

NEWSLETTER OF
THE STELLENBOSCH
INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY

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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
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Above: Sundial in the STIAS garden

Cover image: Spring flowers in bloom at STIAS (Hendrik Geyer)

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2 The Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study is situated on the historic Mostertsdrift farm in the heart of Stellenbosch.

It is a place where top researchers and intellectual leaders are provided a creative space for the mind and are encouraged to find innovative and sustainable solutions to issues facing the world and, in particular, the country and the continent of Africa. STIAS provides the opportunity for high-level research and intellectual development in an international context.

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Preface

As I write this Preface, STIAS is already well into a beautifully jam-packed first semester of 2022 with a full house of both older and younger fellows undertaking a fascinating array of projects. We have welcomed some of our Permanent Visiting fellows as well as a new cohort of Iso Lomso fellows spanning a multidisciplinary range of work of importance for the continent and globally. The lessening of restrictions and uptake of vaccination has enabled us to reintroduce some of the much-loved STIAS traditions including the STIAS Harvest Day held on 12 February as well as a visit to Kayamandi's famed AmaZink.

In the post-COVID period we have continued our hybrid approach to seminars and other events to allow broader participation by both fellows in residence and those unable to be in person in Stellenbosch. Unfortunately, the end of 2021 brought sadness in the unexpected death of fellow Pier Paolo Frassinelli in November. A professor of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Johannesburg and a visiting professor at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Frassinelli was at STIAS working on a book project titled, *African Cinemas: Spaces, Technologies, Audiences and Genres* when he passed away. Despite the great shock to us and the fellows in residence, it was heartening that his mother and sister flew from Italy to join us at STIAS.

Overall, 2021 was a very successful year for the programme as evidenced by some of the achievements of the fellows while in residence – including a Nobel Prize for Abdulrazak Gurnah, multiple international literary awards for Tsitsi Dangarembga as well as the announcement that STIAS fellow Collen Masimirembwa is one of 14 winners of the Calestous Juma Awards for Science Leadership awarded by the Gates Foundation for his important work on precision genomics on the African continent.

Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah kindly found the time to talk to us about the Award, his life and work in the midst of a hectic schedule of post-award publicity and speaking engagements. We feature his insights in a comprehensive interview in this issue.

We trace the fascinating twists and turns that led economist W Brian Arthur from a childhood in Belfast to become a leader in the field of complexity economics and one of the instigators of the famous Santa Fe Institute. This Issue also highlights the calibre of and continued productivity of STIAS fellows in terms of publication outputs and other ongoing academic and personal achievements.



2022 will see the start of an important new collaboration for STIAS, the Nobel in Africa Initiative with a series of Nobel Symposia hosted at STIAS. This is a joint initiative of the Nobel Foundation, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation and STIAS in partnership with Stellenbosch University. The first of the Nobel in Africa Initiative, on Physics, will be held in October with the topic *Predictability in Science in the Age of AI*. STIAS is the first institution outside of Scandinavia to host Nobel Symposia and preparations are well underway to ensure the success of this significant milestone in STIAS' history. [α](#)

Edward Kirumira,
Director of STIAS

Ideas for a complex world

STIAS fellow and economist, W. Brian Arthur is one of the pioneers of the science of complexity. He was involved in the establishment of the Santa Fe Institute and in 1988 ran its first research programme. He has served on the institute's Science Board and Board of Trustees and is an External Professor. Arthur held the Morrison Chair of Economics and Population Studies at Stanford from 1983 to 1996. He has degrees in operations research, economics, mathematics and electrical engineering.

Arthur is known for three major sets of ideas – how increasing returns or positive feedbacks operate in the economy; complexity economics; and, how technology evolves.

We wanted to know a little about the man behind the ideas and how those ideas were shaped.

“Northern Ireland, like the rest of Ireland, was an intense place – intellectually and culturally intense. It wasn't wishy-washy.”

“I was born in Northern Ireland, one week before the end of the War,” said Arthur. “When I was growing up things were heavily rationed. I don't think I saw oranges or bananas till I was ten. It was, though, a very stable society in that whatever religion you were in didn't matter that much at that time – it wasn't until much later in the late 60s that the troubles began. It wasn't like I saw later in America – having to find yourself. You knew who you were. There was a strong sense of your culture.”

“The education system was excellent. I was lucky enough to go to university in Belfast. That was wild – people were talking and debating. I often felt it was like a different century – maybe the late 1700s – people would stand up in the student union and debate anything – from capital punishment to Irish freedom and English poetry.”

“Northern Ireland, like the rest of Ireland, was an intense place – intellectually and culturally intense. It wasn't wishy-washy,” he added.

It was, however, also a world where few people travelled – “that changed in the early 60s with jet travel” and not very many went to university – “the ratio then was about 1 to 25 – only 4% of the population”.

Arthur's father was a bank manager and his parents were very encouraging of Arthur and his sister in acquiring tertiary education. Arthur's initial degree was in electrical engineering. “I had a huge interest in science – particularly science as application, things you could use – but I didn't really know what science meant. It seemed natural to go into engineering.”

He followed this with a PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in operational research which was about applying science to strategic management and logistics to optimise industrial operations. “I discovered I was good at that but it wasn't deep enough philosophically to hold me.” He went on to complete degrees in mathematics and economics.

“I had a summer job with McKinsey & Co. and spent two summers working in Germany. I quickly realised if you wanted to do something in industry, operations research wasn't the way. My colleagues understood more about what was happening because they had a good grasp of the history. I needed a better understanding of how industry, business and the economy worked so at Berkeley I finished my PhD in Operations Research but also stayed on for a post-doc in economics.”

Eyes wide open

Arthur went to Berkeley during a tumultuous time in both US and Irish history.

“It was 1969 – the Vietnam War was on and the British army occupied Belfast. I left Northern Ireland with armoured vehicles in the street, helicopters, soldiers everywhere and an atmosphere of enormous tension. When I got to Berkeley there were armoured vehicles in the street, helicopters, teargas and occupation of the city by the National Guard. The cause was different, but the atmosphere the same.”

“I'm glad I was exposed to that, to witness that up close. It was good to see dissent and people objecting publicly. I lost my political innocence and I don't miss it. It's given me ever since a degree of scepticism about authority and ruling elites.”

Travel, and exposure to more countries, their economic systems, politics and cultures further opened Arthur's eyes.

“I had an intellectual interest in how economies come to be. Coming from Ireland it seemed to make sense to be a development economist so I specialised in development and demography, and had a strong interest in what was then called ‘Third World’ and later ‘Emerging economies’. I went to Syria, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Kuwait.”

“It opened my eyes. I was struck by the fact that outside the capitals governments had very little sway, their reach didn't go very far in those days. I asked questions like why doesn't the government intervene in things like childbearing or the age of marriage? But villages answered to their own local traditions.”

“The economics I had studied was about theorems and mathematics. Teaching in these countries I saw life up close. I was initially shocked – I couldn't mathematise anything, but, as Kant wrote, it ‘awakened me from my dogmatic slumbers’. I began to realise that the economy



“Complexity concerns itself with how individual elements – like cells in the immune system or cars in traffic – behave when they encounter each other.”

was not some mechanical object that could be subjected to mathematical logic. This approach no longer made sense to me. I started to see economies more as human organisations, as humans struggling to fulfil their needs, more organic and a lot messier.”

“That was a big transition. I was never the same again,” he added.

From 1977 to 1982 Arthur worked for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna. This was an East/West think tank and Arthur spent time in the Cold War Soviet Union “that further opened my eyes to the fact that not all economies worked the same”.

“I was lucky,” he said. “The normal progress for an academic is to get a PhD, teach in a university and climb the ladder. I spent 10 years after my PhD in what I call the real world.”

