



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ANNUAL REPORT 2025



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

10th
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

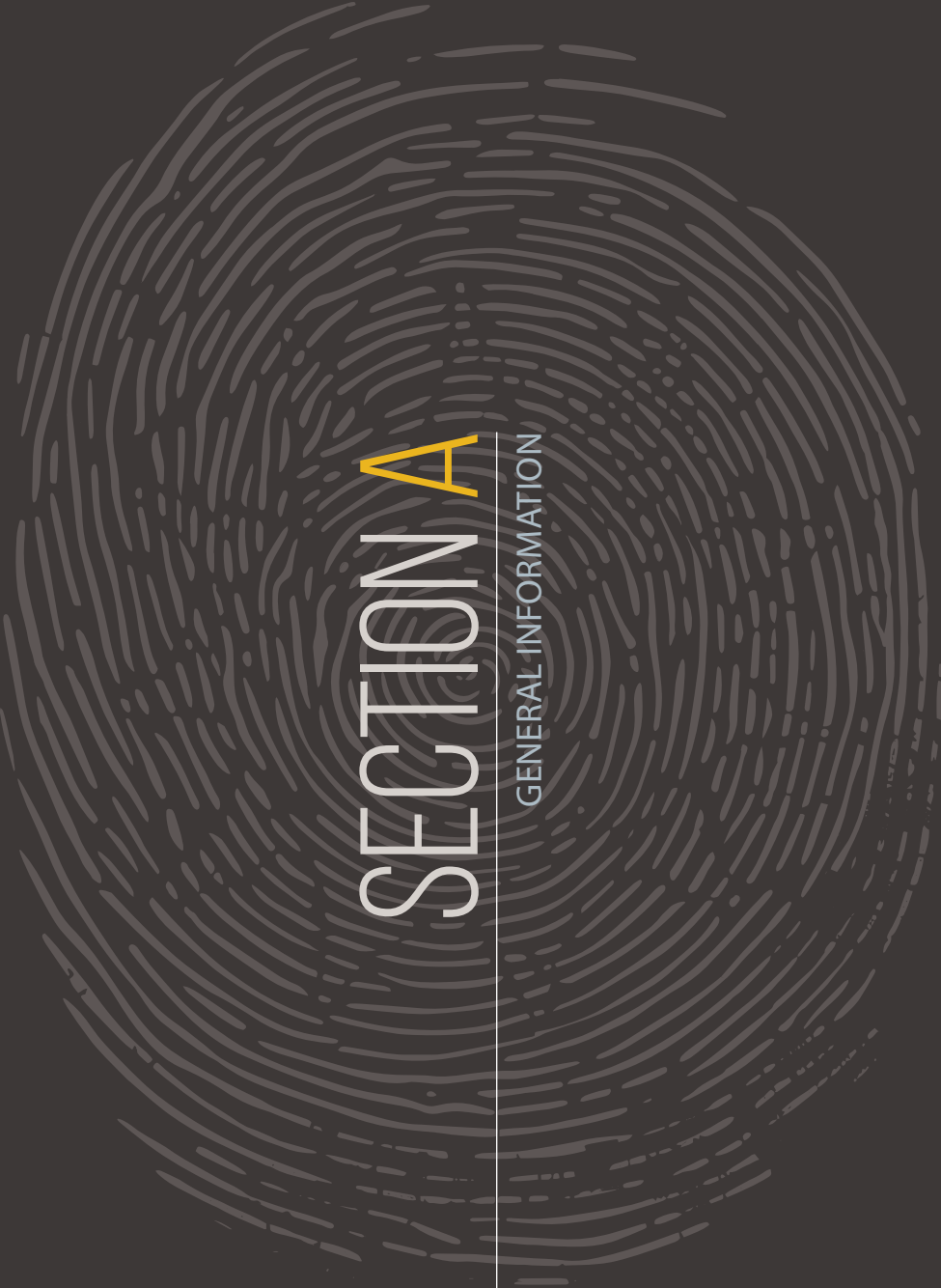
ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFS	Annual Financial Statements
AGSA	Auditor-General of South Africa
ANDC	Annual National Doctoral Conference
APP	African Pathways Programme
APP	Annual Performance Plan
BTT	BRICS Think Tanks
BTTC	BRICS Think Tank Council
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CMA	Centre for Mediation in Africa
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
DC-CUS	Decentred Critical University Studies
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DUT	Durban University of Technology
FY	Financial Year
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HESTIIL	Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Institutional Landscape
HR	Human Resources
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
HSS	Humanities and Social Sciences
ICSSR	Indian Council of Social Science Research
IGD	Institute for Global Dialogue
ISCIA	Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa
MA	Master of Arts
MISTRA	Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation

NIHSS	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
NMP	National Mentorship Programme
NMU	Nelson Mandela University
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSF	National Skills Fund
OERs	Open Educational Resources
PAA	Public Audit Act
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
REIPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers
RU	Rhodes University
SA	South Africa
SABTT	South African BRICS Think Tank
SAHUDA	South African Humanities Deans' Association
SAIIA	South African Institute of International Affairs
SARChi	South African Research Chairs Initiative
SASEP	Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSAUF	Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SU	Stellenbosch University
TUT	Tshwane University of Technology
UCT	University of Cape Town
UFS	University of the Free State
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UL	University of Limpopo
Unisa	University of South Africa
UNIVEN	University of Venda
UniZulu	University of Zululand
UP	University of Pretoria
UWC	University of the Western Cape
Wits	University of the Witwatersrand

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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 were in great need of 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 tenth year, the NIHSS is a publicly funded organisation that works with higher education partners to fund, mentor and support over 600 PhD students and 60 postdoctoral research fellows, 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 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 97 of 1998.

Although publicly funded, the NIHSS is not legally governed by the Public Finance Management Act 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.

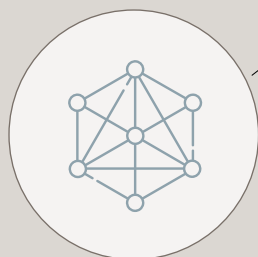
The NIHSS has two sources of funding. Its operational budget and South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) activities are fully funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, while the National Skills Fund uses designated funds to support the Institute's academic programmes. These are the NIHSS 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 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.



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

Norms-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 based on differentiation through resource 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 up 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.

CORE ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The NIHSS creates value by enabling doctoral and postdoctoral 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 and postdoctoral fellows (via scholarships) in the HSS through:

- the NIHSS National Mentorship Programme
- the 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 collaborations

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.

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.

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.

EXCELLENCE

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

INTEGRITY

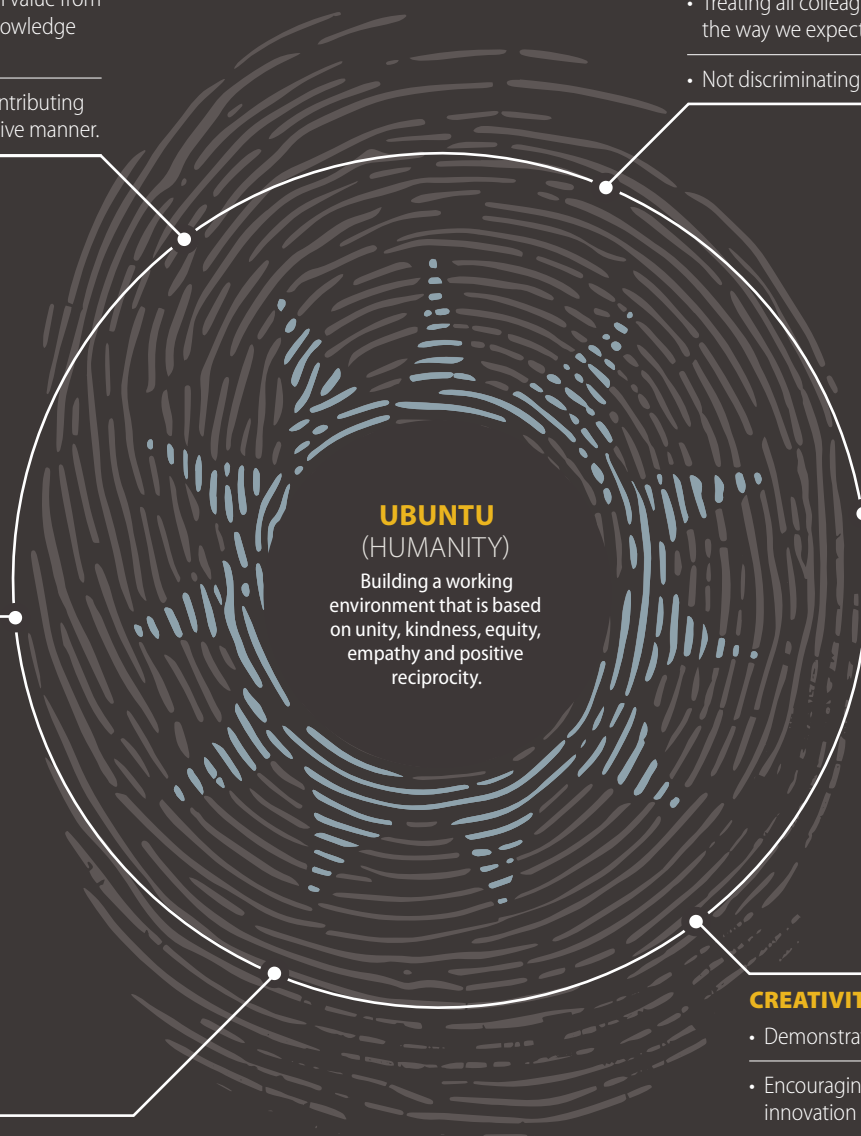
- Doing what we say we will do.
- Speaking the truth and being fair in how we judge others.
- Displaying openness and honesty.

ACCOUNTABILITY

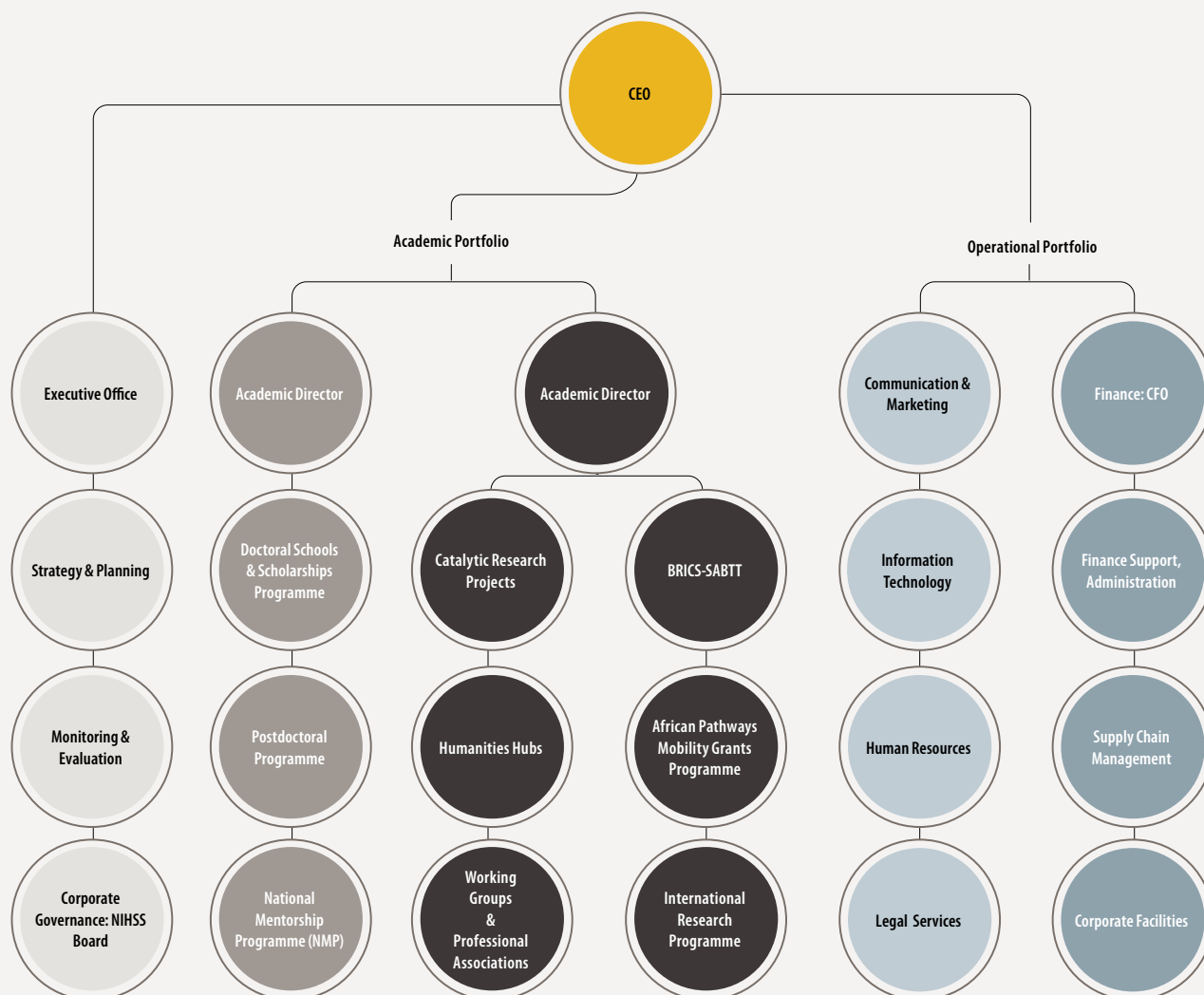
- Holding each other accountable regardless of hierarchy (rank).
- Being responsible for every task at hand.
- Respecting deadlines, timelines and workflow.
- Taking ownership of one's actions and consequences both good and bad.

CREATIVITY

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



INTERNAL VALUES



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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

- 1 **The Academic Portfolio** is the largest organisational unit and is responsible for the Institute's academic, research and international programmes.
- 2 **The Operational Portfolio** provides administrative, financial, supply chain management, information technology, marketing and communication, human resources and legal services.
- 3 **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.

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.

4.



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 (sabtt).

1.



Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities.

2.



Dynamise the fields of teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hub.

3.



Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the humanities within the higher education community, the technology and science community and society at large.

NIHSS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Dr Nobuhle Nkabane
Minister of Higher Education
and Training



Mr Buti Manamela
Deputy Minister of Higher
Education and Training



Dr Mimmy Martha Gondwe
Deputy Minister of Higher
Education and Training



**higher education
& training**

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Ms. Auriel Niemack
Acting Director

ACTING DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 2024/25 financial year marked another pivotal period in the evolution of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS). Despite ongoing operational constraints, including funding uncertainties and delayed project approvals, the Institute remained steadfast in its mission to advance and protect the centrality of the humanities and social sciences (HSS) within South Africa. This resilience continues to be anchored by a committed professional team, a robust strategic framework, and the enduring vision of the seminal 2011 *Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences*.

Although the Institute continues to operate in the absence of a formally appointed Board, our work has remained focused and coherent, guided by the Strategic Plan, the Decadal Plan, and the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan. These instruments have ensured institutional continuity and have supported responsive, values-driven leadership across all functional areas of the NIHSS.

A Growing Community of Scholars

The Institute's core mandate of postgraduate transformation remains a strategic priority. Through the NIHSS-SAHUDA Doctoral Programme and the NIHSS Master's Scholarship

Programme, the 2024/25 financial year saw the successful graduation of 50 doctoral and 20 master's students. This brings the total number of NIHSS-supported graduates to 602 PhD and 35 MA completions since the Institute's inception. Of these, over 74% of doctoral and 77% of master's graduates are from historically marginalised groups, demonstrating continued commitment to transformation and equity in the higher education system.

These outcomes reflect the effectiveness of long-term investments in student success and academic development. The National Mentorship Programme, led by 10 senior academics, once again exceeded expectations by hosting 71 regional doctoral workshops across the country. These sessions offered essential support to scholars, encouraged peer learning, and strengthened cohort development, all of which are key enablers of higher completion rates and academic excellence. Here, I want to extend my profound appreciation to all our mentors, past and present, who have contributed in significant ways to the success of the Scholarships Directorate through support to our scholars!

In addition to direct academic support, the Institute continues to serve as a convener and enabler of critical conversations in the HSS. Many of our graduates are now active contributors to public discourse and higher education, working as researchers,

lecturers, and public intellectuals across the continent. The Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Association, whose executive committee is composed of emerging academics across our country, attests to the growing success of NIHSS-funded scholars, and we commend them in their continued growth.

Strengthening Research and Innovation

The Institute's support for its Catalytic Research Projects, Working Groups, and Humanities Hubs have continued to yield promising outcomes. Collectively, these platforms delivered 41 research outputs in 2024/25, including peer-reviewed books, chapters, exhibitions, and creative publications. Highlights include the Creative Research Lab, which explores new methodologies in artistic research; the Encyclopaedia of African Feminism, an important public knowledge resource; and *Mathonga Elizwe*, a compelling documentary on land reform and social justice. This year there were sixteen Working Groups projects monitored, all of which have served to increase dialogue, enhance research output, and promote integrity and excellence in the humanities and social sciences. Beyond this, I do note with appreciation the ongoing capacity development of postgraduate students across various projects supported by the Institute. Such support serves to strengthen a new generation of researchers, and widen the impact of the support provided.

Five Humanities Hubs were monitored this year, including the significant digitisation project underway at the Jagger Library at the University of Cape Town. This initiative, through its Memorist work, is redefining the role of memory institutions and represents an important step in preserving and democratising access to South Africa's intellectual heritage. The impact of the innovations from

this preservation project is especially poignant given the works that have been lost, but also the works that have been salvaged, and what this preservation means for new generations.

The 10th Annual HSS Awards, held on 27 March 2025 at the Cradle of Humankind, Maropeng Visitor Centre, once again celebrated excellence in scholarly writing, artistic production, and digital innovation. The HSS Awards are organised across four categories: Fiction, Non-fiction, Creative Collections, and Digital Humanities. Since the modest inaugural ceremony held ten years ago on 30 March 2016 at the NIHSS premises, the number of entries received has increased from 85 to 227 in 2025, totalling an impressive 1,241 entries overall. Over the past decade, I am glad to note that the Awards have not only expanded in their reach and quality of submissions, but also particularly in the inclusion of submissions in indigenous languages. The Awards are now a landmark on the HSS calendar, acknowledging the power of ideas and expression across both academic and creative spheres, and attesting to

the impact of an empowered HSS community across our country. My heartfelt appreciation to the team behind the successful hosting of the Awards, to the judges who sacrifice their personal time to engage in reviewing submissions, and then in robust panel deliberations, and to all the artists, poets, publishers, writers, the thinkers, dreamers and doers – your works are part of a broader constellation of the creativity of our land, and it is an honour for the Institute to provide the platform to showcase this creativity.

“The Awards are now a landmark on the HSS calendar, acknowledging the power of ideas and expression across both academic and creative spheres, and attesting to the impact of an empowered HSS community across our country.”

In partnership with key professional research associations, including the African Humanities Association, SAHUDA, and the South African Young Academy of Science, the Institute

supported several notable outputs. These include the launch of the publication *4IR and the Humanities in South Africa*, and the publication of *Socio-ecological-economic reflections on the impacts of COVID-19 in Africa*, both of which explore contemporary questions facing the academy and society. The work done through these professional associations goes beyond research, publications, and scholarly convenings, but also serve to strengthen epistemologies, navigating and shaping, new directions in curriculum development and post-colonial knowledge production.

Advancing International Engagements

In its role as custodian of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT), the Institute maintained its focus on deepening multilateral academic cooperation. Highlights of the 2024/25 year included key outcomes from the BRICS-Research Institute projects supported by the SABTT. These engagements created platforms for knowledge exchange, strengthened South-South partnerships, and deepened cross-disciplinary collaboration on global development issues. A highlight from one of these projects (in particular, one led by Professor Fulufhelo Netswera) is the prioritisation of building capacity for postgraduates within BRICS, including the Communities of Practice and Capacity Development Fellows programmes, offered research opportunities, mentorship, and exposure to more than 80 young scholars across participating countries. These projects are playing an increasingly strategic role in not only fostering academic partnerships that enhance South-South collaboration, but also in shaping the next generation of HSS thought leaders, contributing to the intellectual infrastructure required to address complex global challenges.

“Through its continued support for post-graduate education, transformative research, and international partnerships, the Institute has demonstrated impact, resilience, steadfastness and vision in a demanding operating environment.”

Building on the momentum of SA's BRICS Presidency in 2023, during 2024 South Africa contributed meaningfully to the 16th BRICS Academic Forum. The SA delegation was led by the SA BRICS Think Tank Chair, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, and supported by the SABTT Secretariat. Hosted in Moscow under Russia's presidency, the Forum underscored the importance of inclusive multilateralism, sustainable development, and the unique

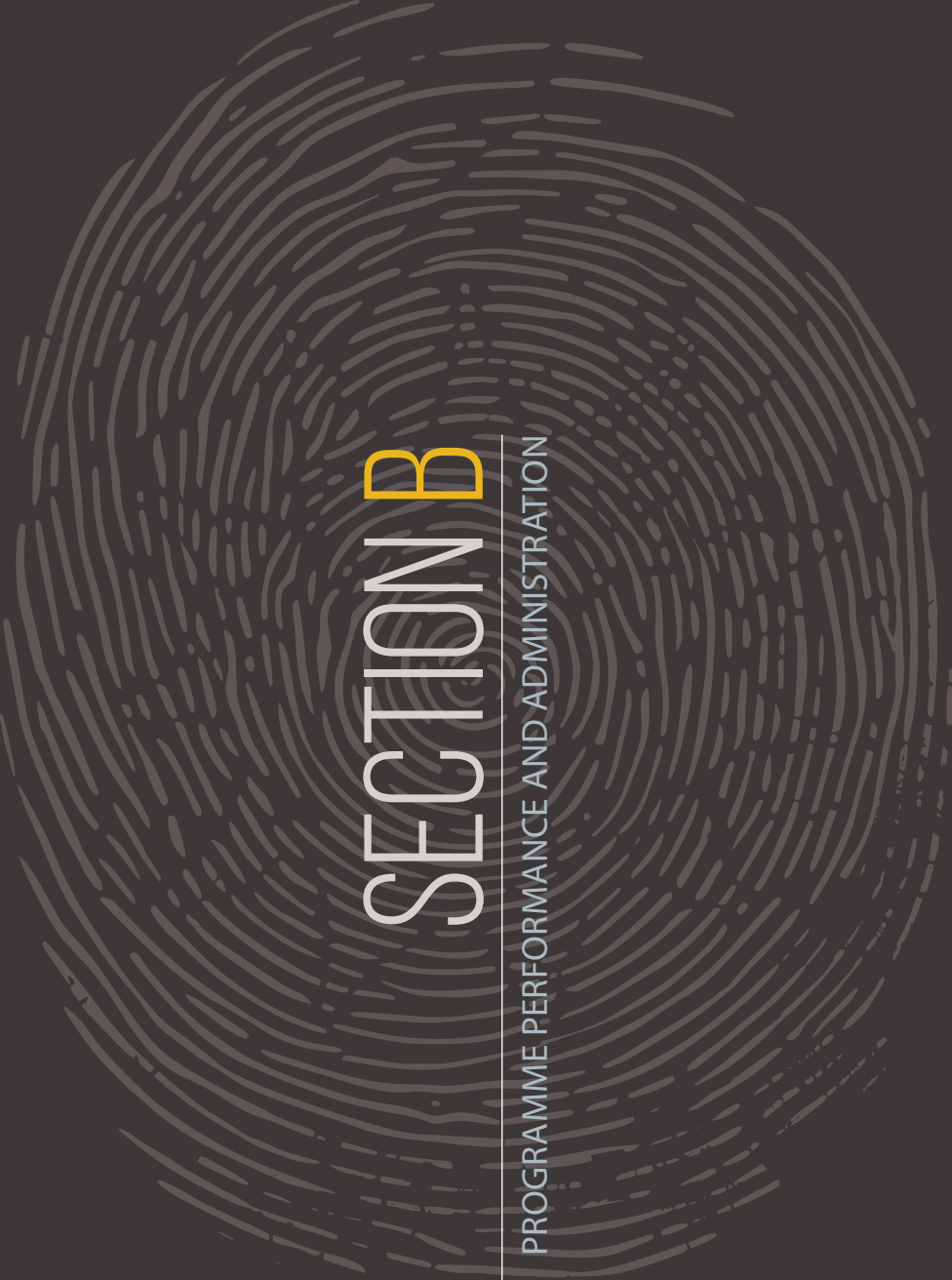
contribution of the humanities and social sciences to global cooperation. The SABTT's role as a knowledge broker and convenor continues to grow in significance, especially as BRICS expands and evolves within a rapidly changing geopolitical context.

