

NEWSLETTER OF  
THE STELLENBOSCH  
INSTITUTE FOR  
ADVANCED STUDY

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12 STIAS (The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study) is situated on the historic Mostertsdrift farm in the heart of Stellenbosch. It is a place where top 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, it provides the opportunity for high-level research and intellectual development in an international context. STIAS attracts some of the world's leading scholars and researchers and enjoys international growth and recognition.

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# From the STIAS Director

An expanding family demands (and deserves!) more resources and active communication channels to keep abreast of developments, mutual interests and challenges, as well as achievements. The ever growing STIAS family – now counting close to 700 fellows and many friends – is, of course, no exception.

Starting from modest beginnings with a rudimentary website and a first annual report in 2011, we have seen the annual report doubling in size (see [www.stias.ac.za/annual-reports](http://www.stias.ac.za/annual-reports)), while current events and activities at STIAS are now covered through an active stream of Tweets @STIAS\_SA and a steady stream of news items at [stias.ac.za/news](http://stias.ac.za/news), many of which are expertly written summaries by our media officer, Michelle Galloway, of the weekly fellows' seminars.

All of this was designed to keep the STIAS family and others informed about our vibrant programme, but we realised that a regular semester newsletter would fill a gap, as also pointed out in many of our fellows' exit reports.

In these pages you can read what has been happening (at pace!) at STIAS over the last few months: details about the 2017 public lectures, culminating in Nobel

laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz's lecture in November; the inspiring dimension added to the STIAS programme by our Iso Lomso fellows, with the first cohort in residence in 2017, some of them already returning in 2018, and the selection of the next cohort being finalised as I write here. You can read about STIAS publications (in more detail than we can cover in our annual reports), about STIAS fellows who had been in residence in past years, and much more.

STIAS has a good story to tell, and our newsletter is intended to spread that message – we know that STIAS fellows and friends will help us getting it across!

My thanks to Michelle Galloway, Christoff Pauw and Jenny Frost for their superb editorial work to produce this first STIAS newsletter.

From waterwise Stellenbosch, with warm regards and looking forward to hear from you!

**Hendrik Geyer**  
*Director*



# NEWS ROUNDUP

## STIAS-WALLENBERG ROUNDTABLE ON MHEALTH

### Identifying and prioritising strategies for image-based mHealth

mHealth technologies have transformed the world of medicine and the delivery of healthcare. Research and development in image-based diagnostics in particular can pave the way to making healthcare more accessible and equitable. However, there is still a substantial gap between pilot studies and large-scale implementation.

For the past five years the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation has supported an annual Roundtable at STIAS where representatives from South Africa, Sweden and the international community engage in dialogue around a theme, typically related to current global challenges. The fifth STIAS-Wallenberg Roundtable held in February 2017 focused on image-based mobile technologies to improve access and equity in healthcare. The event attracted 50 participants from 16 countries (including African participants from South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Mali) and provided an opportunity for cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary discussions. The emphasis was on finding solutions and mapping the future. The Roundtable brought together representatives from the clinical, research, policy and business sectors. The researchers and clinicians represented a range of

*Sara Aulin, the Economic Counsellor for the Swedish Embassy was one of the Roundtable speakers.*

disciplines including medicine, nursing, engineering, public health, psychology and economics.

Sessions ranged from overviews of the mHealth landscape; unpacking the practical experiences of using mHealth in clinical settings; how to overcome challenges in implementation; barriers and facilitators; and, the need for leadership and stakeholder collaboration.

The absence of national strategies to develop and implement image-based support for healthcare is a major obstacle and the Roundtable focused on doing the groundwork for the development of such a roadmap.

The event was divided into thematic sessions which addressed the following questions: How should the most important barriers to the implementation of image-based mHealth in the clinical setting be overcome; how can frontline healthcare workers be enabled to adopt image-based mHealth in their practice; which are the key strategies to overcome organisational challenges to the implementation of image-based mHealth; and, which are the key strategies to overcome technical challenges in implementing image-based mHealth?

Following presentations, participants held group discussions in which strategies were defined and elaborated. In the final session participants prioritised the strategies by voting.

mHealth will become an increasingly inevitable part of healthcare for diagnosis, referral and treatment therefore it makes sense for policymakers to plan and engage proactively to ensure that it is implemented in the most equitable and cost-effective way to reduce the healthcare divide to improve health for all.

The Roundtable organisers and participants contributed to a special issue of the journal *Global Health Action* which can be found at: [www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/10/sup3?nav=toCList](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/zgha20/10/sup3?nav=toCList)

This issue is dedicated to image-based mHealth as a tool for diagnostic support and treatment advice. The first four articles address how far mHealth solutions can take us, taking into consideration technical, organisational and user conditions. Two articles then present clinical perspectives on the implementation and use of mHealth considering regulatory, technological, and user perspectives, as well as patient issues and shared decision making. Two subsequent articles describe ongoing interventions where mHealth applications have been used for diagnostic support for acute burn injuries and malaria. The ninth article outlines the process of development of a roadmap for the implementation of mHealth solutions for diagnostic assistance at the point of care and also what the main components of a roadmap should be. The final article explains how digitalisation changes society as a whole and introduces radical new ways of doing things and addressing issues, not least in the field of human computer interaction. **α**





## STIAS LECTURE SERIES 2017

### **Joseph E. Stiglitz – The revolution of information economics: the past and the future, 14 November 2017**

(See [www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/11/need-for-new-regulation-in-the-information-economy-stias-lecture-by-joseph-stiglitz/](http://www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/11/need-for-new-regulation-in-the-information-economy-stias-lecture-by-joseph-stiglitz/))

The economics of information has constituted a revolution in economics, providing explanations of previously unexplained phenomena and upsetting longstanding presumptions, including that of market efficiency, with profound implications for economic policy. Information failures are associated with numerous other market failures, including incomplete risk markets, imperfect capital markets, and imperfections in competition, enhancing opportunities for rent seeking and exploitation. This seminar outlined a half century of research, including recent advances in understanding the implications of imperfect information for financial market regulation, macro-stability, inequality, and public and corporate governance; and in recognising the endogeneity of information imperfections. It explored the consequences of recent advances in technology and the policy challenges and opportunities they present for competition policy and policies regarding privacy and transparency.

Information economics has played a role in stimulating other advances in economics, including contract theory and behavioural economics. Prof. Stiglitz argued that the

new paradigm provides a markedly different, and better, lens for looking at the economy than the older perfect markets competitive paradigm.

Joseph E. Stiglitz is an American economist and a professor at Columbia University. A recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (2001) and the John Bates Clark Medal (1979), he is a former senior vice president and chief economist of the World Bank and a former member and chairman of the (US president's) Council of Economic Advisers. Based on academic citations, Stiglitz is the 4<sup>th</sup> most influential economist in the world today, and in 2011 he was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

### **Carlos Ibanez – Dementia: Clinical overview and preclinical research, 17 October 2017**

(See [www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/10/more-work-needed-on-dementia-in-africa-public-lecture-by-carlos-ibanez/](http://www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/10/more-work-needed-on-dementia-in-africa-public-lecture-by-carlos-ibanez/))

Prosperous populations live longer and old age carries a high risk of dementia, a condition that is so far neither preventable nor curable. The incidence of Alzheimer's Disease (AD), the most common form of dementia, is increasing globally. AD is widely thought to be driven by amyloid pathology, in which peptides of amyloid- $\beta$  are generated in the brain and clump together into plaques. Another form of dementia with similar symptoms, generally known as vascular dementia, is driven by vascular pathology and is one of the most common

*Above: STIAS fellow Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz of Columbia University during his STIAS public lecture on 14 November 2017*

causes of dementia after AD. The relationship between AD and vascular dementia is complex, and there is likely a continuum, with most cases displaying some features of both conditions.

Several studies performed in Asian populations have found a high prevalence of cerebrovascular disease in cognitive impaired and AD patients. These and other results suggest that the prevalence of different types of dementias may be region-specific and thus different in different populations. Few studies to determine the prevalence of dementia have been conducted in sub-Saharan Africa. A systematic review of studies reporting the prevalence of dementia and cognitive impairment among older black Africans in sub-Saharan Africa countries was conducted in 2013 and found that prevalence varied widely between countries. The predominant factors associated with a higher prevalence of dementia were older age and female sex, and similar associations have been reported globally.

This lecture presented an overview of dementia incidence in the world and in South Africa, and reviewed current knowledge of the different types of dementia and underlying causes. It also presented some of the ongoing preclinical research work done at Ibanez's laboratory using animal models of AD, and how several AD manifestations can be alleviated in these models by manipulation of other genetic factors.

Carlos Ibanez studied biology at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. His PhD work was conducted at the Leloir Institute and he completed postdoctoral studies at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. In 1996, he became Professor in Neuroscience at the same institute. Since 2012, he has had a double appointment as Professor at the Department of Physiology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. Ibanez is member of the Nobel Assembly and Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine at the Karolinska Institute, member of the European Molecular Biology Organization EMBO, and a Scholar of the Wallenberg Foundation of Sweden.

## Gabeba Baderoon – Axis and Revolution – a poetry reading, 12 September 2017

(See [www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/09/when-words-do-something-you-cannot-forget-public-lecture-by-gabeba-baderoon/](http://www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/09/when-words-do-something-you-cannot-forget-public-lecture-by-gabeba-baderoon/))

Baderoon shared work she has been writing since 2006 and, in particular, the poems that have come from her six months at STIAS. These will form part of her fourth collection, *Axis and Revolution*.

Gabeba Baderoon is a poet and scholar and the author of the poetry collections, *The Dream in the Next Body*, *The Museum of Ordinary Life* and *A Hundred Silences*, and the monograph *Regarding Muslims: From slavery*





to post-apartheid. She received the Daimler Award for South African Poetry and the *City Paper* poetry prize, and has held writing fellowships from the Nordic Africa Institute, Civitella Ranieri and the University of the Witwatersrand.

