ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT THE SCHOOL _____OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

The School of Development Studies is a multi-disciplinary research and graduate teaching institution at the University of Natal in Durban with a primary focus on development and reconstruction. A leading centre for research and teaching on development in South Africa, it also holds an international reputation for the quality of its work and the intellectual rigour with which it applies academic skills to policy challenges. It draws on the specialist knowledge of its researchers, who are nationally and internationally-recognised experts in areas such as poverty and inequality, rural development, social policy, macroeconomic policy for developing countries, international trade and finance, industrial policy and restructuring, gender and development and NGO studies.

For a comprehensive description of the School, visit our website at: http://www.nu.ac.za/csds

OVERVIEW OF _____THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES

Activities can be divided into two broad areas: <u>teaching/training</u> as well as research/policy work.

• Teaching and Training Programmes

Master's in Development Studies
Master's in Development Planning
Master's in Population Studies
PhD in Development Studies / Population Studies
Short Training Courses in Population and Poverty Studies

• Research and Policy Work

Crime and conflict
Donor funding
Industrial restructuring
Informal economy and micro finance
International trade and finance
Macroeconomic policy
Population
Poverty
Race, culture and development
Regional planning
Social policy

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School of Development Studies

outh Africa has entered a new development era on almost all fronts. The transition from apartheid to a new non-racial democratic order was coupled with major shifts in the global arena, casting a new agenda of threats and opportunities for the coming millennium. The range and diversity of problems is enormous; the solutions equally complex. The legacies of apartheid have had to be tackled at the same time as overseeing our entry into a new global arena.

Globalisation has become pervasive and inescapable. The choice facing developing countries is not whether to engage in globalisation but rather how to do so. However the changing global rules and terms of engagement do not take into account the major development problems South Africa has inherited. Indeed they often exacerbate the nature and extent of the problems of poverty, inequality, employment, institutional capacity, productivity, competitiveness and macro economic stability. Moreover the rapidly expanding HIV-AIDS pandemic threatens the validity of all the development initiatives embarked upon. The key development challenge for South Africa in the immediate future is therefore to ensure that the gains of globalisation are able to be generalised and spread to the mass of the population.

Much of the past five years has been spent grappling with policy formulation and restructuring the development policy framework of the country. This re-ordering of the state's policy architecture has tended to create its own dynamic of prioritising policy-making over implementation. Instead of following through the process to ensure that the necessary institutional and administrative arrangements have been set in place to secure effective implementation and delivery, there has been a tendency to stop the process at the policy promotion stage.

The School of Development Studies, which has incorporated the previous solely research based Centre for Social and Development Studies, has taken full advantage of the development opportunities created by this transition. The senior teaching and research staff working here are undoubtedly amongst the most highly respected development policy experts in the country. They have used the respected academic status of the institution and their widely dispersed international linkages to implement the underlying philosophy of closing the self reinforcing circle between post graduate teaching, in depth research, cutting edge consultancy and relevant policy work. In doing so the researchers and academics have established this centre as the premier university-based institution focused on development problems in the country.

The course work post graduate Master's degree in Development Studies has gone from strength to strength. Over the years the course has attracted a wide variety of excellent students from developing and developed countries Southern Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo, Japan, China, Canada, USA, Germany and England. Two new post graduate Masters programmes have been developed in Development Planning and in Population Studies and we are hopeful that these will become additional focii of student growth.

HEAD OF SCHOOL'S REPORT



Research has always been a fundamental strength of the School. Ensuring that the results are reflected in high quality publications has been a major emphasis in the past year. The rapidly increased publication rate in international journals is a reflection of the success of this drive.

The School has initiated entirely new research, training and teaching programmes focusing on Poverty and Population Studies underpinned from a variety of funding sources. In previous decades, population studies unfortunately tended to be regarded as associated with apartheid. Consequently, a dire need has emerged to provide training and tertiary education to both students and civil servants in this field. With the creation of this programme the School of Development Studies hopes to fill this gap.

The School has identified a major gap in the development policy architecture of the country, and consequently set a new strategic role for the coming years. Too much of the development research that is undertaken is structured in a form which is easily assimilated by academics but remains inaccessible to policy makers, government implementation agencies, stakeholders, and development practitioners. For this reason we have set ourselves a strategic aim of translating development research findings and insights into short, easily digestible and highly pertinent *policy briefing* papers. In addition, the School also intends to restructure its website in order to ensure that the much larger body of development research generated by its staff is easily available in an electronic form.