Conclusion

The 2024/25 financial year, from its challenges to its successes, and despite global and national uncertainties, has reaffirmed the NIHSS's central role in shaping the postgraduate humanities and social sciences ecosystem in South Africa and beyond. Through its continued support for post-graduate education, transformative

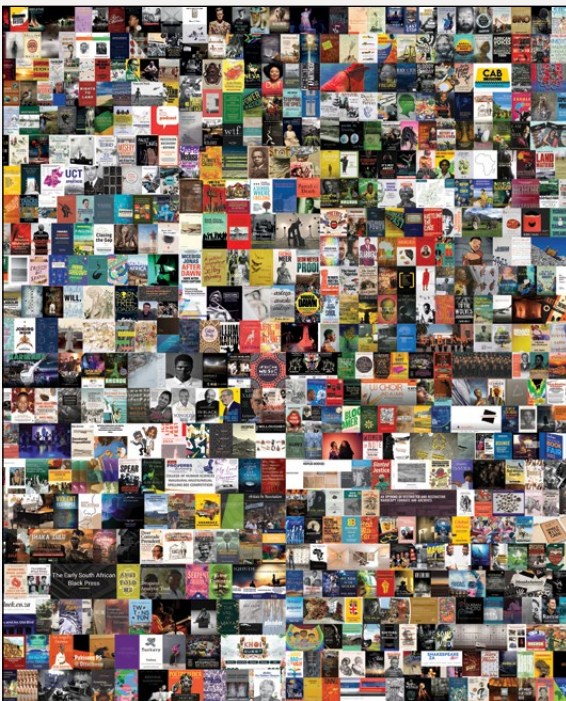
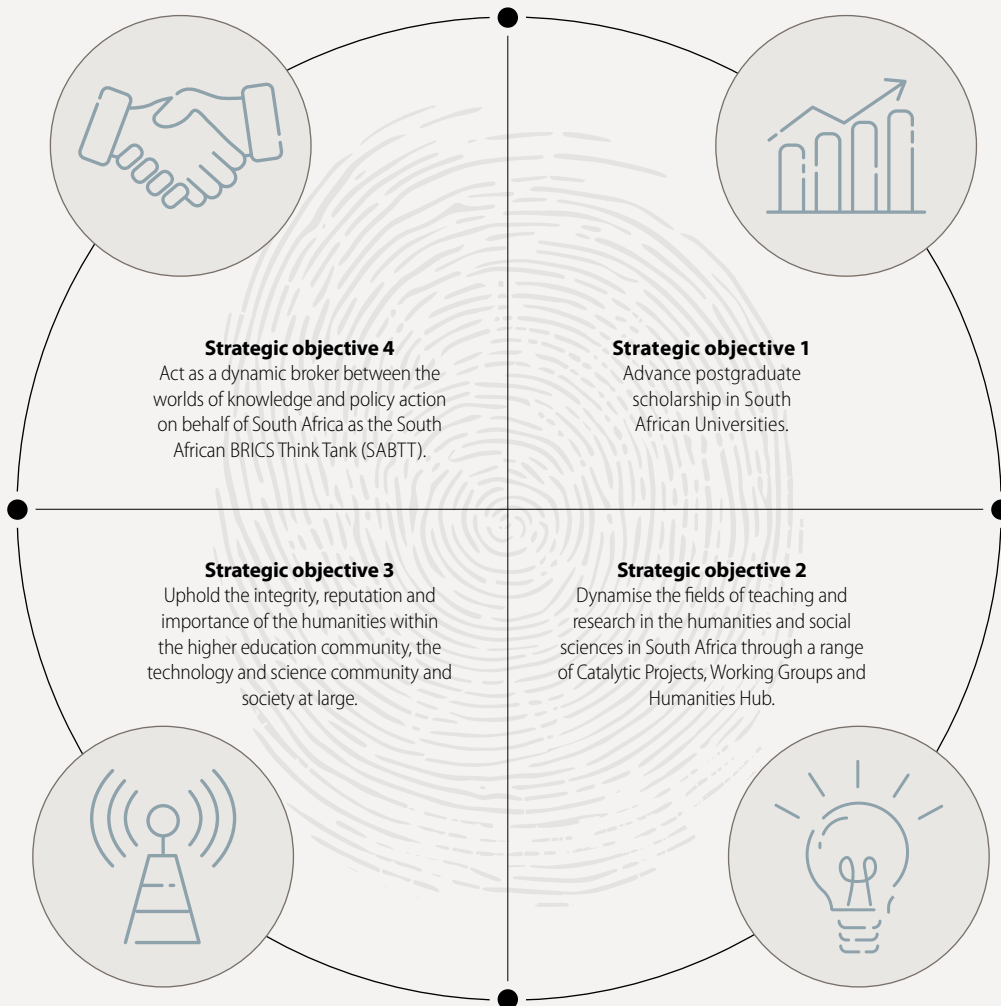
research, and international partnerships, the Institute has demonstrated impact, resilience, steadfastness and vision in a demanding operating environment. My sincere thanks are extended to the Department of Higher Education and Training for its continued support; our partners and collaborators especially at the South African Humanities Deans Association (SAHUDA), CODESRIA, all the member organisations of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC); and most especially the entire NIHSS team for their tireless commitment, agility in support, and constant dedication to the mandate of the Institute.


Auriel Niemack
Acting Director



SECTION B

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE 2024/25

The 2024/25 financial year marked the third year of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences' (NIHSS) Decadal Plan (2022–2032), a long-term strategic framework guiding the Institute's contribution to advancing scholarship, innovation, and impact in the humanities and social sciences. As the Institute continues to mature, its focus has been on consolidating strategic partnerships, enhancing the quality and relevance of its programmes, and strengthening the visibility and influence of HSS scholarship both locally and globally. This period has also been characterised by adaptive leadership, responsive programming, and sustained stakeholder engagement in pursuit of national development goals through the HSS lens.

Building on the momentum of previous years, the strategic objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) set for 2024/25 align closely with the overarching vision of the Decadal Plan. The year under review focused on expanding research capacity, supporting emerging scholars, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and deepening scholarly engagement across South Africa and the broader Global South.

2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS

NIHSS SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATES

602 PhD students have graduated since the NIHSS opened its doors, including **50** (SAHUDA and CODESRIA) who graduated during 2024/25.

A total of **128** doctoral candidates from previous cohorts were still busy with their studies.



DOCTORAL SCHOOLS

71 regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded students.

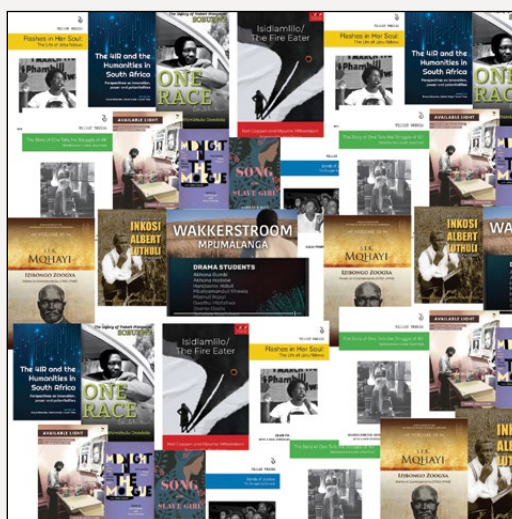
47 The number of SAHUDA-funded PhD graduates, with a cumulative throughput of **74%**

74% of the NIHSS-SAHUDA fellows who completed their studies were black and **94%** were female.

10 mentors appointed during the year to support our Masters and PhD students outdid themselves by presenting **71** regional doctoral workshop – a major achievement considering the severe financial constraints that prevailed.

20 Of the inaugural group of 50 Masters students who received scholarships in the previous year, **20** successfully completed their studies in the current year.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS GENERATED



49 Doctoral and postdoctoral fellows and alumni produced **114** research outputs and publications. Counting the **41** research outputs reported by leaders of the Catalytic Research Projects and Humanities Hub, the grand total was an impressive **168** outputs.

30 In addition, a further **30** research outputs were produced by the PAP and IBGS project leaders.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

53 The number of postdoctoral fellowships monitored remained steady at 53. This includes 30 fellowships awarded across the 2021/22 financial year to the 2023/24 respectively, with no new awards made in the current year under review. Given South Africa's ongoing shortage of postdoctoral expertise, these fellowships continue to play a critical role in supporting high-level knowledge production and research capacity development in the humanities and social sciences.

**TARGETS
MET OR
EXCEEDED**

Of the **90%** of annual targets met, **50%** were exceeded

RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED



19

events held to
expand Global South
research and
scholarship



3

Professional
Associations
Projects
monitored



16

Working Groups
Projects
monitored



13

Catalytic Research
Projects
monitored



5

Humanities
Hubs
monitored

RESEARCH

19

conferences, workshops, colloquiums and similar events organised by NIHSS-funded project leaders and collaborators of Catalytic Research Projects, Working groups, Humanities Hubs and Professional Associations

ACADEMIC EVENTS SUPPORTED

BRICS

7 BRICS cluster projects and BRICS research institutes were monitored.

8 SABTT Steering Committee meetings held.

14 SABTT forums held.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1. Performance overview for the 2024/25 financial year

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2024/25	Actual YTD 2024/25	Actual Q1 2024/25	Actual Q2 2024/25	Actual Q3 2024/25	Target Q4 2024/25	Actual Q4 2024/25	Actual Achievement %	COMMENTS
1. Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities	1.1	Number of NIHSS-AHUDA Masters scholarships monitored	34	34	7	5	4	34	18	100%	Annual target achieved.
	1.2	Number of NIHSS funded South African doctoral students monitored	128	128	-	128	-	128	128	100%	Annual target achieved.
	1.3	Through put rate on total funded SAHUDA PhDs by March 2025	45 (55% cumulative)	47	9	12	13	45 (55% cumulative)	13	104%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 2 additional graduates/completions whose funding cycle ended in previous years and have graduated in the current financial year, against the planned 45 for the financial year.
1.4	Number of NIHSS funded South African post-doctoral fellows monitored in the humanities and social sciences		60	53	21	29	3	60	0	88%	Annual target not achieved because there were only 53 active Postdoctoral Research Fellows in the system against the 60 planned for the financial year.
1.5	Number of Mentors appointed to support Doctoral Schools, and co-hosted by mentors ultimately enhance the creativity, and technical capacities of NIHSS Masters and Doctoral students		12	12	12	-	-	-	-	100%	Annual target achieved.
1.6	Number of regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS Doctoral schools to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded Masters and doctoral students		65	71	12	25	3	17	31	109%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 6 additional regional doctoral workshops because of interest expressed by the students during the financial year. There were no financial implications.

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2024/25	Actual YTD 2024/25	Actual Q1 2024/25	Actual Q2 2024/25	Actual Q3 2024/25	Target Q4 2024/25	Actual Q4 2024/25	Actual Achievement %	COMMENTS
2. Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hubs	1.7	NIHSS-hosted Annual National Doctoral and HSS alumni conferences as an innovation to advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities	2	0	-	-	0	-	-	0%	Annual target not achieved due to limited financial resources for the implementation of the target.
	1.8	Number of Research Outputs/Publications by doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, NIHSS Alumni and Emeritus Writing fellows, contributing further to the HSS	45	49	2	19	15	45	13	109%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 4 research outputs/publications emanating from additional material produced by doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, NIHSS Alumni and Emeritus Writing fellows, that was already funded, hence no adverse effects on the budget.
	2.1	NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects monitored	13 monitored	13	2	7	2	-	2	100%	Annual target achieved.
2.3	2.2	NIHSS Humanities Hubs monitored	5 monitored	5	1	2	1	2	1	100%	Annual target achieved.
	2.3	Number of Working Groups monitored	15	16	7	4	4	8	1	107%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 1 against the 15 planned for the financial year, as a result of a project leader who was funded in the previous financial year and submitted a report in the current financial year. Monitoring has no financial implications.
	2.4	The number of research outputs in the humanities and social sciences produced by the Catalytic and Humanities Hubs projects leaders and collaborators	40	41	6	9	10	20	16	102%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 1 research output/publication emanating from additional material produced by the Catalytic and Humanities Hubs projects leaders and collaborators, already funded by funds awarded, against the 40 planned for the financial year; hence no adverse effects on the budget.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

Table 1. Performance overview for the 2024/25 financial year

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2024/25	Actual YTD 2024/25	Actual Q1 2024/25	Actual Q2 2024/25	Actual Q3 2024/25	Target Q4 2024/25	Actual Q4 2024/25	Actual Achievement %	COMMENTS
	2.5	Number of conferences, workshops, colloquiums, and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded projects leaders and collaborators	15	19	4	8	7	10	-	127%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 4 conferences, workshops, colloquiums, and similar academic events emanating from the interest expressed by the HSS community to host more events organised by NIHSS-funded projects leaders and collaborators already funded by funds awarded, against the 15 planned for the financial year; hence no adverse effects on the budget.
3. Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society at large	3.1	Number of Professional Associations monitored	3	3	1	1	1	-	-	100%	Annual target achieved.
	3.2	Number of NIHSS Annual Awards Ceremony held to recognise individuals within the higher education's community contribution to HSS	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	100%	Annual target achieved.
4. 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	4.1	Number of BRICS Institutes/ Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes monitored	5	7	5	1	-	3	1	140%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 2 additional BRICS Institutes/ Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes who were funded in the previous financial years and have submitted reports in the current financial year, were monitored against the 5 that was planned for the financial year. Monitoring has no financial implications.
	4.2	Number of Research Outputs/Publications produced by the BRICS project leaders	20	30	15	8	4	10	3	160%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 10 Research Outputs/Publications emanating from additional material produced by the BRICS project leaders against the 20 that was planned for the financial year, without adverse effects on the budget.

Strategic Objective	No.	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual FY Target 2024/25	Actual YTD 2024/25	Actual Q1 2024/25	Actual Q2 2024/25	Actual Q3 2024/25	Target Q4 2024/25	Actual Q4 2024/25	Actual Achievement %	COMMENTS
	4.3	Number of seminars, workshops, and conferences hosted/ co-hosted and funded	5	19	4	7	5	3	3	380%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 14 additional seminars, workshops, and conferences emanating from the interest expressed by the HSS community to host more events, against the 5 planned for the financial year, without adverse effects on the budget.
	4.4	Number of SABTT steering committee meetings (NIHSS, DHET, DIRCO)	8	8	2	2	1	2	3	100%	Annual target achieved.
	4.5	Number of South African BRICS Think Tank Forums (Pre-Academic forum, Academic forum & BTTC)	3	14	9	1	1	2	3	467%	Annual target achieved and exceeded by 11 additional meetings emanating from the matters arising from the Pre-Academic forum, Academic forum & BTTC against the 3 planned for the financial year, without adverse effects on the budget.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

ADVANCE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
IN SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES



POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



Post-doctoral Fellows from the NIHSS Post-doctoral Research Programme, monitored throughout the 2024/25 financial year. These scholars continued to contribute meaningfully to their respective research fields.

ADVANCE POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

One of the core mandates of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) is to advance postgraduate scholarship in South African universities, particularly in the fields of humanities and social sciences. This mandate is realised through the awarding of doctoral scholarships to South African citizens and non-South African students from the African continent, as well as master's scholarships to South African students enrolled at public universities across the country. The Scholarships Programme is implemented in partnership with the South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), reinforcing regional academic collaboration and contributing meaningfully to the development of a new generation of scholars.

This report presents concrete data and key insights that highlight the NIHSS's impact over the past year in cultivating a dynamic academic community committed to tackling complex social challenges.

Since its inception, the NIHSS has awarded 810 doctoral scholarships, 50 master's scholarships, and 94 postdoctoral fellowships; primarily to Black and/or female scholars, in alignment with the Institute's commitment to transformation in the higher education sector. As of the reporting period, the Institute has produced 602 doctoral and 35 master's

graduates. This represents a graduation rate of over 74% for doctoral scholarship recipients and more than 77% for master's recipients since the launch of the Master's programme in 2022, demonstrating significant progress in advancing equitable and inclusive postgraduate scholarship in South Africa. Of the 602 doctoral graduates, 74% are Black and 50% are female. From the Master's programme, of the 35 completions, 65% are Black and 94% are female, which reflects the Institute's ongoing commitment to advancing equity, diversity, and transformation within South Africa's academic landscape.

Table 2: NIHSS Masters and Doctoral Student Demographic Breakdown

Programme	Number Of Awarded		Number Of Completions
Doctoral	Black	75%	74%
	Women	50%	58%
Masters	Black	73%	65%
	Women	93%	94%

PERFORMANCE IN 2024/2025

The NIHSS proudly celebrates the academic achievements of 50 doctoral and 20 Master's students who completed their studies during the 2024/25 financial year. These graduates represent more than personal milestones; they exemplify the Institute's enduring commitment to advancing high-level scholarship in the humanities and social sciences across South Africa and the broader African continent.



Collage showcasing some of our Doctoral graduates from the 2024/25 financial year, a testament to the NIHSS's continued commitment to advancing scholarship.

Table 3: 2024/25 Doctoral Graduates and Completions and University Breakdown

No.	Full Name	University	Race	Gender	Discipline
1	Alexandra Spyrelis	Stellenbosch University	White	Female	Psychology
2	Ofhani Musekwa	University of Venda	Black	Female	Research Psychology
3	Msimelelo Buyisile Nkohla	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Male	Curriculum Studies
4	Respect Mlambo	University of Venda	Black	Male	African Languages (Xitsonga)
5	Menzi Thango	University of the Western Cape	Black	Male	Language Planning and Policy (African Languages)
6	Mthokozisi Sydney Luthuli	Durban University of Technology	Black	Male	Public Management and Administration
7	Lufuno Mashamba	University of Venda	Black	Female	Development Studies
8	Sithuthukile Myeni	University of Zululand	Black	Female	Social Work
9	Noxolo Khuzwayo	University of Zululand	Black	Female	Public Administration
10	Sindisiwe Cynthia Msani	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Division of Languages, Literacies and Literature
11	Bridget Hulisani Magwabeni	University of Venda	Black	Female	Psychology
12	Verne Rowin Munsamy	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Indian	Male	Arts
13	Lillian Sindisiwe Mdaka	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	Education
14	Tandiwe Mdlungu	University of Fort Hare	Black	Female	Criminology
15	Takalani Ramulwela	University of Limpopo	Black	Male	Psychology
16	Buyani Gift Nene	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Male	Languages
17	Hanri Kriel	University of Pretoria	White	Female	Film Studies
18	Mashudu Edward Muthivhi	University of Venda	Black	Male	Philosophy
19	Khethiwe Madima	University of Venda	Black	Female	Criminology
20	Sakhiseni Yende	University of Cape Town	Black	Male	Musicology
21	Siyabonga Mhlongo	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Male	Education
22	Nokubonga Nokwanda Mazibuko	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Female	Anthropology
23	Zuziwe Khuzwayo	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Sociology
24	Rivalani Maluleke	University of the Western Cape	Black	Female	Linguistics

No.	Full Name	University	Race	Gender	Discipline
25	Keatlegile Mabelane-Maluleke	University of South Africa	Black	Female	Social Work
26	Musawenkosi Malabela	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Male	Sociology
27	Dimakatso Masenya	University of the Free State	Black	Female	Sociology
28	Annie Mafunganyika-Ndlovu	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Education
29	Matthews Matlala	University of Venda	Black	Male	African Languages
30	Ayanda Khala-Phiri	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Female	Education
31	Kirby America	University of the Western Cape	Coloured	Female	Linguistics
32	Leslie Manganye	University of Venda	Black	Male	Psychology
33	Kholofelo Moeng	University of South Africa	Black	Female	Development Studies
34	Matshidiso Sello	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Demography and Population Studies
35	Grant Snyman	Nelson Mandela University	White	Male	Music Research
36	Pfarelo Matsila	University of Pretoria	Black	Female	Sociology
37	Sithembiso Mdlalose	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Male	Sociology
38	Kabelo Chuma	University of South Africa	Black	Male	Information Science
39	Alexa Anthonie	Stellenbosch University	Coloured	Female	English
40	Karabo Maiyane	University of Pretoria	Black	Female	Philosophy
41	Terry Adams	Nelson Mandela University	Coloured	Female	Anthropology
42	Sandisiwe Mapine	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	African Literature
43	Leshaba Tony Lechaba	University of the Free State	Black	Male	Africa Studies
44	Trevor Makhetha	Stellenbosch University	Coloured	Male	Sociology
45	Lee Walters	University of the Western Cape	Black	Female	Social Science
46	Bianca Steyn	University of Pretoria	White	Female	Archaeology
47	Carina Nomfuzo Rozani	University of Zululand	Black	Female	Humanities
48	Dominic Mukuka	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Black	Male	Religious Studies
49	Mary Mbewe	University of the Western Cape	Black	Female	History
50	Sampson Osei	University of the Western Cape	Black	Male	Development Studies

Of the 50 doctoral graduates, 47 were part of the flagship NIHSS–SAHUDA Doctoral Programme. At the same time, three non-South African candidates received support through a strategic partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). These collaborative models strengthen the academic ecosystem and also foster a spirit of continental solidarity and intellectual exchange.

The demographic composition of this year's doctoral cohort further affirms the NIHSS's role in driving transformation within the higher education sector. Among the graduates, 42 are Black, four (4) Coloured, one (1) Indian, and three (3) White. Notably, 29 of the graduates were female, signalling a progressive move toward greater gender balance in the academic space, which is essential in reshaping the landscape of higher education in South Africa.

With the addition of these 50 newly minted doctoral graduates, the NIHSS has now supported a cumulative total of **602** PhD completions since its inception. These scholars powerfully reflect the Institute's impact in cultivating a diverse, inclusive,

and highly qualified academic community poised to lead research, innovation, and thought leadership in the humanities and social sciences.

During the 2024/25 academic year, 137 doctoral candidates from existing scholarship cohorts, including both South African and non-South African candidates, remained actively engaged in their research journeys, and 50 completed their studies. The programme has 87 remaining doctoral candidates from the two above-mentioned programmes. Their progress represents a promising pipeline of future completions and reflects the Institute's sustained investment in high-level academic development. Thus, the NIHSS continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of scholars.

Following closely are participants in the NIHSS Master's Scholarship Programme, which was launched in 2022 as a key strategic initiative to strengthen the national postgraduate pipeline. Designed to create a seamless pathway into advanced research and academic careers, the programme saw 34 master's



Front Row from Left to Right: Dr Thoko Mnisi (Convener only), Prof Kholofelo Rakubu (Convener only), Prof Katijah Khoza-Shangase (Convener only), Prof Floretta Boonzaier (NIHSS Mentor), Prof Zethu Cakata (Convener only)
Second Row from Left to Right: Prof Madimabe Geoff Mapaya (Convener only), Prof Sikhumbuzo Mngadi (Convener only), Dr Tshepo Moloi (Convener only), Prof Ingrid Palmary (NIHSS Mentor), Prof Nhlanhla Maahe (NIHSS Mentor), Prof Malose Langa (NIHSS Mentor), Prof Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, Prof Jessica Murray (former NIHSS Mentor), Dr Ali Hlongwane (Convener only)
Back Row from Left to Right: Prof Theodore Petrus (former NIHSS Mentor), Prof Luvuyo Mthimkhulu Dondolo (former NIHSS Mentor), Prof Johannes Smit (NIHSS Mentor), Prof Mpsanyana Makgahlela (NIHSS Mentor), Dr Andile Khumalo (Convener only)

students actively pursuing their studies this year. In addition to the 20 students who completed their degrees, 6 more reached a critical academic milestone by submitting their theses for examination.

Although no new scholarships were awarded in the current financial year due to funding constraints, the Institute intensified its efforts to support existing scholarship holders. A key focus was enhancing academic success through the National Mentorship Programme, which continues to provide tailored support, guidance, and encouragement to students as they navigate the complexities of postgraduate study.

These ongoing efforts underscore the NIHSS's unwavering commitment to ensuring that talented and deserving students receive funding and are empowered to succeed and make meaningful contributions to the humanities and social sciences landscape in South Africa and beyond.

NIHSS NATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME AND REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

At the heart of the NIHSS's academic support strategy is the National Mentorship Programme, an initiative that leverages the expertise of distinguished senior scholars to guide and empower the next generation of researchers. These accomplished academics serve as mentors and facilitators of regional workshops, as well as active contributors to NIHSS academic events, creating invaluable spaces for engagement, learning, and intellectual growth for our master's and doctoral students.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the programme was initially supported by a cohort of twelve (12) mentors, including two Roving Mentors with national oversight and ten (10) Regional Mentors embedded within key academic hubs across the country. These mentors play a vital role in strengthening institutional capacity by working closely with universities and academic staff at public higher education institutions where NIHSS-funded students are enrolled.

Table 4: NIHSS 2024/25 Mentor List

No.	Mentor	University	Region
1	Prof Floretta Boonzaier	University of Cape Town	Western Cape
2	Prof Fred Hendricks	Roving Mentor	Gauteng and Northern Corridor, UNISA/ Free State, North-West
3	Prof Ingrid Palmary	University of Johannesburg	Gauteng
4	Prof Johannes Smit	University of KwaZulu Natal	KwaZulu-Natal
5	Prof Kishore Raga	Nelson Mandela University	Eastern Cape
6	Prof Malose Langa	University of the Witwatersrand	Gauteng
7	Prof Mpsanyana Makgahlela	University of Limpopo	Northern Corridor
8	Prof Nhlanhla Maahe	Roving Mentor	Eastern Cape, Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal
9	Prof Nompumelelo Zondi	University of the Free State	UNISA/ Free State, North West
10	Prof Velile Jiyane	University of Zululand	KwaZulu-Natal

The strategic refinement of the mentorship cohort from twelve (12) to ten (10) in the second semester of the financial year reflects the programme's effectiveness, aligning with the increasing number of scholarship recipients who have completed their studies. This transition marks a significant milestone in the programme's lifecycle, underscoring its success in advancing postgraduate scholarship and contributing to a more capable and confident academic community.

Through their dedication, the mentors continue to foster academic excellence, ensuring that students are supported throughout their studies and prepared to contribute meaningfully to the broader landscape of humanities and social sciences scholarship in South Africa and the continent.

The dedication and impact of the NIHSS Mentors in 2024/25 were nothing short of exceptional. Demonstrating an

unwavering commitment to student success, our mentors provided robust academic support to both doctoral and master's candidates nationwide. Their efforts were critical in equipping students with the tools, insights, and confidence necessary to advance in their postgraduate journeys.

