

STIAS ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING





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STIAS

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# Chairman's Foreword

In 2019 STIAS welcomed its new director, Professor Edward Kirumira, who not only brought a wealth of experience as an acclaimed researcher but also as a successful administrator having led several research-related organisations and structures globally.

Under his leadership, STIAS continued to see growth and a culmination of significant plans and partnerships. Of special note is the collaboration with Stellenbosch University and the Nobel Foundation to host, over the next four years, an Annual Nobel Symposium at STIAS, with funding from the Nobel Foundation and the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. With the first one planned for October 2020; it will be the first time that these prestigious events are hosted outside of Scandinavia. The topic for the 2020 Symposium was confirmed as "Progress and Challenges in

Cardiovascular Medicine". Topics from Chemistry for 2021, Physics for 2022 and Medicine again for 2023 are still to be finalised. We welcome such initiatives as they show the commitment of STIAS in providing a platform for engagement on issues affecting humanity.

Finances to support STIAS programmes remain healthy and our traditional main funders, the Wallenberg Foundations and Stellenbosch University, together with other funders, make the STIAS programme run smoothly. The Donald Gordon Foundation also made good on its commitment to STIAS of an annual grant to help continue bringing Donald Gordon Fellows to South Africa. Significant funding was also received from the Swedish Riksbankens Jubileumfond (RJ) for five years to fund the Annual Stellenbosch Seminar on Constitutionalism in Africa (SASCA). SASCA 2019 was co-organized (and partly co-funded) by 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 Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa. Former South Africa Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel gave the keynote address. For all these contribution we are grateful.

On our governance structures, two members of the STIAS Board of Directors, Professor Cheryl de la Rey, and Ms Raenette Gottardo, have resigned during the year due to relocation.

In the STIAS Academic Advisory Board, the term of Professor Bert van der Zwaan of Utrecht University has ended and Professor Geoffrey Harpham is due to rotate off Board in 2020. In the STIAS Extended Fellowship and Research Programme Committee, Professor Erika de Wet from the Faculty of Law at the University of Pretoria has resigned following her appointment at the University of Graz in Austria. My appreciation goes to the outgoing members and to all members of the Board and various STIAS committees for their tireless contribution to the success of the programme this past year. The Board is indebted to the funders, partners, fellows, STIAS staff and management without whom this Institute would not be where it is.

**Desmond Smith**  
Chairman of the Board



# Director's Overview

**Edward K Kirumira**  
Director of STIAS

**T**HE first year at the helm of STIAS has been positively eventful and fulfilling. I am thankful that I inherited a healthy organisation with a supportive governance structure and a hardworking team. The Fellows and Visiting Scholars, who are the heartbeat of what we do, embraced the STIAS ethos and in many ways nurtured the change of guard period thus assuring and enriching STIAS' truly impactful creative space for the mind.

In many respects STIAS can be seen to be at its third phase of growth having gone through the first phase of its establishment, the second phase of assuring autonomy and international recognition and now growing its footprint on the African continent and drawing synergies from its internal strength created through its rich fellowship programme over the years. I thank the international fellows for buying into and supporting this expanded programme direction. The partnership we enjoy with the South African and continental intellectual and higher education institutions environment tremendously enriches our programme.

Shortly after taking office in January 2019, I had the opportunity to host the Chair of the Wallenberg Foundations, Peter Wallenberg Jr, and the Foundations' Executive Director, Göran Sandberg. The visit and subsequent interactions have resulted in a strengthened relationship between STIAS and its main benefactors. The support from Stellenbosch University and other donors through the year is much appreciated. Other donors include Donald Gordon Foundation, Swedish Riksbankens Jubileumfond (RJ), Remgro, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Het Jan



Marais National Fund. STIAS is opening up and inviting South African and continental philanthropy.

STIAS is now fully integrated in the membership of Some Institutes for Advanced Study (SIAS), a consortium of 10 of the world's most distinguished institutes for advanced study. They include Princeton Institute for Advanced Study; the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford; the National Humanities Center in North Carolina; Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard; Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study; Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study; Berlin Institute for Advanced Study, the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*; Israel Institute for Advanced Studies and the Nantes Institute for Advanced Study.

In June, STIAS participated, for the first time in the SIAS meeting held in Berlin, Germany. It was tremendously rewarding that STIAS' presentation at the meeting was received with great enthusiasm demonstrating its international standing and the recognition accorded to it as a partner in advancing the role of Institutes for Advanced Study. It was agreed that STIAS host the 2020 SIAS Directors' meeting.

- Director's Overview (continues)

Another key moment to highlight was the convening at STIAS of representatives from over twenty different African scholarly organisations/networks in October. The *Research in Africa* meeting emphasised the need for greater synergy across Africa's research networks and their partners. It also provided an important opportunity to stimulate conversation on the role of Institutes for Advanced Study within the African research and scholarly landscape. This is a central aspect to STIAS' commitment to advancing scholarship and knowledge production and sharing in Africa. During the year we also supported the efforts of new and existing Institutes and Networks on the continent for example the Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) based at the University of Ghana and the Francophone African scholars based *Point Sud* headquartered in Bamako, Mali.

The *Iso Lomso* Fellowship has continued to grow in strength, with the third cohort of seven fellows joining the first and second in their three-year cycle. Several *Iso Lomso* Fellows from different cohorts were in residence simultaneously over the past year with those from the first cohort completing their fellowships with a final STIAS residency. Four *Iso Lomso* Fellows from the second cohort have taken or will soon take up residencies abroad as part of their STIAS programme support.

Eight *Iso Lomso* Fellows travelled to Nairobi at the end of September to participate in *Connecting Minds Africa*, a gathering of 150 early-career African scholars supported by STIAS, Next Einstein Forum, TWAS-SAREP, Global Young Academy and AAS-Affiliates. STIAS served on the Steering Committee together with the African Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society, and the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The meeting was made possible with funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund (UK) and the Royal Society. As the first ever large gathering devoted entirely to young African researchers from across the continent, this was a significant event and the exposure that STIAS and the *Iso Lomso* programme received was invaluable. For the *Iso Lomso* Fellows, the event allowed many new engagements and ideas for collaborative work. A commitment was made for similar events to follow.



Photo: ABOVE Inside Manor House, the STIAS headquarters.



**Photo: ABOVE** Iso Lomso Connecting Minds Africa Meeting. Fellows from left to right (back row) John Ganle, Debra Shepherd, STIAS Director Edward Kirumira, Nkatha Kabira, Elieth Eyebiyi, Izuchukwu Nwankwo. Front row: Fara Raharimalala, Malebogo Ngoepe and Claudia Gastrow.

At the end of November most of our *Iso Lomso* Fellows from the first three cohorts gathered, for the first time, at STIAS for a week of engagement, presentation, mentorship and celebration. The meeting coincided with the visit of a group of Swedish early/mid-career Wallenberg Academy Fellows and was characterised by several joint activities, including two days of thematic discussions. Synergies between WAF and *Iso Lomso* Fellows are expected going forward.

Guided by the principle of a creative space for the mind for persons in residence across disciplines and continents, STIAS has an added special responsibility to Africa's intellectual leadership, distinguished scholars, cutting-edge scholarship as well as nurturing a next generation of African scholars and researchers. It does so not simply because scholars from this part of the world have an important contribution to make, but because it is convinced that they should do so on equal footing and in dialogue with the rest of the world. The level of engagement and dynamism among senior and early-career Fellows has been inspiring and will continue to underlie the activities of the STIAS programme.

During 2019 a Fellows-in-Residence occupancy of 73% was achieved (198 months from a maximum capacity of 270 months). The remaining 27% was devoted to Seminars, Colloquia, and exploratory meetings. The programme continues to reflect an emphasis on projects which draw on or feed into

an interdisciplinary conversation. Although not mandatory, it is desired that some of the projects are considered reflective of the African continental context.

STIAS has the infrastructure and staffing capacity to accommodate up to 30 fellows at a time, which allows it to invite approximately 40 fellows per semester. In doing so STIAS will, in addition to other incidental activities:

- maintain and enhance the quality of its core Fellowship and Research Programme bringing renown academics, artists and public intellectuals for residencies and convening activities;
- vigorously expand its *Iso Lomso* Fellowship Programme focused on the next generation of African scholars and leaders and through them establish the STIAS footprint in their respective institutions and their collaborators;
- make STIAS an academic and intellectual hub in service of the continent and research globally.

2019 has shown that STIAS has garnered significant internal strength for it to be a creative space for the mind and a nurturing, mentoring, and sharing Institute for Advanced Study. It is indeed a symbol of an African fireplace!

**Edward K Kirumira**  
**DIRECTOR: STIAS**

- 2019 Highlights

## JANUARY



The Chairman of the Wallenberg Foundations, Peter Wallenberg Jr and the Executive Director of the Wallenberg Foundations, Göran Sandberg visit STIAS.

## MARCH



STIAS Academic Advisory board meeting.

## APRIL



STIAS Board meeting

## JUNE



STIAS participates for the first time in a meeting with Some Institutes for Advanced Study (SIAS) held at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

The Thirteenth Volume in the STIAS series of book publications, Race in Education Gerhard Maré (Editor) is published.

## AUGUST



The second STIAS Newsletter is published featuring an interview with STIAS's director and Permanent Visiting Fellow, Nina Jablonski. This publication is primarily aimed at the STIAS fellows (now counting more than 700) It summarises and informs them about recent events and developments at STIAS.

It is also directed at friends and supporters of STIAS.



## SEPTEMBER



STIAS hosts the seventh Stellenbosch Annual Seminar on Constitutionalism in Africa (SASCA) with Constitutionalism and the economy in Africa as its theme. This annual event is now co-organised (and partly co-funded) by 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 Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Eight Iso Lomso fellows attend the Connecting Minds Africa gathering of early career African scholars from several different programmes including Next Einstein Forum, TWAS-SAREP, Global Young Academy and AAS-Affiliates.

## NOVEMBER



For the first time since inception of the fellowship, the three Iso Lomso Fellowship cohorts meet and are joined by a group of Swedish early/mid-career Wallenberg Academy Fellows.

## OCTOBER



STIAS organises an African Networks Leadership colloquium on Research in Africa: Optimising Synergies that involved leaderships from Stellenbosch University, the South African Academy of Sciences, the African Research Universities Alliance, the African Academy of Sciences, Rhodes University, AU/NEPAD Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence, University of Cape Town and Future Africa University of Pretoria.

## DECEMBER



25 early career scholars from across Africa convene for a week of presentations on their work and training on science communication. The fellows are grantees of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Early Career Scholars Program (ECSP) which supports teams of early career scholars to collaboratively pursue important scholarly themes.

- Reimagining the role of institutes for advanced study



*Photo: ABOVE STIAS* 2019 has shown that STIAS has garnered significant internal strength for it to be a creative space for the mind and a nurturing, mentoring, and sharing Institute for Advanced Study. It is indeed a symbol of an African fireplace.



# STIAS, a place for sharing

**I**n a recent article by Britta Padberg<sup>\*1</sup>, Institutes for Advanced Study globally are described as paradise for researchers in the way they provide scholars, on one hand time to do their work, and on the other hand, space and freedom to go about their work unfettered.

Not only are Institutes for Advanced Study the perfect environment for researchers to grow individually, but they also provide a conducive space for collaboration across disciplines in often serendipitous ways. This is at the heart of the operations of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. STIAS seeks to advance the cause of science and scholarship across all disciplines, maintaining a focus on topics and projects which draw on or benefit from an interdisciplinary basis, with a desired but not limited emphasis on relevance to the African context.

The idea of ‘a creative space for the mind’ speaks to the STIAS ethos of providing an independent space where ideas are nurtured and flourish. This applies to an individual researcher needing a concentrated time to think, research and write while engaging with other researchers from various disciplines on a similar journey, as well as a team of researchers vexed by a question they wish to tackle collectively. The metaphor of an African fireplace where ideas are shared across generations and where ‘cross pollination of minds’ is encouraged, rings true.

Many Institutes for Advanced Study are increasingly opening themselves for a critique of their historically Anglo-American focus in their selection of fellows and overlooking academic excellence of scholars from non-English speaking countries and the global South. Conscious of this, STIAS introduced an early-career fellowship programme called Iso Lomso as part of its programme. The name means the eye of tomorrow or looking ahead, in one of South Africa’s official languages, isiXhosa. Since 2017,

the Iso Lomso programme awards Fellowships to 7 early to mid-career scholars every year from African countries and affords them support over a period of 3 years to develop a research topic and to pursue it in a nurturing environment. The programme also supports on shorter-period basis early to mid-career visiting scholars. So far 19 Iso Lomso Fellows and 16 Visiting Scholars have been in residence at STIAS.

STIAS has a special focus on Africa and a long-term commitment to nurture coming generations of scholars and intellectual leaders on the continent in conversation with the rest of the world. Part of the ethos of STIAS is therefore to foster an ongoing dialogue between Africa’s brightest minds and their counterparts from all parts of the world. Thus promoting an environment of free exchange of ideas on an equal footing to the mutual enrichment of all participants.

