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SECTION A

GENERAL INFORMATION





The NIHSS was formed after an extensive investigation and consultative process in 2010 and 2011 revealed that the humanities and social sciences (HSS) in South Africa needed revitalisation and renewal to reverse declines in university enrolments, graduation rates, research output and funding. This investigation culminated in the HSS Charter of 2011 which recommended, among other things, that a national institute be established to enhance and support the HSS in South Africa and beyond and to advise the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on HSS matters.

Now in its sixth year, the NIHSS is a publicly funded organisation that works with higher education partners to fund, mentor and support over 600 PhD students, facilitate catalytic research within a post-apartheid and post-colonial frame, support international research collaborations and coordinate South Africa's academic contributions to BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

A STATUTORY BODY

The Institute was formally established on 13 December 2013 in terms of Section 38C of the Higher Education Act, No 101 of 1997. Its mandate, governance, functions, name and structures were set out in the NIHSS regulations contained in Government Gazette

No 37118 of 5 December 2013. Other legislation that influences the NIHSS is the Skills Development Act No 97 of 1998.

Although publicly funded, the NIHSS is not legally governed by the Public Finance Management Act, No 1 of 1999, as it is not listed within National Treasury's schedule of public entities. However, the Institute has chosen to adopt certain prescripts of the PFMA for the purposes of best practice.

The NIHSS has two sources of funding. Its operational budget and SABTT activities are fully funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, while the National Skills Fund uses designated funds to support the Institute's academic programmes. These are the NIHSS Doctoral Schools and Scholarship Programme, Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs and Working Groups.

NIHSS MANDATE

The NIHSS's core mandate of funding and facilitating PhD programmes, catalytic research and international research collaborations was expanded in 2015 when it became the custodian of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), responsible for coordinating and managing South Africa's involvement in BRICS academic activities and fostering research collaborations between South Africa, other African countries and countries of the Global South.

VISION AND MISSION

The vision of the Institute is of a new HSS that is at the epicentre of scholarship, pedagogy, community practice and social responsibility in Africa. Complementing this vision is the NIHSS mission to redress existing deficits and to fund, coordinate and convene academic and research programmes, projects, collaborations and activities in the HSS disciplines within and through South African public universities.

CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The NIHSS creates value by enabling PhD scholarship, serving as a catalyst for change in research and facilitating international research collaborations:

1

Enabling PhD scholarship

This entails building capacity and growing the number of doctoral students (via scholarships) in the HSS through:

- NIHSS National Mentorship Programme
- African Pathways Programme
- Mobility Grants

2

Serving as a catalyst for change in research

The Institute increases the scale and quality of HSS research outputs, fast-tracks research in new areas, strengthens previously neglected HSS disciplines and changes the way the HSS produce knowledge.

The vehicles for this are:

- Catalytic Research Projects
- Working Groups
- Professional Associations
- Humanities Hubs

3

International research collaboration

The NIHSS forges collaborations on the continent and between developing economies, networking South African researchers with researchers in the Global South through the BRICS programme and other international collaborations.

SHARED GUIDING PRINCIPLES

When conceptualising, convening and implementing academic programmes and projects, the NIHSS adheres to five guiding principles:

1

Cooperation and the establishment of communities of scholarship – The Institute works across organisational and disciplinary boundaries to establish communities of collaborating scholars.

2

Norm-driven internationalisation – The NIHSS is open to dialogue with its Northern counterparts but focuses specifically on strengthening Africa-wide South-South collaborations.

3

Social responsibility and equity – The Institute is mindful that research and development funded with taxpayers' money should have value to society and respond to the socio-economic problems that face South Africa and its citizens today.

4

Functional differentiation as opposed to resource differentiation – Rather than preserving a higher education and research system differentiated based on research inequality, the NIHSS provides opportunities to eradicate resource inequality and encourages differentiation in priorities and visions to cater for diversity.

5

Transformative relevance – The NIHSS works unrelentingly to open new areas of research, which in turn have a multiplier effect on future research projects and serious transformative implications for the curriculum in the humanities and social sciences.



INTERNAL VALUES

RESPECT

- Demonstrating confidence in the abilities of others.
- Treating all colleagues and others the way we expect them to treat us.
- Not discriminating against others.

TEAMWORK

- Placing the needs of our stakeholders above our individual needs.
- Achieving maximum value from shared resources, knowledge and expertise.
- Participating and contributing in a flexible, supportive manner.

EXCELLENCE

- Setting high standards in whatever we do.
- Aiming to do the best in everything we do.
- Delivering quality work.

UBUNTU (HUMANITY)

- Building a working environment that is based on unity, kindness, equity, empathy and positive reciprocity.

CREATIVITY

- Demonstrating a "can-do" attitude.
- Encouraging and recognising innovation and creativity.
- Continually seeking new or better ways of doing things.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Holding each other accountable regardless of hierarchy (rank).
- Being responsible for every task at hand.
- Respecting deadlines, timelines and workflow.
- Taking ownership of one's actions and consequences both good and bad.

INTEGRITY

- Doing what we say we will do.
- Speaking the truth and being fair in how we judge others.
- Displaying openness and honesty.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Institute's structure consists of three units: the Academic Portfolio, Operations Portfolio and the Executive Office.

The Academic Portfolio is the largest organisational unit and is responsible for the Institute's academic, research and international programmes.

The Operations Portfolio provides administrative, financial, supply chain management, information technology, marketing and communication, human resources and legal services.

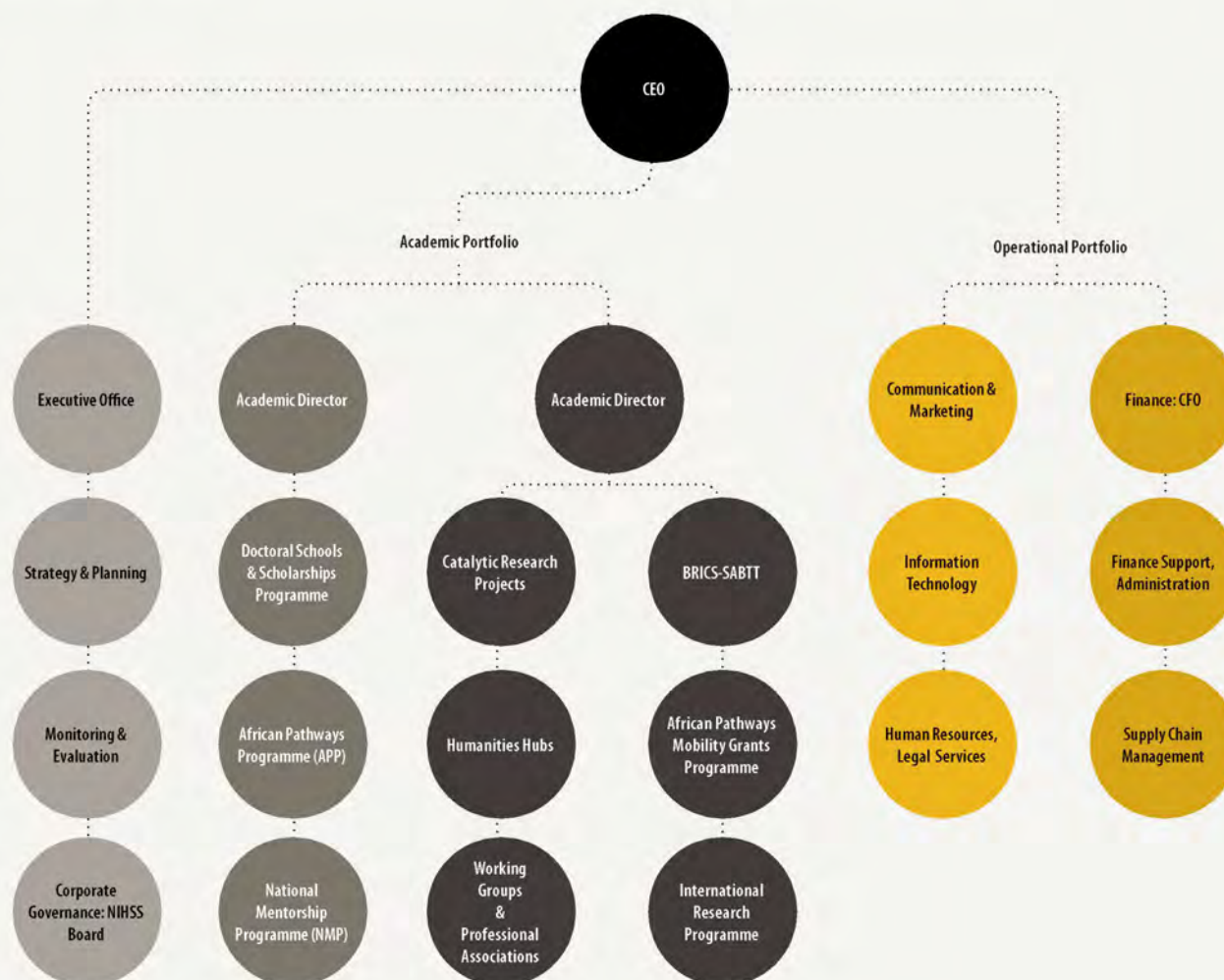
The Executive Office is responsible for strategy and planning, monitoring and evaluation and corporate governance support to the NIHSS Board.

All three units report directly to the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, who is accountable to the Board for the performance of the NIHSS.

OPERATING CONTEXT

Change and fluidity are inherent characteristics of the South African higher education sector, which in many respects mirrors and often amplifies the dynamics in the broader society, particularly its persisting inequalities, polarisation and politicisation, extreme resource constraints and escalating pressure for fundamental change. Injecting a further layer of complexity to this already potent mix was the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, throwing academic programmes into disarray and forcing higher education role players to engage in a complete rethink of their *modus operandi*.

This operating context calls for considerable agility to navigate and the NIHSS is fortunate to possess that, not only by virtue of being a lean, young organisation but because its very establishment in 2013 was rooted in an understanding of a society in transition and the commitment to being part of its transformation. As an organisation that is itself already transformed, from the composition of its workforce to the research it supports, the scholars it funds and the debates it stimulates, the Institute is not an entity on the outside looking in but one grounded in the realities of a country – and continent – striving for equity and social justice.



NIHSS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES





Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande
Minister of Higher Education,
Science and Innovation



Mr Buti Manamela
Deputy Minister of Higher
Education, Science and Innovation



**higher education
& training**

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

It was a pleasure reading through the final draft of the Institute's Report. The Institute achieved 84% of its targets in and through one of the worst pandemics imaginable. The failure to reach 100% was entirely out of its hands.

Spare a thought of thirty or so dedicated people, unable to access the office, some getting the virus and others standing in for them and somehow in unison delivering remarkable results.

What is particularly pleasing for the Board is also the fact that the Institute has received yet another clean audit as year in and year out all tasks are performed with admirable fiduciary diligence.

More than pleasing is the statutory 5 Year Report which is now in and has vindicated the hard work of establishing a new institution and delivering real value to the humanities and the social sciences in the country. It will soon be a public document and a springboard for the re-thinking of priorities for the next decade. This will happen in parallel to serious re-thinking in the entire science and innovation landscape with hopefully a positive outcome for all the epistemic fields in the country.

On behalf of the Board I would also like to thank Professor Sarah Mosoetsa for her stewardship of the organisation and its splendid results. I am delighted that finally the Courts have ruled to her and the Institute's favour around a range of baseless and hurtful accusations about fabricated misdeeds of corruption. We would also like to thank her and our teams for responding to the pandemic together with other entities of the Department of Science and Innovation to buttress evidence-based, deep research on the effects of the pandemic on vulnerable communities that helped to inform decision making in these difficult times.

The times have been difficult indeed as there was no week where we did not have to mark the passing away of remarkable colleagues and students, the latest of whom, Prof Bheki Peterson who worked so hard behind the scenes to help the Institute distil quality and commitment. Part of this was the high quality of our awardees who are once more celebrated for their critical and engaging scholarship.

Please read the report with care and stay assured, the humanities and the social sciences are in fine fettle.

Take care in these testing times.

Emeritus Professor Ari Sitas, OMS
Board Chairperson

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On the eve of the 2020/21 financial year, the President of the Republic of South Africa declared a state of disaster for the country and various lockdown regulations were immediately implemented to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The 2020/21 financial year became one of the most unprecedented periods in recent history and in the higher education landscape, it was also one of the most invigorating for the humanities and social sciences (HSS).

Yes, research, teaching and community engagement “as usual” were out of the question while universities and spaces of work – and communities – were locked down, yet out of that hiatus came something new. The HSS community in South Africa embraced the shifting context of teaching, research, reflection and engagement in the time of Covid-19 to come up with innovative ways of knowing and learning.

From the vantage point of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), the constant theme of the year was innovation and growth despite – or perhaps because of – challenge and change.

Innovation and growth were apparent across the pillars of our programmes and, by extension, across the HSS community in South Africa since we work with over 20 public universities and other HSS academic and research organisations.

Doctoral studies, which are the focus of the Institute’s academic mandate, are a lonely, solitary undertaking and when social and physical distancing and restrictions on travel are added to that, the journey can be devastatingly isolating. Knowing this, the Institute could not allow the year to go by without hosting critical camaraderie-building and knowledge-sharing academic events on which our PhD students rely, such as the Annual National Doctoral Conference (ANDC).



Doctoral students were not alone

In November 2020, we used a “hybrid” conference model that combined a core physical venue and virtual technology to concurrently host not one but three flagship events: the ANDC, with 34 parallel sessions, 200 delegates and paper presentations; our inaugural HSS Alumni Conference for 42 delegates; and six Encounters sessions with prize-winning authors and an artist. For the first time, the Encounters were open to members of the public, who could attend online, giving practical effect to our commitment to make the HSS more and more accessible.

In addition to these national academic gatherings, PhD students had access to ongoing regional support. I am proud of how our Doctoral Schools responded to the imperative to support students differently during the pandemic, not only by using technology but also by mobilising a most precious resource – NIHSS alumni who have already completed their doctoral journey.

Alumni responded in their numbers to the clarion call to contribute to the success of our current PhD students, demonstrating the value of the investment made in their own development and their desire to be part of service to upcoming generations of HSS scholars.

To these alumni and the Doctoral School mentors who initiated this innovation, thank you most sincerely. It is this level of collaboration that helped make it possible for over 90 NIHSS-funded students to complete their PhDs amid the turbulence of 2020/21, bringing the six-year total for graduations to 323.

Pedagogy in troubled times

Within their own disciplines, HSS academics – many of them associated with the Institute as mentors, alumni, PhD students or representatives of partner organisations – thought deeply on ways to continue teaching subjects that seem unteachable without at least some level of face-to-face interaction and communal learning.

Music is but one example. "...The physicality of instruments like the piano is key! The student has to touch the keys of a real instrument to learn. Our students simply have no pianos wherever they are," wrote Thembela Vokwana, a lecturer in the Music Department at the University of Fort Hare in an article in *Covid-19: Humanities and Social Sciences Responds*, a collection of over 40 pandemic essays written by HSS scholars and published by the Institute during 2020/21.

Intractable though the lack of physical instruments might seem in the teaching and learning of music, Thembeka has proposed solutions to this and other musicology conundrums related to a pandemic and other essayists have similarly suggested ways to overcome obstacles that Covid-19 posed in teaching their own disciplines or in their research or community engagement work. This collection is testimony to the contribution that the HSS can make to the solving of educational, socio-economic and existential challenges of our country, challenges that were and continue to be, brought to the fore in a global health emergency.

Doing research differently

Throughout 2020/21, the Institute had occasion to marvel at how researchers from the different universities with which we work rose to the challenge of doing research differently.

In pre-pandemic days, qualitative research was the preferred model in the HSS as it was perceived to be best suited to

explaining the complexities of the phenomena studied, such as inequality and gender-based violence. Yet, aware of the need to be agile in understanding the effects of Covid-19 on our society and particularly on vulnerable people and communities, the HSS community embraced quantitative and collaborative research and community engagement methodologies.

Leading by example, the Institute initiated its ongoing "Townships" study on the impact of the pandemic on households in Alexandra, Diepsloot, Soweto, Khayelitsha and uMlazi. As a starting off point, we analysed gender-based trends in economic, social and political impact of the pandemic, exploring household dynamics, livelihoods, childcare responsibilities and income distribution and spending (see page 41).

In addition, we initiated a second quantitative Covid-19 research study, this time in collaboration with the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL), on the impact of the pandemic on religious communities. This multidisciplinary study is notable not only for its subject matter – religious activity having been an enormously disrupted, highly emotive domain throughout the course of the pandemic – but also for its innovative approach to collaboration. Where HSS research partnerships are customarily between universities, this one breaks the mould by going beyond the conventional university-to-university model to explore different stakeholder collaborations.

Also doing things differently, some of the leaders of our Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hubs explored channels not traditionally used in academia to reach out to fellow scholars and members of the public, including webinars, YouTube and interactive websites.

“ This evaluation found that the overall performance of the NIHSS vis-à-vis its mandate and key performance areas in its first five years of operation has been excellent. Their achievements are notable given the initial contestation and apprehension in the higher education community regarding such issues as competition for limited funding opportunities, mandate encroachment and perceived limits of scholarly independence of the institute due to its location in the Ministry of Higher Education and Training. ”

(NIHSS Five-year Independent Review Panel, March 2021)

Among them was the Humanities Hub at Wits University's Origins Centre, which focuses on the history of early humans in Africa and began developing an augmented reality application that will enable the public to interact with its Rock Engraving Archive from home. The Liliesleaf Humanities Hub, in collaboration with the Institute, progressed with its web-based version of the *Thatched Cottage* mobile exhibit, which will require visitors to piece together fragments of the liberation struggle journey, approaching the exhibition from the perspective of a detective or journalist rather than a passive spectator.

Creative gems are treasures worthy of the public's attention

Innovation and growth were also prominent themes of the 2021 Annual HSS Awards: Book, Creative Collections and Digital Contributions, which the Institute hosted from Maropeng, the Cradle of Humankind, on the last day of the financial year, 31 March 2021.

This was the sixth edition of the awards, which celebrate the depth and dynamism of the intellectual creativity of South Africa's literary and arts landscape – in an age where social media shorthand and reality television shows have become the order of the day. But these creative intellectual works do not exist in splendid isolation at one end of a literary and artistic continuum, appealing only to a niche and ever-shrinking audience. Far from it. These are works with the potential to be appreciated by a wide and diverse range of readers, listeners and viewers – if only they were aware of the treasures awaiting their discovery.

To date, the HSS Awards have adjudicated over the literary merit of over 350 fiction and non-fiction books and more than 120 digital and creative pursuits, including digital humanities, musical composition/arrangement, performance and visual art.

Bringing these gems to the attention of the broader public is one of the two main aims of the annual HSS Awards (the other being

to pay tribute to the exceptional authors, artists and performers who created them). It is a task gradually becoming easier as the Awards grow in reach and stature and this sixth edition, the 2021 HSS Awards, takes this task another step forward. The works entered and recognised are skilfully crafted, captivating for their originality and highly relevant to the life and times of a country wrestling with its past, present and future.

In their own inimitable ways, the 11 award-winners for 2021 are trailblazers for transformation and knowledge creation in South Africa, having been among the first in their fields to tackle certain topics. Jamil Khan, author of *Khamr*:

The Makings of a Waterslams, writes about the shaming of queer Coloured Muslims in Cape Town. In her debut novel

Scatterlings, Rešoketšwe Manenzhe writes about black South African women in a "somewhat forgotten time" in history, the period from 1912 to 1927. Professor Ashwin Desai's book, *Wentworth: The Beautiful Game and the Making of Place*, is believed to be the first that attempts to document the history of an area designated "Coloured" in the late 1950s. The dance festival, Virtual JOMBA!, was staged entirely on a digital platform and offered free online. We pay tribute to all 11 award winners on pages 53 to 63 of this report.

“These challenges notwithstanding, the findings suggest that in the first five years of its operation, the NIHSS not only established itself as a fully functional institution, but also built its legitimacy in the higher education and research sector. Its overall achievements in several of its goals have been remarkable and in some cases, have exceeded expectations.”

(NIHSS Five-year Independent Review Panel, March 2021)

A house in order

While pressing ahead with the mandate of the NIHSS, which is to revitalise and transform the humanities and social sciences by facilitating doctoral scholarship, catalytic research, international research collaborations and representing South Africa at academic activities of the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS), the Institute ensured its own house was in order.

Despite the disruption brought about by the pandemic, the Institute succeeded in meeting 84% of the key performance targets set in its 2020/21 Annual Performance Plan. The only targets missed were those related to delays in the Institute

receiving allocated funding from the National Skills Fund or intended to respond to the findings of the independent evaluation panel appointed by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande, to conduct a five-year review of the NIHSS. As the panel submitted its report to the Minister at the end of the financial year, these targets will have to be addressed once the Minister has had the opportunity to consider the recommendations it contains as to the future direction of the NIHSS.

In the meantime, we note with appreciation the review panel's main findings, forwarded to the Institute by the Minister and attesting to the strategic impact the Institute has had and the fundamental soundness of the organisation and its academic programmes, governance and operations.

Some of the key findings of the review panel are that in its first five years, the NIHSS:

- Established itself as a fully functional institution and built its legitimacy in the higher education sector;
- Developed significant partnerships and collaborations in the sector, gradually raised the status of the HSS in the public sphere and created new opportunities for students and academics who had been marginalised.
- Developed a new generation of scholars through a structured PhD mentoring and support programme, with a creditable throughput rate of 55%, an attrition rate of 2.24% and completion times of three to four years, compared to the global average of four to five years and national rate of five years. Approximately 68% of its PhD scholarships were awarded to African students, of whom 36% were African women;
- Has set up international research collaborations with the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) and, as host to the South African BRICS Think Tank and the country's representative on the BRICS Think Tank Council, facilitated international research collaborations, seminars, workshops and conferences, ultimately contributing to HSS scholarship and policy influence.

In respect of governance, the evaluation panel commented favourably on the leadership and oversight capabilities of the NIHSS Board and Board committees, as well as the Institute's

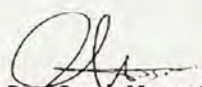
stakeholder-inclusive strategy that balances the needs, interests and expectations of material stakeholders with the best interests of the organisation. The panel also found that the NIHSS had performed well in limiting and addressing expenditure that is irregular, unauthorised or fruitless and wasteful and had received unqualified audit opinions from the Auditor-General of South Africa throughout the five-year period of the review.

On that score, the AGSA audited the NIHSS's 2020/21 financial statements and again issued an unqualified audit opinion with no findings, also known as a "clean audit". It is a feather in the Institute's cap to have received five consecutive clean audits since 2016/17.

Appreciation

The results the Institute achieved in 2020/21 were the fruits of a combined effort that was not derailed by the disruption precipitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. On behalf of the NIHSS management team, I extend my appreciation to Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande for his unwavering support for the humanities and social science, to the NIHSS Board for its wisdom and astuteness and to our partners, SAHUDA, CASS and the ICSSR, for being part of our journey to elevate HSS scholarship.

I wish to thank our mentors for always being there for our PhD students, our research project leaders for their commitment to the HSS and our alumni for their willingness to continue the relationship with the Institute and the students following in their footsteps. Finally, I wish to extend heartfelt gratitude to the small but formidable staff of the NIHSS, without whom the achievements of 2020/21 would not have been possible.



Prof Sarah Mosoetsa
Chief Executive Officer

SECTION B

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE 2020/21

"Reboot Eden", the 2020 online puppetry production comprised a series of four 20-minute, pre-recorded puppetry performances, part of the NIHSS Laboratory of Kinetic Objects Humanities Hub project. Many projects shifted their activities and outputs to online, digital spaces, as part of adapting to Covid-19 regulations.

The Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape in Partnership with Net vir Pret present:

Reboot Eden Celebrating 10 Years of Puppetry in Barrydale

The Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape in partnership with Net vir Pret are celebrating 10 years of puppetry in Barrydale. Reboot Eden will be an online show of four new puppet performances to be streamed between the 16th-19th December 2020.

Starting some of the most loved giant puppets created over the 10 years by the Handspring Trust for Puppetry Arts, CHR artists in residence, the Ukwanda Puppet Company and Net vir Pret, a program of old and new puppetry performances will be streamed on various online platforms.

The 16th December will also be the launch of the long awaited musical album Celebration: 10 years of the Barrydale Puppet Parade.

16th-19th December



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE 2020/21

With a full five years behind it, the NIHSS entered the first year of its next five-year cycle, signalling a new phase in its ongoing efforts to place the humanities and social sciences at the epicentres of scholarship, pedagogy, community practice and social responsibility in Africa.

In a sense, the 2020/21 was the bridge between the first phase and the next, as it coincided with an independent review of the Institute's performance and impact in its first five years.

This review and the actions expected to flow from it, including the Institute's Decadal Plan, constitute the substance of the first of the six strategic objectives set for the NIHSS in the 2020/21 financial year.

The remaining five strategic objectives deal with the academic and research-facilitating initiatives of the Institute and its role as the custodian of the South African BRICS Think Tank.

1

Strategic objective

Assure a sustainable return on the investment made in the humanities and social sciences.

2

Strategic objective

Advance postgraduate scholarship through a range of innovations.

3

Strategic objective

Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hubs.

4

Strategic objective

Promote the integrity, reputation and recognition of the humanities and social sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society.

5

Strategic objective

Foster international research collaborations between South Africa, Africa and countries of the Global South, including Brazil, India and China.

6

Strategic objective

Act as a dynamic knowledge broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa as the South African BRICS Think Tank.



A circular portrait of a middle-aged Black man with a receding hairline, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is sitting at a desk with his hands clasped in front of him. On the desk are a pair of glasses, a pen, and some papers. In the background, there is a computer monitor displaying a document with the text "100 DO" and some handwritten notes. The portrait is set against a black background with a pattern of white and yellow dots.

DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

20 publications emanated from doctoral theses.

Of the **84%** of annual targets met, **48%** were exceeded

30 new postdoctoral fellowships were awarded in 2020/21, boosting the number of fellowships to 34.

A collage of various book covers related to African literature and postcolonial studies, arranged in a circular pattern. The covers include titles like 'AFRICAN VOICES', 'THE BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS READER', 'LIBERATION MOVEMENTS', 'Safari Nation', 'OBURG NOIR', 'MIRIAM TILALI', and 'AFRICAN VOICES IN SEARCH OF A DECOLONIAL TURN'. The collage is set against a dark background with a large white number '4' and the text 'le' on the right side.

In addition, **13** research outputs flowed from the five BRICS and international collaborative research projects undertaken with NIHSS funding.

RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED



8

Humanities
Hubs

15

international
mobility grants



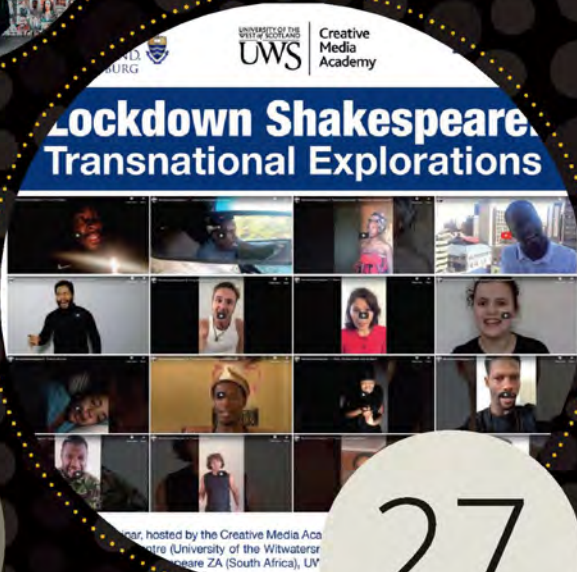
7

new professional
association
projects



11

BRICS cluster projects

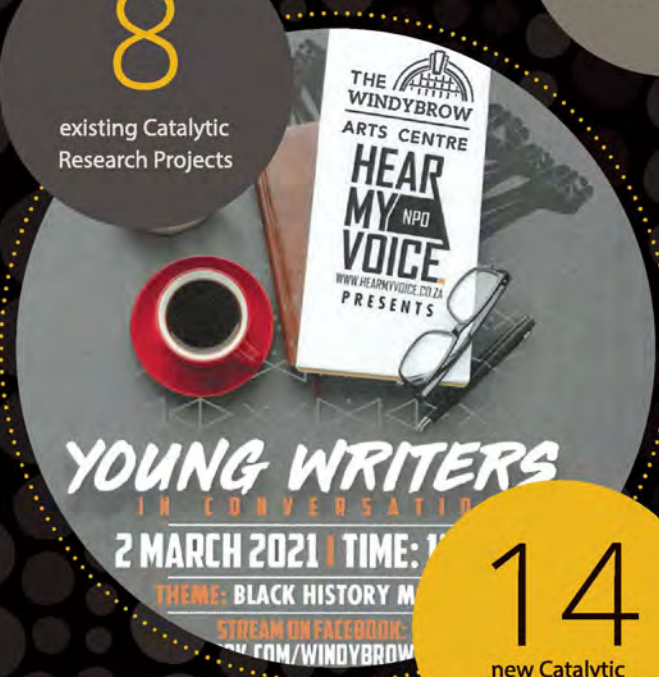


27

Working
Groups

8

existing Catalytic
Research Projects



14

new Catalytic
Research Projects

ACADEMIC EVENTS SUPPORTED

Project leaders and collaborators hosted conferences, seminars, colloquiums and other academic events.

21

4 national dialogues, colloquiums and policy discussions hosted or co-hosted by the NIHSS

9 international conferences, seminars and workshops were hosted or co-hosted on behalf of the South African BRICS Think Tank.



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1. Performance overview for the 2020/21 financial year

Strategic objective	No	Key performance indicator (KPI)	Actual 2019/20	Annual FY target 2020/21	Actual YTD 2020/21	Actual Q1 2020/21	Actual Q2 2020/21	Actual Q3 2020/21	Actual Q4 2020/21	Actual % 2020/21	Comment
1. Assure a sustainable return on the investment made in the Humanities and social sciences	1.1	Strategic review of the impact of the first 5 years	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	100%	Target achieved.
	1.2	The Institute's decadal plan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	Target not achieved due to pending adoption of the recommendations of the 5-Year Strategic Evaluation.
	1.3	Comprehensive risk assessment and analyse gaps in the context of the 2011 charter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	Target not achieved due to pending adoption of the recommendations of the 5-Year Strategic Evaluation.
	1.4	2025 business plan and contingency measures	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0%	Target not achieved due to pending adoption of the recommendations of the 5-Year Strategic Evaluation.
2. Advance postgraduate scholarship through a range of innovations	2.1	Number of NIHSS-SAHUDA scholarships	New indicator	50	50	0	0	0	50	100%	Target achieved.
	2.2	Number of NIHSS-funded South African doctoral students monitored by the NIHSS in the humanities and social sciences	578 monitored	578 monitored	578 monitored	578 monitored	533 monitored	470 monitored	578 monitored	100%	Target achieved.
	2.3	Number of NIHSS-funded non-South African doctoral students monitored by the NIHSS in the humanities and social sciences.	111 monitored	111 monitored	111 monitored	111 monitored	103 monitored	101 monitored	111 monitored	100%	Target achieved.