A key highlight of the year was the delivery of 71 regional workshops, exceeding the annual target of 65. These workshops served as dynamic platforms for knowledge exchange, research development, and peer learning, tailored to meet the evolving needs of NIHSS-funded students. Notably, this achievement was realised within the allocated budget, underscoring the mentors' resourcefulness and the programme's operational efficiency.

This outstanding performance speaks to the calibre of the mentors involved and reaffirms the NIHSS's strategic investment in structured, meaningful academic support. The value delivered

Figure 1: Doctoral completion rates at participating universities in 2024/25



50

Doctoral and **20 Master's** students who completed their studies during the 2024/25 financial year.

Figure 5: 2024/25 NIHSS Masters Completions and University Breakdown

No.	Full Name	University	Race	Gender	Discipline
1	Bonginkosi Khumalo	University of Limpopo	Black	Female	Social Work
2	Jaydeen Pretorius	University of the Western Cape	Coloured	Female	Geography, Environmental Studies
3	Jenna Hiscock	University of the Western Cape	White	Female	History
4	Nyeleti Chauke	University of the Free State	Black	Female	Health Systems Studies
5	Wasifah Noorbhai	University of Pretoria	Indian	Female	Augmentative and Alternative Communication
6	Maryam Khan	University of Johannesburg	Indian	Female	Psychology
7	Smbatho Mbatha	University of Zululand	Black	Female	Criminology
8	Saajidah Madhi	University of the Witwatersrand	Indian	Female	Arts
9	Busisiwe Sibizo	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	Politics and International Relations
10	Nkateko Langa	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Film and TV in Virtual Reality (Immersive and Interactive Media)
11	Tshepang Mabapa	University of Johannesburg	Black	Male	Philosophy
12	Basetsane Malubane	University of the Western Cape	Black	Female	Geography
13	Livhuwani Mafela	University of Venda	Black	Female	Social Work
14	Danielle Stevens	University of the Western Cape	Coloured	Female	Linguistics
15	Reabetswe Khumalo	North-West University	Black	Female	Sociology
16	Sanelisiwe Dlamini	University of the Witwatersrand	Black	Female	Drama Therapy
17	Sonya Solanki	University of Pretoria	Indian	Female	Museum & Heritage Studies
18	Wendy Vuyi Nkosi	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	Politics
19	Lerato Dhlamini	University of Johannesburg	Black	Female	Psychology
20	Bonga Mosola	University of Cape Town	Black	Female	Music

through this programme continues to shape a generation of scholars prepared to lead and innovate in the humanities and social sciences.

A NATIONAL FOOTPRINT OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The NIHSS continues to strengthen its presence across South Africa's higher education landscape, as reflected in the wide institutional spread of its most recent doctoral graduates. In the 2024/25 reporting period, completions were recorded across various public universities, underscoring the Institute's commitment to fostering inclusive, geographically balanced, high-impact scholarship.

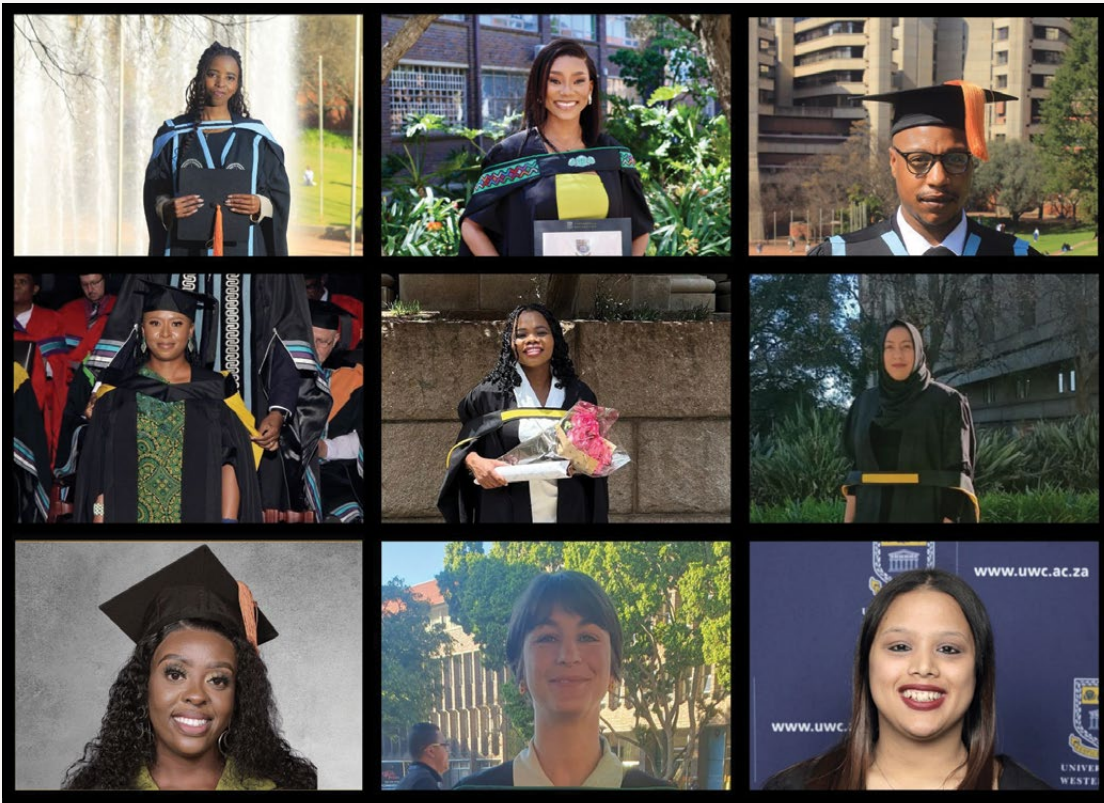
Graduates emerged from leading institutions such as the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria, the University of the Western Cape, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, alongside historically disadvantaged and rural-based universities, including the University of Venda, the University of Zululand, the University of Fort Hare, and the University of Limpopo. This diversity aligns directly with the NIHSS's mission to expand access to institutional support and its commitment to academic excellence nationwide.

Additional completions were recorded at Stellenbosch University, the University of Johannesburg, the University of South Africa, the University of the Free State, and Nelson Mandela University, further demonstrating the programme's reach and its ability to empower scholars across the national innovation system. Several graduates are finalising the submission of degree certificates and graduation documentation, which will further consolidate this achievement.

These completions mark a significant step in the transformation and expansion of South Africa's scholarly community. Each graduate contributes new knowledge, critical insight, and academic leadership that will shape the humanities and social sciences for years to come.

MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The NIHSS Master's Scholarship Programme, introduced in 2022, continues to make significant strides in advancing South Africa's postgraduate pipeline. In the 2024/25 financial year, the programme proudly recorded twenty (20) completions from ten public universities nationwide, reflecting its national reach and role in nurturing academic excellence across multiple institutional levels.



A collage showcasing some of our Masters Scholarship Programme graduates from the 2024/25 financial year, reflecting the NIHSS's dedication to nurturing the next generation of humanities and social sciences scholars.

Table 6: NIHSS-Postdoctoral Research Fellows and university breakdown monitored during 2024/2025

No.	Full Name	Institution
1	Dr Minga Kongo	University of Cape Town
2	Dr Klara van Wyk	University of Cape Town
3	Dr Lireko Pearl Qhobela	University of Cape Town
4	Dr Rossette Sifa Vuninga	University of Cape Town
5	Dr Shafieka Moos	University of Cape Town
6	Dr Bukiwe Ntwana	University of Cape Town
7	Dr Maria Geustyn	University of Cape Town
8	Dr Vongani Muhluri Nkuna	University of Cape Town
9	Dr Nkholeddeni Sidney Netshakhuma	University of Cape Town
10	Dr Hayley Elizabeth Hayes-Roberts	University of Cape Town
11	Dr Simphiwe Tsawu	University of Cape Town
12	Dr Evans Shoke	University of Cape Town
13	Dr Siyabonga Khumalo	University of KwaZulu-Natal
14	Dr Melusi Ernest Msomi	University of KwaZulu-Natal
15	Dr Rejoyce Hlengiwe Phetha	University of KwaZulu-Natal
16	Dr Ruth Nombuso Zuma	University of KwaZulu-Natal
17	Dr Brian Fulela	University of KwaZulu-Natal
18	Dr Geraldine Wanelisa Albert/Xaba	University of the Western Cape
19	Dr Zakeera Docrat	University of the Western Cape
20	Dr Iona Ingrid Gilbert	University of the Western Cape
21	Dr Kim Gurney	University of the Western Cape
22	Dr Lebogang Mokwena	University of the Western Cape
23	Dr Shanleigh Roux	University of the Western Cape

No.	Full Name	Institution
24	Dr Samuel Sadian	University of the Western Cape
25	Dr Michelle smith	University of the Western Cape
26	Dr Cleo Beth Theron	University of the Western Cape
27	Dr Aarifah Gardee	University of the Witwatersrand
28	Dr John Simango	University of the Witwatersrand
29	Dr Dale Langsford	University of the Witwatersrand
30	Dr Marthie Momberg	Nelson Mandela University
31	Dr Georges Alexandre Lenferna	Nelson Mandela University
32	Dr Abigail Wiese	Nelson Mandela University
33	Dr Joseph Maleke Sethabela	Nelson Mandela University
34	Dr Jennalee Donian	Nelson Mandela University
35	Dr Mvuzo Ponono	Nelson Mandela University
36	Dr Hundzukani Khosa	Tshwane University of Technology
37	Dr Matsie Mokonyane	Tshwane University of Technology
38	Dr ML Mabela	Tshwane University of Technology
39	Dr Moroesi Pitikoe-Chiloane	Tshwane University of Technology
40	Dr Kgomo Moshugi	Tshwane University of Technology
41	Dr Nolwazi Dlamini	University of Johannesburg
42	Dr Melanie Cilliers	Stellenbosch University
43	Dr Veeran Naicker	Stellenbosch University
44	Dr Danille Elize Bester (née Arendse)	Stellenbosch University
45	Dr Anell Stacey Daries	Stellenbosch University
46	Dr Marlie Holtzhausen	University of Pretoria
47	Dr Quraysha Ismail Sooliman	University of Pretoria
48	Dr Chenai Munyaka	University of Pretoria
49	Dr Bianca Parry	University of Pretoria
50	Dr Sokfa John	University of Pretoria
51	Dr Johanna Maria Beukes	University of the Witwatersrand
52	Dr Stephanie Alcock	University of the Witwatersrand
53	Dr Michelle Leal	University of the Witwatersrand

Among the completions were five graduates from the University of Johannesburg, four from the University of the Western Cape, and three from the University of the Witwatersrand, showcasing the programme's strong uptake at some of the country's leading research institutions. Successful candidates emerged from historically disadvantaged and rural-based institutions such as the University of Limpopo, the University of Venda, and the University of Zululand, reaffirming the NIHSS's commitment to equitable access and academic transformation.

Further completions were recorded at the University of Pretoria, the University of the Free State, the University of Cape Town, and North-West University, highlighting the programme's impact across all corners of the national higher education system. These graduates represent a new wave of researchers equipped with the knowledge and skills to make meaningful contributions to South Africa's intellectual and social development.

This cohort of master's graduates serves as a testament to the NIHSS's vision of expanding opportunities in the humanities and social sciences while cultivating a diverse and dynamic scholarly community ready to lead in both academic and public spheres.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme offers opportunities for PhD graduates to refine their academic and research skills while advancing their research. The broad research areas on which fellows focus investigate key issues of interest to the Global South, such as multilateralism and indigenous knowledge systems. During the year, the NIHSS monitored 53 existing funded postdoctoral fellowships in the humanities and social sciences.

The National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), in collaboration with South African universities, initiated

the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Programme as an opportunity to advance research further and contribute to the changing landscape of the broader Humanities and Social Sciences field. The main goal of a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is to develop professional and academic skills while being mentored by an experienced academic leader, allowing for greater flexibility regarding the direction of the candidate's research. The invaluable skills and experience gained as a postdoc can be key to future applications for tenure-track positions. This PDRF programme will advance knowledge of epistemologies in the humanities and social sciences. The NIHSS's implementation model for the Postdoctoral programme is to work with research centres within universities, where the Institute's postdoc fellows can work collaboratively in a structured environment. This flagship programme furthers the NIHSS's focus and priority to continuously serve and support the Humanities and Social Sciences community.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

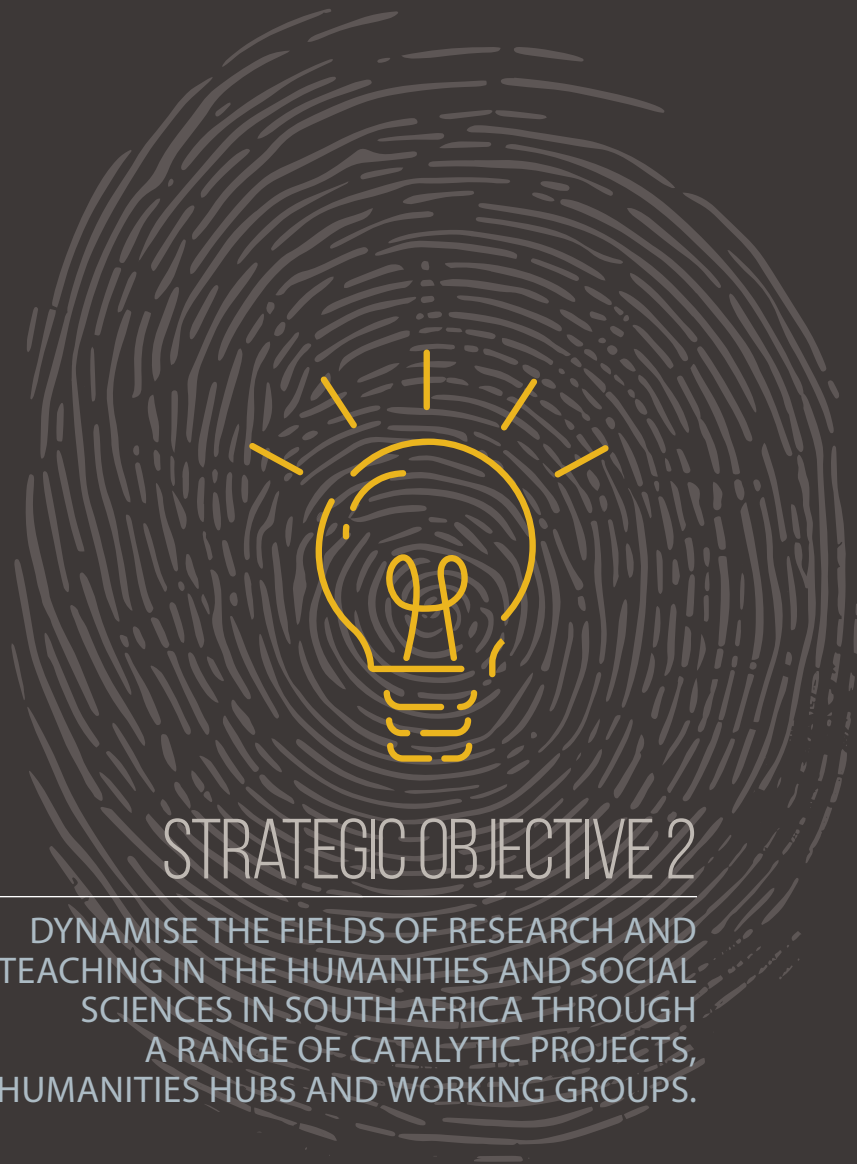
The Scholarships Portfolio, serving as an enabler of scholarships and a promoter of contributions to the body of knowledge in the fields of humanities and social sciences, encourages NIHSS postdoctoral fellows and alumni to publish and contribute to the broader HSS agenda. This initiative aims to enhance and promote the integrity, reputation, and recognition of scholarly outputs across the humanities and social sciences, including those of a transdisciplinary nature, within the higher education community. The objective of this initiative is to ensure resilience, sustainability, and lasting impact within the humanities and social sciences. During the current financial year, the Institute received research outputs, including peer-reviewed journals, special edition publications, books, book chapters, and conference proceedings.

Collectively, the HSS Alumni and Postdoctoral Fellows produced 49 research outputs as follows:

- Alcock, S., Ferreira-Correia, A., Israel, N., and Cockcroft, K. 2024. The relationship between fluid intelligence, divergent and convergent thinking in older adults: The moderating effects of demographic and contextual variables. *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, 53, p.101557. Online ISSN: 1878-0423. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1871187124000956>.
- Anwana, E., Dlamini, N., and Reddy, M. 2024. Men's Perspectives on Gender-Based Violence and the Economic Empowerment Imbalances between Men and Women in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*, 6(si2), pp.1-13.
- Bernardi, D.A., and Steyn, F. 2025. Intimate partner violence: impact of a faith-based biopsychosocio-spiritual approach to intervention. *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought*, 44(1), pp.44-69. DOI: 10.1080/15426432.2024.2429997.
- Bester, K., and Arendse, D.E. 2024. Measuring cybersecurity awareness in a South African military sample. *Scientia Militaria: South African Journal of Military Studies*, 52(1), pp.5-33.
- Chigbu, B.I. 2024. Advancing sustainable development through circular economy and skill development in EV lithium-ion battery recycling: a comprehensive review. *Frontiers in Sustainability*, 5, p.1409498.
- Daries, A.S. 2024. Build the body, build a nation: the making of nationalist physical education in South Africa, 1920-1947. *Sport in History*, pp.1-28. DOI: 10.1080/17460263.2024.2396283.
- Deist, M. 2024. Intent vs Reality: Dehumanization in the South African Corporate Landscape. *Peace Review*. 2024 Oct 1;36(4):738-53. DOI: 10.1080/10402659.2024.2393832.
- Dlamini, N., Anwana, E., and Reddy, M. 2024. Internal Migration: An Analysis of Associated Risks and Vulnerabilities of Women and Youth in KwaZulu-Natal. *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*, 6(si2), pp. 1-13. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51415/ajims.v6i1.1353>.
- Dlamini, S.Z. 2024. Isocolon in EDM Sibiyi's novels: A stylistic syntactic evaluation. *Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies*, pp.1-10.
- Ehiane, S.O., Khan, S., Khan, A., and Sesa, L.L. 2024. COVID-19 pandemic and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR): Reflection on the challenges and opportunities in South Africa. *Journal of Emergency Management*, 22(3), pp.291-300.
- Haine, P., Young, C., and Booysen, D.D. 2024. Across the professional lifespan: comparing the workforce trends of early career and established counselling psychologists in South Africa. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, pp.1-19.

12. Higgins, S., Alcock, S., Aveiro, B.D., Daniels, W., Farmer, H., and Besharati, S. 2024. Perspective matters: a systematic review of immersive virtual reality to reduce racial prejudice. *Virtual Reality*, 28(3), p.125. ISSN1434-9957. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10055-024-01024-w>.
13. John, S.F. 2024. Food Availability, Accessibility, and Climate Change in Africa: Religion as a Transforming Structure-Process. *Religion, Climate Change, and Food Security in Africa*, pp. 61-79. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

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



Dr Refiloe Lepere performing Recipes, Remedies and Rumours

The NIHSS effectively utilised its limited allocated resources for Strategic Objective 2 in the 2024/25 financial year, once again achieving positive results in research outputs and academic events that contributed to the objective of dynamising the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences (HSS).

Within the allocated funds, the NIHSS successfully met its objectives in monitoring the Catalytic Research Projects, the Humanity Hubs, and the quantity of research outputs produced by project leaders from the Catalytic, Humanities Hubs, Working Group, and Professional Associations. Collectively, all these Project Leaders delivered 41 research outputs, comprising books, journal articles, and creative outputs. Additionally, the NIHSS surpassed its annual targets in other key performance indicators for Strategic Objective 2, achieving a 7% increase in the monitoring of the Working Groups. Notably, the NIHSS exceeded its targets by 27% for the number of conferences, workshops, colloquia, and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded project leaders and collaborators. These achievements were attained without exceeding project budget allocations.

The following report outlines how the NIHSS has effectively enhanced research and teaching in the HSS through its support for Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, and Working Groups. The NIHSS has thereby contributed to and advanced social justice by upholding and promoting the values of diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

Topical scholarship, creativity and activism

The Catalytic Research Programme aims to dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in South Africa. Through a diverse array of innovative and catalytic projects, the programme seeks to foster collaboration, inspire critical inquiry, and promote interdisciplinary approaches that address contemporary societal challenges. By providing support and resources, it hopes to empower scholars, researchers, and students to explore new ideas and perspectives, ultimately enriching the academic landscape and contributing to the development of a more informed and engaged society.

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT:

CREATIVE RESEARCH LAB: ART, ACTIVISM AND SOLIDARITY

Project leader: Dr Refiloe Lepere

Faculty of Arts and Design, Department of Performing Arts, Tshwane University of Technology

The Creative Research Lab: Art, Activism Solidarity Project is a collaborative endeavour that brings together artists, scholars, and activists in conversations to develop art projects and scholarship. This Catalytic Project aims to create connections between theory and practice, space and experimentation, knowledge and experience. With this expansion, the project

Table 7: Catalytic Research Projects monitored in 2024/25

No.	Project title	Project leader and University
1	Indigenous Languages (The Development of African Languages for Scientific use) Forensic Linguistic Programme	Prof. Monwabisi Raralara, University of the Western Cape
2	Creative Research Lab: Art, Activism and Solidarity	Dr Refiloe Lepere, Tshwane University of Technology
3	Advancing Critical University Studies	Prof. Andre Keet, Nelson Mandela University
4	Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South	Prof. Veli Mitova, University of Johannesburg
5	Too late yet still quite early? Investigating the experiences of “older” early career academics in South African higher education	Prof. Mlamuli Hlatshwayo, University of Johannesburg
6	Visibilising the hidden narrative of a liberation(s)hero, Revisiting the life of Nokukhanya Luthuli	Prof. Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
7	Illuminating labour tenants’ struggles for farmland in South Africa today	Dr Mnqobi Ngubane, University of Johannesburg
8	Currencies, Colonial Economies, and the making of the South African State: Studying Economic History in South Africa	Dr Laura Phillips, University of Witwatersrand
9	Southern African Society for Environmental Philosophy	Dr Yolandi Coetser, North-West University
10	SA and Brazil African Film Festival: Mapping Curatorial Strategies for Sustained Collaboration and Growth	Dr Ismail Mahomed, University of KwaZulu-Natal
11	Encyclopaedia of African Feminism	Dr Dikeledi Mokoena, University of Johannesburg
12	Research Project on Histories of Universities in South Africa	Prof. Saleem Badat, University of KwaZulu-Natal
13	Global Blackness	Prof. Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg

strives to draw on a shared understanding of how to embed decolonial cultural practices within civil society groups, utilising the political sociology of the arts.

The use of creative research methodologies is gaining increasing significance within art and design teaching programmes. Such research methods foster inclusivity and active participation from both researchers and participants in the knowledge production process. However, the incorporation of creative research remains relatively novel in many academic institutions. In *Creative Research Lab: Art, Activism Solidarity*, the team has embarked on an exploration of how artistic processes can be integrated as research.

The primary objective of the *Creative Research Lab: Art, Activism Solidarity* is to create compelling performances and engage in research that is not only politically charged but also socially equitable. The aims of the project are as follows:

1. To cultivate a dynamic transdisciplinary research community based on artistic practices.
2. To facilitate dialogue through rigorous accounts of socially engaged transdisciplinary art practices grounded in emancipatory perspectives, aesthetics, theories, and frameworks.
3. To contribute to the research and growth of art activism and creative research in education, communities and social contexts.
4. To build partnerships and collaborations with other institutions.

The collaboration includes colleagues from the University of the Western Cape, recognising the shared research aims and the significant capacity of art forms to reach diverse audiences. The project emphasises the importance of multiple languages and varied processes in gaining deep insights into the human experience and societal conditions. Through this project, focusing on politically and socially engaged artistry, the team aims to inform and influence social policies at both universities. The project’s work represents an epistemic opportunity in the pursuit of political and societal transformation in South African universities.

The presence of this lab offers a unique environment for artist-researchers to explore artistic research, blending it with the disciplined and imaginative qualities intrinsic to the arts.

CATALYTIC RESEARCH PROJECT:

ILLUMINATING LABOUR TENANTS’ STRUGGLES FOR FARMLAND IN SOUTH AFRICA TODAY

Project leader: Dr Mnqobi Ngubane

Nelson Mandela University and University of Johannesburg

The three main components of this NIHSS-funded Catalytic project, *Illuminating labour tenants’ struggles for farmland in South Africa today*, were to produce a documentary, create an exhibition, and mentor PhD and postdoctoral researchers. All these components have been successfully completed, resulting in a deepening of socially relevant, interdisciplinary scholarship centred on the humanities and social sciences, spanning continents. The following outlines each component of the project.

Exhibition Catalogue

Blacks Can Farm

Curated by Mngqobi Ngubane & Nala Xaba

Blacks Can Farm is an Exhibition catalogue that serves as a sister project to the film, *Mathonga Elizwe – Spirits of the Land*. This exhibition was produced through participatory photography.

The film, “*Mathonga Elizwe – Spirits of the Land*”

“*Mathonga Elizwe – Spirits of the Land*” is a South African film that illuminates the struggles of the last remaining Black people on white-owned farms. This is a true story of a latter-day land struggle in South Africa. The film lays bare the struggles of ordinary South Africans in securing land through the democratic land tenure reform process. Protagonists recount their stories of struggle and persistent frustration on white-owned land. Antagonists unapologetically undermine the land reform process, impeding its progress. Despite the odds, the future appears bright for the land claimants, as evidenced by their well-calculated struggle through the courts.