By 1982 Arthur was back in the US with his Californian wife and looking for a job. He was offered a chair in population studies and economics at Stanford – the youngest occupant of an endowed chair at that time.

“I taught demography in the Third World – including topics like childbearing, mortality, epidemiology. I was trying to teach Stanford students what it was like to be in these countries. Most didn't get exposure to life in undeveloped countries. It was fun.”

Consolidating ideas

In addition to living in the real world, Arthur found himself attracted to developing ideas in the worlds of molecular biology and physics. He pointed to Horace Freeland Judson's 1979 book *The Eighth Day of Creation* which tells the story of the early development of molecular biology. “I became fascinated by that because it's a story of formation – how does life form, how do organisms form, how do we understand molecular structures? It was all about formation, and that blew the doors off my static world.”

Another influence was the work of Ilya Prigogine, a Belgian physical chemist and winner of the 1977 Nobel Prize for his work on non-equilibrium thermodynamics. Prigogine discovered that importing energy into chemical systems could result in the emergence of new structures due to internal self-reorganisation. “Nearly everything I had studied up until then was supposed to be in equilibrium. Prigogine showed you needed a lot of negative feedback to get equilibrium. That was a complete Eureka moment because I suddenly realised that economics was full of positive as well as negative feedbacks and that would undo equilibrium.”

“It was about understanding that positive-feedback outcomes can come out of nowhere partly by what you call chance. Small events can sway things. If a small outcome gets ahead by chance, positive feedbacks can magnify this. This can apply to anything. Take language – If enough

people speak one language it's advantaged, it may take over as the *lingua franca*, and become locked in.”

“At that time companies like Microsoft, Apple and others were starting up – if those companies got enough followers early on, then, similarly, their operating systems could become locked in. I began to realise that hi-tech could lock in via these unstable dynamics. The economy was always on some path where things would readjust to a new level. If something got ahead it could get further ahead.”

This realisation led to the development of Arthur's positive feedback or increasing returns theory which initially faced some opposition. “I wrote a paper in 1983 and sent it to the journals and, although no one could find fault with it, because it wasn't familiar it kept getting turned down. It took me six years to publish it. It's now gone over 12 000 citations.”

But he was soon to find more like-minded colleagues.

In 1987 Nobel Laureate Kenneth Arrow, then regarded as one of the top theorists in economics in the world and a major figure in neoclassical economic theory, literally stopped Arthur in the quad at Stanford and told him about plans to hold a small meeting with theoretical economists and physicists in Santa Fe to discuss complexity. The ‘small meeting’ in September 1987 turned out to be highly significant and led to the establishment of the Santa Fe Institute's first research programme – with Arthur asked to lead this.

“Santa Fe was devoted to studies of complexity which doesn't mean complication,” explained Arthur. “It's the science of how patterns form and change. A bit like a kaleidoscope which constantly forms different patterns. Complexity concerns itself with how individual elements – like cells in the immune system or cars in traffic – behave when they encounter each other.”

It was decided that the economy should be the subject of the first big research programme and a team of about 20 researchers – in physics, economics, computer science and theoretical biology was assembled. But, as Arthur tells the story, “We initially didn't know what to do. I mean how do you look at an economy as a complex system?”

Anxious calls to the initiators and funders of the programme delivered an interesting response: “We were told to do anything we liked provided it was based on economics and not conventional. I was floored. It was like the Vatican telling Martin Luther to do whatever he liked. It was also kind of Wow! When you are in a situation where you don't know what to do you start to explore and try to make sense.”

And figure it out they did over the next 10 years establishing the basis for the field of complexity economics.

“Standard theory saw the world as well ordered and highly rational, and problems as well defined and possible to solve. We and others came along and said – what if none of that is true? What if the world wasn't well ordered

and people faced problems that were uncertain and ill-defined. We realised they'd try to feel their way, explore different strategies, try to make sense." We could set up computer models where each agent was its own artificially intelligent mini programme that was trying to explore and see what it could do. You could see patterns form and more realistic, non-obvious outcomes. Arthur believes that one of the major aspects that progressed this work was the advent of computers.

"We all got computers at that time. This made it possible to look at a hugely complicated set of circumstances. They also allowed a more rigorous approach."

In this regard, Arthur pointed to the work of computer scientist John Holland. "He was particularly interested in how you teach computer programs to play chess and other games. He had come up with some successful strategies. We used many of John's ideas – they are the ancestors of some of the ideas of AI now used to play Chess and Go at an expert level."

Messy vitality

"The complexity approach is to see the economic world not as dependent on equilibrium but as being able to go with the flow and see what happens. The skill is in having lots of different responses. It's about accepting that we are exploring and learning as we go and this gives us a different way of thinking about how we deal with uncertain situations."

"There is a lot of borrowing from the natural world. We approach the natural world with an open mind and say that the way different creatures interact is organic, open-ended and not predictable. We are not shovelling things into some ordered system. We are allowing for the fact that we don't know."

All particularly relevant in the ever-changing world we live in now.

"In March 2020 we didn't know how COVID worked, how severe things might be, what policies would be implemented, whether economies would shut down. A year ago vaccines were coming out but no one knew if they would work, who should be prioritised and so on. We couldn't assume it would all work according to some simple model with ideal assumptions. We learned over months that COVID was not something that was just going to go away. For so many parts of the human condition you are adapting, adjusting, taking up different things."

Another thing that Arthur took up was trying to understand how innovation works and how technology evolves. He concluded that technology evolves in an iterative process with new technologies building by combining earlier technologies "in a lego-like way" as we attempt to solve novel problems. He published these ideas in 2009.

"We have to recognise that the world is full of things forming, changing, coming and going, dying, it's all messy vitality," he said.

"I always joke that if you want to understand the difference between pure order and messy vitality, think of teenage children."

And Arthur has been through the messy teenage stage with four children.

The youngest has followed in his footsteps to some degree. He completed a PhD in 2019 at Stanford looking at the Ebola epidemic in Liberia with questions like how might an epidemic change if people avoided each other more if the epidemic became more severe. "He reasoned that we would see waves of infection and that trust in governments would be very important because if people didn't follow the measures suggested the waves might go on and on. There was some resistance to these ideas but he went ahead, did all the mathematics and, of course, what he said has come true for COVID."

And what of the future for Arthur?

"I have no plans for retirement," he laughed. "I don't see myself as slowing down at all. I haven't finished."

His latest interest is in looking at theories of holism – the idea that things are connected to things.

"About 10 years ago I started to think I was dilettante – buzzing from one flower to another – would it not have been better to have been interested in one topic? You get to an age when you look back and wonder what you really did and was it worth it. But what is common to all the problems I've examined is formation or how systems dynamically change, come and go, form and reform. It's a theme I've looked at all my life. I began to realise that all my efforts were to look at the world as organically forming and changing. Behind that is a belief in holism. We've had about 350 years of reductionism – seeing things in smaller and smaller detail. Looking at the world through an ever-finer microscope. Holism is about looking in the opposite direction – at how things come together to make new structures."

"Ideas of order have been in Western culture for a long, long time promulgated largely by Greek thought. The Western worldview has been built on that. Asian philosophy – largely out of Daoism and Confucianism – looks more at how patterns form and change, and how one thing leads into another in an ever-changing way."

"Science is changing from looking at the world as in principle knowable, highly ordered and very rational, to seeing the world as contingent – this could have happened or that."

"I'm fascinated by that – it hasn't gone away. I'm interested in unravelling that further." α

"We have to recognise that the world is full of things forming, changing, coming and going, dying, it's all messy vitality,"



‘Writing has never ceased to be a pleasure’

A conversation with Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah

“Writing is not about one thing, not about this issue or that, or this concern or another, and since its concern is human life in one way or another, sooner or later cruelty and love and weakness become its subject. I believe that writing also has to show what can be otherwise, what it is that the hard domineering eye cannot see, and what makes people, apparently small in stature, feel assured in themselves regardless of the disdain of others. So I found it necessary to write about that as well, and to do so truthfully so that both the ugliness and the virtue come through, and the human being appears out of the simplification and stereotype. When that works, a kind of beauty comes out of it.”