Strategic objective	No	Key performance indicator (KPI)	Actual 2019/20	Annual FY target 2020/21	Actual YTD 2020/21	Actual Q1 2020/21	Actual Q2 2020/21	Actual Q3 2020/21	Actual Q4 2020/21	Actual % 2020/21	Comment
	2.4	Throughput rate on total funded SAHUDA PhDs by March 2020.	181 graduated	318	70 PhDs graduated. (251 cumulative)	28 PhDs graduated	12 PhDs graduated.	20 PhDs graduated	10 PhDs graduated	79%	Target not achieved due to the slow progress of students as a result of numerous challenges they experienced. 70 graduated in 2020/21 FY. A sizeable number of students are in the writing-up phase and expected to complete in 2021/22.
	2.5	Throughput rate on total funded CODESRIA PhDs by March 2020.	48 graduated	61	24 PhDs graduated 72 PhDs cumulative	11 PhDs graduated	3 PhDs graduated.	4 PhDs graduated	6 PhDs graduated	118%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	2.6	Number of NIHSS-funded South African post-doctoral fellows monitored by the NIHSS in the humanities and social sciences.	4 monitored New indicator	34	3 monitored 30 new	4 monitored -	3 monitored 10 new	3 monitored 18 new	3 monitored 3 new	100% 100%	Target achieved.
	2.7	Number of mentors appointed by the NIHSS to support Doctoral Schools and ultimately enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS doctoral students	13	12	13	8	2	3	-	108%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Strategic objective	No	Key performance indicator (KPI)	Actual 2019/20	Annual FY target 2020/21	Actual YTD 2020/21	Actual Q1 2020/21	Actual Q2 2020/21	Actual Q3 2020/21	Actual Q4 2020/21	Actual % 2020/21	Comment
	2.8	Number of regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS Doctoral Schools to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded doctoral students	33	12	37	3	10	12	12	258%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	2.9	NIHSS-hosted Annual National Doctoral conference as an innovation to advance postgraduate scholarship	1	1	2	-	0	2	-	200%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	2.10	Number of doctoral theses to be converted into publications, contributing further to the HSS	New indicator	3 university press publishers 15 publication outputs	2 university press publishers 20 publication outputs	2 university press publishers 3 progress reports	0		20 publication outputs	133%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
3. Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hubs	3.1	NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects monitored	12	7 monitored	8 monitored	4 monitored	2 monitored	5 monitored	2 monitored	114%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	3.2	13 new Catalytic Research Projects awarded and monitored	New indicator	13	14	0	0	14 awarded	14 monitored	108%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	3.3	NIHSS Humanities Hubs monitored	6 monitored	8 monitored	8 monitored	5 monitored	4 monitored	3 monitored	5 monitored	100%	Target achieved.

Strategic objective	No	Key performance indicator (KPI)	Actual 2019/20	Annual FY target 2020/21	Actual YTD 2020/21	Actual Q1 2020/21	Actual Q2 2020/21	Actual Q3 2020/21	Actual Q4 2020/21	Actual % 2020/21	Comment
	3.4	The number of research outputs in the humanities and social sciences produced by the Catalytic Research and Humanities Hubs project leaders and collaborators	52	40	46	11	5	10	20	115%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	3.5	Number of conferences, workshops, colloquium and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded projects leaders and collaborators	20	10	21	5	3	6	7	210%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
4. Promote the integrity, reputation and recognition of the humanities and social sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society	4.1	Number of Working Groups, professional organisations and associations funded by the NIHSS.	28	15	27	7	0	14	6	187%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	4.2	Number of Professional Associations funded by the NIHSS.	New indicator	5	7	0	0	6	1	140%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	4.3	NIHSS Annual Awards Ceremony held to recognise individuals within the higher education's community contribution to HSS.	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	100%	Target achieved.



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Strategic objective	No	Key performance indicator (KPI)	Actual 2019/20	Annual FY target 2020/21	Actual YTD 2020/21	Actual Q1 2020/21	Actual Q2 2020/21	Actual Q3 2020/21	Actual Q4 2020/21	Actual % 2020/21	Comment
	4.4	Number of colloquiums/ conferences, Humanities Encounters hosted or co-hosted by the NIHSS to create, foster and maintain a culture of collaborative scholarship	2	2	9	0	2	6	1	450%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
5. Foster international research collaborations between South Africa, Africa, countries of the Global South, including Brazil, India and China	5.1	Number of international collaborative research projects to promote the principle of norm-driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	10	5	5	0	0	0	5	100%	Target achieved.
	5.2	Number of International mobility grants (APP and BRICS) to promote the principle of norm-driven internationalisation and collaboration of institutions in the Global South	8	15	13	0	0	2	11	87%	Target not achieved. Two funding agreements outstanding due to delays by host institutions (UNISA and UFS).
	5.3	Number of dialogues, colloquiums, policy discussions etc. hosted/co-hosted and funded by the NIHSS to expand the knowledge base of Global South research and scholarship	5	4	4	0	0	2	2	100%	Target achieved.

Strategic objective	No	Key performance indicator (KPI)	Actual 2019/20	Annual FY target 2020/21	Actual YTD 2020/21	Actual Q1 2020/21	Actual Q2 2020/21	Actual Q3 2020/21	Actual Q4 2020/21	Actual % 2020/21	Comment
	5.4	Number of research outputs produced by the international collaborative project leaders	11	5	13	1	3	8	1	260%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
6. Act as a dynamic broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa as the South African BRICS Think Tank	6.1	Number of BRICS Cluster projects monitored	9	9	10	0	6	5	-	111%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.
	6.2	Number of seminars, workshops and conferences hosted/co-hosted and funded by the NIHSS	8	9	9	0	3	3	3	100%	Target achieved.
	6.3	Number of SABTT steering committee meetings (NIHSS, DHET)	3	4	4	1	1	1	1	100%	Target achieved.
	6.4	Number of South African BRICS Think Tank Forums (Pre-academic forum, Academic forum and BTTC)	3	3	4	0	2	2	-	133%	Target achieved and exceeded, without adverse effects on the budget.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1



ENSURE A
SUSTAINABLE
RETURN ON THE
INVESTMENT MADE
IN THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES



1955
**Freedom
Charter**

An aerial view of the Liliesleaf Farm, part of the online digital exhibition, *Agents for Change*, by the Liliesleaf Museum Humanities Hub project.

Shortly before the close of the 2020/21 financial year, a milestone was reached in the life cycle of the NIHSS: the completion of the independent Strategic Review into the Institute's performance and impact in its first five years, from 2015 to 2020.

The completion of this five-year Strategic Review is of enormous importance to the Institute as the independent panel's recommendations, after consideration and adoption by Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande, the Minister for Higher Education, Science and Innovation and being formally made available to us, will be pivotal in pointing out areas for improvement and in determining the direction the NIHSS takes for the next five to 10 years.

Further adding to the significance of the Review is that it took place against the backdrop of a larger review, that of South Africa's Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape (HESTILL), aimed at providing better coherence and coordination across the higher education system.

In the case of the NIHSS Review, the Minister announced the constitution of the four-person panel on 7 April 2020, with Professor Relebohile Moletsane of the University of KwaZulu-Natal as panel chair. The three other panel members were Professor Shireen Hassim of the University of the Witwatersrand,



The Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2011. A report commissioned by the Minister of Higher Education and Training. The Charter is a founding document of the NIHSS.

Professor Andre Keet of Nelson Mandela University and Dr Ebrima Sall of TrustAfrica.

Their terms of reference were to assess the extent of implementation of the Institute's set goals, its overall performance against its seven strategic objectives for the period, operational effectiveness in terms of mandate, including governance, control environment and finances and overall strategic impact in addressing the concerns outlined in the Humanities and Social Sciences Charter of 2011. The last component of the panel's terms of reference was to provide recommendations about the future and direction of the NIHSS.

The independent panel commenced its work before the end of the first quarter of 2020/21, amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the fundamentally changed teaching and learning environment the pandemic had precipitated.

The evaluation, for which the NIHSS had prepared extensively, incorporated document analysis, individual interviews with 45 key NIHSS stakeholders and partners and five focus group discussions with staff and beneficiaries of NIHSS grants.

Towards the end of March 2021, the panel submitted its report, including recommendations, to the Minister for consideration and adoption.

The NIHSS now eagerly awaits the official issuing of the Strategic Review report and recommendations, which will be used to inform the Institute's 2025 Business Plan and/or Decadal Plan for the period up to 2030. The report will also be the basis for a comprehensive risk assessment and gap analysis in the context of the 2011 Charter.

These three documents and activities were intended to be deliverables for the Institute in the 2020/21 financial year but could not be achieved as they were contingent on the completion of the five-year Strategic Review and the adoption of the recommendations stemming from it.

While this delay accounts for the Institute missing 10% of its targets for the year, it will benefit the Institute and the HSS community in the longer term. Had the evaluation been completed earlier, it might not have fully reflected the extraordinary events of 2020/21, when the Covid-19 pandemic changed the face of higher education, possibly permanently.

As matters stand, the completion of the Strategic Review process could not have been timelier considering the vastly changed higher education landscape and the amplified role of the humanities and social sciences in a world grappling with the nature of human existence and the future of humanity.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2



ADVANCE
POSTGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP
THROUGH A RANGE
OF INNOVATIONS



Dr Nthabiseng Motsemme, Director of Scholarships, delivering her welcome address to the online and physical (hybrid) audience at the inaugural virtual Annual National Doctoral Conference, November 2020. This was the first year that the ANDC was held online, an innovation that was part of the NIHSS's adapting to Covid-19 regulations.

In a year that demanded adaptability and agility in the face of a global health crisis, the NIHSS and our partners dug deep to maintain the continuity of our flagship Doctoral Schools programme.

To quote one of the most experienced mentors, Professor Fred Hendricks, "We were very wary of the dangers of students merely dropping out of the system as had started to happen at undergraduate and even postgraduate levels."

As the Institute, we also intended remaining true to the ethos that, pandemic or no pandemic, our postgraduate programmes and initiatives would continue to improve and evolve. As an organisation expected to lead by example in the humanities and social sciences (HSS), the Institute cannot fall into the trap of thinking that what works today will suffice tomorrow.

This was the backdrop for several innovations that saw the light of day during 2020/21. Among them were the successful mobilisation of NIHSS alumni to assist in supporting our current PhD students and the hosting of our first Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Conference. The willingness of our alumni to participate in such initiatives is noteworthy, showing that they appreciate the investment the Institute made in their own doctoral journeys and are eager to contribute to the success of the current cohorts of NIHSS-funded PhD students.



The Encounters Session with some of the authors of the book, *Black Academic Voices*, held on the side-lines of the virtual ANDC 2020. The book won the edited best book award at the 2020 Humanities and Social Sciences Awards. From left: Professor Grace Khunou, NIHSS CEO, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, Prof Edith Phaswana and Prof Hugo ka Canham.

Amidst the pandemic, we demonstrated dexterity in harnessing virtual technologies and hybrid models to create meaningful learning and sharing opportunities for our students and graduates alike. It would have been unthinkable, for example, for 2020 to have passed without the Institute hosting the Annual National Doctoral Conference (ANDC). Not only did the 2020 ANDC proceed, but it proceeded with over 127 of our PhD students delivering abstracts on their PhD research.

In another first, also made possible through technology, the Institute invited the public to attend the six author and artist Encounters that were interspersed through the 2020 ANDC and the inaugural Alumni Conference, which ran concurrently. Making the HSS more accessible is part of our mandate and it is a happy irony that, at a time when people were retreating into their own spaces, the HSS were extending their reach.

DOCTORAL GRADUATES PASS THE 320-MARK

The NIHSS congratulates the 94 PhD students who graduated in 2020/21. Completing a doctorate is a tall order at the best of times; doing so during a pandemic requires exceptional tenacity and perseverance.

Under the circumstances, it is perhaps not surprising that the number of graduates for the year was slightly lower than the

previous year's crop of 97. As some of our mentors reported, several students who had committed to submitting their doctoral theses by 31 March 2021 moved their submission dates out to the 2021/22 financial year.

Be that as it may, the latest graduations have pushed the six-year total through the 250-mark, with 323 PhD graduates having successfully completed their studies on NIHSS scholarships.

This is a considerable investment in the HSS, both in South Africa and in other African countries:

- Of the cumulative total of 323 graduates to date, 251 are South African graduates, whose studies were funded through the partnership between the NIHSS and the South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHDA).
- The remaining 72 graduates are from other African countries and studied at South African universities. Their studies were funded through the Institute's partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

2020/ 21 NIHSS MENTORS			
MENTOR	UNIVERSITY	REGION	2020/ 2021 DURATION
Prof Ingrid Palmary	University of Johannesburg	Gauteng	1 August 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Lulu Shokane	University of Zululand	KwaZulu-Natal	1 August 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Tholene Sodi	University of Limpopo	Northern Corridor	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Peace Kiguwa	University of the Witwatersrand	Gauteng	1 July 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Kishore Raga	Nelson Mandela University	Eastern Cape	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Jessica Murray	University of South Africa	UNISA/ Free State and North West	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Floretta Boonzaier	University of Cape Town	Western Cape	1 August 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Charlyn Dyers	University of the Western Cape	Western Cape	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Johannes Smit	University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZulu-Natal	1 August 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Frederick Hendricks	Roving Mentor	Eastern Cape and Western Cape	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Roving Mentor	Gauteng and Northern Corridor	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021
Prof Grace Khunou	University of Johannesburg	Gauteng	Resigned
Prof Thandekile Magojo	University of KwaZulu-Natal	KwaZulu-Natal	Resigned

As at 31 March 2021, there were still over 400 NIHSS-supported students in the system. This will increase from 1 April 2021 when 50 new SAHUDA scholarship students join the pipeline.

The 50 new scholarships were awarded after a selection process that started with the Institute issuing a call in the first quarter of the year.

An important point to note about the selection process for the successful scholarship recipients is that a concerted effort was made to achieve a more equitable distribution of students from historically disadvantaged universities and historically advantaged universities.

In KwaZulu-Natal, for example, the main institution attended by NIHSS-funded students has tended to be the University of KwaZulu-Natal. In 2020/21, however, three of the eight new PhD students in the province will commence their studies at the Durban University of Technology, three will be based at the University of Zululand and only two will be studying at the UKZN.

More equitable distribution of resources was also evident in the National Mentorship Programme, through which the Institute appoints experienced senior academics to support our PhD students at regional Doctoral Schools.

For 2020/21, there were 13 mentors assisting the NIHSS's students across the country. Altogether, they presented 37 regional doctoral workshops, which was three times higher than the targeted 12, again reflecting the value of virtual technology to reach out to our scholarship students.

The mentors presented on a range of topics, including writing strategies, academic argumentation, the importance of a unique scholarly voice, research methodology, ethical considerations and best practices in data collection and analysis. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students was not overlooked and the mentors made a point of including topics such as "Coping with Covid-19" and "Conducting research and writing up a thesis during a pandemic" in their workshop schedules.

Mentors ensure no one is left behind

The NIHSS has made an effort to distribute capacity development resources more equitably so that no one is left behind. This was the observation of Professor Allucia Lulu Shokane, who joined the National Mentorship Programme in KwaZulu-Natal in July 2020.

Previously, NIHSS mentorship was mostly concentrated at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she says, to the primary benefit of students based there. This gap at the University of Zululand and Durban University of Technology has since been filled through her appointment as a regional mentor for these two institutions.

Commenting on her role as a mentor, Prof Shokane says this is challenging yet fulfilling. "I became a mentor in the middle of a pandemic crisis. Covid-19 has delivered the world into uncharted waters and researchers and students are scrambling to keep up."

Her response has been to hold monthly virtual research development meetings with the students as a group, to consult individually with those who require it, either over the phone or online and to meet with their supervisors. "I am certain that they have the doctoral support they need and are encouraged to develop a regular, habitual approach to writing."

Helping PhD students to cope with Covid-19

Writing up a doctoral proposal or thesis is a daunting task at the best of times. Amid a global pandemic, students, particularly at-risk students, may run the risk of becoming completely overwhelmed. It is to their credit and that of the mentors who engaged with them, that the NIHSS PhD dropout rate was, in the end, relatively low.

"The National Mentoring Programme for the past year coincided almost exactly with the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying lockdowns which had a devastating effect on our workshop programme," reports Professor Fred Hendricks, roving mentor for the NIHSS Doctoral Schools in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. "Because of the prohibition placed on physical meetings, we had to try to develop a sense of community and collegiality albeit remotely."

One of the methods he decided to pilot was to use the Institute's own graduates to interact with current students under very controlled environments. Accordingly, Prof Hendricks reached out to both groups.

Graduates eager to plough back

"In sum, the response from our current students was quite poor, but the response from our graduates was very good," writes Prof Hendricks. "This permitted me to pair our graduates with students on a one-to-one basis. In developing these pairs of students and graduates, I tried to ensure that there was some disciplinary coincidence between them. I also ensured that they were from different universities and where possible from different provinces."

However, current students who did not respond to the initial call for participation were not simply forgotten. He and the graduate mentors who had volunteered their assistance agreed to use what they called "passive mentoring".



An NIHSS Mentors on-line workshop.

Top row: Prof Jessica Murry, Dr Nthabiseng Motsemme, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa. **Second row:** Prof Ingrid Palmay, Prof Fred Hendricks, Prof Jannie Smit. **Third row:** Prof Charlyn Dyers, Prof Tholene Sodi, Prof Kishore Raga. **Fourth row:** Prof Nhlanhla Maahe

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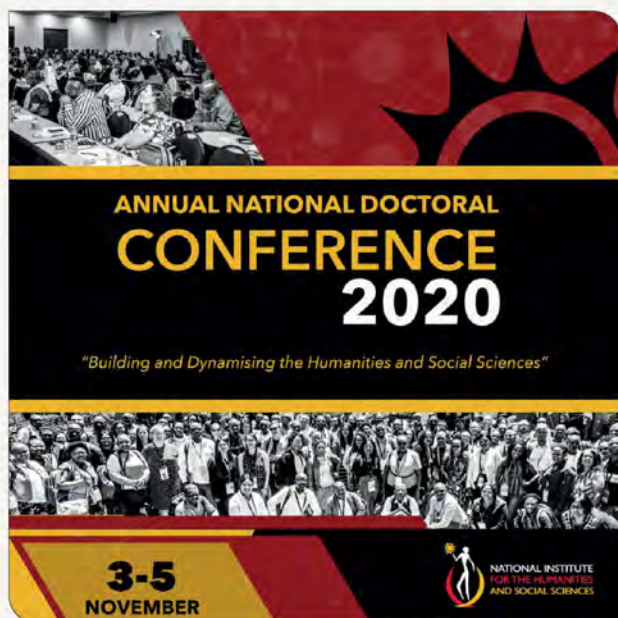
Passive mentoring involved the graduates contacting students via telephone, email or WhatsApp messages to indicate the availability of support through graduate/peer mentoring.

This time, there was a good response from students. "It became clear that the response from those who had not initially indicated any interest was quite heart-warming," Prof Hendricks reports. "It was good that we did not simply abandon these students as there were many reasons for their non-response and we have managed to get to the bottom of some of the problems that might not have been immediately apparent."

A 'buzz of excitement'

The graduate mentors performed an invaluable service by monitoring student progress, offering support to act as a buffer against the loneliness of the PhD journey, offering technical assistance with referencing, pointing out the dangers of plagiarism and sharing their own experiences. "This is all vitally important in building collegial communities of practice."

Prof Hendricks says the use of graduate/peer mentoring has introduced a "buzz of excitement and activity under very difficult conditions of isolation."



The 6th Annual National Doctoral Conference combined live streaming, pre-recorded paper presentations and a core physical component.

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"The graduate mentors themselves speak very positively about the opportunity to 'plough back' into the programme which made it possible for them to graduate. This kind of 'feel good' factor in doing something worthwhile is essential in building sustainable institutions. Our current students will remember the positive assistance from their newly graduated peers and hopefully they will do likewise with the next cohort of scholarship holders."

Safe and supportive spaces

Students took to virtual platforms with more ease and alacrity than anticipated after the Covid-19 pandemic broke out, according to Professor Jessica Murray, mentor for the Unisa, Free State and North West Doctoral School.

"Without these NIHSS initiatives, I fear that many of our students would have floundered and lost a great deal of research momentum as they were also being expected to cope with a world that felt like it was imploding," she reports. "The (virtual) workshops gave them a safe and supportive space to share challenges and solutions and helped them to refocus their energies on their research."

Despite the enormity of the challenges they were facing, many of the students were able to submit their theses. "I am confident that they submitted quality theses," Prof Murray says. "In fact, in many of our discussions, we explored how Covid-19 forced them to become more creative, agile researchers and how the problem-solving skills they gained through necessity ultimately enriched their research."

In all, she presented 10 regional doctoral workshops during 2020/21 on topics such as the integration of theory, literature and analysis; academic writing; decolonising theory; making an original contribution; data analysis; research methodology and ethics revisited.

PANDEMIC OR NO PANDEMIC, THE ANDC MUST GO ON

The regional Doctoral Schools are invaluable in creating the sense of collegiality and collaboration that has become such a hallmark of the Institute's work. One event that is singular in its capacity to bring all our students together is the Annual National Doctoral Conference (ANDC).

In the previous year, more than 350 scholarship students and 200 of our alumni attended the ANDC. Given the restrictions on large gatherings throughout 2020/21, it was out of the question to host an in-person ANDC as we would usually do. Instead, we hosted the conference using a hybrid model that combined live streaming, pre-recorded material and a core physical presence at the Birchwood OR Tambo Conference Centre, with the NIHSS project and technical teams present, along with some of our convenors and mentors.

The 6th ANDC, held from 3 to 5 November 2020 under the theme "Building and Dynamising the Humanities and Social Sciences", was part of a trifecta of strategic NIHSS events that ran concurrently. The two other initiatives were the inaugural HSS Alumni Conference on 4 and 5 November and a series of six Encounters, presented throughout the duration of the two conferences. The Encounters, featuring five authors and one artist, were open to the public, who could attend online.

PHD STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR RESEARCH

The 2020 ANDC had over 200 registered delegates, including members of SAHUDA, Emeritus Professors, NIHSS mentors, convenors, doctoral students and fellows. The conference

convened 34 parallel sessions where NIHSS-funded students presented 63 papers, which were presented virtually.

All 63 papers were reviewed by an external panel, which submitted their recommendations for the best paper awards to the conference organising committee. The three winners were Janell le Roux, a PhD student at the University of Limpopo, Sandisiwe Vilakazi of the University of the Witwatersrand and Elson Davison Khambule of the University of Johannesburg.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AWARD-WINNING PAPERS

Black South African celebrities turn a new page

A new field of literary production has come about in South Africa: the auto/biography of post-apartheid black South African celebrities. As NIHSS-funded PhD student Sandisiwe Vilakazi has observed, the period from 2000 to 2020 saw an increase in publication of auto/biographies among black South African celebrities.

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Hair has become a tool to assert pride and navigate various identities, according to a paper titled "Celebrity and media representation of black women's hair", presented at the 2020 ANDC.



Specifically, Sandisiwe set out to understand the proliferation of auto/biographies among these celebrities in terms of what it enables concerning their identities and careers, as well as their use as a platform to influence public discourse and perceptions.

The study focused on 12 autobiographies and four co-authored memoirs by an array of celebrities, including Khanyi Mbau, Somizi Mhlongo, Teko Modise and Kelly Khumalo. "The titles were purposively selected with an eye for the range of issues they address regarding black celebrities' lives in South Africa, gender representivity, range of narrative styles and the different uses to which celebrities put life writing," said Sandisiwe in the paper.

The study had three aims: to explore the ways black South African celebrities use the medium of autobiography to reflect on and construct their identities and subjectivities; to examine how autobiography provides a platform for celebrities to influence public discourse and unlock social, cultural and political capital; and to examine the voice and narrative authority in co-authored, ghost written and as-told-to autobiographies.

"The study explores the possibilities that the auto/biographical medium affords black South African celebrities for identity formation, self-reflection, public commentary and resource accumulation from 2000 to 2020," Sandisiwe said. This was a period characterised by a high circulation of personal narratives and unprecedented levels of exposure and interaction between celebrities and the public.

"The combination of social media platforms and the proliferation of smart mobile devices has played a big part in the production of celebrity today; the constant exposure and access has created a celebrity self which is private and public at all times," observed Sandisiwe.

She notes that the selection of 16 books is not fully representative as black celebrity autobiography is a growing field. "But the study hopes to launch the conversation on celebrity life writing."

Hair in the media and the construction of identity

The African woman who is exposed to a variety of hairstyles can navigate from one identity to the next. This is one of the key findings of Janell le Roux's PhD research, outlined in her ANDC paper, "Celebrity and media representation of black women's hair".

Setting the context for the study, Janell described how the symbology of African women's hair has evolved.

"The historical and political past of African hair gave birth to an African identity laden with symbols of oppression and identity," Janell said, referring to the 1992 work of hooks. "However, in the current postmodern epoch, hair has become a tool to assert pride and navigate various identities."

The emphasis of the study was on the role of the media in the presentation of various hair(styles) to South African women in the construction of a fluid and hybrid identity that decentres the ideology of rigid racial identity.

With this in mind, Janell, a University of Limpopo student, conducted a semiotic textual analysis of six cover stories that *DRUM Hair* magazine carried between 2014 and 2019.

The researcher then explored the types of claims and themes in media representation of African hair, drawing on theory from Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari's Rhizomatic Classification Systems and Robert Lifton's Protean Self.

Janell's conclusion was that the African woman who is exposed to a variety of hairstyles can fluidly navigate from one identity to the next without being loyal to one identity, typical of the postmodern identity.

Higher education must begin to grapple with decolonisation

From mundane, everyday experiences of micro-aggression to the systemic violence inherent in South African academic workspaces, Elson Davison Khambule has exposed the multi-layered nature of the transformation and decolonisation challenges in higher education.

This PhD study on the academic workspace and institutional cultures in an unnamed South African university systematically dissects the dehumanising cultures, practices and systems that continue to prevail.

In the ANDC presentation, Elson outlined the key milestones in his PhD journey, starting with a critique, using decolonial theory, of institutional cultures and practices that have persisted in the post-1994 higher education landscape.

Elson then turns to the debates on transformation and decolonisation of higher education in South Africa (the use of



The launch of the inaugural Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Conference, on 4 and 5 November 2020, on the side-lines of the ANDC 2020.

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the word "wade" implying the turgidity of such debates). Here, Elson argues that higher education research needs to shift from its "insipid", decades-long focus on transformation and "begin to grapple with debates on decolonisation".

Third, the passing of UCT Professor Bongani Mayosi is seen as a "critical incident" that illuminates the systemic violence of academic workspaces in South Africa.

"Fourth and building on themes emerging from fieldwork, I discuss institutional cultures and the mechanics of violence inherent in South African academic workspaces," Elson said.

Next, Elson focuses on "the mundane, everyday micro-aggressive experiences of dehumanisation, violence, denigration and victimisation of black academics."

The final chapter offers some solutions. "I conclude by offering thoughts on how universities can create institutional cultures and spaces that recognise the humanity, as well as ways of knowing and doing, of those who are often marginalised within the old academic establishment."

HSS ALUMNI CONFERENCE MAKES ITS DEBUT

Instead of battenning down the hatches, metaphorically speaking, while the Covid-19 storm was still in its throes, the NIHSS took the bold step of introducing a new flagship event to its annual calendar of national academic events. This was the inaugural HSS Alumni Conference 2020, which ran concurrently with the Annual National Doctoral Conference 2020 and the six Encounter sessions (see page 38).

Aptly titled "HSS in the era of a pandemic", the inaugural HSS Alumni Conference was a "hybrid" event, consisting of face-to-face and virtual encounters. NIHSS alumni participated, along with representatives from our two Doctoral School partner organisations, SAHUDA and CODESRIA and other stakeholders.

One of the key objectives of the Alumni Conference was to enable NIHSS alumni to present their postdoctoral scholarly work. They rose to the occasion. Some 42 abstracts were received from alumni in response to our call and 26 full papers were submitted by the closing date. As part of creating excitement and facilitating participation in the conference, each alumnus who submitted a full paper received a tablet as a token of appreciation.

External reviewers combed through the 26 submissions and selected their recommendations for the five best paper prizes to the inaugural HSS Alumni Conference Committee.

2020 BEST PAPER WINNERS

- Richard Appiah, North-West University/University of Ghana, "Community-based participatory research in rural African context: Ethico-cultural considerations and lessons from Ghana"
- Delia Anastasia Bernardi of the University of Pretoria, for her paper on "Gender-based violence: fact or fiction?"
- Napjadi Eugene Letsoalo, University of South Africa, "What if it is culture? A closer look at the gender situation in Sepedi 'manyalo' songs"
- Tebogo George Mahashe, University of Cape Town, "Modjadji, of myth and fantasie"
- Bianca Parry, University of South Africa, "Female breadwinners and the inequitable gender impacts of Covid-19 in South Africa"

Some highlights from their papers follow.

The inaugural office-bearers of the HSS Alumni Association. Clockwise from top left: Dr Lentsu Nchabeleng (Convener Marketing and Communication), Dr Tebogo Rakgogo (President), Dr Kagiso Poole (Deputy President), and Dr Clayton Vhumbunu (Convener International).



Ethical and cultural challenges of research in rural African settings

Distinctive ethical and cultural challenges confront researchers who conduct community based participatory research (CBPR) with vulnerable populations in rural African settings. This was the point that Dr Richard Appiah made in his paper, titled "Community-based participatory research in rural African context: Ethico-cultural considerations and lessons from Ghana".

The challenges relate to the community context of the research, methods of investigation and the implications of the findings for populations. "Ethical considerations such as informed consent, the protection of privacy and confidentiality and relationships between researchers and participants take on great complexity and have implications beyond the individual research participant," said Dr Appiah, an NIHSS alumnus who graduated in 2020 with a joint PhD from the North-West University in South Africa and the University of Ghana.

Dr Appiah drew on the experience of conducting mental health promotion research in resource-poor rural



Some of the NIHSS Mentors and academics, at the ANDC 2020. (Standing) Prof Kishore Raga, Prof Fred Hendricks, Prof Geoff Mapaya, Prof Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, Dr Ali Hlongwane and (seated) Dr Kholofelo Mothibi, Dr Thoko Mnisi, Dr Tshepo Moloi and Prof Sikhumbuzo Mngadi.

communities in Ghana and offered suggestions to help researchers to envision and manage the complexities in a more appropriate way.

These suggestions have to do with promoting relationships, fairness, respect and cultural harmony between researchers and study participants, among others.

In particular, researchers should explore and observe locally defined ethical issues when conducting CBPRs in rural African settings, Dr Appiah said. This would serve to minimise “ethics dumping and safeguard the integrity of the research”.

Intimate partner violence programmes need a fundamental overhaul

The time has come for a fresh perspective on intimate partner violence interventions and a departure from the gender paradigm that has dominated treatment and criminal justice policies for the past four decades, according to Dr Delia Anastasia Bernardi.

In this conference paper, “Gender-based violence: fact or fiction?”, Dr Bernardi reported that, worldwide and in South Africa, the dominant intervention programmes for perpetrators of IPV are based on the Duluth model. This model attributes IPV to male privilege and tends to embrace an ideology of patriarchy rather than being theory driven and evidence based.

The gender paradigm has dominated for over four decades, even though the “inadequacy of the Duluth model has been repeatedly and exhaustively documented”.

In contrast with this dominant paradigm, the researcher has developed a gender-inclusive, Christian-based intervention for IPV perpetrators.

“The programme is evidence based and supports a bio-psycho-socio-spiritual causational and remedial approach to IPV. Moreover, the preliminary findings show promise,” said Dr Bernardi, who graduated as an NIHSS PhD fellow in 2019 and now holds a postdoctoral position at the University of Pretoria’s Department of Social Work and Criminology.

Providing context to the research, Dr Bernardi reported that she had witnessed IPV growing up and had fallen prey to various forms of abuse, with different partners, for almost two decades.

“For many years, I emphatically believed that the prognosis for perpetrators of IPV is zero, until one day I sat in church and the pastor read Romans 12.2, which states: ‘And do not be

fashioned according to this age but be transformed by the renewing of the mind.”

The passage relates to the “transformative work of the Holy Spirit who can turn a robber into a saint”, said Dr Bernardi.

