to refurbish with Rhodes furniture currently not being utilised, e.g. chairs and desks being stored unused in the library and furniture stores.

#### **Planned deliverables and activities for 2022 with associated budgets**

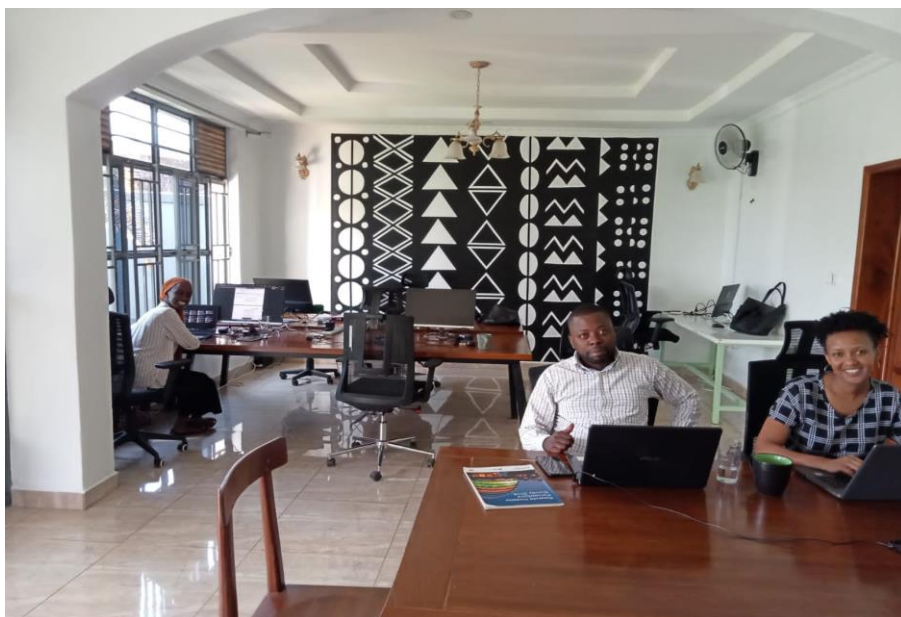
- a. Once funding has been secured for the digitisation of the archives we will be able to complete this part of the project, and the complete digital archives will then be able to be showcased on the ISER website. The budget will depend on the grants available.
- b. The refurbishing of the archive room has to be carried out via Rhodes' procedural channels. Once negotiations have been finalised the archive room can be revamped, and the physical archives will be able to be restored. The budget will depend upon what the university allows for the refurbishment.
- c. The revamped archive room will allow space for post-grad students and visiting ISER fellows, as well as those who would be visiting the archives for scholarly purposes.

## CHAPTER 6 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS REPORT

### 6.1 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 2021.

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, efforts to engage researchers on the continent have been limited. Only in the second semester of 2021 did the ISER start engaging possibilities of research activities outside South Africa. This is highlighted by the engagement with a MasterCard Foundation funded project that is led by potential partners (VanguardEconomics) in Rwanda. A visit to Rwanda by the ISER Director (after being fully vaccinated) to concretise the participation of the ISER in this project in Rwanda was supported by Rhodes University's research office and took place in early November 2021. The visit to Rwanda was combined with a visit to Kenya to maintain historical research links in areas where the Director had conducted research on agricultural markets for smallholders. The aim is to involve other Rhodes University researchers in collaborations that are being initiated in both countries, as highlighted in reports on specific projects in this report.



Vanguard Economics offices, Kigali, Rwanda  
Photo by Cyril Mbatha

## **6.2 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) The 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

## **6.3 Key partners external to Rhodes University**

- a) University of South Africa: the Thabo Mbeki School of Public and International Affairs
- b) University of Fort Hare: Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension
- c) Nelson Mandela University: Centre for Women and Gender Studies
- d) The Academy of African Business and Development
- e) Vanguard Economics

## **6.4 NGO and private business partnerships**

- a. Environmental and Rural Solutions (ERS) in Matatiele Eastern Cape Province, South Africa (NGO)
- b. Vanguard Economics in Kigali, Rwanda, (Private consulting business)
- c. The Shamba Developments, Mtwapa, Kenya (Private farming business)



### **6.5 Pipeline Partnerships**

Under consideration and at different stages of negotiations:

- a) Stronger ties with the Academy of African Business and Development (AABD)
- b) Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, Morogoro
- c) Vanguard Economics, Rwanda
- d) Makerere University: the director has asked Mr Jacobs in the Rhodes University Communications Department to develop a more formal collaboration with Makerere University, because the ISER is receiving a lot of applications from that university currently. The ISER can be a partner in this university-wide partnership.

