2016 has been a busy year for the Wits School of Governance (WSG) with an injection of new staff and cohorts of students joining in July and September.

The School has taken part in the initial workshop of the GLOBUS project, an EU-funded project examining social justice and the BRICS countries. It has hosted a series of public events, from the O R Tambo Dialogues through to the new Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) series of engagements. The first WSG-DBSA event focused on challenges in the power-production arena. Several illustrious guests, domestic and international, have also visited our School.

Professor Susan Booysen has seen our book on the #feesmustfall movement from draft to print ready in record time. The book seems to be both prescient and unfortunately reminiscent of where we were a year ago. It is worth recalling that alongside the rolling wave of student protests are individual stories of struggle, sacrifice and success. There are stories about candidates who have persevered for years to both work and study, and finally successfully defended their masters or doctorates and stories about students from all over Africa and the Middle East, who face enormous challenges to attend WSG and successfully earned their degrees. It is about students and staff forming support groups and communities of practice to improve both research and outputs. It is these stories and relationships that keep the School alive and vibrant, and which form the backbone for our more public profile.

Our second book, on governance in South Africa, is under peer review, and should be ready to submit for publication in 2017. Our various research projects are all under way, in multiple different arenas, as are our partnerships with the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, the O R Tambo Foundation, United Nations Development Programme, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, DBSA and many others, which should offer both public events and sustained research engagement.

Internally, we are all working on transforming and indigenising the curriculum and our ways of teaching. The first round of work on our joint project with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology tracking newly elected councillors in Gauteng has been completed. The research team (comprising students from various Schools at Wits) is ready for the longer-term challenge of tracking councillors over time. We are also open to less traditional audiences and approaches, and will for example have a certificate programme available for taxi operators, to provide policy and governance training as they look to transform their sector and collaborate more closely with local and/or provincial government.

The Life in the City project, hosted by WSG, held its first round of applications. The team comprising myself, research assistant deans from our five faculties, supported by Simone Smit assessed over 40 applications. It was a very successful first round in both quality and breadth of subject matter. The criteria for the award include a “real world problem”, a local base, and above all a multi/transdisciplinary methodology and quality. We introduce our five full PhD and four full post-doctoral awardees in this newsletter. Another call for proposals was issued in September for a November decision. This does promise to be a robust intervention.

As I write, the University is suspended, and many of our students are facing very difficult days ahead. Many don’t know how to accommodate deferrals into their work schedules, while others have prepaid tickets to fly them to their home countries, premised on our original timetable of exams. To all students and staff, I can only say thank you for the hard work and commitment to keeping the academic programme on track. We hope that a sustainable solution is found, and that we can re-open and allow all students successfully to complete their academic year.
The research vision at WSG is to become a first port of call for masters, doctoral and professional researchers interested in learning about how Africa works in the broad arena of governance, and in particular, how to navigate the politics of delivering development in Africa’s highly unequal and impoverished contexts. The primary purpose is to produce knowledge about how African public and development institutions are governed and managed.

News from the research office

Awards

Congratulations to Dr Ivor Sarakinsky and Prof Booysen for receiving awards at the CLM faculty prize giving ceremony held on 21 June 2016.

Sarakinsky received a certificate for publishing, A Backward Look into South Africa’s Future, in an A- Rated Journal, Africa Spectrum. Booysen received an award for the number of her research outputs.

This annual event celebrates outstanding research achievements.
WSG will deposit all royalties earned through the sale of this book into a special WSG Royalty Beneficiary Fund. This fund will be for the benefit of an under-funded and academically deserving student or students.

FeesMustFall: Student Revolt, Decolonisation and Governance in South Africa dissects the influence of the days of the 2015 student protests that shook the government and would be repeated in 2016. The book’s reflections represent a snapshot in time, reflecting on a segment of the overall revolt and its impact. In convening the voices to write this book, we at WSG argued that the 2015-2016 voices of revolt deserve scholarly and activist exploration, even while the longer-term impact continues to unfold.

