

HUMAN AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS (HSD) RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

# Rebellion of the Poor: Research, Politics, Policing and People

30 June 2016  
Pretoria



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
Research Council

## Information Circular

### Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) Research Seminar Series

#### Rebellion of the Poor: Research, politics, policing and people in realising national development goals

**30 June 2016**

**Venue: Venue:** The seminar will be linked via the HSRC's video conferencing facilities housed in its offices in Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban. Various other platforms, including Vidyo links and social media, will provide opportunities for broader engagement.

**Cape Town:** HSRC, 12th Floor, Plein Park Building (opposite the Revenue Office), Plein Street.

**Durban :** The Atrium, 5th Floor, 430 Peter Mokaba Ridge, Berea.

**Pretoria :** HSRC Video Conference, 1st floor, HSRC Library, Human Sciences Research Council, 134 Pretorius Street.

**Port Elizabeth:** Office 103, 1st floor, Fairview Office Park, Greenacres.

*The HSRC seminar series is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The views and opinions expressed therein as well as findings and statements of the seminar series do not necessarily represent the views of DST.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and background	5
Programme of events	7
Venues	9
Registration	9
Workshop packs and documents	9
Internet access and communication facilities	9
The weather	9
Exhibitions	9
Key contact details for your visit	10
Addendum A: Directions to the HSRC offices	11

## **INTRODUCTION**

We look forward to your participation in the Human and Social Dynamics Research Seminar, hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council, the South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI) of the National Research Foundation (NRF), and the University of Johannesburg (UJ). The seminar is scheduled to take place on 30 June 2016 in the Video Conference rooms of the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, and will focus on 'Rebellion of the Poor: Research, politics, policing and people'.

### **PURPOSE OF THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS RESEARCH SEMINARS**

The seminar series is designed to:

- Showcase research and knowledge production in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), which is generated by the National System of Innovation (NSI);
- Serve as vehicles for disseminating research evidence to wider and diverse audiences;
- Operate as platforms for the sharing of local and international expertise and experience; and
- Promote research and knowledge production in the SSH that benefits and enhances the NSI.

The series aims to achieve the following:

- Disseminate scientific research findings and transmit a body of new knowledge through an interactive process of critical dialogue and collegial critique to the SSH research community and other interested actors in the NSI;
- Provide an avenue for rated and other researchers, including researchers from rural-based universities to engage in knowledge dialogues across faculties and with other interested actors in the NSI;
- Present and discuss new and ongoing research, identify research gaps, and suggest new research agendas in SSH with a view to forging closer links between the research communities in these fields;
- Reinforce the visibility of SSH research to the higher education and science council sector;
- Enhance wider public understanding of the SSH, including the value and status of both individual and team-based research; and
- Strategically promote, develop and coordinate collaborative and interdisciplinary research within and between higher education institutions and science councils.

## **BACKGROUND**

In recent years South Africa has seen an escalating number of community protests. Although these protests have often been associated with service delivery, research by Alexander et al. (2010) shows that protests of this kind are not just about service delivery but amounted to a rebellion of the poor. To gain further understanding of these protests and their causes, Prof. Peter Alexander established a new research project, building on insights gained from an earlier study that appeared in the book *Class in Soweto* (2013), recently awarded the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences prize for best edited book.

The research included qualitative and quantitative methods, with interviews conducted in every province and the construction of the largest database of media reports on protests. Last year, through a Promotion of Access to Information Act application, the team gained access to the South African Police Service (SAPS) data on nearly 160 000 crowd incidents that occurred between 1997 and 2013, about 70 000 of which were protests. This is the richest collection of data ever made available for protest research. An initial report on the data, which

aimed at explaining SAPS's methodology and concepts, showed that SAPS generals and government ministers had misused statistics drawn from the data.

Findings are wide-ranging. They show, for instance, that the number of community protests reached a nadir in 2004 and then took off with an upwards trajectory since that date. The proportion of protests the researchers categorised as either disruptive or violent, has been increasing, while the proportion of orderly protests has declined. Housing issues are the most common complaints raised by protesters.