In addition to the Iso Lomso Fellowship Programme, STIAS has put an emphasis on engaging with Africa’s scholarly networks, associations and academies because of the important role these organisations play in the process of strengthening academic institutions and the individuals who ultimately produce new knowledge. While each network organisation has its unique focus, all share the overarching goal of taking Africa’s research and knowledge sharing to the next level.

In October 2019, STIAS brought together heads and academic coordinators of various organisations representing many parts of the continent to a colloquium titled Research in Africa: Optimising synergies. The Colloquium was based on the beliefs

**1\ Padberg, C. 2020. The Global Diversity of Institutes for Advanced Study. Sociologica, vol 14.n1, pp 119-161**

- Reimagining the role of institutes for advanced study

that it can only be to the benefit of all involved to share experiences and insights, to discuss in depth the challenges and opportunities for research on the continent, and to optimise synergies in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support.

The organisations represented at the Colloquium discussed, among other things,

- a) Science, interdisciplinary research and societal impact;
- b) Intra-African research cooperation;
- c) Gender and research in Africa; and,
- d) Early and mid-career scholars.

While emphasizing their own networks' specific goals and unique roles they play, all agreed on the importance of opening up to discover how much we have in common and how networks can enhance each other in support of scholarship on the continent.



*Photo: ABOVE* Some of the STIAS Fellows in residence during the first semester of 2019



*Photo: ABOVE* Some of the STIAS Fellows in residence during the second semester of 2019



**Photo: LEFT** One of the seating and thinking spaces in the STIAS garden.

# STIAS in numbers

The STIAS programme continues to reflect an emphasis on projects which draw on an interdisciplinary basis, are considered reflective of the African context, and often address topical issues of the day. In numbers, this is how the STIAS programme looked like in 2019.

17

**Visiting scholars**

72

**Fellows participated in 2019 programme**

198

**Fellowship months**

37

**Fellows from African countries**

06

Fellows based in  
South Africa

02

STIAS Series books  
published (Vol 13 & 14)

10

Book chapters published

98

Journal articles published

22

Books were published  
related to work carried  
out at STIAS

06

STIAS Public Lectures were  
presented on the campus  
of Stellenbosch University



Fellows

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- Select Projects

# Impacts, opportunities, and challenges related to community sustainable livelihoods: A case study of the *Potamonautid* conservation in Chimanimani, Eastern Highlands

Tatenda Dalu is in his first year of the 3-year Iso Lomso Fellowship Programme for early-career scholars. His research is aimed at assessing the impact of pre-existing livelihoods on the conservation of freshwater crab species.

## Tatenda Dalu Iso Lomso Fellow

Department of Ecology and Resource Management  
University of Venda

**G**lobally, growth in human population and its reduced ability to support biodiversity, has become a threat to the planet's freshwater systems. In Africa, the spatial ecology of freshwater crabs and their conservation status is largely understudied.

Tatenda's research attempts to identify opportunities and constraints to the conservation of crabs within the pre-existing livelihoods of the community households in Chimanimani in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. The research seeks to contribute to better formulation and implementation of conservation strategies through provision of recommendations that provide long lasting conservation action plans.

During 2019, Tatenda captured data from his fieldwork and analysed it. "We assessed direct or indirect community livelihoods impacts on the preservation of *Potamonautes spp.* and attempted to identify opportunities and constraints to conservation of crabs within the pre-existing livelihoods of community households," he says.

Only two crab species *Potamonautes mutarensis* and *Potamonautes unispinus* were recorded within the region of study. *Potamonautes mutarensis* was largely restricted to less impacted environments in the high mountainous river system, whereas *P. unispinus* was found in low lying areas.

## FRESHWATER CRABS AND HUMANS

Interview results revealed that the local communities, particularly in the southern part of the Eastern Highlands around the Chipinge area, had a considerable level of utilisation (55% of households) on the harvesting of crabs for household consumption during the non-agricultural season (May to September).

"We found that increasing human populations, poverty, crab consumption, and illegal mining (i.e. resulting in water pollution, degradation of habitats) are threatening freshwater crabs in the Eastern Highlands. The combined and interacting influences of the above highlighted anthropogenic factors have resulted in *Potamonautes* crab population declines in populated areas," Tatenda says.

Patterns of spatial overlap of rural population, higher poverty prevalence and crab abundance revealed in this study indicate priority areas of possible conflicts of interest, but also areas where benefits to both conservation and livelihoods can potentially be realised.

The study provides important information and insight towards the possible development of a freshwater crab conservation action plan for the region.

In December 2019, Tatenda attended the British Ecology Society Conference in Ireland where he presented a paper on his research and chaired the Community Ecology section on biogeography and spatial ecology. He also assessed poster presentations for the BES Best Poster Award.



**Photo: TOP RIGHT** Illegal artisanal mining activity on Muchira River, a tributary of the Nyahode River system. Photo by Tatenda Dalu.

**Photo: BOTTOM RIGHT** Muowa River, one of the pristine sites where high freshwater crab abundances were recorded. Photo by Tatenda Dalu.

**Photo: ABOVE LEFT** *Potamonautes mutarensis*, the freshwater crab species Tatenda Dalu's research is investigating. Photo by Ethel Phiri.

### INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

"The six weeks I spent at STIAS have been exciting. I met and interacted with fellows from different epistemological backgrounds and cultures, which gave me a good glimpse into their work and what inspired it. During the presentation of my project I managed to get valuable feedback on how to significantly improve the project," says Tatenda.

- Select Projects

# Everyday Authoritarianism: Urban Life and Politics in Luanda, Angola

Claudia Gastrow is in her second year of the *Iso Lomso* Fellowship Programme for early-career scholars. Her work focuses largely on the intersection of urban politics and the built environment, with particular emphasis on Angola, urban belonging, housing, and most recently, financial investments.

## Claudia Gastrow Iso Lomso Fellow

Department of Anthropology and Development Studies  
University of Johannesburg

Claudia was in residence in the first semester of 2019 as part of two projects, her *Iso Lomso* fellowship and a group project called 'The New Middle Class in Africa' with other STIAS fellows. (See the Group Fellowships section of this report.)

### EVERYDAY AUTHORITARIANISM

Claudia spent the residency reading for her project which focuses on what she refers to as 'everyday authoritarianism'.

Her project poses the question of how authoritarian politics systems institutionalise themselves through everyday life. While there has been a rise in authoritarian politics across the African continent over the last decade, there is little understanding of how authoritarianism is actually experienced on the ground, and why ordinary citizens come to support these systems. Focused on one neighbourhood in Angola's capital, Luanda, Claudia investigates how the state works at a local level, how people develop relationships to governance institutions, and through this, how the authoritarian nature of Angola's political system shapes everyday life.

"Building on my conversations with other fellows and my own readings, I have focused the project more to take on a specifically gendered focus on power and the masculinity of the state in contemporary studies of authoritarianism in Africa. I have also used the opportunity to plan for my fieldwork later," Claudia says. "I was able to begin to read more on the topic and to conceptualise my fieldwork. In more concrete terms, I submitted the first article for the project to *Transformation*, a South Africa-

based journal focused largely on issues of political economy," says Claudia.

In addition to the *Transformation* submission she completed the revisions for a journal article on the role of the Presidency in urban planning in Luanda. "The piece has subsequently been accepted for publication by the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, one of the top Urban Studies journals in social sciences globally.

"Not only did I get time to read and write, as well as an extremely well-resourced working space, but I gained immensely from the open atmosphere that STIAS cultivates, which enabled me to build strong relationships with the other fellows despite significant differences in discipline and seniority between myself and many of them," she says.

During her residency, Claudia gave a STIAS Public Lecture titled: "***The Discomforts of Home: Class, Infrastructure and Aesthetics in Luanda, Angola.***" The lecture looked at how official and unofficial infrastructure were the objects through which residents of Luanda experienced exclusion and status.

In the first decade and half of the 2000s, Luanda was the showcase of the country's post-conflict reconstruction project and despite the state attempting to portray reconstruction as an act of provision and care, it reproduced existing material and aesthetic conditions of differentiation and exclusion, thereby reinforcing the more subtle inequities of sensory experience that structured conceptions of belonging.



*Photo: ABOVE* The famous Luanda promenade, the Marginal with skyscraper buildings at sunset. Photo *Photo* by Claudia Gastrow



*Photo: ABOVE* A man walks the dusty streets of Cazenga, one of the neighbourhoods in Luanda identified for 'requalification' *Photo* by Claudia Gastrow

## INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

"My stay at STIAS has been one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences for me since I finished my PhD and began working fulltime as a lecturer.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that the *Iso Lomso* fellowship has opened for me. I look forward to interacting more with STIAS over the next two years as I undertake the fieldwork for the project and write articles and eventually the book stemming from the work undertaken under the auspices of the *Iso Lomso* fellowship", says Claudia.

- Select Projects

# The Temporalities of the Informality:

## The case of Benin-Nigeria cross-border fuel smuggling

Elieth Eyebiyi is based at the Laboratory for the Study and Research of Social Dynamics and Local Development (LASDEL) in Benin. His work seeks to analyse informality as a dimension of the social contract initiated by marginalized actors in response to the failed welfare state in the Global South. Elieth is in his second year of the Iso Lomso fellowship.

### Elieth Eyebiyi Iso Lomso Fellow

LASDEL Benin

**T**here are not enough petrol stations in Benin, people earn on average US \$2 per day and an estimated 60% of fuel consumed comes from smuggling.

#### FAILED WELFARE STATE

“I am looking at fuel smuggling on the Benin-Nigeria borderlands since the democratic renewal in the early 1990s, when liberalism arose and the welfare state ended in this region,” says Elieth.

The advent of democracy after dictatorship in Benin in the 1990s was a turning point in the social and economic life of the country’s citizens. It meant increased freedom to do business without State control but also led to the rise of the informal economy and decreased power of the State to regulate.

In the same period, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank pushed the government to accept structural adjustment programmes which led to many public officials losing their jobs and having to seek alternate employment opportunities including in the informal economy.

Elieth’s research explores four concepts namely, informality (every day activities that are not clearly legal or illegal); practical norms/common practices (solutions people find to attain their goals); the importance of mobility; and, the concept of borderlands vs. borderlines.

It is an ethnographic study which, to date, has involved semi-structured interviews on both sides of

the borderlands as well as detailed analysis of media sources.

“Fuel smuggling covers a range of activities and stretches over a large area,” Elieth says.

“The actors include smugglers, union officials, wholesalers, retailers, transporters, spotters, police, customs officials and, even, firefighters,” he says. Although fuel smuggling is legally prohibited, it is socially tolerated because it meets the daily needs of everyone, including State structures.

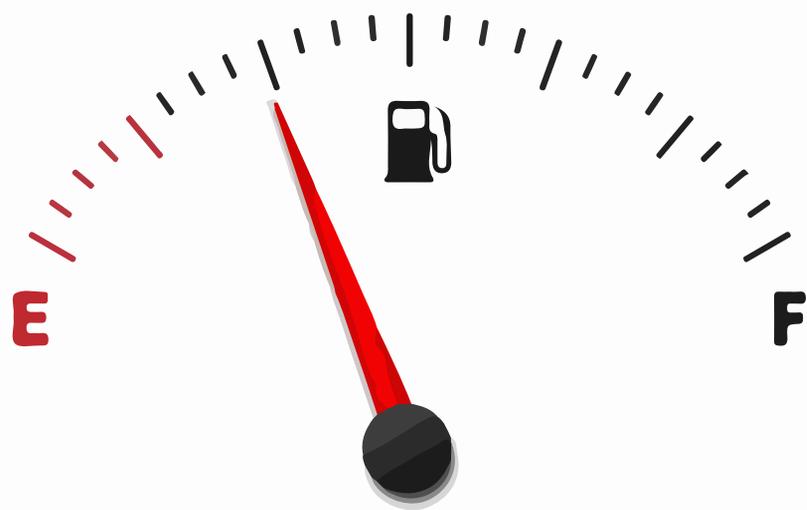
Elieth’s next steps include studying the mechanics of the fuel smuggling trade, examining the bureaucratisation tools as well as the language of informality.

“This research subscribes to a critical and empirical perspective. It is based at the crossroads of anthropology of the State, the sociology of daily life and social economy,” he says.

#### INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

“My stay at STIAS was one of my best experiences in a research institute. Warm thanks to the entire STIAS team for this opportunity, especially for the discreet and very stimulating coaching that allowed me to progress in the realization of my potential, in capacity to imagine, to think differently. All discussions with Fellows have been rich and rewarding moments to express parts of my work, provoke new reflections and learn from various experiences,” says Elieth.

Levi's



*Photo: ABOVE* A fuel smuggler transports empty fuel cans on a motorcycle in Seme, southern Benin. **Photo by Elieth Eyebi**

“In order for us all to be part of tomorrow’s discoveries and breakthroughs, we must invest today in the development of our brightest minds”.

– Peter Wallenberg, STIAS Benefactor

## About Iso Lomso

**T**he *Iso Lomso* Fellowship programme for early to mid-career scholars in Africa remains one of the major success stories of STIAS.

