

ENGAGING CHALLENGES
ACROSS DISCIPLINES
NURTURING TOMORROW'S
THINKERS



A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND

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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

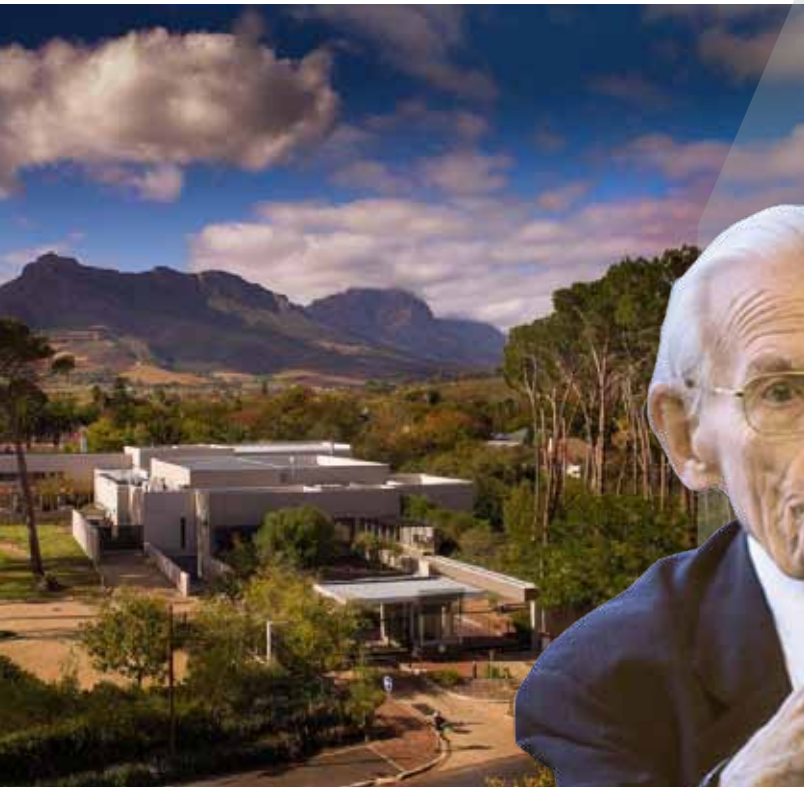
ENGAGING CHALLENGES ACROSS DISCIPLINES NURTURING TOMORROW'S THINKERS



STIAS invests in experts who work across disciplinary borders to tackle issues ranging from health equity to complexity theory, the effects of race to quantum information. In this age of tumultuous change, the development of a long-term view and a critical mass of expertise on such issues is crucial to the wellbeing of future generations.

The institute was established in 1999 to provide a 'creative space for the mind' in a fellowship programme that would advance cross-disciplinary research at the highest level. Modelled on similar institutes internationally, STIAS is the first of its kind in Africa. Here, leading researchers and intellectuals from across the world are supported to think innovatively and pursue sustainable strategies to the challenges facing the world, with a particular focus on Africa.

Offering a variety of fellowships and scholarships, STIAS provides a uniquely supportive space for thinking, reading, debating, and writing. While in residence, established and early-career researchers and artists meet daily over lunch, present and participate in weekly seminars, and may organise conferences for a wider audience. In creating and curating this space, STIAS provides ideal conditions for innovative and original thinking to thrive.



For us all to be part of tomorrow's discoveries and breakthroughs, we must invest today in the development of our brightest minds.