“And that way of looking makes room for frailty and weakness, for tenderness amid cruelty, and for a capacity for kindness in unlooked-for sources. It is for these reasons that writing has been for me a worthwhile and absorbing part of my life. There are other parts, of course, but they are not our concern on this occasion. A little miraculously, that youthful pleasure in writing that I spoke of at the beginning is still there after all the decades.”
– Extract from Abdulrazak Gurnah’s Nobel Prize Speech, 7 December 2021

On 7 October 2021, Abdulrazak Gurnah received a call most authors only dream about informing him he was the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature. The call came about ten minutes before the official announcement and Gurnah initially believed it was a prank – his disbelief quickly dispelled as he watched the announcement minutes later. Since then his life has been a whirlwind of interviews and speaking engagements.

“The first thing that it does is that I have to speak to a lot of people,” he said. “That’s part of the deal. If you receive this kind of recognition people will be interested, want to know and have questions – sometimes questions relevant to their issues and not just to you. I have been doing that a lot since the announcement – so much so that there hasn’t been much else I could do aside from checking my schedule to see who I’m speaking to today. It will go on

like that for a little longer. But I’m not complaining. This is how it goes. If you get recognition, this follows.”

Once he had had a chance to take it in and reflect, pride and honour in the achievement took over.

“For any writer, it’s a great honour, recognition of your work,” he said. “Because, unlike many other prizes, this is awarded for your life’s work. It’s an honour, especially considering who has received these awards. You are joining the company of people whose work you have admired. So that’s from the point of view of a writer.”

“But there are also other things,” he continued. “The Nobel Prize is a global award, everybody hears about it so it becomes more than just about appreciation of the writer. It extends to other things like the work that the writer represents, and where he or she comes from. It’s a way of saying that there is something about the world that the writing represents.”

With the accolade also comes opportunities to publish and disseminate the work more widely including in different languages.

“It’s wonderful to think about more people reading my work – in languages my books have not been published in before – some I had never imagined. With the award being global people don’t only want to know about the writer but about the writing too and because they don’t all read English they want the books to be translated into their languages. So one of the major pleasures in this is how many publishers in how many languages want to publish the books. And, of course, it’s not just numbers but the spread – everybody wants to read the books.”

“This is what the Swedish Academy has as one of their aims – to make the writing known to people who might not have come across it. Even if you are a famous writer in one country no one will likely have read you anywhere else. This kind of attention means that people want to and that’s very good.”

Exploring dislocation

In the announcement, the Swedish Academy highlighted Gurnah’s “uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents”.

He is the first Tanzanian writer, the first black African writer since Wole Soyinka in 1986, and one of only four black writers to hold the honour.

Gurnah was born in Tanzania in 1948 and grew up on the island of Zanzibar. He fled to England as a refugee in 1967 following the Zanzibar Revolution. He initially studied at Christchurch College Canterbury and recently retired after a long career at the University of Kent where he was Professor Emeritus of English and Postcolonial Literatures.

“I wasn’t sitting waiting for someone to publish my writing. I was hoping, I guess, hoping that one day someone would publish something I’d written. And they did and everything progressed from there.”

His first novel, *Memory of Departure* was published in 1987. Since then he has published ten novels and several short stories. His novels include *Paradise* (1994) set in colonial East Africa during the first world war, which was shortlisted for both the Booker and Whitbread Prizes, and *By the Sea* (2001), which was longlisted for the Booker and shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Gurnah was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2006.

Described as one of the “most important contemporary postcolonial novelists writing in Britain today”, the themes of disruption, belonging, colonialism, displacement, memory and migration run through his works.

These themes were very real to someone who faced the challenge of starting a new life in England at the tender age of 18.

“It was very different. In some ways, it was so different and so much inner stuff was going on anyway that maybe I didn’t feel the strangeness as much as I would have if I was calmer and older. In the initial stages, it was painful to realise that we had left home. So much was different, none of it was as I had imagined from the little I knew of England, that I probably didn’t process the full power of the strangeness of my condition. I was young, 18 years old, I was a stranger who spoke differently, dressed differently, ate differently and, ultimately, didn’t want to be there. All those things did not immediately register. It took a long time to understand.”

“At times it was exciting because it was different,” he continued. “There was a sense of adventure, although that makes it sound silly, but excitement at the difference and strangeness. It wasn’t all just horror. But it took some getting used to.”

Gurnah experienced hostility for being the ‘other’.

“It was a time of considerable hostility towards people from countries outside of Europe. It is always so, it’s just that the target people were different then. Of course, you did find kindness as well. It wasn’t as though everyone was awful. But it was hostile. You didn’t feel you were welcome. If you read the newspapers or watched TV there was a great deal of jeering and mockery and whatever.”

“In those days there were also words you had to learn – I hadn’t known they existed – pejorative words used in a popular, colloquial way about strangers from Africa or the Caribbean. It was very to the point. But you had to learn

to cope with that. That’s one of the things that people who are dislocated have to learn.”

“I guess if you are going somewhere with a sense of privilege and entitlement, with money in your pocket, or you are going to a community that recognises you, where they know who you are – for example, if you emigrate from England to Australia as a British person, there might be a welcome. But if you are going to a place that is so very different – culturally, historically, socially – then you are a stranger in the true sense. Like the people coming to Europe from Syria or Iraq now.”

“I admire people who are escaping war or violence and all other kinds of deprivations and when they are given the opportunity they are able to gather themselves together and make something, send their kids to school, make a life. People coming from further afield have to make huge adjustments and they do, and establish something. There is often a resourcefulness that I admire.”

These experiences and ideas profoundly underlie his writing. Although he had taken great pleasure in writing as a child it took a long time for him to realise it might become his life’s work.

“I grew up in the household where, if there was any reading to be done, it was the Koran,” he explained.

“People of my father’s generation – the men in particular – were literate in the sense that they could read and write using Arabic script in order to read the Koran. This was the norm until the displacement of that by colonial education in the mid-twentieth century. My generation started going to government or colonial schools and learnt to write using the Roman script. The reading I did happened at school.”

He didn’t initially understand the potential of his writing as a career. “It took a while,” he said. “I think when you have written and written and written, there’s a point at which you think I must try to see if I can make this succeed as work. Of course, I was doing other things as well – academic things, teaching, my PhD, etc. I wasn’t sitting waiting for someone to publish my writing. I was hoping, I guess, hoping that one day someone would publish something I’d written. And they did and everything progressed from there.”

“It was luck – reading, finding I could write. Actually, there might be another writer looming in the next generation. At least one of them might turn out to be interested,” he laughed.

Elbow grease and sweat

Asked about his process, he replied: “Time is the process. When time opens up. Now that I’m retired there is – well there was before this award – more time to think about writing, what I would work on, is it interesting or not.

Usually, it takes a long while for an idea to become viable to work on which does mean that there is a queue of ideas waiting at the back of my head. I don't have a problem with what I'm going to write next – it's more which of these am I going to take up and follow through on. The process is to wait until the moment feels right. Then it's a matter of making a start and, once you've made a start, maybe deciding that's not quite right and adjusting."

"I don't know what other people do but with writing, you write. And, as you write you see if it's working out and if not how can I make it right and so on. It's not a mysterious thing. It's elbow grease and sweat until it begins to run smoothly and then it's very nice."