In 2019, 14 Fellows from different cohorts were in residence with those from the first cohort completing their Fellowships.

Five Fellows from the second cohort have taken or will soon take up residencies abroad and a further four from the third cohort have received invitations for residencies abroad during 2020/2021. Five other

Institutes for Advanced Study are now regular/annual hosts of *Iso Lomso* Fellows.

In November 2019, *Iso Lomso* Fellows from all three cohorts gathered, for the first time, at STIAS for a week of engagement, presentation, mentorship and celebration. The meeting coincided with the visit of a group of Swedish mid-career Wallenberg Academy Fellows and included several joint activities, including two days of thematic discussions.

For more about the Iso Lomso Fellowship visit: <https://stias.ac.za/fellowships/iso-lomso/>

- Select Projects

# Glory

NoViolet Bulawayo spent the first semester of 2019 as an Artist-in-residence researching and writing the first draft of her latest novel titled, *Glory*.

## NoViolet Bulawayo

Artist-in-residence

**G**lory is the title of NoViolet Bulawayo's latest novel which centres around the unexpected fall of a long-serving leader of a fictional country and the drama that follows. The novel is inspired by the ouster, in November 2017, of Zimbabwe's long-serving president, Robert G. Mugabe.

NoViolet, who grew up in Zimbabwe, is the author of *We Need New Names*, a novel which has been translated into 20 languages and recognized with the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the Pen/Hemingway Award, the LA Times Book Prize Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, the Etisalat Prize for Literature, and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the International Literature Award, and the Guardian First Book Award, among others.

NoViolet earned her MFA at Cornell University where she was a recipient of the Truman Capote Fellowship. She has taught fiction writing at Cornell and Stanford Universities.

During her STIAS residency, NoViolet conducted research for *Glory*, started writing a preliminary draft, and did revisions of subsequent multiple drafts.

"I'm indebted to STIAS for the gift of time and resources to allow me to imagine, research, and create *Glory*. I strongly feel the completion of the draft would not have otherwise been the success it was without the support, specifically, allowing me to focus on my project, which is always crucial for the kind of work I'm doing, where it is often necessary



**Photo: ABOVE** NoViolet Bulawayo during her residency at STIAS.

to disconnect, have zero obligations, live inside my head for days without interaction," says NoViolet.

"Minor disruptions can take me out of my element, which can sometimes take me a couple of days to get back into my work. So, I am extremely grateful for the generosity and understanding of STIAS in this respect," she adds.

This is NoViolet's first work to be researched and written in its entirety on the continent. In reflecting about the importance of space, she says: "STIAS certainly brought me closer to my source and material in a way that gave the work an urgency I may not have been able to achieve had I been writing from the US (My second home, and where I wrote my first novel). Spending the last half of 2018 in Zim, and the first half of 2019 in South Africa was such an incredible and needed gift that meant my material was at my fingertips. I also had the benefit of being around scholars I wouldn't have met otherwise, a couple of whom would turn out to enrich my project: UJ - based Professor David Moore for instance, continues to expand my appreciation of the politics at the center of the story," she says.

- Select Projects

# From one to many: Parallels between the origins of multicellularity and social behaviour

The link between genes and biological traits is weaker than generally believed, and in some ways is similar to the link between genes and cultural traits.

## Vidyanand Nanjundiah

Centre for Human Genetics, Bangalore

Vidyanand spent three months in residence working on his project on multicellularity.

The project expands on two main points: Firstly, in order to explain the biological evolution of multicellular (or multi-individual) groups, one needs to invoke genes and their interactions. In addition, one has to incorporate systemic properties that follow from individual traits and inter-individual interactions.

“They can be termed systemic because the traits that enable them are likely to have been present before the transition from uni to multicellularity. In this sense, the transition could have been based on self-organisation. One could say that the transition involved “sociological” factors in addition to biological ones”, Vidyanand says.

Behavioural traits, especially cultural traits, depend on social interactions, and also on biological or genetic factors. Vidyanand developed the outline of the project in a paper titled ‘Culture and Evolution’.

### MANY ROADS LEAD TO ROME: NEUTRAL PHENOTYPES IN MICROORGANISMS

This article was published in *Journal of Experimental Zoology*. It argues that in the case of microorganisms, evolution has not led to unique solutions. Even within members of the same species of cellular slime mould, there can be significant differences in patterns of gene expression, which result in different physiological outcomes. Nevertheless, individuals with different physiologies

(that take “many roads”) are all equivalent in terms of the final outcome, which is the successful attainment of a multicellular state (“Rome”). Thus, the link between genes and ultimate outcomes is weaker than one might think. The same issue of the publication contains a multiply authored vignette titled ‘John Tyler Bonner: Remembering a scientific pioneer’.

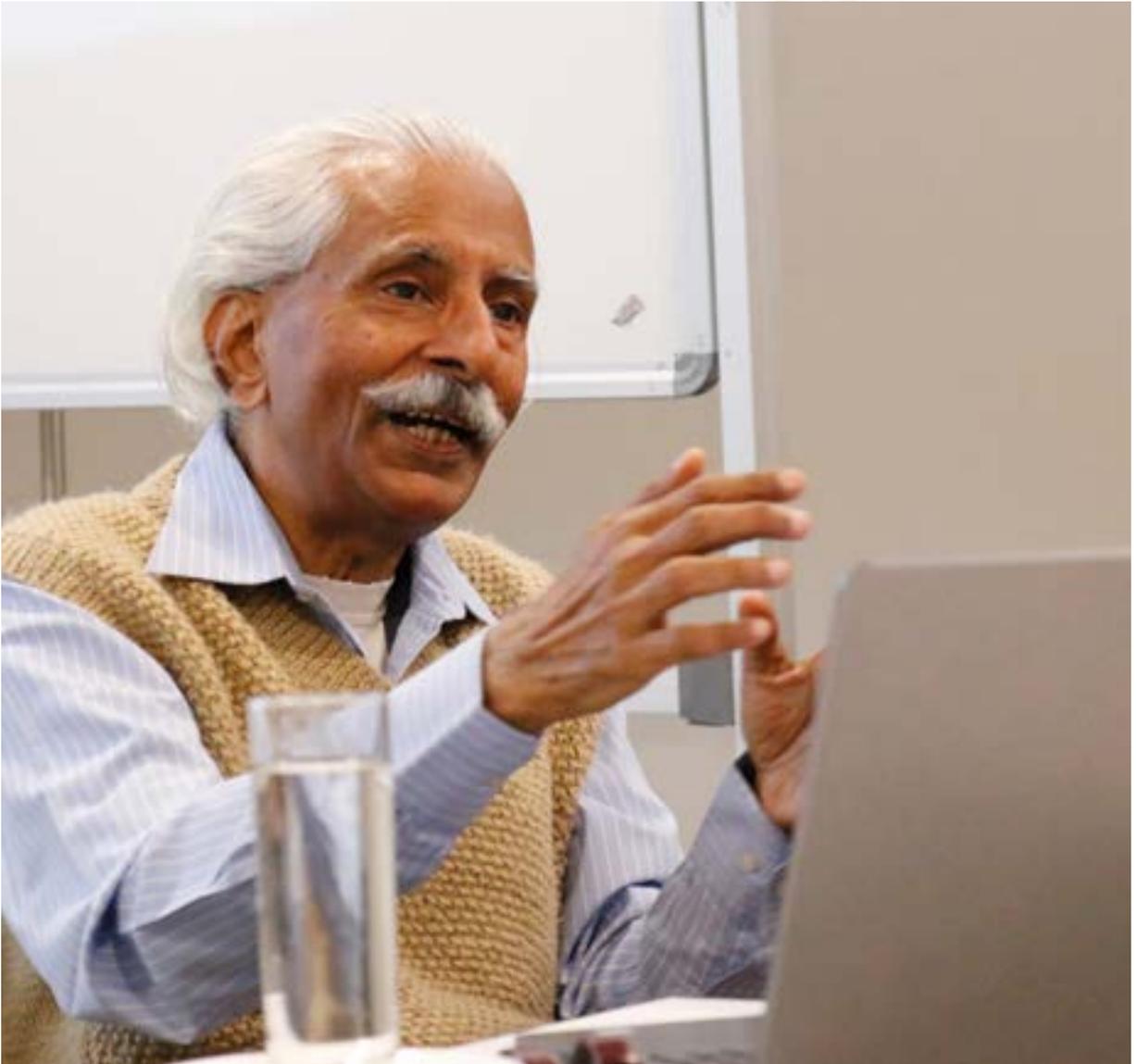
**Phenotypic Switching. Implications in Biology and Medicine** is the name of the book Vidyanand co-edited during his residency; he was responsible for 12 chapters.

“The editing was extensive and was carried out during the stay in STIAS. The contents of this book overlap with those of the Project; they deal with the influence of non-genetic factors, in particular random factors, on cell and organismal development,” he says.

### INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

“My STIAS seminar was perfectly timed. Coming a month into the stay, it allowed me to frame preliminary ideas, deliberate on the comments that were made, and consider how to modify my thesis after taking them into account. That was important, because I am trained in the natural sciences but intend to address a general readership.

This stay has been a feast for the mind. I could not have asked for more and express my thanks to STIAS for having made it possible,” says Vidyanand.



*Photo: ABOVE* Vidyanand Nanjundiah speaking during his seminar.

**“This stay has been a feast for the mind. I could not have asked for more and express my thanks to STIAS for having made it possible,”**

**– Vidyanand Nanjundiah**

- Select Projects

# Mineral Wealth and Distributive Struggles on the Platinum Belt of South Africa

Sonwabile Mnwana is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology and anthropology University of Fort Hare, South Africa. He spent the second semester of 2019 as a STIAS visiting scholar. His research project explores land distribution struggles on the platinum belt of South Africa. Primarily, the research examines local politics of distribution in platinum-rich traditional authority areas in South Africa's North West province.

## Sonwabile Mnwana

Visiting Scholar, University of Fort Hare

**S**outh Africa's post-apartheid state, despite nationalising all mineral resources, has failed to ensure that the benefits of mining accrue to the historically excluded Black population and to local communities where the industry's operations occur. Benefits of mining for local communities which host the mines and from which mining labour comes, are miniscule.

Sonwabile's project examines local politics of land distribution in platinum-rich traditional authority areas in the North-West province. "What is unique about this area is that most of these mining projects are on communal land under tribal chiefs – land that used to fall under the former homeland of Bophuthatswana," he says.

"The 'fight' for land in this area has a long history. When the Dutch settlers arrived, they encountered a dry terrain with small, very spread out groups of mostly Tswana people who were easily defeated by settlers with guns. Land was demarcated into farms and parcelled off to white owners. By the late 1880s many Africans were living on white-owned farms as tenants and sharecroppers, but some did enter the colonial land market as owners "usually via white intermediaries and at great risk of losing their purchase," he says.

During his residency, Sonwabile worked on two journal articles that have been submitted for publishing in *The Extractive Industries and Society* and the *Transformation* journals.

**Landscapes of power, conflict and radical distributive claims in South Africa's rural mining frontier**, is the title of the article co-authored with Andrew Bowman from the University of Edinburgh. This article contributes to the growing scholarly literature, the character and drivers of distributional struggles in the context of industrial mining's expanding frontiers in Africa. It presents an analysis of mine-community conflict in South Africa's rural platinum belt. The article has been submitted for peer review in the *The Extractive Industries and Society* journal.

**Land reform, rural inequality and agrarian change: the case of Isidenge, Stutterheim, Eastern Cape**, is the second article, co-authored with William Beinart from the University of Oxford and Luvuyo Wotshela from the University of Fort Hare. This article examines contemporary shifts in property ownership and social relations on the land since 1994 in the Isidenge Valley, Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape. In part, this study specifically investigates the partially implemented land reform scheme in Isidenge and in part the result of African land purchase in the study area. The article charts these processes and their impact on rural inequality and agricultural production. The authors also offer some comments on the character and outcomes of land reform. See: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/752986>

**When Custom Divides 'Community'? Legal Battles over Mineral-Rich Land in Rural South Africa**. This is a book chapter Sonwabile wrote and submitted to a book volume titled, *Contested Histories*. The chapter details how mining on rural land has produced local struggles.



*Photo: ABOVE* Mining is rapidly taking away grazing land from rural communities. Photo by Sonwabile Mswana



*Photo: ABOVE* Homesteads with mine dumps in the background in Mokopane, Limpopo Province. Photo by Sonwabile Mswana

“One point of departure in my attempt to understand mining-led conflict in rural South Africa has been to observe the character of the legal disputes. In the context of the Bakgatla people of the North West province, disputes tend to highlight the role of custom, says Sonwabile.

The chapter mainly interrogates the questions: Why are the new rural struggles dominated by legal battles? Is the customary law applied by courts so distorted that it has potential to divide a ‘community’?