The film has been screened locally and internationally, including at Nelson Mandela University and the Johannesburg Film Festival, as well as at the University of Exeter’s Black History Month event and Vassar College in the United States. It is a sound demonstration of multidisciplinary work that combines social sciences with arts, culture, and creativity to shape research outputs aimed at achieving social justice. In this case, it highlights the problems faced by land claimants as they seek land justice through the South African justice system. It is in this spirit that the film has been screened at the December 8, 2024, Human Rights Film Festival, in Northern Ireland, concurrently with a film on Palestinian land dispossession, the land struggle of Black people, and the Indigenous people of Brazil.

“Blacks Can Farm, an Exhibition”

“Blacks Can Farm, an Exhibition”, is a sister project to the film, “*Mathonga Elizwe – Spirits of the Land*”. This exhibition was produced through participatory photography. The photographs were taken by the people whose farming activities were showcased. The essence of the exhibition is to counter the misleading national food security discourse that says that Black people cannot farm.

Showcasing the current farming activities of the last Black people on white-owned farmland in South Africa is a powerful demonstration that the former labour tenants, who are the protagonists of the film, are farmers who deserve to be taken seriously by the government. Their land claims need to be settled so that they can obtain the freedom to expand their squeezed farm production through land reform. The exhibition was available in both online and physical formats, with locations in various cities and rural areas across South Africa, starting in March 2025.

Mentoring of PhD and Postdoctoral Researchers

Miss Yvonne Phyllis is a registered PhD student at the University of Johannesburg, who participated in the research that contributed to the production of “*Mathonga Elizwe – Spirits of the Land*”. She also organised the Johannesburg launch of the film on 12 October 2024, at The Forge. This research has been



Participants at the Southern African Network for Economic History Workshop held 8-9 July 2024.
Project leader: Dr Laura Phillips

invaluable to Miss Phyllis's scholarship on farm workers and land issues in South Africa today, her PhD topic co-supervised by Dr Ngubane. Furthermore, Dr Luyanda Mtshali, a UJ Postdoctoral Researcher, has engaged in research on labour tenant families in KwaZulu-Natal. This research has resulted in a feasibility study that will significantly contribute to post-settlement support for land beneficiaries following land reform.

Through this Catalytic project's film and exhibition, the project leader, Dr Ngubane, has also opened doors for his students to engage with other students in Brazil and Sweden, which is part of deepening South-South and South-North relations, while also connecting with the Global South diaspora.

The three interrelated components of this Catalytic project arise from a profound sense of justice that is expressed through creativity, sound academic integrity, and a commitment central to Dr Ngubane's scholarship and being. It represents a devotion to human rights and social justice for oppressed people worldwide.

CATALYTIC PROJECT:

CURRENCIES, COLONIAL ECONOMIES, AND THE MAKING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE: STUDYING ECONOMIC HISTORY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Project leader: Dr Laura Phillips

University of Witwatersrand

The purpose of "*Currencies, Colonial Economies, and the Making of the South African State: Studying Economic History in South Africa*" is twofold. First, it aims to initiate new research that examines the history and relationship between currency and colonialism in South African history. This involves conducting extensive archival research and submitting five articles for publication on this topic.

As the field of monetary history has been scarcely explored in South African historiography, it is anticipated that this research will make a significant contribution to African economic history.

The second aim of the project is to support the reinvigoration of African Economic History in Southern Africa. There are two key pillars to this goal: the project will fund two MA scholarships to support the creation of a new cohort of economic historians in South Africa. Additionally, the project will launch the South African Economic History Network (SANEH), which is intended to bring together scholars across the region who engage with various aspects of economic history. In doing so, it will also contribute to the revival of economic history in Southern Africa and connect scholars who often operate in isolation from one another. The activities undertaken during 2024/25 fall into three categories, all of which foster capacity-building and collaboration, namely, research, MA students, and SANEH (Southern African Network of Economic Historians).

Research and capacity building

Exploratory research, which led to capacity building, commenced in mid-2023 when Tinashe Nyamunda and Abraham Mlombo identified relevant project materials at the National Archives in Pretoria. In 2024, the project hired Njabulo Mthembu, a recent History graduate from North-West University, who was applying for a PhD. He spent four weeks collecting invaluable material on 19th-century Transvaal monetary history, supporting the project's goal of invigorating African economic history and nurturing new historians. While primarily gathering material for team publications, he also pursued his interest in monetary history and will publish findings from this research.

Tinashe Nyamunda, a team member, conducted significant research. Initially based at the University of Pretoria, he moved to the University of Glasgow and utilised his new location



Participants at the Symposium on the Encyclopaedia of African Feminisms. Project leader : Dr Dikeledi Mokoena

effectively. He spent considerable time at the British Archives in Kew Gardens and the Bank of England Archives. These research trips led to a draft article that promises to expand understanding of the relationship between monetary policy, colonial developments, and the South African War of 1899–1902.

Notably, in 2024, Laura Phillips conducted weeks of research in the Standard Bank Archives, resulting in a draft article on the relationship between Mauritian Banks and colonial South Africa's coinage provisions and politics.

MA students

The project primarily builds capacity through its MA scholarships, having awarded scholarships to two MA students: Edmore Maisvoveva and Blessings Mlala. Although they are in the early stages of their programme, they have joined a reading group on monetary policy and begun attending classes at Wits. In September, they visited the archives for the first time and submitted their proposals in December 2024.

SANEH (Southern African Network of Economic Historians)

The SANEH workshop was one of the project's highlights. On 8 and 9 July, the team held a successful workshop at the University of the Witwatersrand, uniting southern African scholars on economic history. Presenters from various southern African countries covered a range of diverse topics. Approximately 20 online participants expressed enthusiasm for forming a regional network focused on financial history. A discussion focused on bridging the gap between qualitative and quantitative historians took place, alongside interest in converting some papers

into a journal Special Issue. The team is repurposing a writing workshop to organise this Special Issue and assist authors in finalising their papers.

Additionally, the establishment and launch of SANEH are based on collaboration principles, bringing together scholars from the region to facilitate new connections and research on southern African economic history. At the SANEH workshop, the team hosted scholars from Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and several from South Africa, including the University of the Free State and the University of the Western Cape.

CATALYTIC PROJECT:

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AFRICAN FEMINISM

Project leader: Dr Dikeledi Mokoena

University of Johannesburg

The objective of an *Encyclopaedia of African Feminism* is to address what the team have identified as a conceptual gap in African feminism by cataloguing concepts and theories that underpin the discipline and compiling them into a reference work.

Towards the above objective, the project distributed four calls:

- for members of the editorial board,
- for the creation and contribution of the database of African Feminist concepts,
- for proposals to write an Encyclopaedic entry and,
- for reviewers.



Dr Dikeledi Mokoena at the Symposium on the Encyclopaedia of African Feminisms held 5 December 2024

The team successfully assembled a potential sectional editor from the project's editorial board in response to the calls above and collated proposed concepts and entries through an open call for names of potential authors. This exercise proved helpful, as many author names were shared and contacted for potential contributions. Simultaneously, Ruth Le Pere from Palgrave Publishers held a virtual workshop on creating reference works.

Capacity building

The project aimed to build capacity through calls for expressions of interest, workshops, and symposia, encouraging collective knowledge production and sharing. These processes and activities will benefit, in particular, emerging African feminist scholars and postgraduate students. They will also provide a space or hub for African feminists to build solid networks. Emerging scholars have been encouraged to submit entries. The project employed a young African feminist as a research coordinator, which has facilitated the sharing of skills.

Collaboration

This project was initially a collaboration between Nelson Mandela University and the University of Johannesburg. After the project leader, Dr Mokoena, moved to UJ, it evolved into a joint effort between the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies and the Department of Philosophy. Given the project's scope, potential collaborations with other institutions were identified. The first collaboration is with the University of Dodoma in Tanzania, where a workshop co-hosted by the Gender Unit of the Institute of Development Studies attracted 32 scholars, including many notable male attendees. The team submitted An abstract for a panel at the Sawubona Leadership Conference in Ghana, organised by Akina Mama wa Africa from Uganda. The proposal to host a workshop was accepted and took place in October 2024.

The project call garnered over 100 retweets within the first day, attracting interest from African and global feminists. It was also shared with faculty at universities in Africa, including the University of Legon in Ghana and Kenyatta University in Kenya. Most entries originated from South Africa, with some also coming from East Africa and the United States.

Following numerous engagements, the project team, led by Dr Mokoena, has proposed to create a journal of African Feminism, possibly by UJ Press.

HUMANITIES HUBS

Humanities Hubs are dedicated sites for preserving living heritages that are vital to the South African landscape. These hubs leverage research and community outreach to promote the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) within the general public and local communities.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) monitored five Humanities Hubs:

1. The Market Theatre Foundation
2. The Javett Art Centre at the University of Pretoria
3. The African Languages Literary Research Hub at Nelson Mandela University
4. The Origins Centre Humanities Hub at the University of the Witwatersrand
5. The Jagger Library Humanities Hub at the University of Cape Town



UCT Libraries staff participating in a workshop held on 3 July 2024 by the UCT Libraries Conservation Unit as part of capacity building on conservation basics and how to manage agents of decay impacting the general library environment

HUMANITIES HUB: **THE JAGGER LIBRARY**

Project management team:

Project leader: *Ujala Satgoor (Executive Director: UCT Libraries)*

Ms Nikki Crowster *(Director: Information Systems & Resources),*

Ms Mandy Noble *(Principal Librarian: Special Collections) – now retired,*

Ms Michal Singer *(Principal Archivist: Special Collections)*

The NIHSS Humanities Hub and grant continue to play a crucial role in shaping the digitisation parameters for UCT Libraries. The significance of the collections held by academic libraries has become increasingly evident, as they are of national and research importance. These collections should be identified, organised, and digitised to ensure access, facilitate research, and support long-term preservation.

The team acknowledges that recovery from the Jagger fire in 2021 is a multi-year endeavour, and the project should anticipate a shift in priorities. One significant change was the negotiation of a new five-year lease, along with the planned relocation to new premises in June 2024. The subsequent reorganisation of the entire Special Collections took precedence over all other activities for the remainder of the year. Nonetheless, the systematic decisions and progress achieved during this reporting period are encouraging.

Critical goals

The project has achieved the critical goals that it was allocated to address and achieve in the Framework for Action:

1. Digitising and restoring selected Special Collections that were housed in the Jagger Library, including original records, archives, and artefacts

2. Capacity building for postgraduate students involved in conservation
3. Capacity building for other libraries based at universities

Key areas of interest and achievement for conservation-led digitisation

The following is work related to various collections of national cultural and heritage value, research importance, and institutional records in the custody of UCT Libraries that have been identified for long-term preservation.

Finalisation of the Memorist Project since 2022

In January 2024, Memorist finished on-site work at the Special Collections recovery facility. Throughout the year, efforts continued to create detailed metadata per the International Standard for Archival Description – General (ISAD-G). This remote work included significant quality assurance from UCT Libraries and involved developing spreadsheets with file names, titles, descriptions, dates, locations, and other key details for each item.

Selected scans were produced for the following collections:

- **Pre-1925 Africana pamphlets**

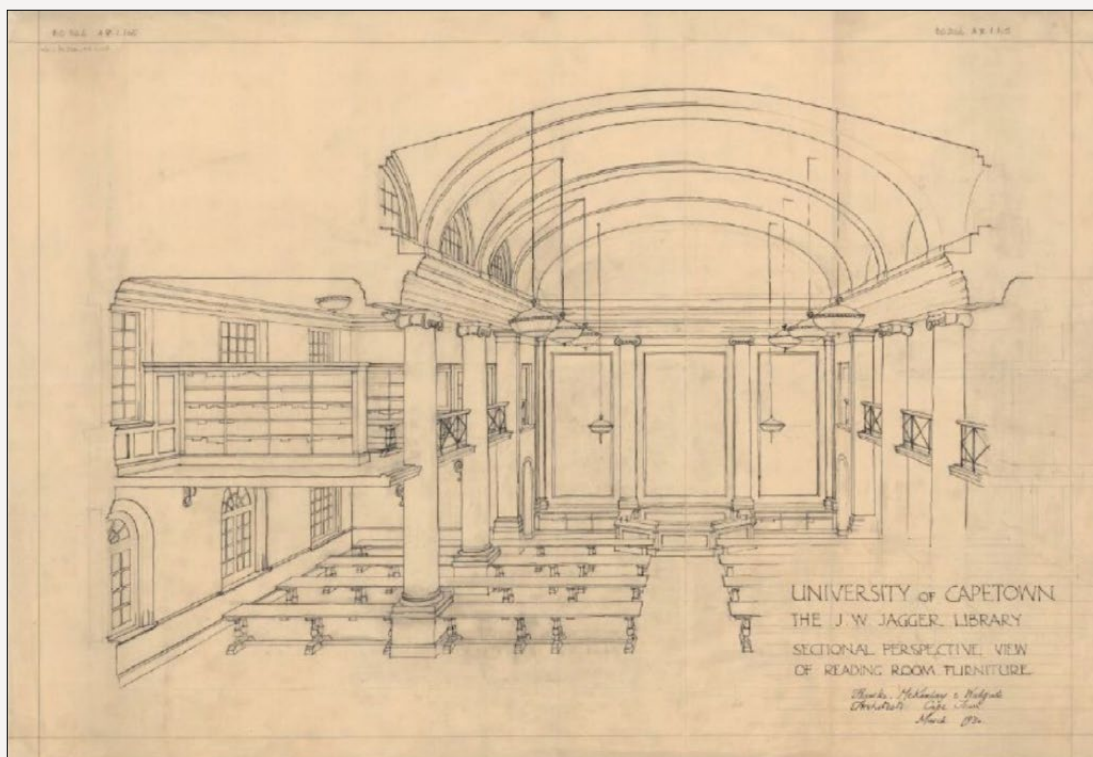
This entire collection of the UCT Libraries was restored and digitised. Since these are out of copyright, they can now be placed online.

- **Professor Monica Wilson**

A prominent UCT anthropologist's unprocessed correspondence from her papers spans four decades.

- **Professor Neville Alexander**

Selection of speeches that form a small subset of his entire collection, but were chosen for digitisation because of their significance in outlining his ideas and reflecting his influence on the South African academy.



A digital image of the original plan of the Jagger Library at the University of Cape Town.

- **Blue folders**

The administrative records of the Manuscripts and Archives department were among the few institutional records to survive the Jagger fire. This includes records related to the deposit of each collection. The work involved restoring the materials and digitising them in their entirety. It required confidentiality among all parties, and materials were restricted from use by Memorist or for any other marketing purposes.

- **James Stewart**

A Scottish missionary, physician, and educator who became the Principal of the Lovedale College in 1870. Considered the best educational facility in the country at the time, the school trained both white and Black students at the highest level. Stewart also developed the founding scheme for the South African Native College (now the University of Fort Hare). His diaries provide insight into his experiences between 1870 and 1902 and have now been digitised.

- **Max Policansky Drawings**

The architectural drawings of Max Policansky were damaged after the Jagger fire. Considered valuable for their depiction of the 1930s Modern Movement, the drawings were restored and digitised.

- **Black and Fagg Papers**

Established in 1904, with William Black as the senior partner, this successful architectural firm was prolific in its design of schools, commercial buildings and private residences in Cape

Town. At the time of the Jagger fire, most of the collection was laid out in the Reading Room and was almost entirely destroyed. The surviving folders were cleaned and digitised to preserve the surviving legacy of Black and Fagg more than a century after they practised.

- **UCT Handbooks**

The UCT Libraries Digitisation Unit is digitising this extensive collection in batches. In some cases, gaps exist due to the damage inflicted on the collection. This is an ongoing project coordinated within Digital Library Services.

Memorist handed over this data to UCT, and it is currently stored on LTO tape by UCT ICTS. UCT Libraries does not yet have access to any of the materials digitised and mounted on its servers. The cost of digital storage and retrieval is a key consideration. Physical materials restored by Memorist have been housed in brand-new map cabinets purchased from the insurance payout.

Providing capacity building to postgraduate students through the project

Between February and May 2024, Special Collections hosted Khaya Adams, a postgraduate intern from the University of Pretoria in the Conservation Unit. He completed 300 hours in the Tangible Heritage Programme by assisting the Conservator with daily monitoring, tear repair, cleaning methods, and treatment reporting. Khaya's internship coincided with the planning phase of the department's move. In his final weeks, he played a crucial role in packing the Conservation Unit for relocation. He completed his internship just before the move.



Participants at a workshop entitled *Ga re lthatholleng*, a product of Lefifi Tladi Collection Rescue Project hosted at the Javett Art Centre, Univeristy of Pretoria

Providing capacity building to other libraries based at universities: Supporting conservation at UCT Libraries

The UCT Libraries Conservation Unit continues to support the preservation of heritage assets across UCT Libraries and the University. To this end, the conservator conducted a workshop for the libraries' staff on 3 July 2024 to broaden their understanding of conservation basics and how to manage agents of decay that impact the general library environment. This was well attended, and positive feedback was received:

The content presented was very useful, learning about the chemical composition of paper and what makes it susceptible to damage in library spaces as well as in general ... I enjoyed the session because colleagues also brought in further insights based on the experience and knowledge. The presenter allowed questions to make it more interesting and the staff was very engaging. (Libraries staff member)

I think a hands-on experience is a good way to appreciate the work we do as most librarians/staff have very little to do with the actual handling of material since the advent of online resources. (Special Collections' staff member)

Towards a common understanding of documentary heritage: perspectives from the Global South. A 2-day workshop held by the IFLA-CCH, in collaboration with UCT Libraries

The urgency for national and continental discussions regarding the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage, including documentary heritage, has emerged as a priority. UCT Libraries, through its collaboration with the Advisory Committee for

Cultural Heritage (CCH) of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA), is committed to maintaining this focus.

This grant has significantly contributed to initiating the first dialogue on the continent, as reported in 2023. The dialogue with IFLA-CCH continued in a two-day workshop on 11-12 February 2025, attended by over 30 participants from South Africa, Zambia, Lesotho, Poland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. This group comprised library, rare book, archive, and audiovisual professionals, senior library managers, and representatives from library associations. The workshop was part of the CCH project to review documentary heritage, focusing on perspectives from the global south, which have historically been marginalised in defining these terms. Key points for consideration include that:

- Libraries are custodians of documented memory. They "capture" or acquire material at one point in time and may need to redefine it at a later stage.
- Documentary heritage is a place of intersection, blurring the lines between tangible, intangible, and performance aspects of culture, as well as festivals and expressions.
- The synergy approach model of acquisition, where multiple stakeholders – libraries and library professionals, researchers, marketing specialists, and even the wider community – collaborate to develop collections that are more relevant, accessible, inclusive, and effectively promoted.
- From a societal perspective, understanding knowledge should enable new uses of recorded memory, building on collective knowledge, contextualising, preserving tradition and meaning, and contributing to undoing harm.

Table 8: Working Groups monitored in 2024/25

No.	Project title	Project leader and University
1	UKZN Press' Postcolonial Histories and Socio-economic Alternatives Publications	Dr Phindile Dlamini, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Press
2	"S'obashaya Nagatye": Women and Sixty Years of the Armed Struggle in South Africa	Prof. Siphokazi Magadla, Rhodes University
3	History of the Congress of South African Students	Dr Tshepo Moloi, University of Johannesburg
4	CEPD Archive	Mrs Gabriele Mohale, University of Witwatersrand
5	Critical reflections on the Zondo Commission in socio-political and historical context	Prof. Mbongiseni Buthelezi, University of Johannesburg
6	Hidden Voices Series: Documenting the works of Buzetsheni Mdletshe Inyosi- Praise singer- Yesilo Samabandla Inkosi Uzwelithini Kabhekuzulu	Prof. Nompumelelo Zondi, University of Pretoria
7	Putting Skills to Work: Skills, Livelihoods and the Informal Sector	Prof. Lesley Powell
8	South African Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences	Mr Solani Ngobeni, Durban University of Technology
9	Publish a Book- "Future Harbours: Letters from President Thabo Mbeki", Edited and introduced by Ronald Suresh Roberts and Siyabulela Gebe"	Mr Suresh Roberts, Thabo Mbeki Foundation
10	Publishing Grant	Ms Veronica Klipp, University of the Witwatersrand Press
11	Political Economy of Africa	Prof. Amiena Bayat, University of the Western Cape
12	Inqolobane Yolwazi/Black Archive	Prof. Siseko Kumalo, University of Fort Hare
13	Collaboration on New Publication Projects	Ms Hetta Pieterse, University of South Africa Press
14	New African Movement book project	Prof. Luvuyo Dondolo, University of South Africa
15	Life History, Political Biography and Struggle History: Phase 2	Prof. Noor Nieftagodien, University of Witwatersrand
16	Biography: Martin Thembisile Chris Hani	Prof. Zakes Mda, University of Johannesburg

WORKING GROUPS

Working Groups consist of smaller groups of scholars funded to collaborate on interdisciplinary projects. These networks encourage dialogue, enhance research output, and promote integrity and excellence in the humanities and social sciences.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the NHISS monitored 16 Working Groups.

WORKING GROUPS PROJECT:

Hidden Voices Series: Documenting the works of Buzetsheni Mdletshe Inyosi – Praise singer – Yesilo Samabandla Inkosi Uzwelithini Kabhekuzulu

Project leader: Prof. Nompumelelo Zondi
University of Pretoria

The *Hidden Voices* Project is a platform for marginalised voices, historically suppressed by apartheid, to share their stories, experiences, and perspectives, fostering a more inclusive and equitable South African society. It aims to promote social justice and South Africa's rich cultural heritage by documenting the lives and works of important individuals who, due to South Africa's apartheid legacy, would otherwise remain marginalised. The activities during this phase of the Hidden Voices Project included exploring potential publishers and submitting to an identified publisher for double-blind reviews and publication in early 2025.

Context: Reception by Mr. Mdletshe and his excitement about the project

Upon learning of his inclusion in the NIHSS *Hidden Voices Project Series*, Mr. Buzetsheni Mkhohliseni Mdletshe expressed excitement and humility for the recognition of his dedication to Zulu tradition, culture, and history, pledging cooperation. His commitment was evident when he signed the informed consent letter before the team submitted the Ethical Clearance application to the UP Humanities Research Ethics Committee. These pre-interview sessions provided insight into what the final *Hidden Voices Series* would entail. The passion displayed, along with the extensive knowledge from someone who claimed to have "never set his foot in a classroom," is unprecedented.

Mr. Mdletshe shared how he accompanied his father to Royal gatherings as a child, described praise singing as a spiritual calling, and expressed his honour that his work is being documented. He expressed joy that his dream is coming true and that he will leave a lasting legacy. Seeing his works published emphasises the value of education, which he cherished but never had the chance to pursue formally.

Publication

The biography "Standing at the top of the highest mountain: Becoming Buzetsheni Mdletshe, the Praise Singer of iSilo uZwelethini kaBhekuzulu" by Nompumelelo and Nelisiwe Zondi acknowledges Buzetsheni Mdletshe as a co-author. Published by KwaZulu-Natal Press in 2025, it serves as an excellent resource for both local and international audiences, resulting from the

Hidden Voices project. The following information is sourced from the book's back cover:

This book recounts the story of an extraordinary narrator and praise singer, Buzetsheni Mdletshe, *Inyosi yaseNdlunkulu yeSilo*, who worked with King Zwelithini for more than fifty years until the king's passing in 2021. In telling his life story, combining memory and oral history, Mdletshe's respect for African traditions comes through in his steadfastness in his role as *inyosi* and in the way that Indigenous Knowledge systems are intertwined with history and Zulu tradition. By reading this remarkable text, some portion of its wisdom, ingenuity and individuality will remain long after Mdletshe to touch us all and generations to come. Through all his experiences and life changes, be they historical, political, cultural and socio-economic, Mdletshe has maintained the traditions that were instilled by his forefathers.

This is not just a story about Mdletshe, it is a story about pride, dignity and celebrating heritage – it is a story about unity of all nations and learning from one another, an attribute that Mdletshe possesses as a result of his culture and exposure to international travels with *oNgangezwe lakhe*, King Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu. It is a story of transition, where Mdletshe is carrying on with his role as *inyosi* to the reigning King Misuzulu kaZwelithini. It is dedicated to the people of the mountain of KwaCeza – a place with powerful symbolism, which is represented by three boulders perched on the mountain. These boulders are seen as a sign of the Trinity: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the place where Mdletshe draws his strength. It is on this mountain that King Dinizulu prayed on 22 June 1888, before going to battle at the mountain of KwaNdunu, which he won on 23 June 1888. (Zondi, Zondi and Mdletshe, 2025)

WORKING GROUPS PROJECT:

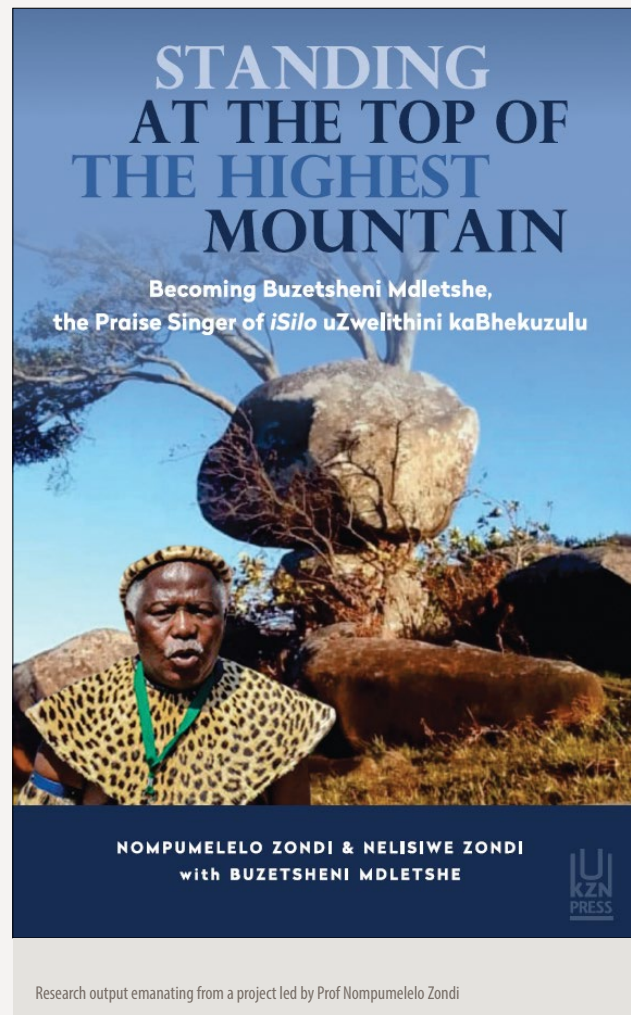
Political Economy of Africa

Project leader: Prof. Amiena Bayat

Institute for Social Development, University of Western Cape

To understand the evolving African political economy and its implications for the future, this project unites researchers to address key issues: ecosystem crises, foreign investment and trade, the rise in demand for extractive activities, and climate change-related migrations.

Prof Amiena Bayat, under the funding agreement, partnered with the Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA). They identified



participants for the project, which included a workshop and three journal articles for IFAA's digital journal, *New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*, a DHET-accredited journal.

Concept Development and Expert Workshops

The first workshop on concept development was a hybrid meeting at the Institute for Social Development (ISD), attended by Prof. Abdulrazak Karriem, Prof. Amiena Bayat, Prof. Mulugeta Dinbabo, Dr. Siphe Madyibi, Dr. Godfrey Tawodzera, Dr. Segio Carciotto, Mark Volmink, and AbdelHakeem Mohamed from ISD. IFAA was represented by Prof. Ari Sita, Nazeema Mohamed, and Christine Leibach. Dr. Yacoob Abba Omar from the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), Dr. Seeraj Mohamed from the Parliamentary Budget Office, and Ms Aisha Lorgat from the Chris Hani Institute also attended.

IFAA held a July 2024 webinar on Africa's economic challenges and the connection between gender and extractivism. Dr. Martin Nichol provided an overview of the political economy, while Dr. Asanda Benya discussed Gender and Extractivism. Furthermore, as part of the information-sharing process, the



Workshop Poster: Analyzing Africa's changing political economy, a project led by Amiena Bayat

project participants also attended a third webinar titled "Oil and the New Energy Politics of African States." This webinar was organised by IFAA and hosted by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung in August 2024.

Articles submitted

- Social Transformation in the Context of the Changing Political Economy of Africa
- Extractivism In Africa
- The Politics of Migration and Globalisation in Africa

ISD'S Collaborative work with IFAA

It is clear from the activities mentioned above that the ISD and IFAA have collaborated effectively on this project by utilising their relevant expertise. Furthermore, to enhance this work, IFAA has leveraged its network to connect with senior academics across Africa who can provide valuable insights and support the project's research objectives.

ISD and IFAA organised workshops for interdisciplinary exchange among researchers. These workshops refined the project's approach, aligning it with current issues and African perspectives. To support emerging scholars, ISD and IFAA facilitated mentoring, pairing researchers with experienced academics for feedback and advice. IFAA's support fostered collaboration, enhancing the project's depth and impact, ensuring research outputs remained rigorous and relevant to Africa's dynamics.

WORKING GROUPS PROJECT:

New African Movement book project

Project leader: Prof. Luvuyo Dondolo

Department of History, University of South Africa

Context

The *New African Movement book project* aims to highlight and celebrate the contributions of New African Movement members to the historical development of South Africa, as well as their role in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. It is an essential aspect of history in the fight against colonialism and apartheid. Furthermore, it influenced the re-imagined Africa in a changing South African landscape.

Much remains unknown about some members of the Movement, while others have been studied more thoroughly. This project fosters a comprehensive discussion on the New African Movement, highlighting the achievements of its key members, including Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. It offers an opportunity to engage meaningfully with these historical and heritage aspects. The selected figures participated at different points in the Movement's history and excelled in their respective fields. They represent the complexities of the colonial settlers' 'civilising' effort on Indigenous people through transculturation and the creation of 'civilised' locals.

The selected historical figures of the New African Movement – borrowing from Wauchope's poem, *Zimkile! Mfo wohlanga* published on *Isigidimi samaXhosa* on 1 June 1882 and Rubusana (1911) in his masterpiece, *Zemk' iinkomo magwalIndini*, respectively, encouraged Africans to take pen and paper and

fire with them to fight the South African unjust colonial and apartheid rule and white supremacy. They did not merely challenge the white colonial rule using their pen and paper. Most importantly, they advocated for African consciousness, Africanism, African epistemic justice, and Pan-Africanism.

Project purpose

These volumes will reflect the lives and times of selected figures. Space, time, location, and the environment will serve as the geographical windows through which their contributors understood and reflected upon their existence, offering a range of perspectives on the topic. The project thus contributes to the recording and promotion of New African Movement scholarship. A secondary milestone is capacity building for two Assistant Researchers.

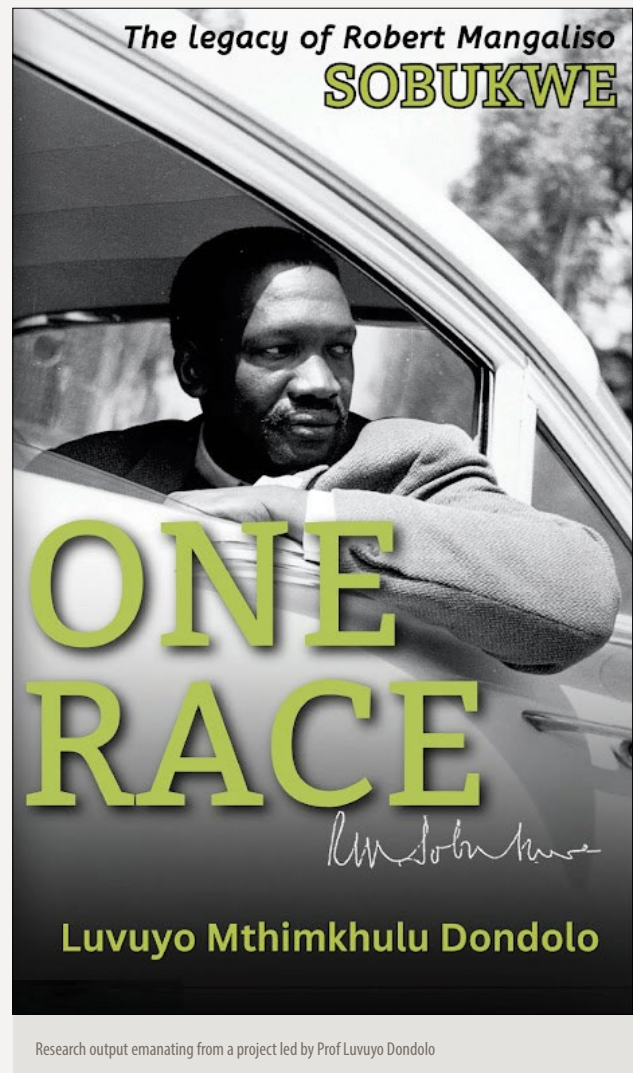
Publication

In August 2024, Prof Luvuyo Dondolo's volume, *One Race: The Legacy of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe*, was published by Skotaville Academic Publishers. The following excerpt from the book summarises its significance as a contribution to the *New African Movement book project*:

This book aims to unravel the past and shape the future by unmasking Sobukwe's misrepresentation in the rewriting of history dominant post-1994, and by exposing Sobukwe's silencing in the heritage and memorial landscapes. Drum magazine stated that "Sobukwe's deeds (would) always speak louder and more articulately than the words of the most gifted orator or writer" (Drum, 1978:15). The historical account of the South African struggle against apartheid is incomplete without the indefatigable son of Africa, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, who was unknown to most whites but revered by Africans. A collective effort is most effective for unearthing Sobukwe's matchless gifts.

The racist apartheid regime prevented him from realising his fierce desire for the dignity of Africans, self-determination, mental liberation, and total emancipation. In a tribute to Sobukwe, Senator Dick Clark of Iowa, an African American civil rights leader and congressman, an admirer of Sobukwe who once visited him in Kimberley, said that Sobukwe's name would go down in history for his epic role in the struggle for liberation in South Africa. He concluded that a new generation of Africans would remember him as one of their most outstanding leaders, in whose name the struggle for liberation would continue (Clark, 1978).

Through his significant contribution to the liberation struggle and his promotion of non-violent resistance, Sobukwe was



proposed by Drum in May 1978 as "the most deserving leader never to have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He preached non-violence and practised it." (Drum, 1978:13). Sobukwe's stature is unquestionable, and the unjustified attacks on his legacy post-apartheid are politically motivated. The state-curated monolithic and hegemonic historical narrative of the past, touted in the present in order to sustain the Mandela mythology and to portray the African National Congress (ANC) as being the exclusive liberators of the oppressed majority, seems to aim to minimise Sobukwe. (Dondolo, 2024:2-3)

Capacity building and skills transfer

Two postgraduate students, a master's student in history and a doctoral candidate, were appointed as Assistant Researchers for a six-month period. Their responsibilities included transcribing and translating audiovisual interviews, conducting interviews, collecting data through documentary research, and managing archives. This period has also proven beneficial for the Assistant Researchers, enhancing their research skills, presentation abilities, and writing capabilities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORKING GROUP OUTPUTS

Of the 20 books published in the 2024/25 financial year, a total of 13 books were published through the partnerships between the NIHSS and book publishers in South Africa.

Jacana Media:

- Jean Fairbairn, *Flashes in Her Soul The Life of Jabu Ndlovu*
- Kally Forrest, *Bonds of Justice The Struggle for Oukasie*
- Patricia Hayes, Gary Minkley, *Ambivalent Photography and visibility in African History*
- Ashraf Kagee, *Song of the Slave Girl. Johannesburg Jacana Media*
- Femi Kayode, Karen Jennings, *Midnight in the Morgue*
- Daniel Magaziner, *Available Light Omar Badsha and the Struggle for Change in South Africa*
- Mandlenkosi Makhoba, Petrus Tom, *The Story of One Tells the Struggle of All Metalworkers under Apartheid*
- Alfred Temba Qabula, *A Working Life, Cruel Beyond Belief*

UKZN Press:

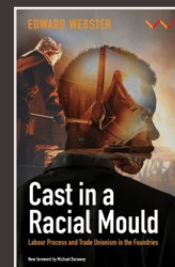
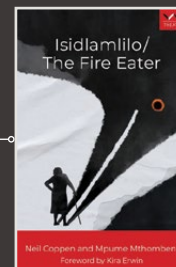
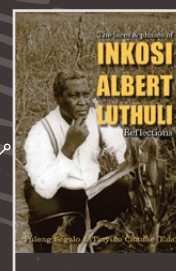
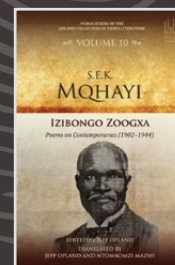
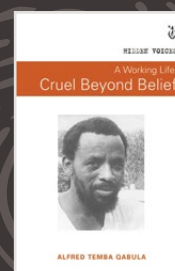
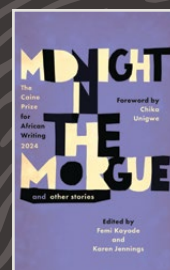
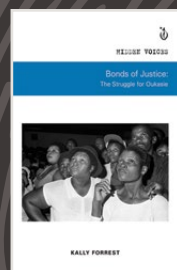
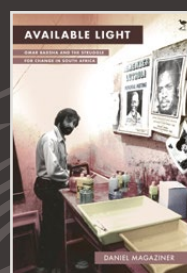
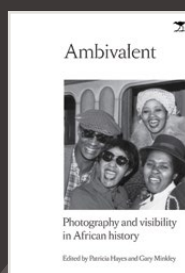
- Mazibuko, G., and Ndimande-Hlongwa, N. *Ubuciko Bokwethiwa Kwamagama*
- Opland, J. S.E.K MQHAYI Izibongo Zoogxa *Poems on Contemporaries (1902-1944)*

UNISA Press

- Segalo, P. and Chauke, T. *The Face and Phase of Inkosi Albert Luthuli Reflections*

Wits Press

- Coppen, N., and Mthombeni, M. 2024. *Isidlamlilo? The Fire Eater*
- Burowoy, M., Foreword. In Webster, E. *Cast in a Racial Mould—Labour Process and Trade Unionism in the Foundries*



NUMBER OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES PRODUCED BY THE CATALYTIC AND HUMANITIES HUBS PROJECTS LEADERS AND COLLABORATORS

BOOKS:

1. Burowoy, M. 2025. Foreword. In Webster, E. *Cast in a Racial Mould – Labour Process and Trade Unionism in the Foundries*. Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand Press.
2. Chinyanurindi, W., and Moyo, P. 2025. *Socio-ecological-economic reflections on the impacts of COVID-19 in Africa*. Cape Town: AOSIS (Pty) Ltd.
3. Coppen, N., and Mthombeni, M. 2024. *Isidlamlilo? The Fire Eater*. Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand Press.
4. Dondolo, L. M. 2024. *One Race: The Legacy of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe*. Johannesburg: Skotaville Academic Publishers.
5. Fairbairn, J. 2018. *Flashes in Her Soul: The Life of Jabu Ndlovu*. Reprint, Johannesburg: Jacana Media, 2024.
6. Forrest, K. 2019. *Bonds of Justice: The Struggle for Oukasie*. Reprint, Johannesburg: Jacana Media, 2024.
7. Hayes, P., and Minkley, G. 2021. *Ambivalent: Photography and visibility in African History*. Reprint, Johannesburg: Jacana Media, 2025.
8. Kagee, A. 2025. *Song of the Slave Girl*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
9. Kayode, F., and Jennings, K. 2025. *Midnight in the Morgue*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
10. Magaziner, D. 2025. *Available Light: Omar Badsha and the Struggle for Change in South Africa*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media
11. Makhoba, M., and Tom, P. 2018. *The Story of One Tells the Struggle of All: Metalworkers under Apartheid*. Reprint, Johannesburg: Jacana Media, 2024.
12. Mazibuko, G., and Ndimande-Hlongwa, N. 2025. *Ubuciko Bokwethiwa Kwamagama*. KwaZulu-Natal: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
13. Mkhize, T. 2025. *Nontsizi Mqgqetho: The Poet of the People*. KwaZulu-Natal: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
14. Ndzendze, B., Singh, A., and Timm, S., (eds.) 2024. *The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Perspectives on innovation, power and potentialities*. Cape Town: AVARSITY Books.
15. Opland, J. 2024. *S.E.K MQHAYI: Izibongo Zoogxa Poems on Contemporaries (1902-1944)*. KwaZulu-Natal: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
16. Qabula, A.T. 2024. *A Working Life, Cruel Beyond Belief*. Johannesburg: Jacana Media.
17. Ralarala, M. K., Pillay, S., Bock, Z., and Kaschula, R. H. 2024. *Unlocking the chains of Knowledge: Understanding the challenges, remarking pedagogies and curriculum renewal*. Stellenbosch: African Sun Media.
18. Segalo, P. and Chauke, T. 2024. *The Face and Phase of Inkosi Albert Luthuli: Reflections*. Pretoria: University of South Africa Press.
19. Zondi, N., and Zondi, N. 2025. *Esicongweni Sentaba: Ubizo lukaBuzetsheni Mdletshe, iNyosi yeSilo Samabandla, UZwelithini kaBhekuzulu*. KwaZulu-Natal: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.
20. Zondi, N and Zondi, N. 2025. *Standing at the Top of the Highest Mountain: Becoming Buzetsheni Mdletshe, the Praise Singer of iSilo uZwelithini kaBhekuzulu*. KwaZulu-Natal: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

CREATIVE OUTPUTS:

1. Cele, N. (Director), Dingalo, M., and Zungu, N.S. (Producers). 2024. *Amaphupho*. [Film]. UKZN Video Production.
2. Kupa, T. 2024. *Mathonga Elizwe- Spirits of the Land*. [Documentary]
3. Mhlongo, M. 2024. *GIFTED*. [Film]. UKZN Video Production.
4. Ngubane, M., and Xaba, N. 2024. *Blacks Can Farm* [Exhibition Catalogue]
5. Runciman, C. 2024. *Inkululeko*. [Documentary]. <https://vimeo.com/939095773/3efa7d18b3?share=copy>

6. The Market Theatre Foundation. 2024. *Market Photo Workshop: Black Photo Libraries Volume 2: Peter McKenzie*.
7. Wits University Research Archive. 2024. *Centre for Education Policy Development (CEPD) Archive*. [Website]
8. Zwane, S. (Director), and September, E. (Producer). 2024. *Daughters of Lost Fathers: A tribute to my father*. [Film]. UKZN Video Production.

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

1. Aerni-Flessner, J., and Magaiza, G. 2024. *Basotho and the Bantustans: Long-Term Impacts of Historical Borders on Borderlands Communities in QwaQwa and Lesotho*, 75(1–2), 111–129. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02582473.2024.2336534>
2. Carciotto, S. 2024. The politics of international labour migration and globalisation in Africa. *New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*, 95.
3. Hlatshwayo, M. 2025. Women postdocs in a neoliberal higher education in South Africa. *Southern African Review of Education*, 29(2), 35–49.
4. Hlatshwayo, M.N. 2024d. Beyond neoliberal policies: Blind spots in the Staffing South Africa's Universities Framework. *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.4102/td.v20i1.1439>
5. Hlatshwayo, M.N. 2024c. A decolonial reading of Bernstein's sociology of education in transforming the university in South Africa. *Acta Academica*, 56(1): 62–79. <https://doi.org/10.38140/aa.v56i1.7683> ISSN:0587-2405
6. Hlatshwayo, M. N. 2024b. On Pipelines and Precarity: Competing Narratives on the Roles and Functions of Postdocs in South African Higher Education. *Education as Change*, 28: 1–19.
7. Hlatshwayo, M.N. 2024a. You're brought in as a workhorse and there's no real security here! Postdocs, precarity and the neoliberal university in South Africa. *Psychology in Society*, 66 (2): 26–44.
8. Hlatshwayo, M. N and Mfeka, N. N. 2024. Kunzima, It's Not For The Fainthearted: Narratives of the Student Representative Council In Negotiating Student Leadership In Higher Education. *South African Journal of Higher Education*, 38(5):245–262.
9. Maake, T.B. 2024. Towards Dismantling Heteronormativity at South African Universities: Heterosexual Students' Perceptions of Heteronormative Ideologies and LGBTIQ+ Identities. *Gender Questions* 12(1):15 pages. <https://doi.org/10.25159/2412-8457/14860>
10. Meyer, J. and Wium, M. (eds.). 2024. *SAMUS: South African Music Studies, Special Issue*, 43/44.
11. Ngubane, M. 2024. Immigrant farm workers, self-exploitation and social reproduction: the Lesotho–South African land-labour questions. *Review of African Political Economy*. DOI: 10.62191/ROAPE-2024-004.
12. Parry, B. 2024. "We've got a sisterhood ...": Understanding personal and peer empowerment capabilities in the narratives of South African women furthering their education while incarcerated. *International Review of Education*, 70: 417–431.
13. Reijer, J., and Smuts, L. 2024. Shifts in Heteronormative and Gender Normative Perceptions among Students at a South African University: A Decade Later. *Gender Questions* 12(1):18 pages. <https://doi.org/10.25159/2412-8457/15223>

Table 9: Number of Conferences, Workshops, Colloquiums, and similar Academic Events organised by the NIHSS-funded Projects Leaders and Collaborators

No.	Conferences, Colloquiums and Workshops	Project Leader and Institution
1	The African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Sciences hosted a workshop titled Taking Indigenous Knowledge Seriously on 9-10 April 2024	Prof. Veli Mitova, University of Johannesburg
2	Walter Sisulu University hosted the 2ND Multi-Inter-Transdisciplinary conference on Africa Transformation Perspectives titled HEIs Role in Championing MIT Research to Advance Development and Transformation in Africa and Beyond on 17-19 April 2024	Prof. Rushiella Songca, Walter Sisulu University
3	The Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (Qwaqwa Campus) hosted a book launch for the book titled Migration, Borders, and Borderlands: Making National Identity in Southern African Communities on 22 May 2024	Dr Munyaradzi Mushonga, University of the Free State
4	The National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the South African Humanities Deans Association co-hosted a book launch for the book titled The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Perspectives on Innovation, power and Potentialities on 9 June 2024	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the South African Humanities Deans Association
5	The History Workshop at the University of Witwatersrand held a workshop titled Radio and Decolonisation in Africa on 4-5 July 2024	Prof. Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, University of Witwatersrand
6	The Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research held a workshop for the Southern African Network for Economic History on 8-9 July 2024	Dr Laura Phillips, University of Witwatersrand
7	The University of South Africa Press and the Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair hosted a book launch for The Face and Phases of Inkosi Albert Luthuli: Reflections on 19 July 2024	Prof Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
8	The Javett Art Centre with the Lefifi Tladi Collection Rescue Project held workshop titled Ga re Itlhatholleng: A Procees of Artvanced Listening and Writing Towards a Better Understanding of the Collective Conscious on 20 July 2024	Javett Art Centre- University of Pretoria
9	The African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science hosted a workshop titled Taking Knowledges Seriously on 13-14 August 2024	Prof. Veli Mitova, University of Johannesburg
10	Prof Siseko Kumalo of the University of Fort Hare hosted a symposium titled Black Archive Symposium on 15-16 August 2024	Prof Siseko Kumalo, University of Fort Hare
11	The Institute for Economic Development at the University of the Western Cape hosted a workshop for the project titled The Changing Political Economy of Africa on 2 April 2024.	Prof. Amiena Bayat, University of the Western Cape
12	The Centre for Creative Arts, University of KwaZulu-Natal hosted the 45th Durban International Film Festival on 18-28 July 2024	Dr Ismail Mahomed, University of KwaZulu-Natal
13	The African Humanities Association hosted a dialogue titled Holding the Powerful to Account in Africa on 29 October 2024	Prof. Fred Hendricks, African Humanities Association
14	The Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair hosted a theatre production titled Remembering Nokukhanya (Mabhengu) Luthuli on 26 October 2024	Prof. Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
15	Prof Noor Nieftagodien hosted a colloquium titled Soweto History and Archives on 24 October 2024	Prof. Noor Nieftagodien, University of Witwatersrand
16	The NIHSS in collaboration with the Wits Sociology Department hosted a colloquium titled Jackie and Eddie: A Story of Two Pioneers of South African Sociology on 20-31 October 2024	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the University of Witwatersrand
17	The Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair held a handover ceremony commemorating the Nokukhanya Quilt on 15 October 2024	Prof. Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
18	The Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair hosted a book launch for a book titled The Face and Phases of Inkosi Albert Luthuli: Reflections 16 October 2024	Prof. Puleng Segalo, University of South Africa
19	Dr Dikeledi Mokoena hosted a symposium on the Encyclopedia of African Feminisms on 5 December 2024	Dr Dikeledi Mokoena, University of Johannesburg



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

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



The South African Humanities Deans Association with contributors at the launch of The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Perspectives on Innovation, Power and Potentialities

In the South African context for the financial year 2024/25, the NIHSS contributed to the goals of upholding the integrity, reputation, and significance of the humanities and social sciences through professionalisation and collaboration in two key ways. These included supporting the work and effective functioning of HSS professional associations and, through the hosting of the annual National HSS Awards, recognising exceptional individuals in the higher education community for their contributions to the Humanities and Social Sciences.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The importance of professional associations in Southern Africa for the professionalisation of research and best practices

cannot be overstated. These associations offer training and development, promote scholarly networks, and facilitate collaboration and dialogue within and across various disciplines. Additionally, many of them publish in respected academic journals.

To support these professional associations, the NIHSS allocates funding for their annual or biennial conferences, special academic publishing projects, and capacity building for master's or doctoral students.

In the 2024/25 fiscal year, the Institute continued to monitor the progress of three professional associations funded in previous years, as outlined in Table 10.

Table 10: Professional Associations Monitored in the financial year 2024/25

No.	Professional association	Grant holder
1	African Humanities Association (AHA)	Prof. Fred Hendricks
2	South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)	Prof. Rose Maoto
3	South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)	Prof. Willie Chinyamurindi

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION: **African Humanities Association – African Humanities Series (AHA)**

Grant holder: Prof. Fred Hendricks

Since both the NIHSS and the African Humanities Association (AHA) are committed to promoting the humanities, social sciences and the arts in Africa, this professional partnership is premised on firm collaborative foundations. The most effective way to foster communities of scholars and scholarship in these areas is to showcase their research through the publication of scholarly books. PhD theses are often neglected pieces of scholarship. Instead of allowing them to gather dust on library shelves, the AHA aims to share their research accomplishments with a much wider audience.