I think a certain kind of writer who is very practised in their area – genre writers, for example – probably work out their entire plots before they start. Many writers are able to say 'OK 3000 words a day. By the end of June, I'll finish this book'. I don't feel any kind of pressure to produce a book so it doesn't bother me if I think this is not going the right way. It doesn't matter what page I'm on – page 98 or even 250 – I'll go let's put that away and think some more."

He did reveal that there is a novel in the process but, of course, it's on pause for the moment. "I haven't had a chance to look at it since early October," he said. "When I go back I may think it's a load of rubbish and start again."

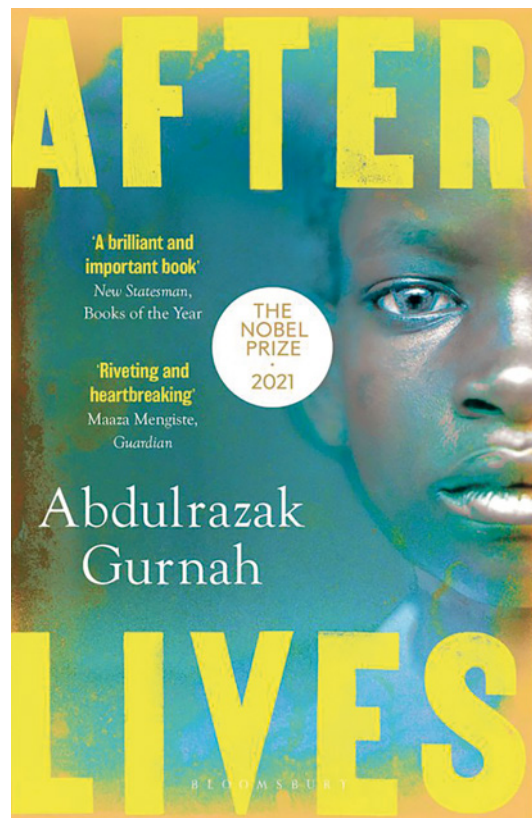
He gave no hints of the novel's theme but was persuaded to comment more generally on global issues.

"There's nothing I can say that will make the current situation more understandable," he said. "It seems to me we are always in this state. We lurch from one crisis to another. It's just that they happen in different places. I don't know if we are making a lot of progress as human societies – I think we are, but we don't seem to be able to get things quite right. There are too many powerful states wanting to show their power. Now it's Russia, a few years ago it was the United States roughshodding all over the Middle East. It's like when people drive big, fast cars – why have a big, fast car and not drive it fast – these highly militarised states cannot resist using their muscle on other people."

"In the world of culture and arts we have to keep doing what must be done, keep saying what we think is wrong, keep telling the truth as much as possible," he added.

Gurnah has been a regular visitor to South Africa and worked on his last novel *AfterLives* as Artist-in-residence at STIAS (which he described as "terrific") in 2018.

"I love South Africa," he said. "There are some difficult matters to sort out. But what South Africans are perhaps not always as aware of as they could be is that despite everything South Africa is an open society where people can speak their politics, can disagree, can vote.



Of course, there are enormous inequalities which have not been put right but in many other countries in Africa you can't do that, you can't hold an opinion openly, you can't train to be a skilled craftsman in this or that or the other. I think South Africa has a good future."

And his own future?

"This, in many ways, is the best literary prize you can be awarded – I hesitate to say win – it's not a writing competition. Right now so many things are possible. There are new publishers and new editions. For the time being, I want to say that's good and not have other ambitions." α

"I love South Africa. There are some difficult matters to sort out. But what South Africans are perhaps not always as aware of as they could be is that despite everything South Africa is an open society where people can speak their politics, can disagree, can vote."

NEWS ROUNDUP

STIAS public webinars, second semester 2021

Sleeping beauties: Dormant innovations in nature and culture – Andreas Wagner

Innovations in biological evolution and in human culture – from science to the arts – arise from processes with multiple parallels. One of them is that many innovations originate as ‘sleeping beauties’, creative products that are not successful when they first emerge. They become successful only after a long period of dormancy, and then often dramatically so. Wagner discussed multiple and diverse examples from biology that range from the evolution of grasses to the emergence of new antibiotic resistance and the origin of new genes. He also discussed examples from science and technology, such as the invention of the cardiac pacemaker and the discovery of radar. These examples illustrate that an innovation’s innate quality may not suffice to ensure success in the natural world or a marketplace. They highlight the crucial role of the environment for an innovation’s success, including abiotic factors and other organisms for biological innovations, as well as social, political, and cultural factors

Below: Andreas Wagner



for cultural innovations. Taken together, these examples may also harbour lessons for human innovators who are faced with a lack of success in their creative products.

Andreas Wagner is a professor at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, and an External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute for the study of Complex Systems. His main research interests revolve around the question of how biological evolution brings forth innovations – new traits that help life survive. Wagner has authored more than 200 scientific publications in journals that include *Nature*, *Science*, and *PNAS*, as well as five books, including the award-winning *Paradoxical Life*, and *Arrival of the Fittest*. Wagner received his PhD in 1995 at Yale University, where his research won the J.S. Nicholas prize for best dissertation in his field. He has lectured widely worldwide and held research fellowships at several institutions, such as the Institute for Advanced Studies in Berlin, Germany and the Institut des Hautes Etudes in Bures-sur-Yvette, France. Wagner is an elected member of the EMBO, an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and a foreign associate of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. An Austrian born US citizen, he lives with his wife and son in Zurich, Switzerland.

See <https://stias.ac.za/2021/08/sleeping-beauties-dormant-innovations-in-nature-and-culture/>

The vexed question of identity in Ethiopia: A historical perspective – Bahru Zewde

On the surface, Ethiopian identity should be a given. It is a country with a long history and an identity that is globally recognised. But, as its current predicament makes abundantly clear, the issue has forced the country to be delicately poised between renewal and disintegration. How did this come about?

The question is complex as is the answer. In the interest of clarity, Zewde divided his lecture into three components: thesis, antithesis and possible synthesis. The thesis is the narrative of a country with at least two millennia of recorded history, with a multi-ethnic ruling class and a tradition of ethnic interaction. More than once, its people rallied to resist successfully external aggression (in 1875-6, 1896, 1936-41, 1977-8 and 1998-2000).

The antithesis started to appear in the 1970s, with a narrative that gave primacy to its constituent nationalities. It was accentuated by the emergence of ethno-nationalist ‘liberation fronts’. The climax was attained with the promulgation of the 1995 constitution that enshrined this primacy, to the extent of recognising the right of “nations, nationalities and peoples” to self-determination, up to and including secession. As the recent spate of ethnic conflicts all over the country has shown, a medicine that



Left: Bahru Zewde

was ostensibly intended to cure a long-standing ailment is threatening to bleed the country to death.

And what of the synthesis? Zewde indicated that that is still a work in progress. But, there is a consensus that the ill-fated constitution has to be revised substantially. While the federal arrangement is an inescapable reality, its ethnic element has to be attenuated significantly. Accommodating ethno-nationalist identity need not come at the expense of pan-Ethiopian identity. Above all, the promotion of democratic institutions is a *sine qua non* for the exercise of genuine federalism.

Bahru Zewde is an Emeritus Professor of History at Addis Ababa University, Founding Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences. He was formerly Chair of the Department of History and Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University. He led the Forum for Social Studies, a think-tank he helped to create with four other colleagues, first as Chair of its Advisory Board and next as its Executive Director. He has also served as Principal Vice President of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, Vice President of the Association of African Historians and Resident Vice President of the sub-regional research network, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), and as Editor of its journal, *Eastern Africa Social Science Research*

Review. In addition to serving as Editor of the *Journal of Ethiopian Studies* for 15 years, he was a member of the International Advisory Board of the *Journal of African History* and founding Editor of the *Africa Review of Books*, a CODESRIA publication that he edited for 14 years. He is the recipient of numerous awards and Fellowships, including ones from the British Academy, the French Government, Japan Foundation, Oxford University, the Institute of Advanced Study (Wissenschaftskolleg) in Berlin and Humboldt University. Aside from teaching at Addis Ababa University, he has held visiting professorships at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Hamburg.