The analysis ends in mid-2016, as disillusionment with the implementation of the early gains of #FeesMustFall set in, as rumours of a second cycle of revolt solidified, and as government and university managements worked to persuade a politically diverse student generation that more profound change was on the way. As we know by now the 2016 phase is unfolding – and the 2015 insights help us understand the ongoing anger and frustration.

This volume shows that scholar ‘versus’ activist is not binary. Instead, the author-contributors cover a continuum. At the poles are the fully-engaged activists and the theory-driven scholars. At various intermediary points are the student activist-intellectuals, the student activist-scholars, scholar-activists, activist intellectuals, sympathetic or engaged scholars, technocrat-scholars and critical scholars. As the chapters of this book reveal, there is no disengaged ‘neutral’ academia in this project. This book represents a tentative step towards recognising that knowledge is generated in multiple forms, and we willingly take the steps to expose our knowledge to scrutiny and critique by emerging scholars who are graduating at the ‘University of Resistance and Revolt’.

We forefront students’ primary voices and let them relate the narratives of what the students did to power in South Africa. In their writings, the student and activist authors reveal how coloniality, race, patriarchy, structural and physical violence alienate, colour and continue to taint life in South African society and its universities. The students write, or co-write with workers, their lived experiences in the section that contains the core narratives on ‘The roots of the revolution’. Some of the students include Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh, Omhle Ntshingila (in conversation with workers Richard Ndebele and Virginia Monageng), Kgotsi Chikane, Refiloe Lepere, Swankie Mofoko and Ayabonga Nase.
WSG to offer certificate programmes to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association members

WSG is proud to announce that it has won the tender to provide certificate programmes to members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). Participants will be nominated by national, provincial and State legislatures from 53 Commonwealth countries.

The School is well suited to deliver this training, having provided training and support to parliamentarians across South Africa and Africa. The programmes will run in the first quarter of 2017, and include online as well as contact components to be held at WSG. The training will produce well informed, skilled parliamentary leaders who change their society for the better.

The aim of the CPA is to advance parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance and by building an informed parliamentary community that is able to deepen the Commonwealth’s democratic commitment and further co-operation among its 180 member Parliaments and legislatures.

The outcomes of the training will include:

- Greater depth of knowledge of parliamentary practice and procedure.
- Increased practical and useful knowledge based on accepted theories and international good practices, e.g. CPA Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures.
- Improved individual skill sets as attendees apply acquired knowledge in their own parliamentary setting and apply specific ideas and examples on how to improve their work as parliamentarians.
- Well informed, skilled parliamentary leaders who change their society for the better and are brand ambassadors for the CPA.

The Globus Research Project: Reconsidering European contributions to global justice

GLOBUS is an EU-funded (Horizon 2020) research project whose main task is to assess the EU’s impact on justice. It defines a new research agenda for the study of the EU’s global role. The envisaged research agenda directs attention to underlying political and structural challenges to global justice that are prior to the distributive problem, as well as to the fact that what is ‘just’ is contested by both theorists and policy makers.

GLOBUS’s research agenda will focus on how the EU promotes justice within the specific fields of climate change, trade, development, asylum/migration, and security while also speaking to the horizontal issues of gender and human rights. Three conceptions of justice are identified, as ‘non-dominance’ as ‘impartiality’ and as ‘mutual recognition’.

The project is led by the Centre for European Studies (ARENA) at the University of Oslo and includes four other universities: Bologna (Italy); Tubingen (Germany); University College Dublin (Ireland) and Wits University (SA). Other partners include the State University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); O.P. Jindal Global University (India) and Renmin University of China.

WSG’s Professor Pundy Pillay is leading the research initiative (formally titled Work Package 4 [WP4] on ‘Trade, Development and Global Justice. Professor David Everatt and Associate Professor William Gumedze are also involved in WP4. Sarakinsky and Professor Anthoni van Nieuwkerk will contribute to the security and climate change work packages, respectively.

WP4 focuses on two broad themes, namely, EU trade policy (moving from Preferential trade Agreements to Economic Partnership Agreements); and EU Development Policy (aid effectiveness; partnerships; respect for human rights and democratic principles).