This was the inspiration for the development of her gender inclusive IPV intervention programme. “The human spirit has been neglected in many fields of discipline, even though the role it plays, for instance in the clinical arena, is significant.”

Modjadji, legendary Rain Queen and Pandora’s box

Modjadji, the legendary Rain Queen of Balobedu, left early European travellers to the former Northern Transvaal baffled. This is according to an unpublished narrative on the myths surrounding Modjadji, from which Dr Tebogo George Mahashe drew his inspiration when writing his conference paper, “Modjadji, of myth and fantasie”.

The unpublished work was the inspiration point for Dr Mahashe’s PhD research project, Mabarebare, which was an expression of *khelobedu* in the present.

“In the paper, Modjadji is discussed against the backdrop of a trickster who evades the imagination of the encroaching

newcomers, who can only describe her as possessing Pandora’s box,” observed Dr Mahashe, who graduated with his PhD from the University of Cape Town in 2019.

“The paper ‘mimics’ the ethnographic tone, meandering towards personal narrative,” the researcher commented. “To revisit this paper is to rethink this narrative and see how my perspective has shifted.”

Sepedi wedding songs reinforce traditional gender roles

The portrayal of the females who feature in a selection of manyalo songs sung at Sepedi weddings reinforces the traditional gender order and inequality, said Dr Napjadi Eugene Letsoalo in his paper at the inaugural HSS Alumni Conference.

The paper was titled, “What if it’s culture? A closer look at the gender situation in Sepedi ‘manyalo’ songs”.

“For decades, the lyrics of manyalo songs have been carefully crafted to serve a functional and educational purpose,” said Dr Letsoalo, explaining that the paper sought to explore the ways in which this purpose is embedded in manyalo songs.

Following a qualitative discourse analysis perspective, the researcher transcribed the lyrics from audios of the songs and analysed the data, using Connell’s concept of the gender order.

“The analysis revealed important findings that reflect gender hierarchy, heteronormativity, kinship norms and gender subversions,” reported Dr Letsoalo, an NIHSS alumnus who completed his PhD at the University of South Africa.

The paper concluded that the way the females are portrayed in the songs reinforces the gender order and inequality, while the research paper adds to the understanding of the patriarchal constructions within Sepedi society.

Female breadwinners’ experiences reveal ‘perpetual archaic divisions’

While many South African women have overcome traditional notions of gender by becoming primary breadwinners in their homes, the lived experiences of some during the Covid-19 pandemic reveal an undercurrent of deep-rooted inequality.

Some of these undercurrents are revealed in the paper of Dr Bianca Parry, “Female breadwinners and the inequitable gendered impacts of Covid-19 in South Africa”.



Dr Napjadi Eugene Letsoalo, who presented a paper titled, “What if it’s culture? A closer look at the gender situation in Sepedi ‘manyalo’ songs”, at the inaugural HSS Alumni conference.



NIHSS CEO, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, in conversation with Prof Mcebisi Ndletyana, during an Encounters Session featuring his book, *Anatomy of the ANC in Power – Insights from Port Elizabeth, 1990 – 2019*, on the side-lines of the ANDC 2020. The book is based on ongoing research funded by the NIHSS.

Noting that few government policies and public health efforts have explicitly addressed the gendered impacts of the pandemic, Dr Parry set out to investigate the inequitable effects of the pandemic on 10 female breadwinners from Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

Employing a feminist phenomenological viewpoint, Dr Parry, an NIHSS graduate from the University of South Africa and now a lecturer at Unisa, conducted in-depth, semi-structured interviews with the 10 women.

"The findings of this study expose the perpetual archaic divisions and discriminations of gender within our society which continue to hide behind constructions of reform advocating equality among the sexes," Dr Parry reported.

The study sought to understand how these women make meaning of and negotiate their roles as breadwinners. In doing so, Dr Parry said, "we can further comprehend the early effects of the Covid-19 crisis on women and consider recommendations to ameliorate the lived experiences of all South African women during this pandemic and in the years thereafter."

ENCOUNTERS THAT BRING THE HSS TO LIFE

In the first Encounters session, artist Dr Nduka Mntambo highlighted the "Asymmetries" exhibition, which won the award for Best Visual Arts at the Human and Social Sciences Awards 2020 (held literally two weeks before South Africa

went into a hard national lockdown to curb the spread of the pandemic).

The second Encounter was with the four authors of *Black Academic Voices – The South African Experience*, winner of the non-fiction best edited volume award in 2020. The book, by Professors Grace Khunou, Katijah Khoza-Shangase, Hugo Canham and Edith Dinong Phaswana, contains the personal accounts of the lived experiences of black academics at South African universities, offering important insights into the structural and relational challenges confronting black people in the academy and other institutions.

The third Encounter session was with Professor Gabeba Baderoon, author of *The History of Intimacy*, which won the best fiction poetry and short stories award of 2020.

The fourth and fifth Encounter sessions were delivered, respectively, by Prof Grace Musila, author of *Voices of Liberation: Wangari Maathai's Registers of Freedom* and Prof Mcebisi Ndletyana, author of *Anatomy of the ANC in Power – Insights from Port Elizabeth, 1990 – 2019*.

In the sixth and last Encounter session, it was the turn of Fred Khumalo, whose book, *Dancing the Death Drill*, was the best fiction single authored volume winner at the 2019 Humanities and Social Sciences Awards. *Dancing the Death Drill* was inspired by the tragic sinking of the *SS Mendi*, in which 600 South African soldiers, mostly black, lost their lives.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3



DYNAMISE THE FIELDS
OF RESEARCH AND
TEACHING IN THE
HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES
IN SOUTH AFRICA
THROUGH A RANGE OF
CATALYTIC RESEARCH
PROJECTS AND
HUMANITIES HUBS



The online digital
exhibition, *Agents for Change*,
by the Liliesleaf Museum
Humanities Hub project,
launched in August 2020.

Traditionally, scholars and researchers have prided themselves on delving with microscopic detail into their academic disciplines and publishing their findings in academic journals whose readership is frequently limited to scholars with similar research interests. The advent of open access has shifted this thinking, most notably in the natural sciences but also in the humanities and social sciences (HSS).

From its inception six years ago, the NIHSS has advocated for research that is accessible, inclusive and progressive. Such research encompasses collaborative networks, offers alternative viewpoints and harnesses both conventional and unconventional channels – including YouTube and interactive websites – to reach out to other researchers and, critically, the public.

The two NIHSS-funded research initiatives that best embody this approach are Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hubs.

Catalytic Research Projects open up new areas of research in the HSS and revitalise important areas of research that have been neglected or overlooked, such as the arts, Africa's precolonial past and indigenous African languages in higher education. Humanities Hubs are research centres that have a strong focus on heritage and community participation.

Budget cuts for the past three years have compelled the NIHSS to scale down its support for these two research initiatives, resulting in a decline in the number of Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hubs supported. These were at their peak in 2016/17, when the Institute was supporting 40 Catalytic projects and 12 Humanities Hubs

After decreasing to only 12 Catalytic projects and six Humanities Hubs in 2019/20, these initiatives were re-energised in the year under review. We continued to support eight existing Catalytic Research Projects and, in addition, awarded grant funding for 14 new Catalytic projects. These included four on the use of indigenous languages in higher education or for scientific use,



Dreams as R-evolution is a creative output by project leader, Coral Bijoux in collaboration with Pralini Naidoo, Salim Washington, Ashraf Jamal, and many others. It is a compelling catalogue of an art installation described as "an ecology of hope".

Another example of how NIHSS-funded research is helping to draw the public in is the virtual *Thatched Cottage* exhibition being developed at the Liliesleaf Humanities Hub. Instead of telling the viewer what to think and providing the full picture of events, the website offers fragments that must be pieced together – much as a detective, journalist or documentary filmmaker would. (See page 45.)

three on women-centred knowledge or experience and others on topics such as re-theorising democracy, African music composition, African oral art and fracking, climate change and communities.

GROWING CREATIVE AND RESEARCH OUTPUTS

NIHSS-supported research outputs do not always fit neatly into the standard research output mould. Depending on the objectives of the research and the stakeholders that the researchers concerned engage, the outputs might comprise conventional academic products such as books, chapters, conference papers and journal articles in accredited publications. On the other hand, they might take the form of works of visual or performing art, music compositions, articles in non-academic journals and popular media, video or audio clips and interactive websites.

"From my experience, I actually think that this is an approach academia should consider advancing, publishing scientific research in the language of the interested laywoman, thereby providing a medium where the science and the public can intersect," commented Professor Thula Simpson of the University of Pretoria, leader of the Africa in the Modern Era Catalytic Research Project (see page 42).

It is to their credit that, as in previous years characterised by funding constraints, the researchers whose projects we supported in 2020/21 succeeded in producing more outputs than targeted. Together, Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hubs (in conjunction with the Working Groups) generated 46 outputs for the Research directorate, considerably higher than the anticipated target of 40.

Over and above these outputs, project teams hosted 21 conferences, workshops, colloquia and similar academic events in 2020/21, more than double the target of 10 for the year.

HSS EXPLORES IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SOUTH AFRICA NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Research on the Covid-19 pandemic was initially seen as a task for medical researchers and natural scientists, but it quickly became apparent that research was also urgently needed into the psychosocial and socio-economic dynamics of the pandemic.

In South Africa, the pandemic exposed old and new fault lines around the distribution of resources, access to technology, psychosocial impacts on people at the nexus of unemployment and inequality, the rise of gender-based violence and different experiences of the pandemic, with class and gender as important variables.

Serious questions were raised about our society in the current and post-Covid-19 world in the context of unemployment, the absence of national health insurance, the energy crisis and the fourth industrial revolution, among others.

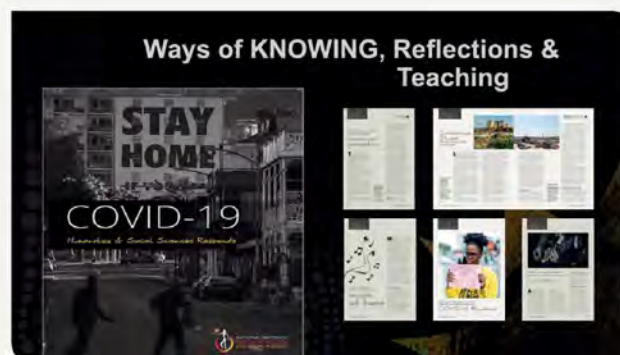
These were some of the central themes that emerged early on in the pandemic and which the NIHSS community sought to investigate, understand and explain as it became clear that Covid-19 would have a lasting impact on our society and on efforts to rebuild our nationhood.

Researchers embraced multidisciplinary collaborations and diverse sources of knowledge, regarding communities, especially township communities, as agents of change who “know” and focusing not only on the destructive effects of the pandemic but also on the possibilities for building a digital, innovative and egalitarian society.

Some of the key outputs from this work in progress are as follows:

Covid-19: Humanities and Social Sciences Responds, a collection of over 40 pandemic articles and essays written by HSS scholars and published by the NIHSS, covering a vast array of topics – household health education, online teaching and assessment, funerals in a time of Covid, the “shock” that was evoked by the “discovery” of inequality, the Nigerian experience of the pandemic, traditional rituals and medical pluralities in a pandemic, black death and mourning, psychosocial needs of women in informal settlements, violence against women, the meaning of collective responsibility and many more. The publication, which reflects how innovative the HSS has been in its thinking around its own research and beyond, can be downloaded from the NIHSS website at <https://www.nihss.ac.za/sites/default/files/HSS%20Response/HSS%20Response%20-%20Covid-19%20Magazine.pdf>

“Township Covid-19 Lockdown” study - The early findings of the study dispelled various myths around the beliefs and attitudes of residents in five major townships towards lockdown regulations. Interviews with residents of Alexandra, Diepsloot and Soweto in Gauteng, Khayelitsha in Cape Town and uMlazi in KwaZulu-



Key outputs from NIHSS-convened research into the effects of Covid-19 on South Africa, during the 2020/21 financial year.

Top: Covid-19: Humanities and Social Sciences Responds, a collection of over 40 essays and articles by HSS scholars.

Centre: the “Township Covid-19 Lockdown” study, undertaken through the NIHSS.

Bottom: The Impact of Covid-19 on Religious Communities, a collaborative research project on the impact of the pandemic on religious communities.

Natal revealed rising levels of income and food insecurities and worryingly rising levels of social vulnerability in the absence of social support from extended family and community organisations. The survey also highlighted a number of gender differences and inequality in respect of Covid-19, with women shouldering more than their share of household expenses and chores, spending more time looking after children, extended family and elderly people and having even less time for leisure activities.

Collaborative research on the impact of the pandemic on religious communities, being conducted by the NIHSS in partnership with the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL).

HSS Covid-19 research networks and funding clusters, bringing together researchers from various universities to describe the current world amid the pandemic but also reimagining a post-Covid world. There are six such research clusters, namely Social and Community Research, Psychosocial Research, Education Research, Economy and Government Interventions Research, Health and IKS Research and Civil Society Research.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORIAN REACHES OUT TO NEW AUDIENCES, WIDENING ACCESS

Gone are the days of publishing research only in accredited academic journals; in the information age, there are many ways to reach out to the layperson and make research accessible to all.

Reflecting on his research reported to the Institute in April 2020, on Africa in the modern era, Prof Thula Simpson of the University of Pretoria said one of the highlights has been reaching new audiences. This was the case with the outputs from the March 2019 conference, “The Rivonia Generation and the turn to armed struggle in South Africa”.

Instead of publishing articles from the Rivonia Generation conference in the usual academic journals, they were published in the *Thinker*, a quarterly Pan-African publication that publishes both journalistic and academic content.

Prof Simpson said the Rivonia Generation conference was also memorable because it brought together academics and struggle veterans, including Dumiso Dabengwa, Mac Maharaj, Wilson Msweli, James April, Ronnie Kasrils and Ben Turok. “We were conscious of time running short to capture these memoirs and so it proved in the case of Dabengwa and Turok, who died shortly afterwards,” said Prof Simpson.

He and his team experimented with video presentations on YouTube after another colloquium they organised, “From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe: The Diplomacy of Isolation and Liberation under UDI”.

From isolation to liberation

This colloquium, held 40 years after the former Rhodesia’s unilateral declaration of independence (UDI), looked back at the regional and international developments that had that helped shape Zimbabwe.

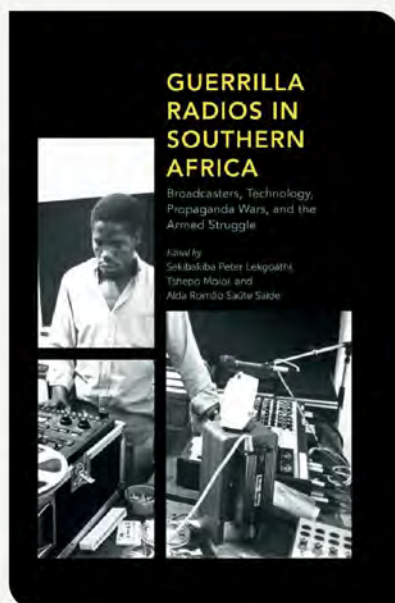
UDI came at a key moment of the global cold war and a time when decolonisation and majority rule pitted independent Africa against the white-ruled south.

In his paper, Professor Alois Mlambo pointed out that while most countries supported the United Nations-imposed sanctions in 1968, many ignored or did little to enforce them. Dr Tinashe Nyamunda looked at Portuguese–Rhodesian economic relations and Professor Gary Baines at the implications of the collapse of the Portuguese Empire for the security relationship between Pretoria and Salisbury.

Dr Michel discussed the diplomatic approaches of American presidents, with Dr Andy DeRoche looking at Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda’s unsuccessful efforts to draw President Richard Nixon into a global alliance for racial equality in southern Africa.



Participants in the “Rhodesia to Zimbabwe” colloquium (Back row, from left to right): Dr Myles Osborne, Dr Sue Onslow, Todd Carter, Prof Gary Baines. (Middle row, from left to right): Dr Eddie Michel, Bruce Berry, Prof Alois Mlambo, Prof Vladimir Shubin. (Front row, from left to right): Prof Thula Simpson, Prof Gerald Mazarire, Sibanengi Ncube, Dr Glen Ncube, Dr Andy DeRoche. This event was part of Prof Simpson’s Catalytic Research Project funded by the NIHSS, reported in April 2020.



Southern Africa's liberation war radios, also called "guerrilla radios", played an important role in contesting the colonial and/or apartheid states' monopoly of the airwaves.

The colloquium papers and special issue make for informed reading, bringing together the various aspects that helped shape Zimbabwe and relations in the region during those 15 years and the years that followed.

View: Eddie Michel & Thula Simpson (2019) Rhodesia to Zimbabwe: The Diplomacy of Isolation and Liberation under UDI, South African Historical Journal, 71:3, 363-364, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02582473.2019.1677763>

AFRICAN HISTORY SCHOLAR TUNES IN TO RADIO FREEDOM, BROADCASTING FROM ZAMBIA

Stacked on shelves in the sound archives of the Zambian National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) are reels of audio recordings from the days when Radio Freedom, the African National Congress's liberation radio, broadcast messages countering the propaganda of South Africa's apartheid regime.

These reels happen to be located in a part of the archives which have sustained water damage from a leaking roof. Hopefully, all the recordings are still intact and that will become known once Professor Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, leader of the Guerrilla Radios in Southern Africa Catalytic Research Project, receives the green light from Zambia's Department of Home Affairs to peruse the archives.

"In the meantime, however, I was allowed to view various rooms at ZNBC where the ANC broadcasters worked side by side with Zambian broadcasters," says Prof Lekgoathi, an associate professor of African History at Wits University, speaking of his preliminary research visit to Lusaka, Zambia in November 2020.

While in Lusaka, he also had the opportunity to interview two ZNBC staff members who remembered interacting with their Radio Freedom "comrades" and to view a visual recording of a live interview with Oliver Tambo, conducted by Kenneth Maduma, legendary Zambian broadcaster, in the mid-1980s.

"This gave me the impression that perhaps more rich materials could be unearthed from both the sound and visual archives of the ZNBC," says Prof Lekgoathi, who also had a 20-minute slot on the ZNBC's mid-morning television programme, *The Update*.

In addition, he visited the Zambian National Archives, where he found a "huge" collection of newspapers from the 1940s to the present, and presented a paper at a University of Zambia seminar, titled "The African National Congress's Radio Freedom in Zambia: Preliminary Findings".

"I came out of the seminar presentation feeling very strongly that it would be more feasible to start thinking about a bigger research project involving South African and Zambian scholars and researchers on the Zambian contribution to the liberation struggle in South Africa, with specific reference to radio another media," Prof Lekgoathi says.

This is what catalytic research does. It has small beginnings, as in phase one of this project, when Prof Lekgoathi conducted a comparative analysis of liberation war radios in Southern Africa from the 1900s to the 1960s. This phase culminated in the publication of a co-edited book, *Guerrilla Radios in Southern Africa*, on 16 November 2020.

From small beginnings come bigger ventures. Literally days after completing the first phase of the project, Prof Lekgoathi set off for Lusaka. This phase is an examination of the workings of Radio Freedom in two host countries, Tanzania and Zambia, which offered sanctuary to liberation movements in the region and actively supported the ANC's broadcasting venture.

"The contribution that some independent African countries, including Tanzania and Zambia, have made to the nationalist liberation struggle in southern Africa more generally and to South Africa in particular was immense, yet the production of scholarly knowledge about radio broadcasting in these two countries remains sparse and woefully inadequate," he says.

That is no longer the case. The previously neglected research area of liberation radios, also called guerrilla radios, has been opened up. Bigger and bigger things are bound to follow.

MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF MEDICATION-RELATED HEARING LOSS IN TB PATIENTS

Hearing loss is a side effect of medication for life-threatening conditions such as multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), but researchers from the University of the Witwatersrand have found that careful monitoring and early medical intervention could limit hearing loss caused by ototoxicity (ear poisoning).

With one of the highest incidences of TB in the world, South Africa has faced the risk that many people could acquire aminoglycoside-induced hearing loss. *News24* reported in 2017 that 123 people at a KwaZulu-Natal hospital went deaf following MDR-TB treatment.

Therefore, ototoxicity monitoring during long-term treatment is essential, the researchers say in an article published in the November-December 2020 edition of *ScienceDirect.com*.

They note that if detected early and with medical intervention, further deterioration of the hearing functions of the lower frequencies important for speech understanding can be reduced.

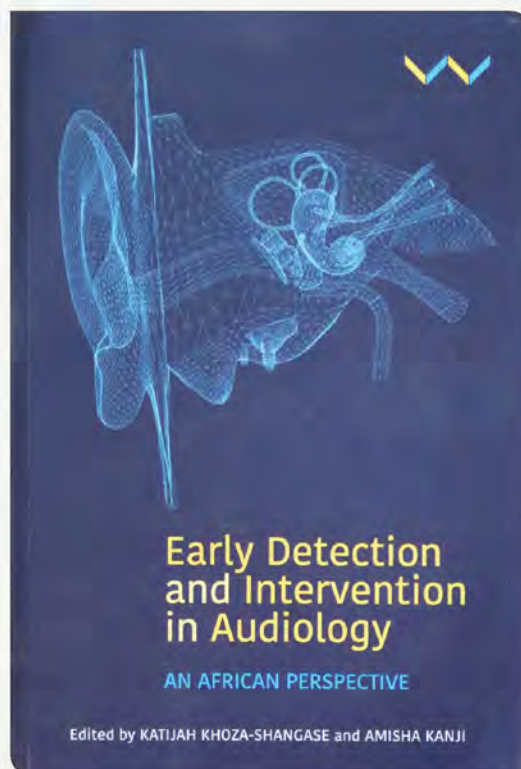
Potentially toxic side effects

Ototoxic medications such as aminoglycosides are used to treat life-threatening conditions such as tuberculosis but are potentially toxic to the inner ear and impact the affected individual's quality of life.

In line with preventative audiology, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has stressed the importance of identifying the known adverse effects of MDR-TB treatment through close monitoring programmes. If effects are detected, the WHO suggests various interventions, including increasing the dose interval.

Less ototoxic drugs such as bedaquiline and linezolid have been recommended by the WHO, but they have not been adopted by many countries due to exorbitant costs. South Africa is the only country that has adopted the revised treatment protocol for MDR-TB in its national TB treatment policy and bedaquiline is registered and available nationally.

Prior to the national roll-out of bedaquiline as first line treatment in South Africa, the researchers conducted their study at two rural hospitals, one in the Eastern Cape and one in KwaZulu-Natal, to evaluate the effectiveness of the WHO's medical intervention strategies.



Forthcoming publication by Prof Katijah Khoza-Shangase and Amisha Kanji, funded through her Working Groups project.

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The Eastern Cape hospital implemented medical intervention strategies according to the WHO, as well as counselling and aural rehabilitation as soon as ototoxicity was detected. The KwaZulu-Natal hospital continued with treatment unchanged and only implemented counselling and aural rehabilitation for those affected.

The researchers concluded that close monitoring with medical interventions when ototoxicity is diagnosed may play an important role in reducing or curbing further hearing loss during MDR-TB treatment.

The findings have important implications for TB management and the role audiologists need to play in the development and maintenance of ototoxicity monitoring programmes. This will ensure that ototoxicity monitoring does not happen in isolation from medical intervention preventative measures.

View: Khoza-Shangase K, et al. *The impact of medical interventions for reducing ototoxicity during treatment for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Acta Otorrinolaringol Esp.* 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.otorri.2019.12.003>

HUMANITIES HUBS

APPROACH THIS EXHIBITION AS WOULD A DETECTIVE, FILMMAKER OR JOURNALIST

Dire warnings that Liliesleaf Farm is in financial crisis and falling into disrepair are a reminder of how important it is to preserve our history. "History, ultimately, is the collective knowledge of our experiences," says Liliesleaf Trust CEO Howard Wolpe, describing Liliesleaf in particular as the "nerve centre" of the liberation struggle.

For new generations of South Africans to appreciate how important our history is, it is crucial to capture their attention in engaging and thought-provoking ways – such as a web-based version of the *Thatched Cottage* mobile exhibit.

This is the crux of a collaboration between the Liliesleaf Trust and the NIHSS, which since 2019 have been hard at work creating a *Thatched Cottage* site that will intrigue, fascinate and sometimes perplex and puzzle visitors as they engage with it.

Unlike many other exhibitions, this one is non-linear and full of fragments that need to be pieced together. Visitors will not be told what to think, nor will they be given the full picture of what they are seeing.

"As you explore this site, you are going to find lots of fragments from the archive that help you piece together the story in your mind – but you are going to have to do the searching and you are going to have to do the sorting," said Andre Croucamp, during a *Thatched Cottage* virtual presentation in August 2020.

This approach requires the visitor to "rummage through the archives like a detective or a historian or a documentary filmmaker or a journalist trying to piece the information together," he said.

In this way, the site puts the humanities and humanities skills at the centre of the experience.

According to Andre Croucamp, it reinforces skills such as the ability to access, comprehend, sort for relevance, analyse and interpret information. It also nurtures the skill of looking backwards into the past to gain insights that enable us to investigate the future and to generate powerful explanations based on diverse sources of information.

Another key skill that the site encourages is to "step back and see the dynamics of complex socio-economic and political systems and, of course, to advocate for change".

Scenes depicting the envisioned *Women in the Struggle* online exhibition. This is a digital exhibition currently being constructed by the Liliesleaf Museum Humanities Hub project.





ROCK ENGRAVINGS SEE THE LIGHT, REVEALING AFRICA'S DEEP PAST

Rock engravings that would otherwise have remained in storage have been brought into the open – a significant feat considering that some of the engravings weigh 20 tons.

Using the NIHSS grant, the engravings were brought out of storage, traced and redrawn and placed on engineering stands for display at the Origins Centre, a museum with exhibitions on the history of early humans in Africa, including rock art and ancient stone tools.

The Origins Centre, which is part of the University of the Witwatersrand's Science Faculty, was opened to the public in October 2019 and hosted two public interactivity days before the March 2020 lockdown forced it to close its doors.

The engravings did not return to obscurity, however. They feature in the Wits 2021 calendar and in the augmented reality application that the Origins team is developing to enhance the Rock Engraving Archive so that the public can interact with the archive from home.

The remainder of the NIHSS's funding was used to upgrade the entrance of the museum by adding the latest information about the Middle Stone Age (MSA). This included updating and refreshing the information on the Blombos Cave near Mossel Bay off the Southern Cape coast and including information on other key MSA sites in South Africa.



"Legae/Kayaletu" – Chumisa Fihla's inaugural exhibition at the AVA Gallery. Mr Fihla was first brought in to the NIHSS Laboratory of Kinetic Objects Humanities Hub project's artist in residence programme. The exhibition comprised of sculptural works created from found objects such as scrap metal, wood and plastic with paint. From the artist's statement, the "exhibition seeks to embrace homesickness, the feeling of remembering home through the settlements impacted by social educational and environmental changes that have taken place through one's personal experience."

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"The focus of this section is now on early human innovation in Southern Africa and the earliest appearances of 'art' and symbolic thought," said Prof Amanda Esterhuysen, of the Wits Origins Centre in the report to the NIHSS. "This evidence from South Africa remains among the earliest evidence of complex human thinking and art in the world."

When the upgrades are complete, this section of the museum will be scanned by Google Arts and Culture 360 street view for an online exhibition.

"The NIHSS is formally acknowledged for the tremendous contribution they have made to enabling public access to the rock engravings which would otherwise have remained in storage and for supporting the upgrade and dissemination of new and important knowledge about the deep human past," said the Origins Centre in its report.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4



PROMOTE THE INTEGRITY, REPUTATION AND RECOGNITION OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY.



An array of books, creative and digital submissions for the HSS Awards 2021.

There was a time, less than a decade ago, when the voice of the humanities and social sciences (HSS) community in South Africa was so muted as to prompt the following comment from the then Minister of Higher Education, Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande:

"Have they simply retired into their shells, quietly doing their work and not participating publicly in the larger social and political debates?" he asked in June 2011 in his foreword in the Final Report: Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The HSS community can no longer be said to be shy and retiring. Progressive academics are putting forward their views, based on empirical research and careful analysis and coming together to respond to the burning questions of the day, such as the long-standing inequities and inequalities that the Covid-19 pandemic has so brutally exposed. By the same token, when credit must be given, such as to peers who have produced outstanding work, members of the HSS community do not shy away from expressing their approval.

The NIHSS provides an array of platforms for HSS scholars to cooperate, collaborate and articulate. Our Working Group Initiative is a crucial vehicle for encouraging scholars to converge across disciplinary, institutional and geographical boundaries and to enable academic presses and other publishing houses to send the intellectual and creative work of the HSS community out into the world.

Other vehicles for collaborative scholarship are the newly introduced grants for memberships of professional HSS associations, introduced in 2020/21 and the conferences, colloquiums and Humanities Encounters the Institute hosts or co-hosts with partners.

The grand finale of the year is without a doubt the Annual Humanities and Social Sciences Awards, hosted by the Institute towards the end of March each year. It is one of the few platforms available in South Africa to sing the praises – sometimes in music and sometimes in poetry – of those in the HSS community who produce the finest creative work, whether in the written word, visual arts, digitisation or artistic performance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORKING GROUP OUTPUTS

The partnership between NIHSS and book publishers in South Africa continues to grow and is making space for new stories, new voices, and new narratives.



Jacana Media has published six books, two of which won an 2020 HSS Award in the Fiction Category

Jacob Dlamini, *Safari Nation: A Social History of the Kruger National Park*

Ashraf Kagee, *By The Fading Light*

Resoketswe Manenzhe, *Scatterlings*

Niq Mhlomo, *Joburg Noir*

Baldwin Ndaba, Therese Owen, Masego Panyane, Rabbie Serumula,

Janet Smits, Paballo Thekiso, *The Black Consciousness Reader*

Jamil F. Khan, *Khamr: The Making of a Waterslams*

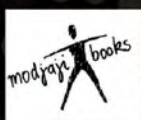
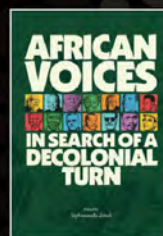
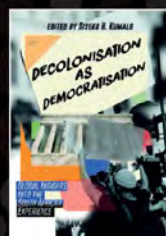


HSRC Press, has published three books

Pumla Dineo Gqola, *Miriam Tlali, Writing of Freedom*.

Siseko Khumalo, *Decolonisation as Democratisation*.

Siphamandla Zondi, *African Voices: In Search of a Decolonial Turn*.



Modjaji Books has published two books

Lindiwe Nkutha, *69 Jerusalem and Other Stories*

Shanice Ndlovu, *The Pride of Noonlay*



UKZN Press has published two books

Nompumelelo Zondi, *Bahlabelelelani: Why Do They Sing? Gender and Power in Contemporary Women's Songs*

Evangeline Bonisiwe Zungu, *Zulu Name, Polygyny and Gender Politics in Traditional Societies*.



WORKING GROUPS GO BEYOND THE MAINSTREAM

The Working Groups initiative aims to promote the integrity, reputation and recognition of the HSS within the higher education community and the public at large.

An important category of Working Group grant funding for 2020/21 was providing funding to university presses and small or emerging publishing houses, some of which were hard hit financially as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Here is an excerpt from the August 2020 progress report that Modjaji Books' Colleen Higgs wrote for the Institute on the grant the publisher had received.

"... The devastating effects of Covid-19 and the lockdown have become more evident in South Africa as a whole, but also to the book trade and to small publishers like Modjaji Books. The past three months have seen a minus R10 000 in sales into bookstores. There have been huge returns from all stores ..." she wrote.

"The fact that stores were completely closed in April was bad enough, but once the stores opened, the returns flooded back to the warehouses. I have had to take on additional work to make ends meet. Modjaji is still going partly because of this and partly because of the funding from the NIHSS. So, thank you very much for your support."