### **Objective**

The seminar aims at providing a public engagement forum between the researchers and key individuals affected by their research. This will be especially valuable for the researchers, who are in the process of completing a book based on their study, and the discussion will assist them to nuance their analysis.

It also intends to benefit those invited as discussants: government, the police and community activists. According to *Business Day*, the government's thinking, specifically that of the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), has been influenced by the researchers' insistence that actions be characterised as 'community protests' rather than 'service delivery protests'. This has implications for how local government should respond. We hope this fruitful exchange can be extended through participation of deputy minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Andries Nel. In contrast to Mr Nel's open and progressive response to the research, SAPS condemned the first analysis report of its data. We think the police overreacted and hope that the seminar will provide an opportunity to find some common ground. Community protesters have been the main subjects of our study and we want to afford them the opportunity to comment on our findings.

The seminar focuses on four themes:

1. key findings
2. government responses
3. policing
4. community participation.

## Programme

### Rebellion of the Poor: Research, politics, policing and people

**Venue:** Video Conference rooms, Human Sciences Research Council (Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth)

**Date:** 30 June 2016

**Rapporteur:** Dr Seán Morrow, Ngomso Research, Writing and Editing Service

---

**08:30 – 09:00** Registration, Tea & Coffee

---

**Chair:** Prof. Narnia Bohler-Muller, executive director, Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery research programme, Human Sciences Research Council

---

**09:00 – 09:15** Introduction

---

**09:00 – 09:15** **Welcome and opening remarks**

*Dr Hester du Plessis, Research Use and Impact Assessment, Human Sciences Research Council and Prof. Peter Alexander, South African Research Chair in Social Change, University of Johannesburg.*

---

**09:15 – 10:45** Session 1

---

**09:15 – 10:00** **South Africa's Rebellion of the Poor: An Overview**

*Dr Carin Runciman, University of Johannesburg*

*Mr Trevor Ngwane, University of Johannesburg*

*Ms Boitumelo Marupeng, University of Johannesburg*

*Ms Boikanyo Moloto, University of Johannesburg*

This paper will provide an overview of the work conducted on the Rebellion of the Poor project at the University of Johannesburg. The preliminary research for the project began in 2009, in response to a renewed wave of protest. By 2011, the research chair established a community protest database, based on a range of media sources. Tracking protests from 2004, the database has collected over 2 000 records of media-reported protests, to date. This was accompanied by extensive qualitative fieldwork across all nine provinces in over 40 locations across the country. In 2015, the team gained access to 156 000 records of crowd management incidents from 1997 - 2013 and produced two research reports analysing this data. This paper draws together this extensive research, outlining the main findings and engaging in public and academic debates about the nature of contemporary protest in South Africa. In particular, the paper will offer an analysis of the social, economic and political underlying causes for protest. It will consider the extent to which local government structures in South Africa are responsive to the needs and views of communities. It will suggest that a key issue is the inequalities of democracy and political representation experienced in poor communities.