**Critically Engaging Public Sociology: A Southern Perspective** is the title of the book Sonwabile co-edited with Andries Bezuidenhout from the University of Fort Hare, and Karl von Holdt from Wits University addressing the relevance of academic research for broader social justice struggles and social change. Much social science and allied research generates rich insights and new knowledge

about social injustice. Within this context, this volume explores the theoretical and practical issues that arise in different critical approaches, innovative pedagogies and research methodologies, as well as the tensions and opportunities of engagement between academic researchers and civil society actors and policymakers.

### INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

“STIAS provided me with a wonderful opportunity to work on my writing projects during my six-month residence. Although I primarily planned to work straight on my book project, I thought it would be useful to shift the plans slightly – to produce articles that will be published in top journals and then convert them to chapters in my book later,” says Sonwabile.

- Select Projects

# Dementia: A Growing Problem in South Africa and the World

Carlos Ibanez is a molecular biologist and holds double appointments as Professor in Neuroscience at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden and Professor in the Department of Physiology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. He is also a member of the Nobel Assembly for Physiology and Medicine at Karolinska Institutet, and member of the European Molecular Biology Organization EMBO.

## Carlos Ibanez

Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute

Several studies performed in Asian populations have found a high prevalence of cerebrovascular disease in cognitive impaired and Alzheimer's Disease patients. These and other results suggest that the prevalence of different types of dementias may be region-specific and thus different in different world 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 prevalence varied widely between countries.

The predominant factors associated with a higher prevalence of dementia were old age and female sex, and similar associations have been reported globally. There is a paucity of published research on the prevalence of dementia in South Africa.

## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's Disease is a progressive, irreversible brain disease. It is the main cause of dementia. It destroys memory, disrupts daily activities, and usually causes death within 8 to 12 years.

Identifying the neuronal cell receptors and understanding the genetic mutations linked to Alzheimer's Disease and how to manipulate these genes would be an important step forward and

is the basis of the work being done in Carlos's laboratories. The laboratories conduct genetic, electrophysiological and behaviour tests in mouse models.

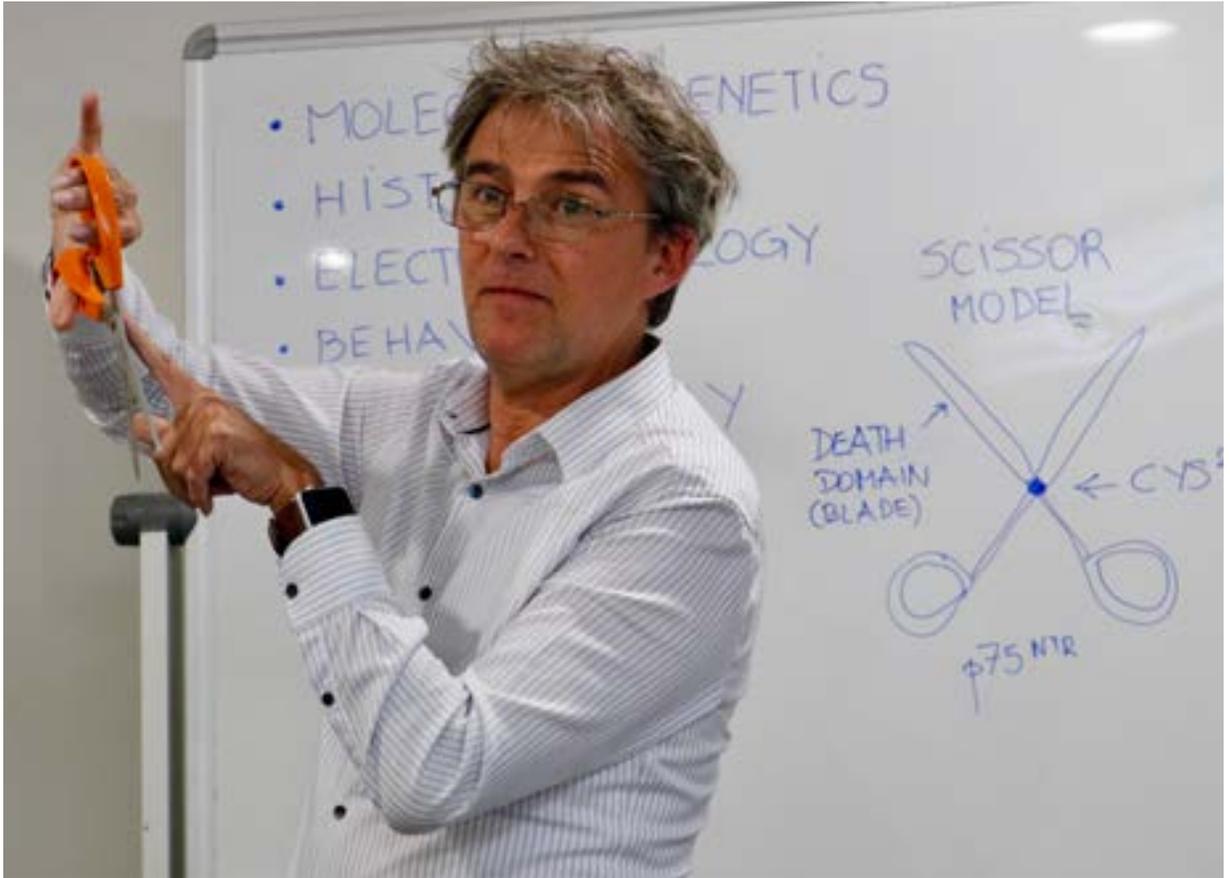
"Using these models, we are hoping to determine the role of specific cell receptors linked to neuronal damage. We are changing or removing parts of receptor genes to see if this results in less production of the amyloid plaques," Carlos says.

"During my time at STIAS, my work concentrated mainly in writing research articles emanating from experimental work performed at laboratories in Karolinska Institute as well as National University of Singapore," says Carlos.

The main article on dementia and Alzheimer's Disease constitutes the key publication corresponding to the title of the project and culmination of work that began during his previous stay in 2017. This paper is currently in press in *The EMBO Journal*.

## TRANSCRIPTIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXTRACELLULAR SIGNALS

A second article was revised during the residency and is now in press at *The Journal of Cell Biology*. This paper describes how intrinsic transcriptional programs interact with extracellular signals present in the environment of cells of the medial ganglionic eminence to regulate cortical interneuron specification.



*Photo: ABOVE* Carlos Ibanez demonstrates the scissor model during his seminar in October.

### CONTROL OF BROWN ADIPOSE TISSUE

A third article was also written at STIAS and is under consideration by a top journal. This article describes results showing that the activin receptor ALK7 signalling regulates the adaptation of brown adipose tissue to nutrient availability by limiting nutrient stress-induced overactivation of catabolic responses in brown adipocytes.

### BROWNING OF WHITE ADIPOSE TISSUE

A fourth article written during the residency describes research aimed at understanding the function of CD137, a cell surface protein used in some studies as a marker for beige adipocytes, in thermogenesis in inguinal adipose tissue (so-called “browning”). “Unexpectedly, we found that CD137 functions as a negative regulator of “browning” in white adipose tissue, and call into question the use of this protein as a functional marker for beige

adipocytes. This article was published in The Journal of Biological Chemistry.

### INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

“My time at STIAS proved to be very productive as well as inspiring, not the least because of the many wonderful interactions with colleagues from other disciplines. This aspect is very special at STIAS and provided me with the opportunity – and the challenge – to consider several aspects of my own research from a much broader perspective. This experience was very enriching,” says Carlos.

- Select Projects

# Complexity beyond the real:

## The integration of the unknown and the unknowable into science

Complexity theory provides an important and potent challenge to the continuing dominance of worldviews informed by classical science. It can be viewed as a postmodern science. This poses a challenge to what we see as science, and what being 'scientific' means in the social and natural world.

### Jean Boulton

Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath

Jean's project seeks to answer two fundamental questions, the first being: How can we know about the complex world in a broad, beyond-the-real sense, where nothing is excluded? The second question is: If science moves beyond modernism and incorporates aspects of experience that we cannot easily explain or pin down, then what does that imply for our metaphysics?

"The particular interest I hold which is to think about complexity in a less concrete 'realist' way and connect more clearly with ideas of process in sociology, biology, philosophy, Daoism and quantum gravity, has been very fruitful" says Jean.

The outcome of her project at STIAS is to embark on a second book on complexity, to be entitled 'Process Complexity' and to write a paper on the same subject for a journal. The paper develops the ontology of 'Process Complexity' and describes how the dynamics of 'becoming' can be framed as the emerging, stabilising and ultimate dissolving of patterns of relationships. "We show how this leads to the idea of ontological uncertainty and hence re-introduces 'mystery' and the potential for the 're-enchantment of science'," Jean says.

"As complexity theory is a cross-disciplinary field of study, it has been particularly exhilarating to be together with such a wide range of scholars, and in a setting, which promotes generosity and allows time for discussion and exchange.

"I have been able to complete a substantial amount of writing and also to collect notes, ideas and many relevant references, and undertake much reading, so that the work is well shaped in my mind," she says.

"I can honestly say that these two months of engaging with STIAS fellows and scholars has developed my thinking and opened new horizons in a way that has not happened for many years," she says.

"I was fortunate already to have contacts with Complex Systems in Transition Group (CST) and I hope that has allowed a good exchange of ideas that has been mutually beneficial. This balance - of engaging with first class scholars both in STIAS and in the wider Stellenbosch University environment - means, I hope, that this mutual exchange offers something to South Africa and has also shown how South African scholars, in many ways, are leading the way in terms of dealing with complex multi-dimensional issues, and have much to offer academics worldwide.

"I have found an energy and edginess here in South African universities that promote deep thinking, a strong interest in ethics and gritty, nuanced solutions. This attitude of pushing beyond the boundaries and tussling with real-life complex problems, can feel less tangible in the North, where day-to-day experience of economic inequality and climate change are not so stark," SHE SAYS.

### INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

"STIAS has provided a cross-disciplinary setting to develop my thinking and it has been helpful beyond my wildest dreams. Because the first part of the book focuses on the ontology of complexity, I have been able to engage with other scholars to explore the theories that underpin their disciplines and their personal work. The seminars have also provided stories and cases which allowed me to develop my ideas for the second part of the book, which is about theories of change," says Jean.



*Photo: ABOVE* Jean Boulton during her seminar in May.

**“I have been able to complete a substantial amount of writing and also to collect notes, ideas and many relevant references, and undertake much reading, so that the work is well shaped in my mind,” – Jean Boulton**

- Select Projects

# Neo-Abolitionism: The Case Against the Employer-Employee System in favour of Workplace Democracy

The controversial institution in the economic system throughout most of the world is not the market or private property but the employer-employee relationship.

## David Ellerman

Department of Philosophy, University of California at Riverside

David Ellerman was in residence between January and April, writing his book, *Neo-Abolitionism: Abolishing Human Rentals in Favor of Workplace Democracy*.

In addition to his fellow's seminar on neo-abolitionism, David gave 6 talks in various departments at Stellenbosch University namely, two in Mathematics, two in Philosophy, Economics and the Computer Science Bioinformatics Group.

## EMPLOYER- EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP

In the technical terms of Economics, the employer is *renting* the employees. The abolition of slavery got rid of any voluntary contractual form of buying labour "by the lifetime" in addition to involuntary slavery. In its place, we have a system of voluntarily renting people by the hour, day, week, or any specified time period.

A critique of voluntary forms of slavery and autocracy was developed in the abolitionist and democratic movements.

When recovered and formulated in modern terms, this neo-abolitionist critique of the human rental system proceeds along three lines that converge to the same conclusion:

1) the theory of inalienable rights that descends from the Reformation notion of inalienability of conscience;

2) democratic theory based on the distinction between social contracts of alienation and contracts of delegation; and

3) the development of the modern natural rights or labour theory of property that people should appropriate the positive and negative fruits of their labour (appropriated by the employer in the employment relation).

"My seminar at STIAS was on the same topic of neo-abolitionism. The comments from the other Fellows in the seminar and afterwards were helpful in showing some typical reactions that needed to be addressed in the book," says David.

"As for the future, I plan to continue from afar my work in promoting more employee ownership through Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP) to facilitate the succession problem particularly in white-owned family firms and in general to better address the economic form of apartheid that is so obvious in South Africa today," says David.

"It has been a quarter century since 1994 and the smug, white-dominated business community seems to think that the status quo will continue indefinitely without there eventually being 'fire in the streets'," he says.

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*Photo: ABOVE* David Ellerman during his seminar in February.

“My seminar at STIAS was on the same topic of neo-abolitionism. The comments from the other Fellows in the seminar and afterwards were helpful in showing some typical reactions that needed to be addressed in the book,” – **David Ellerman.**

- Select Projects

# Digital Capitalism

Kathleen Thelen is Ford Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Immediate Past President of the American Political Science Association. Her work focuses on the origins and evolution of political-economic institutions in rich democracies.

## Kathleen Thelen

Department of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**K**athleen's project is about the emergence of a new "gig" economy associated with the rise of new platform business models such as Uber, Upwork, TaskRabbit and others.

These new app-based companies create value not by producing things or providing services in the traditional way, but by enabling producers and consumers to interact directly.

However, these new business models pose a host of new regulatory challenges because the entrepreneurs associated with "digital capitalism" are often creating wholly new markets beyond the reach of current labour and regulatory policies.

