

## A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND

STIAS (The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study) is located on the historic Mostertsdrift farm in the heart of Stellenbosch. The idea for such an Institute was first conceived in 2000 – it was immediately positively received by the local and international research community. However, only in 2005 when a donation from the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg foundation enabled STIAS to build a modern research and seminar centre, the Institute really came into its own.

Sustainable architecture and beautiful, tranquil surroundings have now been fused to form a 'Creative Space For The Mind'. Here some of the foremost researchers and intellectual leaders are nurtured and encouraged to find innovative and sustainable solutions to issues facing the world, and in particular the country and the continent of Africa. To counter the loss of its best minds and promising young leaders, STIAS provides Africa the opportunity for high-level research and intellectual development in an international context. It is already attracting some of the world's leading scholars and researchers and is enjoying international growth and recognition.

### OBJECTIVES

The main objectives are to:

- Advance the cause of science and scholarship and invest in the intellectual future of the country
- Focus on Africa
- Provide an independent space where innovative ideas and original thinking can thrive

### DIFFERENTIATORS

- STIAS is the first institute of its kind in Africa and is modelled on successful examples of Institutes for Advanced Study elsewhere in the world. The institute facilitates cutting-edge research for achieving breakthroughs in many fields.
- It caters for all disciplines and encourages the cross-pollination of ideas.
- The setting enhances 'out-of-the-box' thinking and values diversity as a creative asset.
- South Africa is in itself a crucible of diverse backgrounds, cultures, research traditions and life experiences, which makes it one of the most interesting research environments.
- It focuses on real life problems and searches for sustainable solutions for the challenges of the country and the continent
- It believes in the potential of Africa as a leading contributor to the global research community and as a producer of new knowledge.

### STIAS, A CREATOR OF NEW KNOWLEDGE

In today's knowledge society it is crucial to be able to access the latest reliable, appropriate, future-orientated, groundbreaking knowledge and to be able to process the technologies and know-how that flows from this knowledge. At the same time it is critical to nurture a future generation of independent thinkers and leaders. Leaders are those who not only understand the realities of a changing world, but who also have the ability and skills to define and implement these new advances to the benefit of their communities.

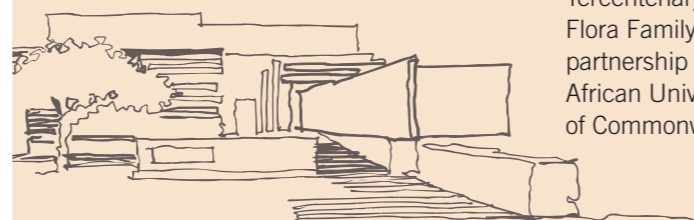
South Africa must therefore not only be a consumer of knowledge, but also a producer of new knowledge in order to fulfil its leadership role.

### GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERS

STIAS is a registered section 21 company with its own board of directors and enjoys strong partnerships with other research institutions, government and industry. It has the support of former President Nelson Mandela, the Office of the President, the Minister of Science and Technology, the Mandela Rhodes and Donald Gordon Foundations, several Nobel Laureates and a network of leading research institutions in both developed and developing countries.

### NETWORKS

STIAS forms part of a wide network of national and international research institutions. These include similar Institutes for Advanced Study like Princeton, Stanford, Uppsala, Berlin, Wassenaar, Essen and Budapest, as well as leading universities in South Africa, Africa, Asia, North America and Europe. It has close relationships with several Foundations, including the Mandela Foundation, the Wallenberg Foundation, the Donald Gordon Foundation, the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation and the Flora Family Foundation. It works in partnership with the Association of African Universities and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.