The past two years have been productive. The School has grown, its activities have diversified, funders have been keen to support research and other development initiatives, the staff complement has increased, new programmes and major research projects have been initiated, new international linkages are proliferating, students continue to seek out our teaching programmes, and the internship programme which feeds off these post graduate students is healthy. Credit is due to all the staff of the School of Development Studies who have made this possible, as well as to those within the university who have given unstinting support to the growth of this centre of excellence.

Teaching ___ and Training

Post Graduate Programmes in Development Studies

Master's in Development Studies

The School has successfully run a master's coursework programme in Development Studies since 1995. Since our teaching programme was the first of its kind in the country, it has been path breaking in this field. The aim of the programme is to produce students who are able to analyse, formulate and evaluate alternative development policies as well as to be knowledgeable about alternative development theories. We focus on providing applied skills as well as analytical tools for evaluating comparative development experiences.

• Master's in Population Studies

From the year 2001 we shall offer a master's programme in Population Studies. This coursework master's programme is designed for students who have an interest in the demographic and socio-economic processes that inform population and development policy. Courses aim to provide students with the skills to undertake and interpret demographic data, as well as to engage with the concepts, philosophies and concerns of different approaches to population studies.

Master's in Development Planning

In 1999 we introduced a second coursework programme in Development Planning. This two- year coursework Master's Programme is offered jointly by the Department of Town Planning. The course is concerned with the coordination and preparation of policies and programmes that will contribute to social and economic upliftment. It is multi-faceted and inter-sectoral in approach, with a strong emphasis on spatial and planning components of development. The course aims to provide students with the skills to integrate processes of planning and development and to formulate strategic priorities.

As the research component of all three master's programmes, the student is required to research and write up a dissertation.

• PhD in Development Studies / Population Studies

In addition to our coursework master's programmes we had three research PhD students, two of whom are now senior staff members in our School.



• Short Courses in Population and Poverty Studies

The courses comprise a nondegree, in-service professional service training programme on Applied Population Sciences and Research (APSTAR). During 1999, the foundations for the courses were laid and three courses are running in 2000.

This initiative has been made possible with funding from the Centre for Science Development, The Mellon Foundation and the United National Population Fund (UNFPA).

Our students are drawn from South Africa and abroad. We see one of our roles as training academics and practitioners from developing countries, particularly from South Africa and other African countries but we also draw students from Europe, the United States, Canada and the Far East.

For further information, explore our website at www.nu.ac.za/csds/courses/

Key Research Themes

- O Globalisation and value chains
- Critical issues impacting on the competitiveness of the South African automotive, furniture, clothing and textiles sectors
- Clusters and collective efficiency amongst South African firms
- O The impact of e-business on the South African manufacturing environment

INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING PROJECT

The Industrial Restructuring Project (IRP) has been operating since 1996 as an action research programme aimed at researching and supporting South African industrial policy. The IRP, whilst located at the School of Development Studies, is also formally linked to the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and the Centre for Research in Innovation Management at the University of Brighton. It is currently funded by the European Union, Department of Trade and Industry, International Development Research Centre of

Canada, and the Department of Arts, Culture Science and Technology.

The rationale for the IRP's activities is the increasing pressure on local industry from international competition, the liberalisation of the South African trade regime, and the need to increase exports through linking domestic firms into international value chains. The IRP aims to support domestic industry through in-depth research, user friendly guides, relevant training, practical assistance, and appropriate policy briefs.

IRP major activities:

•generating relevant information on intra-firm and supply chain competitiveness,
•facilitating clustering of firms to achieve horizontal and vertical collective efficiency,
•assisting government to formulate and implement appropriate industrial policies,
•producing short policy briefing papers for the use of industry stakeholders,
•creating self help training guides (paper and CD-ROM format),
•researching South African value chain links into the global economy.

The action research orientation provides an important information and restructuring link to industry stakeholders, including government, manufacturers and labour. Presentations to stakeholders distribute information obtained during the course of the research, and help build capacity. Over the past year it has continued policy relevant research for the DTI (funded by the EU). In 1999 the IRP formed the Saligna Hardwood Value Chain a cluster of timber products manufacturers, sawmills and growers interested in dealing collectively with common

problems. In the auto component sector it has continued to support the KwaZulu-Natal Benchmarking Club, and helped launched the Eastern Cape Benchmarking Club, both clusters of automotive component manufacturers working together to improve their internal performance indicators. Over the coming two years the IRP will be concentrating a major portion of its time on co-ordinating a large project to develop a complex toolkit to assist the endogenisation of change management within industry under the auspices of the DACST Innovation Fund.



IRP Team Members:

Mike Morris, Justin Barnes, Nikki Dunne, Sagren Moodley, Kabelo Reid, Gordon Fakude, Imraan Valodia, Sean Ellis (University of Natal); Raphael Kaplinsky, John Bessant (IDS/CENTRIM).