Key questions in this area of research include the following:

- Which conception of justice (non-dominination/impartiality/mutual recognition) underpins EU trade and development policies?
- How does the EU contribute to global justice in the area of trade and development through this conception?
- How does the EU approach compare with other trade actors and providers?

WSG will be hosting a workshop in April 2017 on ‘Trade, Aid and Justice in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Regions’.

GLOBUS
Reconsidering European Contributions to Global Justice
Life in the City is an applied complexity research project that provides PhD and postdoctoral bursaries to students undertaking innovative, multi/transdisciplinary research focused on real world problems in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg is grappling with a daunting set of policy challenges such as migrancy, poverty, unemployment, uneven levels of economic growth, inequity, violence, informal settlements and service delivery. The resulting health and social problems that these conditions produce and reproduce make Johannesburg an ideal ‘laboratory’ for a project combining different disciplines and methodological approaches to find solutions to these complex challenges. The focus and purpose of the Life in the City project is to develop a deeper understanding of inequality, exclusion and marginalisation.

WSG is coordinating this project, and released the first call for proposals in May 2016. WSG is proud to announce that five PhD and four Postdoctoral bursary awards have been made.

The second round of calls for proposals has been issued with applications due mid-November. Please contact simone.smit@wits.ac.za for more information.

Meet the Life in the City participants

**PhDs**

**Rebecca Pointer** has been working in NGO and research communications for the past 21 years. She recently completed her MA in Political Communication looking at the media framing of service delivery protests. Pointer has also been involved in a research project on Media and Conflict in Democracies which involved field work in South Africa and analysing data from South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, and Serbia, as well as writing comparative working papers and reports. Her PhD work will explore how civil society organisations can better influence government to bring about change in their local communities and beyond, focusing on Johannesburg’s inner city.

**Ross Jennings** is a social researcher with over 20 years of applied social research experience, mainly in the development and poverty arena. Aside from his work in the poverty space, he has also been involved in political polling work since the first local elections in 1995. While he has experience in both quantitative and qualitative methods, he is far more comfortable and enthused by looking for answers in numbers. Jennings has worked in the NGO world, the private sector and, more recently, in government where he was employed in the Poverty and Inequality Statistics division of Stats SA. Jennings will focus on “Mapping poverty at voting district in City of Johannesburg to explore voting behaviour”.

**Dorcas Nthoki** is a research assistant at the Urban Competitiveness and Resilience Department at IHS, Erasmus University, Rotterdam. She is an urban planner involved in academic research for urban development, training of econometrics and applied research of foreign direct investment inflows into countries and cities with a particular focus on Africa. Her research interests are on the informal economy and her research focusses on strategies that can ensure flows of capital from multinationals to the benefit of the informal economy. She is involved in supervision and training of Masters’ students on Urban Management and Development at the IHS, Erasmus University. Nthoki will be registered at the School of Economic and Business Science, and will be focusing on “The Ambidextrous Economy - Harnessing the power of Johannesburg’s Informal Sector in the Global Economy”.
Tackson Makandwa is a researcher at the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at Wits. He holds a BSc Honours in Psychology from the University of Zimbabwe, BA Honours in Development Studies and an MA in Migration and Displacement from Wits. His research interests are in migration, urban health, maternal and reproductive health, social determinants of health, human rights and social justice issues. He has worked and conducted research on giving birth in a foreign land, including the maternal health care experiences among migrant Zimbabwean women in Johannesburg. Makandwa will be registered at the ACMS, and will be focusing on “Migration and urban health: exploring maternal healthcare experiences of Zimbabwean and South African women in inner-city Johannesburg, South Africa”.

Asaf Rubin is a member the Knowledge and Information Economics/Human Resources Agency research team at Wits University. His research focuses on the use of second generation innovation, such as crowdsourcing, crowdfunding and open source production to solve pressing societal problems with links to health, medical and pharmaceutical research and development. Rubin is currently working on building an online, open and free platform that functions as a virtual laboratory to address important problems in Johannesburg and South Africa. Rubin will be registered at the School of Economic and Business Sciences, and will be focusing on “The use of a second generation innovation paradigm to address insoluble health-related problems in Johannesburg”.