### SPONSORS

Sponsors supporting the Institute and its research programme include:

- Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation
- Stellenbosch University
- Bosal International
- The Donald Gordon Foundation
- Daimler Chrysler
- The Swedish Bank Tercentenary Foundation
- ABSA Bank
- The Flora Family Foundation
- Stanford University
- The Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut NordRhein-Westfalen
- The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study
- The Volkswagen Foundation
- The Heinrich Böll Foundation
- The National Research Foundation of South Africa
- The Department of Science and Technology of South Africa
- Het Jan Marais Nationale Fonds

### FUNDING CATEGORIES

- **Research Fellowships and Research Projects**  
The inclusive cost of a research fellowship (travel, accommodation, stipend, administration and overheads) is currently R250 000 per year
- **Trust Fund**  
The development of a trust fund of R60 million is planned over the next 5 years to ensure the financial independence of the Institute
- **Infrastructure and Facilities**  
The completion of Phase 3 of Mostertsdrift (residential units for Research Fellows) will require a further R30 million

### NAMING RIGHTS

Naming rights are available to donors.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

#### Merging the Layers of Life

Developing a (mathematical) model suitable for the integration of the different levels of biological research (sub-molecular, molecular, organisms, populations) in one framework.

*Project Leader:* Jannie Hofmeyr (Stellenbosch)

*Fellows:* Hans Westerhoff (Amsterdam) and Wayne Getz (Berkeley)

#### String Theory and Quantum Gravity

Exploring the latest developments in Theoretical Physics with special reference to the implications of string theory for quantum gravity.

*Project leader:* Hendrik Geyer

*Fellows:* Leonard Susskind (Stanford), James Gates (Maryland), Jan Govaerts (Brussels) and Robert De Mello Koch (Wits)

#### Dealing with the Past (Historical Memory)

Why do some individuals or societies transcend a divisive past and why do some remain prisoners of their own past? A study in the ambiguity of memory in the light of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa and similar attempts in different countries.

*Project Leaders:* Jörn Rüsen (Essen) and Mamadou Diawara (Bamako and Essen)

*Fellows:* *Justin Bisanswa* (Kinshasa and Quebec), Patrick Harries (Basel), Bogumil Jewsiewicki (Quebec), Elisio Macamo (Mozambique and Bayreuth) and Masayuki Sato (Kofu, Japan)

#### Social and Economic Justice

The South African Constitution contains extensive social and economic rights. The interpretation of these rights, most markedly by the Constitutional Court itself, thus far had to rely on a tradition of jurisprudence that is based on the theory and practice of individual human rights. The aim of the project is to develop a theoretical framework that will provide a basis for the equitable and consistent application of social and economic rights.

*Project leader:* Andre van der Walt

*Fellows:* Greg Alexander (Cornell), Aeyal Gross (Tel-Aviv), Istvan Pogany Warwick)

#### Good Governance and Poverty Relief

The project explores the hypothesis that the eradication of inequalities (especially the alleviation of poverty) in developing regions and especially in Africa is directly dependent on the practice of good governance – not only by governments, but also in the corporate and NGO sectors of society.

*Project leader:* Ulf Engel (Leipzig)

*Fellows:* Tim Shaw (London), Philip Nel (Otago), Alfred Nehema (Nairobi), Robert Kappel (Hamburg)

#### HIV Strain Dynamics

A growing concern in HIV research is the emergence of drug resistant strains of the virus. This could have far-reaching consequences for treatment strategies and the government's ARV plan. The dynamics between host and virus and the factors contributing to drug resistance are not adequately understood. The project will use analytical and numerical methods on appropriately crafted models to obtain new levels of understanding regarding

the host-viral dynamics. The project is a joint undertaking with SACEMA (see below the section on special programmes).

*Project leader:* Gareth Witten (UCT and AIMS)

*Fellows:* Ekkehard Kopp (Hull), Wayne Getz (Berkeley), David Bangsberg (San Francisco), Cathal Seoighe (UWC)

#### The Quality of Young Democracies

After the initial euphoria surrounding democratic transitions since the 1990's, what is the present state and future prospects of these young democracies? How deeply embedded is the democratic spirit and how strong the democratic ethos and culture? A comparative and empirical study of the current situation in Poland, Germany, South Korea, South Africa and Chile in the second phase of democratisation.