She has been a featured poet at literary festivals all over the world, including Poetry International in Rotterdam and London, the Princeton Poetry Festival and International Poetry Nights in Hong Kong. Her short story, *The Year of Sleeping Badly*, was selected as one of the 'Best Short Stories of South Africa's Democracy' in 2014. Baderoon is also an editor and translator, and a member of the editorial board of the African Poetry Book Fund which, since 2013, has published collections of poetry by African writers. She co-directs the African Feminist Initiative at Pennsylvania State University, where she is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and African Studies. She is an Extraordinary Professor of English at Stellenbosch University and a fellow at STIAS.



### **Tolullah Oni – Reconceptualising health in cities: challenges and opportunities, 8 August 2017**

(See [www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/08/reconceptualising-health-in-cities-less-disease-care-more-healthcare-public-lecture-by-tolu-oni/](http://www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/08/reconceptualising-health-in-cities-less-disease-care-more-healthcare-public-lecture-by-tolu-oni/))

How are population patterns changing in South Africa? What role do our different environments play in contributing to our health? Are cities making us sick? Whose job is it to promote health and prevent disease? Who are the modern-day health professionals?

As countries urbanise, we are seeing a changing pattern of disease from predominantly acute and infectious to chronic and non-infectious. Urban exposures driving these disease trends in rapidly growing cities in Africa and other low and middle-income settings include a compromised food system, inadequate human settlements (including housing, access to safe transport, sport and recreation facilities), unsafe services (power, water, waste, sanitation), air and noise pollution, and degraded work environments.

In this lecture, Oni covered the changing pattern of disease in South Africa, and what is driving these changes, citing the role that some of these urban exposures play. She also argued for the need for stronger intersectoral policies and highlighted the opportunities to re-think the concept of health, and how to equitably promote and protect our collective health in the context of urbanisation.

Tolullah Oni is an Associate Professor and Public Health Physician Specialist/Epidemiologist at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town. She leads the Research Initiative for Cities Health and Equity (RICHE), and her research focuses on understanding health transition, and the epidemiology of

*Left: STIAS fellow Gabea Baderoon during her public lecture and poetry reading on 12 September 2017*

*Below left: STIAS fellow Carlos Ibanez during his public lecture on 17 October 2017*

*Above: STIAS fellow Tolullah Oni presented her public lecture on 8 August 2017*



STIAS fellow Ian Goldin presented his public lecture on 19 April 2017

the interaction between common chronic conditions and the unplanned urban environment; providing evidence to support implementation of healthy public policies, and translation of research findings into policy and practice through collaboration with researchers and practitioners across disciplines and sectors.

She has received several awards including the South African National Science and Technology Forum Emerging Researcher award, and the Carnegie Corporation Next Generation of African Academics award. She is a Next Einstein Forum Fellow, a fellow of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Health and Healthcare, and co-Chair of the Global Young Academy. She serves on several steering committees including the International Council of Science Programme on Urban Health and Wellbeing; and the Academy of Science of South Africa Standing Committee on Science for the Reduction of Poverty. She is an Editorial Board member of several international journals. She also works to promote science and research as key drivers of development in Africa through a co-ordinated approach between science, policy and society role players, to identify creative strategies to address complex population health and broader societal challenges.

### **Ian Goldin – Renaissance 2.0: The Disruptive Changes Shaping Our World, 19 April 2017**

(See [www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/05/leadership-needed-for-a-connected-but-protected-world-stias-public-lecture-by-ian-goldin/](http://www.stias.ac.za/news/2017/05/leadership-needed-for-a-connected-but-protected-world-stias-public-lecture-by-ian-goldin/))

The extraordinary growth of the past 30 years is due to unprecedented globalisation and accelerating technological change. Connectivity has been associated

with rising creativity and accelerating change. The speed, scale and complexity of this integration has far-reaching implications for economies and for individuals and societies.

Goldin's lecture identified the drivers of global growth, showing why emerging markets are likely to continue to grow at high levels for the coming decades. Rising life expectancy and collapsing fertility around the world has dramatic consequences for pensions, retirement, dependency and employment patterns. Meanwhile, advances in artificial intelligence and robotics are transforming the nature of work with the potential to replace significant numbers of jobs and widen inequality.

Globalisation spreads not only opportunities but also creates a new form of emergent systemic risks – including pandemics, cyber-attacks, climate change and financial contagion all leading to increasing uncertainty. This is associated with growing extremism and threatens to reverse integration and globalisation. Goldin presented the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of globalisation. Drawing on lessons from the Renaissance, he identified our period as a new Age of Discovery and highlighted both the opportunities and the risks associated with these Renaissance periods of tumultuous change.

Goldin's talk drew on his latest books *Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of our New Renaissance* published by Bloomsbury and *The Pursuit of Development: Economic Growth, Social Change and Ideas* published by Oxford University Press.

Ian Goldin is the Oxford University Professor of Globalisation and Development, and the founding Director of the Oxford Martin School, the world's leading centre for interdisciplinary research into critical global challenges. He is the Director of the School's Programme on Technological and Economic Change and a Professorial Fellow at Oxford University's Balliol College. He was previously World Bank Vice President and the Group's Director of Development Policy, after serving as Chief Executive of the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Economic Advisor to President Nelson Mandela. He has also served as Principal Economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Director of the Trade, Agriculture and Environment Programmes at the OECD Development Centre.

Ian has a BA (Hons) and a BSc from the University of Cape Town, an MSc from the London School of Economics, an AMP from INSEAD and an MA and Doctorate from the University of Oxford. He has been knighted by the French Government and nominated Global Leader of Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum. He is the Chair of the CORE global initiative to reform economics and a trustee of Comic Relief and other charities. He has published 20 books.

## Onur Güntürkün – The Parallel Evolution of Cognition in Birds and Mammals, 22 March 2017

Prof. Güntürkün's lecture addressed the following question: Is it possible that the ability for higher cognition arose several times in parallel during evolution? This could imply that some very different animals also developed brain mechanisms that can generate highly intelligent behaviour.

Until recently, scientists thought that the emergence of the neocortex (the outer layer of the brain in humans and other mammals) was a prerequisite for complex cognition. Birds and all other non-mammalian beasts own nothing that resembles the neocortex. Thus, according to the classic view of neuroscience, mammals should be the only group of animals that have complex cognitive abilities. However, studies of the last two decades have revealed that especially corvids and parrots are cognitively on par with apes. In fact, there is not a single cognitive ability demonstrated in chimps (brain weight 400g) that is not also demonstrated in corvids (brain weight 12g). So, the neocortex does not seem to generate a computational advantage that surpasses the capacity of the non-cortical avian forebrain. The reverse seems to be true: birds churn out more brain power with far less brains. Since the evolution of birds and mammals parted ca. 300 million years ago, it is likely that birds have taken a different neural route to generate complex cognition. The way birds solve cognitive problems is virtually identical to the way mammals do. Thus, birds and mammals convergently developed two very differently organised forebrains that nevertheless generate virtually identical cognitive abilities. Prof. Güntürkün's talk was about these discoveries but also presented preliminary experimental results that could give an answer to the burning question of how birds achieve this.

Onur Güntürkün is a Turkish-born Professor for Biopsychology at the Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany. He is kept awake with questions like: "why do humans and other animals have asymmetrically organised brains?", "can different kinds of brains produce the same cognition?" and "what is the neural substrate of our thoughts?". He spent years of his life in different universities in Germany, France, the USA, Australia, Turkey, and Belgium. Güntürkün is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences, holds two honorary doctorates, and has received numerous national and international scientific awards, among them both the highest German and Turkish science awards.

## Richard Price – The Psychology of Colonial Violence, 22 February 2017

Empires are violent places. Until recently, historians talked about colonial violence mainly in terms of wars and insurrections. Yet violence was embedded in the experience of empire at less dramatic and more everyday levels. This lecture examined colonial violence directed against

indigenous peoples by settlers. It sought to address the emotions that underlay settler-driven violence in the early nineteenth-century British empire of the southern seas. What were the subjectivities of this violence, its behavioural and psychological drives and dynamic? But in addition, it is important to ask: how were such events explained within the liberal political culture that characterised British society in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and what can this suggest about how liberal societies make sense of the violence of imperial expansion?

Richard Price is a Professor in the Department of History at the University of Maryland. He received his D.Phil from the University of Sussex in 1968 and has spent his academic career in the United States, first at Northern Illinois University and then, since 1982, at the University of Maryland. Beginning with his first book, *An Imperial War and the British Working Class 1899-1902: Working Class Attitudes to Imperialism* in 1972, he has published four subsequent books on the social history of Britain from the eighteenth century, with a particular focus on the history of the working class, the labour movement and industrial relations. More recently he has turned his attention to the history of the British Empire and published *Making Empire: Colonial Encounters and the Creation of Imperial Rule in Nineteenth-Century Africa* which was awarded the prize for the best book in post-1750 British History by the North American Conference on British Studies. This book told the story of the early encounters between the British and the Xhosa in the Eastern Cape. Currently he is writing a book about the effort to create an empire of racial reconciliation in the early nineteenth century titled, *Liberalism and Empire: histories and legacies*.

Richard Price has co-edited two books; is the author of many scholarly articles and is frequently invited to deliver papers at academic conferences all over the world. He has served on the editorial and advisory boards of a number of international journals. He has held fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the International Institute for Social History in Amsterdam, and STIAS. In 1996 and 1997 he was a visiting lecturer at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow and in 2010 he delivered the Founding Historians Lecture at the University of Sussex. [α](#)

*Below left: STIAS fellow Onur Güntürkün, 22 March 2017*

*Below right: STIAS fellow Richard Price, 22 February 2017*



## WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

### Examining the impact of corruption in Africa – SASCA Seminar 2017

“Corruption is no longer just a simple crime or even just a crime against development but should be ranked amongst crimes against humanity. The relentless persistence of endemic corruption in Africa and the failure since independence to seriously control it poses one of the greatest threats to the on-going faltering attempts to promote a culture of constitutionalism, good governance and respect for the rule of law,” said Prof. Charles Fombad of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (ICLA), University of Pretoria and STIAS fellow. “This also poses a threat to peace and security on the continent.”

Corruption is one of the biggest threats in Africa today casting a shadow over the continent’s political, economic and social progress. It has been estimated that Africa loses US\$ 148 billion each year to corruption.