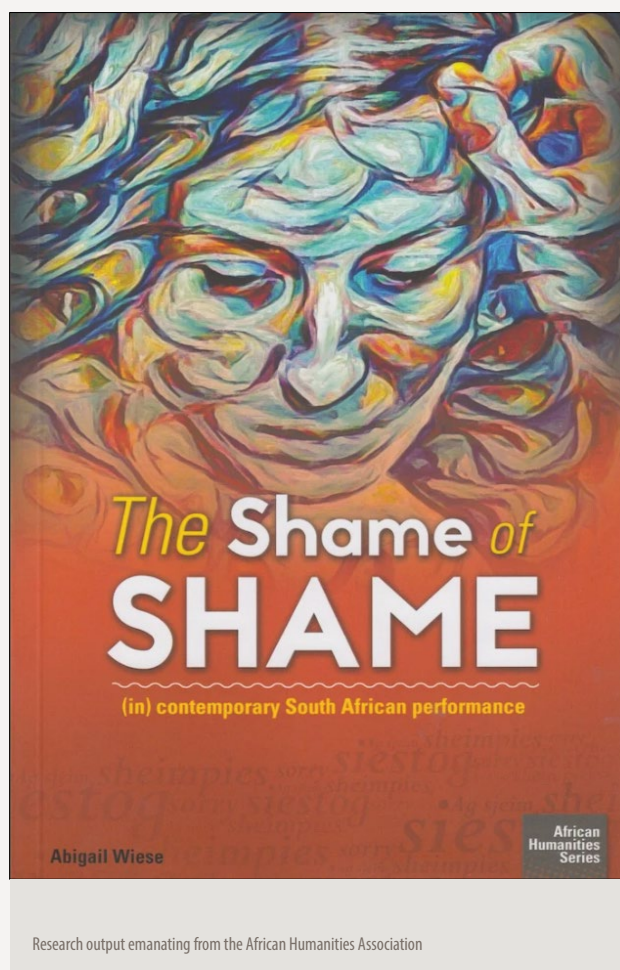
Hence, the African Humanities Series (AHS) of the African Humanities Association (AHA) was awarded a grant by NIHSS in July 2022 to convert PhD theses of the NIHSS scholarship holders and postdoctoral fellows into books. The AHS has signed a co-publishing agreement with Routledge (Taylor & Francis), which grants the AHS control over the African market, enabling it to set prices and thereby enhance continental accessibility. Similarly, the books will get global exposure through the agreement with Routledge.

The main objective of this project was to create a publication opportunity for the vast resource of PhD theses from graduates of the NIHSS scholarship programme, as well as NIHSS postdoctoral fellows.

Publication

The AHA's African Humanities Series follows a rigorous peer review process to ensure quality. This includes three editors short-listing, inviting manuscript submissions, conducting double-blind reviews, and expert copy-editing. The 2024/25 shortlist was based on the AHA's evaluation of academic merit and publication potential. Of the 44 applications, eight (8) were shortlisted for consideration by the editorial board for possible publication in the AH Series. The AHA published "The Shame of Shame" by Abigail Wiese, selected from two manuscripts received:

The Shame of Shame examines the agency of shame and how it is the most intimate of affects, critical in the formation of our sense of Self, regardless of our awareness of it. *The Shame of Shame* examines contemporary South African performances as a means to think about shame, our unique experiences of shame, and how these affective moments of shame might



become hauntings that continue to linger, if not faced and given form, voice, or sound. Because the experience of shame is most central to our sense of Self, it needs to be faced, not turned away from or swept under the rug as discarded parts of our memories. The writing of *The Shame of Shame* is an intimate and self-reflective engagement with shame, and one in which the author asks what it is that she feels in these encounters with shame. She questions how the aesthetics of performance evoke such strong emotions and how the performance prompts her to think about shame in a different way.

The Shame of Shame is an interdisciplinary study located at the intersection of performance studies, affect theory, shame theory, autoethnography and practice-led/research-led methodology. *The Shame of Shame* is considered a helpful companion to anyone trying to process the effects of discomfort, racism, Othering and an abjection of the Self. (See: <https://www.nisc.co.za/products/119/books/the-shame-of-shame-in-contemporary-south-african-performance>).

***The Shame of Shame* – Reviewer's Comments**

This is the first time for me that this kind of affect studies is not self-indulgent, but truly self-reflexive. The originality of this work



Prof. Pamela Maseko, President of SAHUDA, setting the tone and leading the discussion at the book launch of *The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Perspectives on Innovation, Power and Potentialities*.

lies especially in the way it demonstrates a self-reflexive analysis of being touched, moved, affected by specific South-African performances, dealing with South-African history and context. (Professor Ernst van Alphen, Literary Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands)

The book certainly has merit as a strongly felt, thoughtful, and imaginative engagement with the theme of shame in contemporary South African theatre. It brings together a corpus of plays (and performance art, in the case of *Stumbling Block*) that have not been collected for comparative discussion before, nor have they been considered under the rubric of shame, as a field of high-level research and reflection. The methodology is innovative and speaks to the current zeitgeist in two, related ways: by invoking autoethnography and applying it to the experience afforded by the theatre, and by using a personal, even confessional style that uses self-observed affect as a legitimate basis for developing knowledge. (Professor David Attwell, Department of English, University of York, UK and University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION:

South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)

Grant holder: Prof. Rose Maoto

SAHUDA and the NIHSS maintain a strategic partnership. Together, the two bodies collaborate closely to advance research, scholarship, and academic excellence in the humanities and social sciences at South African public universities.

Cementing a partnership: 4IR and the Humanities book launch

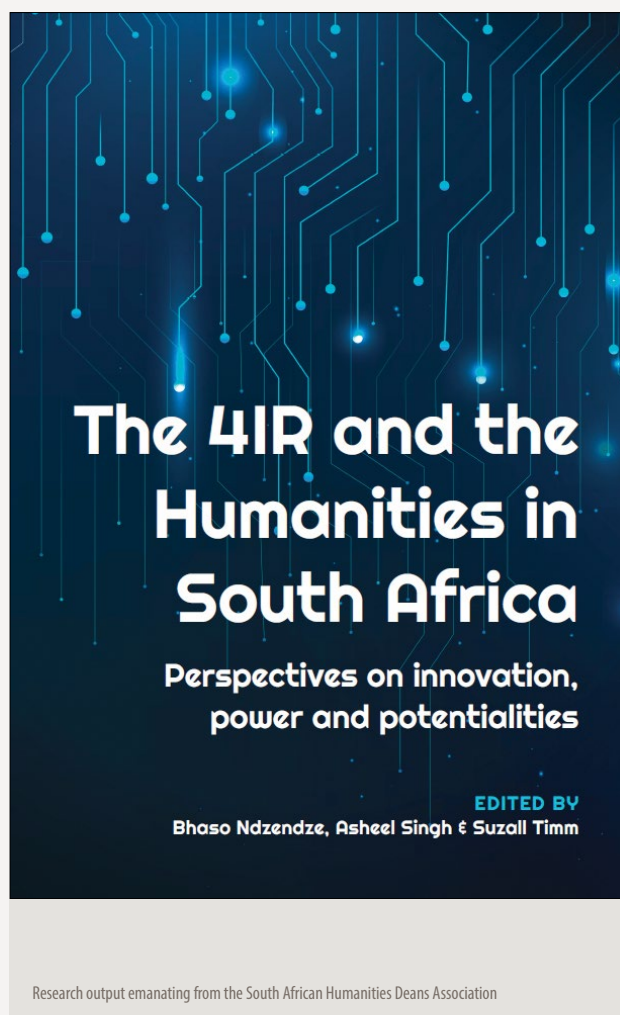
In response to their objectives, SAHUDA and the NIHSS launched the book, *The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Perspectives on Innovation, Power, and Potentialities*, published by Avarsity Books, AOSIS Scholarly Books in 2024. The book highlights the importance of the humanities in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in South Africa and Africa; the launch took place on 9 June 2024. It stems from the inaugural SAHUDA conference in 2019 and serves as a key reference for innovative approaches in these fields, offering invaluable insights across the humanities

and social sciences. It embodies the adage, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Prof. Pamela Maseko, then President of SAHUDA and Dean of Humanities at the University of Nelson Mandela, spearheaded the discussion at the launch of the book. She set the tone by graciously acknowledging the invaluable partnership between SAHUDA and NIHSS. Prof Maseko stated: "This launch signifies a milestone in our collective journey towards understanding and navigating the complexities of our evolving society." Meanwhile, Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa, the founding CEO of the NIHSS and CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), acknowledged SAHUDA's role in promoting the voices of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) scholars and highlighted how the book creates space for HSS in the technological landscape. Prof. Mosoetsa also reiterated the realities of digital inequalities and emphasised the importance of inclusivity. She highlighted that since its inception in 2013, the Institute has made 4IR one of its primary priorities, and this publication marks a significant milestone for SAHUDA in the HSS.

Suzall Timm, a co-editor, shared her experience in facilitating the Distinguished Humanities Fourth Industrial Revolution Webinars in 2020, collaborating with Prof. Brendon Barnes, Prof. Suzanne Graham, and Prof. Bhaso Ndzendze. She stated, "These webinars brought together international scholars to discuss 4IR issues during the COVID period. Coordination of these engaging sessions laid the groundwork for the insights shared in the book." Prof. Bhaso Ndzendze of the University of Johannesburg, a second co-editor of the book, explored the intersection of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with the humanities in the South African context. He stated: "This volume brings together various perspectives on how technological advancements impact society, culture, and academic disciplines within the humanities."

The third co-editor of the book, Dr Asheel Singh, shared further insights into the book, emphasising the crucial role that the humanities and social sciences play in understanding and guiding technological shifts. While techno-optimists drive the 4IR, the book argues that scholars should not assume its benefits but instead advocate for human dignity and reason. Dr Singh stated, "Humanities and social scholars can and must make vital contributions to ensure the appropriate understanding, direction, and tempering of the coming technological shifts."



In conclusion, Professor Masoga, Executive Dean of the University of the Free State and current President of SAHUDA, expressed gratitude to all the guests present, as well as to the editors and contributors, for ensuring the launch's resounding success.

Synopsis of the SAHUDA and NIHSS book: *The 4IR and the Humanities in South Africa: Perspectives on Innovation, Power, and Potentialities*

The world is at a crossroads because of industrial change, compounded by a global pandemic. Humanities and social science education is grappling with the meaning of this change, to the effect that there have been some anxieties and misguided perceptions about the irrelevance of the humanities in this emerging new world. With the emergence of new technologies, this book highlights the indispensable centrality of humanity and the humanities going forward. The book will provide a reference point for new and innovative approaches to the humanities in the 4IR in South Africa and Africa. Its diverse content means that it will be useful across the humanities and social science spectrum. (<https://books.aosis.co.za/index.php/ob/catalog/book/431>)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION:

South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)

Grant holder: Prof. Willie Chinyamurindi

Borne out of the need for young scientists to contribute towards solutions to the critical national and global challenges facing society, the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) represents the voice of young scientists on national and international issues, providing them with a platform to influence policy decisions. SAYAS also aims to contribute to the development of scientific capacity in South Africa through mentoring and role modelling of future scientists, as well as fostering opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations among young scientists.

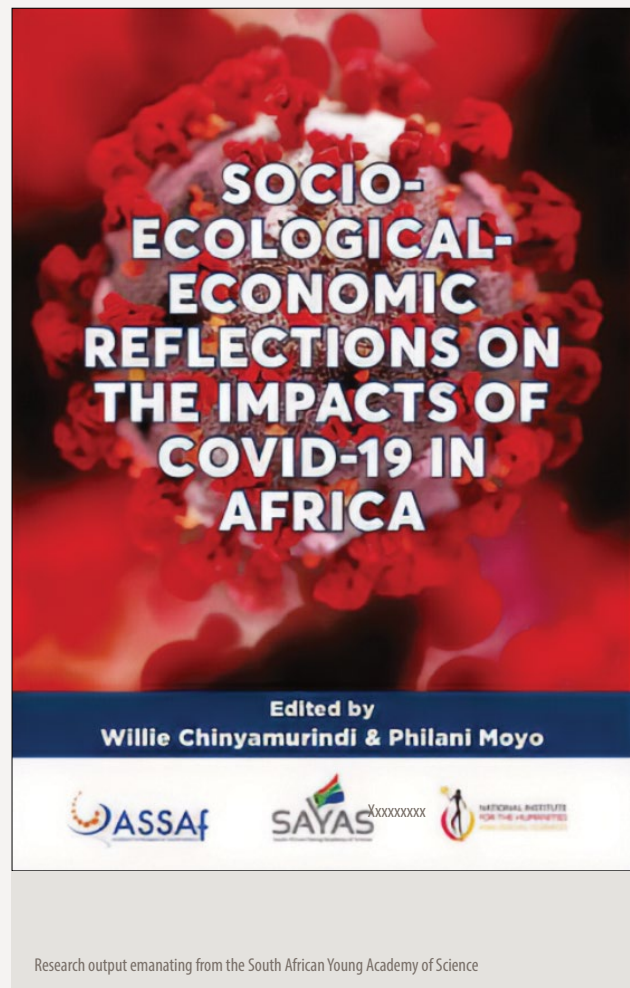
SAYAS published *Sociological Ecological – Economic Reflections on the Impacts of COVID-19 in Africa*, supported by the NIHSS and ASSAF, and published by AOSIS Scholarly Books in 2025.

In the foreword, Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa, founding CEO of the NIHSS and CEO of the HSRC, writes:

What is compelling about this book is that it offers solutions to the problems that COVID-19 has laid bare, such as opportunities to 'circularise' economies and new methods to fund scientific research. The book itself is a transdisciplinary endeavour, using the tools of both the humanities and natural sciences, helping us envision collective solutions in response to a post-pandemic world.

The book offers insights into various socioeconomic issues triggered by the pandemic, including vaccine nationalism in South Africa and the role of social media in disseminating misinformation. Further topics examine urban sustainability, the challenges faced by the informal sector, the future of education in a post-COVID world, and the transition to flexible working arrangements in Zimbabwe. Chapters include the following:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Nationalism, Hesitancy, and Misgovernance in South Africa by Philani Moyo
- Improving Urban Sustainability Through Slum Intervention Amidst COVID-19 by Chioma Agatha John-Nsa
- The African Informal Sector: Framing a Path Amidst the Difficulty by Motshedisi Sina Mathibe and Willie Chinyamurindi



- Reimagining South African Education Post-COVID-19: Shifting Towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution by Hlengiwe Ndlovu and Lunga Lawrence Ngogela
- COVID-19 Triggered Flexible Working Arrangements in Zimbabwe: A Systematic Literature Review by Nhamo Mashavira and Patience Mabika

Sociological Ecological – Economic Reflections on the Impacts of COVID-19 in Africa, highlights insights from emerging scientists in South Africa, Africa, and beyond concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring contributions from new researchers, it provides an overview of socio-ecological-economic perspectives on the effects of COVID-19. Additionally, it employs a multidisciplinary approach to explore scientists' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each chapter presents a unique perspective on science from various disciplines, providing valuable insights for scholars, academics, and policymakers.

10TH HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARDS



The 10th Annual HSS Awards judging panel pictured alongside the winners at the awards ceremony.

HSS AWARDS 2025, A DECADE OF CELEBRATING CREATIVE AND SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

Lesome! A Setswana word meaning “ten,” symbolising success across South African languages. This milestone, the tenth edition of the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Book, Creative, and Digital Awards celebrates the achievements of our 2025 winners and the continued evolution of these awards. It is another stone placed on our collective cairn, our isivivane, seotlo, or sefikantswe.

Under the dynamic leadership of the NIHSS Management and the Awards team, with the unwavering support of the Department of Higher Education and Training and the South African Humanities Deans Association, the awards have expanded in reach, quality, and particularly in the inclusion of Indigenous languages. These innovative awards are organised into four categories: Fiction, Non-fiction, Creative Collections, and Digital Humanities. Since the modest inaugural ceremony held ten years ago on 30 March 2016 at the NIHSS premises, the number of entries received has increased from 85 to 227 in 2025, totalling an impressive 1,241 entries overall. This remarkable expansion reflects the dedication of South Africa’s creative intellectuals and their publishers, who continue to submit work of the highest calibre.

The winners of the 10th prestigious Humanities and Social Sciences Awards were announced at a ceremony held on Thursday, 27 March. The celebration took place at the renowned discovery site where creativity and science converge, The Maropeng Cradle of Humankind. Guests, judges, publishers, academics, and NIHSS staff gathered to honour and celebrate exceptional, socially responsive scholarship and contributions in the creative and digital fields that enrich the humanities and social sciences.

Although the number of entries has increased, the judging panel continue to meet the challenge with commitment, immersing themselves in each submission over six weeks to identify the most outstanding contributions. Their dedication strengthens the HSS community every year. For a decade, these awards have celebrated exceptional scholars whose work inspires, challenges, and reshapes our understanding of the world. This year’s shortlist and winners exemplify this mission.

Esteemed judges

The calibre of the awards is reflected in the quality of the esteemed judges who have devoted countless hours to identifying deserving winners. Dr Sibongiseni Mkhize, Chair Judge of the ‘Books: Non-Fiction Category’, noted that each year’s submissions exhibit unique characteristics; however, the

quality and standards upheld by the NIHSS have consistently been maintained:

As judges, we were encouraged by the quality of submissions and the wide range of topics covered. The overall experience of reviewing and shortlisting continued to be a journey of intellectual nourishment. The shortlisted submissions underwent a robust and rigorous process where the judges used the shortlisting meeting as an opportunity to share their views and persuade each other on the scholarly significance of the publications. The judges went out of their way to ensure that every submission, irrespective of language, was comprehensively motivated.

Ms Malika Ndlovu, Chair Judge of the 'Fiction Category', highlighted the unique criteria for judging submissions of novels, poetry, short stories, and edited volumes for 2025:

Our core adjudication guidelines focused on outstanding contributions to the HSS field, the literary calibre of the content, design, presentation and social relevance serving as our compass. What makes an outstanding writer or poet is not only what they write but how they transport us to places and spaces beyond the world we know, or inward, to depths we otherwise may not have gone to or discovered. The authors' levels of courageous vulnerability in their truth-speaking, their risk-taking in the face of potential personal or public backlash also carried weight in our evaluations.

Ms Ndlovu further emphasised the significant role of the diverse publishers contributing to the awards, stating:

They provided us with a spectrum of hard-hitting, edgy, suspense-filled, and deeply moving works, including highly entertaining offerings that could translate well onto our television and film screens.

Professor Stephanus Muller, Chair Judge of the Creative Collections and Digital Humanities category, highlighted the crucial role that the HSS awards play in promoting inquiry and cultural innovation:

"Submissions this year covered a wide range of formats – digital humanities projects, visual storytelling, public performances and musical compositions demonstrating how humanities research extends beyond traditional scholarship to engage broader publics."

He emphasised how the 73 entries for 2025, covering various disciplines, are embedded within a broad, enduring network of scholars and artists and "grappled with pressing social issues, reimagined history, and pushed the boundaries of knowledge through innovative artistic expression." Therefore, the Creative Collections and Digital Humanities categories continue to redefine the HSS landscape.



Dr Sibongiseni Mkhize, Chair Judge of the Non-Fiction category, at the 10th Annual HSS Awards



Ms Malika Ndlovu, Chair Judge of the Fiction category.



Professor Stephanus Muller, Chair Judge of the Creative Collections and Digital Humanities category.



Winners of the 10th Annual Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Awards, honored for their exceptional contributions to research, literature, and creative work in the humanities and social sciences.

THE AWARD WINNERS

The Best Non-Fiction Edited Volume award went to Gandhi's African Legacy: Phoenix Settlement 1904-2024, A History Through Letters, by Uma Dhuphelia-Mesthrie. Khumisho Moguerane won the Best Non-Fiction Monograph award for Morafe: Person, Family and Nation in Colonial Bechuanaland, 1880s-1950s. The Best Non-Fiction Biography award had joint winners: Kally Forest's Lydia: Anthem to the Unity of Women and Caster Semenya's The Race to Be Myself. The Best Non-Fiction Emerging Author award was bestowed on Lesedi Molefi's Patient 12A- A Memoir.

The Best Fiction Novel category saw Charl-Pierre Naude's The Equality of Shadows and Shubnum Khan's The Lost Love of Akbar Manzil emerge as joint winners. Siphokazi Jona's Weeping Becomes a River and Lynthia Juliu's Kinderle were named joint winners in the Best Fiction Poetry category. Alex Latimer won Best Fiction Short Stories for his Love Stories for Ghosts collection. Meanwhile, the award for Best Fiction Emerging Author went to Anna Stroud for Who Looks Inside.

The Best DH Project for Community Engagement had joint winners: Nomusa Makhubu's Creative Knowledge Resources and

Amanda du Preez and Karli Brittz's Digital Humanities and Image Scholarship. The award for Best DH Visualisation or Infographic was presented to joint winners Kopano Ratele and Aryan Kaganof for their curated work, herri 10 African Psychology and Gauteng as a village of 100 people, by Samkelisiwe Khanyile, Christian Hamann, Christina Culwick Fatti, Gillian Maree, Guy Trangos, Mncedisi Siteleki, Phemelo Mahamuza, Riaan Pietersen, Richard Ballard, and Samiksha Singh.

The Best Visual Art award, also shared between winners, recognises Oscillations: Sonic Inquiries and Practices by Aidan Erasmus, Marcus Gammel, Julia Gerlach, Heidi Grunebaum, Valmont Layne, Lee Walters, and Rangoato Hlasane for their work, Sesasedi Sa Tsodio ke Sa Koša Kerole. The Best Public Performance, granted to joint winners, was awarded to Restrstring|Reverberate|Resonate by David Bester, Dizu Plaatjies and Matthijs Van Dijk and Tswalo by Billy Langa and Mahlatsi Mokgonyana.

The joint winners of the Best Musical Composition/Arrangement award were Nomfundo Xaluva-Dyantyis for Ndilapha and Andile Khumalo for Tracing Hollow Traces. Meanwhile, the Best Creative Collections Emerging Artist/Curator award was presented to Luvuyo Nyawose for eBhish.

The 2025 HSS Awards winners are provoking excellence

In the Best Fiction categories, *The Equality of Shadows* by Charl-Pierre Naude is complex and operates on multiple levels, much like the concept of 'same time worlds'. It can be interpreted as a satire on the "separateness" inherent in apartheid ideology, which created two worlds divided along racial lines that could quickly, and at times, overlap. This is an engrossing and powerful novel.

The Best Poetry sub-category defies convention, featuring works that challenge the boundaries of form and multilingualism. *Weeping Becomes a River* by Siphokazi Jonas seamlessly weaves *Intsomi*, the musicality of IsiXhosa storytelling, into English and IsiXhosa, creating an experience that is both disorienting and deeply familiar.

In Best Fiction Short Stories, Alex Latimer presents *Love Stories for Ghosts*, an inventive and captivating collection of short tales. In this collection, the author explores the liminal spaces beyond life as one knows it by presenting unconventional stories, including one about a character who falls in love with a dreadful smell. The stories nevertheless give the reader a refreshed and positive perspective on life and death.

The Emerging Author sub-category in Best Fiction compels us to engage with complex and challenging narratives. Once again, the HSS awards underscore the importance of scholarly contributions to public discourse and enhance our appreciation for their role in fostering social cohesion.

In *Patient 12A: A Memoir*, Lesedi Molefi reflects on his tumultuous childhood and his time in a psychiatric clinic in 2016. At Akeso Clinic in Parktown, Johannesburg, Molefi unravels his twenty-four-day journey at the private mental health institution. With vulnerability and candour, he reflects both the significant and minor moments that led him there.

Meanwhile, the Non-Fiction category features past pioneers and role models. For instance, in "Lydia: Anthem to the Unity of Women," Kally Forrest honours Lydia Kompe, whose forced dispossession in the 1930s shaped her lifelong advocacy. Fiercely independent yet profoundly connected to the collective, Ma Kompe stands as a testament to the resilience of South African women.

In the Best Digital Humanities Visualisation or Infographic sub-category, *herri 10 African Psychology* by Kopano Ratele and Aryan Kaganof, notes that in South Africa, psychology remains



Ms Auriel Niemack, Acting Director of the NIHSS, delivering the welcome message at the 10th Annual Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Awards.

racist and disconnected from Africans' psychological and spiritual needs. It is rooted in coloniality, while African spirituality focuses on healing African people from colonial violence. The tension manifests in Black individuals who are called to become *ama Ggirha* or *Makhosi* while engaging with Western psychology and its practitioners. This leads to the misdiagnosis of Indigenous spiritual norms.

Meanwhile, Rangoato Hlasane, in the Best Visual Art sub-category, presents, *Sesasedi Sa Tsodio ke Sa Koša Kerole* (literal translation: Tsodio's Whirlwind summons The Dust of the Song). This experimental work uses *kwaito* videos as points of departure to formulate an implicit theoretical framework encompassing a constellation of persuasive philosophies, ideas and forms. It encourages dialogues between practice and theory encompassing Black studies, African Literary Studies, African Popular Culture, Black Public Humanities, and Pan-Diasporic Arts Practices rooted in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, with an emphasis on the Global South.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

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 (SABTT)



The NIHSS has implemented cross-border study programmes for the BRICS countries in the form of the BRICS Cluster projects. These include the BRICS Research Cluster projects, the BRICS Research Institutes, and International BRICS and Global South Mobility Grants. This follows the vision outlined in the Charter for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) and is part of the CHSS's African Renaissance Programme. In the 2024/25 financial year, the Institute supported and monitored the funding of four BRICS Research Institutes and three BRICS

Cluster projects, including the International BRICS and Global South Mobility Grants.

BRICS RESEARCH CLUSTER PROJECTS

The NIHSS supports and monitors the BRICS Research Cluster Projects, which aim to develop initiatives contributing to a better and safer world order through peaceful diplomacy and multilateralism. The BRICS Research Institutes strengthen these clusters.