*Project leader:* Ursula van Beek

*Fellows:* Hans-Dieter Klingemann (Berlin), Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski (Warsaw), Dirk Bergschlosser (Marburg), Radek Markowski (Warsaw)

### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### Developing a Model for Electronic Dictionaries

The advent of the electronic area has opened new ways to conceptualise and to organise knowledge. Paradoxically, electronic dictionaries have not exploited these possibilities. They are merely electronic versions of printed dictionaries and generally of a mediocre quality. The project aims to develop a new theoretical model for electronic dictionaries. In the multilingual context of Africa, this will be of special relevance.

*Project leader:* Rufus Gouws (Stellenbosch)

*Fellows:* Herbert Wiegand (Heidelberg), Ulrich Heid (Stuttgart), Paul Mavoungou (Libreville), Afana Ostage (Libreville)

#### Ethics, Politics and the Law

A critical investigation of post-apartheid life under a transformed legal, political, and social order from the perspective of women. Taking the concrete lives of women in the new dispensation as point of departure, the tension between the 'public' face of the new legal order (human rights, constitutionalism) and the 'private' reality of individual lives is examined. The aim is to find alternative forms of subjectivity and agency – other than those produced by a liberalist private economy or that of autonomous individuals – regarding lives of women, which could resist new and old forms of hegemony.

*Fellow:* Karin van Marle (Pretoria)

#### A Critical Assessment of New Developments in Complexity Theory

Over the last two decades Complexity Theory has had a strong impact on the epistemological foundations of several disciplines, especially in the way in which it generates a trans-disciplinary discourse. This impact should now be critically assessed. In a first phase, the problem of difference and identity is analysed from the perspective of complexity, with particular focus on the ethical implications of acknowledging complexity. A second phase will investigate the implications of Complexity Theory for developing an integrated understanding of the notions of "justice" and "sustainability".

*Project leader:* Paul Cilliers (Stellenbosch)

*Fellow:* Harry Kunneman (Universiteit voor Humanistiek, Utrecht)

#### Ecoinformatics

The field of Ecoinformatics has emerged to encompass the interpretation of data relevant to ecological and broader environmental processes. It is aimed at facilitating environmental research and management by developing ways to access and integrate databases and develop new algorithms to test ecological hypotheses. Hence it encompasses not only the management and dissemination of information, but also ecological modelling and statistical assessment. The project will develop a structured approach with special relevance to African conditions.

*Project leader:* Wayne Getz (Berkeley)

*Fellows:* Norman Owen-Smith (Witwatersrand), John Oguto (Nairobi), David Saltz (Ben Gurion)

#### The Role of Knowledge Experts

The advent of the knowledge society has placed the spotlight on the role of experts as brokers of knowledge and, in particular, as gatekeepers who control the knowledge flow. This is a problem that concerns developed and developing countries alike. In developing countries the problem is exacerbated by the imbalances in the production and access to knowledge, increasing the possibility of a new form of 'knowledge colonialisation' and dependency.

*Project leader:* Peter Weingart (ZfF, Bielefeld)

#### Genres of Critique

This project seeks to open and explore a liminal space for critique between aesthetics and politics and will elaborate and expand the meaning and significance of critique for political and legal discourse. The focus and immediate grounding will be concerned with African and South African implications. Drawing on multiple aesthetic forms, especially literature, the development of a genre of critique will be pursued that supersedes realism and linguistic indeterminacy in existing genres of critique.

*Project leader:* Karin van Marle (Pretoria)

*Fellows:* Stewart Motha (Kent), Njabulo Ndebele (UCT)

#### Urban Music and Identities

Cape Town has a rich and most diverse musical heritage, shaped by all kinds of cosmopolitan influences. From the perspective of the sociology of music, the project examines the expression of identities and the organization of social networks in a cosmopolitan urban setting. Apart from the importance for the transformation of the Western Cape, a hot spot of differing identities, the aim is also to develop a methodology to better understand the complexity and dynamics of processes of social aggregation and identification.