**“My thief is different from your thief. We should be willing to adapt the approach to the specific fight and learn to frame our narratives in common language that resonates with the person on the street.”**

– Chinedu Nwaga, Nigeria Anti Corruption and Criminal Justice Fund, Trust Africa

With this in mind, the Fifth Stellenbosch Annual Seminar on Constitutionalism in Africa (SASCA 2017) took place at STIAS from 19 to 22 September 2017 with the theme *Corruption and constitutionalism in Africa: Revisiting control measures and containment strategies*.

SASCA 2017 was jointly organised by the ICLA and STIAS in partnership with the South African Research Chair in

Multilevel Government, Law and Policy (SARChI) at the Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape; and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Rule of Law Program for sub-Saharan Africa. The seminar attracted prominent legal scholars and students from throughout Africa, as well as representatives from corruption watchdog organisations. The opening plenary was given by Derek Hanekom, former Minister of Tourism and of Science and Technology in the South African government.

“Evidence of the unrelenting spread of corruption on the continent clearly suggests that it has become a deep-seated institutional problem that has not been addressed in any effective or sustainable manner,” said Fombad.

The 2015 Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer highlighted that Africa is home to many of the most corrupt countries in the world with the five worst performers – Somalia (176<sup>th</sup>), Sudan (172<sup>nd</sup>), South Sudan (170<sup>th</sup>), Equatorial Guinea (167<sup>th</sup>) and Chad (165<sup>th</sup>).

Africa’s challenges as the poorest and least-developed continent with the lowest aggregate level of human development are compounded by the level and impact of corruption.

“The emerging evidence after more than two decades of democratisation in Africa is that corruption does not only co-exist with the so-called democratic or quasi-democratic regimes on the continent but actually fuels them,” said Fombad.

Most African countries have enacted legislation that criminalises corruption but often with little effect because judiciaries are corrupt and ill-equipped; the legal framework in many countries is defective; anti-corruption laws are not enforced; and, corrupt leadership lacks the will, moral authority and credibility to lead an effective fight against corruption.

Fombad emphasised that there can be no constitutional justice without social and economic justice.

He outlined basic principles for a constitutionally entrenched anti-corruption legal framework. These include entrenching anti-corruption principles and institutions in the constitution; the need to criminalise all forms of corruption; establishing standards of integrity and transparency for public officers; the right of individual and collective action for the removal from office, trial and prosecution of public officials alleged to be involved in corruption; exclusion of persons convicted of corruption from the benefit of any pardons or amnesties; protection of those who report corruption and punishment for those who negligently or deliberately refuse to report corruption; examining the assets of public officials; and, instituting higher penalties for members of the judiciary, the police, the armed forces and custom services for offences involving corruption and corrupt activities.

Fombad pointed to the advent of institutions of accountability, which started with South Africa’s Chapter 9 institutions in 1996 and were continued in the Kenyan and Zimbabwean constitutions of 2010 and 2013, as significant steps forward.

**“Civil society is the last resort when the state fails – it should be the first resort. All the other sectors depend on an active, demanding civil society.”**

– David Lewis, Corruption Watch

### In-depth discussions

The seminar approached the discussion of the impact of corruption on constitutionalism, good governance and rule of law in Africa from three aspects – whether

the constitutional and legislative frameworks for combatting corruption are sufficiently robust; what formal and informal institutions have been established for dealing with corruption (including what their roles are and why they have not been very effective); and, the processes and measures used to prevent, detect, punish, control and eradicate corruption (including why these are

not working; and what needs to be done to strengthen public accountability, limit avenues for corruption and bolster constitutionalism and good governance).

These aspects were discussed in presentations outlining case studies from Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi and South Africa. All the papers presented during the seminar will be peer-reviewed for publication in the fourth volume of the series, *Stellenbosch Handbooks in African Constitutional Law*, to be published by Oxford University Press.

**“Trust has been eroded to the point that people believe easy promises. We must do everything in our power to address the erosion of trust in the constitution and rule of law.”**

– Johann Groenewald, STIAS

### Refractions of the national, the popular, and the global in African cities – 31 July to 1 August 2017

STIAS and the African Centre for Cities (ACC) jointly hosted this conference at STIAS.

The questions addressed included the following:

- How is the national and the nation state manifested in the city, if at all?
- To what extent is the political and the social character of the state regime expressed in the city and its governance?
- To what extent, in what form, and with what effect have popular forces been able to make themselves heard and influential in the city, in recent years? Why or why not?
- To what extent and how has the recent and current commodity boom meant a globalisation of the city?
- How are proclaimed ‘world city’ ambitions developing on the ground?

Speakers included Simon Bekker of Stellenbosch University, Edgar Pieterse of the ACC, Göran Therborn of Cambridge University, Silvia Croese of the ACC, Leila Groenewald of the University of Johannesburg, Eduardo Moreno of UN Habitat and Alan Mabin. The conference was attended by close to 40 participants and included case studies and research from Nigeria, Angola, Rwanda, Ethiopia and South Africa. [α](#)



STIAS fellow Charles Fombad during the opening session of the SASCA Seminar on 19 September 2017



## BOOK LAUNCHES

### ***Dancing the Death Drill* by Fred Khumalo**

"I see my writing as a vehicle to reintroduce many dialogues we still have to work through."

"It is a historical novel but should be read as a novel. It would be found wanting as a history book. It uses a historical incident as a springboard to look at our evolution as a nation."

Author and journalist Fred Khumalo was speaking at the launch of his novel *Dancing the Death Drill* held at STIAS. He was in conversation with Prof. Grace Musila from the English Department at Stellenbosch University. Both Khumalo and Musila are STIAS fellows and the novel was partly written while Khumalo was in residence at STIAS in 2014.

*Dancing the Death Drill* is published by Umuzi in South Africa, and Jacaranda Books in the United Kingdom.

### ***Cities of power* by Göran Therborn**

Prof. Therborn's 36<sup>th</sup> book – *Cities of Power*, published by Verso, was launched at the *Refractions of the national, the popular, and the global in African cities* conference held on 31 July and 1 August.

Speaking with Alan Mabin at the launch, Therborn pointed out that most modern nation states are formed by specific events – like revolution and the exit from colonialism and "the complexity of the transition is reflected in contemporary problems and conflicts".

He described the book as an attempt to "combine an analysis of political power with urban iconography".

He described the post-global period as offering "different kinds of progress" and concluded by saying: "We are living in very interesting times and they are going to get more interesting".

### ***Purpose and Desire. What Makes Something 'Alive' and Why Modern Darwinism Has Failed to Explain It* by Scott Turner**

Turner builds on the thought of Claude Bernard, the 19<sup>th</sup> century French physiologist who was a contemporary of Charles Darwin and the founder of the modern science of experimental physiology. Bernard's signature concept of homeostasis, properly understood, is the starting point for a radical critique of our modern understanding of adaptation and evolution.

"Mostly, the book is a virtuosic, if revisionist, history of evolutionary thought that rehabilitates traditionally scorned figures (Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, Georges Cuvier),

reinterprets celebrated 19<sup>th</sup>-century French physiologist Claude Bernard's ideas on homeostasis, and delivers admiring portraits of the geniuses of modern evolutionary ideas (Thomas Hunt Morgan, Ronald Fisher, Sewall Wright, J.B.S. Haldane) without backing down from Turner's insistence that they missed something. ... An unsettling but highly thought-provoking book." *Kirkus Review*.

Scott Turner, professor of biology at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry of the State University of New York is a 2017 STIAS fellow and working on a project titled *Life in the Transients*.

*Purpose and Desire* is published by HarperOne.

### ***National Park Science: A Century of Research in South Africa* by Jane Carruthers**

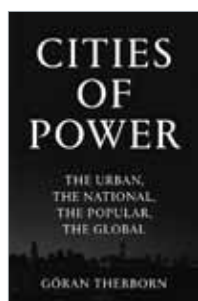
In September a launch was held to mark the publication of *National Park Science: A Century of Research in South Africa* by Jane Carruthers. Much of the book was written during Prof. Carruthers's fellowship at STIAS in 2015.

South Africa is renowned for its wildlife conservation in iconic national parks such as the Kruger, and also for innovative management in other protected areas both privately and state-owned. However, little is known about the history of the interesting and often exciting, conservation science research that has been accomplished, and scientists and ecological managers themselves are often ignorant of the contexts within which they operate. Carruthers's book provides an overview of the rich tapestry involving the international milieu, government, institutions of learning and the public that has shaped the present conservation arena.

Carruthers, Professor Emeritus at the University of South Africa, is an environmental historian whose work focuses on developments in nature conservation in South Africa. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge University and an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. She has held many prestigious visiting fellowships at universities in Australia and is the past chair of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, past President of the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations, and of the Southern African Historical Society. Her pioneering book, *The Kruger National Park: A Social and Political History*, has become a standard reference work worldwide.

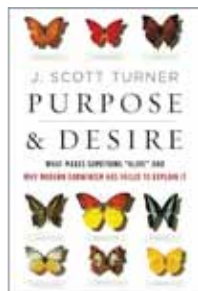
"There is no other extensive book like this in South Africa," said Carruthers. "It's an attempt to reflect the changing philosophy underlying nature conservation in South Africa. It aims to alert people to the place and responsibility of humans in the changing world."

*National Park Science: A Century of Research in South Africa* is published by Cambridge University Press. α



**"We are living in very interesting times and they are going to get more interesting."**

– Göran Therborn





*Top and right: A Summer School on New Forms of Political participation in Africa was held in Bamako, Mali during December 2017.*

*Above: Participants of the Summer School on DOHaD Translational Science: From Cell to Society that was held at STIAS during November 2017.*

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

### From Cell to Society

STIAS, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the South African Medical Research Council's Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU) at the University of the Witwatersrand, the DOHaD African Chapter, and other partners hosted a four-day Summer School in November 2017 at STIAS entitled *Developmental Origins of Health and Disease Translational Science: From Cell to Society*.

The focus was to build research capacity and a network of young scientists. The curriculum was delivered by South African and International experts, and covered topics such as: i) developmental origins of health and disease (DOHaD); ii) the importance of DOHaD for African research; iii) the DOHaD Africa Chapter; iv) research gaps, study design and opportunities; v) analysing longitudinal data; vi) maternal health and developmental biology, and stem cell science; and, vii) public health policy and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Funding was made available by the National Research Foundation via the DPHRU to support ten South African registered PhD students and, via STIAS and the AAS, to support a further 15 young African scientists to attend the Summer School.

