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20 YEARS
— 2005-2025 —

Our Future. Reimagined.

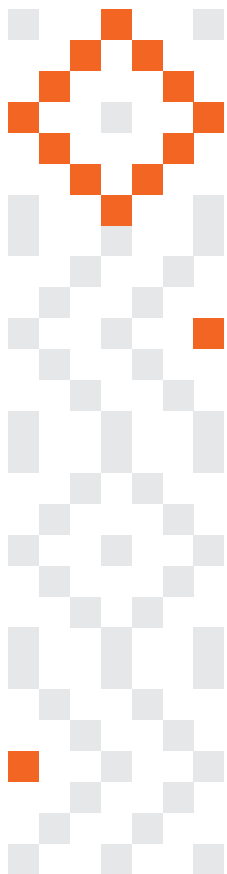


Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA)

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
THINKING, INNOVATION AND TRAINING**

CSDA - HOME OF THE DSTI/NRF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH CHAIR IN WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



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1. Director's Report: Partnering to Drive Social Impact

The theme for the annual report this year is showcasing how partnerships can promote social development outcomes. In 2024, we definitely had incredible partnerships that resulted in excellent outcomes, both in terms of community outcomes, as well as research and dissemination outcomes.

This message is important for us to convey, particularly in the context of increasingly partisan politics that seems to be sweeping across the globe. Partnerships are absolutely crucial if we are to achieve social justice and social development outcomes. We demonstrated this in many ways over the last year.

In 2024, our Communities of Practice for Child Well-being project moved into its final year. In this final year of the project, the key goal was to figure out how to institutionalise the approach that we have been able to pilot over the last four years with funding from the National Research Foundation. This project was not only an interdisciplinary one but also a transdisciplinary one. It was a project that involved not only academic expertise from education, health, psychology, and social work but also expertise from many people in government, at local and national level, in civil society and on the ground

servicing children. The Communities of Practice for Child Well-being really is a model of how to collaborate effectively in order to promote child well-being outcomes, and we are immensely proud of everything that the team has achieved collectively. In 2024, we hosted the Communities of Practice for Child Well-being symposium where many of our partners had an opportunity to share what they have gained and what they have learnt through the engagement over the last four years. We continue to work closely with local, provincial, and national government departments to figure out how to integrate either parts of or the whole model into their existing practices. And we feel sure that we will continue to see the effects of this programme in the years to come.

The year 2024 also saw us run the fifth wave of the Voter Behaviour study, led by Prof Leila Patel. This project was another collaborative effort between the CSDA, the Department of Politics and International Relations, and Ipsos. The Voter Behaviour study was run in advance of our national government elections and revealed some very exciting insights, including the fact that social grants were no longer a key predictor of who people would vote for, particularly amongst younger voters, and that voters were not generally in favour of coalition governments. The partnership with Ipsos and with the Department of Politics has been a truly fruitful one over the last five waves of

data collection. The study always garners incredible media interest, and the various partners were interviewed via a range of different broadcast and print media channels.

Professor Sadiyya Haffajee has also been running an exciting project – CONNECT – that focuses on supporting parents to connect with their teenagers. This project is an extension of the work that we did many years ago with our Sihleng'imizi programme focusing on parenting of younger children. Again, this project is a partnership model where Sadiyya has been working closely with NGOs and international academic partners, and where we have been able to test the model in an African context, showcasing how we take innovation and apply it in our context.

The Basic Package of Support (BPS) for NEET youth is continuing. In 2024, we released the results of the pilot phase showing that the BPS is having the intended effect, which was really exciting news. Again, this project is very much a partnership model between on-the-ground child and youth care workers, site managers, mobilisers, researchers, and a range of champions of the BPS located within philanthropic, international, government, and not-for-profit organisations. This kind of programme would definitely not be possible without all of that support and without being a key partner of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention.

In 2024, we also supported the hosting of the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD), Africa Branch Conference. This conference was our second one and was hosted by Midlands State University. It was a resounding success due in large part to the partnership that Midlands State University has with Dortmund University, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and ourselves at UJ. This partnership was brought to the CSDA when Professor Tanusha Raniga joined us as the interim chair in 2023. We hosted the Colloquium as a joint ICSD and DAAD Colloquium. It was a very successful event hosted in Harare with over 80 papers presented, two keynote addresses, and extensive interaction between social development scholars. We look forward to continuing to build on this partnership.

The partnership that we have had over the last two years with Professor Tanusha Raniga in her role as the interim South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development has truly been fruitful. We really have enjoyed a very collaborative two years of shared interests and are sad to see that her time as the interim chair has come to an end at the end of 2024. In 2025, she will be taking up new opportunities within the university. We want to wish Tanusha all the best in her future endeavours, many of which will involve continued collaboration with us at the CSDA. The partnership with the Chair over

the last two years also certainly gives life to the idea of partnerships bringing social development innovations and outcomes to fruition.

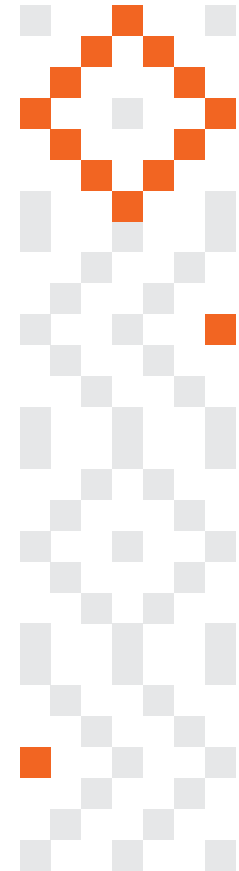
We celebrated with a number of staff and students last year. Professor Leila Patel was elected to the board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, a very prestigious appointment. She was also elected as the president-elect for the International Consortium for Social Development and will take on the role of president in the middle of 2025. Dr. Matshidiso Sello graduated with her PhD in Demography and Population Studies in December. I really enjoyed an evening of celebrating family, friends, and staff members as I delivered my professorial inaugural lecture in October this year. I was also grateful to receive the Dean's Award in 2024 in recognition of the work we do in research, teaching, supervision, community engagement, and academic citizenship. None of these achievements would have been possible without the investments and time of every single staff member.

I also want to congratulate Professor Eleanor Ross, who continues to drive student publications, ensuring that she is supporting the development of student writing. I would like to thank her for that role that she continues to play.

I would like to close this report by extending my gratitude to the very many people and organisations that we partner with – those who continue to support our work financially and believe in the work that we do, both in terms of social development innovations being tested on the ground, but also in our work of growing the next generation of social development scholars and practitioners and the thought leadership that we engage in.

Grateful thanks to the Deanery, particularly Professor Kammila Naidoo and the Vice Dean of Research, Professor Pragna Rugunanan, for their ongoing support of the centre and their guidance. My grateful thanks to Leila, who continues to be a mentor to me, and to our incredible staff, those that are in the office, and those that are out on the field, who continue to be committed to making a difference in the lives of people every day. The work that we do, the achievements that we have had over the last year would not have been possible without every single one of you.