Some of the IRP Team:

Back Row: Mike Morris, Imraan Valodia, Sagren Moodley, Justin Barnes, Raphael Kaplinsky, John Bessant

Front Row: Sean Ellis, Gordon Fakude, Nikki Dunne

Key research themes

- O Persistence and reproduction of poverty
- O Population and development dynamics in the era of HIV/AIDS
- O Public policies, population change and poverty outcomes

Population and Poverty Studies was launched in 1998. The aim is to develop the capacity of the School to investigate the relationship between development, poverty and demographic trends. There are four elements: a research programme, a master's course in Population Studies, non-degree training courses in applied population studies, and an internship programme. Research over the past year has fallen into four major studies. The KwaZulu-Natal Income Dynamics Study (KIDS) involved the collection and analysis of the first major South African panel data set. Transition to Adulthood is a multi-dimensional, multi-level approach to understanding the opportunities and risks facing adolescents in the context of the high, and rising, prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Family Planning in the Era of HIV/AIDS examines ways in which the prevalence of HIV infection affects the way in which family planning programmes serve the community in the context of South Africa.

There is increasing evidence that poverty is not simply a static condition. Instead, research has found that over time, individuals and families accumulate or lose the resources that may assist their progress from poverty. Participatory studies have shown that, for the poor, poverty is not just about their current position, but is also about vulnerability to becoming poor, or poorer.

There are many reasons why poverty and vulnerability persists. In Africa, these include natural and human-made disasters, war and violence, and inappropriate public policy. Changes arising from life cycle dynamics, unwanted pregnancy and death or disability from HIV/AIDS are demographic factors. Finally, thin, distorted or missing economic markets may produce poverty traps from which the poor are unable to escape.

Whether new freedoms permitted by the post-apartheid economy enable the poor to successfully accumulate and move out of poverty, is a core concern of the programme. Without appropriate policy, social, demographic and economic dynamics may result in persistent poverty. A multi-disciplinary approach is required in which conventional approaches to demographic change are investigated using the analytical frameworks of sociology, economics and other social sciences.

Structural & Transitory Poverty The KIDS Study found:

•22% of households in KwaZulu-Natal were chronically poor (poor in 1993 & in 1998)

•31% of households were transitorily poor (poor in either 1993 or in 1998)

•47% of households were never poor (not poor in 1993 nor in 1998)

The past year has seen the rapid growth of the Population and Poverty Studies Programme at the University of Natal. Building on the research work on poverty already underway at the SoDS, the programme has now diversified into broader research on population dynamics. Issues under investigation include fertility change, adolescent life skills, reproductive health and migration. The internship programme has been launched and the first student completed her internship and has joined the School as a Junior Research Fellow. Training for non-degree purposes has commenced with the trainees largely drawn from the national Department of Welfare. The Master's degree in Population Studies will be offered in 2000.

Partners

Centre for Population Studies, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

•Dpt. of Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin Madison •Population Council

•Dpt. of Population & Family Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins University

• Africa Centre for Sexual & Reproductive

Health, Mtubatuba

• Africa Census Project University of

•Africa Census Project, University of Pennsylvania

Population Studies Centre, University of Michigan

Major Funders

Mellon Foundation
 National Research Foundation
 World Health Organisation
 Rockefeller Foundation
 BASIS/CRSP
 UNFPA
 USAID



Ben Roberts, Peter Ubomba-Jaswa, Pranitha Maharaj, Julian May

Team Members:

Julian May, Peter Ubomba-Jaswa, Pranitha Maharaj, Victoria Hosegood, Justus Benzler,
Anna-Maria Vanneste, Ntsiki Manzini, Ben Roberts, Sanelisiwe Tsela,
Nompumelelo Nzimande, Nina Hunter, Renay Krishna, Frances Andrew, Priya Gayadeen

Key research themes

- O Nature and extent of donor funding
- O Donors and public policy
- O Donor funding in consolidating peace and resolution of conflict
- O Donors, governance and democratisation
- O Donors and service delivery
- O Emerging markets and institutional reform

Research by the Donor Funding Team is concerned with donor approaches to development and the transition from conflict to peaceful democratic governance in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia and Angola. SoDS has assembled a team of researchers from universities and institutions throughout southern Africa to contribute to an IDRC-funded project called 'Donor Roles, Recipient Strategies and New Policy Agendas in Post-Conflict Southern Africa'.

Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa are united by their geographical proximity and more importantly by their recent experience with donors' support for transition from conflict towards peace and democracy. A new language and practice of post-conflict funding is emerging within the donor community. Yet little is know about how donors have defined or adopted new approaches or how recipients have shaped them.