Kathleen uses e-hailing company, Uber as a lens to explore the comparative political economy of the platform economy specifically in Europe and the United States, and pulls together some of the lessons of these experiences that might be applicable to lower- and middle-income economies.

"I am exploring variations in how these models are received and regulated in different countries and contexts," she says. "Within the advanced capitalist world, different countries have responded in wildly different ways to this new service, from welcome embrace and accommodating regulatory adjustments to complete rejection and legal bans."

Her research focused on the United States, Germany, and Sweden, to document three very different responses, the conflicts that Uber provoked

in these countries and the actors and coalitions that mobilised around these flashpoints.

"In the US there was broad deregulation of existing transportation legislation to accommodate Uber. In Germany, by contrast, there was a vigorous defence of existing regulations, mostly shutting Uber down. Sweden made some adjustments but not complete deregulation," Kathleen says.

During her residency in the first semester of 2019, Kathleen presented a public lecture titled, "Regulating Uber: The Politics of the Platform Economy" and authored a book chapter and two journal articles.

**Are we all Amazon Primed? Consumers and the Politics of Platform Power** is the title of the first article Kathleen co-authored while in residence. It deals with the issues of digitalization and the impact of technology. The article is due to appear in the journal, *Comparative Political Studies*. "This article was much enriched by the conversations that I had with other scholars after I had delivered my public lecture on Uber," she says.

The second article titled, **Varieties of Urbanism: A Comparative View of Metropolitan Fragmentation and Inequality**, tries to grapple with the spatial dimensions of inequality in the United States and France.



*Photo: ABOVE* Kathleen Thelen during her public lecture in March.

“In writing it, I benefitted tremendously from conversations with other STIAS fellows who examine similar issues in the context of the developing world, whether they approach it from a planning perspective or through the lens of sociology or anthropology,” Kathleen says.

“I also wrote a chapter for a book that I am co-editing that tries to gain insight into the high levels of inequality in the US by exploring how key political-economic institutions have evolved over time. This work is in some ways an extension of previous work that I have done on issues of institutional evolution and change, and I was delighted to discover many points of intersection with the ways in which the complexity scholars whose visits to STIAS overlapped with mine, approach these issues,” she says.

## **INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK**

“I especially enjoyed the young scholars; they are fantastic, full of energy and ideas. Overall, an enormously enriching and productive stay, for which I am eternally grateful. STIAS has provided an incredibly congenial and stimulating intellectual environment. Much of what I wrote while I was here was deeply influenced by conversations I had with other fellows, and so I feel very lucky to have been here at a time when so many unexpected and serendipitous encounters yielded so much fruitful thought,” Kathleen says.

- Select Projects

# Liberated Africans and The Cost of Freedom, 1807 to 1930

Yvette Christiansë is the Ann Whitney Olin Chair and Professor of Africana Studies and English at Barnard College, Columbia University. She was in residency at STIAS between July and September 2019 writing a book on the significance of the Liberated Africans. Christiansë is an award-winning poet, novelist, librettist and scholar with interests in the poetry and prose of African diaspora in former English colonies.

## Yvette Christiansë

Barnard College, Columbia University

For almost three decades, Yvette has been researching the stall in the abolition of slavery in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans from 1807 into the early years of the 20th Century. Her research is on the significance of the Liberated Africans, those rescued from the holds of slave ships and dhows in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, the Mediterranean and in the Caribbean between 1808 and 1888, with an aftermath that continued into the 1930s.

Her work considers the protracted stall in the promise of freedom for those stolen into slavery, placed into vessels for their passage to the Americas, Gulf States, and elsewhere in the Middle East, and then liberated only to learn that this would first entail apprenticeship in places from which the vast majority could never return.

“During this time at STIAS I set myself two goals - one was to engage the personal accounts of Liberated Africans in the context of a massive enterprise of which they were the center; the other was to return to the transcripts of Mixed Commission Courts,” Yvette says.

I was able to:

- Rethink the outline of my book and make conceptual and structural changes. Once this became clear, so much else has been able to fall into place.
- Determine how first person accounts of the lived experience of being captured and then liberated can be interwoven with each chapter.
- Begin a distinct chapter that looks at where there are similarities in first person narratives recorded in different places and different time.
- Reread and incorporate archival information to attend to the ‘global’ nature of the vast enterprise grounded in the bodies and minds of ‘Liberated Africans.’ For example, I was able to prepare a chapter that attends to the transcripts of Mixed Commission Courts on both the Indian Ocean and Atlantic African seaboard, as well as those in the Americas (e.g. Havana).

In addition to being able to get a stronger sense of the book’s outline, these are the papers I was able to write/finish/begin while at STIAS:

- ‘At Sea in the Archive: Slavery, Indenture, and the Nineteenth Century Indian Ocean.’ - edited, for publication at the University of Leiden.



**Photo: ABOVE** Yvette Christiansë during her public lecture.

- ‘Extracting Liberation’ - submitted to the *Berlin Journal*. This essay considers how colonial administrative techniques like the Register of Liberated Africans concealed the continuity between unfree and free labor.
- ‘1619 400 Years Later’ – for the Barnard College’s News column titled ‘*Break This Down.*’ This short article answers a series of questions that look back to the arrival of enslaved Africans at Virginia Colony in August 1619, beginning with a reminder that Africans had first arrived in what would become the United States of America in May 1537 when 50 slaves were landed in the Spanish colony La Florida.

While in residence, Yvette delivered a public lecture titled *‘Untold Wealth for the Benefit of the World’*: *Liberated Africans and the Cost of Freedom.*

## INTERACTION AND FEEDBACK

“Our work involves a commitment to teach, contribute to our institutions, our communities, our fields. In the end, very little time is afforded for writing and doing the very work that made us attractive to our institutions. In my own case, administrative commitments have meant that for almost nine years it has been impossible to think and shape my book.

The seminars took on a greater significance for me. I truly learned so much and have been reminded why this is the path that chose me. Edward Kirumira’s moderation set the tone as one of mutual respect even in rigorous disagreement or excited conversation,” says Yvette.



### **Michael Blake**

STIAS Composer-in-residence

**Project:** *African Composition Techniques*



### **Christof Heyns**

Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa  
University of Pretoria

**Project:** *South Africa and the emergence of international human rights*



### **Justinian Tamusuza**

Department of Music, Dance and Drama  
Makerere University

**Project:** *My Voice in Contemporary Art Music*



### **Martin Murray**

Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning  
University of Michigan)

**Project:** *Re-Urbanism in Africa: Building Master-planned, Holistically-designed Satellite Cities*



### **Arne Rasmusson**

Department of Literature, History of Ideas and Religion  
University of Gothenburg

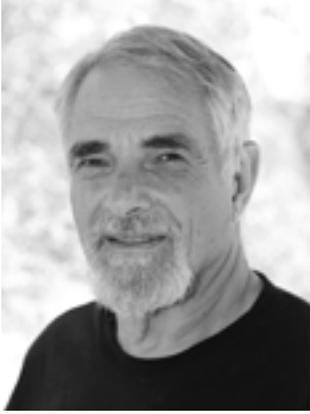
**Project:** *Theological ethics in the intersection of moral psychology and sociology*



### **NoViolet Bulawayo**

STIAS Artist-in-residence

**Project:** *Glory* (a multi-generational family drama told through different periods of Zimbabwe's history)



### Robert Gordon

Department of Anthropology  
University of Vermont

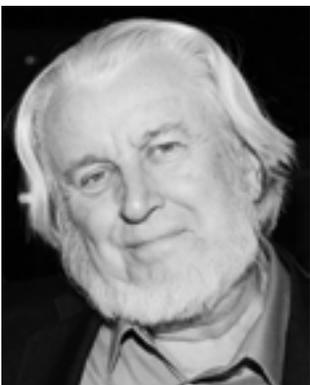
**Project:** Making a difference: How South Africa field-tested Apartheid in Namibia



### Wanda Deifelt

Department of Religion  
Luther College, Iowa

**Project:** *Religious Pluralism, Hybrid Identities and the Postcolonial Religious Other*



### David Ellerman

University of California at Riverside

**Project:** *Neo-Abolitionism: The Case Against the Employer-Employee System*



**Gerard Niyungeko**

Faculty of Law  
University of Burundi

**Project:** *African International Courts*



**Gibson Ncube**

Department of Foreign Languages and Literature  
University of Zimbabwe

**Project:** *Bodies and/as Texts: Representing queer on screen in contemporary Africa*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



**António Tomás**

African Centre for Cities  
University of Cape Town

**Project:** *Luanda is not Paris: a situated epistemology of Southern Urbanism Theory*



### **Martin Ruehl**

Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages  
University of Cambridge

**Project:** *Untermenschen: Nietzsche on slavery – and what it means to be human*



### **Ghirmai Negash**

Department of English and African Studies Program  
Ohio University

**Project:** *Translation of the Amharic Novel, Tobiya (1907) into English*



### **Anne Pitcher**

Department of Afroamerican and African Studies/Department of Political  
Science  
University of Michigan

**Project:** *A Place to Call Home: A comparative study of the urban housing boom in Luanda and Nairobi*



### **Mathatha Tsedu**

Journalist, Writer-in-residence

**Project:** *And Still I Rise*



### **Preben Kaarsholm**

Department of Social Sciences and Business  
Roskilde University

**Project:** *Urban informality and middle-class aspirations in South Africa and Kenya* (part of the team project *The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective*)



### **Robert Poli**

Department of Sociology and Social Research  
University of Trento

**Project:** *The Anticipatory Perspective: What Next?*



### Wolfgang Seibel

Department of Politics and Public Administration  
University of Konstanz

**Project:** *Black Swans in Public Administration: Rare Organizational Failure with Severe Consequences*



### David Moore

Department of Anthropology & Development Studies  
University of Johannesburg

**Project:** *Considering Zimbabwe's 2017 Coup: Causes, Consequences, Concepts*



### Andreas Freytag

Department of Economics  
Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena

**Project:** *Is the European Union a Role Model for Africa? Lessons from 60 Years of European Integration for Africa*



### **Carola Lentz**

Department of Anthropology and African Studies  
Johannes Gutenberg University

**Project:** *Multi-class families, regional disparities and the emergence of middle classes in Africa* (part of the team project *The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective*)



### **Ben Ross Schneider**

Department of Political Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Project:** *The Politics of Education Reform in Middle-Income Countries*



### **Kathleen Thelen**

Department of Political Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Project:** *Digital Capitalism*



### **Claudia Gastrow**

Department of Anthropology and Development Studies  
University of Johannesburg

**Project:** *Everyday Authoritarianism: Urban Life and Politics in Luanda, Angola*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Desta Mebratu**

Centre for Complex Systems in Transition  
Stellenbosch University

**Project:** *Retooling Development Pathways for Sustainability transition in Africa*



### **Deborah James**

Department of Anthropology  
London School of Economics

**Project:** *The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective*  
(convenor)



**Jean Boulton**

Department of Social and Policy Sciences  
University of Bath

**Project:** *Complexity beyond the real; the integration of the unknown and the unknowable into science*



**Darius Brubeck**

STIAS Artist-in-residence

**Project:** *Jazz Life*



**Jody Heymann**

WORLD Policy Analysis Center  
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

**Project:** *The Role of Laws, Policies, and Constitutional Rights in Advancing Gender Equality in Africa and Globally*



### **Evance Kalula**

Law Faculty  
University of Cape Town

**Project:** *Migration Vulnerability and Access to Social Protection*



### **Marius Olivier**

International Institute for Law and Policy (IISLP)  
North-West University

**Project:** *Migration Vulnerability and Access to Social Protection*



### **Rúnar Helgi Vignisson**

Faculty of Icelandic and Comparative Cultural Studies  
University of Iceland

**Project:** *Short Stories of the World: Africa*



**Liliana Albertazzi**

Department of Humanities  
University of Trento

**Project:** *Experimental Protocols for First – person Accounts*

*Visiting Scholar*



**Isidore Lobnibe**

Department of Anthropology  
Western Oregon University

**Project:** *An Emerging Middle Class, Changing Mortuary Practices, and a New Funeral Economy in Northern Ghana* (part of the team project *The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective*)

*Visiting Scholar*



**Maxim Bolt**

Department of African Studies and Anthropology  
University of Birmingham

**Project:** *Law, Kinship, and the Formal Processes of Middle-Class Reproduction in Johannesburg, South Africa* (part of the team project *The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective*)

*Visiting Scholar*



### **Thabisani Ndlovu**

English Studies, Department of Arts  
Walter Sisulu University

**Project:** *Reading black middle-classness* (part of the team project *The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective*)

*Visiting Scholar*



### **Catherine Brubeck**

STIAS Artist-in-residence

**Project:** *Jazz Life*

*Visiting Scholar*



### **Amy Raub**

WORLD Policy Analysis Center  
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

**Project:** *The Role of Laws, Policies, and Constitutional Rights in Advancing Gender Equality in Africa and Globally*

*Visiting Scholar*



### **Aleta Sprague**

WORLD Policy Analysis Center  
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