His major research interest has been Ethiopian intellectual history, resulting in two books: *Pioneers of Change in Ethiopia: The Reformist Intellectuals of the Early Twentieth Century* (2002) and *The Quest for Socialist Utopia: The Ethiopian Student Movement c. 1960-1974* (2014). Other major publications in English include *A History of Modern Ethiopia 1855-1991* (second edition, 2001) and an anthology of his major articles, *Society, State and History: Selected Essays* (2008).

See <https://stias.ac.za/2021/10/the-vexed-question-of-identity-in-ethiopia-a-historical-perspective-stias-webinar-by-bahru-zewde/>



Above: Caroline Kerfoot

Towards epistemic justice: Language, identity and relations of knowing in post-colonial schools – Caroline Kerfoot

Epistemic justice is concerned with relations of knowing: those relations that construct or fail to construct, others as knowers and, more importantly, as producers of knowledge. It challenges the epistemic injustices inextricably bound to coloniality, the racialised structures of power and value that survive colonialism and are kept alive in contemporary structures of governance. Language is profoundly implicated in such questions: language-in-education policies often perpetuate colonial ideologies of who it is that can legitimately know and through what language.

Questions of decolonisation and epistemic justice in education have taken on increased urgency worldwide,

not least in South Africa. This webinar contributed to these debates by illuminating emergent processes of cultural production in two primary schools on the periphery of Cape Town. Here, youngsters from groups previously separated by political, social, linguistic, or geographical boundaries construct new ways of living and languaging.

Drawing on interactions, interviews, and observations from two three-year linguistic ethnographies, Kerfoot discussed the complex ways in which young adolescents used their multilingual repertoires to negotiate social and academic identities, rework historical divisions, and reconfigure raciolinguistic hierarchies of value, not always unproblematically.

In the process, they forged new relations of knowing and new forms of conviviality from below. These emergent social, epistemic, and moral orders suggest that postcolonial contexts such as South Africa where multilingualism is seen as a norm, rather than an exception, can offer an alternative, southern angle of vision. Policies and practices that embrace a multilingual episteme, valuing all languages equally as epistemic resources, can point the way to constructing more just, equitable, and ethical conditions for learning.

Caroline Kerfoot is Professor in Bilingualism at the Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm University, in Sweden. Her research focuses on the role of language in constructing social difference and inequality in post-colonial contexts. It uses a southern, decolonial lens to investigate how language, race, and other forms of difference are negotiated, resisted, or transformed in multilingual classrooms and playgrounds. It further analyses how learners use multilingual repertoires to negotiate knowledge and relations of knowing. This research has implications for policy and planning as well as for epistemic justice and decolonial futures.

Kerfoot received her PhD at Stockholm University in 2009. She was Head of the Language Education Department at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, from 2006 to 2011, focusing on teacher education for under-resourced, multilingual schools. She was later Director of the Centre for Research on Bilingualism at Stockholm University, Sweden, from 2017 to 2018. Before joining UWC, she worked for 15 years as the Director of an NGO concerned with multilingual education. She has extensive experience in education national policy work with the African National Congress' government-in-waiting, trade unions, and NGOs in South Africa. She has been a Fulbright Scholar at the University of New Mexico, and a visiting scholar at SOAS University of London, Ghent University in Belgium, and the University of California, Berkeley.

See <https://stias.ac.za/2021/12/towards-epistemic-justice-casting-a-southern-lens-on-language-identity-and-relations-of-knowing-in-postcolonial-education/> α.

NEWS ABOUT OUR FELLOWS



Calestous Juma Award for Science Leadership awarded to Masimirembwa

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges announced in 2021 that STIAS fellow Collen Masimirembwa is one of 14 winners of the Calestous Juma Awards for Science Leadership.

Collen Masimirembwa is President and CEO of the African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology (AiBST), Chief Scientific Officer of CradleOmics and Distinguished Professor in the Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Biosciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. He founded AiBST in Zimbabwe in 2002, and over the last 10 years has organised a series of drug discovery and development courses across the continent to introduce the subjects and contextualise them for Africa.

The award will be used to assist in the establishment of three centres of excellence in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Nigeria in genomic medicine research for the sustainable development of genomic and pharmaceutical medicine capability in Africa, and to help launch an R&D biotechnology industry in Africa by forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders and training industry-focused scientists. The group will also perform a prospective, multi-centre clinical trial across several countries to determine the effectiveness of pharmacogenetic testing in reducing the incidence of adverse drug reactions and increasing treatment efficacy in African populations. The mission is to achieve world-class drug discovery and development capability in Africa. For more see:

<https://stias.ac.za/2021/10/not-one-treatment-fits-all-fellows-seminar-by-collen-masimirembwa/>

The Calestous Juma Award was established by the Gates Foundation in recognition of the major gaps in the global health system highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the urgent need to change how we work to get better results, faster. The Foundation believes that to fill those gaps, and seize those opportunities, the world needs more strong science leadership in communities around the world. The programme recognises science leadership broadly as not only the expertise to do transformative science on the ground but also the experience, networks and skills to anchor health and development R&D in communities, design or co-design projects with local and global partners, and mobilise key country institutions. It is awarded to scientists permanently located at African research organisations.

In addition to five years of funding, the programme provides networking opportunities and access to training in critical non-scientific skills to establish a cohort of fellows with wide-ranging expertise and interests as a collaborative community of practice.

Left: Collen Masimirembwa

The focus areas for the award in 2021 were: computational approaches to drug design, data science, female sexual & reproductive health, health economics, immunology, malaria molecular surveillance, maternal, newborn & child health discovery & tools, molecular epidemiology and translational sciences.

Calestous Juma was a Kenyan scientist and academic who specialised in sustainable development. He was named one of the most influential 100 Africans in 2012, 2013 and 2014 by the *New African* magazine. He was Professor of the Practice of International Development and Faculty Chair of the Innovation for Economic Development Executive Program at Harvard Kennedy School, Director of the School's Science, Technology and Globalization Project as well as the Agricultural Innovation in Africa Project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"It is such a rewarding recognition of the work my institute has been doing and has been seen as deserving expansion across Africa through establishing centres of excellence in Zimbabwe, Kenya and Nigeria," said Masimirembwa. "The grant of US \$1 million over five years is an important seed for this initiative."

Below: Pier Paolo Frassinelli



"This is a wonderful and important recognition for Collen's work," said STIAS Director Edward K. Kirumira. "For us at STIAS it further confirms the admiration with which his work, as outlined in his Fellows Seminar presentation in October, was received. We extend hearty congratulations to Collen and his colleagues and thank him for attributing a portion of this most-deserving recognition to the time spent with us. It is a great privilege to have Collen as part of the STIAS programme".

2021 Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to Abdulrazak Gurnah

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2021 was awarded to Tanzanian novelist and STIAS fellow Abdulrazak Gurnah. Read our interview with Gurnah on page 7.

During 2018 Gurnah was Artist-in-Residence at STIAS and presented a public lecture in which he outlined the challenges of achieving true 'world literature'. "Our desire for 'world literature' should be inspired by the idea of humanity without borders," he said. See: <https://stias.ac.za/2018/04/reading-the-world-public-lecture-by-abdulrazak-gurnah/>. His most recent novel *Afterlives*, which he commenced while at STIAS, was published in 2020.