Supporting small and emerging book publishers such as Modjaji Books and Thokozile Publishers is important as they publish material that the dominant, mainstream publishers may overlook. Modjaji books, for instance, are the publishers of *Innie Shadows* by Olivia Coetzee, which received a special mention at the 2021 Annual HSS Awards. Described as a "genre-bending literary novel that is also a page-turner", *Innie Shadows* is a crime fiction novel written entirely in Afrikaans.

All in all, the Institute provided funding to 27 Working Groups in 2020/21, 12 more than the target of 15 for the year. This yet again demonstrated the Institute's ability to make its resources stretch further than expected year after year – as did our efforts to host or co-host colloquiums, conferences and Humanities Encounters that create, foster and maintain collaborative scholarship.

While the target for the year was to host or co-host two such events, we succeeded in presenting nine virtual events, consisting of seven Humanities Encounters, a public lecture and an exhibition launch.



Ms Nkami Manyike, a student who benefited from NIHSS support as part of capacity building in Prof Lize Kriel's Catalytic Research Project, graduated in April 2020, with a masters dissertation titled: *Seeing Beyond the Cover: A Critical Analysis of the Missionary Periodical Thsupa Mabaka a Kereke 1931-1935*.

The latter two were held on the same day, 27 August, in collaboration with Liliesleaf Foundation. First was the virtual launch of Liliesleaf's Agents for Change exhibition, followed by the Andrew Mokete Mlangeni Memorial Lecture, to celebrate the life of Rivonia Trialist and struggle stalwart Andrew Mokete Mlangeni, who passed away in July 2020. He was the last remaining of the famous Rivonia Twelve.

Dr Khulu Mbatha, Special Advisor on International Relations to President Cyril Ramaphosa was the keynote speaker. Ms Pippa Green, journalist and current Press Ombud, served as the respondent, whilst Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, NIHSS CEO, chaired the lecture.

Six of the Encounter sessions were held during the Institute's Annual National Doctoral Conference and inaugural HSS Alumni Conference in the first week of November.

The seventh Humanities Encounter for the year was with Fiona Snyckers, author of *Lacuna*, which won the best fiction single author award at the 2020 HSS Awards.

The NIHSS continues to explore new ways to promote scholarly collaboration and in 2020/21 provided grant funding for memberships of professional associations or organisations pertinent to the HSS. Funding agreements were signed with seven organisations, namely the South African Society of Archivists, South African Young Academy of Science, English Academy of Southern Africa, Institute of Human Settlements Practitioners, the International Consortium for Social Development (based at the University of Johannesburg), the SA Humanities Deans' Association and the Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Association.

6th SOUTH AFRICAN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARDS



The catalogue for the HSS Awards 2021, showcasing the nominated submissions.

Life is believed to have emerged on Earth about 3.8 million years ago at a place known today as Maropeng, Cradle of Humankind. It is at Maropeng, now a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site, west of Johannesburg, that fossils of some of the earliest known life forms have been found.

And it was here, on 31 March 2021, that the NIHSS chose to host the 6th edition of the Annual Humanities and Social Sciences Awards: Book, Creative Collections and Digital Contributions.

What better place to host scholars, writers and all knowledge creators than the place where the story of humankind began?

Storytelling is deeply rooted in Africa and her traditions, with generation after generation passing on ancient wisdoms.

"It is saddening to think how the continent's storytelling traditions are under siege in a society easily swept up in momentary, electronically generated moments. There should be room for both: the leisurely telling of stories and experiences and the instant, lightning-fast mode of digital technologies, as well as everything in between," said NIHSS CEO Professor Sarah Mosoetsa in her message in the Awards catalogue.

Through the HSS Awards – and other initiatives – the Institute deliberately and consciously makes space for new stories, new voices and new narratives. Since the inception of the Awards in 2016/17, over 350 fiction and non-fiction books have been adjudicated, along with more than 120 digital and creative pursuits such as exhibition catalogues, musical compositions or arrangements, dance performances, festivals and creations of digital arts.

The creators of these works are from many backgrounds: business, the judiciary, education, academia, higher education leadership, social justice activism, the performing arts and journalism, among others, Prof Mosoetsa said in her message. "Collectively, they are birthing a body of creative-intellectual work as multitextured as this uniquely beautiful and complicated country."

Making space for new stories

Given the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 Awards took on a hybrid model, combining a core, carefully socially distanced event at Maropeng and a virtual connection for the greater community of HSS scholars and friends of the NIHSS, who joined the ceremony via the NIHSS social media platforms.

The keynote speaker was Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, who noted that the Awards were taking place at a critical time, when the entire global community is grappling with the global pandemic of Covid-19.

"I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the NIHSS for the role it has played in mobilisation of social sciences in support of government's efforts in combating Covid-19," Dr Nzimande said in a virtual address. "Research and surveys that you have conducted have played a crucial role in informing government strategies and policy choices in handling the deadly virus."

Commenting on the importance of the HSS in society, the Minister said the central role that the HSS play, particularly in learning and generally in life, cannot be taken lightly. "They teach us a range of skills, from cognitive reasoning to seeking solutions to societal problems that are forever challenging us."

Turning to the HSS Awards, Dr Nzimande welcomed the wide range of topics covered in the works that had been entered and said they

Some of the judges for the HSS Awards 2021.



represented the key contemporary priorities of the day. "This includes a strong focus on environmental issues, our maturing democracy and its challenges, the fourth industrial revolution and understanding our diverse past."

Dr Nzimande congratulated the winners and runners-up. "To have made it this far means that you have been affirmed by your peers and the work that you have undertaken continues to contribute to our understanding of South Africa and bring forward new forms of knowledge."

In their own inimitable ways, many of the award-winners for 2021 are trailblazers for transformation and knowledge creation in South Africa, having been among the first in their fields to tackle certain topics.

'We walk with our heads high'

"As queer people in this country, we live extremely difficult lives. We live fearful lives and we walk with heads bowed. But tonight, we walk with our heads high," said Jamil Khan, winner of the category for best non-fiction biography for *Khamr: The Making of a Waterslams*.

Accepting the award for "Waterslams", which is a derogatory term used to describe disgraced Muslims, Jamil quoted some of the opening lines of *Khamr*: "To my ancestors whose names were taken and whose tongues were cut out of their mouths. Rejoice, for the eternal night has lifted."

Another ground-breaking writer who paid tribute to her ancestors was Rešoketšwe Manenzhe, joint winner in the category for best

fiction, single author, for her debut novel, *Scatterlings*, set in 1912 to 1927, the period that preceded apartheid. 1927 was the year in which the infamous Immorality Act was passed, a piece of legislation that would wreak havoc among South Africans for generations to come.

"I thank my ancestors and my family for telling me their stories ... There is so much of my people in this book," said the University of Cape Town lecturer, referring to *Scatterlings* as an ordinary story about ordinary South Africans, black women specifically, in a "somewhat forgotten time in history".

The other winner in this category was James Hendry, whose novel *Reggie and Me*, set in the leafy suburbs of Johannesburg from 1976 to 1994, has been described as "poignant, hilarious and at times tragic".

Real, living human beings

Moving to the game of football, Professor Ashwin Desai won the award for best non-fiction monograph for *Wentworth: The Beautiful Game and the Making of Place*. His book is believed to be the first that attempts to document the history of an area designated "Coloured" in the late 1950s.

Accepting the award, Prof Desai said, "I write about real, living human beings who jump categories, who escape straitjackets, who have many identities. And so that is what moves me... life and loss is what we write about; that is the spine of our living and that's what the book *Wentworth* really is about."

“Every now and then a bold voice dares to uncensor themselves and emerge from a silenced, marginalised and often invisibilised quarter of society, to say this is my story, our story and it is long overdue. It is time for things to be named, documented in ways not dictated by external gazes or imposed frames of language or content that it should conform to in order to be deemed valid, worthy, acceptable. Such a work in our socio-political and historical context of oppression and bigotry, is ancestral and community repair work. It is not only the accomplishment of an individual liberating their own voice and indigenous tongue, but towards a lifting of communal burden of silencing and exclusion.”

Malika Ndlovu, HSS Awards Chair judge
(Fiction Category)

While Desai was “breaking loose from the bounds of theory”, black women writers represented at the HSS Awards were unleashing an “explosion of creativity”, to quote Professor Fred Hendricks, judge chair for the non-fiction categories.

An example is a very special book, *Our Words, Our Worlds: Writing on Black South African Women Poets, 2000-2018*, edited by Makhosazana Xaba and selected as joint winner in the category for best non-fiction edited volumes. This book assembles the writings of 23 contributors and is the first to explore the history and impact of poetry by black women, in their own voices.

The other winning book in this category was *Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: history, criticism, celebration*, by Sabata-Mpho Mokae and Brian Willan. Written in 1920, *Mhudi* was the first full-length novel in English to have been written by a black South African.

Finally in the awards for the written word was *All the Places*, penned by Musawenkosi Khanyile, winner of best fiction, poetry. “This is a collection of gems,” said Ms Malika Ndlovu, judge chair of the category. Highlighting the power of the young poet’s work, Malika said some of the poems in this slim volume were only four lines long but “will punch in the gut”.

Dance and the arts take centre stage

In the category for best public performance, top honours went to the Virtual JOMBA! Festival, created and staged in the early weeks of South Africa’s hard national lockdown.

“This particular award comes at an important time when artists in our country are not just activists for other causes but activists for their own survival,” said Ismail Mohamed, director of the Centre for Creative Arts, which presented JOMBA!

“So, this (award) means a great deal. I accept it in honour of all those artists who are making their voices heard because the arts are more than just a performance on stage. It has contributed significantly to the democratisation of our country and continues to hold it accountable.”

Category judge chair Dr Andile Khumalo said the festival had been staged entirely on a digital platform and offered free online. “JOMBA! grabbed this moment in our history to push dance into new vistas, to see what was (and is) possible as we learn to navigate different synapses and different wiring.”

Dr Khumalo also praised the winners of the best visual art award, Nkule Mabaso, curator of UCT’s Michaelis Galleries and Nomusa Makhubu, Associate Professor at the Michaelis School of Fine Art. Their creative book, *There are Mechanisms in Place*, was prepared in response to Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum’s solo art exhibition with the same name but is “quite different” from the usual catalogue.

“It deliberately centres and collaborates with black women cultural producers”, Dr Khumalo said, adding that like the exhibition, the book “probes social experiences of home, belonging and estrangement through the prisms of science and futurity, politics, economy and governance.”

The awards did not overlook the creative and scholarly potential of social media. Karli Brittz won the award for best digital humanities visualisation for *Insta-dog: computing Instagram’s companion species*.

One of the outstanding features of this work was the use of information to understand the relationship between humans and animals, Dr Khumalo said. “In this case, the focus was on dogs, but the technology is flexible enough to accommodate a more comprehensive subject matter.”

HSS AWARD WINNERS FOR 2021

BEST NON-FICTION BIOGRAPHY

Jamil Khan's award-winning book is a critique of the multiple levers of power within Coloured communities in Cape Town.



Khamr: The Makings of a Waterslams

JAMIL KHAN

Jacana Media

Making queer black people feel seen and represented was what Jamil Khan set out to do when writing this book and that, according to many who have read it, is what the book achieves.

Khamr: The Makings of a Waterslams, offers an unusual perspective on the multiple levers of power that operate within Coloured communities in Cape Town. It reflects on the intersections of Islam, Colouredness, queerness and the hypocrisy of respectability, as well as the effects class status has on this constellation of social realities.

"The story also delves into the role of shame in the construction of the disgraced Muslim or Waterslams and how this links to the role of shame in ranking Colouredness through the tropes of the binary racialised religious opposites: Slams and Boesman," says the author.

"It tells my journey of real internal conflict with the choice to exist outside of systems I had been co-opted into and the backlash faced for those choices. It is a story that details the ways in which the normalised cults of religion and respectability set people up to live painfully constricted lives in the name of rules and traditions; the price of belonging. It tells of how social divisions between marginalised people are also maintained from within."

While *Khamr* does tell of many difficulties overcome, it does not romanticise pain and perseverance, says the author. "It is a critique of secret violence in faith communities and families and the hypocrisy that has damaged so many people still looking for a place and way to voice their trauma. This is a critique of the value placed on ritual and culture at the expense of human life and well-being and the far-reaching consequences of systems of oppression dressed up as tradition."



BEST NON-FICTION MONOGRAPH

Prof Ashwin Desai writes of life and loss on and off the football field.

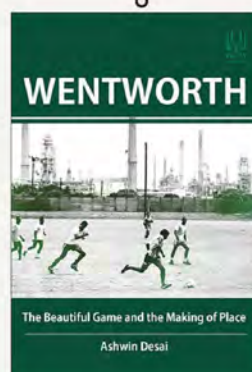
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Wentworth: The Beautiful Game and the Making of Place

ASHWIN DESAI

UKZN Press



Arguably, this is the first book that attempts to document the history of an area in the South Basin of Durban designated “Coloured” in the late 1950s. *Wentworth: The Beautiful Game and the Making of Place* is also the story of the history of soccer in Wentworth and of the emergent social relations beyond the playing field.

The author uses group biography to create a narrative of people arriving in what was a barren landscape and building soccer teams and through this a sense of place. This is no romantic tale, but one also of heartache and broken dreams, embodied by Gary Goldstone, whose possible career with Leicester City was stolen as he ran with gangs and made a turn in a mental home, only to escape and torment the defence of many a team.

Beyond the field of play, the book relates struggles over housing in the area, showing how the very money allocated after years of negotiating and mobilising has become a source of conflict. Race, class and gender run through the book without

overwhelming the narrative. In fascinating detail, the author shows how Wentworth has become a meeting place for diverse strands of people, as Mauritians meet St Helenians meet Transkeians.

The author explores gang life, showing in a chapter entitled “The field of relations” how battles over turf are passed down as the Young Destroyers turn on the Destroyers.

The section entitled “The stair boys” starts with an epigraph from Henry: “The flats stole my life. Alabama Road is the most dangerous road in Wentworth” and ends reflecting that “Alabama Road is the only life Henry knows. Will only know”.

It is here that the author brings to bear Bourdieu’s “system of dispositions”; the development of habits, styles, personalities by which people become adjusted to their social world as much as they seek to re-make it.

Theory abounds, but like a good referee, it is hardly visible. Amidst the stories of drugs, gangs and unemployment, there is a sense of suturing wounds, even as new sores emerge.

**BEST NON-FICTION EDITED
VOLUME (JOINT WINNER)**

Makhosazana Xaba's book is the first to explore the history and impact of poetry by black women, in their own words.

*Our Words, Our
Worlds: Writing on
Black South African
Women Poets,
2000-2018*

MAKHOSAZANA XABA

UKZN Press



Our Words, Our World assembles the writings of 23 contributors, documenting a slice of South Africa's literary landscape and relating the seismic shift that transformed national culture through poetry. It is the first to explore the history and impact of poetry by black women, in their own voices and straddles disciplines such as literary theory, feminism, history of the book and politics, while contributing to the decolonial conversation in relation to literary culture.

In her introduction, Gabeba Baderoon writes that "the collection is a remarkable intellectual achievement, destined to become an instant classic of South African literature". A few months after its publication, this work had delivered 14 packed-to-the-brim launches, a sold-out first print run and 11 strong reviews, all attesting to its importance in asserting the standing and power of black women poets in South Africa.

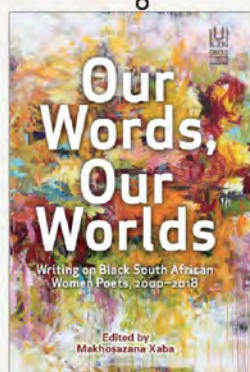
The work takes as its point of departure the fact that women's voices and perspectives have been marginalised, disparaged and ignored. It challenges, resists and revolts against

this silencing and attempts at erasure. The conversation between Dianna Ferrus and Makhosazana Xaba about Ferrus's poem for Sarah Baartman is a brilliant and poignant example of the power of poetry.

The insistence on the collectivity of the work and its feminist agenda directly confronts the trend of depoliticising and anti-intellectualising the work of black women poets, according to Moshibudi Motimele.

"Critical fabulation" means the use of narrative to respond to archival omissions and this is exactly what *Our Words, our Worlds* achieves. Throughout the book, different strategies are used to respond to silencing, erasure and marginalisation, as acts of revolt and resistance that respect even the agency involved in choosing not to say and address certain things.

This multi-genre anthology of literary critique, personal essays and interviews demonstrates how powerful and central poetry and specifically women's poetry, is to societal change.



BEST NON-FICTION EDITED VOLUME (JOINT WINNER)

Sabata-Mpho Mokae (pictured) and co-editor Brian Willan ensured that the centenary of Sol Plaatje's book *Mhudi* did not pass unnoticed.



Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: history, criticism, celebration

SABATA-MPHO MOKAE AND BRIAN WILLAN

Jacana Media

Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration did not wish the centenary of Sol Plaatje's book to pass unnoticed. They brought together a distinguished cast of contributors to shed new light on the story of *Mhudi's* writing and publication and to investigate the themes with which Plaatje was concerned.

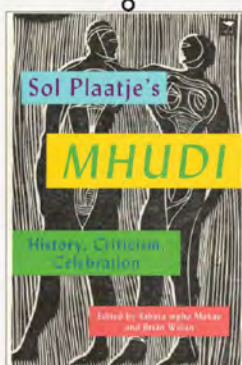
Written in 1920, but only published for the first time in 1930, Sol Plaatje's *Mhudi* is the first full-length novel in English to have been written by a black South African. It is widely considered to be one of South Africa's most important literary works and is widely read and studied in schools, colleges and universities in South Africa and elsewhere.

Mhudi tells the tale of Mhudi and Ra-Thaga, a romantic tale set against a violent backdrop of war between Barolong and Ndebele in the 1830s. It is also a story of dispossession, of the betrayal of the Barolong by their Boer allies, an exploration of the roots of the injustices of Plaatje's day and a literary accompaniment to his lifelong struggle for justice in South Africa.

Given the need and opportunity to draw *Mhudi* to the attention of a wider public, the editors of

Zakes Mda, Bhekisizwe Peterson, Chris Thurman and Laurence Wright explore the role of history and historical context, the importance of oral tradition and the range of resources Plaatje draws upon; Antjie Krog points to the wider philosophical world which Plaatje creates in *Mhudi*; Lesego Malepe describes the historical consequences of dispossession of land, while Jenny du Preez looks into the feminist credentials of the character of Mhudi. Eileen Poole and Shole argue that *Mhudi* should be seen essentially as a Setswana novel, putting forward the case for a "repatriative translation"; Brian Willan describes how *Mhudi* was written, published and received.

Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration is a fitting tribute for a novel that resonates powerfully in today's South Africa. Bessie Head called it "a beautiful book, more than a classic" and thought "there is no other book on earth like it. All the stature and grandeur of the author are in it".



**BEST FICTION SINGLE
AUTHOR (JOINT WINNER)**

Rešoketšwe Manenzhe's debut novel subtly narrates the factors that led to the construction of the apartheid system, while writing women into history.

Scatterlings
REŠOKETŠWE MANENZHE
Jacana Media



Scatterlings examines South Africa's history from the perspectives of characters who are typically ignored and whose stories are very rarely told. It writes women into history and it does so by focusing on varying, diverse perspectives.

The book is set in the tumultuous time between the onset of colonialism and the "official" start of apartheid (in 1948) and it follows the laws that preceded apartheid. Landmark laws such as the Natives Land Act of 1913 and the Immorality Act of 1927 are placed front and centre, offering a unique counterpoint to the usual focus of South African literature, the incumbent years of apartheid or the years following its end.

Although the laws immediately address different things and therefore seem unrelated at first, it becomes apparent that they are intertwined since loopholes in one law led to consequences that need to be regulated. As one law necessitated another, South Africa descended into systemic discrimination that would later actively cripple the majority of its population for over four decades.

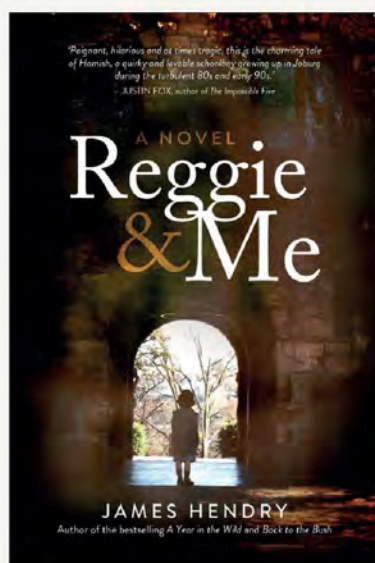
Scatterlings subtly narrates the socio-political factors that led to the perfectly designed and constructed system that was apartheid. It also zooms in to individual people and how they experience the changing landscape that they and their ancestors had called home and how they fit into the new world.

One such individual is Mmakoma, an elderly woman from the Balobedu Tribe of modern-day Limpopo and now a migrant labourer on a wine farm in the present-day Western Cape.

The author approached Mmakoma's story from three perspectives: her reflections on the disruption of colonial rule on her culture; being part of a tribe that is little known even in modern-day South Africa and as a displaced person. The themes of home, loss and belonging are common throughout the book, especially as they apply to another character, Alisa, a descendant of enslaved people.

Scatterlings is a delicate tale about these people and this place they inherited without any choice; it's a story about how, as a people and as a country, we got to a place we didn't quite understand, but we still love.

BEST FICTION SINGLE AUTHOR (JOINT WINNER)

*Reggie and Me*

JAMES HENDRY

Pan Macmillan SA

"Literature of this kind may seem somewhat odd, but it is the oddity of its subject matter that opens up a new avenue for exploring the nuances of the past, particularly those of a time of violence, where tranquility, fantasy and adventure seem another world altogether."

"Reggie and Me is untypical in its theme and style, but in its own way reveals a life that is not always the popular subject of South African literature."



Justin Fox, author of *The Impossible Five*, described this book as "poignant, hilarious and at times tragic", the "charming tale of a quirky and loveable schoolboy growing up in Joburg during the turbulent 80s and early 1990s".

As schoolchildren in Soweto protest against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction and the struggle against apartheid reaches its zenith, pushing South Africa to the brink, this small boy

in the leafy northern suburbs of Johannesburg is having fish fingers for lunch.

This is the tale of Hamish Charles Sutherland Fraser, chorister, horse rider, schoolboy actor and, in his dreams, 1st XV rugby star and young ladies' delight. A boy who loves climbing trees in the spring and a girl named Reggie. An odd child growing up in a conflicted, scary, beautiful society. A young South African who hasn't learnt the rules.

**BEST FICTION SINGLE
AUTHOR (JOINT WINNER)**



All the Places

MUSAWENKOSI KHANYILE
Uhlanga Press

"*All the Places* is a profoundly imaginative work of literature: its critical approach to the intersection of the personal and the political extends the critical debates on the politics of the domestic and the public."

"I love the dedication to his younger brother Zamo and the 'big bro' poems that specifically address him as a caregiver, advisor in place of 'absent' parents."



In a country like South Africa, poetry tends to overlook the ordinary lives of people in disadvantaged communities. During the HSS Awards, Ms Malika Ndlovu, chairperson of the panel judging the fiction categories, referred to this phenomenon as the "cruelty of invisibility".

All the Places undoes this by seeking to consciously represent ordinary places and the experiences of ordinary people who live in them.

People in KwaZulu-Natal, for example, will come across names of rural places such as Ndundulu and Nquthu, places that rarely make it into books.

This debut collection of poems explores the interplay between place and identity, capturing the everyday experiences of ordinary people in different environmental contexts, including the rural, the township and the urban.

In this way, *All The Places* reassures ordinary people that their experiences and lives are worth documenting and brings forth the crucial message that the experiences of ordinary citizens who live in poverty-stricken and crime-infested places are also valid.

This book, in which people can see themselves, is a "collection of gems", to quote Ms Ndlovu again, with several poems "that in just a few lines hit to the core".

BEST FICTION EDITED VOLUME

Bongani Kona of Jacana Media accepted the award on behalf of editor Niq Mhlongo.

O



Joburg Noir

NIQ MHLONGO

Jacana Media

Joburg Noir is filled with a myriad of themes, tones and moments and each story in this collection sparked flashbacks to the city of the editor's youth.

"Opening the pages of *Joburg Noir* feels like retrieving memories that for years had been kept in some abandoned drawer in my brain," says Niq Mhlongo. "My past suddenly reappeared to me in the fantastical form of a dream. A lot of memories we think we have forgotten sometimes return to us just by reading a book."

The book is concocted out of memories, urban legends, jokes, myths, dreams, brief encounters, experiences (good and bad), love and loss.

"It made me feel like a time traveller who had voyaged into my bittersweet magical past," says the editor. "The stories reignited my love-hate

relationship with Joburg, making its streets a living memory. From these stories, I feel like my past is relived, reinvented and retold with juicy additions for my personal enjoyment."

Niq Mhlongo says *Joburg Noir* is a book that seeks to understand, reconstruct and recover people's experiences of the city. "The stories allowed me to travel back through all past experiences and more. The 20 writers in this collection display an intimate knowledge of the city; the Joburg they portray is exciting, modern and sophisticated but also blighted by poverty, corruption, Afrophobia, unemployment, drug addiction and crime."

The best way to read this book, says the editor, is to imagine it is water: "Let your mind and body float with it."



BEST VISUAL ART

The hand-crafted creative book of Nkule Mabasa and Nomusa Makhubu responds to the solo exhibition, *There are Mechanisms in Place*, by artist Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum.

O



There are Mechanisms in Place

NKULE MABASO AND NOMUSA MAKHUBU

There Are Mechanisms in Place is a creative book on the work of artist Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum. It follows her solo exhibition of the same name presented at the University of Cape Town's Michaelis Galleries from 23 August to 21 September 2018.

The creative book, quite different from the usual catalogue, deliberately centres and collaborates with black women cultural producers, responding to Sunstrum's solo exhibition.

The title, *There Are Mechanisms in Place*, refers to a speech that South Africa's then Minister of Higher Education and Training gave in October 2015 in response to student protests. In it, he stated: "It is a challenge, but I wouldn't call it a crisis. A crisis implies that the situation is so bad that there are no mechanisms to deal with it. There are mechanisms in place."

From this speech, Sunstrum became interested in how this statement served to confirm that the historical mechanisms that were once in

place to "deal with" student uprising are still, indeed, "in place" now.

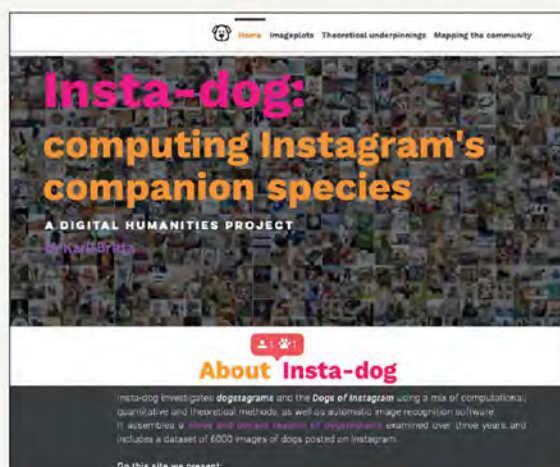
Like the exhibition, the book probes social experiences of home, belonging and estrangement through the prisms of science and futurity, politics, economy and governance.

Sunstrum explores parallels between ancient cosmology and advanced theories in science. Her creative research yields an assemblage of mythology, historical heroics and speculations on the structure of the universe. She creates figures in her work that are time travelling, fantastical and alternate selves, traversing a simultaneously futuristic and pre historic.

The hand-crafted creative book provides a full view of the artist's approach, exploring the artist's futurist and coded works on paper. The book opens with essays from curators Mabaso and Makhubu situating the context of Sunstrum's exhibition in a place that is so charged and directly linked to the exhibition's critique of the university.



BEST DIGITAL HUMANITIES VISUALISATION



Insta-dog: computing Instagram's companion species

KARLI BRITZ

This digital humanities project investigates images of dogs posted on the social media site Instagram, using a mix of computational, quantitative and theoretical methods, as well as automatic image recognition software. It assembles a close and distant reading of so-called "dogstagrams" examined over three years and includes digital visualisations of a dataset of 6 000 images posted on Instagram.

The site presents findings, visualisations and theoretical explanations about the different types of dogstagrams regularly posted on Instagram. It provides imageplots assembling dogstagrams to reveal patterns related to these images and uses an interactive visualisation platform to discover and connect with the community and network of the Dogs of Instagram.



"It is the study of the affective interaction between man and animal using new technologies from which the work gains its strength."

Further, the project gives a close-up view of any dogstagram in the dataset, allowing for a comparison and examination of dogstagrams on the viewer's own terms and features theoretical discussions of dogstagrams and the importance of the human-dog relation. Finally, it provides documentation on digital humanities methods used in the project to assist future projects in using automatic image recognition software to analyse visual datasets.

The project allows for cross-disciplinary access to academic research and has led to significant engagement and visibility for the field of visual culture, digital and media studies, as well as the discourse on social media. Additionally, the project acts as a method of research that leads to interesting and new findings in the field of social media, companion species and nonhumanism.

Perhaps the most important impact of the digital project is the open access to the documentation and methodologies used to create the visualisation plots. The documentation is shared and written in an accessible manner so that others can follow the same methods with different data sets, to discover patterns and relations between a variety of images.

BEST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Ismail Mahomed, Director of the Centre for Creative Arts, accepts the award for the JOMBA! dance festival, which explored what dance can do in a digital space and time.

O



Virtual JOMBA! Festival

ISMAIL MAHOMED

The 2020 Virtual JOMBA! Festival took place under the hard lockdown in South Africa and moved its entire festival to a digital platform where it was offered free via online platforms. In a carefully curated explosion of dance and conversations about dance making, JOMBA! 2020 offered a look back at some iconic dance works and dance makers and explored what dance can be in a digital space and a digital time here in South Africa.

This was the 22nd edition of the Centre for Creative Arts' JOMBA! contemporary dance experience, which pushes the agenda of dance and theatre as disciplines that advance the idea that dance and performance offer an engagement with complex notions of identity.

Interrogating identity sits at the heart of humanities. This programme works with the postcolonial writer Stuart Hall's notions of cultural identity, which he argued is not innate but transcends time, history, location and context.

Identity is subject to a continuous interplay between culture and history and these, for Hall, are themselves always discourses that negotiate power relations. Germane to the festival's vision is the idea that identities are actually future-oriented; they are "about becoming". Physical theatre and dance practices offer a rich cultural space for artist and audience to re-imagine and re-negotiate contemporary ways of being and becoming.

The festival also actively supports the growth of critical arts writing skills, via its JOMBA! Khuluma Writing Residency, which aims to provide graduate students the opportunity to grow their skills as dance /arts writers, while also experiencing the rigours of working as festival journalists.

In the digital age of Covid-19, JOMBA! grabbed this moment in our history to push dance into new vistas, to see what was (and is) possible as we learn to navigate different synapses and different wiring; this time not necessarily in the body but in the digital domain.





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

FOSTER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA, AFRICA AND COUNTRIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH, INCLUDING BRAZIL, INDIA AND CHINA



An issue of the BRICS Academic Review, an in-house NIHSS publication

Despite the pandemic-related travel bans that made physical international travel an impossibility for most of the year, most of the research collaborations that the Institute facilitates were able to continue uninterrupted.

The exception was our Mobility Grants initiative, which calls for cross-border travel on the part of recipients. We were able to make up for lost time towards the end of the financial year, by which time 13 out of grants planned for the year 2020/21 had been awarded. This was two grants short of the target of 15 and was owing to delays on the part of the two institutions hosting the recipients.

The Mobility Grants were the only component of this strategic objective where the Institute did not meet the targets for international research collaboration. For the remaining three indicators on collaborative projects undertaken, research outputs delivered and dialogues, colloquiums and policy discussions held, the NIHSS either met or significantly exceeded the targets for the year.