**10:00 – 10:45** **Discussion**

---

**10:45 – 11:15** Tea/Coffee break

---

<b>11:15 – 12:30</b>	Session 2
<b>11:15 – 11:45</b>	<b>Government’s response to community protests</b> <i>Mr Andries Nel, deputy minister, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs</i>
<b>11:45 – 12:30</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>12:30 – 13:15</b>	LUNCH
<b>13:15 - 14:30</b>	Session 3
<b>13:15- 13:45</b>	<b>SAPS response to community protests</b> <i>Major General Nonhlanhla Zulu and Brigadier ZM Mkhwanazi, South African Police Service (SAPS)</i>
	Brigadier ZM Mkhwanazi will focus on the national perspective on the South African Police Service’s response to community protests. As part of the presentation, he will elucidate and intellectualise concepts surrounding community protests and crowd management. He will further hint on the mandate and regulatory frameworks guiding SAPS in dealing with community protests and provide a broad overview of factors that contribute to community protests and how SAPS responds proactively and reactively to community protests. The presentation will conclude with lessons learnt over years dealing with community protests and make some recommendations on how to improve responses to community protests.
	Major General Zulu, the deputy provincial commissioner Operational Services in Limpopo, will present a case study on how SAPS has responded to the particular community protest. The case study will outline the dynamics of community protests and provide lessons learnt from the particular case study.
<b>13:45 – 14:30</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	Tea/Coffee break
<b>15:00 – 16:15</b>	Session 4
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Community response to protests</b> Mr Tebogo Mokgope, Tsakane community representative
	This paper will offer the perspective of a community activist and responds to questions and debates raised during the seminar. The paper will offer a perspective on violence in protests, the relation between protest and elections, who becomes involved in protest, and the role of political parties and the government in protest. The paper will also focus on the causes of protests, such as political willingness, corruption, public funding and inequality.
<b>15.30 – 16:15</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>16:15 – 16:30</b>	Closing comments and departure

## VENUES

This seminar may be attended via the HSRC video conferences in Pretoria, Cape Town , Port Elizabeth and KwaZulu-Natal. The speakers will be located in Pretoria. Details are as follows:

**Cape Town** : HSRC, 12th Floor, Plein Park Building (Opposite Revenue Office), Plein Street, Cape Town. Contact Jean Witten, Tel (021) 4668004, or JWitten@hsrc.ac.za or Carmen August, Tel (021) 4668099, e-mail: caugust@hsrc.ac.za

**Durban** : The Atrium, 5th Floor, 430 Peter Mokaba Ridge, Berea, 4001 , Contact Ridhwaan Khan, Tel (031) 242 5400, cell: 083 788 2786 or RKhan@hsrc.ac.za , or Hlengiwe Zulu at e-mail HZulu@hsrc.ac.za

**Pretoria** : HSRC Video Conference, 1st floor HSRC Library Human Sciences Research Council, 134 Pretorius Street, Pretoria. Arlene Grossberg, Tel: (012) 302 2811, e-mail: acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za

**Port Elizabeth**: Office 103, 1st floor, Fairview Office Park, Greenacres. Nomfanelo Plaatjie. Landline: 041 393 9500, Cell: 071 978 6222. , e-mail: nplaatjie@hsrc.ac.za

Maps with directions to the HSRC offices in Pretoria, Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal can be found at the following website - <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/contact>

Various platforms including Video links and the use of social media will provide opportunity for broader engagement.

You may also join via Vidyo on your computer or mobile device via the link:

<https://hsrc-vc.tenet.ac.za/flex.html?roomdirect.html&key=GGKGXlnInSbnn5Mspk7JfF1qu8>

Facebook ( for both days):

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1715244478741736/>

Website links:

30 June:

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/events/seminars/rebellion-of-the-poor>

- #CommunityProtests
- #CivilUnrest
- #ServiceDelivery
- #poverty
- #inequality
- #poor
- #protests
- #protestors
- #unrest
- #ClassinSoweto
- #PeterAlexander
- #Inequality
- #Sociology
- #Humanities
- #SocialSciences
- #NSI
- #identity

1 July

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/events/seminars/research-on-protests>

- #ArabSpring

- #DemocraticUprisings
- #Euromaidan
- #Crimea  
#RussianIntervention
- #AntiProtestLaws
- #GovernmentCorruption
- #HumanRights

The relevant Twitter handles:

***@dstgovza***

***@go2uj***

***@mediauj***

***@HSRCza***

***@Policyprocesses***

***@children\_pan***

## **REGISTRATION**

The registration desk for the workshop will be located in the foyer of the video conference rooms (see above).

Registration commences at 8:00 on 30 June 2016. On arrival, delegates and guests should register and collect their workshop bags from the registration desk. The registration desk will be open for general information enquiries throughout the workshop.