– Peter Wallenberg, Swedish industrialist and greatest benefactor of STIAS

ACHIEVEMENTS

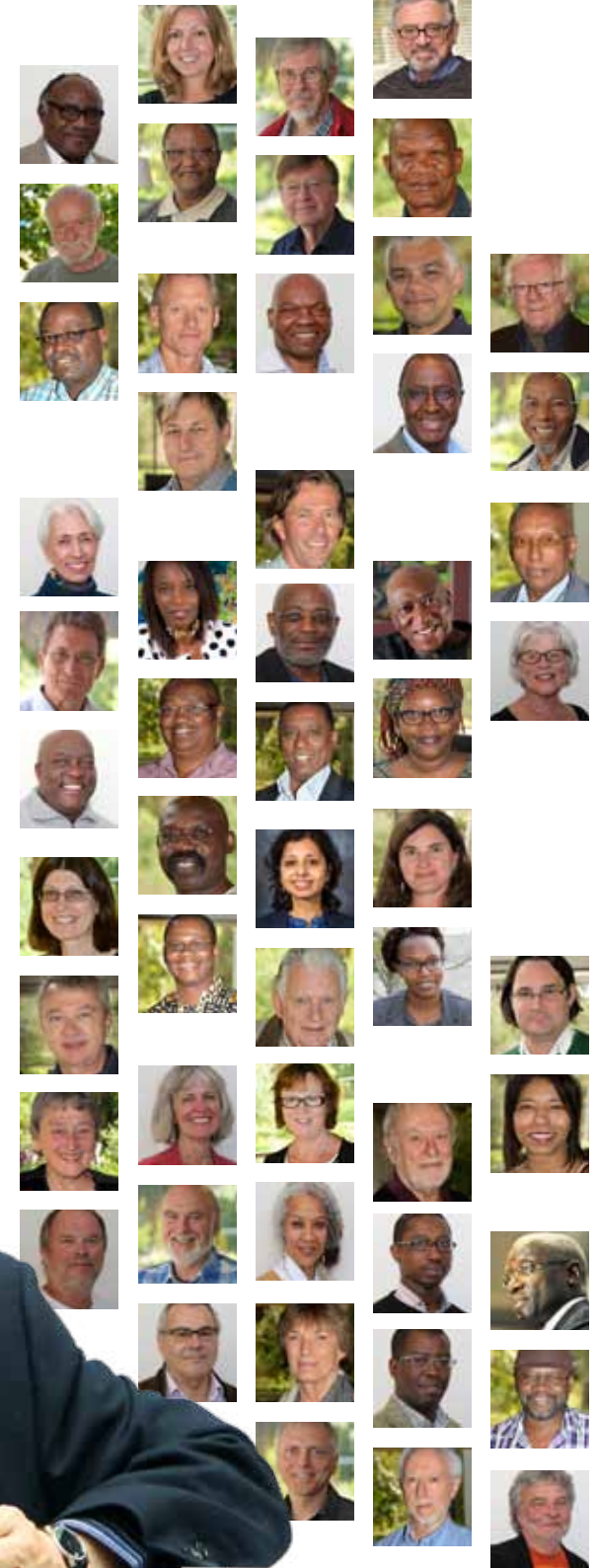
Since its inception, STIAS has grown steadily, winning local, regional and international recognition as an influential hub dedicated to Africa's long-term development. By attracting leading thinkers, including Nobel laureates, prominent international and local scholars, as well as representatives of the next generation of researchers, the institute has fostered a successful research programme involving numerous larger projects and, by 2017, had hosted over 600 research fellows.

As the STIAS programme has expanded, expenditure has grown from R18 million in 2012 to the current annual budget of R22 million. The programme has stabilised at approximately 75 fellows per year with average residency periods of two-and-a-half months, ranging between one and ten months.

In developing the research programme, the STIAS director is assisted by an academic advisory board, a fellowship programme committee and an international panel of experts, including former fellows. Throughout, STIAS has proven worthy of the support of industry, state institutions and non-governmental organisations, as well as local and international donors.

The institute is global in its reach and local in its roots, and this unique combination makes it one of the most interesting places of high scholarship in the world.

– Manuel Castells, STIAS Permanent Visiting Fellow




CORE RESEARCH THEMES

In 2013, STIAS launched several longer-term research projects on selected themes.

- Being human today
- Crossing borders
- The future of democracy
- Understanding complexity
- Sustainable agro-ecosystems
- Health in transition

These projects are team-driven, and conducted by STIAS fellows during and between consecutive periods of residence (on an annual or biennial basis over three to five years). During this period, they convene workshops or conferences at STIAS, direct and conduct research in support of the project goals, and nominate other scholars to join the core group from time to time. The long-term projects have led to international colloquia, roundtable meetings, policy briefs and a growing collection of seminal publications, including volumes in the STIAS Series.

As new long-term projects become established, STIAS may add to the list of themes. Two recently added long-term projects are *University and society: disruptions, discourse and new directions*; and *Participatory realism* based on foundational aspects of quantum physics.



The STIAS *Iso Lomso* programme is a gift from one generation to the next. It was wonderful to witness and participate in intergenerational discussions with the newest cohort of *Iso Lomso's* new generation of African thinkers this year. The sense of being in a well-founded African institution of advanced study was palpable. Even more the certainty that this cohort, as those after it, will equally give of themselves to those that follow them.

– Njabulo S Ndebele, STIAS Permanent Visiting Fellow

FELLOWSHIPS

Admittance to the STIAS programme is either by invitation or by application and no restrictions are placed on country of origin, discipline, or academic affiliation when a fellowship invitation or application is considered. A range of fellowships is awarded.

STIAS fellows

Eminent scholars and prominent young researchers are supported to work on either self-generated projects or within the portfolio of long-term, theme-driven research. Applications and invited proposals, together with review reports are considered by the STIAS Fellowship and Programme Committee against a set of published criteria. Subsequently, the overall composition of the semester and annual STIAS programmes is taken into consideration by the Director and STIAS' Academic Advisory Board.

Leading scholars such as Manuel Castells, J. M. Coetzee, Carol Gilligan, Nancy Fraser, Leonard Susskind, Njabulo Ndebele, Nina Jablonski, Ian Hacking, Belinda Bozzoli, Brian Warner, Berhanu Abegaz, Sydney Brenner, Hans Hertz, Harald zur Hausen, Peter Gärdenfors, Sandile Ngcobo, and Bo Stråth count among STIAS's prominent fellows.

Iso Lomso fellows

Responding to the urgent need to expand the cohort of skilled young researchers who are both committed to Africa and at the forefront of international networks, STIAS established the *Iso Lomso* (isiXhosa for 'eye of tomorrow') programme. Candidates selected on the basis of an annual call are offered extended fellowships at STIAS and other forms of early-career support to pursue a long-term research project. STIAS also facilitates their enrolment at other institutes for advanced study or relevant institutions over a three-year period.