Professor Lauren Graham
CSDA: Director





2. Report of the Interim DSTI/ NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development: Collaborative Leadership and Innovation for Social Justice and Sustainable Development

I was appointed as the Interim DSTI/NRF Chair in Welfare and Social Development in January of 2023. In this role, I collaborated closely with the CSDA in teaching, supervision, research, and public engagements. Over the past two years, I have enjoyed many fruitful collaborations with the CSDA and the students I have been working with. I have also celebrated many achievements in my role as Interim Chair and am grateful for the recognition of my contributions to growing the field of social development.

I concluded my time as the Interim Chair in December 2024 to take on new opportunities at UJ. I want to thank everyone for their support and dedication while I held the position. During this time, I fostered excellent international engagements, was invited to give prestigious keynote addresses, engaged

in impactful research, contributed to the teaching of the Interdisciplinary Masters in Social Policy and Development, and mentored many of the staff and students at the CSDA.

I look forward to continued collaborations as I take up new opportunities at the university. Below is an overview of the many projects I led during my time as the Interim DSTI/NRF Chair in Welfare and Social Development.

German academic exchange service (DAAD) postgraduate symposium

The Global Transformation and Social Work Practice Programme, a four-year partnership among four universities—Fachhochschule Dortmund, the University of Johannesburg, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and Midlands State University — supported by the German academic exchange organisation, DAAD continued in 2024 with an academic exchange hosted by UKZN, in which six PhD students participated. The ongoing DAAD Exchange Programme is an example of the power of international collaboration and cultural exchange in shaping the next generation of global leaders and scholars.

Symposium on social justice and human rights of older persons in Africa

In June 2024 the DSTI/NRF South African Research Chair: Welfare and Social Development, Centre for Social

Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg, hosted a Symposium on Social Justice and Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa in collaboration with the Department of Social Work and Community Development at UJ, the University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University, the University of Cape Town, The Association for The Aged, and Ikamva Labantu.

An outcome of the two-day symposium was a webinar titled [Pan-African Research – Policy Emergence on Ageing in the Youngest Region](#) held on 22 August 2024. Professor Jaco Hoffman (Professor of Gerontology, Optentia Research Unit, North-West University) presented the research and policy developments on ageing in Africa.

Women's impact innovation and sustainability in Africa (WIISA) conference 2024

The Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg's Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development at the CSDA and the Department of Politics and International Relations, Strategic Initiatives and Administration, and the Faculty of Humanities hosts the Women's IMPACT Innovation and Sustainability in Africa Conference annually as part of its efforts to advance sustainable economic empowerment for women in line with the SDGs and Agenda 2063. It brings together

researchers, financiers, activists, public servants and others from across the world to deliberate on challenges and opportunities for women's financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

This year I was a member of the conference organising committee and helped to shape the themes and key areas of the conference. I welcomed the audience on day two of the conference and chaired a session titled "Strengthening Institutional and Policy Frameworks, Funding and Networks to Advance Women's Entrepreneurship". The session discussed the historical context of women in entrepreneurship from Mbame in Cameroon, the impact of intersectionality on entrepreneurship policies in Southern Africa, enhancing marketing capacity for women sewing entrepreneurs in Dodoma, Tanzania, and assessing the transformative potential of entrepreneurship support for black women in South Africa's emerging sectors.

Keynote presentations

I was invited to deliver the prestigious [Dr. Alice Lin Lecture](#) at the Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW) on 1 October 2024. The Lin Lecture focuses on research, issues and trends in public policy and administration. The Lin Lecture was endowed by Dr Nan Lin in honour of his wife, Dr Alice Lin, who passed away in 2015. Alice Lin was a social worker who received her doctorate in social policy and

management at CSSW in 1985. She was a prominent social welfare administrator and behavioural health consultant. She served as the chief policy analyst for long-term care in the New York State Governor's Office and then as senior deputy commissioner for operations in the New York State Office of Mental Health. She was greatly interested in system redesign and service delivery for persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities, addictive disorders and special needs.

My presentation was titled "South African Women Entrepreneurs: A Developmental Social Welfare and Social Entrepreneurship Intervention Perspective". Although there is increasing interest in using social entrepreneurship to reduce poverty among women, there is a paucity of research exploring how entrepreneurship helps local economic development and fights poverty. During my presentation I explained how I used a qualitative approach to study how 20 women entrepreneurs from an NGO address poverty among unemployed women.

I also attended the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) conference in Washington, DC in January 2024. The SSWR annual conference offers a scientific programme that reflects a broad range of research interests from workshops on the latest quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to symposia featuring studies in child welfare, aging, mental health, welfare reform,

substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. At the conference, under the theme of “Recentering and Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science”, I shared my paper on sustainable livelihoods and women empowerment. My presentation was one of five presentations which formed part of a symposium held on Sunday 14 January under the overarching theme “SDGs and social work practice” which was hosted by Prof Shanta Pandey from Boston College School of Social Work.

Social work and social development symposium

As a member of the Executive committee of the Africa branch of the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD), I formed part of the organising committee that hosted the first Joint Social Work and Social Development Symposium which also formed the 2nd ICSD Africa Branch Colloquium.

It was heartening to listen to two prominent social work scholars Prof Rodreck Mupedziswa (Botswana) and Prof Johnnie Hamilton Mason (Boston, USA) present innovative examples of how Indigenous Knowledge Systems are being used to challenge dominant approaches to development and the role of women in the resistance movements in the United States.

The CSDA hosted Prof Johnnie Hamilton-Mason, Professor of Social Work at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts, USA in October 2024 and on 10 October 2024 she delivered a public lecture titled “Economic Stability, Stress and the Superwoman Schema: Coping Among Black Women” which explored how economic stability affects black women’s quality of life, using the Transactional Model of stress and coping and the Superwoman Schema as frameworks.

Lastly as part of the MPhil programme, I taught a full semester module on Integrated Social Policy and Social Development Theory & Practice. I am supervising five PhD students, four MPhil students and two PDRFs. I have also been the lead editor of two esteemed journals namely, *Journal of Social Development in Africa* and *African Journal of Social Work* and in my mentoring capacity, I have given 14 PhD candidates the opportunity to publish their work in two special editions.

Professor Tanusha Raniga Interim DSTI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development

Please note that throughout the report the DSTI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development is referred to as SARCHI.

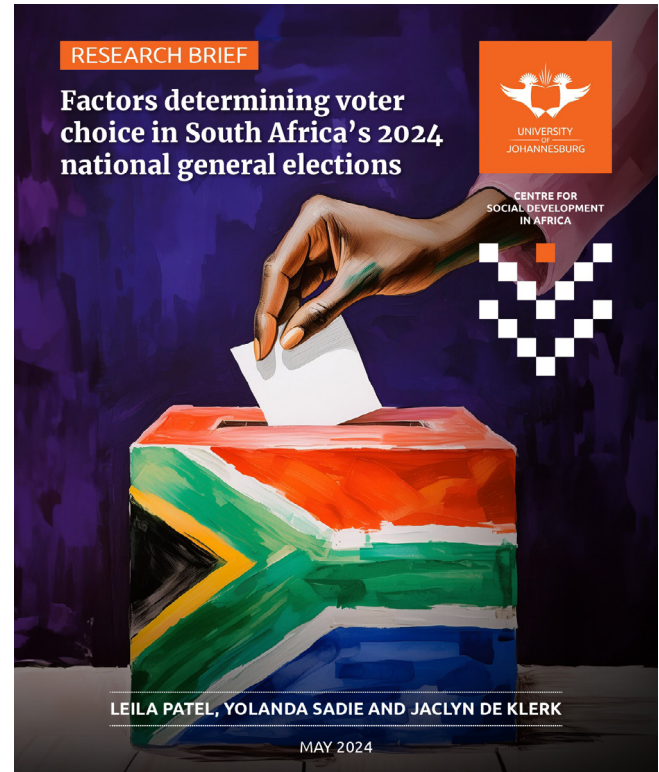
3. 2024 Featured Projects

Each year we profile projects that clearly demonstrate how our work brings our operational model to life. These projects are rooted in research excellence, driving innovation in application, building social development capability and contributing to public engagement.

3.1 Factors Determining Voter Choice in South Africa's 2024 National General Elections

As South Africa approached the 2024 General Elections, questions about the factors shaping voter preferences gained renewed interest. Against the backdrop of high unemployment, persistent poverty and widespread dissatisfaction with government performance, the CSDA completed wave 5 of its longitudinal study on voter behaviour. The study was conducted in collaboration with Ipsos Public Affairs and shed light on the socio-economic and political dynamics that likely influenced voter choices.

Building on [previous waves](#), which were conducted from 2017 to 2020, this research focused on key questions about voter behaviour. Researchers were particularly interested in the role of social grants, perceptions of corruption, governance and the impact of socio-economic



rights on party preferences. Amid growing debates around the potential introduction of a Basic Income Grant (BIG), the expansion of the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant, and fears of grant withdrawal, understanding how these factors intersected with voter choices was critical.

The study also investigated broader influences such as trust in government institutions, party loyalty, and demographic factors like age, gender, race and income. A new dimension in this wave was the exploration of voter attitudes toward coalition governments, a timely focus given the possibility of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) falling below 50% in the election.

What we found

- ANC support dropped from 50% in 2017 to 33% at the end of 2023.
- EFF support doubled since the 2020 survey.
- DA remained stable around 15%.

Reasons for party choice?

Socio-economic well-being was prioritised, with the top four choices relating to socio-economic factors. Researchers also noted an interesting shift in the voter choices of grant recipients.

- More grant recipients were choosing to vote for an opposition party (53%) than in 2020 (26%).
- Grant recipients increased since 2020 due to the Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD).
- Grant recipients showed marginally stronger support for the ANC (8%) up 1% from 2020 with a low of 5% in 2017.

Finally, voters indicated that they were not in favour of a coalition government. ANC supporters were least enamoured (40%) with the idea of a coalition government, followed by the EFF (35%) and DA (33%). Smaller parties were also sceptical (38%).

How we conducted the research

The study was carried out on a nationally representative sample of 3,600 respondents, with interviews conducted in participants' preferred languages, ensuring inclusivity. Statistical techniques, including logistic regression and weighted cross-tabulations, were applied to analyse the data.

How does this project show the CSDA operating model in action?



Research Excellence: This project helped shape social development theory and practice by providing valuable insights into how socio-economic factors influence voter behaviour. The study shows how social grants, perceptions of government corruption and issues like poverty impact voting choices, especially in South Africa's context. It helps us understand how social support programmes like grants affect politics and can guide policies that aim to reduce poverty and improve governance. By exploring new issues, such as attitudes toward coalition governments, the study also opens up new ways of thinking about how political systems work in developing countries. This research is not only academic but also useful for creating better policies and solutions to social challenges.



Public Engagement: The research was shared at a media launch. The launch was filmed, and clips were distributed to the wider public. The following clips were created and shared.

- Prof Patel, Founding Director of the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) and Distinguished Professor of Social Development Studies at the CSDA, UJ, provided the presentation of the [high-level findings](#).
- Mari Haris, Knowledge Director at Ipsos Public Affairs in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) provided [reflections on the study findings](#).
- Prof Yolanda Sadie, Professor Emerita in the Department of Politics and International Relations at UJ, spoke about [leadership, party loyalty and views on coalitions](#) and
- Prof Lauren Graham, Director of the CSDA at UJ focussed on [the youth vote](#).

The research was well received by the media and was featured across a range of publications including [The Conversation](#) and [Daily Maverick](#) and interviews were conducted by [SABC News](#) and [SAFM](#) amongst others.



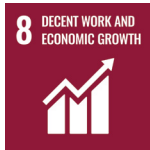
Innovation in Application: The longitudinal nature of the study, spanning several years, allows for a deeper understanding of how the intersection of socio-economic conditions and political dynamics evolve over time and how they influence democratic participation and decision-making. Additionally, the focus on emerging themes like the Basic Income Grant (BIG), Social Relief of

Distress (SRD) grant, and the role of coalition governments reflect the evolving nature of social development challenges in a changing political and economic landscape.



Human Capability Development: The CSDA employs and mentors many young, early-career researchers, all of whom are involved in research projects at various stages. A research assistant and a researcher with a PhD in Demography and Population studies were involved in the data collection, analysis and report writing.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



3.2 Global Transformation and Social Work Practice

The Global Transformation and Social Work Practice is a partnership made up of four universities – Fachhochschule Dortmund, Germany, University of Johannesburg (through Interim SARChI Welfare and Social Development Prof Tanusha Raniga), University of KwaZulu-Natal and Midlands State University, Zimbabwe. DAAD is a German academic exchange organisation, and the four-year programme aims to build exchanges focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals between countries of the “Global North” and the “Global South”. Key topics of this partnership include poverty and wealth distribution, colonialism’s lasting impact, racism, social work’s role in human rights and the relevance of indigenous knowledge.

In 2023 a Postgraduate symposium provided opportunities for collaborative work among students, allowing them to present jointly, fostering valuable networking opportunities and deeper connections with their peers. The partnership also includes academic exchanges, such as a visit by six PhD students in April 2024, who participated in research workshops and visited sites significant to South Africa’s history, including the Apartheid Museum and local schools in KwaZulu-Natal. The ongoing programme aims to

strengthen global networks and develop future leaders in social work.

During their stay, the students participated in academic and community activities including being hosted by Dr Ela Gandhi from the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. They visited local schools in Inanda, KwaZulu-Natal and gained valuable insights into the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and the significance of these sites in the struggle against apartheid.

One of the highlights of the programme was the three-day PhD research workshop attended by international and local PhD students. The students presented their research and received valuable feedback and insights from their professors and peers.

In October 2024, the partnership hosted the first Joint Social Work and Social Development Symposium in Zimbabwe, focusing on African Indigenous Knowledge Systems and their role in achieving SDGs. A special issue in the *Journal of Social Development in Africa* also celebrated the collaboration's academic contributions.

How does this project show the CSDA operating model in action?



Research excellence: The work of this partnership has led to a published “Special Issue, Human Rights, The Sustainable Development Goals and Social Work Practice” edited by Prof Tanusha Raniga in the *Journal of Social Development in Africa (JSDA)*. Prof Raniga and Prof Michael

Boecker (Dortmund University) also authored the [editorial](#). CSDA staff member Dr Matshidiso Sello contributed to the edition with her co-authored article titled [Exploring childhood malnutrition and household food security in Gauteng and Limpopo: Implications for social development processes](#).



Innovation in application: This project helps shape social development theory and practice by creating a platform for collaboration between universities from the Global North and South. It focuses on key issues like poverty, racism, human rights and the lasting impact of

colonialism, encouraging new ideas and solutions in social work. By combining indigenous knowledge with global

development goals, the project offers new perspectives on how to address social challenges.



Human capacity development: The project is developing future leaders in social work who will use these new insights to influence social work practices and policies worldwide, with a focus on human rights, social justice and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Public engagement: The partnership influences public debate and policy by tackling key issues through research, symposia, and publications. It fosters dialogue and offers new perspectives on global and local challenges, such as food security and gender equality. By

connecting the Global North and South, the partnership encourages shared learning and innovative solutions, with public workshops and publications extending its impact further.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



3.3 Key projects

Our work falls into four main thematic areas. Here we capture our key projects in these thematic areas and look at how each project shows our operating model in action.

3.3.1 Thematic area 1: Social Policy in the Global South

- *The Future of Work and Policy Responses*

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is driving a surge in gig work. Gig workers, a diverse group encompassing

informal workers, independent contractors, online platform workers, contract firm employees, on-call workers and temporary hires, are becoming increasingly prominent in the workforce. This project aims to understand the nature and implications of gig work in South Africa in the Fourth Industrial Revolution context. The project seeks to understand how gig workers experience work and employment relations to develop policy options for addressing their vulnerabilities via social policy reforms. Gig work has proliferated in South Africa, across the continent, and the rest of the Global South. It is often seen as a panacea for high levels of unemployment. It generally attracts vulnerable workers – those who are unable to access formal labour market opportunities.

The project focuses on two categories of gig workers: place-based gig workers (Checkers Sixty60 delivery bike drivers) and platform-based workers (M4JAM platform). The project aims to comprehensively assess the nature of their work, income levels, perceptions of the platform relationship, access to social safety nets and awareness of labour rights.



Research Excellence: The study not only deepens understanding of gig work's socio-economic implications but also provides a robust foundation for rethinking labour relations, social protection, and human development in the 4IR era.



Public & Policy engagement: The findings from a study about gig work and how it prompts us to reconsider the social contract were presented at a [webinar](#) in partnership with Just Society SDU (University of Southern Denmark), which explored how social policies can address the unique dynamics of gig work, considering the perspectives of gig workers themselves, policymakers, and platform owners and the implications for how we envision a revised social contract that is more inclusive and expansive.



Innovation in application: Through its comprehensive approach, the project seeks to foster improved working conditions, increased social insurance coverage, and greater empowerment for gig workers, demonstrating the potential of evidence-based research to drive meaningful social change.



Human capacity development: Students were trained in conducting interviews and data analysis which is a core element of the CSDA in enhancing student's research knowledge.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



3.3.2 Thematic area 2: Contemporary Social Development Challenges

Poverty and inequality are complex challenges that require nuanced and in-depth understanding. Our work in this field seeks to understand the complexities of how poverty and various types of inequality (age, gender, class, disabilities and geographic location) shape people's lives. New social challenges including climate change must inform our analysis of poverty and inequality and their effects.

- *Connect Parenting Intervention: Strengthening Families*

The Connect Parenting Intervention is an evidence-based, trauma-informed programme developed by Professor Marlene Moretti at Simon Fraser University. Widely

implemented globally, it has demonstrated strong cultural and contextual adaptability. Piloted in 2021 in South Africa at a Child and Youth Care Centre, the intervention was later extended to community settings, such as Marikana. The training, grounded in attachment theory, focuses on enhancing the caregiving skills of Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCWs) and parents through role-playing, reflective exercises and culturally relevant scenarios. It aims to foster empathy, conflict resolution and cultural sensitivity, thereby creating better outcomes for children and families. Recognised by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse (CEBC) with a top Scientific Rating of 1, the programme is well-supported by research evidence and has proven effective in strengthening family and community relationships in diverse settings.

This trauma-informed programme is vital in addressing caregiving challenges in South African communities, particularly those impacted by social and economic adversity. By equipping CYCWs and parents with practical, culturally sensitive tools the project improves child-caregiver relationships and supports holistic child development. Through its participatory approach, it gives parents a voice, enabling them to actively shape their caregiving practices.

The global success of the Connect training and its demonstrated cultural fit reinforces the importance of integrating context-specific adaptations in South Africa. This intervention also contributes to systemic social change, creating safer, more supportive environments for vulnerable children.

3.3.3 Thematic area 3: Welfare and social development innovations

Innovative and evidence-based solutions, informed by technological developments are required to address the complex challenges of poverty and inequality. Our work in this field focuses on bringing evidence to bear on developing, adapting, and testing social development interventions informed by social development theory; and capacitating practitioners to implement successful interventions.

■ *Communities of Practice for Child Well-being*

The Community of Practice (CoP) for Child Well-being is a practice-based learning initiative that was established in Gauteng, South Africa in 2020. It is informed by previous research that highlighted the importance of integrated services for enhancing child well-being. It aims to address gaps in existing service provision for young children by using a multisectoral approach to child well-being. This approach locates children in the wider context of their family, school and community. The CoP approach draws

together diverse sectors that impact on children's well-being. These sectors include health, education, mental health, material well-being and safety and protection.

The CSDA, in piloting of this approach, has focused on children in the Foundation Phase of schooling, from Grade R to Grade 3. This developmental period is critical for children. However, children often do not receive the comprehensive and coordinated services they need. Hence, it is crucial to address the gaps in children's support and care, including gaps in the coordination of the services. In order to effectively address coordination gaps, the pilot study established: (a) an advisory level CoP (ALCoP) to guide the study and develop an assessment tool to track child participants' well-being, and (b) local level CoPs (LLCoPs) to guide the CoP implementation at the schools in both Gauteng and Limpopo provinces.

We used a digital assessment tool, the Child Well-being Tracking Tool (CWTT), to gather essential data on a cohort of children enrolled in the Foundation Phase at five schools in Johannesburg, Gauteng, over three waves: 2020, 2021 and 2022. We used the data to inform the CoP team's interventions that addressed the specific needs of children identified as being at risk or vulnerable.

In order to better understand how the multisectoral CoP approach works in a rural setting, the CoP team initiated

a one-year study to improve children’s well-being in the early years of their schooling in the predominantly rural area of Moutse, Limpopo, South Africa. The Moutse study was implemented in partnership with the local Ndlovu Care Group, a community healthcare service provider. The care group was founded in 1994 in Moutse. The baseline assessment was conducted between September to November 2023.

The study focussed on the baseline assessment of the well-being of a sample of children in the Foundation Phase – Grade R to Grade 3 – at Ekucathuleni primary school in Moutse. The aim of the assessment was to inform actions to strengthen social outcomes for children and their families. The intervention component of the study followed after the initial child well-being assessments and ran from March 2024 to April 2024.

On 11 and 12 June 2024, the CSDA, in collaboration with the Centre for Excellence in Human and Community Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, hosted a symposium titled *Investing in the Early School Years: Lessons from a Community of Practice for Strengthening School-Based Care and Support Services*. The event marked the conclusion of the four-year CoP study supported by the National Research Foundation.

You can visit the [CoP portal](#) for all CoP-related information and updates.

How does this project show the CSDA operating model in action?



Research Excellence: The CoP project continues to drive research excellence. It is an interdisciplinary project that brings together recognised experts across several disciplines to form part of the Advisory level of the Community of Practice. This advisory group works alongside an

interdisciplinary team of researchers, committed to producing research of the highest quality. The team produced the research reports on the [Moutse study findings](#) and the [scaling up](#) of the CoP as well as a [Sihleng’imizi family strengthening intervention](#) research brief. This Research excellence was recognised by [Universities South Africa](#) as a key impact case study.



Public and Policy engagement: The CoP team engaged with various government departments and development agencies that play a prominent role in policy research, locally and internationally. These stakeholders are critical in advocating for

the scaling-up and institutionalisation of the CoP model. There was also ongoing stakeholder engagement at national, provincial and local levels with the following organisations: Department of Health, Department of Basic Education, Department of Social Development and the City of Johannesburg and with development agencies UNICEF, SAVE the Children and local NPOs.

The CoP team held a symposium titled “Investing in the Early School Years: Lessons from a Community of Practice for Strengthening School-Based Care and Support Services” read about it on page 27 of this report.

The project has been shared with the public more broadly via a podcast on [Channel Africa](#) and a series of radio shows on [Moutse Community Radio](#).



Innovation in application: This study demonstrates the importance of monitoring the multi-dimensional well-being of children and their families in their school and community context in order to intervene appropriately. Ensuring that multidisciplinary teams (part of the community of practice approach) are capacitated and work together to share knowledge, resources, and skills to find

impactful and tangible solutions is critical if we are to improve children’s growth and development outcomes in the early years of schooling.

The project’s main innovation continues to be the Child Well-being Tracking Tool. The tool was modified for the rural pilot.



Human capacity development: The CoP enabled the training and development of CoP social workers and Nursing Supervisors in research skills. Without research skills, the social work and nursing sectors are limited in developing big-picture awareness of trends and tendencies needed to develop innovative strategies and understand how macro-level issues impact individual cases. A number of post-doctoral students and several emerging academics worked on the project.



CoP Educational Psychology Session with caregivers at Malvern Primary School

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



3.3.4 Thematic area 4: Economic and social inclusion

Examining how people and communities are excluded from social and economic opportunities is crucial to understanding poverty and inequality. Our work in this field analyses diverse aspects of social exclusion, recognising how they necessitate a fresh analysis of poverty and inequality, particularly as experienced by vulnerable and indigent groups. We investigate emerging challenges posed by the changing nature of work, climate change, environmental degradation, and human mobility, recognising their influence on these complex issues, among others.

- *Immigrant and Local Micro-Entrepreneurs in South African Townships*

In South Africa, the informal economy plays a significant role contributing 15-17% of employment and over 5% of GDP. While smaller than the regional average, it provides vital livelihoods and income, particularly for those marginalised from the formal labour market. Some immigrants who also face barriers to formal employment turn to informal businesses, with rates of immigrant participation nearly double that of locals. Moreover, immigrant-owned micro-enterprises tend to outperform locally-owned ones. Despite existing studies on migrant experiences, the reasons for their prevalence and success remain unclear. This study explores the success factors,

challenges, and strategies of immigrant and local micro-entrepreneurs in South African townships. Using a comparative exploratory design, the research examines entrepreneurial experiences in Gauteng, the Western Cape, and North West provinces, aiming to enhance understanding of informal sector dynamics and inform support strategies. Data collection involved in-depth, open-ended interviews with individual micro-entrepreneurs, both local and migrant. Additionally, focus group discussions (FGDs) with entrepreneurs were conducted. In order to ensure a good variety of perspectives, a two-step approach for participant selection was employed. First, purposive sampling was adopted, specifically targeting key informants who could provide valuable insights into the context. Thereafter, snowball sampling was used to identify micro-entrepreneurs. To gain even deeper understanding, follow-up interviews were conducted with some of the participants. Through this comprehensive study, insights were gained to inform strategies aimed at supporting and enhancing productive engagement in the informal sector within South African townships, ultimately contributing to economic empowerment and poverty alleviation.

How does this project show the CSDA's operating model in action?

Research excellence



Research excellence: The study used in-depth, rigorous qualitative methods including comparative analysis and follow up engagements with participants to produce a nuanced account of the experiences of traders. The report was reviewed by experts at the World Bank and has been published by the World Bank.

Innovation in application



Innovation in application: The project provides a foundation for designing and implementing impactful, evidence-based strategies to strengthen South Africa's informal economy, contributing to sustainable social development.

Human capacity development



Human capacity development: The CSDA employs and mentors many young, early-career researchers, all of whom are involved in research projects at various stages. Several research assistants and interns were involved in the data collection, analysis and report writing.



Public engagement: The findings from the study were presented at a [webinar](#) which looked into factors contributing to the success of micro-enterprises owned by immigrants and nationals in South Africa. The research compares micro-entrepreneurs' experiences in three South African townships, examining their motivations, business strategies, challenges and success. The webinar also discussed additional support and protection for the micro-entrepreneurs.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



4. Training the next generation of social development scholars and practitioners

Master of Philosophy in Social Policy Development

The Master of Philosophy in Social Policy and Development continues to be the mainstay of our commitment to developing the next generation of social development scholars and practitioners. The year 2024 was a successful

one in which eight of our students graduated, three of them with distinctions.

Six students submitted their dissertations at the end of 2024.

We congratulate them and wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in their careers in social development.

We also had a new intake of 14 students starting the programme in 2024 (pictured below), drawn from five different African countries.





5. Public engagement

5.1 Symposia and Colloquia

The CSDA hosted two symposiums and collaborated with various partners on three others:

5.1.1 Symposium to Advance Social Justice and Human Rights of Older Persons in Contemporary Africa

On 4 and 5 June 2024, the DSTI/NRF South African Research Chair: Welfare and Social Development, Centre for Social Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work and Community Development at UJ, the University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University, the University of Cape Town, The Association for The Aged, and Ikamva Labantu, hosted a Symposium on Social Justice and Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

The symposium focused on the theme of Social Justice and Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa and featured a variety of paper presentations. Participants also engaged in extensive discussions and debates on numerous topics related to the welfare of older adults.

Prof Tanusha Raniga, the Interim DSTI/NRF Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development at the CSDA, presented her paper on [The Economic Impact of the State Old Age Pension on Older Persons During the COVID-19 Pandemic in South](#)



Africa. Dr Samson Konlan, Prof Raniga's PDRF, presented his paper on [The Contribution of the LEAP Cash Transfer Programme to Older Persons in Ghana.](#)

The symposium highlighted the high risks faced by older persons, including neglect, financial, physical and emotional abuse, poverty and violent crimes. It emphasised the need to shift societal perceptions and challenge negative stereotypes of older adults, recognising their valuable contributions in modern times. Additionally, the event explored research on elder abuse, challenges faced by older persons and gaps in services and community care across Africa.

5.1.2 CoP Symposium: Investing in the Early School Years

On 11 and 12 June, the CoP team presented their work at a concluding symposium. The symposium also shared a synthesis of findings from the various sub-studies conducted by the research team. Lessons learned, and challenges experienced in implementing the approach in real-life settings were presented and discussed, including strategies to strengthen learning and child well-being outcomes. An engaging session was dedicated to strategies for scaling up the CoP – the full presentation can be found here. This [YouTube video](#) produced by UJ videography shows footage from the symposium and interviews with key project partners Prof Leila Patel



and Research Chair in Integrated Studies of Learning, Language, Mathematics and Science in the Primary School, Prof Elizabeth Henning. A CoP family member also provides feedback on his experience with the programme, and CoP Project Manager Tania Sani speaks about some of the project's successes and recommendations going forward.