## **WORKSHOP DOCUMENTS**

On registering, delegates will be provided with supporting documentation at the workshop in their workshop packs, including the workshop programme, abstracts and biographies.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

All presenters must please see that their PowerPoint slides are loaded onto the computer systems in advance of their session. Mr Thabo Stamper (cell: 076 628 3579, E-mail: [TStamper@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:TStamper@hsrc.ac.za)), from the IT unit, will be assisting at the event.

Should you have any additional material you would like to make available to delegates, please bring along about 70 copies.

A printer will be available for a limited number of copies.

## **INTERNET ACCESS AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES**

Please note that it is not possible to provide a sufficient number of computers and work stations to cater for everyone expected to join us. We therefore recommend that you bring along your own laptop, and 3g for internet access.

## **THE WEATHER**

At the moment, the weather in Pretoria is cold and wet. You may expect average temperatures of 10°C to 23°C during your visit. For more accurate information, visit the South African Weather Bureau's website: <http://www.weathersa.co.za>.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

Please support the exhibitors in the foyer of the Amethyst, where HSRC Press books will be available to view.

## **PARKING**

Durban: Parking is available

Pretoria: Limited parking is available in the Pretoria offices on a first - come basis. Delegates may also park at the City Place Parkade around the corner from the HSRC in Sophie de Bruin (previously Schubart Street) (see attached map), and these delegates may receive vouchers at the seminar to cover their parking cost.

Cape Town: The HSRC is unfortunately not able to provide casual parking, however parking is available in the close proximity of the office.

## KEY CONTACTS DETAILS FOR YOUR VISIT

Events manager: <b>Ms Arlene Grossberg</b> , Tel 012 302 2811, Cell: 078 168 2996, E-mail: <a href="mailto:acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za">acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za</a> , <b>Ms Carolina Roscigno</b> , cell: 0825705312, E-mail <a href="mailto:croscigno@hsrc.ac.za">croscigno@hsrc.ac.za</a>
IT: <b>Mr Thabo Stamper</b> cell: 083 993 6657, E-mail: <a href="mailto:TStamper@hsrc.ac.za">TStamper@hsrc.ac.za</a>
Registration desk: <b>Ms Happy Solomon</b> 073 553 2930, E-mail: <a href="mailto:HSolomon@hsrc.ac.za">HSolomon@hsrc.ac.za</a> , Ms Zuzi Khuzwayo, E-mail: <a href="mailto:ZKhuzwayo@hsrc.ac.za">ZKhuzwayo@hsrc.ac.za</a> , Eugene Ravhuanzwo, e-mail: <a href="mailto:ERavhuanzwo@hsrc.ac.za">ERavhuanzwo@hsrc.ac.za</a>
Travel and accommodation: <b>Rahab Singwane</b> Travel Adventures International, Email: <a href="mailto:rahab@travadv.co.za">rahab@travadv.co.za</a> Cell: 082 593 4385, Tel: +27 (0) 12 460 7421 Our After Hours Number 082 419 6661 Docex 293, Pretoria

### Have we forgotten something?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need further information about your trip

We look forward to seeing you soon!

We hope that you have an enjoyable and successful workshop.

## **ADDENDUM A**

Maps with directions to the HSRC offices in Pretoria, Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal can be found at the following website - <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/contact>

### **Pretoria office**

#### **Street Address**

134 Pretorius Street

Pretoria

South Africa 0002

**Tel:** +27 (0)12 302 2000

The GPS co-ordinates for 134 Pretorius Street are:

S 25°44.881'

E 28°11.097'

### **Cape Town Office**

#### **Street Address**

14th floor

Plein Park Building

69-83 Plein Street

Cape Town

South Africa 8001

**Tel:** +27 (0)21 466 8000

### **Durban office**

#### **Street Address**

HSRC 5th floor

The Atrium

430 Peter Mokaba Ridge (\*Note: still 430 Ridge Road on Google Maps)

Berea, Durban

4001

**Tel:** +27 (0)31 242 5400

### **Port Elizabeth office**

#### **Street Address**

Office 103, 1st Floor

Fairview Office Park

Greenacres

**Tel:** +27 (0)41 399 8700

**Fax:** +27 (0)41 399 8711