While in residence, *Iso Lomso* fellows engage in their own research and benefit from the informal guidance and networking that are integral to working alongside leading researchers from around the world.

Artists-in-residence and public figures

To facilitate the heterogeneity STIAS strives for, its programme specifically includes artists-in-residence and short-term fellows drawn from the sphere of public commentary and opinion making. Well-known writers who have spent time at STIAS include Athol Fugard, Zoë Wicomb, Zakes Mda, Antjie Krog, Mandla Langa, Fred Khumalo, Yvonne Owuor and Ivan Vladislavich. Public figures include Arthur Chaskalson, Tito Mboweni, Aubrey Matshiqi, Xolela Mangcu, John Matisonn, Ryland Fisher and Lindiwe Mazibuko.

Permanent visiting fellows

A select group of distinguished academics have been invited to become permanent visiting fellows at STIAS. This means they have an open invitation to work at STIAS whenever they can. As of 2017, the group includes luminaries such as Manuel Castells, Nina Jablonski, Sydney Brenner, Abdallah Daar and Njabulo Ndebele.

SCHOLARSHIPS

STIAS manages a Wallenberg-funded programme which provides scholarships for full-time African PhD students at Stellenbosch University. Scholarship holders are invited to STIAS events throughout their studies, and give an annual presentation of their own research. In 2014, nine scholarships were awarded, ten in 2015 and eleven in 2016. Nine candidates from the first two cohorts graduated in 2016. Funding for this highly successful programme will ensure that further candidates can be supported.

PART OF A WORLDWIDE NETWORK

While STIAS is global in its reach, it has a special focus on Africa. Fellowships and workshop activities directly support and extend the scope of several research programmes at a number of South African universities. STIAS maintains a close partnership with leading academic institutions in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa, including the African Academy of Sciences (Nairobi) and the Network Point Sud (Frankfurt/Bamako).

Beyond Africa, STIAS interacts with a strong network of national and international research institutions that include the institutes for advanced study at Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, Uppsala, Berlin, North Carolina, Nantes, and Jerusalem, as well as the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies in Vancouver.

IMPACT

Time spent at STIAS has an impact in ever-expanding ways through books and journal articles, conference proceedings, the sharing of results and outputs from roundtables, and public presentations. Importantly, the ethics of sharing and interaction as well as new knowledge networks permeate back into fellows' own institutions, thus enhancing the abilities and skills of younger researchers.



LOOKING AHEAD

STIAS has the infrastructure and staffing capacity to accommodate 20 fellows at a given time, which allows it to invite approximately 40 fellows per semester. A fellowship covers the costs of travel, accommodation, stipends, administration and overheads. The institute is seeking to establish a trust fund to ensure its ongoing financial independence. The interest from this fund will secure a base from which to maintain and build on its superb track record as well as expand its work in new and innovative ways.

Situated on the beautiful and historic Mostertsdrift site in Stellenbosch – a location and context that inspires critical reflection – STIAS cherishes, in the words of Dr Peter Wallenberg, 'the cross-pollination of ideas' across cultures and science traditions. The vision of STIAS is to put this beautiful place to work, not in the sense of ownership but in the sense of stewardship, to be held in trust for others, for science in general, and for society at large.





FUNDING

Since its founding, the institute's major funders have included: the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation and the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation which together have invested more than R100 million in the STIAS project, Stellenbosch University, Bosal International, Daimler Chrysler, the Donald Gordon Foundation, the Swedish Bank Tercentenary Foundation, the Trellis Charitable Trust, the Flora Family Foundation, the Het Jan Marais Nationale Fonds, ABSA Bank, the Volkswagen Foundation, and South Africa's national Department of Science and Technology. The *Iso Lomso* programme was inspired by the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study's Pro Futura Scientia programme, and is currently funded through a grant from the Swedish Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

As a 'creative space for the mind' STIAS is well-positioned to address complex contemporary issues, and to cross the boundaries within and between disciplines, academia, government and society. To support STIAS is to both affirm and contribute towards realising this vision, not only in South Africa, but across Africa and beyond.



STIAS allows for the bridging of seemingly disparate disciplines and academic boundaries, bringing 'artistic' and 'scientific' thought as well as South African and international scholars into conversation. This interdisciplinary approach provides a space for critical thinking on global challenges. We are proud to have STIAS play this role within the Stellenbosch and South African academic space.

– Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University

GOVERNANCE

From 1999 to 2007, the institute functioned as part of Stellenbosch University, reporting to the vice-rector for research. In 2007, a not-for-profit (Section 21) company was established to which the functions and responsibilities of the institute were transferred. STIAS is governed by its own board of directors, among whom are former rectors and vice-chancellors of several universities, distinguished policymakers and heads of some of STIAS's major funders. For a full list of members of the board of directors, the advisory committee, and STIAS personnel, see stias.ac.za/about-us/governance/. STIAS is a registered Public Benefit Organisation with the South African Revenue Services (SARS) which qualifies donations for tax exemption.

CONTACT DETAILS

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