*Fellow:* Denis-Constant Martin (CERI, Paris)

#### Bilingual Education

A socio-linguistic investigation into the challenges and possibilities of bilingual education for children, communities and wider society. The focus will be on the role which the linguistic and literary practices of students and teachers in these situations play in the formation of linguistic and cultural identities. By comparing the use of English and Spanish in New York City with the situation of bilingual education in South Africa, the aim is to contribute to the formation of educational policy for ethno-linguistic minorities in ethnically and culturally diverse contexts.

*Fellow:* Ofelia Garcia (CUNY, New York)

#### A Socio-Historical Perspective on Organized Crime

The project investigates organized crime around the Atlantic seaboard from an unusual perspective – by tracing the migration of Russo-Polish criminals to North and South America and to South Africa between 1881 (after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II) and 1914. Using originally developed techniques of social history, the aim of the study is to gain new insights into the origin or organized crime, its trans-national and trans-continental expansion and the social dynamics driving these processes.

*Fellow:* Charles van Onselen (Pretoria)

#### Emerging Legal Geographics of Cultural Rights

The project focuses on developing an interdisciplinary theoretical framework to explain the growing proliferation of cultural rights claims under conditions of neoliberalism. Cultural rights in international law include intellectual property rights, rights of minorities including indigenous peoples to maintain and to develop their cultural heritage, rights to participate in cultural life and rights to international cultural cooperation.

*Project leader:* Rosemary Coombe (York)

#### Faith and Fabric

Conventional secularization theory holds that as societies become more secular, the need for religion will diminish and even disappear. This view is seriously challenged by the resurgence of religion in 'post-secular' societies like Europe and North America (Graf: *The Return of the Gods*, Joas: *Do We need Religion?*, Taylor: *A Secular Age*). The present project builds on work done at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin and will examine the role of religion in different 'civilizations sites' with special emphasis on Africa. It will focus on a number of fundamental and theoretical questions. *Fundamental* questions include issues like: How are the values generated that human beings live by and that constitute the fabric of societies? What is the role of faith in this process, of particular forms of faith in specific social contexts? *Theoretical* questions would include issues like: What is the role of faith(s) for example in the formation of notions and practices of human dignity, justice, reconciliation, peace and tolerance? What is the role of faith(s) in notions and practices leading to conflict and exclusion?

*Project leader:* Dirk Smit Stellenbosch)

*Fellows:* Hans Joas (Erfurt and Chicago), Samuel Kobia (Geneve), Wolfgang Huber (Berlin), and Nicholas Wolterstorff (Yale).

### TOPICS UNDER CONSIDERATION

#### A Recent History of Humankind

A project that seeks to integrate archaeological, biological and physical data to enable a comprehensive understanding of human development.

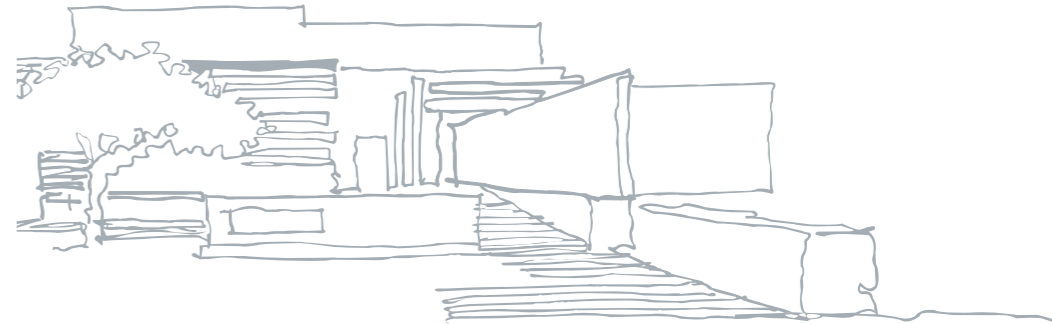
*Project Leader:* Sydney Brenner (Cambridge)

#### A New Liberal Curriculum

Given the increasing integration of knowledge from the most diverse disciplines, can we develop a new liberal curriculum that would be the required reading for the next generation of researchers at the forefront of knowledge production?

*Project Leader:* Sydney Brenner (Cambridge)

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# stias

STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING