



The African Centre for Epistemology
and Philosophy of Science



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ACEPS in 2022 at a glance

Team: 6 Academics, 11 postgrads, 2 Postdocs, 21 research associates

Visiting researchers: 4 Professors & 3 Postdocs/PhDs

Collaborations: 14

Publications: 13

4IR Initiatives: 2

Postgrads: 11

Talks: 19—including 9 invited/ keynotes

Grants: @ R 4, 700, 000; 3 new @ R 1, 700, 000

Grant applications: 3

Conferences organised: 7

Research Groups: 3

Reading Groups: 1

Writings Retreats: 4

Online Videos: 19

2022 Key performance highlights

Background



ACEPS was established in 2018 with the aim of capitalising on UJ Philosophy's unique concentration of expertise in epistemology and philosophy of science, as well as of cultivating young African talent in these areas. The aim in 2022 was to continue to earn our African name by putting to work these traditionally Eurocentric fields in our African context. As a result, we have acquired a growing reputation for our research on **epistemic decolonisation** and **injustice**, and their links to **4IR** and **AI**.

Photo: Prof Veli Mitova, Director of ACEPS

Punching above our weight: Pivot post Covid

ACEPS was promoted to an independently recognised centre in July 2022. The considerable investment in time running Zoom conferences and talks during Covid paid off handsomely once lockdown ended.

Covid levelled the playing fields, giving ACEPS the opportunity, as part of an African university, to compete with the rest of the world on an equal footing. An opportunity we at ACEPS leveraged this year, as invitations for talks, keynotes, collaborations, and visits flooded in, making our international network in the decolonisation of knowledge and the epistemology of 4IR unparalleled.

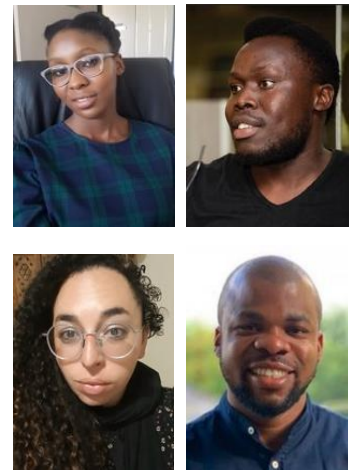
A stellar 2022 for our postgraduates

ACEPS provided enhanced opportunities to all of our postgraduates to enjoy the full benefits of live supervisions, writing retreats, research groups, seminar series, organising and presenting at ACEPS conferences, and funding to present overseas. Not to mention a steady stream of international postgraduate visitors!

All of which helped us beat the Covid blues and provide the live university experience our postgraduates missed during the pandemic.

Attesting to a flourishing postgraduate experience is the near doubling of MA and PhD applications for 2023.

Clockwise: Dimpho Maponya, Abe Tobi, Akanimo Akpan, Caitlin Rybko—ACEPS's PhD students who presented at international and local conferences



Grant funding for 2022

- URC and GES funding for the *Epistemology of 4IR* project: R 600 000
- John Templeton Foundation renewal grant for *Geography of Philosophy* project: R 360 000
- ERC-funded Vienna Visiting Research Professorship—6 months: approx. R 680 000

Consolidated our position in Africa



ACEPS is in the business of decolonising knowledge and markets itself by making its mark!

In 2022, we ran three international conferences, as well as regular reading and research groups, all on topics related to decolonising knowledge.

We are also actively decolonising the academy through the [IKS Portal](#), pioneered by Poet Laureate and ACEPS Professor, Mongane Serote (left).

Upped our 4IR Footprint



- 4IR Visiting Professor—Karen Frost-Arnold
- 4IR events: a book symposium and regular 4IR Research Groups, benefiting directly postgrads working on 4IR
- 4IR collaboration with Tilburg [Global Data Justice](#)
- 4IR visiting academics: Aisha Kadiri (Paris), Glenn Anderau (Zürich), Daniel Barbarrusa (Seville)
- 4IR research associates: Boaz Miller and Nathan Biebel

During Aisha Kadiri's visit at our local pub, the Richmond

Our researchers got noticed

- 9 overseas **fully funded** in-person invited talks for its members
- a six-month **visiting** research **professorship to Vienna**
- the leadership of the South African team for a new **Templeton grant**

We organised 7 International Conferences/Workshops

- [Epistemic Blame: Theory and Practice](#)
- [Epistemic Injustice Conference](#)
- [Responsible Agency and Epistemic Injustice](#) (with Kent)
- [The Philosophy and Global Politics of Concept Travel](#) (with Basel)
- [A Social Epistemology for the Internet](#)
- [Book launch African Ethics](#)
- [Epistemic Wrongs and Epistemic Reparations](#)



*Epistemic Wrongs and Epistemic Reparations Workshop Speakers at the **Flame of Democracy**, Constitution Hill*

New ACEPS Researchers

2 Visiting Professors

- [José Medina](#)
- [Karen Frost-Arnold](#)