Michail Galanakis conducts research, writes scientific and general interest articles and teaches. His research has been credited with numerous grants and scholarships. Galanakis theorises on, and experiments with, the notion of inclusive urban public space that acts as a catalyst for social justice to stand a chance to occur in our cities. Galanakis’s current research interest concerns issues of public space activism in conjunction with women’s rights to the city. Galanakis’s research will focus on “Women’s Public Space Activism: Reconceptualising and Reshaping Public Space in the Area of Braamfontein in Johannesburg”.

Rebecca Walker is a social anthropologist with research interests in gender and violence, women in marginal contexts and the intersections of sex work, migration and trafficking. After her doctoral studies at Edinburgh University, Walker moved to South Africa and began research exploring the lived experiences of migrant women in Johannesburg. This has more recently focused on migrant sex workers and the multiple forms of vulnerability they face in a context of criminalisation in South Africa. Her project will further this research using a multi-method approach to document and explore the experiences of migrant women who sell sex and are mothers, in urban spaces in Johannesburg. Walker’s research will focus on “Migrants, mothers and women who sell sex: An exploration of the everyday challenges faced by cross-border and internal migrants in the city of Johannesburg”.

Solomon Newete holds a BSc in Agriculture from Asmara University in Eritrea, an MSc in Resource Conservation Biology from Wits, and completed his PhD at Wits in 2014. He previously worked as an educator and principle in Sudan, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences. Along with supervision, Newete also co-lectures courses on Biocontrol, Conserving Biodiversity and Medical and Applied Entomology. Newete’s research will focus on “Tree Town-The Role of Alien Species in Johannesburg’s urban forest”.

Stanford Mahati is a postdoctoral fellow at the ACMS. He specialises in issues of child migration, transnational migration families, child work, children’s sexualities, sociology of health, qualitative methods, rural livelihoods, designing and evaluating interventions targeting vulnerable children and their households. His current study is critically examining the various shades and impact of masculinities and femininities. Mahati’s research will focus on “Independent Migrant Children: An exploration of intersections of Childhood, Sexuality, Violence, Poverty, Masculinity and Femininity in Johannesburg”.

Postdoctoral Fellows
News from the Academic Office

The School’s academic staff started reviewing its portfolio of academic degrees, in particular the postgraduate diploma in management and the master of management in their various iterations. The reasons for doing so include positive reinforcement – many aspects of the degree programmes are highly successful – and taking account of the rapidly-changing socio-economic and political contexts for governance, incorporating new knowledge and technologies relating to curriculum content and modes of delivery. Academic staff are invited to engage creatively but also critically examine the School’s profile and purpose and the role of the facilitator/teacher/supervisor/researcher in the classroom and beyond. The Academic Office will reach out to its alumni with a survey, testing some of the assumptions relating to the School’s academic project.

The curriculum transformation process will conclude with an in-depth report and recommendations before the end of 2016.

News from Executive Education Office

Professor Patrick FitzGerald, a founder of P&DM will take early retirement, effective at the end of December this year. FitzGerald, currently the director of the Executive Education Unit, has had a long career at Wits, as well as stints in government and other tertiary institutions. He recently published a book, Epitaphs and dreams: Poems to remember the struggle tomorrow.

Dr Manamela Matshabaphala will take over the role of director of the EDU and will remain on the academic staff.

Prof Patrick FitzGerald, WSG Director for Executive Education
From 1 January 2017, CLEAR-AA will no longer form part of WSG. It will become a free floating CLM faculty entity.

CLEAR-AA has had an exciting period raising the profile of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in the region.

In June, CLEAR-AA in partnership with UTAMU hosted a two day workshop in Kampala, engaging delegates in a discussion on the need for the use of M&E as a source of evidence for parliamentary oversight in East Africa. A key recommendation emanating was that there is an opportunity for CLEAR-AA and UTAMU to jointly support initiatives that builds the capacity of parliamentarians on the use of M&E.