The Summer School was part of the long-term STIAS project on *Health in Transition – DOHaD and SDGs: moving towards early implementation*.

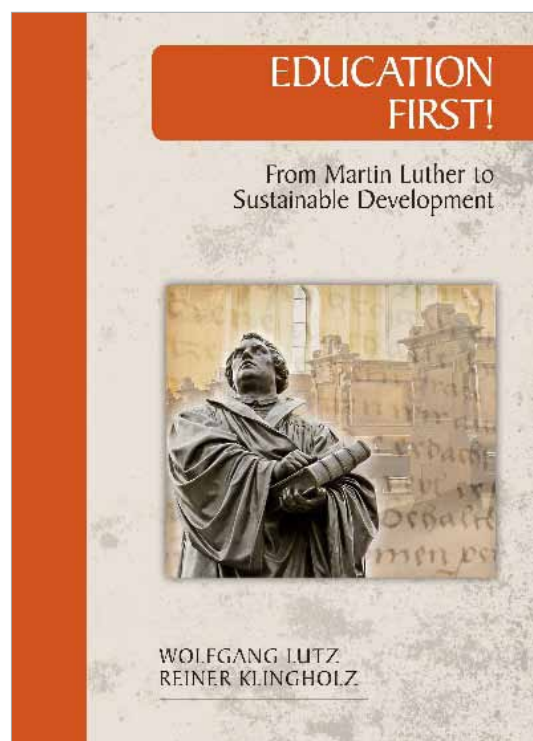
### New forms of political participation in Africa

In December STIAS held a Summer School on *New Forms of Political participation in Africa* at the Research Centre Point Sud in Bamako, Mali. The Summer School was presented as part of the framework of the Program Point Sud, which is organised by the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main in Germany in collaboration with STIAS and research institutes and universities in six other African countries (see [www.pointsud.org](http://www.pointsud.org)).

The Summer School addressed questions related to four main themes namely: new forms of political participation and their specificities; intra- and supranational forms of articulation; reconfiguration of political order; and, the role of international actors. The Summer School brought together 12 young doctoral and post-doctoral scholars in the social sciences and humanities from universities and research institutes throughout Africa and seven senior scholars from African countries. The scholars received writing and presentation training and had an opportunity to develop and present their own research projects. **α**

## SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY STIAS FELLOWS

A full list of books, book chapters and journal articles published by STIAS fellows is available on the STIAS website at [www.stias.ac.za/publications](http://www.stias.ac.za/publications). These outputs are also published in the STIAS Annual Reports – available at [www.stias.ac.za/annual-reports](http://www.stias.ac.za/annual-reports).



***Education First! From Martin Luther to Sustainable Development.* Wolfgang Lutz & Reiner Klingholz. SUN PRESS.**

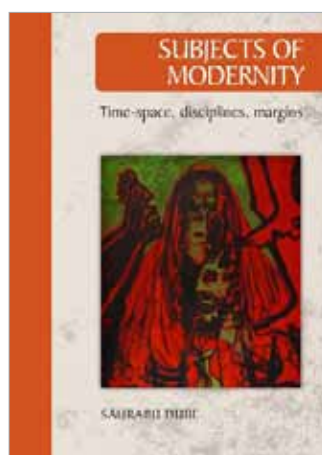
*Published July 2017.  
ISBN: 978-1928357-35-3.*

This publication examines why education is under threat, and what should be done to counter this. The authors mobilise compelling historical and current evidence which demonstrates the centrality of education to the creation of flourishing societies and shows the dire consequences of its neglect.

For a recent review of the publication see:

[www.theconversation.com/joining-the-dots-why-education-is-key-to-preserving-the-planet-89666](http://www.theconversation.com/joining-the-dots-why-education-is-key-to-preserving-the-planet-89666)

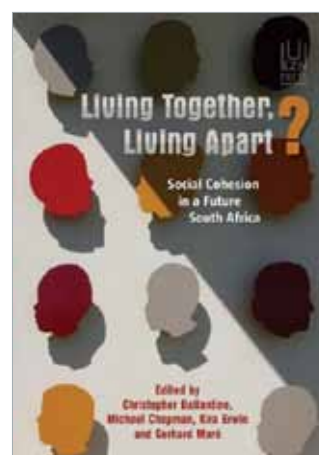
**“... historical and current evidence ... demonstrates the centrality of education to the creation of flourishing societies and shows the dire consequences of its neglect.”**



***Subjects of Modernity: Time-space, disciplines, margins.* Saurabh Dube. AFRICAN SUN MEDIA.**

*Published October 2017.  
ISBN: 978-1-920689-99-5.*

Dube's publication ranges widely and globally – from histories of empires and genealogies of disciplines to recent Dalit artwork from India – to explore and carefully delineate a tension he regards as fundamental to the formation of the modern: the modern subject's inevitable entanglement with those subject to modernity.



***Living Together, Living Apart?: Social Cohesion in a Future South Africa.* Edited by Christopher Ballantine, Michael Chapman, Kira Erwin and Gerhard Maré. University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.**

*Published January 2017,  
ISBN: 978-1-86914-332-9*

This publication tackles social cohesion in South Africa. It asks questions like: How do we apply the ideal in the daily round when diversity of language, religion, culture, race and the economy too often supersedes our commitment to a common citizenry?; and, how do we live together rather than apart?

The essays tackle issues that are pertinent to both living together and living apart: equality/inequality, public pronouncement, xenophobia, safety, chieftaincy in modernity,

gender-based abuse, healing, the law, education, identity, sport, new 'national' projects, the role of the arts, and, South Africa in the world. In focusing on such issues, the essays point towards the making of a future, in which a critical citizenry is key to a healthy society.

Contributors include leading South African academics and public figures.

The editors Christopher Ballantine, Michael Chapman and Gerhard Maré are professors *emeriti* affiliated to the University of KwaZulu-Natal. They have all published prominently in areas of the humanities and social sciences in South Africa. Kira Erwin is a researcher at the Urban Futures Centre at the Durban University of Technology.

**Cape Town Harmonies: Memory, Humour & Resilience** by Armelle Gaulier & Denis-Constant Martin. African Minds Publishers (Open Access).

Published October 2017.

Cape Town's cultures can only be fully appreciated through recognition of its deep and diverse soundscape. This work by Denis Constant Martin and Armelle Gaulier provides a selection of local 'Dutch songs' and comic songs (*nederlandsliedjies* and *moppies*) performed annually at New Year during the Malay choral competitions and the *Kaapse Klopse* carnival. The lyrics from the various repertoires they perform are hardly ever written down. They are mostly in the memory and memorised, even if they are new compositions. More than that, the book is a critical sociological reflection of the place of these songs and their performers in the context that has given rise to them and sustains their relevance.

Heribert Adam, 2016. **Beyond Shame: The Decline of the 'Rainbow Nation'.** In: *Re-engaging the African Diasporas: Pan-Africanism in the Age of Globalization*, edited by C. Quist-Adade and W. Royal. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Published August 2016, ISBN-13: 978-1-4438-9478-4, ISBN-10: 1-4438-9478-8

*Re-engaging the African Diasporas: Pan-Africanism in the Age of Globalization* is the second volume in the Kwame Nkrumah International Conference series, and brings together 20 papers presented at the Third Kwame Nkrumah International Conference held in 2014.

The book threads together papers that seek to give academic and intellectual impetus to tie the continent's development to that of the African diaspora. The goal is to end the inertia and inward-looking on the part of scholars and academics in both Africa and 'African International' or 'Global Africa'; and re-engage one another in more productive ways.

**International Human Rights Protection** by Marc Bossuyt. Published by Intersentia.

Published August 2016, ISBN: 978-1-780684-000

*International Human Rights Protection* is based on the author's research and involvement with a wide range of subjects, such as the basic concepts of civil and social rights, discrimination and affirmative action, issues of procedure and jurisdiction and issues such as the death penalty and the protection of refugees, minorities and victims of armed conflicts. The book introduces the reader to the labyrinth of United Nations Charter-based and treaty-based procedures as well as an overview of the Inter-American and African systems. It deals at the regional level particularly with the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and also looks at the national level at the case law of the US Supreme Court and the South African Constitutional Court.

**Ethics and Human Rights in Anglophone African Women's Literature. Feminist Empathy** by Chielozona Eze. Published by Springer.

ISBN: 978-3-319-40922-1

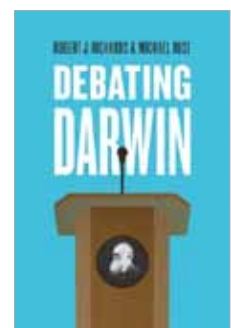
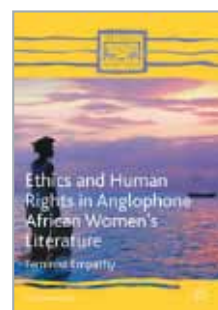
This book proposes feminist empathy as a model of interpretation in the works of contemporary Anglophone African women writers. The African woman's body is often portrayed as having been disabled by the patriarchal and sexist structures of society. Returning to their bodies as a point of reference, rather than the post-colonial ideology of empire, contemporary African women writers demand fairness and equality. By showing how this literature deploys imaginative shifts in perspective with women experiencing unfairness, injustice, or oppression because of their gender, Eze argues that by considering feminist empathy, discussions open up about how this literature directly addresses the systems that put them in disadvantaged positions. This book engages a new ethical and human rights awareness in African literary and cultural discourses, highlighting the openness to reality that is compatible with African multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and increasingly cosmopolitan communities.

**Debating Darwin** by Robert J. Richards and Michael Ruse

Published September 2016, ISBN: 978-0-226384-429

Charles Darwin is easily the most famous scientist of the modern age, and his theory of evolution is constantly referenced in many contexts by scientists and non-scientists alike. And yet, despite how frequently his ideas are evoked, there remains a surprising amount we don't know about the father of modern evolutionary thinking, his intellectual roots, and the science he produced. *Debating Darwin* seeks to change that, bringing together two leading Darwin scholars – Robert J. Richards and Michael Ruse – to engage in a spirited and insightful dialogue, offering their interpretations of Darwin and their critiques of each other's thinking.