One of the biggest successes was the number of research outputs the project leaders of international research collaborations were able to deliver. They delivered 13 outputs, against the target of five outputs set, mostly as a result of their substantial contributions to the 12th BRICS Academic Forum, hosted online by Moscow, Russia in the last week of October 2020.

International research collaboration outputs for 2020/21	Research team and institution
BRICS Academic Review (BAR), Issue 4, May 2020	NIHSS
Anthropocene and Re-Centring Indigeneity, South African Review of Sociology	Dr D Miller and R Pointer, School of Governance, Wits University
The post-colonial is neocolonial in the Indian Ocean region: the case of Chagos seen through the African-centred decolonial theoretical lens, Africa Review	Prof Siphamandla Zondi, University of Johannesburg
Beyond the lab: Eh!woza and knowing tuberculosis, Med Humanit	Masuku B, Mkhwanazi N, Young E, et al
<i>Can the BRICS be a Catalyst for the Transformation of Global Governance: A Perspective</i> 12 th BRICS Academic Forum, Moscow and online, 22 – 24 October 2020	Prof Siphamandla Zondi, University of Johannesburg
<i>Artificial Intelligence Regulations. 12th BRICS Academic Forum</i>	Prof L Leenen, University of Western Cape
<i>Anatomy of Peace and Security: BRICS as a Global Game Changer to Peace and Security. 12th BRICS Academic Forum</i>	Prof N Gopal, Professor, University of KwaZulu-Natal
<i>Precariousness: From precarious work to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In preparation for 12th BRICS Academic Forum</i>	Dr Hlatshwayo, M, University of Johannesburg
<i>Nexus Between Energy and Development: the case of BRICS. 12th BRICS Academic Forum</i>	Dr T Simelane, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
<i>Rising Economic Nationalism: Implications for the BRICS. 12th BRICS Academic Forum</i>	Mr C Prinsloo, South African Institute of International Affairs
<i>Working towards an inclusive digital future in BRICS and African Universities</i>	Mr K Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
<i>Planning for Quality Infrastructure and Sustainability Post-Covid-19 in BRICS</i>	Dr Thulisile Mphambukeli, University of Free State

OUTPUTS FOR 2020/21

This strong performance on research outputs was achieved despite an ongoing decrease in the number of international research collaborations that the Institute is able to support.

This kind of research, involving researchers from across South Africa, other African countries and countries in the BRICS, is expensive to conduct and fund, especially in a period of ongoing budget cuts. Two years ago, 20 international projects were under way under the auspices of the NIHSS. That decreased to 10 new projects in the previous year and to five new projects in the year under review.

The five new collaborative projects were awarded through the Institute's collaboration with the Indian Council for Social Sciences Research (ICSSR).

The joint call for proposals was launched on 6 January 2021 and closed on 17 February 2021. The two institutes then awarded grants to the recipients listed in the table alongside.

ICSSR grant holder and institution	Project title
Prof Mercy Tshilidzi Mulaudzi, University of Venda	Psychosocial experiences of adults in rural communities during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak
Prof Elmarie Slabbert, North West University	Modelling post-Covid-19 pandemic tourist behaviour: towards resuscitating Indian and South African tourism
Prof Linda Theron, University of Pretoria	The multisystemic sources of human resilience to Covid-19-related stress: Learning from emerging adults in India and South Africa
Dr Eliza Govender, University of KwaZulu-Natal	Glocalising prevention efforts for a South African context: A social-cultural perspective to exploring Covid-19 perceptions through community engagement
Dr Bridgemohan Maharaj, University of KwaZulu-Natal	"Across the Kaala Pani" – Maritime Networks and Indian-South African Connections

“In resolving to write about her life, [Sindiwe] Magona imprints herself onto history and engages with the struggles of black people by telling her story of growing up during the oppressive apartheid era. For Magona, the personal is political, as is evident in the way in which her personal or private life is interwoven with the public as she narrates her life. Storytelling as a form of education contributes towards the development of memory and imagination.”

Prof Puleng Segalo, NIHSS Project leader in Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies, 2020 vol 6, no. 339-202

“If the environment is a critical component of a new decolonised epistemology in as far as we need to close the gap between us and “nature”, we need to construct academic and conceptual languages that integrate human and “non-human” agency and existence. Life becomes an increasing awareness of humans as existing “within nature”, a part of nature rather than separated from and acting upon nature.”

Dr Darlene Miller & Rebecca Pointer (2019) Decolonising South African Universities: Challenging the Anthropocene and Re-Centring Indigeneity, *South African Review of Sociology*, 50:3-4, 22-41

Although small in number, the quality of the work being conducted through international research collaborations is high, as is clear from the calibre of research outputs emanating from them and the prestigious publications or forums in which they have been published or delivered.

For example, the 2021 edition of the *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology* carried an article examining the impact of xenophobic attacks on the livelihoods of migrants in selected provinces of South Africa. This was based on qualitative research on the experiences of seven migrants from Ethiopia, India and Zimbabwe by a team of researchers from the University of Limpopo, University of Venda and North-West University.

MIGRANTS FIND COMFORT IN RURAL AREAS

The study revealed that xenophobic attacks on migrants living in the rural areas of South Africa are rare and therefore their livelihoods are not negatively affected. However, undocumented migrants living in the cities experience displacement, deportation and loss of income as a consequence of xenophobia.

A crucial element of this study is its recommendation that future studies be conducted into the full implementation of migration management policies in the rural areas as this is where undocumented migrants find comfort.

In the words of one of the participants quoted in the article, “I find it very rare that our brothers would report experiencing xenophobia because the people in these rural areas are good to us and they even support our businesses. They are good people and we seldom have quarrels with them as they also gave us places to stay and spaza-shops to run so that we can have income.”

The treatment of migrants is also pertinent in many other countries in the Global South, whether as their countries of origin or destination. Similarly, other globally relevant research topics coming out of the NIHSS's collaborative projects are energy security, peace and security, the fourth industrial revolution, planning for post-Covid-19 infrastructure and communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and decolonisation.

Dr Darlene Miller, lecturer at Wits University's School of Governance and leader of the BRICS Cluster Phase I project on *Earth connection in food governance*, co-wrote an insightful article on the decolonisation debate that was published online in 2020. She and co-author Rebecca Pointer, also from Wits University, saw the article as an attempt to put “flesh on the bones” of the debate regarding green spaces.

PUTTING FLESH ON THE BONES OF THE DECOLONISATION DEBATE

Contrary to claims that the decolonisation debate is full of rhetoric and lacking in substance, not only are there existing models for decolonised universities but the discussions around the decolonisation debate have already received critical scrutiny, the two authors said.

They pointed to the Green Leadership Schools run at the University of the Western Cape in 2014 and 2015 as an example of decolonised higher education where decolonisation is not simply equated with Africanisation (as in access for all races) or “gestures” where African authors are inserted into the curriculum.

“Instead, our Schools provided a different approach to knowledge, linked to African tradition, which included spiritual reconnection with the planet,” they wrote. “We sought to suggest a link between decolonisation and our connection with the environment, an awareness of humans as intimately part of nature.”

Their article, titled “Decolonising South African universities: Challenging the Anthropocene and re-centring indigeneity”,

provides an example of “a small experiment”, the Green Leadership Schools, which attempted to “put flesh on the bones of the decolonisation debate”.

The Green Leadership Schools were a series of four or five-day residential workshops held in 2014 and 2015, initiated through the UWC Sociology Department and its Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies.

The intention was to generate alternative and indigenous conceptualisations of decolonised education, going beyond book learning and lectures.

“Each Green Leadership School focused on land, culture and the environment in ways that prioritise African scholars, African cultural practices and food gardens,” wrote Prof Miller and Ms Pointer in their article. “While the Green Leadership School was an educational outreach programme, it was organised at a high level of theoretical exposition (conducted in English) to allow for intense intellectual engagement.”



(left) Participants from the 7th Sterkfontein Composers Meeting, one of the events held as part of a Working Groups Project by Prof Stephanus Muller, reported during September 2020. (right) Drs Darlene Miller and Gary Gabriels

The overall objective was to develop African intellectual leadership that sees environmental and body awareness as central aspects of ethical leadership. "We saw 'green leadership' as the basis for decolonisation that is environmentally conscious, planet-centred and enchanted or infused with radical idealism," write the authors.

They agree with Mamdani (2016) that decolonisation is not just about access to higher education, the content of curricula or who gets to speak with authority, but also about the process of knowledge production.

"As shown by the Green Leadership Schools, there are numerous ways to change the culture, rituals and curricula of South African universities and there are ways to develop a planetary awareness that includes indigenous knowledge and sees the survival of the planet as connected to the survival of diverse cultures of knowledge."

MOBILITY GRANTS

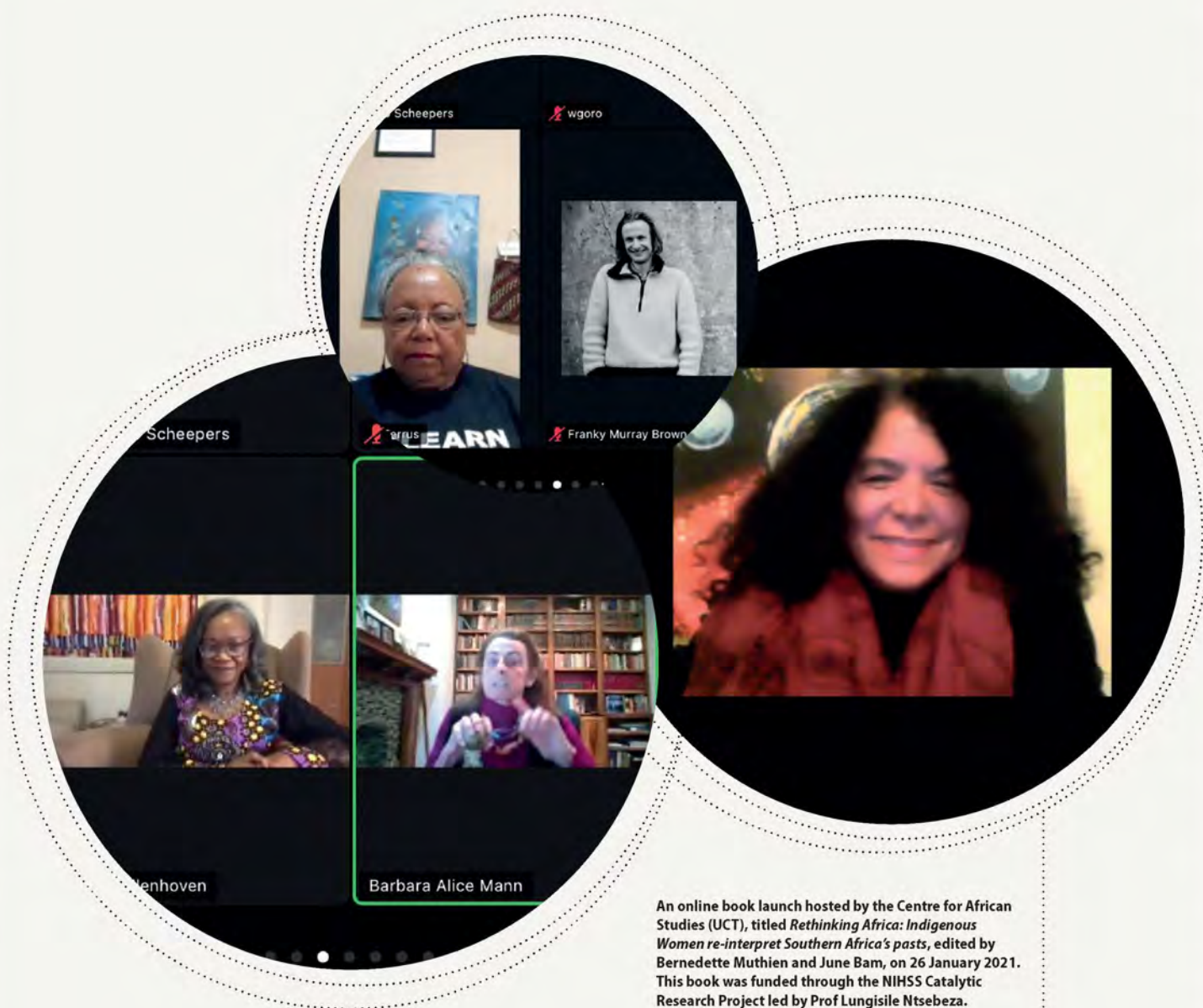
The awarding of African Pathways Programme (APP) and BRICS Mobility Grants had to be delayed until late in the financial year owing to the international travel restrictions. It was only in November 2020 that the first two grants were awarded. The rest of the mobility grants were awarded during the fourth quarter of the 2020/ 2021 financial year.

The table below lists the 15 grant recipients and their areas of study.

ENGAGING IN A TIME OF GLOBAL CRISIS

During the year, the NIHSS, the South African BRICS Think Tank and project leaders held a full programme of dialogues, lectures, colloquiums and policy discussions, using virtual

Mobility Grant recipient	Area of study/ Purpose of mobility grant
Professor Bryan Robinson, Nelson Mandela University	Visit Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia for the purposes of research
Professor Hugo Canham, University of the Witwatersrand	Visit Mozambique for the purposes of research
Prof Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg	Visit BRICS countries to conduct digital humanities research
Prof Christopher Isike, University of Pretoria	Visit Mozambique, to form teaching and research collaboration between the University of Pretoria and the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique.
Prof Jonathan Okeke, University of Pretoria;	Organising and hosting of a Postgraduate and Early Career Research Workshop on "Decolonial Research Methods in the Humanities."
Prof Simatele Munacinga, University of Fort Hare	Visit Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the purposes of research, teaching and mentoring
Prof Willie Chinyamurindi University of Fort Hare	Visit Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the purposes of research, teaching and mentoring
Professor Zethu Cakata, University of South Africa	Visit to the University of Ghana, Legon, to conduct research
Dr Nduka Mntambo, University of the Witwatersrand	Visit the BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia and China to conduct research
Dr Ntheno Nchabeleng, Nelson Mandela University	Visit Ghana and Kenya, to develop a gender inclusive curriculum, with the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) and Egerton University (Kenya)
Dr Johannes Mampane, University of South Africa	Visit BRICS countries, to conduct a situational analysis of the human rights of LGBT people
Motshedisi Mathibe University of Pretoria	Visit Makerere University (Uganda), for the purposes of research, teaching and mentoring
Dr Newlin Marongwe, Walter Sisulu University	Visit Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the purposes of research
Mr Maanda Luxious Ndhlovu, University of South Africa	Visit the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) library, in Senegal, to conduct research
Mrs Zoegne Luyt, North-West University.	Visit Brazil, India and China to conduct research on impact on travel due to Covid-19



An online book launch hosted by the Centre for African Studies (UCT), titled *Rethinking Africa: Indigenous Women re-interpret Southern Africa's pasts*, edited by Bernedette Muthien and June Bam, on 26 January 2021. This book was funded through the NIHSS Catalytic Research Project led by Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza.

technology to connect the participants. A number of these events dealt with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and BRICS countries response.

Among them was the lecture delivered by South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on 1 December 2020. Titled "The BRICS approach to the post-Covid-19 recovery", the lecture was organised by the Institute in collaboration with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (see page 71).

Another event that highlighted the BRICS response to the pandemic was the SABTT webinar on "Vaccine Rollout Efficacy: Towards the post-Covid-19 Paradigm". The event was held virtually, with all BRICS countries represented, on 24 March 2021.

In addition, on 28 January 2021, the SABTT hosted a virtual public lecture titled "India's BRICS Presidency 2021 – Key priorities and opportunities". The lecture was delivered by the Deputy High Commissioner of the Republic of India to South Africa, Mr Abhijit Chakraborty and Ambassador HHS Viswanathan of the Observer Research Foundation.

Respondent speakers from the BRICS Think Tank Council Members included Russia's Dr Victoria Panova, Brazil's Dr Jose Brandao, China's Dr Jin Xin and South Africa's Prof Siphamandla Zondi.

In addition, on 23 November, the SABTT hosted a webinar titled "BRICS: Reflections on Security and Peacekeeping Priorities".



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

ACT AS A DYNAMIC
KNOWLEDGE
BROKER BETWEEN
THE WORLDS OF
KNOWLEDGE AND
POLICY ACTION ON
BEHALF OF SOUTH
AFRICA AS THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
BRICS THINK TANK

ACADEMIC
FORUM



RUSSIA | 2020

Russia hosted the BRICS Academic Forum, which was held online from 22 to 24 October 2020.

The New Development Bank ... the BRICS Network University ... the proposed BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Centre in South Africa ... greater prominence for gender issues and particularly those affecting women ...

What these matters have in common is that they were conceived and proposed through the BRICS Think Tank Council and its annual Academic Forum gatherings over the years and then approved by the BRICS leaders at the various annual Leaders' Summits.

This connection illustrates the influence that the academic activities of the BRICS can have in bringing knowledge to the attention of the decision-makers to inform policy action.

Dr Victoria V Panova, Scientific Supervisor of the BRICS Expert Council in Russia and Managing Director of the Russian National Committee of BRICS Research, confirmed this in an article in the 2021 edition of the NIHSS's BRICS Academic Review (BAR).

"The tradition of Academic Forums remains strong and those meetings over the years of their existence already have rich experience of expert initiatives making it to the top of the final communiques of the BRICS leaders," Dr Panova said,

She noted that BRICS leaders had recognised the important role of the expert academic community by approving the creation of

the BRICS Think Tank Council as a permanent body responsible for organising Academic Forums, providing in-depth analysis of the BRICS activities, suggesting “brave new visions” for the group itself and for BRICS in the world and annually offering up-to-date recommendations to the leaders of the bloc.

The influential role of the BRICS academic structures has also been highlighted by Dr Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

“The BRICS Think Tank Council and Academic Forum are important Track II institutional mechanisms that enable interaction with key stakeholders in civil society and academia to support our work, particularly in terms of socioeconomic development and addressing the triple challenges we face,” Dr Pandor said in a virtual public lecture on 1 December 2020, jointly organised by her department and the NIHSS.

In her lecture, on the BRICS approach to the post-Covid-19 recovery, she went on to say that these academic events could play a critical role in ensuring broader societal appreciation of the contribution an energised, coordinated BRICS could make to advancing a modern, inclusive international agenda of development.

Referring to the leaders’ Moscow Declaration of 2020, she said they had called on the BRICS Think Tank Council to improve its internal mechanism and strengthen its connection with BRICS governmental sectors and other institutions, including the New Development Bank and the BRICS Business Council.

“Therefore, I trust that the South African BRICS Think Tank will continue to engage us as government to exchange knowledge and provide feedback and recommendations to improve on our engagements within BRICS,” Dr Pandor said.

As the custodian of the SA BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), responsible for coordinating all South Africa’s academic contributions to BRICS, the Institute, via the SABTT, has continued in its role as a dynamic knowledge broker between the worlds of knowledge and policy action.

During 2020/21, the Institute fulfilled its role as a dynamic knowledge broker in three main ways: monitoring BRICS Cluster projects, holding seminars, workshops and conferences and coordinating South Africa’s contribution to the 2020 BRICS Academic Forum in Moscow.

PREPARING FOR THE MOSCOW ACADEMIC FORUM

In preparation for the Russian Academic Forum, held online from 22 to 24 October 2021, we convened an advisory committee meeting with the Department of Higher Education and Training in June 2020. The purpose was to brief the department on the SABTT’s preparations and to review the proposed speakers for the 10-member South African delegation, led by Professor Siphamandla Zondi as Chair of the SABTT.

It consisted of eight speakers, including Prof Zondi, along with an observer from the Department of Higher Education and Training and a representative of the NIHSS/SABTT.

The table below lists the speakers and their topics representing the SABTT at the Moscow Academic Forum.

Speaker and Institution	Topic
Prof Siphamandla Zondi	BRICS grand strategy on the global stage
Prof Louise Leenen	Human after all. BRICS regulating digitalization and AI development
Prof Nirmala Gopal	Anatomy of peace and security: BRICS as a global crisis manager
Dr Aquina Thulare	BRICS and global healthcare: Common goals within and beyond Covid-19
Dr Thulisile Mphambukeli	Quality infrastructure: Towards inclusive growth of BRICS
Dr Thokozani Simelane	Mapping out the nexus between energy and development: Case of BRICS
Mr Cyril Prinsloo	Retracing determinants of partnership: Governing trade, finance and investment within BRICS
Mr Krish Chetty	BRICS education agenda: Skills for the digital economy

In the next stage of the preparations, the Institute held a Pre-Academic Forum meeting on 18 August 2020 so that the speakers could present the papers they would be delivering and be critiqued.

This was followed on 21 September 2020 with an advisory committee meeting between the NIHSS and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. The broader objectives of the meeting were to consolidate preparation for the SA delegation ahead of the Academic Forum and discuss the BRICS Civil Forum.

The BRICS Approach to the Post-COVID-19 Recovery

The South African BRICS Think Tank cordially invites members of the public, academia and media to attend a lecture presented by
H.E. Minister Dr Naledi Pandor
with Prof. Siphamandla Zondi as Chair

This lecture will consider how the COVID-19 pandemic has become an impetus for global, regional and national reforms to underpin a holistic post-COVID-19 recovery, the impact of the pandemic on BRICS' economic and social goals as well as what Africa should take away from the BRICS approach to post-COVID-19 order.

Time: 17h00 – 18h00

Date: 01 December 2020

[Click here to register](#)



South African
BRICS Think Tank



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, delivered a lecture on *The BRICS Approach to the Post-Covid-19 Recovery*, in December 2020. The event was part of the SABTT dialogues convened annually, and was jointly organised by DIRCO and the NIHSS.

The National Committee on BRICS Research in Russia hosted the 12th BRICS Academic Forum in Moscow. The three-day event took place from 22 to 24 October 2020 and was preceded by two closed sessions of the BRICS Think Tank Council for the heads of delegations.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov officially opened the Academic Forum, followed by the opening session in which the heads of delegations of the five BRICS countries outlined their countries' position on the theme, BRICS new vision for a better world.

On 23 and 24 October 2020, the South African speakers took their turns to deliver their presentations:

ANATOMY OF PEACE AND SECURITY: BRICS AS A GLOBAL CRISIS MANAGER

Prof Nirmala Gopal compared the BRICS bloc's status of cooperation in the peace and security space to that of the United Nations' status of cooperation. She noted that the BRICS bloc needed to move faster to ensure it maintained its commitment, presence and relevance in the effort to maintain global peace and security.

RETRACING DETERMINANTS OF PARTNERSHIP: GOVERNING TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT WITHIN BRICS

Mr Cyril Prinsloo spoke on creating sustainable and inclusive global value chains (GVCs) post-Covid-19 in the BRICS countries. He spoke of the rise in GVC nationalism and the growing trend on the part of developed nations to "reshore" their value chains and production away from China and towards developed or "friendlier" countries.

He made various recommendations to resolve this. One was for the BRICS nations to build inclusive value chains with greater resilience and enhanced cooperation mechanisms. Another was to build intra-BRICS economic relations that go beyond trade and towards investment, such as by prioritising investment promotion, as well as leveraging BRICS relations to tap into regional markets such as Brazil and Mercosur and South Africa and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE: TOWARDS INCLUSIVE GROWTH OF BRICS

Dr Thulisile Mphambukeli emphasised the importance of quality infrastructure as key to inclusive sustainable growth needed to build the BRICS countries. She stressed that without quality infrastructure, efforts to ensure growth would be futile. Quality infrastructure is the glue that holds sustainable growth together.

MAPPING OUT THE NEXUS BETWEEN ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT: CASE OF BRICS

Dr Thokozani Simelane mapped and provided a comparative assessment of the BRICS nations' energy profiles.

Within BRICS, China is the largest producer of hydroelectricity, solar power and wind. India ranks second after China in the production of renewable energy. Brazil is the leader in the production of biofuels, which it mixes with hydropower that is supported by wind and solar.

South Africa has developed an ambitious integrated resource plan (IRP2019) which projects that by 2030, almost 60% of South Africa's electricity will still be generated from coal.

He noted that all five countries were still reliant on fossil fuels, but that there were opportunities for collaboration to develop technologies to reduce this reliance. However, he cautioned that transitioning to renewable energy had to be progressive.

He also emphasised the need for BRICS nations to redefine their energy positions based on policies and technological strength for energy generation and their desire to reduce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions.

BRICS EDUCATION AGENDA: SKILLS FOR THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Mr Krish Chetty's presentation drew comparisons from research conducted globally on education and skills for the digital economy. He presented work done to investigate the basis from which levels of preparedness could be measured across the bloc and African countries. He suggested that a lot more needs to be done in ensuring that the higher education space is well equipped to respond to the need to transform education.

BRICS AND GLOBAL HEALTHCARE: COMMON GOALS WITHIN AND BEYOND COVID-19

Dr Aquina Thulare reviewed the 2019 Declaration of the IX BRICS Health Ministers Meeting in Curitiba, Brazil. She also noted that the pandemic had exposed weaknesses in national public health systems and global governance, exacerbating global inequality. She outlined various incidences of vaccine nationalism, especially from the US and the UK, but also noted the examples of intra-BRICS cooperation.

New Development Bank (NDB) had repurposed its lending programme with a USD 10 billion Emergency Assistance Programme and disbursed USD 4 billion, which comprised a USD 1 billion Covid-19 response loan each to China, Brazil, India and South Africa.



Dr Aquina Thulare, part of the BRICS academic clusters and the South African BRICS Think Tank network

DAY TWO Rural Economic Development through CCLs
Festivals in China and Africa

Keynote 09.00 - 10.30hrs
Facilitated by Prof. Brett Pryor
 is a South African arts, culture and heritage practitioner with over thirty years' experience
 advancing and studying the country's cultural-democratic transition in its international
 contexts. Currently, head of the Wits School of Arts, where he pursues ongoing
 research alongside his leadership responsibilities and supervises postgraduate work in
 music, theatre, dance, heritage and cultural policy. He also serves as a member for
 the Festival Academy, which trains young festival managers worldwide.



Dr. Nancy Duxbury
 is a senior researcher, coordinator of the transdisciplinary thematic area "Urban Cultures, Socialisation and Participation" and co-coordinator of the Cities, Culture and Architecture Research Group at the Carlos III Social Studies, University of Comillas, Spain. She is also a member of the European Expert Network on Urban Culture. Her research has examined cultural mapping, culture in local development, entrepreneurship, culture and development models in smaller communities, book publishing, development policy, and creative tourism. She was the Principal Investigator of CREATICE: Creative Tourism Development in Small Cities and Rural Areas, a national research and application project (2014-17) involving 15 members and 40 pilot projects (2016-2020).

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For more information on the services we can offer, please contact us at info@hugoboss.com

DAY TWO Rural Economic Development through CCI's Festivals in China and Africa

Panel Discussion 11.00 - 12.30hrs

PJ Sabbagha
is a founding member and Artistic Director of The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative, Managing Director of the *Blackboard Arts Center* and Artistic Director of the Annual *My Reddy* My So-called Rural Public Arts Festival.

Namatshego Khutsoane
is the Development Manager for The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative.

The Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative (FATC), founded in 1995, based in Emakhaseni, Mpumalanga, is one of South Africa's leading dance organisations. In its 25-year history FATC has collaborated with performers, choreographers, educators and theatre practitioners to present top quality dance, theatre and training programmes at a national and international level.

Dr. Ricardo Peach
is the Director of the Vynital Festival, Arts Festival/Trio-Botzalia, a multi-artform, Mexican language festival in Mangaung, South Africa, that fuses lines with Southern and English cultures. The festival is held annually over a six day period in July in Mangaung, South Africa.

Dr. Tegan Bristow
 is the Director of the Falkenberg African Capital Innovation Fund, Senior Lecturer in Interactive Digital Media at the UCL School of the Arts.

the Fall Ugandan Digital Innovation Festival is rooted in research and developing skills in technology, art and culture in Africa. Founded in 2014 as a collaboration between the Transforming Digital Innovation Project and the Wits School of Arts Digital Arts Department, the festival began as a starting point, the idea that in order for innovation with technology to succeed, a strong connection needs to be made in African cultural practices and creative expression.

Christine Malbi is a co-founder and Managing Director of *AgilityMind*, an agency which specializes in project management, producing and spearheading the last minute experience.

Christine Malbi is a member of the WISPA Festival Reading group, an extra-curricular study group for both registered WIS students and professionals in the arts and culture sectors. The group is devoted to sharing the gaps between theory (academic and scholarship) and practice (professional and policy) to enhance practical knowledge in arts, culture and heritage sector professionals and students. Recently undertaken by Taylor's.

7 **Afternoon Session Student and Alumni Panels**
See website for programming

DAY THREE The Relationship of Informality and the Cultural Economy

Panel Discussion 11.00 - 12.30hrs

George Gachara
is a social entrepreneur, crisis manager, and the managing partner at HEQA Fund, Kenya. HEQA is Africa's first dedicated finance, business support, and knowledge facility for

Omar Nagati
is a practicing architect and urban planner and the co-founder of CLUSTER,
an urban design and research platform based in Cairo, Egypt.

Cluster in Urban Studies, Planning and Environmental Research (CLUSTER) was founded in 2011 in Dordrecht, as a platform for urban research, architecture, art and design initiatives. CLUSTER seeks to provide a space for critical urban discourse and design practice. It aims at promoting a sustainable urban environment and more diverse and accessible public spaces, investigating new approaches to learn from informal practices and explore alternative modes of urban development.

Ms Ojoma Ochai
Regional Director for Arts and Creative Learning Programmes for British Council in Sub-Saharan Africa, based in Nairobi.

The British Council is the UK's Cultural Relations Organisation. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.

Dimakatso Motholo
is a researcher, administrator and stage manager for The Centre for the Less Good Idea.

The Center for the Less Good Idea, founded by William Kinnear, aims to feed the less good idea by creating and supporting experimental, collaborative and cross-disciplinary arts projects. The Center is *appreciative and intentional* about to pursue *frictional* discoveries made in the interdisciplinary world. It is a space to foster ideas, connections and revelations. It's a physical space for artists to come together over two sessions every year and for curators to bring together combinations of text, performance, music and dance.

10 Afternoon Session Student and Alumni Panels
See separate programming

At the China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against Covid-19, co-hosted by China, South Africa and Senegal, China pledged that once the development and deployment of Covid-19 vaccine is completed within its own borders, African countries would be among the first to benefit.

Biotech group Biocad would produce 4 million to 5 million doses a month of the VSV-based vaccine by Russia's Vector state virology institute in China.

India has provided pharmaceutical assistance to nearly 85 countries, including many countries in Africa, on a grant basis, to support their response to the pandemic.

Dr Thulare concluded that the BRICS nations needed to increase cooperation, strengthen global coordination in research and development, mass manufacturing and equitable distribution of vaccines for Covid-19 and reinforce multilateralism, particularly through the United Nations system.

BRICS GRAND STRATEGY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Prof Siphamandla Zondi's presentation focused on the prospect of the BRICS as a cohesive agent for the transformation of global governance. He argued that the BRICS could be a catalytic agent if it enhanced its internal cohesion and deepened intra-BRICS cooperation; increased structured and intense

The International Summer School, hosted by the Wits School of Arts' Cultural Policy & Management, and Peking University's Institute for Cultural Studies, held online during March 2021. This event is part of Prof Brett Pyper's joint NIHSS-CASS project.

BRICS cooperation at the UN; harnessed the BRICS Plus for new consensus on global governance; and strengthened relations with the G77, the Non-Aligned Movement and negotiation forums at the UN.

HUMAN AFTER ALL. BRICS REGULATING DIGITALISATION AND AI DEVELOPMENT

Prof Louise Leenen gave a succinct report of South Africa's current state of artificial intelligence (AI) as it relates to regulation and impact on the human. She gave a global, regional and country-specific status of AI and suggested that the BRICS bloc not only work together to develop regulations on AI, but also to link AI and security.