### **6.6 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 2022.

## CHAPTER 7 COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: MARKETING AND BRANDING

### 7.1 Communications and marketing objectives of the ISER

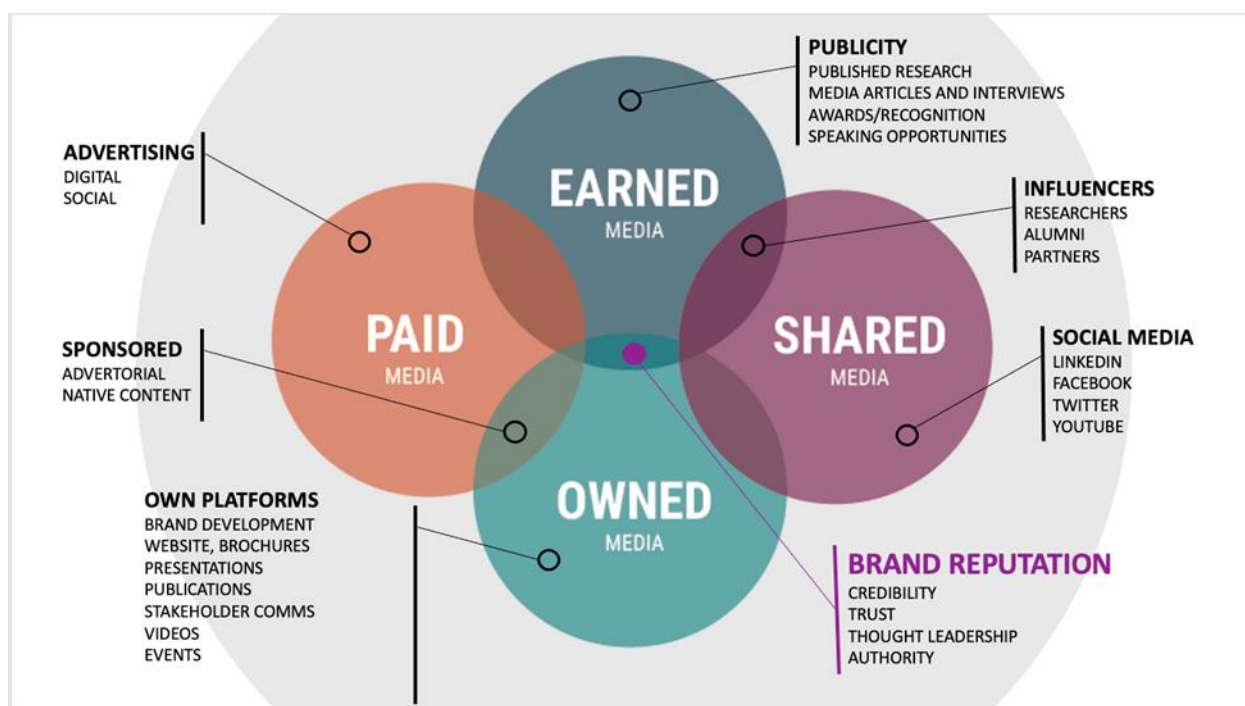
The broad communications and marketing objectives are to, a) attract donor funding to support research projects, b) attract new researchers and students from across the continent, and c) to leverage research so it can be practically applied and drive change.

### 7.2 Communications and marketing strategy

**The objectives are met by:**

- a) Presenting the ISER with a cohesive and clear brand, mission, vision and values aligned with the values of Rhodes University
- b) Optimising ISER owned, earned, shared (social) channels to drive awareness and discussion
- c) Leveraging our key proof point - pioneering social and economic research - through these channels
- d) Profiling our research talent and partnerships
- e) Amplifying the voice of ISER in discussions relevant to our research focus areas.

### 7.3 ISER Channel Focus



## 7.4 Execution progress report

### 7.4.1 Media coverage results

The media coverage results for the period November 2020 to November 2021 can be summarised in the following monetary value:

- a) TOTAL Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) VALUE: **R 3,447,241.00**
- b) PR AVE VALUE: **R 10,341,723.00**
- c) SOCIAL VALUE (Twitter) @RhodesISER: **R 82,852.00**

Releases and broadcast motivations were positioned on research, seminars and topical issues. Thought leadership pieces gained coverage and Prof. Mbatha was interviewed on Newzroom Afrika, Kaya FM, Channel Africa and eNCA. Through seminar work, the ISER also received mention on CNBC. Articles were carried in a range of publications including *Cape Business News*, *City Press*, *Daily Maverick*, *Landbouweekblad*, *News24*, *ProAgri*, *Cape Argus*, *Daily News* and *Infrastructure News*.