Revealing how much there still is to investigate and interrogate about Darwin's ideas, *Debating Darwin* contributes to our understanding of evolution itself. The book concludes with a jointly authored chapter that brings this debate into the present, focusing on human evolution, consciousness, religion and morality. [α](#)





*Malebogo Ngoepe*

## **Malebogo Ngoepe – developing a model to predict destructive aneurysms**

"I was one of those confused people in high school and possibly still am. I went to high school on a music scholarship but I was also good at science and really curious," said Malebogo Ngoepe. "I had gone on a nerdy engineering camp at the University of Pretoria and we went on centrifuge machines and all these things – it was really cool and I realised that the way into this was engineering. I decided this was probably my one shot at becoming an engineer – I could pick up music later but I didn't feel I could do it the other way round."

Ngoepe chose mechanical engineering because she was told that it would give her more options but it was only when she became involved in a project in human health that she felt she had found her inspiration.

"My first project in the human health sphere was looking at the fluid patterns in human veins. It was the first time in my degree where I went – wow this makes me tick – so that was my gateway drug to the health world. I've been fascinated since."

This fascination sent her on a journey to her current project which uses fluid flow and structural modelling to predict clot growth in aneurysms which will enable doctors to predict which clots are likely to cause further damage and death.

Clots often grow in aneurysms but can either assist by sealing off the aneurysm or can exacerbate the situation by speeding up the time to rupture or by breaking away and causing problems elsewhere in the body.

"Aneurysms have been studied extensively by engineers because the weakening of the wall is a structural problem and the blood flow is a fluid mechanics problem. So we have tools that combine structural weakness and fluid flows. But we didn't have a way for accounting for the presence of a clot – which contributes to whether an aneurysm ruptures or stabilises."

# **Female power amongst Iso Lomso fellows**

**A mechanical engineer with a passion for playing jazz and an English scholar who runs. Female power rules amongst the Iso Lomso fellows and these talented ladies mean business.**

"Clotting is about the interplay between chemistry, fluid mechanics and the vessel wall," she continued. "There hasn't yet been full understanding of the role of fluid mechanics in transporting the chemicals that make up a clot. So the model brings together biochemistry, mechanics and complex geometries."

It's about identifying 'good' and 'bad' clots and predicting, based on the geometry and the person's biochemistry, how the clot will grow and therefore what treatment is required.

"The dream would be that if a patient walked in with an aneurysm you would be able to take a scan, run a computer program, the physician would use the software to play around with a number of different solutions virtually and look at different potential outcomes for the patient. So it would be a virtual planning tool that allows the clinician to explore options prior to intervention."

Ngoepe's model is already fairly advanced for cerebral aneurysms but is now being further developed for abdominal aneurysms which are harder to diagnose and cause more deaths than cerebral ones.

She will continue with the project while at STIAS and also hopes to spend some time at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver where she will work with a group that is researching cancers and thrombosis.

Ngoepe was born in Polokwane and described herself as being raised by an academic family. "My dad is a physicist and my mom specialises in English as a foreign language because so many South Africans speak English as their third or fourth language. I grew up across the road from the University of the North. In the shadow of a university! I kept saying I didn't want to be an academic – so my parents now enjoy the joke."

She went to St. Andrew's boarding school, graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BSc in Mechanical Engineering and went on to complete her PhD in biofluid mechanics at Oxford, returning to UCT as a lecturer in 2015.

She describes her time at Oxford as "such a rich time".

"It feels like I lived seven lifetimes in my time there. I recently returned for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rhodes women there – a 30<sup>th</sup> birthday present from my parents – and it reminded me of what I loved about Oxford so much."

"It's the people. They aren't scared to dream. They put wild dreams out there which places them in the realm of possibility. You would say outrageous things sometimes and then see them coming true which completely blew my perspective."

Asked about her experiences as a female in a typically male engineering environment she replied: "It's interesting being back in the department where I got my first degree because I'm now more aware of what I am negotiating, and

am more comfortable to show up as myself, whatever form that may take. As an 18-year old from an all-girls' school I did not want to stand out as a woman – I wanted to do my work and do it well but not stand out," she said. "I now show up as a woman in the space and that does not diminish the contribution I make. That confidence came after my international experience in a gender-balanced lab at Oxford."

"It still is a very masculine space," she added. "My first-year class is 25% female – it's changing but not quickly enough. In engineering departments where there is a higher number of female faculty, there is a better balance in terms of the student cohorts. The number of female faculty is still low but departments that have a better balance seem to be breaking the barriers."

"Teaching gives me everything," she continued. "I love research – but either in isolation doesn't work for me. Teaching allows me to disseminate what I'm doing behind a computer, to get student input and new ideas. Research allows me to generate new materials and break new ground. The two are side by side – I need both."

But her love for music remains strong. She plays three instruments. "I've recently taken up the double bass. I'm tinkering around on that. I'm not currently limiting myself to any genre but I am playing lots of township jazz while I learn, which I love, then using Western classical music where I need to learn techniques."

Speaking of her Iso Lomso fellowship she said: "STIAS is the first time since Oxford where I have been in an environment with people not in my field who ask questions that are going to help me make progress in my research. The act of communicating your work clarifies and shapes things for you. It makes it clear where you need to refine and where you need to step away. It's so stimulating to be amongst people who have fresh perspectives and ideas. I'm very excited about the people it's giving me access to in terms of helping me shape my research."

"Even though we may use different tools, on a very fundamental philosophical level arts and science overlap."

"It's a life-changing opportunity for me. It's genius that this place exists."

## Aretha Phiri – examining the writing of the African diaspora

"I still can't believe I have a career in which people pay me to read," said Aretha Phiri, a lecturer in the Department of English at Rhodes University.

"I don't know that I consciously envisaged a career in academia," she continued. "I knew I was intellectually inclined. I was very introverted and happy to stay at home reading a book."

**"STIAS is the first time since Oxford where I have been in an environment with people not in my field who ask questions that are going to help me make progress in my research."**

"My mom instilled in me the desire to read. My fondest memories are of us going to fairs or fetes and picking up books that were being sold. That is the bond I have with my mother – that literary bond – that love for reading."

Phiri was born and educated in Zimbabwe, completed her under- and post-graduate degrees at Rhodes and her PhD at the University of Edinburgh.

She credits her time in Scotland as having awoken her interest in African diasporic literature. "As a teaching assistant at Edinburgh, I opted to teach Scottish literature. Towards the end I was exposed to black Scottish writers – writers with African connection or descent. I was captivated by that – what does it mean to be Scottish and have African descent – how do you navigate that space?"

Her interest in diasporic subjectivities culminated, after a similar post-doctoral project, in her current STIAS project which aims to offer a comparative analysis of leading African American author, Toni Morrison's, work on blackness through the lens of contemporary female writers of the African diaspora including Zoë Wicomb, NoViolet Bulawayo, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Taiye Selasi. While she hopes to achieve a fresh perspective on Morrison's work, she is primarily concerned with articulating more inclusive and expansive global visions of blackness.

"My project speaks to my own experience of black 'Africanness' – of trying to navigate one's space in this world, particularly the black world. The imperative for authentic blackness is something I've always grappled with. Compound this with the imperative for authentic Africanness and you have a recipe for a rather 'stiff' cocktail! Contemporary African diasporic literature addresses some of these concerns. But although academia has taken an interest in this literature, it is almost always dismissed for not being representatively African, or African enough. It's precisely this that got me interested – what is it about this literature that doesn't quite fit the bill?"

"Similarly, African American literary ideas about blackness and representations of Africa can be quite generic and hierarchical," she continued. "They seem to present (in the West) an idea of blackness that everyone else (read: Africans) responds to. This is problematic. It maintains the colonising, imperialist ethos within a black paradigm. Interestingly, despite an increasingly globalised world, it feels like everything is becoming more starkly black and white, which I don't quite understand. There seems little tolerance of and space for nuance."

"As such, I'm trying in my project to complicate blackness at the same time that I interrogate Africanness," she added. "I hope, in this way, to open up spaces in which we can be honest about who we are, or at least, who we *think* we are."

Phiri initially studied Journalism and English at Rhodes but the attraction to English was stronger. "I fell in love



with English and knew from day one it was something I was going to do. In Honours year I dropped journalism for English literature and that was it. I've never looked back. But, in many ways I'm still doing journalism – it's just called research."

"I have a journalistic spirit in that I'm very curious and find it hard to take no for an answer. By that I mean that I tend to be quite insistent. I think I am rather motivated by social justice."

"But I am enamoured with literature," she continued. "I love the texture of words. What words can do to and for the self, allowing us to venture into unfamiliar worlds."

Citing *Beloved* as one of her favourite books to re-read, Morrison remains top of the list of her favoured writers. "It's precisely what she does with language that I find beautiful. I am in awe of how she is able to manipulate

**"What I love most about 'teaching' is the sharing of knowledge and also what the students teach me."**



Above: Aretha Phiri

Top right: Iso Lomso fellows  
John Ganle, Tolullah Oni and  
Uchenna Okeja



### About Iso Lomso

Ngoepe and Phiri are two of the five fellows who make up the first cohort of the Iso Lomso programme.

Iso Lomso is aimed at African scholars who have obtained a doctoral degree within the preceding seven years and who hold an academic position at a university or research institution in Africa. Candidates should have established a research programme and have completed a post-doctoral fellowship or equivalent post-PhD programme. All disciplines are considered.

The fellowship includes:

- a three-year attachment to STIAS during which they may spend a total of ten months in residence to develop and pursue a long-term research programme;
- the possibility of a residency at a sister institute for advanced study;
- funding to attend up to three international conferences or training workshops;
- support to convene a workshop with collaborators at STIAS; and,
- a lecturer replacement subsidy for the fellow's home institution during residency periods.

words – random letters on a page – to articulate a narrative that haunts the mind.”

Having taught at Rhodes for almost three years, she described her relationship with teaching as a ‘love hate’ one. “If I’m honest I love research first. I’ve struggled with the notion of being a ‘teacher’. What I love most about ‘teaching’ is the sharing of knowledge and also what the students teach me. But sometimes you get the sense that students feel you are there to dispense knowledge that they have paid for. You get resistance from students when you tell them, especially in literary studies, that there is no definitive answer to the question posed. It makes them uncomfortable. Which is good, I think.”