**Project:** *The Role of Laws, Policies, and Constitutional Rights in Advancing Gender Equality in Africa and Globally*

*Visiting Scholar*



### **Parfait Akana**

The Muntu Institute  
Cameroon

**Project:** *An Ordinary of Agony: The Social and Political Production of Superfluous People*

*Visiting Scholar*



### **Avinash Govindjee**

Faculty of Law  
Nelson Mandela University

**Project:** *Migration Vulnerability and Access to Social Protection*

*Visiting Scholar*



*Visiting Scholar*

### **Vivienne Bozalek**

Directorate of Teaching and Learning  
University of the Western Cape

**Project:** *After the Eruption: Reflections on Higher Education in South Africa*



*Visiting Scholar*

### **Shose Kessi**

Department of Psychology  
University of Cape Town

**Project:** *After the Eruption: Reflections on Higher Education in South Africa*



*Visiting Scholar*

### **Susan Levine**

School of African and Gender Studies,  
Anthropology and Linguistics  
University of Cape Town

**Project:** *After the Eruption: Reflections on Higher Education in South Africa*



*Iso Lomso*  
*Visiting Scholar*

### **Liezl-Marie van der Westhuizen**

Department of Marketing Management  
University of Pretoria

**Project:** *Exploring play with identity by Izikhothane and on Instagram*



### **Christopher Fuchs**

College of Science and Mathematics  
University of Massachusetts Boston

**Project:** *Quantifying QBism*



### **Richard Healy**

Department of Philosophy  
University of Arizona

**Project:** *Quantifying QBism*



### **Ruediger Schack**

Department of Mathematics, Royal Holloway  
University of London  
**Project:** *Quantifying QBism*



### **Dorian Bell**

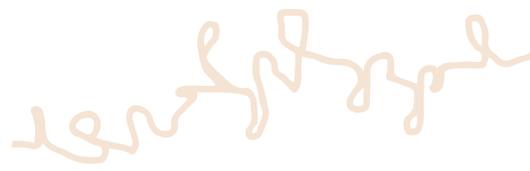
Department of Literature, History of Ideas and Religion  
University of Gothenburg  
**Project:** *Theological ethics in the intersection of moral psychology and sociology*



### **Elieth Eyebiyi**

LASDEL Benin  
**Project:** *The temporalities of the Informality. The case of Benin-Nigeria Cross-border Fuel Smuggling*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Mark Sanders**

Department of Comparative Literature  
New York University

**Project:** *Coetzee, Kentridge, and the Computer: Automation and the Arts in South Africa*



### **Marlize Lombard**

Department of Anthropology and Development Studies  
University of Johannesburg

**Project:** *Archaeology of a Hungry Mind*



### **Andrew van der Vlies**

School of English and Drama  
Queen Mary University of London

**Project:** *In/appropriate Personae: Contemporary Culture and the Politics of Appropriation*



### Yvette Christiansë

Africana Studies and English Department  
Barnard College at Columbia University

**Project:** *'How Disposed Of': Liberated Africans and the Waiting Space of Freedom 1807-1930*



### Jonathan Fisher

International Development Department  
University of Birmingham

**Project:** *Memorializing Struggle: Dynamics of Memory, Space and Power in Post-Liberation Africa*



### Obi Nwakanma

Department of English  
University of Central Florida

**Project:** *"Renascent Africa: Cultural Nationalism, Decolonisation, the Nationalist Movement, and Trans-Continental collaborations: The example of Nigeria and South Africa."*



**Carol Summers**

Department of History  
University of Richmond

**Project:** *Patriotic Thrift: Savings Campaigns and Imperial British Identity in World War II and After*



**Rafael Winkler**

Department of Philosophy  
University of Johannesburg

**Project:** *Towards a Politics of Singularity, or Beyond Identity Politics*



**Patrick Flanery**

Department of English  
Queen Mary Univeristy of London

**Project:** *The Negatives: A Novel*



### Christopher Lee

Department of History and Africana Studies  
Lafayette College

**Project:** *A History of the Nighttime in South Africa*



### Peter Gärdenfors

Department of Philosophy  
Lund University

**Project:** *Archaeology of a Hungry Mind*



### John Ganle

Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health  
University of Ghana

**Project:** *Disability and reproduction in Africa: A multi-methods investigation to identify, describe and determine the sexual, reproductive and maternal healthcare needs and challenges of women with disability in Ghana*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Mazin Sirry**

Department of Biomedical Engineering  
University of Medical Sciences and Technology, Sudan

**Project:** *Predictive Computational Modelling of Intramyocardial Biomaterial Therapies towards Personalised Care for Myocardial Infarction*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Tatenda Dalu**

Department of Ecology and Resource Management  
University of Venda

**Project:** *Assessing contribution and link between terrestrial and aquatic environment in estuarine environments*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **James Ocita**

Department of Literature  
Makerere University

**Project:** *Mobility, Subjectivity and the Poetics of Space-making in the Western Indian Ocean Novels*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Aretha Phiri**

English Department  
Rhodes University

**Project:** *Interrogating Blackness, Locating 'Africanness': Call-and-Response in the (literary) works of Toni Morrison and Zoë Wicomb, NoViolet Bulawayo, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Taiye Selasi*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Vidyanand Nanjundiah**

Centre for Human Genetics

**Project:** *From one to many: parallels between the origins of multicellularity and social behaviour*



### **Uchenna Okeja**

Department of Philosophy  
Rhodes University

**Project:** *The public sphere in African political thought*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Ifeyinwa Okolo**

Department of English and Literary Studies  
Federal University Lokoja

**Project:** *Sexualities and (Dis)Abilities: (Re)Valuing Being Sexual Humans through Body Narratives*

*Iso Lomso Fellow*



### **Petr Skalnik**

Department of Politics  
University of Hradec

**Project:** *Political culture in Africa and post-communist Europe: towards explaining the logic of democratic underdevelopment*



### **Carlos Ibanez**

Department of Neuroscience  
Karolinska Institute

**Project:** *“Dementia: a growing problem in South Africa and the world”*



### **Sundhya Pahuja**

Melbourne Law School  
University of Melbourne

**Project:** *Global Corporations, Accountability and International Law*



### **Sylvia Tamale**

School of Law  
Makerere University

**Project:** *Gender and the Law in Uganda*



### **Ilija Trojanow**

Writer, translator, publisher

**Project:** *In Search of Utopia* (working title)



### **Reiner Klingholz**

Berlin Institute for Population and Development

**Project:** *Think Big: How Africa Could Profit from Leapfrogging*



### **Abdallah Daar**

University of Toronto

**Project:** *DOHaD and SDGs: Moving towards Early Implementation*



### **Anders Högberg**

Department of Cultural Sciences

Linnaeus University

**Project:** *Archaeology of a Hungry Mind*

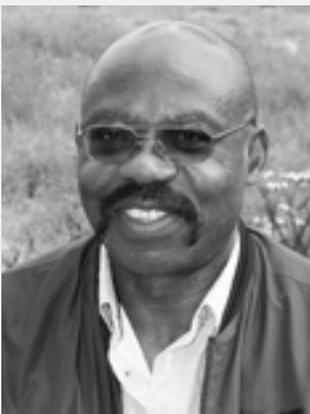


*Visiting Scholar*

### **Sonwabile Mwana**

Department of Sociology  
University of Fort Hare

**Project:** *Mineral Wealth and Distributive Struggles on the Platinum Belt, South Africa*



*Visiting Scholar*

### **Charles Fombad**

The Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (ICLA)  
University of Pretoria

**Project:** *Constitutionalism and the Economy in Africa*



*Visiting Scholar*

### **Jacques Pienaar**

International Institute of Physics, Brazil

**Project:** *QBism: From Pragmatism to Phenomenology*



**Photo: LEFT** The STIAS garden provides plenty of space for walking and clearing the mind.

- Group projects

# The New Middle Class(es) in Africa

The middle class, middle classness, and middle classing, are terms that try to capture the essence of an experience that embraces a broad variety of economic roles, lifestyles and political visions but nonetheless seems to have some common features. Elusive and hard to define, it can be seen as related to income and material wellbeing or refer to subjective self-positioning that reflects how people see themselves in relation to others.

**T**he project draws on life histories and fictional representations alongside other social science methods to ask questions like: How does being or self-identifying as middle class affect ideas of citizenship, political affiliation, and new forms of associational life? How does 'doing middle classness' differ from or intersect with other forms of class 'doing' and other ranges of identification, such as gender, kinship, religion or ethnicity? What are the intersecting dynamics of precariousness and stability? And how can we analyse people's experiences of hope and disappointment, success and failure?

Deborah James of the London School of Economics, Carola Lentz of the University of Mainz, Isidore Lobnibe of the Western Oregon University, Thabisani Ndlovu of the Walter Sisulu University, Claudia Gastrow of the University of Johannesburg, Preben Kaarsholm of Roskilde University and Maxim Bolt of the University of Birmingham were in residence between March and May 2019 collaborating on this project. In two seminars, the group members presented case studies revealing the crucial importance of family relations in creating and mediating the ambiguous situation faced by those in the 'new middle class' and their urban living situation, including the impact of formalising, acquiring, and transmitting, property and real estate. Group members met for a regular reading group where they discussed new literature on the topic. Some of them also revised articles for a special issue – Vol 90(3) - of the journal *Africa*.

## Middle Class Precarity, Finance and Welfare

Research done by group convenor Deborah James sought to understand changing class, work and welfare regimes, exploring the intersection between new prosperity aspirations and new forms of

austerity. In a context where many hope for things their parents might never have dreamed of, and where work is in short supply, more people than before are becoming dependent on credit (offered by new financial operators), informal 'benefits' (arranged through church or via contributions from better-off relatives), and/or the state (via civil service employment or through welfare regimes). She explored how these types of dependency intersect.

Redistribution and taxation, when counted beyond strictly formal fiscal regimes, acquire new meanings. Prosperity and aspiration are rightly applauded, but have a darker underside, that of reliance on benefits or on borrowing at extortionate rates of interest. "My interest in the 'new middle class' has diversified and expanded to encompass redistribution more generally", says Deborah. This includes (a) in its more 'classic' sense as understood by economists and implemented in policy (for example, using a larger group of prosperous people as a basis for taxes – and hence expanding welfare provision) (b) in a more on-the-ground everyday version (including informal means of redistributing wealth such as the so-called 'black tax' that afflicts the new black middle class in South Africa), and (c) in newer modalities where market actors and business interests increasingly play a role.

## The Funeral Economy in Ghana

Isidore Lobnibe looked at rural Ghana, where differential access to formal education and better-paying jobs has increasingly become the deciding factor in redefining economic, social and ritual roles within many extended families. At the same time that an expanded access to higher education has given rise to an incipient middle class, the more diversified educational and professional trajectories have led to the dispersal of middle-class men and women away



**Photo: ABOVE** Members of the New Middle Class in Africa group are (from left to right) Maxim Bolt, Claudia Gastrow, Thabisani Ndlovu, Deborah James, Isidore Lobnibe, Preben Kaarsholm and Carola Lentz.

from their family ancestral homes Exploring class dynamics at the family level and how middle class, most of whom live in the urban south use funerals as occasions to perform and advertise their newly acquired status is a theme that intersects well with the theme explored by the new African middle class group. “I have benefited from participating in the group’s stimulating discussions and readings; the insights I have gained will improve how to better analyze some of the ways in which funerals serve as arenas for the middle class to spread their ideology of progress,” says Isidore.

### Multi-class Families

Conventional class theories consider class membership as comprising not only individuals, but entire households and families. In African societies, however, marriage ties and kin relations of upwardly mobile individuals often cut across class boundaries, resulting in ‘multi-class’ households, and competing loyalties. Also, in conventional class theories, the nation-state is the obvious framework for defining class boundaries, however, African examples point to the importance of subnational as well as transnational dimensions of class formation.

Carola Lentz looked at biographies of five generations of upwardly mobile men in Northern Ghana wherein “in the 1950s elite meant a middle school-leaving certificate and a job as a teacher; one generation later you needed a secondary-leaving certificate and a white-collar job in a larger town. Another generation on, you needed a tertiary

education. In other words, the criteria kept changing over the decades. Now the youngest generation is experiencing increasing competition in the job market and the possibility of unemployment despite their educational credentials, so their status may change again,” she says. During her stay, Carola revised her paper, ‘Doing being middle-class in the global South: comparative perspectives and conceptual challenges’ for *Africa* Vol 90(3).

### Black middle-classness in South Africa

Thabisani Ndlovu sought to bring a literary/cultural studies approach to a reading of writings that capture some forms of black South African middle classness. The essays, written by black authors by Ndumiso Ngcobo and James Khumalo who self-identify as middle class, project how these authors perform (and reflect on) that identification. “There is an immediacy and depth in this form of ‘self-writing’ as we read for both intended and unintended meanings of the sort we do not get, for instance, in social science approaches,” he says. It is as if slices of black middle-class lives have been proffered nervously: the essays explore various anxieties occasioned by being part of the black middle class.