5.1.3 Decolonising Systems of Knowledge (UCDP PhD) Symposium

On 2 July 2024, a one-day symposium titled *Decolonising Systems of Knowledge* took place at the University of Johannesburg. The symposium was aimed at PhD candidates, focusing on the critical examination and application of decolonial knowledge in research and academia. The event was convened by Prof Kammila Naidoo (Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities), Prof Sadiyya Haffejee (Associate Professor, Centre for Social Development in Africa) and Prof Pragna Rugunanan (Vice Dean Research, Faculty of Humanities). This event is part of the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) and is a collaborative project involving six South African institutions: the University of Johannesburg, North-West University, University of Pretoria, Nelson Mandela University, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Durban University of Technology.



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DSI-NRF-SABCI Wellbeing and Social Development



The 2024 UCDP cohort

The symposium aimed to challenge and transform the dominant Eurocentric paradigms in academia. It provided a platform for learning, discourse and practical skills development. During the symposium, participants explored how African education systems can overcome the colonial legacy and foster inclusive, relevant knowledge. They discussed research methods that effectively challenge Western dominance and highlight indigenous perspectives. Emerging scholars also examined how they can theorise from their own socio-cultural contexts and the impact this approach has on their societies and global knowledge systems.

The event introduced emerging scholars to the concept of decolonial knowledge and its implications. It promoted engagement and the exchange of ideas with leading scholars, encouraging critical thinking about decolonial ideas and methods. Additionally, it connected theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The discussions covered various themes, including the historical context of decolonial knowledge, methodologies of decolonial research, indigenous knowledge systems, decolonial theory and social justice, and future directions in decolonial research.

By the end of the symposium, participants had gained a greater understanding of decolonial knowledge, enhanced

their critical and analytical skills in decolonial research, and strengthened their academic networks. They also acquired practical research skills and methodologies that they could apply to their own projects.



5.1.4 Breaking the Chains of Corruption: Whistleblowing as a Catalyst for Social Development in South Africa

The University of Johannesburg's SARChI Chair in Social Change and the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) hosted a colloquium on 18 and 19 July 2024, that focused on the role of whistleblowing in combating corruption and advancing social development. The event was co-organised by Dr Ugljesa Radulovic (of the

Department of Sociology) and Dr Anthony Kaziboni (of the CSDA).

The event brought together a diverse group of academics, experts, practitioners, policymakers, lawyers, judges, and civil society representatives to foster a collaborative space for dialogue. The colloquium covered several key themes, including international standards for whistleblower protection, supporting whistleblowers in weak legal environments, the role of whistleblowers and the courts in combating corruption, whistleblower retaliation, the role of civil society organisations in supporting whistleblowers, and the political economy of whistleblowing.

The speakers included former and current whistleblowers and civil society organisations operating in South Africa. Furthermore, several academics from other universities participated in the event. With the productive dialogue that emerged from the colloquium, the organisers of the event intend on assembling a co-edited volume revolving around the presentations concerning whistleblowing as a catalyst to combat corruption and advance social development not only in South Africa, but globally.

5.1.5 Joint Social Work and Social Development Symposium hosted by DAAD and ICSD

Through a partnership with four Universities namely, Midlands State University in Zimbabwe, University of Applied Science and Arts Dortmund in Germany, the University of Johannesburg and the University of KwaZulu Natal, and in partnership with the International Consortium on Social Development (ICSD) Africa Branch, the first Joint Social Work and Social Development Symposium was hosted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the International Consortium of Social Development (ICSD, Africa) in Zimbabwe on 14 - 15 October 2024. This event also served as the 2nd ICSD Africa Branch Colloquium.

The main theme centred around African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS). The symposium brought together social work practitioners, social development practitioners, policymakers, PhD and Masters students from various African countries such as Zimbabwe, South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana and Sierra Leone, as well as Germany (through DAAD) to showcase and critically engage with how Indigenous and local knowledge systems can inform and influence efforts to achieve the SDGs.

5.2 Webinars

The CSDA hosted five webinars throughout the year:

Webinar 1: Unpacking the Amendments to the National Water Act & Water Service Authority

Date: 13 February 2024

Summary: The state of South Africa's water resources and the management of our water infrastructure are in critical condition. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has proposed amendments to two pivotal policies: the Water Act, which governs our water resources, and the Water Services Act, a key policy regarding the provision of water to the public. The deadline to submit changes was March 1 2024, after the DWS extended the public participation process from the initial deadline of January 16 2024. In order to break down and flesh out the changes, the CSDA and WaterCAN held a webinar to discuss the proposed changes. Senior Researcher at the CSDA, Dr Anthony Kaziboni, served as an expert in the panel discussion. The panel sought to unpack these changes and provided invaluable insights into shaping a sustainable water future and a unique opportunity to gain a deep understanding of the changes that could shape the future of water governance.

Panel participants: Dr Anthony Kaziboni (Senior Researcher, CSDA), John Dini (Department of Water and Sanitation, South Africa), Dr Ferrial Adam (executive manager at WaterCAN) and water justice activist Faeza Meyer.

Media coverage: *Engineering News* published [this article](#) after the webinar, which captures some of the critical issues raised by the speakers. Ultimately, the key takeaway from the webinar was that some inconsistencies need to be addressed in the proposed amendments before they become law. Furthermore, the government needs to prioritise household water security.



Webinar 2: Rethinking Social Protection and Social Contracts in the Context of The Gig Economy

Date: 27 March 2024

Summary: Debates surround the nature of the social contract and its renegotiation, particularly in developing contexts with large informal economies. Alongside these discussions, the gig economy's rise has seen a significant increase in people working on platforms like Uber, SweepSouth, and Upwork, where individuals take on short-term gigs as independent contractors. While hailed as an opportunity for marginalised groups like young people and migrants to participate in the economy, gig work also highlights the challenges faced by informal economy workers, including low wages, lack of social protection and job insecurity. The webinar was jointly hosted by CSDA and The Just Society project at Southern Denmark University.

Panel participants: Prof Lauren Graham, CSDA Director and Khuliso Matidza, researcher at the CSDA, presented findings from a study on the impact of gig work on the social contract, addressing challenges like low wages and ambiguous employment status. Prof Graham emphasised the need for collaborative efforts to improve gig workers' rights. Prof Ulriksen, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark, highlighted the broader vulnerabilities and cautioned against viewing the Basic Income Grant as the sole solution. Audience discussions covered social protection, formalisation of work and policy responses to gig economy challenges.



The poster features a photograph of a woman wearing a headset and looking at a laptop screen, with a man in the background. The text on the poster includes the title, 'WEBINAR', and a logo for '8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH'. Below the image, there is a detailed text block.

