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: 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.
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.
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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

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<td>Registration, Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
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<td>09:00 – 09:15</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>09:00 – 09:15</td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks</td>
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<td><em>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.</em></td>
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<td>09:15 – 10:45</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>09:15 – 10:00</td>
<td>South Africa’s Rebellion of the Poor: An Overview</td>
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<td><em>Dr Carin Runciman, University of Johannesburg</em></td>
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<td><em>Mr Trevor Ngwane, University of Johannesburg</em></td>
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<td><em>Ms Boitumelo Marupeng, University of Johannesburg</em></td>
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<td><em>Ms Boikanyo Moloto, University of Johannesburg</em></td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:45</td>
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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:

• #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
The relevant Twitter handles:

@dstgovza
@go2uj
@mediouj
@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), 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:** Ms Arlene Grossberg, Tel 012 302 2811, Cell: 078 168 2996, E-mail: acgrossberg@hsrc.ac.za,  
| **Ms Carolina Roscigno,** cell: 0825705312, E-mail croscigno@hsrc.ac.za |
| **IT:** Mr Thabo Stamper cell: 083 993 6657, E-mail: TStamper@hsrc.ac.za  
| **Registration desk:** Ms Happy Solomon 073 553 2930, E-mail: HSolomon@hsrc.ac.za, Ms Zuzi Khuzwayo, E-mail: ZKhuzwayo@hsrc.ac.za, Eugene Ravhuanzwo, e-mail: ERavhuanzwo@hsrc.ac.za |
| **Travel and accommodation:**  
| **Rahab Singwane**  
| Travel Adventures International, Email: rahab@travadv.co.za  
| 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