“University should be uncomfortable,” she added. “It is, after all, a space of ‘higher learning’, where you are expected to challenge yourself and the ideas that have come before you.”

When asked if she has experienced her own challenges by way of gender discrimination in academia she admitted: “There are moments when I know I would have been treated differently if I was a man.”

She also pointed out that students are often much more casual in the way they address female lecturers. “It doesn’t really bother me,” she said, “but it’s interesting to me why they think they can. You want students to be comfortable but you also need to respect professional boundaries.”

“On the whole, however, I have a very supportive department and university,” she added. “I have amazing colleagues whose intellect and passion for what they do inspires me. Apart from my family, I credit them for being where I am today.”

“My ambition as a female academic is to hopefully inspire other women to follow suit. I encounter many incredibly sharp and talented women regularly, and I really would like to see more women in academia. Young women ought to know they are capable and should have every opportunity to realise their potential. There may well be obstacles but you keep pushing.”

Her other passion is running and she recently ran her first half marathon, totally unprepared! While she swore never to do it again, she is now entertaining thoughts of taking part in a triathlon. “Just to see if I can do it. You are capable of anything – it’s just a matter of getting over the mental hurdle.”

Amongst her other goals are fiction and essay writing. “I’ve been told I write beautifully. But because I’m in academia I have an automatically critical attitude and struggle with reading everything too analytically. I have ideas of stories I would like to pen, so, yes, I would like to explore the more creative side of me, if such a side exists!”

As part of her fellowship Phiri will spend time at the the Institute for Black Atlantic Research (IBAR) at the University of Central Lancashire (in mid-2018), and the National Humanities Center in North Carolina (at the end of 2018).

“I’m thoroughly enjoying my time at STIAS, and the other academic fields I am being exposed to. I’m excited about the prospects of my project and the people I may have the opportunity to work with,” she said. “I can’t begin to imagine where all this is going to lead and that’s a good space for me right now.”

“I’ve come to realise that, like everyone else, I do have purpose and I have a responsibility to make the most of it.” α



# We need to think like one species

**An interview with Abdallah Daar of the University of Toronto, STIAS permanent fellow and project leader of the *Health in Transition* research focus**

Abdallah Daar was born in Tanzania, where both his parents were also born. He identifies himself with the wonderful, tolerant East African coastal Swahili culture. He has a mixed ethnic background that includes Arab, Ethiopian and Circassian.

"The Circassians, from the Caucasus Mountains in what is now Southern Russia, had a long, tumultuous history of fighting the Russians and many Circassian women and children were massacred or kidnapped. My Circassian great grandmother was kidnapped from somewhere in the Ottoman Empire in the 1860s when she was eight years old and taken to Zanzibar, where she grew up in the Sultan's court. She later moved with her young family to Dar es Salaam in mainland Tanzania."

**"Although I was a physician and a surgeon – the idea was always at the back of my mind that I needed to do something meaningful in Africa."**

"When I was a kid in Tanzania, society was structured such that a small number of the British colonial elite were at the top, making all important decisions and having vastly disproportionate access to the choicest of the country's goods. A rung below them were Indians and Asians: they held all the good middle-management jobs and were favoured in getting business licences and good education. And at the bottom were the poor majority who were not really on a level playing field: they were by policy disadvantaged in education, wealth and health – the very ingredients needed for progress. I was fortunate that my own rich multi-ethnic background enabled me to mix with the majority Africans and that made me very aware of social inequities. In turn this made me sensitive from an early age to the need to always strive for social justice."

"In my time there were three professions one was encouraged to take up – medicine, engineering and law. I was accepted to medical school in Uganda, the only one at the time for the whole of East Africa. They took a total of 100 students annually from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania."

This was in the 1970s and when Idi Amin came to power Daar went to the United Kingdom to continue his studies. "I became a displaced person and had to finish medical school in London. After a short spell at the University of Texas, I went to Oxford for a decade from about 1975 where I did graduate studies in both surgery and internal medicine, completed a PhD in immunology, and specialised in organ transplantation."

Daar then joined the teaching faculty of the Department of Surgery in Oxford for several years until a challenge came up that he could not resist – to build a new medical school, a biomedical research institute and a clinical kidney transplant programme in the United Arab Emirates. Having done that, three years later he moved to Oman, where he helped build another medical school, set up research laboratories, and built up a national transplant programme. "I stayed in Oman, a wonderful country, for 11 years as chair of the department of surgery."

But Africa was in his blood and he could not forget it. "Although I was a physician and a surgeon – the idea was always at the back of my mind that I needed to do something meaningful in Africa. In terms of medical needs it is the continent with the most needs and therefore the most opportunities. In time, though my work with the World Health Organization, UNESCO, and other international organisations, I was able to get my colleagues to focus more on Africa."

"My eldest sister's death from malaria in Tanzania in 1999 led me to re-evaluate my priorities and I realised I needed to get into global health. That coincided with an offer from the University of Toronto to take up positions as Professor of Public Health Sciences and of Surgery, and to direct a programme on Applied Ethics and Biotechnology." This was the beginning of a very productive two decades of work on ethical, legal and social issues in life sciences as applied to global health, with major funding from Canadian and international sources, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This period is described in Daar's last book *The Grandest Challenge: Taking Life Saving Science from Lab to Village*, which he co-wrote with his Toronto colleague, Peter Singer.

"With our graduate students we did major studies of national innovation systems, and pioneered research methodologies that have proved very productive, especially in the area of priority identification in global health issues like infectious diseases, chronic non-communicable diseases, mental health and more recently in humanitarian action."

But his links to Africa remained strong. "For the past decade I've also been going back to Tanzania to do research and to work with various ministries in the policy arena."

Daar is also involved with the African Academy of Sciences, where he chairs the International Strategic and Scientific Advisory Board of AESA; and is a member of the African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies.

Daar loves building institutions. He was instrumental in the creation of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, which he led for two and a half years; and was co-founder of Grand Challenges Canada. He also played a role in linking STIAS to the African Academy of Sciences. "My focus now is not just Tanzania but Africa as a whole."

## DOHaD

Daar's initial involvement with STIAS was as a fellow but he was soon asked to lead the STIAS long-term research theme *Health in Transition*. Within this theme it was decided to focus on DOHaD – the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease.

"DOHaD is about the first 1 000 days of life and how this affects future health."

DOHaD works from the premise that many of the negative consequences of early childhood insults are related to chronic non-communicable diseases in later life (including type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, some cancers, and mental health). Improving the lives of babies and improving and saving the lives of mothers, especially during the perinatal period, therefore has long-term, intergenerational benefits.

A multidisciplinary group of African and global experts was assembled to address this subject.

"The science of DOHaD is very strong and has reached a point where it can be translated into health policy yet there is no organisation focused exclusively on that in Africa. Our long-term view is to improve health and save lives. It's essential to marshal the evidence to come up with policy ideas that African governments can adopt."

"We therefore looked at the Sustainable Development Goals – a number intersect with what you can do in this area – like gender equity, improved socio-economic conditions, better education and access to healthcare."

Many of the SDGs, including #1 (eliminate poverty), #2 (eliminate hunger), #3 (good health, which mentions chronic non-communicable disease and also mental health) #4 (quality education), #5 (gender equity), #6 (clean water and sanitation) and #10 (reduced inequalities) are directly relatable to DOHaD.

"If you improve their socio-economic position people have better health which translates to the next generation. If you improve the mother's nutrition you get healthier children. If you educate women and give them more decision-making power everything improves."

"Children who are vaccinated, whose infections are treated early, who have access to healthcare, who receive good information about exercise and avoiding fatty foods and sugary drinks – all of this translates into better health over their lifecycle and those of future generations."

"There is a lot of energy associated with the SDGs. There are funds available and programmes being created. So if we can link the messages of DOHAD and those of the SDGs we will probably get politicians to listen more."

"It's always a challenge to reach policymakers but instituting programmes to avoid drug and alcohol abuse, delay sexual début, avoid teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted

infections, and improve health literacy about avoidable non-communicable diseases like diabetes is something health ministers understand. When Ministers of Health see the evidence that these things work it makes sense to them."

"Health messaging at schools is also a very important area – but you must make the message exciting to learn."

So far the STIAS DOHaD group has developed some substantial outputs. The 2016 workshop led to a number of articles which will be published in a special Africa issue of the *Journal of DOHaD*; the initial steps have been taken to create an African Chapter of the DOHaD society; an influential paper specifically aimed at policy makers has been published in *Global Health Action*; and, a Summer School was organised with the African Academy of Sciences. This brought together people with experience of translating evidence into policy as well as graduate students from all over Africa. There is also a book in early development.

"There is no better place in the world to do this work than STIAS," said Daar. "Talking to fellows, who are all world experts in their various disciplines, gives you powerful insights. The whole experience here is very conducive to being academically productive – to doing scholarly work."

"As I grow older I want to be more reflective and hopefully more impactful in what I do. I want to learn to be a better communicator to the next generation of scientists. And I want to lead a life of authenticity."

"We need more compassion, more understanding of the oneness of humanity. We all know we are one species (that originated in Africa!). We all had the same superficial pigmentation that with migrations evolved to various other shades. We consciously need to think like one species. But how to do that is a real challenge."

Daar has won a number of international awards, including the Hunerian Professorship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics of Science. In 2017 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

He is working on his seventh book, entitled *Garment of Destiny*.

The other core members of the DOHAD group are:

- Peter Byass (Umeå University)
- Justine Davies (King's College London)
- Elizabeth Kimani-Murage (African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi)
- Shane Norris (University of the Witwatersrand)
- Andrew MacNab (University of British Columbia)
- Moffat Nyirenda (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- Atul Singhal (University of London)
- Eugene Sobngwi (University of Yaoundé I)
- Chittaranjan Yajnik (King Edward Memorial Hospital, Pune) α

Many of the SDGs are directly relatable to DOHaD



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

# Where are they now?

## Catching up with a few STIAS fellows

### Kip Thorne – STIAS fellow 2010

STIAS fellow Kip Thorne is one of three American physicists who won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics for the first observations of gravitational waves – ripples in the fabric of space time originally anticipated by Albert Einstein. Thorne was awarded the prize alongside Rainer Weiss and Barry Barish. The three scientists played leading roles in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO, experiment, which in 2015 made the first historic observation of gravitational waves triggered by the violent merger of two black holes a billion light years away.