BRICS CLUSTER PROJECTS

Cluster projects refer to research within broad themes relevant across the BRICS, such as Knowledge and Innovation, Peace and Security, Social Justice, Energy Architecture and Political and Economic Governance.

During the first quarter of the year, the NIHSS issued 11 new SABTT Cluster II project agreements, as shown in the table.

Cluster project leader and institution	Thematic Cluster and research focus
Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council	Social justice, sustainable development and quality of life - Energy
Dr Samuel Koma, Milpark Education and Dr Onkgopotse Madumo, University of Pretoria	Promoting cooperation for economic growth and development
Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane, Human Science Research Council	Political and economic governance
Prof Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu-Natal	Peace and security
Prof Makhosazana Thabisile Buthelezi, University of KwaZulu-Natal	Social justice, sustainable development and quality of life - Education
Dr Brett Pyper, University of the Witwatersrand	Progress through sharing knowledge and innovation – Arts and Culture
Mr Ashraf Patel, Institute for Global Dialogue	Progress through sharing knowledge and innovation - ICT
Prof Jabulani Makhubela, University of Johannesburg	Social justice, sustainable development and quality of life
Dr Sibongile Tshabalala, University of Zululand	Social justice, sustainable development and quality of life
Prof Tholene Sodi, University of Limpopo	Social justice, Sustainable development and Quality of life
Prof Quentin Williams, University of the Western Cape	Progress through sharing knowledge and innovation

CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

Project title: *Generating economic development from renewable energy: a city-level comparison of China and South Africa*

Principal investigator: *Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane*

As South Africa grapples with the introduction of renewable energy and clean technology, local researchers are teaming up with their counterparts in China to investigate the economic opportunities this holds for cities.

Conducted with the HSRC, the first six months of the project was carried out in parallel with the Social Justice, Sustainable Development and Quality of Life cluster, focussing on assessing the effectiveness of climate finance in BRICS cities.

Working in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the research team is comparing the economic development opportunities derived from city-level investments into renewable energy and clean technology projects in Cape Town, Nelson Mandela Bay, Beijing and Shenzhen.

The team has engaged with researchers from CASS who are sourcing information about city-level projects in Chinese cities which they will exchange for data on the South African cities. The HSRC is partnering with CASS through Dr Xiang Yu to connect with renewable energy experts in China.

In addition, a public online China/South Africa symposium will bring together experts in the field from the two countries. The private sector in China will be invited to participate in the symposium to share their insights about progress in these selected Chinese cities.

A lot of preparation has gone into preparing the interviews which will be conducted with the municipal and private sectors and NGOs.

Principal investigator Prof Modimowabarwa Kanyane says the study sample has been prepared and introductions are being made with representatives of the various sectors in Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Bay. However, CASS has had difficulties in conducting interviews with municipal officials in Beijing and Shenzhen so they will be collecting findings from recent studies in these cities.



South African
BRICS Think Tank



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Vaccine rollout efficacy: towards the post-COVID 19 paradigm

One year on since the advent of the first lockdown in South Africa, and the rollout of lockdowns globally, there has been cautious optimism regarding the new vaccines. However, many nations face multifaceted challenges regarding their vaccine rollouts, ranging from ideological opposition and conspiracy theories, to debates about intellectual property and the effectiveness of a range of vaccines against emerging variants of Covid-19, to logistical delays and trafficking in counterfeit vaccines. The aim of this dialogue would be to provide a platform for scholars who operate across the academic, policymaking and government spheres across the BRICS member countries, to present each of their countries' progress towards an effective vaccine rollout, and highlight the challenges experienced, as well as showcase the successes, and areas for common learning and further South-South cooperation.



Dr. Aquina Thulare



Mr. Oommen C. Kurian



Dr. Zhijie AN



Dr. Andre de Mello e Souza



Prof. Leonid M. Grigorenko



Prof. Siphamandile Zondi

Date: 24 March 2021
Time: 13h00 - 15h00(SAST)

The SABTT Dialogue
on BRICS and Covid-19
vaccination.

The project commenced in June 2020 and the following month Krish Chetty presented a report on progress from the study, during a one-day workshop titled "Strengthening China-Africa Cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative in the Post-Covid-19 Era". The workshop, also attended by Prof. Kanyane, was hosted by CASS over Zoom.

Looking ahead, the research could assist other South African cities with their future energy and technology planning.

BRICS NATIONS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OPEN SCIENCE

Cluster: Innovation and Knowledge Economy

Cluster leader: Ashraf Patel

Project title: Innovation for Development in Africa: Overview of Innovation for Development in the Global South, Africa.

The Covid-19 pandemic is the perfect example of why the world, not only developing nations, needs an open science model.

Innovation and Knowledge Economy cluster leader Ashraf Patel says the pandemic has highlighted the need for an open science model for the developing Global South, leveraging BRICS platforms.

Currently, institutions such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation and WTO and the model of patents are constraining access to Covid vaccines and there are world-wide debates on whether the intellectual property rights to these vaccines should be waived.

Many nations, including South Africa, are advocating for patent waivers. Prof. Patel's cluster produced a presentation "An inclusive science, tech and innovation model for Africa". The team is also developing position papers on open science in the era of Covid, artificial intelligence and Global South participation and digital industrialisation and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

They have also assisted in the development of the Siyafunda Community Tech Centre CTC model for applying knowledge economy theory to the 4IR curricula pilots.

The DITSELA Workers Institute invited members of the cluster to collaborate on the development of a dedicated new Dunlep course (NQF level) entitled Knowledge Economy and Workplace Technology. Two modules have been developed and two more are in the pipeline for 2021.

Through their research, the cluster is proving that technology and science can help the south embrace development, but open access is key.



India's BRICS Presidency 2021 - Key Priorities and Opportunities



Prof Siphamandla Zondi, SABTT Chair



Ambassador HHS Viswanathan, Observer Research Foundation(India)



Mr Abhijit Chakraborty, Deputy High Commissioner of the Republic of India South Africa



Dr Victoria Panova, National Committee on BRICS Research (Russia)



Dr José Eduardo, Malta de Sá Brandão, Institute for Applied Economic Research(Brazil)

Date: 23 January 2021
Time: 13h00 - 14h15(SAST)



**South African
BRICS Think Tank**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SABTT and BTTC BRICS
dialogue on India
Presidency in 2021.**

ALLEVIATING POVERTY IN BRICS COUNTRIES POST-COVID-19

Cluster focus area: Social Justice and Quality of Life

Cluster leader: Dr Sibongile Tshabalala

Some BRICS nations have been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and need to focus on poverty alleviation.

Cluster leader Dr Sibongile Tshabalala and her team will be collaborating with other BRICS teams to conduct small research projects directed at poverty in rural, peri-urban and urban contexts across the five countries.

These projects will cover tourism, indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), social economic zones and health.

The themes will be broken down further. In the case of tourism, researchers will be looking at women and youth, homestay programmes, community empowerment, cultural tourism, social media and financing.

When it comes to indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), there is already a project underway on sustainable indigenous healing among southern Ngoni (Nguni) communities post-Covid-19. Aspects being covered include the environment, marginalisation

or stigmatisation of indigenous knowledge, spirituality, indigenous technologies and ubuntu.

In the case of economies, the focus will be on sustainability challenges to livelihood opportunities, women's voices, skills development and upskilling, corporate social investment, technological advancement and investment incentives, among others.

In the sphere of health, researchers will be looking into advancing traditional and western medicines to address health challenges among BRICS countries. This will cover bilateral medical cooperation; unlearning and relearning; skills development and technological incorporation of the 4th industrial revolution.

SECTION C

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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It is testimony to the calibre and commitment of the Institute's management and staff that, in the face of the disruptions that characterised 2020/21, the year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the work of the NIHSS proceeded and most of the set targets were met or exceeded. Employees demonstrated their ability to adjust and adapt, ensuring that both day-to-day and strategic activities continued – albeit not in the usual modes – and that our PhD students and research partners could rely on high levels of support. This reflects the high-performance culture within the organisation, the well-rounded skills and competencies of the NIHSS team and the above-average investment made in training and development, working out at R25 268 per employee for the year under review.

The NIHSS's staff complement stood at 27 as at 31 March 2021, a decrease from the previous year's 32 employees. The overall staff turnover was 17%.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In total, the Institute invested R833 830 in staff training and development in 2020/21, equating to 3.68% of total expenditure. This was slightly lower than the previous year's training expenditure of R852 864, which amounted to 4.14% of total expenditure.

This investment included the awarding of 16 bursaries to staff members to allow them to further their studies part time. The emphasis was on academic programmes that contribute directly to the service line, area of specialisation and current responsibilities of employees, as well as any future responsibilities that have been identified.

Senior management continued with their executive coaching sessions and participated in workshops to capacitate them to protect the organisation from cybercrime and to understand the risks thereof.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

During 2020/21, management implemented processes and procedures to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infections among staff members. Adequate ICT and finance resources were also advanced to support staff members during the lockdown period.

We continued to strengthen our general compliance on health and safety in the year under review. As a result, the NIHSS once again received a letter of good standing from the Department of Labour acknowledging full compliance with the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, No 130 of 1993 (COIDA).

HR OVERSIGHT STATISTICS

Table 2: 2020/21 personnel cost per salary band

Level	Personnel expenditure (R)	Personnel expenditure as % of personnel cost	Number of employees	Average cost per employee (R)
Top management	5 106 022	23%	2	2 553 011
Senior management	3 471 230	15%	3	1 157 077
Professionally qualified	3 394 592	15%	5	678 918
Skilled, technical and academically qualified	6 787 573	30%	11	617 052
Semi-skilled	3 489 276	15%	9	387 697
Unskilled	384 533	2%	3	128 178
Total	22 633 226	100%	33*	

(R) * This number includes staff members who have left the organisation but were paid during their tenure.

Table 3: 2020/21 staff training expenditure

Programme	Total expenditure	Staff training expenditure	As % of total expenditure	Number of employees	Average cost per employee
Staff training	22 633 226	833 830	3.68%	33*	25 268

Table 4: Employment and vacancies as at 31 March 2021

Level	2020/21 approved posts	2020/21 number of employees	2020/21 vacancies	% of vacancies
Top management	2	2	0	0.00%
Senior management	6	2	4	66.67%
Professionally qualified	9	4	5	55.56%
Skilled	12	11	1	8.33%
Semi-skilled	8	7	1	12.50%
Unskilled	3	1	2	66.67%
Total	40	27	13	32.50%

Table 5: Employment changes during 2020/21

Level	Employment at 31 March 2020	Appointments	Terminations	Employment at 31 March 2021
Top management	2	0	0	2
Senior management	3**	0	1	2
Professionally qualified	5*	0	1	4
Skilled	12	0	1	11
Semi-skilled	7	0	0	7
Unskilled	3	0	2	1
Total	32	0	5	27

** The research directorate merged with the BRICS directorate as one position

Five positions at this level were vacant at year end

Table 6: Reasons for employee turnover for the 2020/21 financial year

Reasons	Employment at 31 March 2021
Dismissals	0
Contract non-renewal	4
Resignations	0
Total	4

Table 7: Labour relations: Misconduct and disciplinary action

Nature of disciplinary action	Number
Verbal warning	1
Written warning	0
Final written warning	0
Dismissals	0
Total	1

EQUITY TARGETS AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY STATUS

There was a slight change in the proportion of women to men among the Institute's employees. Women accounted for 56% of

the staff in 2020/21, compared with 59% in 2019/20. In terms of employee race profile, 25 (92.6%) staff members were black, one (3.7%) was white and one (3.7%) coloured (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Gender profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15-2020/21)

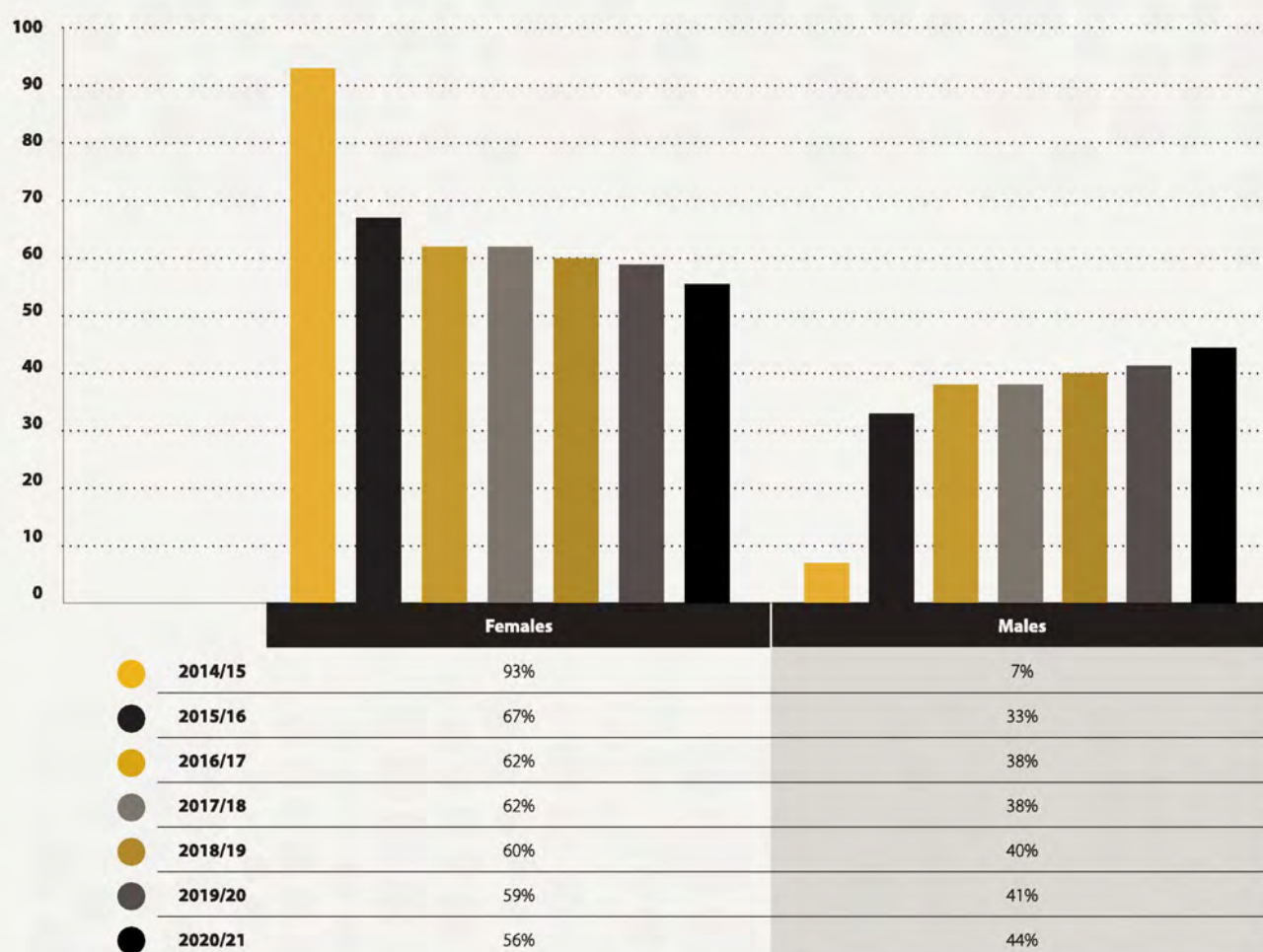
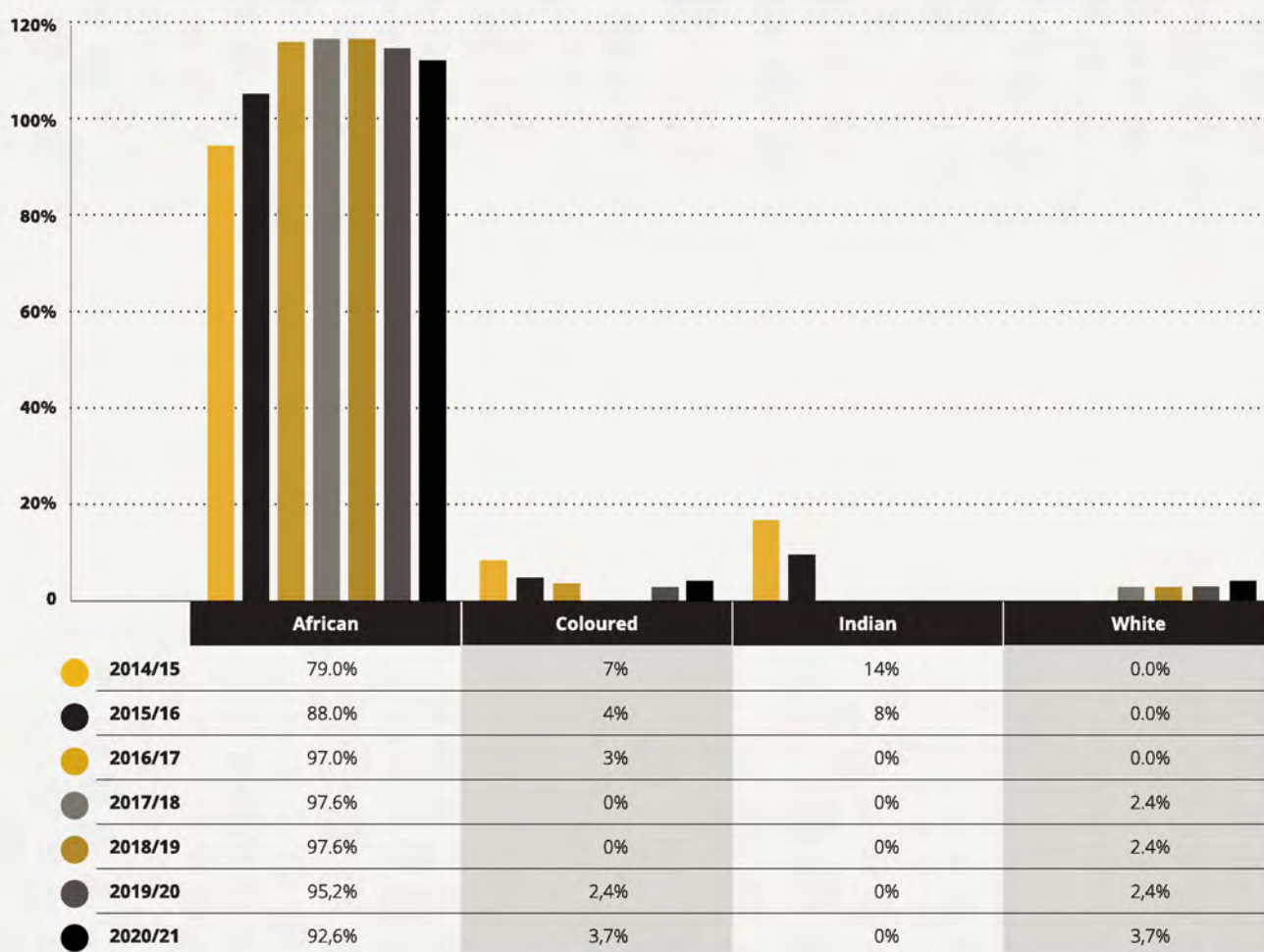


Figure 2: Race profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15- 2020/21)

CONCLUSION

As an Institute that serves and pursues its mandate in collaboration with the higher education sector in South Africa and beyond, the NIHSS strives to build and maintain an organisational culture that is responsive to the needs of stakeholders, including employees, while also embodying accountability and responsibility and an appreciation of high ethical standards.

These qualities are not always easy to measure but feedback from stakeholders indicates that the Institute is for the most part succeeding in cultivating the desired organisational culture. The NIHSS is particularly keen to learn what recommendations in respect of human resources and organisational culture will emanate from the recommendations of the independent panel that conducted the five-year Strategic Review of the Institute during the year.

SECTION D

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE





NIHSS GOVERNANCE

As an Institute entrusted with public funding, the NIHSS is acutely attuned to the necessity of ethical leadership, efficient and effective internal controls and sound structures and policies governing the direction, decisions and actions of the organisation. At the NIHSS, governance is the responsibility of the Institute's Board, appointed by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation for a four-year term of office from 28 March 2018.

NIHSS BOARD AS GOVERNING BODY

The Board's primary function is to provide governance, oversight, leadership and strategic direction in line with the mandate of the NIHSS.

The current Board consists of the Chairperson and 12 ordinary members with voting rights and diverse skills and experience, including knowledge of the academy, human resource management, commerce, finance and law. Seven of these members are academic and management staff in the public higher education institutions, in line with the regulations governing the NIHSS. In addition, also in line with the

regulations, the Board had four co-opted members during the year under review. (The names of Board members are listed in table 8.)

BOARD REMUNERATION

Board members are remunerated and reimbursed for expenses incurred while executing NIHSS-related activities. Board fees and expenses are disclosed in Note 18 of the Annual Financial Statements.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

During the period under review, the NIHSS Board met four times to provide leadership and oversight in the governance of the Institute through:

- Reviewing the NIHSS Strategy, Annual Performance Plan and Budget for 2020/21;
- Reviewing the Annual Financial Statements for 2020/21;
- Monitoring the implementation of the 2020/21 Annual Performance Plan by reviewing the Institute's quarterly reports; and
- Reviewing policies and governance frameworks.

The meeting attendance record of each member is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Attendance of Board meetings in 2020/21

Name and position	No of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Prof Ari Sitas	4	4
Members		
Dr Bernard Nthambeleni	4	3
Dr Rene Smith	4	4
Prof Fiona Tregenna	4	4
Mr Mahlubi Mabizela	4	3
Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	4	4
Prof Ahmed Bawa	4	4
Mr Thapelo Molapo	4	4
Prof Simphiwe Mini	4	3
Ms Luli Callinicos	4	4
Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	4	1
Ms Jacomien Rousseau	4	3
Co-opted Board member		
Ms Maleshini Naidoo	4	3
Ex-officio member (CEO)		
Prof Sarah Mosoetsa	4	4

BOARD COMMITTEES

For the efficient and effective discharge of its mandate, the Board has delegated some of its administrative duties to various Board subcommittees. In contrast with the Board's decision-making powers, which are strategic in nature, the subcommittees' decision making is limited to administration and support.

Four governance committees were in place throughout 2020/21 to assist the Board in carrying out its duties and to support the

CEO of the NIHSS in conducting her duties. These are the Audit and Risk Committee, Finance Committee, Human Resource Committee and Academic and International Advisory Committee:

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit and Risk Committee, which is chaired by an independent member, assists the Board to fulfil its oversight role of the controls in place within the NIHSS, including proper segregation of duties, the delegation of responsibilities, safeguarding of assets, integrity of financial reporting, audit processes, the system of internal controls, the Institute's compliance with applicable legislative and governance frameworks and risk related to governance, including governance of information and technology.

Five Audit and Risk Committee meetings were held in 2020/21

Table 9: Attendance of Audit and Risk Committee meetings in 2020/21

Name and position	No of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Ms Maleshini Naidoo	5	5
Members		
Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	5	5
Ms Jacomien Rousseau	5	5
Mr Mahlubi Mabizela	5	3
Dr Bernard Nthambeleni	5	4
Dr Rene Smith	5	4

Note: Three of the five Audit and Risk Committee meetings that took place were held jointly with the Finance Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to sound financial management and supply chain management processes, including financial investments and infrastructure management (acquisition and maintenance). The committee met five times during the year.

Table 10: Attendance of Finance Committee meetings in 2020/21

Name and position	No of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Ms Jacomien Rousseau	5	5
Members		
Prof Fiona Tregenna	5	5
Prof Simphiwe Mini	5	3
Prof Ari Sitas	5	4
Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	5	4

Note: Of the five Finance Committee meetings that were held, three were held jointly with the Audit and Risk Committee

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

This committee ensures that adequate human resource policies and strategies are in place and monitors the implementation of these in accordance with set criteria and measures. It met four times during 2020/21.

Table 11: Attendance of Human Resource Committee meetings in 2020/21

Name and position	No of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Mr Thapelo Molapo	4	4
Members		
Ms Luli Callinicos	4	4
Mr Mahlubi Mabizela	4	4
Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	4	2
Prof Ari Sitas	4	4
Prof Simphiwe Mini	4	3

ACADEMIC AND INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The primary function of this committee is to advise the Board on matters related to the intellectual trajectories of the Doctoral Schools and Scholarships Programme, Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs and the African Pathways Programme. It also reviews the thematic and policy guidelines for all calls for proposals and Doctoral School applications.

Moreover, the Academic and International Advisory Committee provides oversight about all the international work of the Institute, including international collaborations and partnerships, as well as the Institute's extended mandate related to BRICS.

This committee held three meetings in 2020/21.

Table 12: Attendance of Academic and International Advisory Committee meetings in 2020/21

Name and position	No of meetings	
	Held	Attended
Chairperson: Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	3	2
Members		
Dr Bernard Nthambeleni	3	3
Dr Rene Smith	3	3
Prof Fiona Tregenna	3	3
Ms Luli Callinicos	3	3
Member (CEO)		
Prof Sarah Mosoetsa	3	3

NIHSS SECRETARIAT

The NIHSS Secretariat ensured that all Board structures were functional and effective and that the key governance frameworks were developed or reviewed, such as the Charters/Terms of Reference and Board remuneration.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

The NIHSS has adopted an enterprise-wide risk management (ERM) model of risk management. Following an ERM workshop held in the first quarter of the year, we updated the NIHSS Risk Register to review the Institute's risk profile. The updated Risk Register formed the basis for updating the risk-based Internal Audit Plan.

The Risk Management Framework, which was implemented in the 2019/20 financial year, together with the Risk Register, was monitored quarterly throughout the 2020/21 financial year. This included incorporating the risks identified in the previous financial year into the Register.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Board approves policies that provide structure and guidelines for decision-making purposes and to ensure resources provided to the Institute are properly utilised. Policies have been approved on governance, fraud prevention, conflict of interest, finance and supply chain management, among others.

The internal auditors are responsible for assessing key controls for adequacy and effectiveness. Internal audit aids in the assessment of significant organisational risks and the review of the adequacy of internal control systems and provides the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board with assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of internal financial controls and systems.

Internal audit operates in terms of a formal mandate, in full conformance with the International Professional Practices Framework for Internal Audit (Standards) and with leading risk-based and integrated methodology.

As in previous years, the internal audit function at the NIHSS was outsourced to an independent firm, Outsourced Risk and Compliance Assessment (ORCA). ORCA's mandate is supported by unrestricted access to the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board.

The firm has the following responsibilities, among others:

- Implement the third year of the Annual Internal Audit Plan (part of the three-year Coverage Plan approved by the Audit and Risk Committee during the 2016/17 financial year). This includes any special tasks or projects, as appropriate, requested by the Audit and Risk Committee and executive management.
- Provide a professional internal audit capability with sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to meet the requirements of the NIHSS;
- Keep the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board informed of emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing; and
- In the event of suspected significant fraudulent activities within the organisation, assist in the investigation of such activities and notify management and the Audit and Risk Committee of the findings.

During the 2020/21 financial year, internal audit activities included a supply chain management review, a review of performance information and core functions, following up of external and internal audit findings, a compliance review and a human resources and payroll review.

The evidence obtained from the audits performed for the 2020/21 financial year indicated that the processes and related system of internal controls require improvements in the areas reviewed. These improvements are necessary to provide reasonable assurance that the NIHSS's goals and objectives in these areas will be achieved efficiently and effectively.

The results of these audit activities have been discussed with management and the Audit and Risk Committee and appropriate action plans developed to mitigate the risks.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) is the external auditor, responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the NIHSS annual financial statements and performance information.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Board has established governance structures and frameworks to assist the Institute's compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, as well as corporate governance best practices. To the extent possible, the NIHSS complied with applicable laws and regulatory frameworks during the period under review. Where instances of non-compliance were detected and/or observed, corrective measures were implemented.

FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The NIHSS is committed to ethical behaviour and to the prevention, detection and reporting of fraud in terms of a zero-tolerance approach. As such, the Institute implements the Fraud Prevention Plan that the Board developed and approved on 30 March 2017. The plan applies to any fraud, or suspected fraud, involving Board members, employees, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies and any other parties in a business relationship with the Institute.

The Fraud Prevention Plan highlights the roles and responsibilities of the Board and different categories of staff members in preventing fraud. It also provides internal mechanisms for the detection and reporting of fraudulent activities through the relevant governance structures and the regulatory bodies. Details of the reported fraud cases in the previous financial years are contained in Note 24 of the Annual Financial Statements.

MINIMISING CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Three main processes have been implemented to reduce conflict of interest that may arise within the SCM portfolio. These relate to employees joining the Institute, suppliers doing business with it and staff members involved in tender or bid processes.

On joining the NIHSS, employees receive induction on the Institute's Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, as well as on its core values of ubuntu, teamwork, excellence, accountability, integrity, creativity and respect.

All suppliers conducting business with the NIHSS must sign a declaration of interest form (SBD04 form), whereby they declare any conflict of interest they might have in the procurement process concerned.

All SCM officials and staff members involved in bid specification, evaluation and adjudication are required to sign a declaration of interest form for all tenders undertaken by the Institute.

During the period under review, no instances of conflict of interest were declared. Should any cases be declared in future, the individual will not participate in the procurement process concerned.

SECTION E

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS



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ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21





Being neither a place of learning nor a research entity but rather a facilitator and unifier, the NIHSS relies on healthy stakeholder relationships to carry out its mandate of enhancing and supporting the humanities and social sciences. It is thanks to the ongoing acceptance and cooperation of our key stakeholders that the Institute, despite some initial resistance in parts of the higher education community in its early years, has been able to establish its legitimacy and credibility to the extent that it has.

The Institute does not take these relationships for granted. It strives continually to strengthen and deepen the connections with different stakeholder groups, as was the case in 2020/21 with NIHSS alumni, for example. As promised in the previous year, when the Institute launched its Alumni Forum for doctoral graduates, the NIHSS presented its inaugural HSS Alumni Conference on 4 and 5 November 2020, offering its alumni a further platform for continued growth.

The inaugural Alumni Conference was one of three strategic flagship initiatives delivered at the beginning of November, the others being the 6th Annual National Doctoral Conference (ANDC) from 3 to 5 November 2020 and the six Encounters

Sessions that were presented throughout the duration of the two conferences. Not only did the two fully fledged virtual conferences run concurrently for our doctoral fellows and alumni, but the Encounters Sessions were also open to the public. This embodies the NIHSS's commitment to make the humanities and social sciences more accessible and brought our mandate to life as the featured authors and artist spoke to topical current issues of the day while showcasing the contributions of the HSS to society.

Through workshops, colloquiums, dialogues, conferences and other events and platforms, the Institute seeks to build value-adding, cohesive relationships with all the other key stakeholders that influence or are influenced by the NIHSS: doctoral scholars, postdoctoral fellows, mentors, public universities, professional associations, think tanks, African and international partners and the researchers participating in or leading our Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Groups and international collaborations.

These relationships embody the elements of "social responsibility" and "community practice" that are part of the NIHSS's vision.