CLEAR-AA participated in the African Parliamentarians’ Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE) AGM which took place in Harare, Zimbabwe from the 15 to 17 August 2016. Benin, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Sudan participated for the first time. During the proceedings, members stressed the need for consolidation and expansion of the network into the region highlighting the importance of evaluation in development processes at local, national and regional levels. CLEAR-AA was contracted to develop the APNODE strategic plan in consultation with members and the executive committee.

South African representatives and CLEAR-AA parliamentary team participated in the 4th edition Benin Evaluation Week, during September, under the theme, “Using evaluation results to change people’s lives”. The annual conference is an important platform for researchers, professionals, students and evaluators to meet and share knowledge and experiences around the use of evaluation for policy making. It provided an excellent opportunity for CLEAR-AA to present its capabilities amongst African parliamentarians, members of the executive, civil society groups, HEIs and development partners.

CLEAR-AA conducted a diagnostic to establish a monitoring & evaluation Community of Practice within the City of Johannesburg (CoJ). This diagnostic is part of the first phase of a much larger programme to develop the capacity of officials to embark on effective M&E. The diagnostic provides a significant baseline for measuring M&E practices and forms the foundation for developing a comprehensive training and capacity building programme to be rolled out over the period 2016 to 2021.
**Getting to know Dr Darlene Miller**

**Describe yourself**
I am a creative and innovative lecturer.

**Is there a book that changed the way you think?**
I loved the Communist Manifesto’s call for a shorter working week and a sharing of available work in society so that we could have more time for creative pursuits and hobbies.

**What music do you listen too?**
Recently I was in love with the Middle Eastern classics like Warda Al-Jazairia and Umm Kulthum.

**Five people (dead or alive) you would invite to dinner?**
Thomas Moore *(The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life)* (alive)
Beverli Al Masrah *(The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life)* (alive)
Al-Jazairia and Umm Kulthum.
W. E. B. Du Bois *(The Soul of Black Folk)* (dead)
Cleopatra VII (dead)

**What do you enjoy about teaching at WSG?**
My first experience of teaching at WSG is that I am dealing with the second tier leadership of the 1980s generation. As adult learners they are serious and respectful towards me. They are very well presented and seemed to be one of the segments of political movements that provided their organisations with seriousness and dedication. They also think and function as a collective, according to their learned political traditions. These are political cultures that make me feel at home and my time feel validated. Early days, perhaps?

**Tell us about your class which started with a yoga session?**
I walked into the class, I sensed an energy shift immediately. There was a palpable sadness in the room. It touched me and I asked the students if I should teach them some coping meditation breathing exercise and the idea that their bodies were precious and needed to be healthy and calm in their lives. I also taught them a yoga chant about “the teacher within” being the greatest teacher (Om namo guru dev namo), to counter some of the exam nerves that were beginning to surface. When I suggested that we have a yoga class at the end of our course, they showed enthusiasm. I explained that it was voluntary. When the day came and we left the class during tea break for the yoga class, most of the class joined. They cooperated readily and in a disciplined way with the exercises that I shared with them. It was a very special moment for me.

**What areas will you be focusing on and why are these areas interesting to you?**
Qualitative research methods and international political economy.

**Introduction of WSG staff**

**Ephram Tadesse - Lecturer**
Tadesse recently joined the M&E team and has more than 15 years of extensive experience and knowledge in international development at local, national, regional and global levels. He is skilled in the M&E field and reporting of result-based development programmes and projects. Tadesse has the ability and the experience to plan, execute and oversee efficient and result-oriented strategies and work processes. He has been engaging in wide ranging areas development work and have both specialist and generalist expertise in various fields of international development.

Globally, he served as an International Campaigns Manager for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizens Participation. In Africa, he has managed international development programmes in Southern and Eastern Africa covering more than 20 countries. He provided consultancy services to various institutions including OXFAM, the World Bank, Southern Africa Trust, the University of the Western Cape and the Forum for Federations.