#### Articles – since 2021 annual report

OCT 12, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Developing future policy analysts - Rhodes ISER to offer new interdisciplinary degree</u></a>
AUG 1, 2021	New study identifies best practice in livestock production and marketing for small emerging farmers
JUL 16, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Echoes of the 80s: How today's unrest sparked by factional battles can erupt into another civil war</u></a>
JUL 13, 2021	<a href="#"><u>'Quality of Life and Human Well-Being in sub-Saharan Africa: Prospects for Future Happiness Series: Human Well-Being Research and Policy Making</u></a>
APR 22, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Livestock production and marketing for small emerging farmers in South Africa and Kenya: comparative lessons - C. N. Mbatha</u></a>
MAY 11, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Rhodes ISER, ELRC and the WRC to develop participatory course strengthening co-learning in water security networks</u></a>

APR 9, 2021	<a href="#"><u>EDWARD WEBSTER: 'Uberisation' takes us back to a regime without worker rights. The rise of platform capitalism allows companies to bypass labour laws</u></a>
APR 21, 2021	<a href="#"><u>The concept of 'home' amidst the urban housing crisis</u></a>
FEB 2021	<a href="#"><u>Budget 2021: development relies on citizens ensuring political accountability</u></a>
FEB 2021	<a href="#"><u>Vaccines and the South African economy</u></a>
FEB 2021	<a href="#"><u>Accountable public-private partnerships vital to reach COVID-19 population immunity across SADC</u></a>
FEB 1, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Private sector involvement vital for successful Covid-19 vaccine roll-out</u></a>
JAN 28, 2021	<a href="#"><u>The Uberisation of work: the challenge of regulating platform capitalism. A commentary</u></a>
JAN 17, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Using Google data to measure the role of Big Food and fast food in South Africa'</u></a>
JAN 12, 2021	<a href="#"><u>Evaluation of the Teaching for All project guides inclusive education efforts</u></a>
NOV 16, 2020	<a href="#"><u>Lawrence Schlemmer – South African Pioneer of Social Indicators and Applied Quality of Life Research</u></a>
NOV 2020	<a href="#"><u>African progress is driven by capability and accountability of the state</u></a>

### Key coverage examples:

#### GOVERNMENT'S REBUILDING STRATEGY

2021-07-18 08:32:28

City Press

.... A concerted effort was also being made to improve intelligence-sharing to avoid being caught off guard again. Professor Cyril Mbatha, director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, said that the ANC and executive governm...

Novus Rank:AVE: **R143833.00**

★★★★☆

Country: **South** Region: **South** Circulation per fre-Published: **2021**-Email

Download:

**Africa** **ern Africa** quency: **26764** **07-18**

**PDF | JPG**

## SKILLED RESEARCHERS OFFERING CRITICAL TRAINING ON BETTER USE OF DATA IN DECISION-MAKING

2021-06-11 11:48:20

**Bizcommunity**

...isions will have meaningful and positive impacts on the lives of citizens and other stakeholders, says Professor Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha of the ISER. "We believe that effective data use can drive more inclusive and responsive decision-making in the public s...

Novus	Rank:Daily AVE: <b>R80000.00</b>	Monthly	AVE:
★★★★☆			<b>R550000.00</b>
Country:	<b>South</b> Daily Unique Brows-Monthly	UniqueEmail	<u>Translate</u>
<b>Africa</b>	ers: <b>23875</b>	Browsers: <b>740125</b>	

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## NEW STUDY IDENTIFIES BEST PRACTICE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MARKETING FOR SMALL EMERGING FARMERS

2021-08-30 17:21:39

**Agribook Digital**

...increase the access and participation of small-scale farmers in beef markets. The study , conducted by Professor Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha, director of the Institute of Social and Economic Development at Rhodes University, identifies poor production methods a...

Novus	Rank:Daily AVE: <b>R2794.00</b>	Monthly	AVE:
★★★★☆			<b>R86614.00</b>
Country:	<b>South</b> Daily Unique Brows-Monthly	UniqueEmail	<u>Translate</u>
<b>Africa</b>	ers: <b>477</b>	Browsers: <b>14787</b>	

### **Webinar coverage examples:**

## ED-TECH FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK - CNBCAFRICA.COM

2021-09-07 10:51:07

**CNBC Africa**

....Last week during a webinar hosted by the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Rhodes University, Professor **Martin Gustafsson** presented his working paper which considers the effectiveness of carbon taxes in helping South Africa reach its emissions...