Stakeholder	NIHSS deliverable(s)
South African doctoral students	Increased funding and support for HSS doctoral students
African Pathways Programme students	Increased number of non-South African HSS doctoral students funded by the NIHSS
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship	Increased funding for HSS postdoctoral research fellows
Doctoral alumni	Provide a significant HSS platform to encourage alumni to share ideas and explore future collaborations and support their transition to the next phases in their careers
Department of Higher Education and Training	• Comprehensive reporting at agreed levels • Performance monitoring in terms of the NIHSS mandate • Provision of policy advice in matters related to the HSS • Provision of advice to the Minister of Higher Education and Training and government on HSS-related matters • Increased and guided academic discourse about the crucial social issues that face us as South African citizens (to help influence the character of the South African community and to create a more humane, responsible and just society)
Doctoral Schools	Increased number of Doctoral Schools established and operational, providing a platform for academic support to NIHSS-funded doctoral students
NIHSS employees	• Favourable working conditions • Support for students enrolled for study • Support for research project leaders participating in various NIHSS programmes
Funders	Potential partnerships on ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels
Higher education institutions	• Funding of research through Catalytic Research Projects • Administration of NIHSS scholarships and research funding through HEIs' internal financial processes • Provision of resources for better support for postgraduate students • Provision of increased funding for PhD and masters' students
National Skills Fund (NSF)	• Funding of HSS PhD students • Funding of NIHSS research
South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)	Collaboration in Doctoral Schools and Scholarships Programme application screening through panel review
Partnering NGOs	Potential partnership on ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels
South African citizens	• Demonstrating social responsibility and societal responsiveness • Helping to address the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa and her citizens • Advising civil society on HSS-related matters; and increasing and guiding public discourse about the crucial social issues that face us as citizens, to help build a better South Africa for all
BRICS partner countries	SABTT engagement with other official think tanks from the BRICS countries through the SABTT
Department of International Relations and Cooperation	A close working relationship maintained by the SABTT with government to align the SABTT with government policy
BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC)	Coordination and management by the SABTT of all BTTC-related activities (the BTTC is a network of five official Think Tanks from the BRICS countries)
SA Parliament	Provision of sound and independent policy advice

KEY PARTNERSHIPS



SECTION F

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21





REPORT BY THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

For the financial year ended 31 March 2021, the Audit and Risk Committee complied with its responsibilities, as contained in the charter that regulates the committee's mandate.

Audit and Risk Committee establishment

The Audit and Risk Committee was only formally established on 1 November 2018 and its first full year of functioning was in the 2020/21 financial year.

The composition of the committee and the attendance of meetings during the period under review are recorded under the Governance section of the annual report on page 86.

Audit and Risk Committee's responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the committee, as outlined in its charter, include the following, among others:

- Reviewing the appropriateness of accounting policies and compliance with these;
- Through the internal auditors, reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of policies and procedures applicable to the NIHS and whether they are complied with;
- Reviewing the financial management processes and the adequacy of internal controls;

- Reviewing the annual financial statements, the annual report and related regulatory filings before these are released, in order to consider the accuracy and completeness of the information;
- The governance of risk;
- The governance of information and communication technology (ICT);
- Overseeing the internal and external audit functions and related audit processes;
- Reviewing the Institute's compliance with applicable legislative requirements and governance frameworks; and
- Ensuring adherence to all the disclosures and/or reporting requirements to the Board, the Executive Authority, the National Treasury and the Auditor-General.

Effectiveness of internal controls

The Institute has approved policies and frameworks to guide, on an ongoing basis, the implementation of effective and efficient internal controls and procedures.

The internal audit function at the Institute was formally established through the appointment of the Outsourced Risk and Compliance Assessment (ORCA) as internal auditors. A three-year, risk-based rolling internal audit plan was reviewed and approved.

Work done before the committee was established guided the internal auditors in the preparation and implementation of the annual audit plan and ensured that the internal audit plan was risk-based, taking the NIHS's risk profile into consideration. ORCA's contract ended on 31 March 2021 and as we bid them farewell, we would like to thank them for their outstanding work. Nexia SAB&T have been appointed as the new internal auditors.

The committee reviewed the reports from both the internal and external auditors and is satisfied that the systems of internal control for the period under review were effective.

Review and monitoring of performance information

The committee reviewed the actual performance of the NIHS against the strategic objectives and targets set in the Annual Performance Plan for 2020/21 and was satisfied with the content and quality of the quarterly performance reports

prepared and issued by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) during the year under review. Where required, the committee made recommendations for enhancements to the reports.

Evaluation of the annual financial statements

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed and discussed the unaudited annual financial statements to be included in the draft annual report, in consultation with the CEO, the internal auditors and the Auditor-General on 23 April 2021. These were subsequently recommended for Board approval.

The Committee further reviewed the audited annual financial statements on 18 June 2021, in consultation with management and the internal and external auditors and recommended the financial statements for Board approval.

The committee is satisfied that the audited annual financial statements have been submitted to the Minister by the legislated date of 30 June 2021.

Summary of the committee's main activities during 2020/21

The Audit and Risk Committee attended to the following matters during the year under review:

- The review of the committee's charter, subsequently approved by the Board;
- The review of the external audit strategy and fees, subsequently approved by the Board;
- The approval of the three-year rolling internal audit plan and associated audit fees;
- The review of the Institute's risk profile, resulting in the updating of the Strategic and Operational Risk Register, the implementation of which will be continually monitored into the 2021/22 financial year;
- A review in April 2021 of the unaudited annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 and the review in June of the audited annual financial statements;
- A review of an incident of fraud that transpired in the 2020/21 financial year;
- Review of the ICT Steering Committee reports on implementation of the ICT Governance Framework;
- Review of internal and external audit reports;
- Keeping the Board informed of key issues within the committee's scope; with committee reports submitted and presented at all Board meetings.

Internal audit

Outsourced Risk and Compliance Assessment (ORCA), the internal auditors, reported that they had executed all the activities expected of them in terms of the internal audit plan for the reporting period. ORCA concluded that the evidence obtained indicated that the processes and related systems of internal controls, in the areas reviewed, are reasonably adequate and effective to provide reasonable assurance that the NIHSS goals and objectives, in the areas reviewed, will be achieved efficiently and effectively. The results of the audits have been discussed with management and appropriate action plans developed to mitigate the risks.

External audit

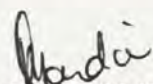
The external audit was overseen by the Auditor-General of South Africa and outsourced to Mazars. The Auditor-General has issued an unqualified audit opinion, without findings, for the 2020/21 financial year.

Conclusion

Subsequent to the audit of the financial statements, performance information and compliance with legislation, we can report that the systems of internal control for the 2020/21 financial year were effective and efficient and no significant deficiencies in internal controls were identified.

Date on which the Audit and Risk Committee recommended the AFS be approved

The committee recommended the approval of the audited annual financial statements at the Board meeting held on 25 June 2021 for submission to the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Accountant General (National Treasury) and the Auditor-General.



Ms Maleshini Naidoo

Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee

Date: 30 June 2021



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

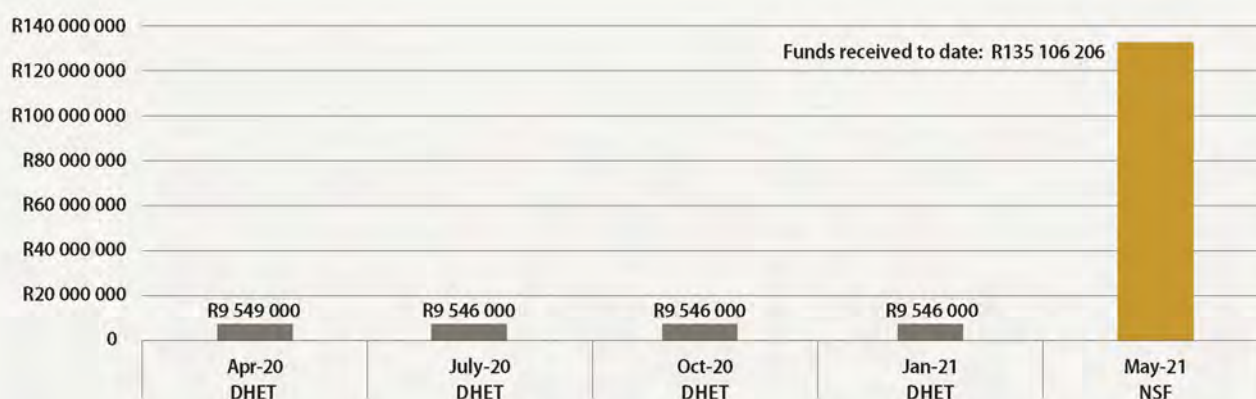
The initial five-year mandate of the NIHSS as per the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan ended on 31 March 2020, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). As such, the 2020/21 financial was a special year which marked the 7th year anniversary of the NIHSS on 5 December 2020.

I am extremely proud and honoured to present the financial report of the NIHSS for 2020/21. Each year brings with it remarkable milestones worthy of celebrating. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of this amazing journey. The journey has gone a long way towards harnessing the humanities and social sciences (HSS) in changing the lives of young and established scholars in South Africa and on the wider African continent. As we look forward to another five years, we remain eager and optimistic about the journey ahead.

Great strides continue to be made through the NIHSS's scholarships collaboration with the SA Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA), the aim of which is to grow the HSS within South African borders, while our partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) supports the scholarships within the African continent, through the African Pathways Programme. From inception to date, the NIHSS has reported a total of 323 PhD graduations cumulatively, inclusive of South African students. This is evidence yet again that the Institute is slowly and gradually transforming the HSS and having a definite positive impact on the state of academia within the HSS.

Funding for the 2020/21 financial year was received as follows:

- A total of **R38 187 000** was received from the DHET to fund our operational requirements as the NIHSS. Included in this amount was **R8 586 000** for the BRICS programme, which is project expenditure. This amount was received quarterly in four tranches and the portion that related to operations was recognised as revenue in full. The portion relating to BRICS was deferred and will be recognised as and when contractual obligations are met. A further **R8 539 572** was received from the National Skills Fund (NSF) to fund administration costs of projects and a portion of this amount was also recognised in full.
- A total of **R135 106 206** was received from the NSF to fund projects and programmes. Of this amount, **R131 806 206** was recognised as revenue as no contractual obligations had been placed on the funding during the financial year. **R3 300 000** was deferred as it related to the Skills Advisor for the 2021/22 financial year.
- Interest income of **R755 085** was received from investments and bank accounts.
- A net surplus of **R15 900** was realised, on the disposal of an asset.



The total revenue recognised for the 2020/21 financial year was therefore **R240 394 797**, which represents an increase of **126%** from the previous year. This significant increase was due to the 2020/21 revenue being recognised in full, as conditions in the contract with NSF relating to project spending were removed and as such revenue was not deferred.

The expenditure on projects was as follows:

NIHSS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

A total of **R13 314 000** was disbursed to NIHSS-funded PhD fellows within the participating South African public universities. This was for returning (renewed) students and represents a decrease in disbursement of **55%** from the previous financial year.

A total of **R660 000** was disbursed to non-South African doctoral students funded through CODESRIA. This represents a decrease in disbursement of **77%** from the previous financial year. This was also for returning (renewed) students.

The funding for 2020/21 from NSF was received just after the financial year on 4 May 2021. As such the above and below were funded from NIHSS reserves. This was the reason for the significant decreases mentioned above in scholarship disbursements, as expenditure had to be monitored prudently.

Other significant projects supported during the period under review are:

- Catalytic Research Projects – a total of **R5 810 407** was funded, resulting in an increase of **446%** from the previous year. This is largely due to new projects undertaken as per the Annual Performance Plan (APP);
- Humanities Hubs – a total of **R4 531 357** was committed for support, representing an increase of **105%** from the previous year;
- BRICS Think Tank – a total of **R5 386 498** was funded, reflecting an increase of **172%** from the previous year;
- Working Groups – a total of **R28 324 290** was funded, reflecting an increase of **343%** from the previous year;
- National Mentorship Programme – a total of **R3 887 500** was spent, meaning a slight increase of **6%**; and
- Annual National Doctoral Conference – a total of **R5 372 762** was committed for this initiative, its aim being to create and foster student-centred approaches to doctoral research development, while also providing students with a platform and opportunity to present and showcase their research with fellow doctoral candidates.

Overall, total project expenditure increased by **11%**. This is mainly due to an increase in strategic objectives as recorded in the APP.

AUDIT OUTCOMES

Given that the Institute is in its seventh year of existence, outstanding results have been achieved in terms of audit outcomes. The NIHSS obtained a clean audit outcome from the Auditor-General of South Africa for the fifth time (from 2016/17 until 2020/21). This highlights the effectiveness of all endeavours and commitments towards effective financial management and administration.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

Late disbursement of funding for projects continued to be a challenge in the 2020/21 financial year, where funds were received in May 2021, after the financial year had ended. This created challenges in terms of disbursement to the beneficiaries. However, funds were committed accordingly by the end of the financial year. The situation deteriorated during this financial year and the NIHSS continues to engage with the funder.

On 27 March 2020, the country was placed under lockdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the majority of the financial year 2020/21 was spent under lockdown. All NIHSS staff members were required to work from home throughout the lockdown period. Staff members were equipped with the necessary resources to enable them to work from home and so there was no major impact on business continuity.

Looking forward, we are optimistic about the next five years of the NIHSS and eagerly await the outcomes of the five-year review process.

I would like to thank the DHET and the NSF for their continued support during the financial year.

A special thank you is due to the NIHSS Board for their continued leadership and guidance and for holding us accountable in all that we do.

I would like to thank our CEO, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, for her visionary leadership yet again, particularly through another challenging financial year and navigating us through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Last but certainly not least, gratitude goes to our students, project leaders, mentors and various other stakeholders, without whom we would not exist.


Tumelo Mokoena CA (SA)
Chief Financial Officer

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION ON THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, set out on pages 102 to 140, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2021, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences as at 31 March 2021 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997.

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the institute in accordance with the *International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA code), as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the accounting authority for the financial statements

6. The board of directors, which constitutes the accounting authority, is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997 and for such internal control as the accounting authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
7. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting authority is responsible for assessing the institute's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the institute or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

8. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
9. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Introduction and scope

10. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report on the reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected objectives presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify material findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.

11. My procedures address the reliability of the reported performance information, which must be based on the institute's approved performance planning documents. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures do not examine whether the actions taken by the institute enabled service delivery. My procedures do not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to the extent of achievements in the current year or planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.

12. I evaluated the reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected objectives presented in the institute's annual performance report for the year ended 31 March 2021:

Strategic objectives	Pages in the annual performance report
Strategic objective 2 - advance postgraduate scholarship through a range of innovations	28

13. I performed procedures to assess the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.

14. I did not identify any material findings on the reliability of the reported performance information for:

- Strategic objective 2 - advance postgraduate scholarship through a range of innovations.

Other matter

15. I draw attention to the matter below.

Achievement of planned targets

16. Refer to the annual performance report on pages 20 to 25 for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and management's explanations provided for the under-/overachievement of targets.

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

Introduction and scope

17. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the institute's compliance with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.

18. I did not identify any material findings on compliance with the specific matters in key legislation set out in the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997.

OTHER INFORMATION

19. The accounting authority is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected objectives presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.

20. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion on it.

21. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected objectives presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

22. If, based on the work I performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES

23. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Auditor-General

Pretoria

30 June 2021



ANNEXURE - AUDITOR-GENERAL'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AUDIT

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected objectives and on the Institute's compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor's report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the institute's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors, which constitutes the accounting authority
- conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the board of directors, which constitutes the accounting authority, in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an institute to cease operating as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also provide the accounting authority with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

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The financial statements set out on pages 103 to 140, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the CEO and the Board on 25 June 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



Prof Sarah Mosoetsa
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



Prof Aristides Sitas
Board - Chairperson

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	2 972 816	3 678 350
Intangible assets	5	1 157 875	1 199 772
		4 130 691	4 878 122
Current assets			
Inventories		26 488	8 252
Prepayments	6	528 154	454 381
Receivables from exchange transactions	7	744 118	1 831 799
Receivables from non-exchange transactions	7	135 106 206	-
Cash and cash equivalents	8	78 814 972	156 944 229
		215 219 938	159 238 661
Total assets		219 350 629	164 116 783
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Finance lease liability	10	-	-
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	9	4 661 752	2 888 462
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions	9	85 107 776	152 750 355
Provisions	9.1	1 071 856	1 081 310
Operating lease liability		535 695	-
Short-term portion of finance lease liability	10	-	124 870
Cash and cash equivalents	8.1	6 252	-
Total liabilities		91 383 331	156 844 997
Net assets		127 967 298	7 271 786
Reserves		127 967 298	7 271 786
Net assets		127 967 298	7 271 786

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Revenue			
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Investment revenue	15	755 085	1 406 737
Other income		29 619	153 801
Total revenue from exchange transactions		784 704	1 560 538
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfer revenue			
Government funding		239 610 093	104 552 770
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		239 610 093	104 552 770
Total revenue	11	240 394 797	106 113 308
Expenditure			
Employee related costs	12	22 633 226	20 579 242
Depreciation and amortisation	4,5	1 274 037	1 806 241
Rent and utilities (lease rental)		3 473 929	3 000 011
Project expenses	13	78 202 887	70 271 770
General expenses	14.1	12 071 001	10 144 675
Project administration fee	14.2	2 060 105	1 350 005
Total expenditure		119 715 185	107 151 944
Gain (loss) on disposal of assets and liabilities		15 900	26 959
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		120 695 512	(1 011 677)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Figures in Rands	Note	2021	2020
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Government funding		40 158 013	129 603 036
Interest income	15	755 085	1 406 737
		40 913 098	131 009 773
Payments			
Project expenses		(80 262 992)	(71 621 775)
Compensation of employees and Board members		(23 003 686)	(20 844 105)
Payments to suppliers		(15 253 491)	(7 150 500)
		(118 520 169)	(99 616 380)
Net cash flows from operating activities	16	(77 607 071)	31 393 393
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	4	(182 413)	(616 466)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	4	15 900	26 959
Purchase of other intangible assets	5	(361 925)	(455 278)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(528 438)	(1 044 785)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from finance lease	10	-	-
Net cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(78 135 509)	30 348 608
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		156 944 229	126 595 621
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	8	78 808 720	156 944 229

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Figures in Rands	Note	Reserves
Balance at 1 April 2019		8 283 463
Net deficit for the year ended 31 March 2020		(1 011 677)
Adjustment to retained earnings 31 March 2020	29	-
Balance at 31 March 2020		7 271 786
Balance at 1 April 2020		7 271 786
Net deficit for the year ended 31 March 2021		120 695 512
Adjustment to retained earnings 31 March 2021	29	-
Balance at 31 March 2021		127 967 298

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS

Figures in Rands	Approved budget	Actual	Variance	Note
Statement of financial performance				
Revenue				
Revenue from exchange transactions				
Investment revenue	7 055 000	755 085	(6 299 915)	21
Other income	-	29 619	29 619	
Total revenue from exchange transactions	7 055 000	784 704	(6 270 296)	
Revenue from non-exchange transactions				
Transfer revenue				
Government funding - operations	36 140 572	38 140 572	2 000 000	21
Government funding - projects	137 152 634	201 469 521	64 316 887	21
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions	173 293 206	239 610 093	66 316 887	
Total revenue	180 348 206	240 394 797	60 046 591	
Expenditure				
Employee related costs	23 833 465	22 633 226	1 200 239	21
Depreciation and amortisation	3 773 024	1 274 037	2 498 987	21
Rent and utilities (lease rental on operating lease)	3 171 919	3 473 929	(302 010)	21
Project expenses	134 093 731	78 202 887	55 890 844	21
General expenses	8 936 494	12 071 001	(3 134 507)	21
Project administration fee	6 539 572	2 060 105	4 479 467	21
Total expenditure	180 348 206	119 715 185	60 633 021	
Operating surplus	-	120 679 612	120 679 612	
Gain (loss) on disposal of assets and liabilities	-	15 900	15 900	21
Surplus for the year	-	120 695 512	120 695 512	

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Presentation of financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with, effective Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board. The implementation of new GRAP standards has not resulted in any change in accounting policy.

These financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention as the basis of measurement, unless specified otherwise.

A summary of the significant accounting policies, which have been consistently applied in the preparation of these financial statements, are disclosed below.

1.1 Presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the NIHSS.

1.2 Going concern assumption

These financial statements have been prepared based on the expectation that the NIHSS will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next 12 months. Management's assessment revealed that the NIHSS's ability to continue as a going concern is not significantly affected by Covid-19. Furthermore, a review process is currently being conducted by the review panel as appointed by the Minister to assess whether the NIHSS's mandate will be extended. The mandate was originally determined to end at 31 March 2020, however a budget was allocated and approved for the financial year ended 31 March 2021. The Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 has been submitted to the DHET.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when:

- it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the NIHSS; and
- the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on the straight line basis over their expected useful lives to their estimated residual value.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office furniture and fittings	9 - 11 years	9% - 11%
Office equipment	4 - 6 years	16% - 25%
Computer equipment	2 - 4 years	25% - 50%
Leasehold improvements	over the lease term (3 years)	33%

An assessment is done at each reporting period of whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of assets has changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, the expected useful lives and/or residual values are revised accordingly.

NIHSS derecognises its item of property, plant equipment and/or significant part of an asset upon disposal or when no future economic benefits or service potential can be derived from the asset.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised. The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any and the carrying amount of the item.

Where the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable service amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount (i.e. impairment losses are recognised).

Expenditure incurred on assets to repair and maintain them are disclosed separately in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Impairment of assets

Impairment is the loss in the future economic benefits or service potential of an asset over and above the systematic recognition of the loss through depreciation or amortisation.

Assets are annually assessed, by considering internal and external factors where there is an indication of impairment.

If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated at the higher of fair value less cost to sell and its value in use.

Where the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable service amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable service amount.

1.4 Intangible assets

An intangible asset is initially measured at cost. An intangible asset is recognised when:

- it is probable that the expected future economic benefits or service potential that are attributable to the asset will flow to the NIHSS; and
- the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses. The useful lives of intangible assets have been assessed as follows:

Item	Useful life	Depreciation rate
Computer software	2-4 years	50% - 100%

An assessment is done at each reporting period of whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of intangible assets has changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, the expected useful lives and/or residual values are revised accordingly.

The gain or loss is the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any and the carrying amount. It is recognised in surplus or deficit when the asset is derecognised.

Where the carrying amount of an intangible asset is greater than its estimated recoverable service amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount (i.e. impairment losses are recognised).

1.5 Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or a residual interest of another entity.

Initial recognition

The NIHSS recognises a financial asset or a financial liability in its statement of financial position when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Initial measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are measured at fair value plus, in case of a financial asset or financial liability not subsequently measured at fair value, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of financial instrument.

1.5.1 Financial assets

All financial assets of the NIHSS are categorised as Cash and cash equivalents and Receivables. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are stated at amortised cost, which, due to their short-term nature, closely approximates their fair value.

Financial assets at amortised cost

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as "financial assets at amortised cost". These financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. Interest income is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each year end.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows of the investment have been impacted. For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of the impairment is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

The carrying amount of the financial asset is reduced by the impairment loss directly for all financial assets with the exception of trade receivables where the carrying amount is reduced through the use of an allowance account. When a trade receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the allowance account. Changes in the carrying amount of the allowance account are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Derecognition

A financial asset shall be derecognised when the NIHSS realises the contractual rights to benefits specified in the contract, the rights expire and the NIHSS surrenders those rights, or the NIHSS loses control of the contractual rights that comprise a financial asset.

On derecognition, the difference between the carrying amount of the financial asset and the sum of the proceeds received shall be recognised in the net surplus or deficit for the period.

1.5.2 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities include Trade and other payables from exchange transactions.

All financial liabilities of the NIHSS are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial liabilities and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Derecognition

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires. On derecognition, the difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability and the amount paid is included in the net surplus or deficit for the period.

Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset if there is any intention to either settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously and a legally enforceable right to offset exists.

1.6 Tax

No provision has been made for taxation, as the NIHSS is exempt from income tax in terms of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act 58 of 1962).

1.7 Leases

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

Finance leases refer to a contract that transfers the risks, rewards, rights and obligations incidental to ownership to the lessee and is recorded as a purchase of property, plant and equipment by means of long-term borrowing.

All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Payments made under operating leases (leases other than finance leases) are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease. When an operating lease is terminated before the lease period has expired, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognised as an expense in the period in which termination takes place.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.7.1 Finance leases - lessee

Finance leases are recognised as assets and liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the Statement of Financial Position as a finance lease obligation.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate on the remaining balance of the liability.

1.7.2 Operating leases - lessee

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The difference between the amounts recognised as an expense and the contractual payments are recognised as an operating lease asset or liability.

1.8 Inventories

Inventories consist of consumables on hand at the reporting date and are measured at cost. An individual inventory item whose cost does not exceed R1 000 is recognised, on acquisition, in surplus or deficit.

Inventories are subsequently measured at the lower of cost and net replacement value.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of employee benefits is recognised during the period in which the employee renders the related service. Employee entitlements are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability as a result of services rendered by employees up to the reporting date.

Termination benefits are recognised and expensed only when the payment is made.

Liabilities for annual leave are recognised as they accrue to employees. The NIHSS recognises the leave obligation during the vesting period based on the best available estimate of the accumulated leave expected to vest. The liability is based on the total amount of leave days due to employees at year end and also on the total remuneration package of the employee. The leave liability is recognised as an accrual.

No provision has been made for retirement benefits as the NIHSS does not provide for retirement benefits for its employees.

1.10 Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognised when the NIHSS has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits or service potential will be required or can be made to settle the obligation.

Provisions are measured as management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and are discounted to present value where the amount of the provision is material.

Contingent liabilities are possible obligations whose existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of an uncertain future event not wholly within the control of the NIHSS. Contingent liabilities are not recognised but are disclosed in the notes to these financial statements, unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential is remote.

1.11 Revenue

Revenue is recognised when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the NIHSS and these benefits can be measured reliably.

1.11.1 Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue from exchange transactions is recognised when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the NIHSS and these benefits can be measured reliably. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Interest income is accrued on a time proportionate basis, taking into account the principal outstanding and effective interest rate over the period to maturity.

1.11.2 Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Non-exchange revenue transactions result in resources being received by the NIHSS, usually in accordance with a binding arrangement.

When the NIHSS receives resources as a result of a non-exchange transaction, it recognises an asset and revenue in the period that the arrangement becomes binding and when it is probable that the NIHSS will receive economic benefits or service potential and it can make a reliable measure of the resources transferred.

Where the resources transferred to the NIHSS are subject to the fulfilment of specific conditions, it recognises an asset and a corresponding liability. As and when the conditions are fulfilled, the liability is reduced and revenue is recognised.

The asset and the corresponding revenue are measured on the basis of the fair value of the asset on initial recognition. The following sources of receipts are considered revenue from non-exchange transactions:

Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - operations funding

- The MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Framework - three year rolling government budget) allocated funding received from the DHET.
- The funding for the NIHSS operations is not conditional and revenue is recognised when the funds are received.

National Skills Fund (NSF)

- The NSF funds all the NIHSS award projects (including the African Pathway scholarship).
- The funds, from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020, for the projects were conditional and revenue is only recognised to the extent that expenditure is incurred.
- The funds from 1 April 2020 are not conditional and therefore revenue recognised in the period that the arrangement becomes binding.

1.12 Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Fruitless expenditure means expenditure which was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised.

All expenditure relating to fruitless and wasteful expenditure is recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance in the year that the expenditure was incurred. The expenditure is classified in accordance with the nature of the expense and where recovered it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

1.13 Irregular expenditure

Irregular expenditure is expenditure other than unauthorised expenditure, incurred in contravention of or that is not in accordance with the NIHSS supply chain policy.

1.14 Reserves

Any surplus funds at the end of the financial year are retained and utilised for project expenditure in the new financial year.

1.15 Related parties

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions or if the related party entity or another entity are subject to common control.

Where such a situation exists, the nature and type of transactions and relationships between parties are disclosed in the notes to these financial statements.

1.16 Commitments

Commitments are disclosed where the NIHSS has, in the normal course of its operations, entered into a contractual agreement with third parties for project expenses which are yet due for payment.

Commitments are measured at the amount the entity would pay to settle the obligation to a third party at reporting date. Commitments are included in the disclosure note to these financial statements.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.17 Reporting period

The reporting period for the 2020/21 financial year is over a 12-month period.

1.18 Comparatives

The NIHSS was established on 5 December 2013. The financial period for the 2020/21 financial year is over a 12-month period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Where there has been a change in accounting estimate to the extent that it gives rise to changes in assets and liabilities, or relates to an item of net assets, the change is recognised by adjusting the carrying amount of the related asset, liability or item of net assets in the period of the change. The comparative amounts are therefore not adjusted.

1.19 Budget information

The approved budget covers the fiscal period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

These financial statements and the approved budget are on the same basis of accounting, therefore, a comparison of actual performance with budgeted amounts for the reporting period has been included in the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts.

1.20 Events after reporting date

Events after reporting date are those events, whether favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are approved. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date).

The NIHSS will adjust the amount recognised in the financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting date once the event occurred.

The NIHSS will disclose the nature of the event and an estimate of its financial effect or a statement that such estimate cannot be made in respect of all material non-adjusting events, where non-disclosure could influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

1.21 Significant judgments and sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts represented in these financial statements and related disclosures. Use of available information and the application of judgment is inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from these estimates which may be material to these financial statements.

The following are the key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at year end, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year:

Estimation of useful lives and residual value

An assessment is done at each reporting period whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets has changed since the preceding reporting period. If any such indication exists, an estimation of the revised expected useful lives and/or residual values is done.

Impairment of assets

The NIHSS assesses its receivables for impairment at the end of each reporting period. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in surplus or deficit, management makes judgments as to whether there is observable data indicating a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from receivables.

Segment reporting

Management have assessed that the NIHSS operates as one segment both geographically and in service offering. Therefore, Management have not divided the financial information into different segments as required by GRAP 18.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. General information

The creation of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) to dynamise these fields of study in South Africa's higher education system has emerged out of a wide-ranging consultative process inaugurated by the then Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande.

In 2010, the then Minister of Higher Education and Training appointed a task team to develop a Charter on Humanities and Social Sciences. This was aimed at affirming the importance of humanities and social sciences as forms of scholarship. The final Report of the Charter was submitted to the Minister at the time on 4 August 2011. One of the key recommendations of the Report was the establishment of an institute for the promotion of humanities and social sciences.

Guided by the overwhelming support for the recommendations from the stakeholders across the entire cultural divide and the establishment of the institute in particular, the Minister then provided for the establishment of the NIHSS through the Government Gazette Notice No 37118 on 5 December 2013.

The scope of the NIHSS is that of advancing and coordinating scholarship, research and ethical practice in the fields of the humanities and the social science within and through the existing public universities and those to be established or declared in future as public universities.

The functions of the NIHSS are to:

- a. provide services to the higher education sphere within the humanities and social sciences
- b. Advance learning within the specific scope or application of the Institute by facilitating collaboration, co-operation and co-ordination of the work of higher education institutions; and
- c. advise the Minister of Higher Education and Training on matters relating to its specific scope or application, or higher education generally.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. New standards and interpretations

3.1 Standards issued, but not yet effective

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, there are standards and interpretations in issue but not yet effective. These include the following standards and interpretations that are applicable to the NIHSS and may have an impact on future financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date:	Expected impact:
GRAP 104 - Financial Instruments	1 April 2021	The standard provides guidance on how an entity recognises a financial asset or a financial liability in its statement of financial position when and only when, the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. The amendments to the standard are not effective as at end of financial year.
GRAP 25 Employee Benefits	1 April 2021	The standard provides guidance on the recognition of all forms of consideration given by an entity in exchange for services rendered by employees or for the termination of employment. The amendments to the standard are not effective as at end of financial year.