14 New RAs, including

- Two distinguished professors and centre directors: [Edouard Machery](#) (Pittsburgh), [Duncan Pritchard](#) (California, Irvine).
- One chair holder and centre director: [Sven Bernecker](#) (Cologne/ California, Irvine)
- One institute director: [Fiona Jenkins](#) (Australian National University)
- One chair holder: [Amandine Catala](#) (Québec at Montréal)

Collaborative Projects and grants

- *Epistemic Reparations*—3-year project with Jennifer Lackey (Northwestern) and Cameron Boulton (Brandon, Canada)
- Warren Buffet Seed Grant (with Jennifer Lackey and Cameron Boulton)
- Canada—applying with Cameron Boulton in 2023

2023 Looking Ahead

ACEPS's will continue on its current path of success in 2023!

In the bag

- 8 overseas **fully funded** in-person invited talks for its members (4 TILT)
- 2-month **visiting research professorship to Bielefeld**;
- 9 **overseas-funded in-coming PhD, PDRF & Professor** visitors to ACEPS;
- 3 **ACEPS workshops/conferences** in the process of being organised;

Work in progress

Three grant applications

Although we want ACEPS to be at the forefront of 4IR research, we remain committed to the decolonisation of knowledge and the restoration of epistemic justice to Africa, areas of **research for which we have built up a formidable reputation**. We thus have the following applications:

1. **Templeton:** *Experimental Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge* **Value:** USD 2 000 000
If successful, this will be the first big project in the world to have a Global South institution set the research agenda in experimental philosophy, rather than merely execute Global North ideas.

NIHSS: *Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South* **Value:** R 1 000 000

If successful, this will position ACEPS as a leader in indigenous-knowledge research through Global South dialogue, fund 1 MA, 2 one-month research visits for PhDs, 2 international conferences at ACEPS, 6 talks delivered overseas by members of ACEPS, and a month's long visit by an expert to up the prestige of the centre and assist in grooming our postgrads for the international scene.

2. **URC:** *Decolonising Experimental Philosophy*
A seed grant and pilot for the Templeton application.

Empowering ACEPS team and postgraduates

ACEPS will give our postgraduates opportunities to gain management experience:

- by running conferences
- by travelling to overseas conferences
- necessary for their future careers

Continuing Collaborations

- Australia: Australian National University; University of Melbourne
- Brazil: PUCR
- Canada: University of Brandon
- China: Zhejiang University
- EU: University of Vienna, University of Tilburg, University of Bielefeld
- South Africa: UJ Heteronormativity in Higher Educational Institutions, NIHSS
- Switzerland: University of Zürich, University of Basel
- UK: University of Kent, Liverpool
- USA: Northwestern University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rutgers

In a word, we will continue to trail-blaze in 2023.

APPENDIX: Publications

1. Frost-Arnold, K. forthcoming. *Who Should We Be Online? A Social Epistemology for the Internet*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Maponya, D. 2022. Religion, patriarchy and the prospect for gender equality in South Africa. *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, 337–349.
3. Maponya, D., Mitova, V., Reijer, J. 2022. The Philosophy Dictionary for Africa: an experiment in decolonising philosophy. *Teaching Innovation for the 21st Century*. UJ Press.
4. Medina, J. 2022. The Duties to Protest and to Listen to Protest Communicative Resistance, Enabler's Responsibility, and Echoing. *Democratic Theory*, 9 (2): 101–119.
5. Medina, J. *The Epistemology of Protest: Silencing, Epistemic Activism, and the Communicative Life of Resistance*. New York: Oxford University Press.
6. Mitova, V. 2022. The Collective Epistemic Reasons of Social Groups. *Asian Journal of Philosophy*.
7. Mitova, V., McIntyre, R. and Salem, S. (Eds.) 2022. *Skepticism, Relativism, Pluralism*. Special Issue of *Inquiry*. Routledge.
8. Mitova, V., McIntyre, R. and Salem, S. 2022. Introduction to the special issue: Skepticism, Relativism, Pluralism. *Inquiry*. DOI: 10.1080/0020174X.2022.2135877.
9. Mitova, V. Forthcoming. Wilful Hermeneutical Injustice to the (Qualified) Rescue of Knowledge-first. In A. Logins and J. Vollet (Eds.), *Putting Knowledge to Work*. OUP.
10. Mitova, V. Forthcoming. Decolonising Experts. In M. Farina, A. Lavazza, and D. Pritchard (Eds.), *Expertise: Philosophical Perspectives*. OUP.
11. Nwosimiri, O. 2022. Engaging in African Epistemology as a Form of Epistemic Decolonization. *Filosofia Theoretica Journal of African Philosophy Culture and Religions*, 11(2): 75–88.
12. Schmidt, S. 2022. On believing indirectly for practical reasons. *Philosophical Studies*, 179 (6): 1795–1819.
13. Tobi, A. 2022. Appreciative Silencing in Communicative Exchange. *Episteme*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/epi.2022.24>