Gurnah joins a group of STIAS fellows who are Nobel laureates. Kip Thorne, STIAS fellow in 2010, won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2017 for his contributions to the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory detector and the observation of gravitational waves; Harald Zur Hausen, STIAS fellow in 2013, was the 2008 co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery that human papillomaviruses cause cervical cancer; Joseph Stiglitz, STIAS fellow in 2017, won the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics for his research on information asymmetry; J. M. Coetzee, STIAS fellow in 2015, winner of the 2003 Nobel Literature Prize; and, Sydney Brenner, STIAS fellow in 2005 and 2010, and winner of the Nobel Physics prize in 2002 for his work on genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death.

See <https://www.nobelprize.org>

STIAS mourns the passing of an engaged intellectual and social justice advocate

The fellows and staff of STIAS were deeply saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of fellow Pier Paolo Frassinelli in November 2021.

A professor of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Johannesburg and a visiting professor at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Frassinelli was at STIAS to work on a book project titled, *African Cinemas: Spaces, Technologies, Audiences and Genres* when he passed away.

At a memorial service at STIAS attended by Frassinelli's mother and sister, members of his cohort described him as someone who stood for the rights of others.

Iso Lomso fellow, Njoki Wamai said Frassinelli was restless towards injustice. "Pier Paolo was an academic giant and achiever in his field. He was very sensitive about issues of race, gender, class. He was a feminist. The best way to honor him is by stopping injustice," she said.

Frassinelli's research interests were cultural and media studies, critical and decolonial theory, and African cinema. His latest book titled *Borders, Media Crossings and the Politics of Translation: The Gaze from Southern Africa* was published by Routledge in 2019. He also edited special issues of *Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies* (2019) and *New Global Studies* (2019) – *Borders 30 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall* (with Melissa Tandiwe Myambo). He was book and film reviews editor of the *Journal of African Cinemas*, a member of the International Advisory Board of the *Journal of African Media Studies*, and served as Advisory Chair of the South African Communication Association, where he was a member of the Executive Committee and Convenor of the Communication Advocacy and Activism interest group from 2017 to 2019.

He held a C1 rating from the South African National Research Foundation and an Italian Ministry of Higher Education and Research Qualification as Professor of English and Anglo-American Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Frassinelli's book-in-progress at STIAS was an ethnography and political economy of different spaces – cinemas, film festivals, websites and other public spaces – where African films are screened, as well as an analysis of contemporary African films and of the genres and trends they represent. The work mapped the changes in contemporary African cinemas and screen media brought about by digital production and distribution technologies, as well as by new socio-cultural contexts and audiences. He presented some of this work at his STIAS seminar on 30 September <https://stias.ac.za/2021/10/streaming-africa-is-local-really-king-in-the-golden-age-for-african-films/>

Avinash Govindjee appointed judge

Avinash Govindjee was appointed to the Eastern Cape High Court at the end of 2021 and took up office on 1 January 2022.

Govindjee realised this lifelong dream after nearly 20 years in academia in which he held various leadership positions in the faculty of law at the Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, including serving as the deputy head of the Labour and Social Security Law Unit, head of the Department of Public Law, and as executive dean.



Above: Avinash Govindjee

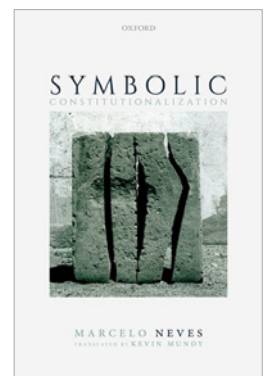
Govindjee has been a visiting scholar at STIAS and along with Marius Olivier, Peter de Clercq and Evance Kalula are involved in a group project examining migration and Access to Social Protection. Read more at: <https://stias.ac.za/2021/09/social-protection-for-climate-change-induced-displaced-persons-in-search-of-a-new-paradigm-fellows-seminar-by-marius-olivier-evance-kalula-and-avinash-govindjee/>

English translation of Neves publication

Marcelo Neves alerted us to the English translation of his book on *Symbolic Constitutionalization* translated by Kevin Mundy.

The subject of this book is the social and political meaning of constitutional texts to the detriment of their legal concretisation. It offers a critical counterpoint to constitutional theory that treats constitutional texts as a panacea to solving political, legal, and social problems. Symbolic constitutionalisation is approached from a comprehensive and far-reaching perspective.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/symbolic-constitutionalization-9780192857149?cc=za&lang=en&#>





Above: Marcella Faria.



Right: Elifuraha Laltaika

Introducing Marcella the poet

STIAS fellow Marcella Faria is the author of the plaque ‘Running Chain’, which was sent to the subscribers of the Poetry Circle in March 2022. This is her first book of poetry.

The plaques are exclusive to the Poems Circle. Every month subscribers receive a box containing the book of the month and a plaque written exclusively for the Circle. To join the club sign up at <https://circulodepoemas.com.br/>

Environmental rights award for Laltaika

Iso Lomso fellow Elifuraha Laltaika has been selected as the winner of this year’s Svitlana Kravchenko Environmental Rights Award for his “broad impacts in the law while working to support local communities”.

Laltaika, who is the director of research and consultancy of the Arusha-based higher learning institution, becomes the eighth person to win the award since its launching and the only African scholar to have ever been nominated for it.

Named after a Ukrainian law professor Svitlana Kravchenko, who subsequently became a US citizen, the award honours scholars from across the world who

display “exquisite qualities of both head and heart, mixing academic rigour with spirited activism, and speaking truth to power, while exhibiting kindness towards all”. It is organised by students at the University of Oregon’s Environmental and Natural Resources Program and Laltaika will receive the award during the 40th virtual annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, considered the largest environmental conference in the world.

The issues of natural resources rights among Tanzania’s indigenous communities preoccupy Laltaika’s scholarly and activist works. He has spent several months among the Barbaig, the Akie and the Hadza communities in an effort to understand their unique vulnerabilities.

At STIAS Laltaika is involved in a project looking at proposing innovative legal solutions for protecting hunter-gatherer communal land rights in Africa. He hopes his study will address the gap in legal literature focusing on hunter-gatherers’ collective land rights and unveil appropriate legal tools to enable African countries to address this emotional and contested issue.

See <https://stias.ac.za/2021/10/highlighting-the-need-to-protect-africas-hunter-gatherers/> **α**

Nobel in Africa – an update on the STIAS Nobel Symposia Series

The first Nobel Symposium titled, *Progress and Challenges in Cardiovascular Medicine* which was scheduled to be held in March 2022, has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nobel in Africa is a joint Special Initiative of the Nobel Foundation, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation and STIAS in partnership with Stellenbosch University. STIAS is the first institution outside of Scandinavia to host a Nobel Symposium on behalf of the Nobel Foundation.

The Symposia provide a unique opportunity to support and showcase advanced research and scholarship on the African continent and to promote research excellence and collaborative scholarship in Africa in conversation with the rest of the world. The aim is to provide an international forum to promote the sharing of innovative, high-level scholarship and to demonstrate the importance of scientific research for the future of the continent and the world.

The planned symposia now are:

Physics: Predictability in Science in the Age of AI **23 – 28 October 2022**

Convenor: Erik Aurell, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Physiology or Medicine: Progress and Challenges in Cardiovascular Medicine

27 – 31 March 2023

Convenor: Göran Hansson, Karolinska Institute and Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Chemistry: Tuberculosis and Antibiotic Resistance – From Basic Drug Discovery to Clinic

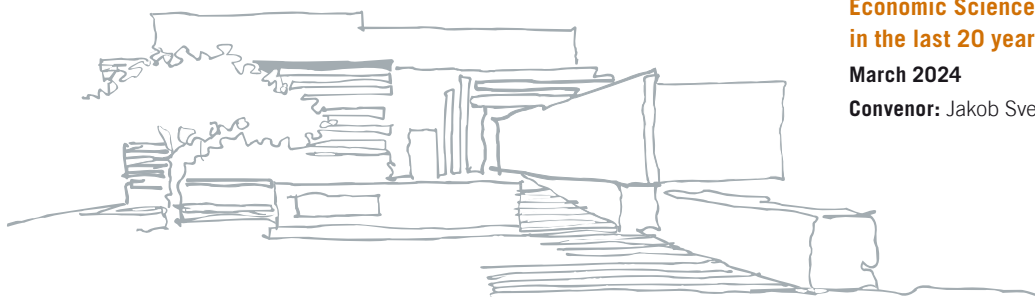
October 2023

Convenor: Fredrik Almqvist, Umeå University

Economic Sciences: Micro-development research in the last 20 years: what have we learned?