Debates surround the nature of the social contract and its renegotiation, particularly in developing contexts with large informal economies. Alongside these discussions, the gig economy's rise has seen a significant increase in people working on platforms like Uber, SweepSouth, and Upwork, where individuals take on short-term gigs as independent contractors. While hailed as an opportunity for marginalised groups like young people and migrants to participate in the economy, gig work also highlights the challenges faced by informal economy workers, including low wages, lack of social protection, and job insecurity. This webinar presents findings from a study about gig work and how it prompts us to reconsider the social contract, its contribution to key conversations about SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

The Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA), University of Johannesburg, in partnership with JUST SOCIETY 504 (University of Southern Denmark), invites you to join a webinar where we explore how social policies can address the unique dynamics of gig work, considering the perspectives of gig workers themselves, policymakers, and platform owners and the implications this has for how we envision a renewed social contract that is more inclusive and expansive.

Rethinking social protection and social contracts in the context of the gig economy

PROFESSORS:
Prof Lauren Graham, Professor and Director of CSDA, University of Johannesburg and Khuliso Matidza, Researcher, CSDA, University of Johannesburg

DR ULRIKSEN:
Prof Ulriksen, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark

DATE: 27 March 2024

TIME: 16:00 - 16:45 SAST

FORMAT: Virtual

Please register to join via this link: https://www.southern-denmark.net/just_society_504/2024/03/march27/

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

OUR FUTURE REIMAGINED

Webinar 3: [How to Organise Collective Action in a Fragmented Society: Averting a Water Crisis in Johannesburg](#)

Date: 9 May 2024

Summary: By 2050, one-third of the world's urban population is projected to face water scarcity, with cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, like Johannesburg, already experiencing increasing chronic water insecurity. Johannesburg residents have grappled with poor water service delivery, leading to protests and demands for solutions from city officials. In order to address this critical issue, the University of Johannesburg's CSDA and the University of Cranfield's Centre for Water, Environment and Development (CWED) are partnering to look into the establishment of a cross-stakeholder consortium to achieve water security in Johannesburg - the Johannesburg Community of Practice for Water Security (CoP4H2O). This initiative aims to address critical water security challenges in Johannesburg and South Africa. The consortium will bring together community leaders, government officials, engineers, researchers and academics to develop collaborative solutions.

Panel Participants: Dr Alesia Ofori (Lecturer in Water, Society and Development, Centre for Water, Environment and Development, Cranfield University), Dr Anthony Kaziboni (Senior Researcher, CSDA), Professor Anja du Plessis (Associate Professor, Department of Geography, UNISA), Dr Luvuyo Jalisa (Policy Specialist, Department of Water and Sanitation) and Professor Mike Muller (Pr. Eng) (Visiting Adjunct Professor, Wits School of Governance)

Media coverage: Dr Anthony Kaziboni and Alesia D Ofori penned an op-ed in *The African*, [Uniting for water security in Johannesburg](#), which discusses the global water crisis, particularly in South Africa, highlighting the significance of World Water Day and National Water Month in raising awareness. It explores the country's constitutional provisions for water access and the challenges it faces due to water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change. Despite efforts to improve access to safe water sources, disparities persist across provinces, with some communities still lacking reliable access. *Engineering News* also published an article about the CSDA and UK-based Cranfield University Centre for Water, Environment and Development (CWED) partnership to establish a cross-stakeholder consortium to achieve water security in Johannesburg. Read more [here](#).



Webinar 4: Qualitative Research with Micro-entrepreneurs in South Africa's Townships

Date: 3 July 2024

Summary: On 3 July 2024, CSDA, in partnership with the World Bank, hosted a webinar where we presented the findings from a qualitative study that looked into factors contributing to the success of micro-enterprises owned by immigrants and nationals in South Africa. The research compares micro-entrepreneurs' experiences in three South African townships, examining their motivations, business strategies, challenges and success. The webinar also discussed additional support and protection for the micro-entrepreneurs.

Panel participants: Professor Lauren Graham (Director, CSDA), Senzelwe Mthembu (Researcher, CSDA), Dr Anthony Kaziboni (Senior Researcher, CSDA) and Dr Wendy Cunningham (Lead Economist, Human Capital Project, World Bank)



Qualitative Research with Micro-entrepreneurs in South Africa's Townships: Factors of Success and Failure of Migrant-owned and South African national-owned Businesses in the Informal Economy

Globally, approximately two billion people, or 60% of the global labour force, participate in the informal economy. South Africa's informal economy accounts for 15-17% of employment and just over 5% of our gross domestic product (GDP), with so many facing structural unemployment in the formal economy, the informal sector has become a lifeline. It's where many people create livelihoods. This sector is incredibly important for low-income households, provides much-needed income and acts as the last-mile distributor of goods. Yet, despite its significance, actors in the informal sector are vulnerable due to a lack of protection and support.

The University of Johannesburg's Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA), in partnership with the World Bank, invites you to a webinar where we present the findings from a qualitative study that looked into factors contributing to the success of micro-enterprises owned by immigrants and nationals in South Africa. The research compares micro-entrepreneurs' experiences in three South African townships, examining their motivations, business strategies, challenges, and success. We will also discuss additional support and protection for the micro-entrepreneurs.

PRESENTERS:
Professor Lauren Graham (Director, CSDA, University of Johannesburg) and
Senzelwe Mthembu (Researcher, CSDA, University of Johannesburg)

CHAIR: Dr Anthony Kaziboni (Senior Researcher, CSDA, University of Johannesburg)

DISCUSSANT: Dr Wendy Cunningham (Lead Economist, Human Capital Project, World Bank)

DATE: 03 July 2024 **TIME:** 15:00 - 16:30 SAST **PLATFORM:** Zoom

Please register to join on this link: https://zoom.us/join/joiner/register/NVh_Ml6cQJ0FQLuVR0S_?qjv=1

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Webinar 5: Pan-African research-policy emergence on Ageing in the Youngest Region

Date: 22 August 2024

Summary: Just more than twenty years ago, the first African Union (AU) Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (AUPFPAA) sought to capture, raise awareness of and propose solutions to what were then considered key challenges of aging in the continent (AU, 2003). In July 2022, the Executive Council of the AU adopted a revised AUPFPAA, taking into account the immense change in the social, economic, physical, environmental, cultural and political contexts and available technologies that have unfolded since 2002. On 22 August 2024, The University of Johannesburg's SARChI Chair in Welfare and Social Development, TAFTA and the CSDA hosted a webinar titled Pan-African Research – Policy Emergence on Ageing in the Youngest Region. Professor Jaco Hoffman's (Professor of Gerontology, Optentia Research Unit, North-West University) presentation is a coming-of-age celebration of research and policy development on ageing in parts of the continent but also a call to action regarding the still existing gaps in a research/policy endeavour towards a critical home-grown Gerontology in Africa. This webinar was an outcome of the two-day symposium hosted by the SARChI Chair in Welfare and Social Development, The Association for The Aged and the CSDA and aimed to allow researchers, students, social work practitioners, policymakers and civil society organisations to dialogue and share experiences and insights regarding enhancing the holistic care and well-being of older persons in South Africa and the continent.

Panel participants: Professor Jaco Hoffman (Professor of Gerontology, Optentia Research Unit, North-West University) and Professor Tanusha Raniga (Interim DSTI/NRF Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development)



Just more than twenty years ago, the first African Union (AU) Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (AUPFPAA) sought to capture, raise awareness of and propose solutions to what were then considered key challenges of aging in the continent (AU, 2003). In July 2022, the Executive Council of the AU adopted a revised AUPFPAA, taking into account the immense change in the social, economic, physical, environmental, cultural and political contexts and available technologies that have unfolded since 2002.