Novus	Rank:Daily AVE: <b>R80000.00</b>	Monthly	AVE:
★★★★☆			<b>R550000.00</b>
Country:	<b>South</b> Daily Unique Brows-Monthly	UniqueEmail	<u>Translate</u>
<b>Africa</b>	ers: <b>3684</b>	Browsers: <b>114204</b>	

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## CRITICAL STOCKTAKING: CARBON TAXES AND THE ATTAINMENT OF EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TARGETS IN SOUTH AFRICA - CAPE BUSINESS NEWS

2021-08-30 21:04:48

**Cape Business News**

... of the environmental dangers humanity faces. In an Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) working paper, Professor **Martin Gustafsson** reviews South Africa's carbon taxes and emission reduction targets aimed at bringing together the knowledge a...

Novus Rank:Daily AVE: **R15582.00**

Monthly AVE:

★★★★☆

**R483042.00**

Country: **South**Daily Unique Brows-Monthly UniqueEmail

Translate

**Africa** ers: **2631** Browsers: **81561**

### 7.4.2 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.

### 7.4.3 Social media

Social media should be used to proactively:

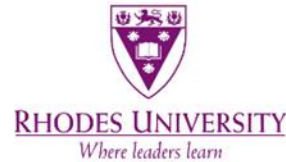
- Build the ISER at Rhodes University brand awareness
- Promote and extend the reach of ISER events
- Profile areas of interest to trigger partnerships
- Foster brand connections with current and prospective partners and researchers
- Share the many different "voices" of ISER research
- Share key conclusions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

**New Social Media platforms were started in 2020.**

Paid promotion on marketing the new Interdisciplinary degree has shown successful engagement.

Total Engagement	1767
Impressions	56 924
Post Clicks	912





Facebook: @RhodesISER – 61 followers and posts reaching 30 000 readers

Twitter: @RhodesISER – 74 followers, with 257 visits

LinkedIn: @RhodesISER – 38 connections

YouTube: Rhodes ISER – 250 views

All platforms still have less than 100 followers, and this can be improved through investment in growing the platforms and the development of more frequent, valuable and relevant content, working with the team.

The contribution of communications and marketing to the rebuilding of the ISER brand seems to be working well, although there are many areas for improvement. These improvements would include increasing the number of media platform followers, within and outside South Africa's borders. Nevertheless it is clear that there are many positives that can be identified from this project.

## CHAPTER 8 THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN STUDIES (JCAS) REPORT

The management of the journal has presented a number of challenges, starting in 2020. These came to the fore in 2021 and Prof. Hendricks resigned from his position as Chief Editor in November 2021.

The ISER Director engaged NiSC and Taylor and Francis to identify any possible risks in our contractual obligations following the resignation of Prof. Hendricks. No major risks were established for at least the following year.

The ISER Director with the Chair of the Board and the DVC led a process to find an acting editor among the current JCAS Editorial Committee members. Prof. Kirk Helliker, one of the co-editors was appointed Acting Chief Editor in December 2021. A number of members of the Journal's Editorial Committee and other academics at Rhodes University also joined the team of JCAS's co-editors.

The advertisement to find a full-time Chief Editor was sent out through an Open Call and a panel to appoint the editor was set up to appoint the editor in early 2022.



**Open call - JCAS Chief Editor**

The Journal of Contemporary African Studies (JCAS), hosted at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, will be appointing a new Chief Editor to start in January 2022.

JCAS is an interdisciplinary journal in the human sciences which seeks to promote a scholarly understanding of developments and change in Africa. Established in 1981, it publishes research on African societies and their location within the global political economy; topics include culture, gender, labour, land and politics. The journal is published four times a year by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Ltd. JCAS is peer reviewed, has an international subscription and hosts a well established editorial board and committee.

The ideal candidate for our next Chief Editor would be:

- Located on the African continent
- Have extensive experience in journal editing
- Have exemplary scholarship and a record of publication and peer recognition in the Humanities and Social Sciences within a field that resonates with the journal
- Have experience in mentorship and the development of a new generation of African scholars
- Have strong networks and experience with engaging African scholars on the continent and in the diaspora

Applications can be submitted to:  
Bulelani Mothlabane – [b.mothlabane@ru.ac.za](mailto:b.mothlabane@ru.ac.za)  
by 20 November 2021

For queries contact ISER Director:  
Prof Cyril Nhlanhla Mbatha – [c.mbatha@ru.ac.za](mailto:c.mbatha@ru.ac.za)