These detections confirmed Einstein's century-old prediction that during cataclysmic events the fabric of space time itself can be stretched and squeezed, sending gravitational tremors out across the universe like ripples on a pond.

Thorne received his BS degree from Caltech and his PhD from Princeton. He returned to Caltech as an Associate professor and became Professor of Theoretical Physics in 1970, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor in 1981, Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics in 1991 and Feynman Professor of Theoretical Physics, Emeritus in 2009. His

research has focused on Einstein's general theory of relativity and on astrophysics, with emphasis on relativistic stars, black holes and especially gravitational waves.

Thorne was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1972, the National Academy of Sciences in 1973, the Russian Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society in 1999. He has been awarded the Lilienfeld Prize of the American Physical Society, the Karl Schwarzschild Medal of the German Astronomical Society, the Albert Einstein Medal of the Albert Einstein Society in Berne, Switzerland, the Niels Bohr Gold Medal from UNESCO, and the Commonwealth Award for Science, and was named California Scientist of the Year in 2004. For his book for non-scientists, *Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy*, Thorne was awarded the American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award, the Phi Beta Kappa Science Writing Award, and the (Russian) Priroda Readers' Choice Award. In 1973 Thorne co-authored the textbook *Gravitation*, from which most of the present generation of scientists have learned general relativity theory. Fifty-two physicists have received their PhD at Caltech under Thorne's mentorship.

In 2009 Thorne stepped down from his professorship at Caltech in order to ramp up a new career in writing, movies and continued scientific research. He was executive producer of the Christopher Nolan movie *Interstellar*, and co-authored the publication from which the movie sprang.

Kip Thorne and Lynn Margulis  
in 2010



### Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela – STIAS fellow 2009

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is a senior research professor in historical trauma and transformation at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She graduated from Fort Hare University with a Bachelor's and an Honours degree in psychology. She obtained her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology at Rhodes University and her PhD in psychology from the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Gobodo-Madikizela was appointed associate professor of Psychology at UCT and became a full professor in 2010. In 2012, she took up a position as Senior Research Professor for trauma, forgiveness and reconciliation at the University of the Free State and was appointed in her current position at Stellenbosch University in 2016. During 2015, she was a guest professor at Uppsala University in Sweden where she holds the Claude Ake Visiting Chair, which is co-financed by the Nordic Africa Institute and the Department of Peace and Conflict Research.

Her main interests are traumatic memories in the aftermath of political conflict, post-conflict reconciliation, empathy, forgiveness, psychoanalysis and intersubjectivity. She is well-known for her award-winning book *A Human Being Died that Night* and served on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Right: Bernard Lategan, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Annetjie Joubert and Albert Grundlingh at the launch of Historical Memory in Africa



### Clifford Shearing – STIAS fellow 2009

Clifford Shearing is Professor in the Public Law Department at the University of Cape Town. He leads the Global Risk Governance Programme at the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA). A major focus of his academic work has been on broadening the boundaries of criminology, with a primary focus on 'security governance' – and more recently – criminology's role in responding to the challenges of enhancing environmental security. In 2015 he was awarded the Research Chair for Law and Climate Change, African Climate & Development Initiative, University of Cape Town.

In 2014 he became a fellow of the College of Fellows at the University of Cape Town; in 2013 he won the American Society of Criminology's Thorsten Sellin and Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck Award; and, since 2013 he has held an A1 rating from the South African National Research Foundation. Between 2006 and 2010 he was listed as the 14<sup>th</sup> most frequently cited criminological scholar across five international journals.

### Leonard Susskind – STIAS fellow 2002 & 2009

Leonard Susskind is the Felix Bloch Professor of Theoretical Physics at Stanford University, and director of the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics. His research interests include string theory, quantum field theory, quantum statistical mechanics and quantum cosmology. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an associate member of the faculty

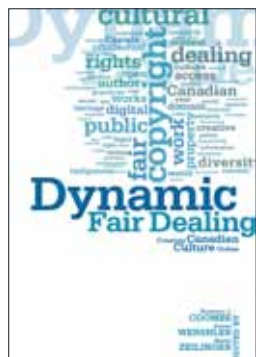
of Canada's Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, and a distinguished professor of the Korea Institute for Advanced Study. Susskind is widely regarded as one of the fathers of string theory, having, with Yoichiro Nambu and Holger Bech Nielsen, independently introduced the idea that particles could, in fact, be states of excitation of a relativistic string. He was the first to introduce the idea of the string theory landscape.

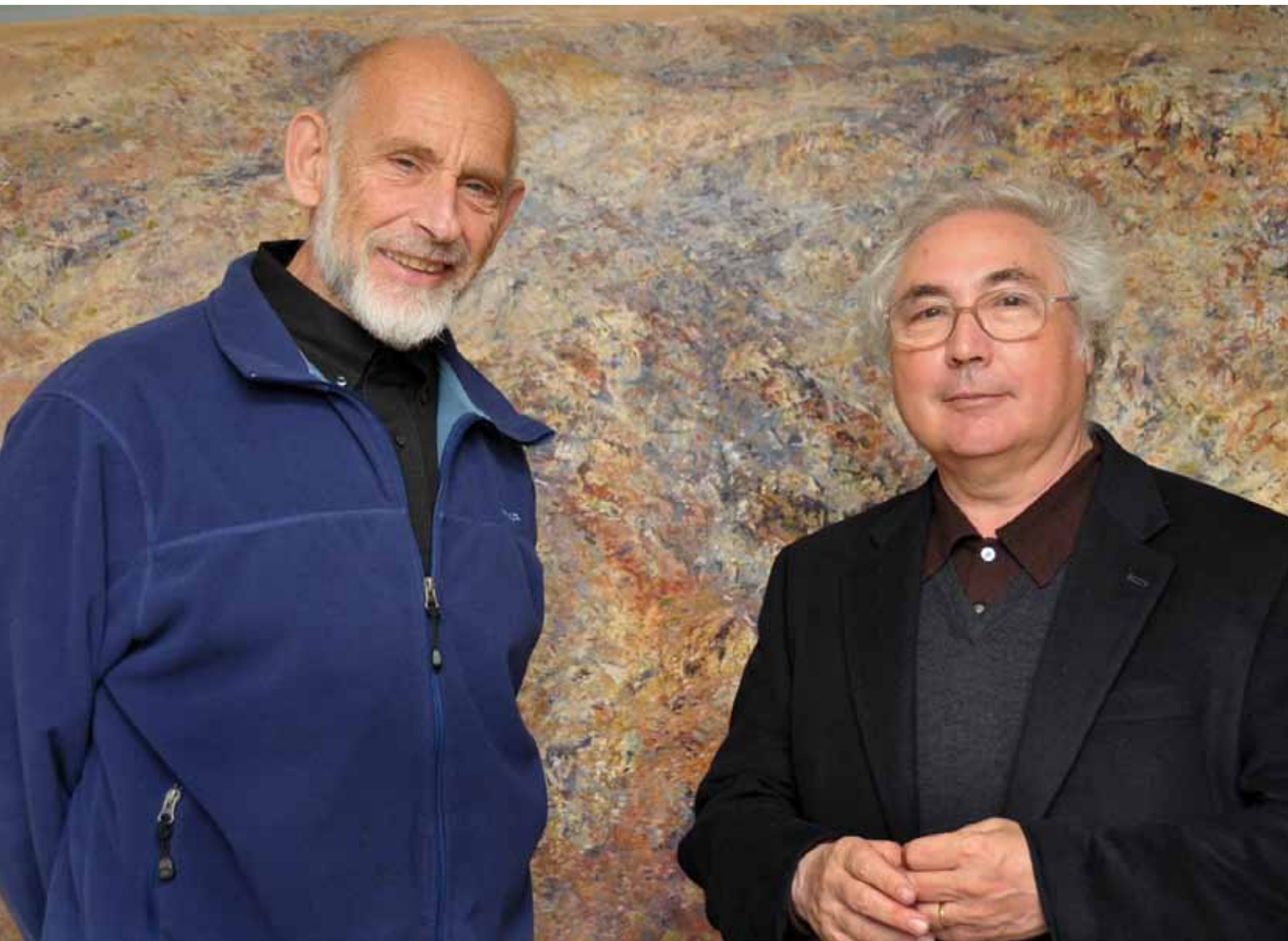
### Rosemary J. Coombe – STIAS fellow 2008, 2009, 2010

Rosemary J. Coombe is the Tier One Canada Research Chair in Law, Communication and Culture at York University in Toronto, where she teaches in the Department of Anthropology, the York and Ryerson Joint Graduate Program in Communication and Culture, and the Graduate Programme in Socio-Legal Studies. Prior to being awarded one of the country's first Canada Research Chairs she was Full Professor of Law at the University of Toronto. She holds a JSD from Stanford University with a Minor in Anthropology and publishes widely in anthropology and political and legal theory.

Her work addresses the cultural, political and social implications of intellectual property laws. Her book, *The Cultural Life of Intellectual Properties: Authorship, Appropriation, and the Law* is a legal ethnography of the ways in which intellectual property law shapes cultural politics in consumer societies. The book was awarded Honorable Mention (second prize) in the Law and Society Association's Herbert Jacob Award for the best new book in law and society scholarship.

Dynamic Fair Dealing: Creating Canadian Culture Online (University of Toronto Press, 2014) was co-edited by Rosemary J. Coombe





She recently co-edited a volume on the intersections between Canadian copyright law, digital technologies, and practices of dynamic fair dealing. *Dynamic Fair Dealing: Creating Canadian Culture Online* (University of Toronto Press, 2014). This includes contributions from scholars, practitioners, and artists from various disciplines and genres to emphasise emergent approaches to the creation, circulation, and management of digital cultural objects that challenge and/or present alternatives to traditional paradigms of intellectual property and cultural policy.