3.2 Standards not yet effective or relevant

The following standards and interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective are not applicable to the NIHSS and will not have an impact on future financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date:	Expected impact:
IGRAP 7 Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset Min Fund Requirement and Interact	1 April 2021	No significant impact on future disclosures

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Property, plant and equipment

Figures in Rands	2021			2020		
	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value
Office furniture and fittings	3 417 405	(1 692 431)	1 724 974	3 417 404	(1 350 691)	2 066 713
Office equipment	1 474 691	(1 330 709)	143 982	1 474 691	(1 055 648)	419 043
Computer equipment	1 625 524	(1 091 059)	534 465	1 468 250	(870 496)	597 754
Leasehold improvements	3 805 572	(3 261 375)	544 197	3 805 572	(3 266 929)	538 643
Office equipment - project assets	154 992	(129 794)	25 198	154 992	(98 795)	56 197
Total	10 478 184	(7 505 368)	2 972 816	10 320 909	(6 642 559)	3 678 350

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2021

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Total
Office furniture and fittings	2 066 713	-	-	(341 740)	1 724 973
Office equipment	419 043	-	-	(275 060)	143 983
Computer equipment	597 754	182 413	(17 730)	(227 972)	534 465
Leasehold improvements	538 643	-	-	5 555	544 197
Office equipment - project assets	56 197	-	-	(30 998)	25 198
Total	3 678 350	182 413	(17 730)	(870 215)	2 972 816

During the 2020/21 financial year, a total amount of R116 337 was incurred to repair and maintain various assets.

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2020

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Total
Office furniture and fittings	2 291 540	116 163	-	(340 990)	2 066 713
Office equipment	772 223	27 547	-	(380 727)	419 043
Computer equipment	456 189	472 756	(39 433)	(291 757)	597 755
Leasehold improvements	764 713	-	-	(226 071)	538 642
Office equipment - project assets	87 280	-	-	(31 083)	56 197
Total	4 371 945	616 466	(39 433)	(1 270 628)	3 678 350

Gross carrying value	2021	2020
Office furniture and fittings	1 724 973	2 066 713
Office equipment	143 983	419 043
Computer equipment	534 465	597 755
Leasehold improvements	544 197	538 642
Office equipment - project assets	25 198	56 197
Total	2 972 816	3 678 350

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5. Intangible assets

Figures in Rands	2021			2020		
	Cost	Accumulated amortisation	Carrying value	Cost	Accumulated amortisation	Carrying value
Computer software	1 331 591	(938 655)	392 936	1 156 208	(828 814)	327 394
Internally generated computer software	2 925 831	(2 160 892)	764 939	2 739 289	(1 866 911)	872 378
Total	4 257 422	(3 099 547)	1 157 875	3 895 497	(2 695 725)	1 199 772

The NIHSS has developed a Grant Management system internally during the 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. The cumulative expenditures on developing the system have been recognised in the carrying amount of these intangible assets.

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2021

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	327 394	175 383	(109 841)	392 936
Internally generated computer software	872 378	186 542	(293 981)	764 939
Total	1 199 772	361 925	(403 822)	1 157 875

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2020

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	465 271	68 012	(205 889)	327 394
Internally generated computer software	814 838	387 266	(329 726)	872 378
	1 280 109	455 278	(535 615)	1 199 772
			2021	2020
Gross carrying value				
Computer software			1 157 875	1 199 772

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Prepayments

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Assets paid in advance		-	92 000
Rental paid in advance		261 709	241 207
Warranty prepayment		-	-
Other prepayments		266 445	61 481
Medical aid prepayment		-	59 693
Total		528 154	454 381

7. Receivables

Receivables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Recoverable amount of fruitless and wasteful expenditure		298 661	124 791
Other receivables		445 457	1 707 008
Total receivables from exchange transactions		744 118	1 831 799

Receivables from non-exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
NSF receivable (Operations - project administration fee)		8 539 572	-
DHET receivable (Awards NSF)		126 566 634	-
Total receivables from non-exchange transactions		135 106 206	-
Total receivables		135 850 324	1 831 799

8. Cash and cash equivalents

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
NIHSS operating bank account		1 273 543	3 131 940
NIHSS NSF bank account		5 456 988	21 166 600
Cash on hand		544	1 535
Investments		72 083 897	132 644 154
Total		78 814 972	156 944 229

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash held by NIHSS. The carrying amount of these assets approximates their fair values.

8.1 Cash and cash equivalents

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Credit Card		6 252	-
Total		6 252	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9. Payables

Trade and other payables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Trade payables		3 520 359	1 061 300
Trade accruals		428 997	1 171 721
Employees' payables - 13th cheque		89 300	35 600
Accrued leave pay		623 096	619 841
		4 661 752	2 888 462

The carrying amount of trade and other payables approximate their fair value due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial liabilities.

Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Trade payables		4 727 893	7 888 000
Trade accruals		790 000	3 261 000
Trade payables (NSF) *		79 589 883	141 601 355
		85 107 776	152 750 355
Total payables		89 769 528	155 638 817

* The trade payables relating to NSF (from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020) has been accounted for as deferred revenue in line with GRAP 104.

* Included in this amount is an amount of R3 300 000 which relates to the appointment of a skills advisor for the Ministry. This is the portion for the 2021/22 financial year. The funds for the projects (from inception of the NIHSS until 31 March 2020) are conditional and recognised as deferred revenue. Revenue is only recognised to the extent that expenditure is incurred.

9.1 Provisions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Opening carrying amount		1 081 310	1 101 758
Amounts not utilised		(303 029)	(448 036)
Amounts paid out/utilised		(778 281)	(653 722)
Additional amount provided		1 071 856	1 081 310
Closing carrying amount		1 071 856	1 081 310

The provision relates to provisions for performance incentives which are expected to be paid out before the end of August 2020. These are performance based and are driven by the employees' performance evaluations

10. Finance lease liability

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Finance lease liability	17.2	-	124 870
Less: Short-term portion disclosed under current liabilities		-	(124 870)
Non-current lease liability		-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

11. Revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Investment revenue - interest		755 085	1 406 737
Government funding		239 610 093	104 552 770
Other income		29 619	153 801
Total		240 394 797	106 113 308

The amount included in revenue arising from exchanges of goods or services is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Investment revenue - Interest		755 085	1 406 737

The amount included in revenue arising from non-exchange transactions is as follows:

Transfer revenue (Government funding)

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - Operations funding		38 140 572	34 281 000
National Skills Fund (NSF) - Conditional		78 202 887	70 271 770
National Skills Fund (NSF) - Unconditional **		123 266 634	-
Total Government funding		239 610 093	104 552 770

** The funding from the NSF for projects for the 2020/21 financial year was not conditional. Therefore revenue was recognised in full as required by GRAP 104 and GRAP23.

12. Employee-related costs

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Basic salaries		20 244 967	19 136 314
UIF		53 873	55 226
SDL		133 273	183 871
Acting allowances		330 530	259 363
Subsistence allowances		-	9 482
Accrued leave pay		595 383	46 620
Arbitration awards		3 255	147 360
Performance incentives		768 827	634 495
Provident fund - employer contributions		503 118	76 682
Temporary staff		-	29 829
Total		22 633 226	20 579 242

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13. Project expenses

Awards

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Catalytic Projects		5 810 407	1 063 087
Humanities Hubs		4 531 357	2 199 740
Pan African South Collaboration		-	684 554
Awards		770 000	919 856
Evaluation Panels and Award Ceremony		6 545 479	9 290 697
Working Groups		28 324 290	6 385 460
Professional Associations		1 500 000	-
BRICS ThinkTank		5 386 498	1 974 781
Skills Advisor		825 000	-
Emeriti Professors		3 887 500	3 637 500
National Doctoral Conference		5 372 762	8 201 883
African Pathways Teaching and Research Mobility		-	135 855
National and Regional workshops and seminars		1 248 567	2 991 048
Workshop Costs (project) travel		27 027	85 309
Total awards		64 228 887	37 569 770
African Pathways (NSF funded scholarships)		660 000	2 937 000
SAHUDA (NSF funded scholarships)		13 314 000	29 765 000
Total scholarships		13 974 000	32 702 000
Total project expenses		78 202 887	70 271 770

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14.1 General expenses

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Audit fees - external		900 014	746 873
Audit fees - internal		295 235	239 371
Advertising and promotions		314 341	39 990
Bank charges		20 486	20 700
Board member emoluments		370 460	264 863
Cleaning		285 131	82 053
Consulting fees		1 202 827	1 245 442
Courier and postages		600	3 771
Insurance		232 912	289 485
Internet costs		(4 880)	31 110
Loss on disposal of asset		17 730	39 433
Rental of equipment - finance costs		4 804	25 350
Legal fees		1 126 774	274 425
Licenses		507 649	367 200
Meetings costs		-	288
Printing and stationery		140 611	272 527
Rates and taxes		78 050	74 942
Repairs and maintenance		138 684	80 312
Security expenses	4	2 243	3 710
Small assets		7 839	19 202
Groceries		36 674	51 293
Staff recruitment		-	315 790
Staff refreshments		77 201	244 689
Staff training		833 830	852 864
Staff welfare		778 523	194 780
Subscriptions to professional bodies	25	86 621	48 512
Supplies and services		688 221	716 115
Telephone and fax		757 227	600 630
Travel & accommodation		595 529	752 111
Water and electricity		817 474	794 232
Warranty costs		-	391
Workmens compensation		64 710	-
Workshop costs (operational)		1 693 481	1 414 014
Bad debts		-	5 123
Loss on impairment of receivables		-	33 084
Total		12 071 001	10 144 675

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

14.2 Project administration fee

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Doctoral Schools		1 274	7 261
Workshop costs (project)		39 330	448 632
NSF project administration costs		2 019 501	894 112
		2 060 105	1 350 005

15. Investment revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Net interest income received per income statement		755 085	1 406 737
Investment income		755 085	1 406 737

16. Net cash flows from operating activities

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year		120 695 512	(1 011 678)
Adjustments for:			
Gain on disposal of assets		(15 900)	(26 959)
Depreciation and amortisation		1 274 037	1 806 241
(Decrease) / Increase in operating and finance lease liability		428 555	(107 915)
Changes in working capital:		(18 236)	20 368
(Increase) in inventories		954 216	(1 549 437)
(Increase) in receivables from exchange transactions and prepayments		(135 106 206)	-
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables from non-exchange transactions		(3 807 577)	5 837 238
Increase in trade and other payables from exchange transactions		(62 011 472)	26 425 535
Increase in trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions		-	-
Increase / (Decrease) in retained earnings		(77 607 071)	31 393 393

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Commitments

17.1. Operating lease commitments - As lessee (expense)

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Minimum lease payments due:			
• within one year		3 430 176	-
• in second to fifth year (inclusive)		10 290 528	-
		13 720 704	-

A new lease agreement was entered into for a 5-year period beginning 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2025, subject to the renewal of the NIHSS mandate post 31 March 2020. The building is located on Erf 902, 24 St Andrews Road, Parktown.

17.2. Project commitments

Projects

All projects and African Pathways Programme scholarships are funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF). The contract period ranges from one to three years for all projects.

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
University Of Cape Town	Catalytic Research program	CRP01639B	150 000	-				-	150 000
University of the Western Cape	Emeriti Professors	NMP201901	37 500	-				37 500	-
University of Limpopo	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-02	-	350 000				350 000	-
Nelson Mandela University	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-03	-	350 000				350 000	-
University of South Africa	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-04	-	350 000				350 000	-
	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-07	-	350 000				350 000	-
University of the Western Cape	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-05	-	350 000				350 000	-
University of Johannesburg	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-01	-	350 000			175 000	175 000	-
	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-08	-	350 000				350 000	-
University of the Witwatersrand	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-09	-	350 000				350 000	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
University of Cape Town	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-10	-	350 000				350 000	-
University of Johannesburg	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-11	-	350 000				350 000	-
University of Zululand	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-12	-	175 000				175 000	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Emeriti Professors	NMP202021-13	-	350 000				350 000	-
Stellenbosch University	Catalytic Research programme	CRP2018/01	410 000	-				287 000	123 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Catalytic Research programme	CRP016033B	150 000	-				150 000	-
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	WG 01718	250 000	-				250 000	-
University Of Cape Town	Working Groups programme	W GPG18/1041	30 000	-			30 000	-	-
UKZN Press, University of KwaZulu-Natal	Working Groups programme	W G01657B	240 000	-				240 000	-
Institute for Global Dialogue	Working Groups programme	W GP18/1043	30 000	-				30 000	-
Modjadji Books	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1141	150 000	-				150 000	-
University of Zululand	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1144	-	100 000				100 000	-
Plus94 Research	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/01	-	402 500				402 500	-
Plus94 Research	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/01B	-	402 500	124 200			526 700	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/02	-	184 750				184 750	-
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/03	-	500 000				400 000	100 000
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/04	-	8 000 000				6 400 000	1 600 000
University of Pretoria	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/05	-	500 000				200 000	300 000
South African History Online	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/06	-	420 000				420 000	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/07	-	407 500				203 775	203 725
Thabo Mbeki Foundation	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/08	-	300 000				180 000	120 000
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/09	-	1 070 000				907 000	163 000
Jacana Media	Working Groups programme	W GP20/10	-	291 240				291 240	-
Mapungubwe National Park & World Heritage Site	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201707HUB	600 000	-				-	600 000
The Hunterstoun Heritage Centre, University of Fort Hare	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201704HUB	284 200	-				-	284 200
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg acting through its O	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201708HUB_B	-	610 000				305 000	305 000
University of the Western Cape	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201710HUB_B	-	910 000				546 000	364 000
Liliesleaf Trust	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201713HUB	50 000	-		100 000	50 000	100 000	-
Liliesleaf Trust	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201713HUB_B	-	1 148 367				803 857	344 510
Robben Island Museum	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201711HUB	150 000	-			150 000	-	-
Robben Island Museum	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201711HUB_B	-	800 000				400 000	400 000
Market Theatre Foundation	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201712HUB_B	100 000	-				100 000	-
Market Theatre Foundation	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201712HUB_B	-	1 553 000				776 500	776 500
Lifestyle Media	Consultancy Agreement		37 647	-			17 792	19 855	-
Tlaleng Mokokeng	Consultancy Agreement		100 826	-			100 826	-	-
B Style Media	Consultancy Agreement		-	490 000	320 000			801 246	8 754

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
Wits University Press	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1136	200 000	-				-	200 000
UKZN Press	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1137	200 000	-				200 000	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1143	4 000 000	-	4 000 000			4 800 000	3 200 000
Independent Media (PTY) Ltd			499 232	-			258 241	240 991	-
University of Mpumalanga	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1148	-	300 000				300 000	-
University of Pretoria	Working Groups programme	W GP19/1149	-	8 000 000				8 000 000	-
University of Johannesburg	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/08	498 000	-				398 400	99 600
Institute for Global Dialogue	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/06	500 000	-				200 000	300 000
University of Johannesburg	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/09	480 223	-				-	480 223
University of the Witwatersrand	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/03	499 100	-				199 640	299 460
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/02	500 000	-				200 000	300 000
University of Johannesburg		BC01/2019/04	499 000	-				199 600	299 400
University of the Free State	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/01	-	500 000				200 000	300 000
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/07	500 000	-				400 000	100 000
Rhodes University	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/05	492 000	-				196 800	295 200
University of the Western Cape	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/11	-	300 000				240 000	60 000
University of Limpopo	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/08	-	300 000				240 000	60 000
University of Cape Town	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2019/10	-	427 650				342 120	85 530

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/03	-	300 000				240 000	60 000
University of Limpopo	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/10	-	300 000				240 000	60 000
Institute for Global Dialogue	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/02	-	300 000				120 000	180 000
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/07	-	300 000				240 000	60 000
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/05	-	298 000				119 200	178 800
University of Pretoria	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS	BC01/2020/01	-	298 900				119 560	179 340
University of Venda	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR	JNI20/1033	-	298 000				119 200	178 800
University of Pretoria	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR	JNI20/1009	-	299 755				-	299 755
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR	JNI20/1026	-	300 000				-	300 000
North-West University	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR	JNI20/1017	-	296 760				-	296 760
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR	JNI20/1047	-	297 300				-	297 300
Tshwane University of Technology	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1036	-	89 000				53 400	35 600
University of the Free State	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1061	-	493 005				295 803	197 202
University of Limpopo	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1063	-	350 000				210 000	140 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1066	-	500 000				300 000	200 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1038	-	212 075				127 245	84 830
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1082	-	600 000				360 000	240 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1075	-	240 000				144 000	96 000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1083	-	400 000				-	400 000
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1020	-	449 302				269 581	179 721
Nelson Mandela University	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1079	-	350 000				-	350 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1001	-	500 000				300 000	200 000
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1084	-	166 450				99 870	66 580
Jacana Media	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1085	-	333 000				333 000	-
Plus 94 Research Pty Ltd	Working Groups programme	W GP/2020/01C	-	402 500				281 750	120 750
Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MIS)	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1087	-	500 000				-	500 000
University of Pretoria	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1014	-	300 000				300 000	-
University of the Witwatersrand	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1070	-	350 000				210 000	140 000
Thokozile Publishers	Working Groups programme	W GP20/1086	-	452 295				452 295	-
Plus 94 Research Pty Ltd	Working Groups programme	W GP20/01D	-	500 000				300 000	200 000
South African Young Academy of Science	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1015	-	300 000				300 000	-
Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners South Africa	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1010	-	300 000				300 000	-
International Consortium for Social Development	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1011	-	300 000				300 000	-
South African Society of Archivists	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1008	-	300 000				300 000	-
The English Academy of Southern Africa	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1003	-	300 000				300 000	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
South African Humanities Deans' Association	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1016	-	500 000				-	500 000
Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Association	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1017	-	300 000				-	300 000
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/06	-	300 000				120 000	180 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/04	-	299 000				-	299 000
University of Zululand	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/09	-	300 000				-	300 000
University of South Africa	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1055	-	252 000				176 400	75 600
University of Pretoria	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1032	-	600 000				420 000	180 000
University of Cape Town	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1013	-	292 581				204 807	87 774
University of the Western Cape	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1101	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
Eastern Cape Audio Visual Centre	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1035	-	84 705				-	84 705
Nelson Mandela University	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1047	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
University of Cape Town	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1061	-	100 000				70 000	30 000
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1020	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
University of Cape Town	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1026	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1056	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1019	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
University of the Witwatersrand	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1077	-	348 000				243 600	104 400
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1098	-	350 000				245 000	105 000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research programme	CRP20/1057	-	800 000				560 000	240 000
University of the Witwatersrand	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1031	-	169 500				169 500	-
Nelson Mandela University	African Pathways Programme	BMG20/1013	-	246 489				246 489	-
University of Pretoria	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1067	-	286 398				286 398	-
North-West University	African Pathways Programme	BMG20/1061	-	266 000				-	266 000
University of Pretoria	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1056	-	120 000				-	120 000
University of Fort Hare	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1022	-	300 000				-	300 000
University of South Africa	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1083	-	290 400				-	290 400
University of Fort Hare	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1032	-	300 000				-	300 000
University of Johannesburg	African Pathways Programme	BMG20/1062	-	500 000				-	500 000
University of the Witwatersrand	African Pathways Programme	BMG20/1031	-	300 000				-	300 000
University of South Africa	African Pathways Programme	BMG20/1067	-	190 000				-	190 000
University of Pretoria	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1086	-	300 000				-	300 000
Walter Sisulu University	African Pathways Programme	AMG20/1037	-	300 000				-	300 000
DHET	National skills project initiative		-	3 300 000				825 000	2 475 000
Total			11 637 728	60 113 923	4 444 200	100 000	781 859	49 082 572	26 431 420
NSF project operational expenses ^								15 146 315	
Total								64 228 887	

^ These are operational expenses incurred to support the NSF projects that do not fall under a contract.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Scholarships (African Pathways)	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
African Pathways Programme	-	726 000				660 000	66 000
African Pathways operational expenses #	-	-				-	-
Total	-	726 000			-	660 000	66 000

These are operational expenses incurred to support the African Pathways Programme.

Scholarships (Sahuda)	Contractual value at 31 March 2020	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2021	Additional funding	Project refunds	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021	Contractual value at 31 March 2021
Scholarships	2 174 000	12 058 000			-	13 314 000	918 000
Total	2 174 000	12 058 000			-	13 314 000	918 000

18. Related parties

Relationship		
Controlling entity:	Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	
Entities under common control:	NSF	
Members of key management :	Prof Sarah Mosoetsa	CEO
	Mr Tumelo Mokoena	CFO
Members of the Board:	Prof Aristides Sitas (Chairperson)	
	Prof Ahmed Bawa	
	Dr Rene Smith	
	Dr Bernard Nthambeleni	
	Prof Fiona Tregenna	
	Mr Mahlubi Mabizela	
	Ms Luli Callinicos	
	Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	
	Ms Jacomien Rousseau	
	Mr Thapelo Molapo	
	Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	
	Ms Cynthia Maponya	
	Prof Simphiwe Mini	
	Ms Maleshini Naidoo (Chairperson of Audit and Risk Committee)	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Related party balances payables

Figures in Rands	2021	2020
Payables		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	79 589 883	141 601 355
Receivables		
National Skills Fund	135 106 206	-
<i>All related party balances and transactions to DHET include the transfer to/from the National Skills Fund</i>		
Related party transactions		
Transactions		
Revenue		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	239 610 093	104 552 770
Remuneration - Members of key management		
Chief Executive Officer	1 816 104	1 608 249
Chief Executive Officer - Secondment payment to Wits University	1 065 781	1 020 536
Chief Financial Officer	1 861 907	1 760 883
Total	4 743 792	4 389 668

The key management group consists of the NIHSS's CEO and CFO.

Remuneration - Board members

Figures in Rands	Re-imbursements 2020/21	Board Fees 2020/21	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
Prof Aristides Sitas	-	47 936	47 936	37 906
Prof Ahmed Bawa	-	14 676	14 676	7 338
Dr Bernard Nthambeleni	-	32 490	32 490	25 201
Prof Fiona Tregenna	-	44 028	44 028	29 352
Ms Luli Callinicos	-	40 359	40 359	29 352
Ms Jacomien Rousseau	-	-	-	1 508
Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize	-	31 306	31 306	26 660
Dr Rene Smith	-	33 540	33 540	24 522
Ms Cynthia Maponya	-	-	-	845
Ms Nolwazi Mamorare	-	23 583	23 583	30 921
Mr Thapelo Molapo	-	33 260	33 260	25 922
Prof Siphwe Mini	-	33 021	33 021	18 345
Ms Maleshini Naidoo (Chairperson of Audit and Risk Committee)	-	36 261	36 261	15 570
Total	-	370 460	370 461	273 442

The Board consists of members appointed in terms of the Government Gazette 37118. Remuneration is paid to members.

NIHSS has remunerated members of the Board for attending Board and sub-committee meetings as disclosed above.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Transactions made to organisations associated with Board members **

Figures in Rands		Notes	2021	2020
Entities associated with Board members	Associating Board members			
University of Cape Town	Prof Aristides Sitas		2 396 927	2 773 788
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize		10 732 950	-
Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA)	Ms Luli Callinicos		-	100 000
University of Venda	Dr Bernard N Nthambeleni, Mr Thapelo Molapo (prior year) and Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (CEO)		791 200	1 240 250
Durban University of Technology	Dr Rene Smith		33 000	-
University of Johannesburg	Ms Nolwazi Mamore		8 100 491	3 292 321
Human Sciences Research Council	Ms Jacomien Rousseau and Ms Maleshini Naidoo		1 787 000	802 541
Department of Labour	Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (CEO)		64 710	-
University of the Witwatersrand ***	Prof Sarah Mosoetsa (CEO)		6 039 151	6 032 168
Total			29 945 429	14 241 068

** These transactions are between the NIHSS and the entities that are associated with Board members/CEO.

All transactions above occurred under terms that were no more favourable than those available in similar arm's length dealings.

19. Risk management

The focus of risk management in the NIHSS is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the NIHSS. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, Management endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that the appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethics are applied throughout the NIHSS and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

As the NIHSS acquires finance from DHET and does not have borrowed funds, it does not have major exposure to credit, liquidity, interest and market risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the NIHSS will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Ultimate responsibility for liquidity risk management rests with the DHET, which has built an appropriate liquidity risk management framework for the management of the NIHSS's short, medium and long-term funding and liquidity management requirements.

2020/21	6 months or less	6-12 months	1-2 years
Payables from exchange transactions	4 661 752	-	-
2019/20	6 months or less	6-12 months	1-2 years
Payables from exchange transactions	2 888 462	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to meet an obligation. Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents and deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as outstanding receivables and committed transactions. For banks and financial institutions, only highly reputable financial institutions are used.

2020/21

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	2021: Total
Not past due	744 118	–	744 118
The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	2021: Total
Not past due	R135 106 206	–	R135 106 206
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	2021: Total
Not past due	78 814 972	–	78 814 972

2019/20

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	2020: Total
Not past due	1 831 799	–	1 831 799
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents:	Gross	Impairment	2020: Total
Not past due	156 944 229	–	156 944 229

Market risk

No significant events occurred during the year in the market that NIHSS is aware of.

Interest rate risk

The NIHSS has limited exposure to interest rate risk. NIHSS's cash and cash equivalents are subject to interest rate risk for the portion of interest received. The interest rate risk is limited as funds are invested with one of the four major banks and this is assessed annually.

20. Events after the reporting date

No adjusting events after the reporting date occurred that the NIHSS is aware of.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Budget differences

Notes to Statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts

Item	Reason
Investment revenue	Interest from investments from the projects funding has been processed to the deferred revenue account.
Government funding	The full allocation of funding for operations was received in the financial year. For the 2020/21 financial year, funding was not received from the NSF for project expenditure, as at 31 March 2021. The funding agreement with the NSF was concluded on 30 April 2021. This was therefore processed as an adjusting subsequent event after the reporting period. Revenue was therefore recognised in full, as the contract did not have any conditions attached.
Employee related costs	The employee related costs were under the budget due to vacant positions yet to be filled at year-end.
Depreciation and amortisation	The variance is due to fewer asset additions during the 2020/21 financial year. All assets purchased were budgeted for.
Rent and utilities	Rent is under budget due to the effects of lease smoothing as required by GRAP 13. The variance is within the threshold required by the Financial Management Policy.
Project expenses	The NIHSS did not receive 2020/21 funding from the NSF for project expenditure. As such, the expenditure is below budget. Projects were funded from reserves.
General expenses	General expenses were incurred during the financial year and in line with budget. The amount over budget was financed from funds received during the year, not initially budgeted for.
Project administration fee	The project administration expenditure was within budget.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

22. Financial instruments disclosure

Categories of financial instruments

2020/21

Financial assets

Figures in Rands	At amortised cost	Total
Receivables from exchange transactions	744 118	744 118
Receivables from non-exchange transactions	135 106 206	135 106 206
Cash and cash equivalents	78 814 972	78 814 972
Total	214 665 296	214 665 296

Financial liabilities	At amortised cost	Total
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	4 661 752	4 661 752
Total	4 661 752	4 661 752

2019/20

Financial assets

Figures in Rands	At amortised cost	Total
Receivables from exchange transactions	1 831 799	1 831 799
Receivables from non-exchange transactions	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	156 944 229	156 944 229
Total	158 776 028	158 776 028

Financial liabilities	At amortised cost	Total
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	2 888 462	2 888 462
Total	2 888 462	2 888 462

23. Contingencies

	At amortised cost	Total
Contingent liabilities	-	-
Total	-	-

2020/21

No possible obligation was identified during the 2020/21 financial year

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2019/20

The NIHSS appealed the case which was ongoing in the prior year, during the 2019/20 financial year and the matter was settled in favour of the organisation. Therefore, no contingent liability exists. No other possible obligation was identified during the 2019/20 financial year.

Contingent asset

2020/21

Scholarships defaults

A possible asset of **R924 000** exists due to scholarship beneficiaries who could possibly have defaulted in terms of their contractual agreements with the institute. As at financial year-end, a further investigations were still ongoing for students with contractual obligations and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process.

2019/20

A possible asset of **R234 000** exists due to scholarship beneficiaries who could possibly have defaulted in terms of their contractual agreements with the institute. As at financial year-end, further investigations were still ongoing for students with contractual obligations and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process.

24. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

2020/21

The opening balance of fruitless and wasteful expenditure relates to fraudulent transactions that were done by a former staff member in the 2016/17 financial year. The former employee has been paying back the funds owed from the 2017/18 financial year to date. During the 2020/21 financial year, the NIHSS became a victim of cybercrime at the beginning of the lockdown period (April 2020), whereby an amount of **R532 890** was embezzled. Due to an internal investigation and assistance of the bank, an amount of **R355 821** was recovered. A criminal case with the South African Police has been opened and it is anticipated that the balance of **R177 069** will be recovered through the police investigation.

2019/20

The fruitless and wasteful expenditure balance relates to the alleged fraudulent transaction that was carried out by a staff member during 2016/17. The employee has paid back a portion of the funds owed to the NIHSS in the 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years.

Reconciliation of fruitless and wasteful expenditure:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Opening Balance		124 791	130 477
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recovered		(359 021)	(6 000)
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred		532 891	314
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure condoned		-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure awaiting recovery		298 661	124 791

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25. Irregular expenditure

Reconciliation of irregular expenditure:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2021	2020
Opening balance		-	-
Irregular expenditure incurred			
Irregular expenditure condoned		-	-
Irregular expenditure awaiting condonement		-	-

2020/21

There was no irregular expenditure incurred during the 2020/21 financial year.

2019/20

There was no irregular expenditure incurred during the 2019/20 financial year.

26. Going concern

There are no known instances that cast doubt on the NIHSS's ability to continue as a going concern. Management's assessment revealed that the NIHSS's ability to continue as a going concern is not significantly affected by Covid-19. Furthermore, a review process is currently being conducted by the review panel as appointed by the Minister to assess whether the NIHSS's mandate will be extended. The mandate was originally determined to end at 31 March 2020, however a budget was allocated and approved for the financial year ended 31 March 2021. The Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 has been submitted to the DHET.

27. Significant judgments and sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimation of useful lives and residual value

Management are of the opinion that all assets of the NIHSS have a useful life that is equal to the economic life as assets are used to a point where they cannot be sold at an open market. Management therefore considers the residual value to not be material and significant.

Impairment of assets

Management are of the opinion that there is no objective evidence individually or in a group that the receivables will not be recoverable.

28. Change in accounting estimate

The useful lives of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software are as follows:

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office furniture and fittings	9 - 11 years	9% - 11%
Office equipment	3-5 years	33.33% - 20%
Computer equipment	2- 4 years	25% - 50%
Computer software	1-2 years	50% - 100%
Leasehold improvements	3-5 years	33.33% - 20%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An assessment was done during the 2020/21 reporting period to ascertain whether there is any indication that the entity's expectation about the residual values and the useful lives of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets has changed since the preceding reporting period. Such an indication did exist for a few items of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software and the useful lives were revised as follows (only on those specific items):

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office equipment	Extended by 1 more year	33.33% - 50%
Computer equipment	Extended by 1 more year	25% - 50%
Computer software	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 100%
Leasehold improvements	Extended by 1 more year	25% - 33.33%
Internally generated computer software	Extended by 1 more year	33.33% - 50%

The revised useful lives had the following effect on the carrying amounts of the assets:

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office equipment	Increase in carrying amount	51 140
Computer equipment	Increase in carrying amount	148 237
Computer software	Increase in carrying amount	248 449
Leasehold improvements	Increase in carrying amount	515 979
Internally generated computer software	Increase in carrying amount	485 462
Total		1 449 267

The change above was recognised by adjusting the carrying amounts of the related assets.

29. Prior period error

2020/21

No prior period error was identified during the 2020/21 financial year.

2019/20

No prior period error was identified during the 2019/20 financial year.

30. Events after reporting date 2020/21

The following event occurred subsequent to 31 March 2021:

The NIHSS concluded its funding agreement with the National Skills Fund on the 30 April 2021 for a total amount of R135 106 206, broken down as follows:

2020/21 Project grant	122 400 532
Prior year outstanding balance	6 105 674
Skills Advisor	6 600 000
Total	135 106 206

The amount has been recognised as a receivable in the financial statements, as it is an adjusting event after the reporting period.