“My work has broadly been on identities, particularly the intersection of race, gender and ethnicity. Having touched on class in passing, I knew that these efforts needed deepening given that class, middle classness in this case, is increasingly becoming an important dimension of identity in Africa and elsewhere. Accordingly, I was glad for the opportunity of a STIAS

- Group projects

residence as part of this group,” says Thabisani. “I drew on the reading group discussions to revise my article for *Africa*, Vol 90(3) entitled ‘Shuttling between the suburbs and the township: the new black middle class(es) negotiating class and post-apartheid blackness in South Africa’”.

### **Law, Kinship, and the Formal Processes of Middle-Class Reproduction in Johannesburg, South Africa**

Maxim Bolt’s part of the project looked at how legal and bureaucratic processes mediate inheritance in South Africa, as a window into the formal institutional dimensions of middle-class reproduction.

This reveals connections between patterns of accumulation and new forms of marginalization and inequality. Township house ownership has been facilitated especially by the devolving of state-owned houses, and there have been attempts to formalise family agreements to mitigate against individual ownership. “Homes are a conventional wealth-building tool everywhere but in many cases in South Africa the question of who actually owns the house can be fraught. In some cases an individual registered the property in their name without the family knowing. In other cases, a family member was chosen as representative or custodian, but was granted title. Either way, one person becomes a sole owner. When that owner dies there can be huge disagreements. Families may claim a collective entitlement to the parent’s abode despite what is listed in the title deeds. However, the family house ownership idea holds little sway in current law. Some also now retrospectively contest male primogeniture – the principle for black inheritance under apartheid, later declared unconstitutional.” As he points out, his research “has practical implications, because it has explored the substantial gap between the law and popular norms concerning home ownership and inheritance”.

### **Urban informality and middle-class aspirations in South Africa and Kenya**

Preben Kaarsholm’s work mapped out the dynamics of social differentiation which have occurred over the last two decades since both Kenya and South

Africa went through important political transitions. This has involved new forms of marginalization and vulnerability as well as of middle-class formation, with middle-class aspirations taking on both realistic and imaginary forms, and some strategies of self-improvement and respectability being hinged on ritual and routine rather than an increase in wealth. “The research explores the careers of prominent local intellectuals and politicians within the two urban environments, and attempts to explain why the aspirations of youth for self-improvement and middle-class livelihoods have taken on such different forms in Kenya and South Africa,” says Preben. “A significant part of my time at STIAS during February and March was spent reading up on the rapidly expanding research literature on new middle classes and ‘middle classness’ as well as on urban informality and on informalisation more generally. The special focus for my reading was the ways in which researchers have seen class and other forms of distinction as coming together in settings of informality, and how they have conceived of the relationship between ‘objective’ and ‘subjective’ dimensions of class,” he says.

### **Housing middle-classness**

Claudia Gastrow investigated how formal housing has emerged as a primary index of class distinction and boundary making in Luanda, Angola. Following Angola’s 27-year civil war (1975 – 2002), there was a massive state investment in housing and infrastructure. One aspect of this involved state investments being used to produce a middle class through the production of cityscapes that matched middle-class aspirations. Through subsidised housing, the state, in effect, rendered possible the realisation of a middle-class status. “I met with other members of the project for a regular reading group on the topic where we not only read new literature on the topic, but workshopped our own articles that were in the process of being reviewed by the journal *Africa*,” says Claudia. “I used the feedback from the reading group and seminar, as well as informal discussions with other members of the group to revise the article titled: ‘Housing middle-classness: formality and the making of distinction in Luanda’”, she says.



Photo: LEFT Red Poppies and Blue Daisies in full bloom at the STIAS garden.

# Lectures and Seminars

## STIAS PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Six STIAS fellows were invited to present public lectures on the Stellenbosch University campus during 2019. These lectures are scheduled over lunch time 13h00 – 14h00, in the seminar room of the refurbished Adam Small theatre.

<b>19 Mar</b>	Kathleen Thelen, Ford Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Immediate Past President of the American Political Science Association Regulating Uber: The Politics of the Platform Economy in the United States and Europe
<b>16 Apr</b>	Claudia Gastrow, Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Johannesburg The Discomforts of Home: Class, Infrastructure and Aesthetics in Luanda, Angola
<b>28 May</b>	NoViolet Bulawayo, Jones Lecturer in Fiction at the Stanford University Notes from Glory
<b>13 Aug</b>	Yvette Christiansë, holder of the Ann Whitney Olin Chair, Professor of Africana Studies and English at Barnard College, Columbia University “Untold wealth for the benefit of the World”: Liberated Africans and the Cost of Freedom
<b>17 Sept</b>	Carol Summers, holder of the Samuel Chiles Mitchell/Jacob Billikopf chair in History, Professor of History and Global Studies at the University of Richmond “Make your money fight!”: Patriotic thrift in Britain, Canada, and Uganda during the Second World War
<b>22 Oct</b>	Sylvia Tamale, professor and coordinator of the Law, Gender and Sexuality Research Centre, School of Law at Makerere University Peeling away the layers of colonization: The case of the African academy

## STIAS SEMINAR SERIES

The STIAS weekly Fellows’ seminar is scheduled for Thursdays at 15h45 – 17h15. Depending on the programme of residency, some seminars are scheduled on Tuesday on an ad hoc basis. Researchers from SU and other neighbouring universities are invited on an individual basis after consultation with the speaker. During 2019 a total of 52 seminars were given/scheduled.

<b>17 Jan</b>	Christof Heyns The complicated history of the term ‘human rights’ in the United Nations Charter
<b>21 Jan</b>	Peter Wallenberg Jr and Göran Sandberg
<b>24 Jan</b>	Justinian Tamusuza and Michael Blake Unity and Diversity: The Compositional Voices of Michael Blake and Justinian Tamusuza
<b>31 Jan</b>	Gibson Ncube Bound to violence?: toxic (queer) masculinities in Skoonheid and Inxeba
<b>7 Feb</b>	Gerard Niyungeko Is the Establishment of an African Court vested with a criminal Jurisdiction a stillborn Project?



- 14 Feb** António Tomás  
Is Luanda not Paris? Toward a phenomenology of cityness
- 21 Feb** David Ellerman  
Neo-Abolitionism: The Case for Abolishing the Employer-Employee Relation (in favor of Workplace Democracy)
- 28 Feb** David Moore  
Thinking through Zimbabwe's third 'military intervention' (Jan 14-16, 2019) since the November 2017 Coup or Contemplating Zimbabwe's coup whilst driving through the Karoo (with assistance from Leonard Cohen)
- 7 Mar** Andreas Freytag  
Global Trade Perspectives - Brexit, Trade Wars and the Demise of Multilateralism
- 12 Mar** Roberto Poli  
Working with the future: an introduction to Futures Studies
- 26 Mar** Wolfgang Seibel  
Black Swans in Public Administration: Rare Organizational Failure with Severe Consequences
- 28 Mar** Anne Pitcher  
Thinking Comparatively Across Two Post-colonial Cities: Singapore as a Model for Nairobi's Housing Policy in the 1970s
- 4 Apr** Deborah James group: James, Lentz, Lobnibe, Ndlovu  
The new middle class in Africa in comparative perspective
- 11 Apr** Deborah James group: Bolt, Gastrow, Kaarsholm  
The New Middle Classes in Southern Africa: Property, Urban Spatial Transformation, and (In)formality
- 17 Apr** Benn Ross Schneider  
Contention, Coalitions, and Consultation in the Politics of Education Reform in Latin America
- 25 Apr** Martin Murray  
Making Sense of Siege Architecture and Extended Security Networks in the Middle-class Residential Neighborhoods of Johannesburg
- 2 May** Jean Boulton  
The 'new science' of complexity – implications, applications and where next
- 7 May** Martin Ruehl  
Rules of Redemption: German Enlightenment and African Slavery
- 9 May** Jody Heymann, Amy Raub and Aleta Sprague  
Undoing Gender Inequality by Design
- 16 May** Wanda Deifelt  
The Construction of Religious Hybrid Identities Resulting from Colonial Occupation
- 23 May** Rúnar Helgi Vignisson  
Lost and Found in Translation
- 30 May** Arne Rasmussen  
Ecclesial moral formation: Theological ethics at the intersection of history, moral psychology and sociology

- Lectures and Seminars

<b>4 Jun</b>	Ghirmai Negash Translating Africa: The Challenges and Joys of Interpreting Tobiya
<b>6 Jun</b>	Susan Levine and Vivienne Bozalek #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall: Student resistance to colonial education in South Africa
<b>11 Jun</b>	Robert Gordon The voodoo ethnologists of Omega
<b>18 Jul</b>	Chris Fuchs Group An introduction to QBism
<b>25 Jul</b>	John Ganle Disability is sexy: how disabled women/girls experience and negotiate barriers to sexual expression in Ghana
<b>30 Jul</b>	Debra Shepherd Framing me, framing you: Acting gender in South Africa
<b>1 Aug</b>	Patrick Flanery Non/Fiction & Flânerie: Voice, Surveillance, Resistance
<b>8 Aug</b>	Tatenda Dalu Identifying opportunities and challenges related to community sustainable livelihoods and freshwater crab conservation: a case of the Eastern Highlands, Zimbabwe
<b>15 Aug</b>	Mark Sanders Automation and Apartheid: Office Literature by Miriam Tlali and J.M. Coetzee
<b>22 Aug</b>	Rafael Winkler Fantasy and the Impossible
<b>27 Aug</b>	Mazin Sirry Intramyocardial biomaterial therapy for heart attack: the effect of injection timing on biomaterial morphology
<b>29 Aug</b>	Andrew van der Vlies In/Appropriate Appropriation/s: On a statue, or several false starts
<b>5 Sept</b>	Elieth Eyebiyi The Temporalities of Informality: State versus Fuel Smuggling in Benin-Nigeria Borderlands
<b>12 Sept</b>	Uchenna Okeja Africa's Political Condition: A Philosophical Reflection
<b>19 Sept</b>	Ifeyinwa Okolo Negotiations of Humanity: Sexuality and (Dis)Ability in Wale Okediran's Dreams Die at Twilight
<b>26 Sept</b>	Marcelo Neves Transdemocracy



- 1 Oct** Sonwabile Mnwana  
Demanding a 'rightful share'? 'Custom', law and distributive claims on South Africa's rural mining frontier
- 3 Oct** Vidyanand Nanjundiah  
From one to many: Parallels between multicellularity and social behaviour
- 10 Oct** Christopher Lee  
The Night in Question: Event, Metaphor, History
- 17 Oct** James Ocita  
Space, Subjectivities and Mobility in the Postcolonial Western Indian Ocean Novel
- 24 Oct** Carlos Ibanez  
"Studies on the neurobiology of Alzheimer's Disease"
- 31 Oct** Ilija Trojanow  
In search of Utopia: Why and how to write an Utopian novel
- 7 Nov** Dorian Bell  
White Populism: Race and Politics in the Era of Migration
- 14 Nov** Reiner Klingholz  
Sustainable Transformation in Health, Education and Agriculture: How Africa Could Profit from Leapfrogging
- 19 Nov** Marlize Lombard, Anders Högberg and Peter Gärdenfors
- 21 Nov** Jonathan Fisher  
Monumental Failures? Memorialization, Authority, and Disconnect in Post-Liberation Africa
- 28 Nov** Aretha Phiri  
'Why Should I Hesitate?: The Audacity of Imagining (African) History Anew'
- 3 Dec** Sundhya Pahuja  
Invisible Leviathans: Making Corporations Visible in International Law
- 5 Dec** Petr Skalnik  
Political culture in post-colonial Africa and post-communist Eastern Europe: towards explaining the logic of democratic underdevelopment after 1990
- 10 Dec** Obi Nwakanma  
Renascent Africa: Cultural Nationalism, Decolonization, the Nationalist Movement, and Trans-Continental Collaborations: the example of Nigeria and South Africa



# Fellows Events



*Photo: ABOVE* Participants in the African Stand-Up Comedy Practice Colloquium hosted by Iso Lomso fellow, Izuchukwu Nwankwo.



*Photo: ABOVE* Participants in the Revising the Black Atlantic: African Diaspora Perspectives Colloquium hosted by Iso Lomso fellow, Aretha Phiri.



**Photo: ABOVE** Participants in the RICHE Africa Workshop on Healthy Cities: Intersectoral approaches to non-communicable disease prevention in Africa.

In addition to participating in the weekly Seminar Series and the Public Lecture Series, STIAS Fellows were supported to host workshops, colloquia and public events over the reporting period.

## June

- A workshop on *Power, Pedagogy and Race: reflections on decoloniality in South African higher education* is organised by STIAS visiting scholars Susan Levine, Vivienne Bozalek and Shose Kessi as part of their STIAS project (and book project) titled *After the Eruption: Reflections on Higher Education in South Africa*.