March 2024

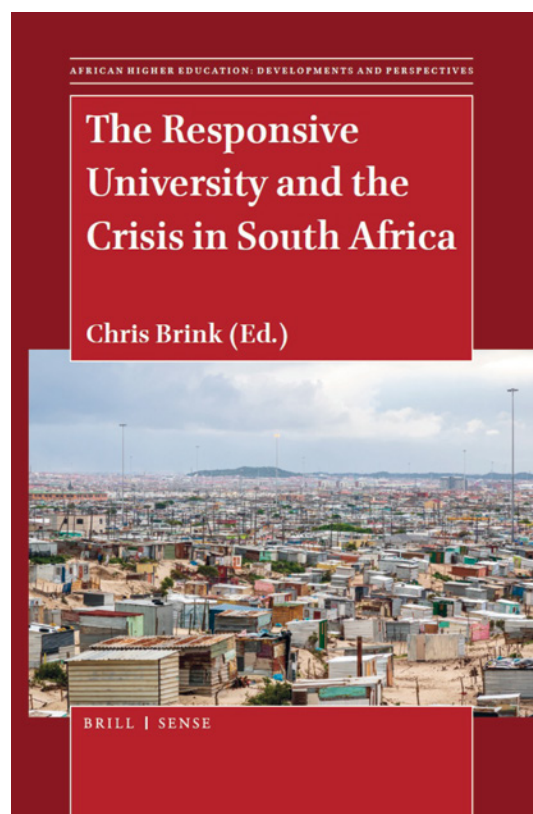
Convenor: Jakob Svensson, Stockholm University [α](#)



NOBEL
SYMPOSIA

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A full list of publications is available at <https://stias.ac.za/fellows/publications/group/2021/>



“...because of its intractable legacy issues and crisis of inequality, the question regarding the societal legitimacy of universities is particularly clearly manifested in South Africa, one of the most unequal countries in the world.”

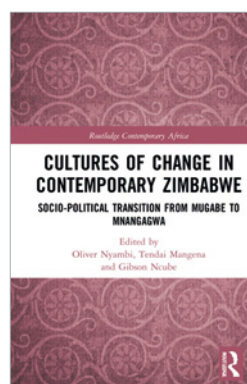
Chris Brink. (Ed.). 2021. *Responsive University and the Crisis in South Africa*. BRILL.

<https://brill.com/view/title/60379>

Around the world, higher education is faced with a fundamental question: what is the basis for our claim of societal legitimacy? In this book, the authors go beyond the classical response regarding teaching, research and community engagement. Instead, Brink puts forward the proposition that the answer lies in responsiveness, the extent to which universities respond, or fail to respond, to societal challenges. Moreover, because of its intractable legacy issues and crisis of inequality, the question regarding the societal legitimacy of universities is particularly clearly manifested in South Africa, one of the most unequal countries in the world.

The Responsive University brings together contributions on the issue of responsiveness from a number of international university leaders, half of them specifically addressing the South African situation within the context of the international situation as presented by the other authors.

In the global discussion about the role of universities in society, this book provides a conceptual framework for a way forward.

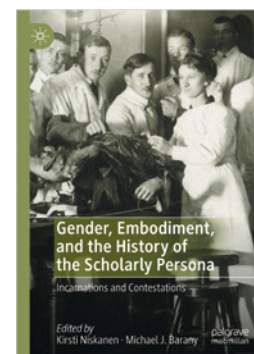


Oliver Nyambi, Tendai Mangena and Gibson Ncube. (Eds.). 2021. *Cultures of Change in Contemporary Zimbabwe*. Routledge.

<https://www.routledge.com/Cultures-of-Change-in-Contemporary-Zimbabwe-Socio-Political-Transition/Nyambi-Mangena-Ncube/p/book/9781032040264>

This book investigates how culture reflects change in Zimbabwe, focusing predominantly on Mnangagwa's 2017 coup, but also uncovering deeper roots for how renewal and transition are conceived in the country. Since Emmerson Mnangagwa ousted Robert Mugabe in 2017, he has been keen to define his 'Second Republic' or 'New Dispensation' with a rhetoric of change and a rejection of past political and economic cultures. This multi- and interdisciplinary volume looks to the (social) media, language/discourse, theatre, images, political speeches and literary fiction and non-fiction

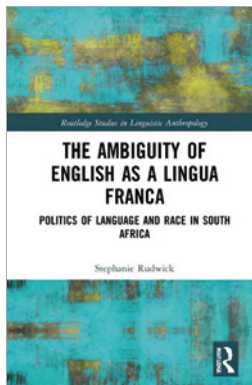
to see how they have reflected on this time of unprecedented upheaval. The book argues that themes of self-renewal stretch right back to the formative years of the ZANU PF, and that, despite the longevity of Mugabe's tenure, the latest transition can be seen as part of a complex and protracted layering of postcolonial social, economic and political changes. Providing an innovative investigation of how political change in Zimbabwe is reflected on in cultural texts and products, this book will be of interest to researchers across African history, literature, politics, culture and post-colonial studies.



Kirsti Niskanen and Michael J. Barany. 2021. *Gender, Embodiment, and the History of the Scholarly Persona*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-49606-7>

This book investigates the historical construction of scholarly personae by integrating a spectrum of recent perspectives from



the history and cultural studies of knowledge and institutions. Focusing on gender and embodiment, the contributors analyse the situated performance of scholarly identity and its social and intellectual contexts and consequences. Disciplinary cultures, scholarly practices, personal habits, and a range of social, economic, and political circumstances shape the people and formations of modern scholarship.

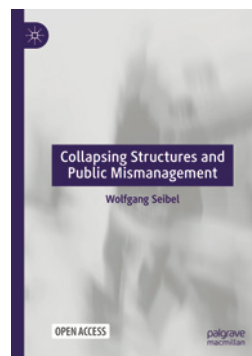
Gender, Embodiment, and the History of the Scholarly Persona: Incarnations and Contestations is of interest to historians, sociologists, media and culture scholars, and all those with a stake in the personal dimensions of scholarship. An international group of scholars present original examinations of travel, globalisation, exchange, training, evaluation, self-representation, institution-building, norm-setting, virtue-defining, myth-making and other gendered and embodied modes and mechanisms of scholarly persona-work. These accounts nuance and challenge existing understandings of the relationship between knowledge and identity.

Stephanie Rudwick. 2021. *The Ambiguity of English as a Lingua Franca*. Routledge.

www.routledge.com/The-Ambiguity-of-English-as-a-Lingua-Franca-Politics-of-Language-and-Race/Rudwick/p/book/9780367143558

Grounded in ethnography, this monograph explores the ambiguity of English as a *lingua franca* by focusing on identity politics of language and race in contemporary South Africa. The book adopts a multidisciplinary approach which highlights how ways of speaking English constructs identities in a multilingual context. Focusing primarily on IsiZulu and Afrikaans speakers, it raises critical questions around power and ideology. The study draws from literature on English as a *lingua franca*, racio-linguistics, and the cultural politics of English and dialogues between these fields. It challenges long-held concepts underpinning existing research from the global North by highlighting how they do not transfer and apply to identity politics of language in South Africa. It sketches out how these struggles for belonging are reflected in marginalisation and empowerment, and a vast range of local, global and glocal identity trajectories. Ultimately, it offers a first lens through which global scholarship on English as a *lingua franca* can be decolonised in terms of disciplinary limitations, geopolitical orientations and a focus on the politics of race that characterise the use of English as a

lingua franca all over the world. This book will be of interest to students and researchers in linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, World Englishes, ELF and African studies.