**Odile Mackett - Lecturer**
Mackett holds a Masters of Commerce degree in Development Theory and Policy from Wits University, a Bachelor of Commerce honours degree in International Trade and Finance, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies (majoring in Politics and Economics), both from the University of Johannesburg. Mackett started her academic career at the University of South Africa in the Economics department, teaching undergraduate economics. She currently lectures quantitative methods and economics at the School.

**Kemantha Govender - Communications Manager**
Govender has worked as a journalist and in communications over the past twelve years for leading South African institutions in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. She has taken on several roles across the different mediums and acquired much knowledge and experience. Govender is skilled in producing communication strategies that incorporate media relations, crisis, stakeholder and reputation management and social media.

She has a MA in Political Communication and is interested in political and presidential rhetoric research.

**Kholiswa Malindini - Lecturer**
She holds a Master’s Degree in Economics from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. She completed her Honours and undergraduate degrees at Walter Sisulu University, with specialisation in Economics and Econometrics. Before joining the WSG, Malindini was a full-time teacher at Umtata High School and a part-time lecturer at Walter Sisulu University in the Eastern Cape where she taught Economics and Business Management. She currently lectures Economics and quantitative methods.
Interview with Dr Liv Tørres

Dr Liv Tørres, Executive Director of Nobel Peace Center, has been appointed as a Visiting Adjunct Professor at WSG, bringing years of expertise in the development and humanitarian sectors.

Her professoriate will comprise approximately two teaching weeks per year face to face, publishing research papers and supervising students.

Tørres was in South Africa in August and spoke to us about her vision for teaching at WSG, what drives her and divulged some fun facts about herself.

“One of the main focus areas will be the new kind of conflict and wars that are emerging in the world. The character of conflicts has changed. Compared to a few decades back it was wars between countries – now we have an internal kind of civil wars. Some are proxy wars – some conflicts have external forces. For example, Syria has a few different wars going on at the same times,” she explained.

She said internal wars are growing out of inequality and a lack of governance. “I am worried about South Africa, there is a lot of anger and frustration here about a lack of delivery and that needs to be addressed urgently.”

Tørres said it will be key for students to learn about how governance and democratisation need to be addressed to prevent new wars and conflicts. She added that it would be vital for us to build institutions that address people’s needs.

Tørres has lived in South Africa for long periods and was connected to the University of Cape Town and Wits University in the 1980s and 1990s. In the late 1990s she set up and ran the research Center for Applied Social Studies, Fafo, in Johannesburg. She has been closely following the developments in the country ever since. She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Oslo, where she wrote her thesis on the political impact of South African trade unions.

Her connection to South Africa is a special one; she considers the country her how away from home. She has family here and her two daughters consider themselves Norwegian-South African.

“I learnt a lot from my years in South Africa particularly, the first ten years here. I was linked to the anti-apartheid movement. SA taught me that anything is possible. You can achieve massive results if you do it in a right way.”

Prior to her position at the Nobel Peace Center, Tørres worked for a number of years for the Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), where she was secretary general from 2011-2015.

She said one of the “coolest things” she has done was setting up the national (Mesebetsi) Labour Force Survey, a project co-managed by the Department of Labour and Fafo.

Tørres is also proud of the contributions of the NPA, an organisation that operates in at least 40 countries including Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar and Columbia.

Tørres describes herself as goal and result-orientated. Her commitment to social issues has been a driving force in her career. She is adamant that collective organisation and mobilisation is really a key to everything.

In her current role, she represents and promotes the Nobel Peace Center. She enjoys this role because she interacts with laureates, from several countries and with different approaches to finding peaceful resolutions to conflict. The Center holds events, exhibitions and debates.

Tørres’ appointment was supported by several recommendations, among them was South African Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel.