## September

- STIAS fellow Marcelo Neves from Brazil organises a symposium on *Constitutionalism and Democracy Crossing Legal Boundaries: Perspectives from Global South and Peripheral Modernity* with several Brazilian and African scholars in attendance.
- Also in September, two *Iso Lomso* fellows, Aretha Phiri and Izuu Nwankwo, hosted colloquia as part of their STIAS projects, both bringing together African and international scholars on *African Stand-up Comedy Practice* (Nwankwo) and *Revising the Black Atlantic: African Diaspora Perspectives* (Phiri).

## November

- In November an exploratory consultation was held on the potential of digital diagnostics to improve health in Africa. The consultation is convened by STIAS Permanent Visiting Fellow Abdallah Daar and STIAS founding Director, Bernard Lategan.

## December

- Iso Lomso Fellow, Tolu Oni convenes a workshop at STIAS within the context of the Research Initiative for Cities Health and Equity (RICHE) Africa on *Healthy Cities: Intersectoral approaches to non-communicable disease prevention in Africa*, part of her *Iso Lomso* project, with participants from South Africa, Cameroon, Kenya and the UK, co-financed by STIAS and the International Science Council.

# Fellows Publications

## PUBLICATIONS

A record number of publications by STIAS fellows appeared during the past 12 months. This includes 24 books, two of them in the STIAS series, seven book chapters and 91 articles, most of these in peer reviewed journals. Active links to the various publications also below appear on the STIAS webpage at <https://stias.ac.za/ideas/publications/group/2019/>

## Books

### STIAS Series (published by African SUN MeDIA)

#### Volume 13

Gerhard Maré (Editor)

*Race in Education*

Stellenbosch: African SUN MeDIA. (June 2019, 167 pp) ISBN: 9781928480150

#### Volume 14

Mebratu, Desta & Mark Swilling (Editors)

*Transformational Infrastructure for the Development of a Wellbeing Economy in Africa*

Stellenbosch: African SUN MeDIA. (November 2019, 300 pp) ISBN:

### Other books:

Bachmann, Klaus, Gerhard Kemp, and Irena Ristic (Eds.). 2019. *International Criminal Tribunals as Actors of Domestic Change - The Impact on Institutional Reform Vol II*. Berlin: Peter Lang. <http://doi.org/10.3726/b14787>

Bachmann, Klaus, Irena Risti , and Gerhard Kemp (Eds.). 2019. *International Criminal Tribunals as Actors of Domestic Change - The Impact on Media Coverage Vol 1*. Peter Lang D. <http://doi.org/10.3726/b15169>

Bachmann, Klaus, Irena Risti , and Gerhard Kemp (Eds.). 2019. *International Criminal Tribunals as Actors of Domestic Change - The Impact on Media Coverage Vol 2*. Peter Lang D. <http://doi.org/10.3726/b15179>

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**Photo: LEFT** Some of the publications that make up the STIAS Fellows Library were written and/or donated by the fellows themselves.



Organisation

\3



# Governance & Funding

STIAS operates as a section 21 company (since May 2007 - registration no 2017014516/08) with public benefit organization status (PBO no 930051203). Its Articles of Association and accompanying Memorandum of Incorporation has been brought in line with the Companies Act, no 71 of 2008 and consolidated into a single Memorandum of Incorporation. STIAS now has the status of a non-profit company without members. It has been granted public benefit organisation status by the SA Revenue Services for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962.

## Board of Directors

**Desmond Smith**, Chair (Director of Companies)  
**Kåre Bremer**, Former Rector of Stockholm University  
**Wim de Villiers** Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University  
**Christof Heyns**, Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria and Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee  
**Bernard Lategan**, STIAS Founding Director  
**Mosibudi Mangena**, Former South African Minister of Science and Technology  
**Göran Sandberg**, Executive Director: Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation  
**Hendrik Geyer**, STIAS Coordinator: Special Projects and former Director.  
**Edward K Kirumira**, STIAS Director

\*Two members, **Cheryl de la Rey** and **Raenette Gottardo**, have resigned during the year due to relocation.

## STIAS Academic Advisory Board

**Morné du Plessis**, Chair (CEO, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa)  
**Ahmed Bawa**, CEO, Universities South Africa  
**Hendrik Geyer**, STIAS Coordinator: Special Projects  
**Geoffrey Harpham**, National Humanities Center, North Carolina  
**Shireen Hassim**, School of Social Sciences and WISER, University of the Witwatersrand  
**Thokozani Majozi**, SA Research Chair in Sustainable Process Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand  
**Carl Folke**, Director, Beijer Institute, Royal Swedish Academy of Science  
**Francis Nyamnjoh**, Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town  
**Daya Reddy**, SA Research Chair in Computational Mechanics, University of Cape Town  
**Louise Viljoen**, Afrikaans and Dutch, Stellenbosch University  
**Edward K Kirumira**, STIAS Director



### **STIAS Fellowship and Research Programme Committee**

**Edward Kirumira**, Chair (STIAS Director)

**Hendrik Geyer**, STIAS Coordinator: Special projects

**Jan-Hendrik Hofmeyr**, Department of Biochemistry, Stellenbosch University (emeritus)

**Louis Jonker**, Department of Old and New Testament, Stellenbosch University

**Francis Nyamnjoh**, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town

**Louise Viljoen**, Department of Afrikaans & Dutch, Stellenbosch University

\*Assisted by **Christoff Pauw**, STIAS Programme Manager and **Gudrun Schirge**, STIAS Senior programme administrator (part-time).

### **STIAS Extended Fellowship and Research Programme Committee**

The following members join the Fellowship and Research Programme Committee to select semester cohorts of STIAS Fellows:

**Bernard Lategan**, STIAS Founding Director

Grace Musila, Department of English, University of the Witwatersrand

**Bill Nasson**, History Department, Stellenbosch University

**Maxi Schoeman**, Department of Political Science, University of Pretoria

\***Erika de Wet** (Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria) has resigned following her appointment at the University of Graz in Austria. A replacement member has been approached.

# Financial Report

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME for the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 R	2018 R
Conference income	10 318 287	9 092 724
Other income	24 303 643	20 620 549
Profit on realisation of investments	-	10 870 542
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	34 621 930	40 583 815
Operating expenses	(37 627 774)	(31 054 938)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Operating (loss)/surplus</b>	<b>(3 005 844)</b>	<b>9 528 877</b>
Finance income	13 438 174	11 402 910
Finance expense: Lease liability	(412 615)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>10 019 715</b>	<b>20 931 787</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Fair value adjustment on short-term investments	106 474	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<b>10 126 189</b>	<b>20 931 787</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>



Ms R Uys  
Director: Financial Services - Stellenbosch University



# STIAS 2019 donors

## **Thank You**

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Donald Gordon Foundation  
Het Jan Marais Nationale Fonds  
Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation  
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung South Africa  
Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation  
Remgro  
Stellenbosch University  
Swedish Riksbankens Jubileumfond



# STIAS Staff



## STANDING – LEFT TO RIGHT

**Karin Brown**  
Assistant

**Elize du Plessis**  
Financial Officer (Part-time)

**Christoff Pauw**  
Programme Manager

**Noloyiso Mtembu**  
Coordinator: Communications &  
Iso Lomso Fellowships (Part-time)

**Nel-Mari Loock**  
Programme Administrator

**Goldie van Heerden**  
Owner: Catering Unlimited

**Makwande Nkathazo**  
Garden Assistant

**Yanga Nkathazo**  
Gardener

**Maggie Pietersen**  
Building Caretaker & Site Maintenance

**Johann Groenewald**  
Coordinator: Strategic Initiatives (Part-time)

**Maria Mouton**  
Coordinator: General Logistics &  
PA to STIAS Director



**SEATED – LEFT TO RIGHT**

**Hendrik Geyer**  
Coordinator: Special Projects

**Leonard Katsokore**  
Senior Assistant

**Gudrun Schirge**  
Senior Programme Administrator (Part-time)

**Edward K Kirumira**  
STIAS Director

**Grace Mandah**  
Cleaner

**\*Not in photo**  
Michelle Galloway  
Media Officer (Part-time)

- Facilities & Acknowledgements

# Facilities

## Wallenberg Research Centre

Conferences and workshops are managed by Catering Unlimited on a contract basis (three year rolling terms). The conference/workshop facilities at the Wallenberg Research Centre have been established as a prime venue associated with quality service; use of the facility continues to show an increase.

## Mostertsdrift Gardens

The Mostertsdrift gardens have been listed on the Wordfees 2020 programme and renewed efforts are being made to cultivate them. This includes the restoration of the old perimeter wall that was done in August 2019. The gardens contribute to attractive spaces of reflection, which has become a stand-out element for many STIAS Fellows.

## Perold Vineyard

The Perold vineyard is registered as a single vineyard within the Jonkershoek Valley ward. The contract with Lanzerac to manage the vineyard and produce and bottle the wine remains in place. An agreed number of bottles are made available to STIAS under the *Aliquid Novi* label, which was launched in November 2018. The wine can be purchased at STIAS or via the online store of Lanzerac.

The new STIAS website contains a dedicated page to the history of the vineyard and the story of the wine, with details on how the wine can be purchased.

Part of the proceeds of sales will support an early career Protégé-programme for young winemakers and viticulturalists, to be managed jointly with the Pinotage Association of South Africa.

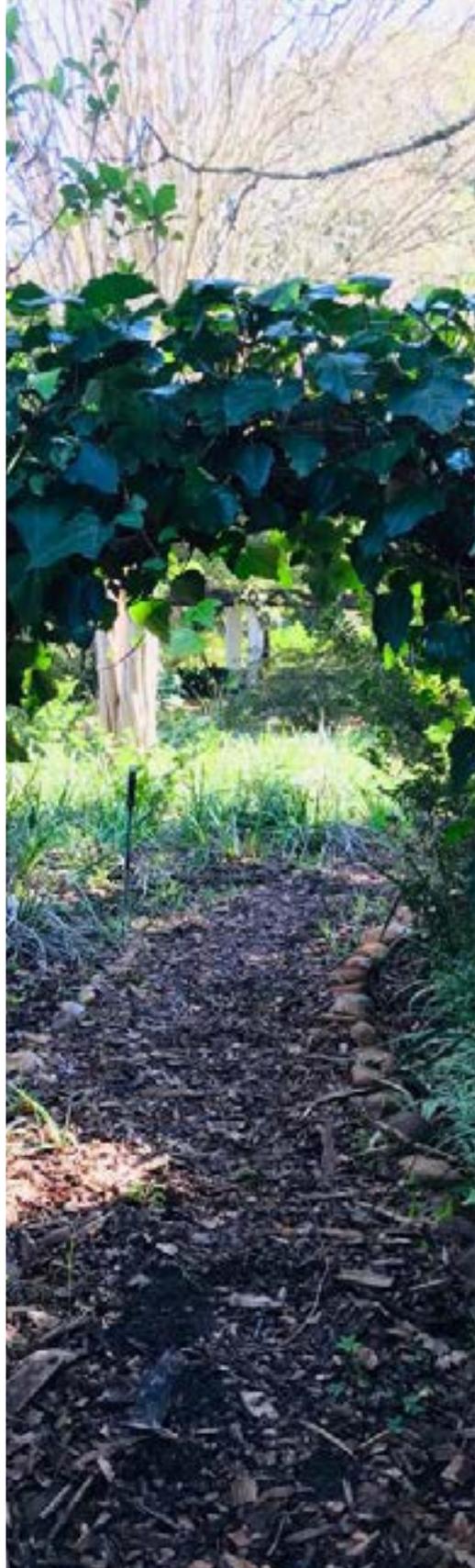


Photo: LEFT Fellows and visitors are welcome to walk through the gardens and explore.

# Acknowledgements

**“I would also especially like to mention how wonderful the Stias staff have been. Maria, Karin, Leonard and Nel-Marie were absolutely efficient, supportive, kind and helpful with everything. They really enable the fellowship to be the wonderful experience that it is.”**

Claudia Gastrow

**“It is almost embarrassing to know that those quotidian matters that would otherwise require attention are resolved with such grace. So, thank you Maria Mouton for being patience itself with my arrangements and for coming personally to help me get into the apartment.”**

Yvette Christiansë



**“To the absolutely first-rate staff, here I want to give a special shout-out to Karin, Leonard, and Nel-Mari, who all helped me in myriad ways from their various positions. Keep doing what you are doing.”**

Kathleen Thelen

**“The previous director of STIAS, Hendrik Geyer, helped make all the arrangements, and the new director of STIAS (as of 2019), Edward Kirumira, ensured that the time at STIAS was stimulating and productive.”**

David Ellerman

**A special thank you to all STIAS staff, fellows and visiting scholars who contributed to this publication.**

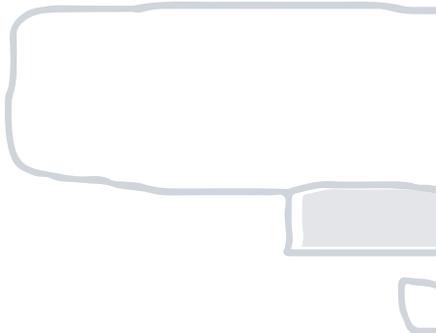
**A special thank you to Gudrun Schirge for her guidance and support.**

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**Editor:** Noloyiso Mtembu



# A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND

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