The University of Johannesburg's SARChI Chair in Welfare and Social Development at the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) in collaboration with North-West University (NWU) and SAGA - South African Gerontological Association invite you to a webinar titled:

Pan-African research-policy emergence on Ageing in the Youngest Region

This presentation is a coming-of-age celebration of research and policy development on ageing in parts of the continent but also a call to action regarding the still existing gaps in a research/policy endeavour towards a critical home-grown Gerontology in Africa.

This webinar is an outcome of the two-day symposium hosted by the SARChI Chair in Welfare and Social Development and is jointly hosted by The Association for The Aged and CSDA.

PRESENTER: Professor Jaco Hoffman (Professor of Gerontology, Optentia Research Unit, North-West University)

CHAIR: Prof Tanusha Raniga (Interim DSTI/NRF Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development, CSDA, University of Johannesburg)

DATE: 20 August 2024 **TIME:** 14:00 - 15:30 SAST **FORMAT:** Virtual **Please register to join HERE**

We welcome you to this online webinar which will give researchers, students, social work practitioners, policymakers and civil society organisations the opportunity to dialogue and share experiences and insights regarding enhancing the holistic care and well-being of older persons in South Africa and the continent.

We warrant that the University of Johannesburg recognises various cultures and languages and has endeavoured to ensure that suitable and appropriate translation, captioning and interpretation services are available for persons with hearing or vision impairments. We warrant that the University of Johannesburg will ensure that the content of the webinar is accessible to persons with hearing or vision impairments.

The CSDA is celebrating 20 Years of Transformative Research and Innovation: Shaping Social Development in South Africa and Beyond



ICSD Working Paper Series

The International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) is an organisation consisting of practitioners, scholars and students who aim to bring about social improvement in the lives of people and their communities. The ICSD has three international branches, the most recent addition being the Africa branch, of which Prof Lauren Graham is the chair. The Africa Branch was launched at [the 22nd ICSD biennial conference](#) held in South Africa, July 2021. This year, the ICSD Africa Branch aimed to showcase and promote the work of social development scholars, practitioners and policymakers in Africa as part of a working paper series of webinars:

- Webinar 1: *Critical analysis of Vision 2030 on social development in Zimbabwe* by Dr Dominic Uzhenyu, Senior lecturer, Graduate School of Business, Faculty of Commerce, Zimbabwe Open University.
- Webinar 2: *Women Empowerment for Household and Community Food Security in the Context of Climate Change in Africa* by Prof Angeline Mulwa, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

5.3 Media Engagement

This year the CSDA team engaged extensively with media to influence public debate on key social development issues. In total, the CSDA generated about R10.2 million in Advertising Value Equivalence for the university. This amount includes both solicited and unsolicited media engagements. Some of the highlights included Prof Leila Patel's [Research Brief: Factors Determining Voter Choice in South Africa's 2024 National General Elections](#). When the CSDA released this research, it was very well received by the media and was featured across a range of publications, including [The Conversation](#) and [Daily Maverick](#) and many interviews were conducted with Prof Patel on [SAFM](#), [Newzroom Africa](#) and [SABC News](#) reaching over 29 million viewers and readers. Prof Lauren Graham was also interviewed on [SAFM](#) and [eNCA](#) to talk more about the report, specifically the youth vote.

Dr Anthony Kaziboni produced articles about his work in water insecurity in South Africa. An op-ed for the [Daily Maverick](#), "[Full of holes — the leaky water bill won't solve SA's service delivery crisis](#)". And an article in [The Conversation](#) [The lack of water in South Africa is the result](#)

of a long history of injustice – and legislation should start there. He was also interviewed on [Newzroom Africa](#) about this article.

Dr Kaziboni also co-authored an op-ed in the *Daily Maverick* "[GNU must prioritise empowering whistle-blowers and strengthening anti-corruption fight](#)" which explores how the GNU can prioritise whistleblower empowerment and strengthen the fight against corruption.

The Communities of Practice for Child Wellbeing project also delivered important community engagement outcomes with four press releases issued and an article about how depression and domestic violence impacted school children during COVID-19 pandemic published in [Times Live](#). [Channel Africa](#) interviewed Prof Leila Patel and Prof Jace Pillay (National Research Foundation Research Chair in Education and Care in Childhood) and one of the school principals involved in the project about the CoP project's findings.



6. Publications

6.1 Journal Articles Published in 2024

1. Abdullah, A., Cudjoe, E., Bastian, C., & **Jordan, L.P.** (2024). Passing the torch or breaking a cycle of intergenerational transmission of child labour: Reflections from the lived experiences of children. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 157, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107430>
2. **Ajefu, J.B.**, Uchenna, E., Singh, N., & Ali, S.Z. (2024). Women's Inheritance Rights and Child Health Outcomes in Kenya. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 45 (1), 137-150. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-023-09895-y>
3. **Ajefu, J.B.**, Uchenna, E., Adeoye, L., Davidson, I., & Agbawn, M.O. (2024). Exploring how mobile money adoption affects nutrition and household food security. *Journal of International Development*, 36 (5), <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3920>
4. Ayres, T.C., **Levine, D.**, Anderson, C., Moss, K., Kerrigan, D., Ifill, M., Adams, E., Austin, N., Cameron, Q., Halliwell, M., Jackson, S., Pilgrim, K., Toner, D., Warren, K. (2024). Doing transdisciplinary research in Guyana's prisons. *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/hojo.12577>
5. Chen, S. , Hanewald, K., Si, Y., Bateman, H., **Li, B.**, Xu, X., Samtani, S., Wu, C., & Brodaty, H. (2024). Social Environment, Lifestyle, and Genetic Predisposition With Dementia Risk: A Long-Term Longitudinal Study Among Older Adults. *Journals of Gerontology - Series A Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, 79 (7), <https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/qlae128>
6. Chiba, J., & **Patel, L.** (2024). Lessons from a pilot study of a 'cash plus' family intervention for child support grant recipients in South Africa. *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*, <https://doi.org/10.15270/60-4-1399>
7. Eruyar, S., Hunt, S., O'Reilly, M., Alowaybil, R., & **Vostanis, P.** (2024). Responsiveness of support systems to address refugee young people's mental health needs: Stakeholder perspectives from Turkey and the UK. *International Journal of Mental Health*, 53 (3), <https://doi.org/10.1080/00207411.2022.2123697>

8. Fu, Y., Jampaklay, A., Chow, C., & **Jordan, L.P.** (2024). Gendered outcomes of parental migration on Thai youth's transitions to adulthood: a longitudinal perspective. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 50 (16), <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2328578>
9. Gunhidzirai, C., & **Patel, L.** (2024). Poly-Victimisation and Health Risk Behaviors amongst Street Children in Zimbabwe. *Social Work and Society*, 22 (1), pp. 1-15.
10. **Haffejee, S., Simelane, T.M., Mwanda, A.** (2024). South African COVID-19 school closures: Impact on children and families *South African Journal of Childhood Education*, 14 (1), <https://doi.org/10.4102/sajce.v14i1.1415>
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6.2 Published Book Chapters

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