Table 11: The BRICS Research Institute and BRICS Cluster Projects Monitored

No.	The BRICS Research Institute and BRICS Cluster Projects monitored	Project Leader and Institution
1	BRICS Shaping Climate Governance and the Just Transition: Partnership between India and South Africa.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
2	China-South African cultural cooperation: Towards dynamism and equity in cultural engagements, cultural trade and soft power.	Prof. Brett Pyper, University of the Witwatersrand
3	Growth and Sustainability of Livelihoods in the BRICS Countries: Knowledge Sharing in Social Justice, Governance, Multilateralism.	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
4	Seeing the Sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable Development and security in Africa.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
5	BRICS security system as an essence of fruitful cooperation.	Prof. Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu-Natal
6	Promoting Intra BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).	Prof. Sam Koma, University of Limpopo
7	Corruption, Ethics, and Governance in South Africa-Issues, cases, and interventions.	Prof. Barwa Kanyane, University of Venda



BRI project leader Prof Fulufhelo Netswera signing the MOU between DUT BRI and the BRICS Committee for International Cooperation in Culture and Art at the 3rd BRICS RI Research Conference, 25-27 September 2024

THE BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTES

THE BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT:

Growth & Sustainability of Livelihoods in the BRICS Countries: Knowledge Sharing in Social Justice, Governance and Multilateralism

Grant Holder: Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology

The broad project deliverables for the *Growth & Sustainability of Livelihoods in the BRICS Countries: Knowledge Sharing in Social Justice, Governance and Multilateralism* are:

1. 20 journal articles,
2. Two (2) conference papers,
3. Four (4) books with the NIHSS acknowledgement,
4. Three (3) hosted conferences,
5. Two (2) hosted postgraduate forums,
6. One (1) BRICS summer school,
7. One (1) BRICS dialogue, and
8. One (1) workshop

The deliverables outlined above are achieved by conducting fieldwork data collection and capacity building for postgraduate students (Master's and Doctoral) in the BRICS nations, with a particular preference for South African citizens.

Conferences and BRICS-RI Dialogue

In the 2024/25 financial year, this project hosted the BRICS Research Institute Conference in China, alongside an in-person BRICS-RI dialogue held in India.

The BRICS Research Institute Conference: China

The BRICS-RI conference series is a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange and research partnerships among BRICS scholars. Its main goal is to explore themes related to

sustainable development, social justice, governance, and multilateral cooperation. Each conference acts as an academic hub, promoting scholarship that addresses regional challenges, particularly those linked to economic growth, social equity, and governance in the Global South.

The 3rd BRICS Research Conference was held at the Daxing International Convention Centre in Beijing, China, from 25 to 27 September 2024. This year's theme, "Growth and Sustainability of Livelihoods in the BRICS Countries: Knowledge Sharing in Social Justice, Governance, and Multilateralism," highlighted the collective focus on promoting economic resilience, social equity, and governance frameworks that support sustainable development across the BRICS countries.

The conference in China gathered leading academics, researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals from the BRICS nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. It emphasised promoting sustainable economic growth, fostering cultural ties, and addressing global challenges collaboratively.

Highlights included signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a tour of the Great Wall. The MOU, signed by the BRICS Research Institute and the BRICS Committee for International Cultural Cooperation, symbolised a commitment to collaboration in cultural diplomacy, policy development, and sustainable growth. The Great Wall tour allowed delegates to experience Chinese heritage and engage in informal discussions that strengthened cross-cultural connections among the BRICS countries.

BRICS-RI Dialogue

Dialogues serve as a critical mechanism for fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnerships among nations, institutions, and stakeholders, particularly in the evolving global context. Within multilateral frameworks,

dialogues facilitate discussions on shared challenges, promote innovation, and identify funding opportunities that can advance mutual interests. The BRICS Research Institute (BRICS-RI) has been instrumental in organising such platforms, enabling BRICS countries to engage meaningfully with Africa, a region poised for significant economic growth and development but facing unique challenges. Through dialogues, stakeholders within BRICS and Africa can address complex issues that require collaborative solutions, including funding gaps, infrastructural needs, and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

India 5th BRICS-RI Dialogue (in-person)

In May 2024, the BRICS-RI, in partnership with Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) in India, hosted a workshop on “Energy Resilience and Sustainability in BRICS Nations.” This event gathered 60 delegates from six countries to discuss policy analysis related to energy resilience and sustainability.

The BRICS-RI postgraduate forums and publication

This BRICS-RI project hosts two postgraduate forums: the Communities of Practice (CoPs) and Capacity Development Fellows (CDFs). The CoP facilitates cross-border research collaborations, contributing to innovative projects and high-quality publications. It has 71 members, including additions in 2024 from Ethiopia, UAE, and Iran.

The Capacity Development Fellows (CDFs) programme is a cornerstone of the BRICS-RI project. It is designed to cultivate a new generation of researchers equipped to address the challenges and opportunities facing BRICS-RI nations. Through a rigorous selection process, the programme identifies outstanding master’s and doctoral students from BRICS countries and provides them with mentorship, training, and opportunities for collaboration. Currently, there are 83 fellows in the programme, which includes 40 master’s students, 41 PhD students, and two (2) postdoctoral researchers. This diverse and talented pool of researchers is being nurtured to make significant contributions to their respective fields.

A critical aspect of the CDF programme is its emphasis on the publication and completion of doctoral and master’s degrees. Each CDF is required to publish an article in a DHET/SCOPUS-accredited journal and to complete their studies by the end of their fellowship, acknowledging the NIHSS. Through the capacity development programmes, twelve (12) candidates have graduated. Of these, four (4) were South African students who were sponsored for tuition fees by the BRICS-RI.



MOU exchange: Prof Sergey Vlandimirovich Andryushin, Vice-Rector for International Activities and Prof Fulufhelo Netswera, Executive Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Durban University of Technology and Head of the BRICS Research Institute.

Publications

Prof. Netswera’s Research Institute team continued to meet publication goals with seven publications originating from this project in 2024. These comprised two books and five journal articles (See Table 12). Additionally, in April 2024, the MGIMO journal released a special issue featuring a total of eight journal articles contributed through the project.

THE BRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT:

Seeing the sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable development and security in Africa

Grant Holder: Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria

The aims of *Seeing the sea: Promoting BRICS maritime cooperation for sustainable development and security in Africa* are:

1. To provide **a platform for scholars and researchers** to interact with policy actors, exchange ideas, and generate evidence-based policy recommendations. This two-year project ensures longer-term engagement with the country’s BRICS and African maritime agenda, including the maritime dimension of South Africa’s national interest.



Participants at the roundtable discussion hosted by BRI Project Leader, Prof Maxi Schoeman of the University of Pretoria.

2. **Policy analysis**, as generating and exchanging ideas, relies on understanding various BRICS policies in the maritime domain. There will be a particular focus on gender in documents and initiatives. The policy analyses will also identify challenges and opportunities for refinement and implementation, as well as gaps, and generate evidence-based support for the South African government in reformulating pertinent BRICS-related policies and programmes in the maritime domain.
3. Conduct a **comprehensive literature review**. Over the past three to five years, there has been significant growth in scholarship addressing maritime issues. The question guiding the literature review is the extent to which existing scholarship provides insights into 'using' and governing the marine domain with a view to advantage and promoting South Africa's national interests.

4. **Engage with academics and researchers** across the continent to gather their perspectives on how South Africa can advance the continent's interests within the BRICS forum. Particular attention is given to how Africa's landlocked and island states could be supported in the face of climate change challenges and disasters.
5. **Knowledge creation and capacity building**. Youth involvement through skills and knowledge development is a priority, with at least three postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows closely engaged in the various project activities.

Scholars and researchers exchange:

This project's activities during the financial year 2024/25 have successfully expanded the network of institutions interested in maritime matters, particularly concerning maritime security issues within the BRICS sector. This fosters collaboration with other institutions and universities. The BRICS Research Institute project conducts all workshops, roundtables, and other activities, wherever possible, in a hybrid format to ensure broader reach and increased participation.

Dr Yu-Shan Wu, a postdoctoral fellow involved in the project, facilitated a seminar titled *Sea Change: Novel Ways of Imagining the Oceans* in May 2024. This seminar brought together influential authors from Kenya and South Africa. It featured a discussion with Kenyan novelist Yvonne Owuor, focusing on her book *The Dragonfly Sea* and other works set in maritime worlds, alongside Dr Charne Lavery from the UP English Department, author of *Writing Ocean Worlds*. Professor James Ogude (UP) delivered the closing comments at the seminar.

In July 2024, Dr Yu-Shan Wu also facilitated a discussion at the project roundtable titled "*On the Road to BRICS 2024: Agenda, Process, Politics*." The discussion was led by Sanusha Naidu, a well-known political commentator, lecturer, and recognised expert on the BRICS. At the same time, Dr. Emmanuel Matambo, Research Director at the Centre for Africa-China Studies (CACS) at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), was a respondent. In their "Event Summary II on 2 August 2024" of the event, Master's student Daniela Marggraff and postdoctoral fellow Yu-Shan Wu concluded that the roundtable discussion "underscored the significance of the upcoming BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia" and that it "prompted critical thinking on issues key to the buildup to the summit" (2024:6).



Participants at the roundtable discussion hosted by BRI Project Leader, Prof Maxi Schoeman of the University of Pretoria, fostering dialogue on key issues shaping the BRICS research agenda.

The project leader, Prof. Maxi Schoeman participated in the *9th Our Oceans Conference* held in Athens in April 2024, where Prof. Schoeman was a panellist addressing maritime security issues in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Eastern Mediterranean. The project also hosted a colloquium titled *Oceans and Ocean Regions Governance: Third Colloquium* in November 2024.

The project's postgraduate students participate in its roundtable discussions and assist in organising events. Additionally, Ms Marggraff and Mr Ramachela delivered guest lectures in the MA Diploma Studies programme this semester, resulting in genuine involvement in the project and providing networking opportunities to enhance their Curriculum Vitae.

Youth: Skills, knowledge development and capacity building

The project funded two Master's scholarships, one doctoral scholarship, and one postdoctoral fellowship starting from 2023 and going into the 2024/25 financial year. The two Master's students were Ms. Tshegofatso Ramachela and Ms. Daniela Marggraff. Ms Ramachela graduated with distinction in May 2024. Ms Marggraff's high standard in her submitted Master's in 2024 resulted in an approved upgrade to PhD studies. Ms. Marggraff will, therefore, take up the PhD scholarship stipulated in this research grant. Mr. David Willima, who was awarded a small Master's scholarship, successfully completed his MA

and graduated in September 2024, while Dr Wu retained her postdoctoral fellowship. Dr Samuel Oyewole was also appointed as a part-time postdoctoral fellow for this project.

All four emerging scholars, previously mentioned, are deeply involved in this research project, as evidenced in the scholars and researchers exchange, and have also regularly contributed to some of the project's outputs as authors or co-authors (see Table 12).

Knowledge creation

Part of the commitments fulfilled in this project during 2024/25 included the team's publication of a special journal issue, an edited volume, and several op-eds written by emerging scholars (see Table 12). Regarding the latter, for instance, in April 2024, Ms Marggraff, Ms Angela Kapato, and Dr Wu undertook a research trip with colleagues to maritime and naval facilities in Cape Town. The resulting op-ed on SA maritime concepts reflects some of the group's impressions.

Ms Marggraff also published an op-ed in May 2024 highlighting the invisibility of small (African) island states on maps. Meanwhile, Ms Ramachela published two op-ed pieces; one included a reflection on her attendance at the biennial *Posidonia International Shipping Expo* in Athens in June. Dr Yu-Shan Wu



Prof Samuel Koma, Director of the School of Economics and Management at UL presented on "Propelling Economic Growth through Special Economic Zones (SEZs)"

published a piece in the APRI Report in June 2024 that explored the Indo-Pacific in relation to China and Africa, the implications of the Indo-Pacific narrative for Africa, and the challenges posed by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Africa, concluding with the implications for the Indo-Pacific and BRI narratives.

THE BRICS RESEARCH CLUSTER PROJECTS

BRICS RESEARCH CLUSTER PROJECT:

Promoting Intra BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Grant Holder: Prof. Sam Koma, University of Limpopo

The primary objective of *Promoting Intra-BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)* is to examine the use and application of PPPs as a mechanism to ensure the promotion of economic growth and development in South Africa and the BRICS countries and to contribute to a framework for PPPs in the BRICS countries.

The project team comprises researchers from various universities, including the University of Johannesburg, the University of South

Africa (UNISA), and the University of Limpopo. This collaboration has enabled the project to draw on multidisciplinary perspectives shared and infused by team members.

A notable highlight of the project was the project seminar held in September at the University of Limpopo.

Seminar – crucial discussions

On 2 September 2024, the project hosted a seminar on *Promoting intra – BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships*. The seminar was hosted by the University of Limpopo's Faculty of Management and Law, supported by the SABTT and the NIHSS.

This event's purpose was to present and unpack the preliminary findings related to the implementation of this project, which targeted an audience of approximately fifty (50) participants.

An article on the seminar appeared in the INSide UL Newsletter on 6 September 2024:8-9. Written by Malatji Monyelegwete, the article emphasises the importance of the discussions at the seminar, particularly considering the "significant share" that the BRICS bloc represents of "the world's population and economic output."



Prof Omphemetse Sibanda, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management and Law at UL presented on "Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships to Enhance International Trade and Economic Development within the BRICS Bloc"

The presenters were led by the project leader Prof. Koma who presented on "Propelling Economic Growth through Special Economic Zones (SEZs)." Prof Khoma:

[Explained] how BRICS countries are leveraging PPPs in trade, manufacturing, agriculture, and mining. He pointed out that in South Africa, these partnerships are central to the success of SEZs, which are bolstered by fiscal incentives to attract foreign direct investment and boost international competitiveness. (Monyelegwete, 2024:9)

The presentation by Ms Arina Muresan, a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue at the University of South Africa (Unisa), and member of the project team, was regarded as a highlight of the seminar:

[Ms Muresan] explored the impact of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in education. She underscored the critical role private education providers play in bridging gaps in norms and infrastructure. "Companies like Vuleka Schools, Future Nation Schools, Curro, and Spark Schools are not just offering educational opportunities – they are easing the burden on public schools, allowing them to focus on improving the quality of education," Muresan explained. (Monyelegwete, 2024:9)

Other presenters at the seminar included the project team member, Dr Onkgopotse Madumo, from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and Prof. Omphemetse Sibanda, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Management and Law at the University of Limpopo (UL). Dr Madumo:

[Delved] into the potential of PPPs on improving water service delivery in South Africa, a country facing severe water scarcity. "Municipalities as Water Service Authorities face challenges like limited investment and ageing infrastructure. PPPs offer a viable solution, but their success varies across BRICS nations due to different political, economic, and social contexts," Madumo noted. (Monyelegwete, 2024:9)

Prof. Sibanda concentrated on utilising PPPs "to boost international trade within the BRICS bloc," and emphasised "the BRICS bloc's growing influence, noting that it now accounts for over 18% of global exports and plays a crucial role in regional economic hubs." (Monyelegwete, 2024:9).

The outcomes of this seminar will guide the finalisation of research papers and policy briefs, which will be disseminated to a broader audience through journals and other relevant platforms.



African Pathways mobility: Post interview with Chairman of NASU Comrade Femi, Dr Joshua and Comrade Ibadan

THE INTERNATIONAL BRICS AND GLOBAL SOUTH MOBILITY GRANTS

The International BRICS and Global South Mobility Grants are awarded to South African researchers, academics, and postgraduate students (at master's and doctoral levels) who intend to undertake research and teaching endeavours at BRIC Global South universities and research institutes. The grant may also be awarded to South African academics and researchers wishing to host a collaborating partner during short-term research and/or teaching visits in South Africa.

LEARNING MOBILITIES GRANT:

Perspectives on Workers' Education in Nigeria and South Africa.

Grant Holder: Prof. Mondli Hlatshwayo, University of Johannesburg

The purpose of the project *Perspectives on Workers' Education in Nigeria and South Africa* includes:

1. Travelling to the University of Ibadan (Nigeria) to collect data on worker education, precarious work, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
2. Conducting research
3. The production of a technical research report

4. Producing a peer-reviewed journal article
5. Producing two policy briefs on the subject matter
6. Strengthening networks between the University of Johannesburg and other institutions

Strengthening networks

To strengthen collaboration between the University of Johannesburg and the University of Ibadan, discussions were initiated regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Department of Adult Education at the University of Ibadan. Further, during the 2024/25 financial year, a webinar was held, and youth were engaged in the project as interns and postdoctoral fellows.

Webinar: Workers' education in South Africa and Nigeria

In September 2024, the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation, in collaboration with the DHET-NRF SARCHI Chair in Community, Adult, and Workers' Education (CAWE), hosted a successful webinar on worker education in Nigeria and South Africa. The webinar, attended by 34 participants, featured discussions on competing ideologies and perspectives regarding workers' education. Professor Mondli Hlatshwayo, who has researched workers' education in both Nigeria and South Africa, was joined by Baba Aye and Edwin Nisha, both notable intellectuals and activists within the Nigerian and global labour movement. A summary of the webinar is as follows:



African Pathways mobility: Dr Joshua (in red cap) with Chairman of National Association of Academic Technologists to the left, Comrade (Hon) Ibeji Nwokoma JP

Comparative analysis of the African labour movements is rare, and yet these movements grapple with similar challenges, such as confronting colonial and post-colonial labour regimes. While South Africa and Nigeria boast invaluable literature on workers' education, an educational tool used by the labour movements, no attempts have been made to compare structured workers' education in both countries. To bridge this gap, this webinar [examined] workers' education in Nigeria and South Africa, with the aim of unveiling patterns of both similarities and dissimilarities in their perspectives and implementation. (<https://mojafrica.net/en/event/2024/perspectives-on-workers-education-in-nigeria-and-south-africa>)

Postdoctoral fellows and interns

Two interns, Wanda Lubelo and Amanda Ntaka, are providing support to the project research team and participating in the centre's educational activities.

Dr Chinegbonkpa Hope A. Nwakanma, a postdoctoral fellow at the College of Management Sciences, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria, is currently working in the Department of Industrial Relations and Personnel Management. Additionally, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) has recognised Dr Oluwatoyin Bawalla (PhD) from Olabisi

Onabanjo University's Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun, as a Research Associate at the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation at UJ.

Research and Publication

The project team published and distributed a research report on the project to its partners, and a policy brief was submitted to the Ministry of Justice and Accountability (MOJA) for publication. The latter aims to make the policy brief accessible to stakeholders in adult and worker education in South Africa and across the continent. This policy brief is supported by the NIHSS, Centre for Education Rights and Transformation (Cert), and the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

Research articles stemming from the project have been produced, including one by P. Mutekwe and Prof. Hlatshwayo, which focuses on "Trade Unions and Worker Education: A Comparative Analysis of Worker Education in Nigeria and South Africa." This article has been submitted to the DHET-accredited journal "Social Sciences & Humanities Open." The project has also resulted in a journal article published by Prof. Hlatshwayo in 2024, titled "Contending perspectives on workers' education in Nigeria and South Africa."

NUMBER OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS/PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE BRICS PROJECT LEADERS

Table 12: Research Outputs

No.	Research Output Produced	Project Leader and Institution
1	Benkenstein, A. 2024. The Price Is Transition: Who Gets it All? 16 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Mr Alex Benkenstein, South African Institute for International Affairs
2	Bhoola, S., Chetty, D., Ngcobo, N., Moolakkattu, J., and Chathukulam, J. 2025. The Perceptions of the Underlying Determinants of Civil Unrest and Violence in South Africa in July 2021. <i>African Renaissance</i> Vol. 22, (No. 1), pp 329-354.	Dr Sheetal Bhoola, University of Zululand
3	Chetty, K. 2024. People in the Spotlight: Maximizing BRICS Biggest Asset. 16 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Mr Krish Chetty, Human Sciences Research Council
4	de Souza Rodrigues, D., de Paula Fonseca, B., and Fernandes, E. 2024. Digital Transformation in the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases: A Scoping Review. <i>Curr Trop Med Rep</i> 11:8–91. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40475-024-00319-x	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
5	Gopal, N. D. 2024. Embracing Progress and Avoiding Dangers: Guidelines for An Era of High-Tech. 16 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Prof. Nirmala D. Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
6	Gumede, N., and Govender, E. 2024. Socio-cultural influences of perceptions of risk and self-efficacy on COVID messaging in three selected South African locations in Lewis, M., Govender, E.M., and Holland, K. (eds.). 2024. <i>Communicating COVID-19: Media, Trust and Public Engagement</i> by Palgrave MacMillian.	Prof. Eliza Govender, University of KwaZulu-Natal
7	Hlatshwayo, M., and Dor, L. 2024. Workers Education. South Africa and Nigeria. UJ: Centre for Education Research and Transformation.	Prof. Mondli Hlatshwayo, University of Johannesburg
8	Kanyane, M. (ed.) 2024. <i>Corruption, Ethics, and Governance in South Africa</i> . London: Routledge Publishers. www.routledge.com/9781032755656	Prof. Barwa Kanyane, University of Venda
9	Khanyile, M., B. 2024. New Security Threats: Terrorism and Information in the Digital Age. 16 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Dr Moses B. Khanyile, CD(SA), University of Stellenbosch
10	Lavhelesani, M., and Tshikovhi, N. 2024. Rural Entrepreneurship and Innovation in BRICS Economies: Secondary Evidence from Rural Areas in South Africa. <i>Sustainability</i> 16(6): 2408. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/su16062408	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
11	Makhanya, T. B. 2024. The higher education access experiences of African disadvantaged students: a call for anti-colonial discourse. <i>South African Journal of Higher Education</i> , 38(3): 250-261 pages. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.20853/38-3-5751	Dr Thembelihle Makhanya, University of Mpumalanga
12	Makhanya, T. B. 2024. Initial Experiences of African Students When Entering the Higher Education Institution: A Social Justice Perspective. <i>Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development</i> 36(1):1-20 pages. DOI: https://doi.org/10.25159/2708-9355/13027	Dr Thembelihle Makhanya, University of Mpumalanga
13	Makhanya, T.B., and Mzinyane, B.M. 2024. Mazibuyele emasisweni: the nexus of Ubuntu philosophy, climate change and green social work. <i>Critical and Radical Social Work</i> . DOI: https://doi.org/10.1332/20498608Y2024D000000034	Dr Thembelihle Makhanya, University of Mpumalanga
14	Maponya, P., Tshikovhi, N., and Netswera, F. (eds.). 2024. <i>Innovation and Development of Agricultural Systems: Cases from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)</i> . Springer Nature Singapore, Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 9789819729265, 9819729262	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
15	Marggraff, D. 2024. Redefining Island Spaces: from Terra Nullius to Indianocéania. Op-ed 6.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
16	Marggraff, D. 2024. Unseen realities: The states that are missing from our maps. Op-ed 3.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
17	Marggraff, D., and Oyewole, S. 2024. Space for Survival: The Critical Role of Space Support for Small Island Nations. Research Brief No 4.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
18	Marggraff, D., Wu, Y.S., and Kapato, A. 2024. Is south Africa a Maritime nation? Op-ed 2.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
19	Ncwadi, R. 2024. Why the World is Not Becoming Multipolar: Just Finance. 16 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Prof. Ronney Ncwadi, Nelson Mandela University
20	Ncwadi, R. 2024. Guardians of International Trade: Security Long-Term Growth. 16 th BRICS Academic Forum.	Prof. Ronney Ncwadi, Nelson Mandela University
21	Netswera, F. 2024. MGIM Review of International Relations 17(1) 2024.	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
22	Ngcobo, N., Bhoola, S., Chetty, D., Chathukulam, J., and Moolakkattu, J. 2024. Social Cohesion After Looting and Violence: Restoring the Spirit of Ubuntu in the Informal Settlements of Bhambayi, South Africa. <i>African Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies</i> (formerly Ubuntu: Journal of Conflict and Social Transformation) 13(2): 97-119 pages. DOI: https://doi.org/10.31920/2634-3665/2024/v13n2a5	Dr Sheetal Bhoola, University of Zululand

No.	Research Output Produced	Project Leader and Institution
23	NIHSS-SABTT. 2024a. BRICS Academic Review 2024. BRICS & Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism. Issue 8.	NIHSS-SABTT
24	NIHSS-SABTT. 2024b. BRICS Academic Review 2024. BRICS & Russia: Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security. Issue 9.	NIHSS-SABTT
25	Oyewole, S. 2024. Space support for African Maritime Strategies. Op-ed 4.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
26	Ramachela, T. 2024. The Militarisation of the Red Sea Corridor: Implications of Ongoing Instability and Prolonged Securitisation for African Countries in the Region. Research Brief No 3.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
27	Ramachela, T. 2024. Low African Representation at the Posidonia International Shipping Expo. Op-ed 5.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
28	Razwinani, M., Tshikovhi, N., and Motaung, K. S. 2024. Benefits and Challenges of Research Commercialisation in South Africa: A Systemic Review. African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies, 6(1), pp. 1–10. DOI: https://doi.org/10.51415/ajims.v6i1.1210	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
29	Tshikovhi, N., Netswera, F., and Rena, R. (eds.). 2024. Entrepreneurship in the BRICS: Economic Development and Growth in the Post-Pandemic World. Routledge Advances in Management and Business Studies. Taylor and Francis. ISBN: 1040153402, 9781040153406	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
30	Ventura, R. V., Fernandes, E., Cabo, M., Carvalho, C. F. de M., Fernandes, V. A., and Tshikovhi, N. 2024. Socioeconomic Factors Driving International Travel Destination for Tourism. Tourism Planning & Development, 1–19. https://doi.org/10.1080/21568316.2024.2368730	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology

NUMBER OF SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES HOSTED, CO-HOSTED AND FUNDED IN 2024/25

Engagement on BRICS cluster projects and other related academic matters took place throughout 2024/25 in the form of seminars, workshops, and conferences. Nineteen events were hosted in the financial year 2024/25.