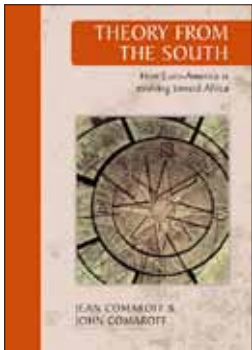
In addition to her research and writing, Rosemary J. Coombe has been developing an online infrastructure project – Artmob – to host Canadian cultural works online and influence intellectual property policy.

### **Jean Comaroff – STIAS fellow 2010 & 2011**

Jean Comaroff is Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology, and Oppenheimer Fellow in African Studies at Harvard University. She is an expert on the effects of colonialism on people in southern Africa. Until 2012, Jean was the Bernard E. & Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago and Honorary Professor of Anthropology at the University of Cape Town.

She received her BA from the University of Cape Town and her PhD from the London School of Economics. She has been a Harvard University faculty member since 1978. On her own and in collaboration with her

*Above: Leonard Susskind and  
Manuel Castells*



Theory from the South  
by Jean Comaroff and  
John Comaroff

Below: Ivan Vladislavic and  
Athol Fugard

husband John Comaroff, she has written extensively on colonialism, and hegemony based on fieldwork conducted in southern Africa and Great Britain. A recent book she published with John Comaroff in the STIAS Series is *Theory from the South*, which among other things covers how Euro-America is evolving towards Africa.

### Ivan Vladislavic – STIAS artist in residence 2012, 2013

South African author Ivan Vladislavic, who spent six months as artist in residence at STIAS in 2012-2013, was awarded Yale University's 2015 Windham-Campbell Prize for fiction. The prize was established in 2013 to call attention to literary achievement and provide writers with the opportunity to focus on their work independent of financial concerns. Awards are made to English language writers at all stages of their careers from anywhere in the world.

Vladislavic's books include the novels *The Restless Supermarket*, *The Exploded View* and *Double Negative*, and the story collections *101 Detectives* and *Flashback Hotel*. In 2006, he published *Portrait with Keys*, a series of documentary texts on Johannesburg. He has edited books on architecture and art, and sometimes works with artists and photographers. *TJ/Double Negative*, a joint project with photographer David Goldblatt, received the 2011 Kraszna-Krausz Award for best photography book.

Vladislavic has won numerous literary awards in South Africa including the *Sunday Times* Prize for Fiction for *The Restless Supermarket* and both the University of Johannesburg Prize and M-Net Literary Award for *Double Negative*. *Portrait with Keys* won both the Alan Paton Award for non-fiction and the University of Johannesburg Prize.

He is a Distinguished Professor in the Creative Writing Department at the University of the Witwatersrand.



## Chabani Manganyi – STIAS fellow 2010 and member of the *Effects of Race* project

Prof. Chabani Manganyi has had a distinguished career in psychology, education and government, having held highly prestigious appointments in educational and academic spheres.

He studied at the University of South Africa where he received an Honours degree in Psychology, an MA and a DLitt et Phil in Psychology.

In 1976 Professor Manganyi took up a professorship at the University of Transkei, where he established the Department of Psychology. In 1980 he was appointed Senior Research Fellow and Visiting Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand African Studies Institute. In 1990 he became the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the North, and Executive Director of the Private Sector Initiative Joint Education Trust from 1993 to 1994.

In 1994, Manganyi stepped into the office of Director General in the Department of Education, a position he held until 1999, when he became Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Pretoria. In 2003 he was appointed Vice-Principal of the University of Pretoria. He was also Chairperson of the Council on Higher Education.

In the 1970s and 80s Manganyi published a series of monographs examining the effects of institutionalised racism on the internal worlds and external realities of South Africans. These were the first serious attempts by a South African psychologist to engage with the interface between the individual and society in the context of systematically asymmetrical relations of power and were welcomed by many searching for a psychology better able to make sense of the social realities of the majority of South Africans. Prof. Manganyi's examination of the effects of violence on individuals and groups, in which he explores the place of the Black Consciousness Movement as the antithesis of the dominant and racist culture, is widely considered to be seminal in the field of psychology.

Prof. Manganyi's account of what it has meant to become South Africa's first black psychologist *Apartheid and the Making of a Black Psychologist: A Memoir* by N. Chabani Manganyi was launched in 2016.

His contribution to psychology and South Africa has been acknowledged through Honorary Doctorates from the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of South Africa, and a certificate of acknowledgement from Rhodes University. He received the Psychological Society of South Africa Fellowship in recognition of his contributions.



## Sarah Nuttall – STIAS fellow 2010

Above: Chabani Manganyi

Prof. Nuttall took up the Directorship of the University of the Witwatersrand Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER) in January 2013 after serving as a Senior Researcher in the Institute until 2010.

Educated at the Universities of (then) Natal and Cape Town, Nuttall won a prestigious Rhodes scholarship to read for a DPhil at Oxford. A literary scholar by training, her varied research interests and prolific publication record have established her as a leading cultural commentator and critic as well as one of the leading scholars of her generation. She has lectured at Stellenbosch University and, for the past five years, has been a Visiting Professor at Yale and Duke Universities. Nuttall has edited several path-breaking books; her influential monograph, *Entanglement: Literary and Cultural Reflections on Post-apartheid*, explores mutuality, transgression and embodiment in contemporary South Africa.

Nuttall has published in various journals and is a member of a number of editorial boards. α

# What is a STIAS fellowship?

**“In the world of scientific research, there are today few institutional settings that are truly conducive for concentrated transdisciplinary research that potentially generates new scientific disciplines and transforms the science itself. I feel lucky as STIAS has provided such a setting for me ... I believe the global and long-term impact of STIAS can to an important extent depend on its ability to provide such a unique setting also in the future.”**

– Ilkka Tuomi

**“Of course, STIAS is not merely a vibrant intellectual and social space. It is also, equally importantly, an opportunity to build human connections across the globe and also, should one wish to do so, to gain some appreciation of the incredible and frustrating experiment that is South Africa. I very much appreciate the openness with which our fellow South Africans have educated and included us in some deeply personal and important debates and challenges that the country faces today.”**

– Neha Jain

STIAS aims to develop an independent ‘creative space for the mind’ to advance the cause of science and scholarship across all disciplines. It is global in its reach and local in its African roots, and values original thinking and innovation.

**“The chance to interact with some of the giants in this world has been truly inspirational.”**

– Daniel Conley

No restriction is placed on the country of origin, discipline, or academic affiliation. STIAS encourages the cross-pollination of ideas and gives preference to projects that tap into multidisciplinary discourse. To facilitate such heterogeneity, the programme includes artists in residence and short-term fellows drawn from the sphere of public commentary and opinion making.

**“STIAS remains a slice of heaven on earth for scholars.”**

– Salima Ikram

**“The fellowship has left me mentally and physically recharged, and intellectually invigorated.”**

– Ian Goldin

**“But what a gift, what a treasure to the heart, spirit, imagination, soul and mind this place has been.”**

– Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor

The STIAS programme comprises self-generated projects proposed by applicants, as well as a portfolio of long-term, theme-driven projects. Fellows are expected to be resident at STIAS for the duration of a fellowship, with no other academic obligations. They are expected to share in the discussions over lunch and to participate in the weekly seminar where fellows present their work to other fellows and invited local academics.



A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND

## Application and selection

Fellows are selected on the basis of academic excellence and the originality of their proposed research project with the following additional criteria serving as guidelines: innovation, interdisciplinarity, relevance and feasibility.

The overall composition of a semester/annual STIAS programme is also taken into consideration during a process in which the Director is advised by the STIAS Academic Advisory Board.

There is no deadline for applications, but selection is generally concluded at least 12 months in advance of the proposed residence period. In exceptional and well-motivated cases, STIAS will consider fellowship applications for shorter periods of residency (one month minimum). The STIAS terms run from mid-January to mid-June, and from mid-July to early December.

STIAS accepts and welcomes proposals for team projects (typically three to five participants), especially within the context of the current long-term, theme-driven projects. Preference is given to projects that run over three to four years and where team members commit to spend at least two periods of overlapping residence at STIAS. Selection for participation in a team project is carried out on an individual basis.

The current themes are:

1. Being human today
2. Crossing borders
3. The future of democracy
4. Understanding complexity
5. Sustainable agro-ecosystems
6. Health in transition (divided into health prevention and healthcare)
7. University and society

## Early career fellowships

**“I was particularly pleased to find young and promising Stellenbosch-based scholars as resident scholars. They should turn out to be a solid STIAS investment in the future of the intellectual project. Thank you for another privilege of a STIAS residency.”**

– Njabulo S. Ndebele

As part of an early career advancement programme STIAS has launched the Iso Lomso Fellowship for Early Career African Scholars. In addition, STIAS annually considers a limited number of fellowship applications from young scholars (typically 35 years or younger) which are evaluated against the standard criteria listed above, academic excellence and originality in particular. Applicants in this category are expected to have completed a PhD (or equivalent) and preferably at least one post-doctoral fellowship.

**“As a young researcher, STIAS has provided me with an ‘independent space’ that has enhanced my thinking, interaction and communication. I have engaged with a diversity of culture, values and disciplines that have influenced my perception of the issues facing the world. I have also interacted with some of the world’s leading scholars and researchers who have become my mentors and role models.”**

– Eunice Githae

See the STIAS website for details on the different application requirements. [www.stias.ac.za/application-to-the-stias-programme](http://www.stias.ac.za/application-to-the-stias-programme) α

**“My assessment of the fellows was that they are all explorers; and that is the greatest compliment a lifelong field biologist for whom Alexander von Humboldt is a hero can give. They combine openness, curiosity, an insatiable desire to learn from others and for themselves, great respect for what others know, self-imposed extreme standards of quality, and extremely high levels of self-confidence coupled with a belief that they have not yet done their best work.”**

– Daniel Brooks



# Social life at STIAS – All that jazz



In November STIAS fellows were treated to a special concert by jazz musician and STIAS fellow Darius Brubeck in the intimate setting of the STIAS Manor House. Brubeck was joined by renowned saxophonist Mike Rossi and by STIAS fellow Malebogo Ngoepe (see article p. 14) who is a mechanical engineer by day but a musician whenever the possibility arises. Highlights in the varied programme included *Manenberg* and *Take 5*. [α](#)

## CONTACT DETAILS


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