Broader development imperatives associated with transition also come into play. Most centrally, new governments must contend with the parallel, and potentially contradictory, requirements of moving toward peaceful, just and democratic governance, and simultaneously promoting economic growth through fundamental market reforms. Pressures towards market-driven reform strategies may undermine the still fragile legitimacy of states and their ability to provide for the social needs of their citizens. Alternatively these transitions may entail new opportunities for local influence on donors, and a consequent reduction in the tensions between market driven growth and the construction of viable peaceful democratic systems.

What factors or processes explain the balance of power between donors and recipients?

What impact do donor-recipient relations have at the grassroots level?

How do different donors and recipients understand the development "challenge" and how does this affect the formation of a common approach?

To launch the project, the School of Development Studies co-ordinated a workshop in which researchers and key people working in the field discussed and debated key issues relating to donors and development in post-conflict southern Africa. The Core Team presented a discussion document entitled "Aid, Development, and the State: Assessing Post-Conflict Situations" as well as an overview of country contexts and data dilemmas. The workshop established a foundation for the project by identifying key issues and reaching a common understanding of research questions.

DONOR FUNDING

Examples of Research

- Towards an Understanding of Conflict Resolution in Southern Africa: Angola and Mozambique
- Donor Funding of Capacity Building in CBOs in South Africa, 1986-2000
- The Effect of Donors on Opposition Politics: Mozambique, South Africa, and Namibia
- Three Chains of Aid and Public Action in Angola
- Post-conflict Funding and Regional Initiatives

NGOs and Development Management in South Africa

This research sets out to document the project and organisational management tools and approaches used by South African NGOs and to explore the implications of these practices for local NGO development work. Specific management issues examined include the use of tools such as logical framework analysis, strategic planning and monitoring and evaluation; approaches such as participation and gender, and financial and organisational sustainability strategies. An important concern in the research is to examine the ways in which the use of particular management practices by local NGOs are influenced by donors and by locally specific factors, such as the funding and identity crises South African NGOs have confronted since 1994. The first phase of the project examined some of these issues in a sample of fourteen KwaZulu-Natal based NGOs. The next phase will examine these issues in greater detail, using a larger sample and case studies.



Leila Monib, Lisa Bornstein, Mary Galvin

Team Members: <u>Core Team</u>
Lisa Bornstein; Mike Morris; Mary Galvin; Leila Monib;
William Munro; Terry Smith
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Researchers

Jeremy Seekings and Sophie Oldfield Jens Erik Torp and Jose Luis Macamo David Sogge Patrick Bond David Moore Lisa Bornstein Daren Trudeau Chris Albertyn David Hallowes William Munro Ben Fuller Wolfgang Werner/ NEPRU



THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

A new stream of research energy has developed as a result of the initial two year project on street traders in South Africa. The pilot was done for and through the Self Employed Women's Union, under the umbrella of the international action research network - WIEGO: Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising. The

research identifies and engages with three policy spaces in South Africa: a national commitment to development of the informal economy; local governments being tasked with local economic development (including support for the informal economy); and the commitment to improving the status of women.

The project has worked within the overall WIEGO framework:

- •improving and making visible statistics about the informal economy
- •demonstrating the linkages between formal and informal parts of the overall economy (the word 'sector' is itself a barrier to understanding the linkages
- comparing the performance of five South African cities with respect to how they integrate the informal economy into annual Integrated Development Plans, budgets, decision-making structures, and bye-laws
- assessing the strengths and weaknesses of organisations of informal workers with respect to their ability to negotiate changes with local authorities
- assessing the range and performance of training and support agencies, in order to identifying precisely what the role of the local authority should be when there is little growth in the economy as a whole, it is not at all clear what this should be.

As expected, we find more women working in the poorer sectors, but also very wide range of income levels among; there are new opportunities for working for women (though often at poor rates of pay and in poor conditions; we show the importance of placing informal economy into economic development departments (rather than its traditional home in the traffic department); both councillors and officials, on the one hand, and trader leaders on the other, need 'capacity building' with respect to learning how to manage the tension between having a properly managed modern city, and the need to open up and secure economic spaces for poorer people to work.

The core project has generated a number of smaller studies, all of which are growing:

- an assessment of the sustainability of different types of micro-financing organisations
- the economic position of refugees in South Africa, and their potential contribution to the economy
- the effect of HIV/ AIDS on the livelihoods of informal economy workers

Members of the team are working for the two sub-structures of the Durban local authority in developing a policy for the informal economy; there are plans also to disseminate lessons learned so far to other local authorities in South Africa.