More about Tørres

Music you are listening to:
Usher

Favourite book:
The Story of an African Farm by Olive Schreiner

Last movie you watched:
I recently watched one about Persian princes and princesses. I am fascinated by Iran. I also liked a BBC documentary on US President Barack Obama, Inside Obama’s White House. Die Hard is another favourite during Christmas.

Favourite holiday destination:
Naples in Italy love to drive there. Any place with a beach, amazing sunset and great wine.

People most admired:
Nelson Mandela, Iranian human rights lawyer and Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi Domenech, Kofi Annan and Barack Obama

Favourite food:
Breyani, mozzarella cheese and any great salad
DBE Roundtable Conference on Assessment

The OR Tambo Debate Series Partnership and Department of Basic Education (DBE) hosted a roundtable discussion to explore ways to develop an integrated framework for improved assessments. This was a follow-up from the previous OR Tambo Debate held in 2015, in which Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga participated.

The discussion had these objectives:

- Identify the current limitations in the three main forms of assessment (national annual assessments; examinations; and classroom assessment) in the general and further education training bands.
- Make recommendations for improvement in the quality, standard and utilisation of data in each of these forms of assessment.
- Articulate the role played by technology in assessment in enabling quality assessment and how this can be implemented in the South African context.

In her keynote address, Motshekga recognised some of the challenges and shortcomings of the current system while at the same time listing potential drivers for improvement. These include the development of systems which use data effectively and allow for remediation, the harnessing of technology to improve efficiencies in systemic assessments, and a focus on teacher development in using supportive assessment in the classroom. She also noted that the role of national standardised assessments for investigating performance across the system is central for both monitoring and accountability purposes.

Several experts contributed to the roundtable and the four commissions which debated issues from different perspectives, and came up with recommendations.

Some key principles for a national integrated Assessment Framework:

- The purpose of the assessment model and its various components must determine the design of the instruments.
- There should be more emphasis on strengthening classroom assessment.
- The different elements of the system must allow sufficient time for feedback and remediation.
- Schools need to be given effective support in using information from examinations and any other forms of national assessment.
- Capacity building in assessment expertise is needed at all levels.
- Learner assessments must be linked to contextual factors relating to the conditions of schooling, and data from other sectors needs to be brought in to analysis of educational data.

The outcomes of the Roundtable and its commissions will be taken to the DBE Assessment Dialogue Forum. It will then feed into the proposed Ministerial Advisory Committee which will consolidate the recommendations into a national integrated assessment framework and implementation plan. The OR Tambo Debate Series Partnership will be represented on this committee.

Events

Upcoming event

CLEAR-AA and Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation, Netherlands invite you to a seminar on how food and nutrition security is understood and measured.

Date: 4 November 2016
Time: 09h00 – 12h30
Venue: Wits School of Governance, 2 St David’s Place, Donald Gordon Auditorium
RSVP to mokgophana.ramasobana@wits.ac.za
Infrastructure Conversation Series

The Development Bank of Southern Africa and the WSG held the first Infrastructure Conversation Series on 18 August 2016. This event focused on the Disruption of the Electricity Utility Model. To explore this topic the day included two panel discussions, followed by thought-provoking inputs from the audience in Q&A sessions.

The first panel was titled The Future of Electricity Mega Projects, and panellists included Mr Sisa Njikelana, Chairperson of the South African Independent Power Producers Association; Mr Knox Masebenzi, Managing Director of the Nuclear Industry Association of South Africa and Professor Patrick Bond, Political Economist at the WSG.

The second panel focused on the changing energy context and the implications for infrastructure, distributors and customers and panellists included Professor Coleen Vogel, Climatologist at the Global Change and Sustainability Research Institute; and Mr Nhlanhla Ngidi, Head of Energy and Electricity at the South African Local Government Association.

Watch this space for details on the second Infrastructure Conversation Series.

On 9 September 2016, Wits academics had the opportunity to critique the Green Paper on International Migration, with the Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba and his colleagues in attendance.

Wits was represented by WSG's Dr Kambidima Wotela, Professor Gavin Cawthra and Zaheera Jinnah, a researcher based at the ACMS. Van Nieuwkerk opened the dialogue.