Wolfgang Seibel. 2021. *Collapsing Structures and Public Mismanagement* (1st ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030678173>

This open-access book is about mismanagement of public agencies as a threat to life and limb. Collapsing bridges and buildings kill people and often leave many more injured. Such disasters do not happen out of the blue nor are they purely technical in nature since construction and maintenance are subject to safety regulation and enforcement by governmental agencies. The book analyses four relevant cases from Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Germany. Rather than stressing well-known pathologies of bureaucracy as a potential source of disaster, this book argues, learning for the sake of prevention should aim at neutralising threats to

integrity and strengthening a sense of responsibility among public officials.

Ian Goldin. 2021. *Rescue: from global crisis to a better world*. Hodder & Stroughton.

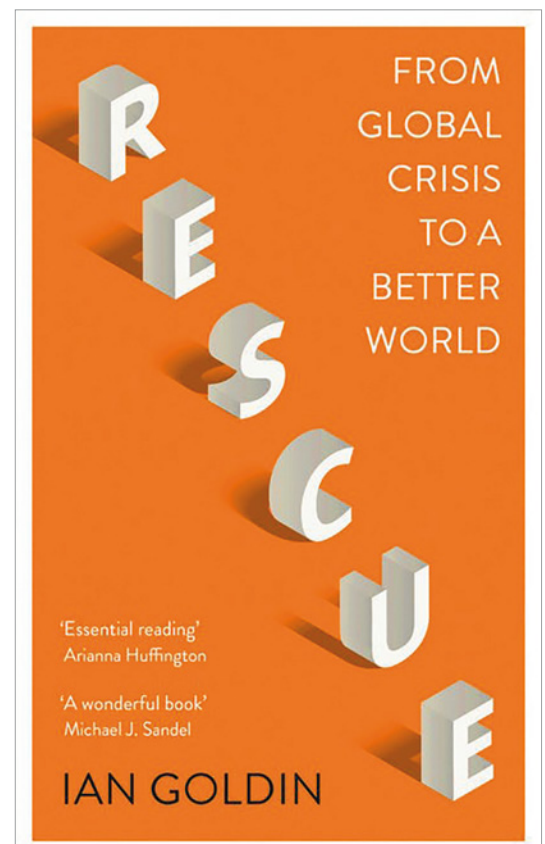
<https://www.hachette.co.uk/titles/ian-goldin/rescue/9781529366877/>

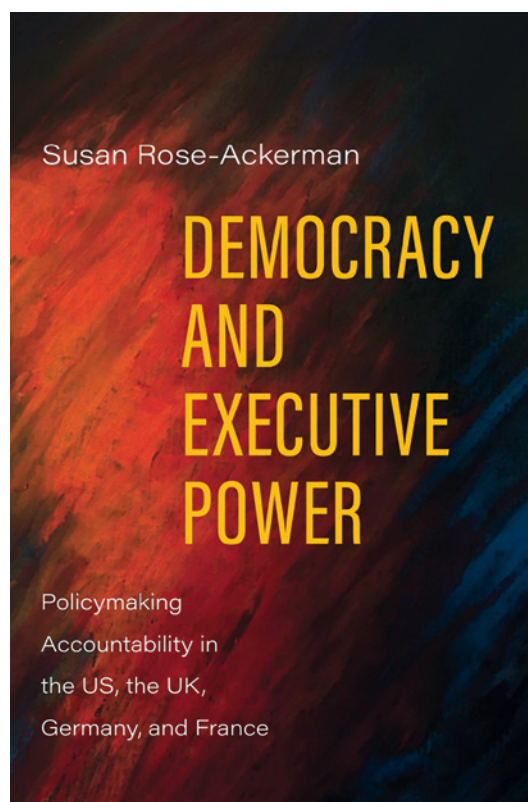
We are at a crossroads. The wrecking-ball of COVID-19 has destroyed global norms. Many think that after the devastation there will be a bounce back. To Ian Goldin, Professor of Development and Globalisation at the University of Oxford, this is a retrograde notion.

He believes that this crisis can create opportunities

for change, just as the Second World War forged the ideas behind the Beveridge Report. Published in 1942, it was revolutionary and laid the foundations for the welfare state alongside a host of other social and economic reforms, changing the world for the better.

Ian Goldin tackles the challenges and opportunities posed by the pandemic, ranging from globalisation to the future of jobs, income inequality and geopolitics, the climate crisis and the modern city. It is a fresh, bold call for an optimistic future and one we all have the power to create.





Susan Rose-Ackerman. 2021. *Democracy and Executive Power: Policy-making Accountability in the US, the UK, Germany, and France.* Yale University Press.

<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300254952/democracy-and-executive-power>

The statutory delegation of rule-making authority to the executive has recently become a source of controversy. There are guiding models, but none, Susan Rose-Ackerman claims, is a good fit with the needs of regulating in the public interest. Using a cross-national comparison of public policy-making in the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany, she argues that public participation

“...public participation inside executive rule-making processes is necessary to preserve the legitimacy of regulatory policy-making.”

inside executive rule-making processes is necessary to preserve the legitimacy of regulatory policy-making.

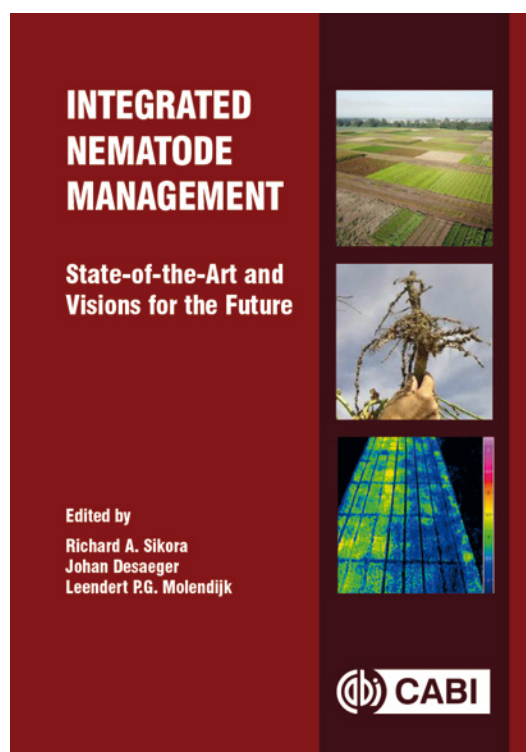
Richard A. Sikora, Johan Desaeger, Leendert P.G. Molendijk. *Integrated Nematode Management – State-of-the-Art and Visions for the Future.* 2021. 9781789247541, ePDF 9781789247558, ePub 9781789247565.

<https://www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781789247541/>

Plant parasitic nematodes are costly burdens of crop production, causing an estimated US\$80 – 118 billion per year in damage to crops. They are associated with nearly every important agricultural crop, and are a significant constraint on global food security. Regulations on the use of chemical pesticides have resulted in growing interest in alternative methods of nematode control. Future changes in climate, cropping systems, food habits, as well as social and environmental factors also affect the options for nematode control.

Taking a systematic crop by crop approach, this book:

- Outlines the economic importance of specific plant parasitic nematode problems on the major food and industrial crops.
- Presents the state-of-the-art management strategies that have been developed to reduce specific nematode impacts, and outlines their limitations.
- Contains case studies to illustrate impact in the field.
- Aims to anticipate future changes in nematode disease pressure that might develop as a result of climate change, and new cropping systems. **α**





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