The programme has linkages with the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, where a comparative study of local government performance was done; with the ILO-STEP programme on social protection, and is an ongoing part of the WIEGO programme, in both Urban Policies, and in Social Protection.



Jill Nicholson; Francie Lund; Caroline Skinner

Macroeconomic Policy

Research in this area of studies focuses principally on 4 main themes. The first theme focuses on macroeconomic policy issues in the transition to democracy in South Africa. While the research here has for the most of the 1990s contributed directly to the evolving architecture of macroeconomic policy for and in post-apartheid South Africa, current work tends to be both policy-driven, as well as critical and independent in nature. A second deals with international economics, with special attention given to investigating various aspects of South Africa's trade regime, the relationship between trade policy and industrial sector

growth and productivity, its investment linkages, especially with Asian economies, as well as its interaction with international financial markets and institutions. A third and relatively new area of interest is on institutional issues in central banking and monetary policy in South Africa. A fourth theme examines gendered impacts of economic policy reform in South Africa.

The principal researchers are Vishnu Padayachee and Imraan Valodia.

Finance and Development

The issue of finance, banking and credit in Durban and Natal has been an on-going focus of work for some 10 years. Earlier work addressed the origins and development of banking and finance in Colonial Natal, as well the role of Indian business in finance and credit in the Natal colonial economy. More recently, two major studies have been conducted. For the City of Durban Project, research focussed on the question of financing Durban's

development in the period 1970-1998. With Keith Hart (University of Aberdeen, UK) a study was undertaken of Indian business in South Africa after apartheid, which critically examined local business trajectories of both old and new forms.

The principal researcher is Vishnu Padayachee.

Crime and Development

The high rate of violent and property crime is repeatedly cited as one of the greatest concerns of South Africans, and stands as one of the greatest obstacles to development. A long history of violent conflict and social instability have given South Africa some of the highest murder and rape rates in the world. An economy that is adjusting to globalisation at the same time that the work force is expanding dramatically has provided great impetus to property crime and the growth of a massive black market for drugs, sex, and weapons. The fear that this situation has generated has led to the loss of human capital via the "brain drain", as well as deterring foreign and domestic investment.

While there are numerous criminological departments in South Africa, none has taken on crime as a development issue, and most are involved in the prevailing academic discourse of the developed world rather than focusing on policy solutions specific to the present situation. Working with organisations such as the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Institute for Security Studies, the programme in Crime and Development is filling this vacuum.

The principal researcher is Ted Leggett. Journal: Crime and Conflict Quarterly

Race, Culture and Development in a Changing South Africa

This project comprises three areas of research:
First, is a study that investigates the survival of indigenous medicines in the urban areas of South Africa at the time when legislation, and the official medical and pharmaceutical organisations were opposed to them. It argues that the use of African medicines in the urban areas of South Africa owes its survival to the ambiguous urbanisation that produced a combination of resistance and accommodation among Africans. Both accommodation and resistance are manifested by the transformation and commodification of indigenous medicines in urban areas.

Second, is a study of the possible contributions of indigenous knowledge or cultural systems in 'development' projects. The study argues that 'development' projects that are thought of, designed and implemented without the contributions of, and benefits

from, local social, economic and cultural systems are likely not to succeed. This is because they disempower local communities, and thus disarticulate their participation and contributions to such projects.

Third, is research on race relations. The current investigation is interested in the history of African-Indian relations. It argues that, amongst other things, tensions and conflict between the two groups were produced and perpetuated by the actions of the former State and other interested parties (such as merchants and small businessmen) who benefited from the tensions. The failure to find a lasting solution to African-Indian relations is that tensions and conflicts continue to be addressed only at leadership level with little or no participation by affected people, their primary institutions or 'civil society'.

The principal researcher is Thokozani Xaba.

THE RESOURCE CENTRE

The Resource Centre is the only departmental library on the campus specialising in development-related issues with an emphasis on demographics, economic, social and political development. Although not a lending library, it is targeted at researchers, academics and students, but is open to the public as well. The greater part of the collection is made up of journals, but there are also books, research reports, working papers and briefings as well as statistical data and conference papers. During 1999, courtesy of overseas research funding, journal subscriptions were extended to cover a wider range of demographic and gender issues. A CD-ROM collection was also initiated, mostly comprising statistical data. Early in 2000, the database was transferred into a user-friendly programme to make it more accessible and easier to handle. The Resource Centre contains in-house publications, mostly Research Reports and Working Papers and sells them to the wider public.

To view our current catalogue, go to www.nu.ac.za/csds

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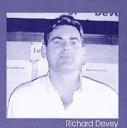
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