Table 13: BRICS Academic Seminars, Workshops and Conferences in 2024/25

No.	Academic date and event	Project Leader and Institution
1	8-9 April 2024, Strengthening the Global South Climate Agenda: Recommendations for the G20 and BRICS+.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, South African Institute of International Affairs
2	21 May 2024, Sea Change: Novel Ways of Imagining the Oceans.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
3	24-25 May 2024, Energy Resilience and Sustainability in BRICS+ Nations – A Policy Analysis Perspective.	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University
4	24 June 2024-25 July 2024, Third Postgraduate with the São Paulo Advanced School on Technology & Innovation Strategies and Policies for Economic Development.	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
5	5 July 2024, Security of BRICS Economic Relations: Problems & Challenges.	Prof. Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
6	30 July 2024, On the Road to BRICS 2024: Agenda, Process, Politics.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
7	15 August 2024, The Nexus Between Security and Economy: BRICS Perspectives.	Prof. Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu Natal
8	02 September 2024, Promoting intra- BRICS cooperation for economic growth and development through lessons on Public-Private Partnerships.	Prof. Sam Koma, University of Limpopo
9	20 September 2024, Moving hearts, Bodies and Minds: Dance as a pathway to healing from Gender-Based Violence.	Prof. Nirmala Gopal, University of KwaZulu-Natal
10	25-27 September 2024, 3 rd BRICS RI Research Conference - Growth and sustainability of livelihoods in the BRICS countries: knowledge sharing in social justice, governance and multilateralism.	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
11	30 September 2024, Perspectives on Workers' Education in Nigeria and South Africa.	Prof. Mondli Hlatshwayo, Centre for Education Rights and Transformation at the University of Johannesburg
12	August 2024, Three Horizons Framework Foresight Workshops – Brazil – South Africa Climate and Just Transition Partnership.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA

No.	Academic date and event	Project Leader and Institution
13	10 September 2024, Africa and the BRICS Agenda on Climate and the Just Transition.	Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA
14	06 November 2024, Glocalising prevention efforts: A social-cultural perspective to exploring COVID-19 perceptions through community engagement.	Prof. Eliza Govender, University of KwaZulu-Natal
15	11-12 November 2024, Oceans and Ocean Regions Governance: Third Colloquium.	Prof. Maxi Schoeman, University of Pretoria
16	13-16 November 2024, Year-End Project Closure and Hand Over Program.	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
17	From 19 to 24 January 2025, BRICS And Global South Mobility Programme Titled: Early Career Academics Mentorship Programme – Comparative Analysis Project of Selected Universities In South Africa And Brazil.	Dr Themba Baloyi, University of Limpopo
18	On 31 January 2025, South African Youth Unemployment and Disempowerment: Where To?	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera, Durban University of Technology
19	On 28 February 2025, COVID-19 and Climate Change in BRICS Nations.	Prof. Fulufhelo, Durban University of Technology

FLAGSHIP EVENTS:

The SABTT Pre-Academic Forum 2024 and the 16th BRICS Academic Forum

The NIHSS implements the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT) agenda and works with other BRICS Think Tanks through the BRICS Think Tank Council (BTCC). The BTCC holds its flagship BRICS Academic Forum annually, and its mandate is to provide policy and research support to its respective national governments. South Africa hosts a Pre-Academic Forum before the Academic Forum, and BTCC meetings on the sidelines of the Academic Forum. Outputs emanating from these fora include but are not limited to the following: paper presentations by delegates and commissioned research papers (see Table 13).

SABTT Pre-Academic Forum 2024

It is notable that, as is customary, before the 16th BRICS Academic Forum, the South African BRICS Think Tank hosted a Pre-Academic Forum under the auspices of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences. This was to prepare the South African delegation elected for the upcoming 16th BRICS Academic Forum. The online event took place on 09 May 2024.

The South African delegation was comprised of an experienced and competent SABTT team, led by the SABTT Chairperson, Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa (CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council); the BRICS and Research Executive Manager, Ms Auriel Niemack; Senior Programme Coordinator, Mr Senkhu Maimane; and Programme Coordinator Dr Babalwa Siswana and Senior Manager Mr Tebogo Molaoa.

An accomplished, diverse and relevant team of academic leaders and scholars accompanied the SABTT delegation to the 16th BRICS Academic Forum. These included Prof. Nirmala Gopal from the University of KwaZulu-Natal; Prof. Ronney Ncwadi from Nelson Mandela University; Dr Moses Khanyile from Stellenbosch University; Mr Krish Chetty from the Human Sciences Research



Flags representing BRICS Think Tanks Council Members at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum, Moscow, Russia

Council; Mr Alex Benkenstein from the South African Institute of International Affairs; and Mr Simon Motlhanke from the Department of Higher Education and Training.

South Africa's Participation at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum – Moscow, Russia

On 1 January 2024, Russia assumed the BRICS Chairship. This BRICS presidency is significant as the bloc welcomed new members: Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and



Members of the BRICS Think Tanks Council from left to right: Dr Alireza Khoda Gholipoure, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, Walter A. Desidera Neto, Dr Victoria Panova, Dr Xin Jin, Dr Jafar Bedru Geletu, Dr Nandan Unnikrishnan

Saudi Arabia – to the BRICS Family. This followed the adoption of the 15th BRICS Summit Declaration in August 2023 (BRICS Summit Declaration – Johannesburg II).

According to the Russian BRICS calendar, the BRICS Expert Council, operating under the auspices of the Russian National Research University Higher School of Economics – a member of the BRICS Think Tanks Council (BTTC) – convened the 2024 BRICS Think Tank Council meetings and the 16th BRICS Academic Forum from 22 to 24 May 2024, in Moscow, Russia.

The BRICS Think Tanks Council and the 16th BRICS Academic Forum were once again significant gatherings for thought leaders and intellectuals. The latter provided a unique and essential academic exchange and knowledge-sharing platform that contributes to the discourse on pressing international community issues, such as global governance, economic development, and geopolitical dynamics, among leading experts, scholars, and policymakers. Delegates attended from the core BRICS nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, alongside the new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, experts from Algeria, Canada, Nigeria, and the United States attended the 16th BRICS Academic Forum by invitation.

The 16th BRICS Academic Forum presented a comprehensive programme covering a wide array of topics. The thematic areas were as follows:

- Global Governance
- International Security
- Trade and economic cooperation
- Improving international financial and monetary systems
- Business and investments
- Equitable development
- Energy transition
- Food and energy security
- Environmental protection
- Science, technology and innovation
- Education
- Cooperation in the field of health
- Developing people to people connections

Scholars and researchers presented their latest findings, discussed ongoing projects, and sought peer feedback at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum. The interdisciplinary nature of the discussions promoted a holistic understanding of complex issues, and the incorporation of diverse methodologies and theoretical frameworks enriched the intellectual discourse. The

Table 14: The South African delegation's topics presented at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum

No.	Session Topic	Speaker representing South Africa
1	New Links of Security: Terrorism in the Digital Age	Dr Moses Khanyile
2	The cost of the energy transition: who will win?	Mr Alex Benkenstein
3	Guardian of International Trade: Ensuring Long-Term Growth	Prof. Ronney Ncwadi
4	Safe progress: development in the era of high technology	Prof. Nirmala Gopal
5	Why the world is not becoming multipolar: fair finance	Prof. Ronney Ncwadi
6	People in the spotlight: increasing the largest BRICS asset	Mr Krish Chetty

diversity of perspectives and the depth of analysis presented during the forum, including contributions from the South African delegation, underscored the significance of multilateral cooperation in addressing global challenges.

The South African delegation effectively represented the country through their relevant topics, thorough research, significant findings, professional presentations and insightful input during sessions (see Table 14).

Deliberations at the BRICS Think Tanks Council and the Academic Forum were not limited to theoretical debates; they also extended to the formulation of policy recommendations and practical implications. The insights generated from the discussions were crucial in identifying actionable measures that could contribute to inclusive growth, sustainable development, and enhanced cooperation among the BRICS nations. The emphasis on evidence-based policy formulation and the integration of local contexts in the proposed recommendations highlighted the commitment to relevance and impact.

The BRICS Think Tanks Council and Academic Forum provided a platform for cultural exchange and diplomatic engagement. Cultural events enabled participants to explore the host country's heritage and traditions, fostering mutual respect. Informal dialogues on diplomatic relations enhanced appreciation of the complexities of international affairs. In addition, the event offered ample networking opportunities. Interactions during breaks and informal gatherings facilitated meaningful connections and potential collaborations. The diverse expertise and shared commitment to advancing knowledge nurtured an environment for partnerships expected to extend beyond the forum's duration.

The BRICS Think Tanks Council meeting and the 16th BRICS Academic Forum produced key BTTC recommendations for the Leaders' Summit. This summit took place from 22 to 24 October 2024 in Kazan, as Russia hosted the 16th BRICS Summit under the motto "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security."

THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Presenter: Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa

Session: Plenary session—BRICS: new pieces on the world chessboard

At the 16th BRICS Academic Forum, Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa, the SABTT interim Chairperson and CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council, once again dynamically addressed the Forum. In her introduction, Prof. Mosoetsa acknowledged the dignitaries, extended condolences to the Iranian people for the loss of their President, paid tribute to the new BRICS members, and recognised those who collectively support the people of Palestine.

Prof. Mosoetsa addressed seven main points and values. These included strength in diversity, the diversity of civilisations, the power of what the BRICS does, their academics and policy experts, new ideas, a just transition, and the values of the BRICS. Prof. Mosoetsa noted that the differences among the BRICS countries bind the bloc together and enhance its strength, emphasising that their work is profoundly political and crucial in challenging harmful notions. Furthermore, it has the power to reshape the discourse and deliver tangible outcomes for the people of the BRICS and beyond, particularly on the African continent. Prof. Mosoetsa encouraged the delegates to achieve new heights through research-based policy developments and highlighted that innovation is essential for identifying and strengthening areas of collaboration.

Prof. Mosoetsa emphasised the potential of innovative ideas, developed through thorough research, to become powerful realities, such as the New Development Bank and the New Vaccine Centre. New areas for exploration, Prof. Mosoetsa suggested, include Energy and Climate Change (early detection), food sovereignty, issues surrounding power (energy), Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Prof. Mosoetsa encouraged everyone to recognise that the concept of humanitarianism, as embedded in the African notion of Ubuntu (*I am because you are*), is essential for achieving peace and security.



Dr Moses Khanyile presenting at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum Session "New Security Threats: Terrorism and Information in the Digital Age"

Presenter: Dr Moses Khanyile

Session: *New Links of Security: Terrorism in the Digital Age*

International Security, Dr Moses Khanyile, the Director of the Centre for Military Studies at the University of Stellenbosch, presented on "New Links of Security: Terrorism in the Digital Age." Dr Khanyile wove the observations of previous speakers into his presentation, reinforcing the relevance of his research and, thereby, that of South Africa, as it complemented the thinking of other leading global researchers.

Dr Khanyile defined non-traditional security (NTS) as threats to the survival and well-being of people and states from 'non-military sources'. He cited examples such as energy supply, climate change, cybersecurity, infectious diseases, and illicit financial transfers. He noted that "the distinction between traditional and nontraditional security threats was originally academic but has become more for practical purposes." Issues such as food, water, and borders, which triggered wars, now coexist with new threats.

Dr. Khanyile identified key elements of NTS threats: limited military involvement, borderless nature, exploitation by terrorist organisations, and actions by both state and non-state actors. He highlighted the pressing NTS threat of the digital arms race and Artificial Intelligence, stating, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here, and it is either going to build or it is going to destroy. The BRICS needs to be ready for both – in equal measure." He elaborated on AI's threat, linking it to the new Cold War and global arms race, which undermine international trade rules, affect global order, widen the digital divide, and heighten vulnerability to cyber-attacks.

After contextualising the NTS threats within the BRICS framework, Dr Khanyile illustrated the disparity in AI rankings among the BRICS nations. He emphasised that the statistics indicate a solid foundation of investment, infrastructure, and human capital skills within the BRICS countries, which, combined with the size of the BRICS, fosters optimism for making a significant impact on AI in the future. Dr Khanyile shared future considerations for the BRICS as they strive to unify their voice on AI, ensuring his reflections resonated with Prof. Mosoetsa's call, focusing on the impact of these issues on the African continent.

- Develop strategies to address NTS threats.
- Align intra-BRICS policies on:
 - Extractive mineral industries, especially critical minerals sourced from Africa;
 - AI investments and regulations affecting the global majority;
 - Energy Just Transition, as much of the BRICS' energy infrastructure is relatively young in Africa.
- Address the proliferation of foreign military bases in critical trade routes, particularly in West Africa.
- Leverage membership in multilateral organisations (e.g., UN agencies, G20) and ensure we all "sing from the same hymn sheet."
- Define the role of regional organisations in the BRICS, like the African Union, for special membership or observer status.

Dr Khanyile concluded that the above considerations are essential for ensuring that the BRICS has "a unified stance for any issues that are bedevilling global politics."



16th BRICS Academic Forum Session titled "The Price Is Transition: Who Gets it All?" Representing South Africa is Mr Alex Benkenstein, pictured second from left.

Presenter: Mr Alex Benkenstein

Session: The cost of the energy transition: who will win?

Mr. Alex Benkenstein of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) leads the Climate and Natural Resources Programme. He addressed a research area Prof. Mosoetsa identified as needing "more rigorous" examination: Energy and Climate Change.

Mr Benkenstein's presentation was based on work by SAIIA that, besides proposing practical recommendations on the relevant issue, also highlights the layers of the BRICS engagement and the significance of intra-BRICS research collaboration. This focuses on just energy transitions, including the project BRICS and the Just Transition: Partnerships between South Africa and Brazil, which the South African BRICS Think Tank supports. Mr Benkenstein was joined in the session by esteemed global researchers.

Mr Benkenstein highlighted that although energy transition has "significant potential benefits," it also raises the risk that "certain regions, including Africa, will be marginalised in the context of geoeconomic competition." Other risks include "driving up costs, with knock-on effects for the pace of transition." He emphasised the complex context of energy transition. He

referred to "multiple, nested transitions including technology, work and skills, demographic, global distribution of power" as well as "the context of global inequality, poverty and developmental challenges." Added to the aforementioned is the "growing global competition" for green value chains, including "investment, innovation and jobs."

Mr Benkenstein proposed that there is a need to ensure the consolidation of the "BRICS cooperation on energy, focusing on continuity and scaling" in the following areas:

- Skills – the BRICS Energy Skills Roadmap
- Research and Innovation – the BRICS Africa JET Centre of Excellence; the BRICS Climate Partnership Research Centre
- Finance – the BRICS Clean Energy Fund; the NDB
- Peer learning and exchange – the BRICS Energy Cooperation Forum.

After delving into the relevant focus areas and expanding on the area of critical minerals and green technology, Mr Benkenstein shared his recommendations, which he summed up as follows:

- Consolidate and scale the BRICS energy and climate cooperation (skills, research and innovation, finance, peer learning and exchange)
- Focus on driving down costs and addressing barriers to



16th BRICS Academic Forum Session titled: "Guardians of International Trade: Securing Long-Term Growth". Representing South Africa is Prof Ronney Ncwadi, pictured seventh from the left.

expedite transition while maintaining insistence on justice/equity dimensions.

- Strengthen engagement in critical minerals processing and downstream green value chains.
- Peer learning and knowledge exchange related to societal dialogue on just transition, with due recognition of the unique circumstances of member countries
- Lay the foundations for a successful 2025 Brazil UNFCCC COP30 Presidency.

Presenter: Prof. Ronney Ncwadi

Session: Guardian of International Trade: Ensuring Long-Term Growth

Prof. Ronney Ncwadi, the Director of the School of Economics, Development and Tourism at Nelson Mandela University, represented South Africa in two sessions at the Forum. In the first session, Prof. Ncwadi introduced the characteristics of the new era of trade expansion and integration and noted the positive impact of technological innovations on "the way goods and services are traded", which results in the "unlocking of new opportunities for growth and competitiveness". He shared that a critical way this trade optimisation is achieved is by reducing transaction costs and utilising automation and digitisation, including automation technologies and AI, which increase operational efficiency.

A South African and African perspective was central to Prof. Ncwadi's presentation as he illustrated points raised concerning case studies from the continent and his home country. This was evident in his discussion of business challenges, such as trade wars, worsening international economic relations, lack of access to loans for private entities, insufficient government grants for new industries and technologies, and a lack of tax relief for manufactured export goods. Prof. Ncwadi proceeded to unpack what would strengthen trade in the BRICS and how awareness of business opportunities in the BRICS markets could be raised. His suggestions supported greater intra-BRICS formal engagement, creation of agreements, and cooperation. He also noted the role of key focus areas and values of the BRICS, such as "cultural exchange and business networking" and "resilience through diversity".

Before sharing a summary and recommendations, Prof. Ncwadi illustrated how cooperation in investment projects and special economic zones within the BRICS could be achieved, highlighted the strengths of trade digitalisation in the BRICS, and discussed technological solutions to ensure supply chain transparency.



Prof Nirmala Gopal presenting at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum Session "Embracing Progress and Avoiding Dangers: Guidelines for an Era of High-Tech"

Prof. Ncwadi's recommendations for the BRICS to ensure long-term growth in international trade are as follows:

- Streamlining regulations and reducing bureaucratic red tape.
- Enhancing legal frameworks to ensure consistent enforcement.
- Investing in infrastructure development (transport, energy, digital).
- Improving access to finance through financial reforms and incentives.
- Strengthening anti-corruption measures and governance frameworks.
- Reducing trade barriers and promoting open markets.
- Focusing on education and vocational training to bridge skills gaps.
- Developing a unified digital trade platform for BRICS countries. Standardising electronic documentation and digital signatures.
- Implementing blockchain technology for secure and transparent transactions.
- Enhancing digital infrastructure to support high-speed internet and connectivity. Promoting digital literacy and skills training for businesses.
- Encouraging the adoption of e-commerce and digital payment systems.

Presenter: Prof. Nirmala Gopal

Session: Safe progress: development in the era of high technology

Prof. Nirmala Gopal, a Senior Academic at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, presented on "Safe Progress: Development in the Era of High Technology." Prof. Gopal emphasised the need to consider how technology impacts humans. South Africa's focus on Africa and the Global South was evident in her presentation. Her objectives included:

- Conceptualising High Technology
- Exploration of disruptive technologies in the BRICS
- New generation technologies in achieving SDGs in the Global South
- Exploration of the ethical dilemmas in the face of high tech in the Global South
- Proposing a governance framework that could be adopted in the Global South

Prof. Gopal underlined how technologies could be disruptive by contrasting their possible benefits with dangers. These included economic growth and job displacement, innovation and progress and increased inequality, environmental benefits and privacy and security concerns, increased access to digital technology and regulatory and ethical challenges, and improved quality of life with cultural erosion. Prof. Gopal also highlighted the Global South by referencing the new

generation technologies that are achieving the SDGs in the Global South. She highlighted the ethical dilemmas faced because of disruptive technologies, including accountability, bias, transparency, autonomy, socio-economic factors, and maleficence.

The following were the recommendations that Prof. Gopal set forward at the close of her presentation:

- Enact data protection laws to safeguard citizens' privacy rights.
- Create frameworks for the ethical development and use of technology.
- Implement national policies and programs for equal accessibility and benefits.
- Mandate legal compliance of existing frameworks to protect human rights.
- Encourage greater implementation of Artificial Intelligence in regions with low adoption rates.
- Advocate for a regulatory framework that is both ethical and inclusive.
- Advocate for the integration of renewable energy resources to achieve net zero CO2 emissions.
- Embrace integrated policymaking and enhance the involvement of private investment in the renewable energy sector.
- Create a comprehensive set of legislation, policies, and procedures that ensure accountability for both private and state actors in the use of high technology.
- Introduce further strategies, such as diverse team composition, comprehensive user research, varied data sources, bias detection and mitigation, bias training, iterative testing and development, and ethics reviews, to assist agencies in minimising bias in new technologies.
- Foster a culture of transparency regarding the methods and reasons for collecting online, personal, and public data.
- Promote compliance with recognised global and local technological ethical standards and regulations concerning nonmaleficence; for example, technology service providers should ensure cost-effectiveness, report any signs of system threats, and prevent unauthorised surveillance.

Presenter: Prof. Ronney Ncwadi

Session: *Why the world is not becoming multipolar: fair finance*

Prof. Ncwadi, the Director of the School of Economics, Development and Tourism at Nelson Mandela University, emphasised in his introduction that economic multipolarity is crucial "as it signifies a more balanced distribution of economic power among various countries or regions, reducing reliance on a single dominant economic force."

Prof. Ncwadi unpacked the dominant players, namely the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, whose prevalent language includes 'stabilisation' and 'adjustment'. He further emphasised the research-based insights regarding the negative impact of the IMF and World Bank's conditionalities, particularly on African countries. He underscored that there is a "disjuncture between dogma and reality". He supported this statement by referencing research that disputes the Bretton Woods Institutions' proclamations of "poverty reduction; better living standards; and debt reduction." Instead, he cited that fiscal sustainability is under threat and that the "African debt crisis is conveniently ascribed to poor leadership, corruption and incompetence". In contrast, recent research over the past decade has blamed the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Prof. Ncwadi's summary and recommendations on how the can tackle the lack of economic multipolarity were as follows:

- Strengthen initiatives such as bilateral currency swaps, regional payment systems, and the development of alternative financing mechanisms to promote multipolarity and reduce dependency on any single currency or financial centre.
- Encourage the utilisation of local currencies in trade and investment among the BRICS nations to enhance financial stability and security for these economies.
- Embrace diversity, foster inclusivity, and promote collaboration among policymakers, businesses, and investors.
- Promoting technological innovation and strengthening multilateral institutions will be essential for navigating the complexities of the multipolar financial system.
- The BRICS is set to play a complementary role in the existing Global Financial Architecture.
- The NDB will complement existing institutions, addressing gaps left by them, particularly in infrastructure and sustainable development projects.

Presenter: Mr Krish Chetty

Session: *People in the spotlight: increasing the largest BRICS asset*

Mr Krish Chetty, a Chief Researcher at the Inclusive Economic Development division of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and with a research interest in Knowledge Management and Digital Inclusion, presented on "A Public BRICS AI Strategy focused on Scientific and Educational Cooperation."

In his presentation, Mr. Chetty proposed practical measures for the BRICS to create a public Artificial Intelligence Strategy focused on scientific and educational cooperation. He emphasised that the necessary infrastructure would connect



16th BRICS Academic Forum Session titled "Session "People in the Spotlight: Maximizing BRICS Biggest Asset" Representing South Africa is Mr Krish Chetty, pictured fifth from the left.

all innovation pipeline stakeholders, including AI data centres, a data sharing platform, and a BRICS innovation large language model (LLM). Mr. Chetty illustrated this with a pyramid figure showing AI data centres as the foundation, with data sharing stemming from it and the LLM at the tip.

Mr Chetty's recommendations suggested that the public AI Strategy be initiated by the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Centre and disseminated by the BRICS Virtual Academy. The Virtual Academy would oversee the BRICS Tech transfer, the iBRICS Network, the BRICS STIEP working group, the BRICS Digital Education Cooperative, the BRICS Incubation and Training Network, and the BRICS Startup Forum. Mr Chetty further illustrated the roles of key players: Diplomats would enhance the BRICS and international relations; academic staff and students from universities and TVETs would drive innovation; incubators and startups would foster ideation and business development; the supply chain would support commercialisation and trade. Mr Chetty further detailed the strategy's subareas and their positive impacts; for instance, shared public BRICS AI data centres would accelerate innovation while pooling resources and intellectual property.

Mr Chetty proposed a BRICS data sharing platform that should "adopt best practices from the Chinese National Data Administration agency" and could bridge academia and industry. This platform would operate at national, institutional, and individual levels, offering opportunities for science cooperation. Mr Chetty highlighted how the BRICS nations, such as China and India, illustrate the benefits of science cooperation, including the effectiveness of Large Language Models in knowledge exchange, data sharing, enhancing collaboration, and being an "untapped resource in academic research." He noted that a BRICS-shared LLM promotes "vertical and horizontal knowledge exploration" and can share cross-border innovation opportunities while integrating uncommercialised research. He envisioned the BRICS AI Innovation Hub at the centre of a positive feedback loop among diplomats, academia, incubators, startups, and industry.

Mr Chetty concluded with specific goals and recommendations:

- All members of the Innovation Pipeline can explore ideas for innovation and collaboration.
- Placing humans at the forefront of development – a Foundation for Innovation.



The South African delegation at the 16th BRICS Academic Forum Pictured from left to right: Dr Babalwa Siswana, Mr Senkhu Maimane, Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, Mr Simon Motthanke, Mr Alex Benkenstein, Prof Ronney Ncwadi, Dr Moses Khanyile, Mr Krish Chetty, Prof Nirmala Gopal, Ms Auriel Niemack, and Mr Tebogo Molaoa.

- A Large Language Model (LLM) can encourage matchmaking – knowledge exchange across borders and languages.
- The education sector can adapt the model for AI tutoring.
- The education sector can adapt curricula to industry priorities.

The South African representation in the academic discussions ended on a high note with this presentation by Mr Chetty, which, along with the other presentations, epitomised “research-led innovation.”

Presenter: Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa

Session: Closing Plenary and Acceptance of Recommendations of the 16th BRICS Academic Forum

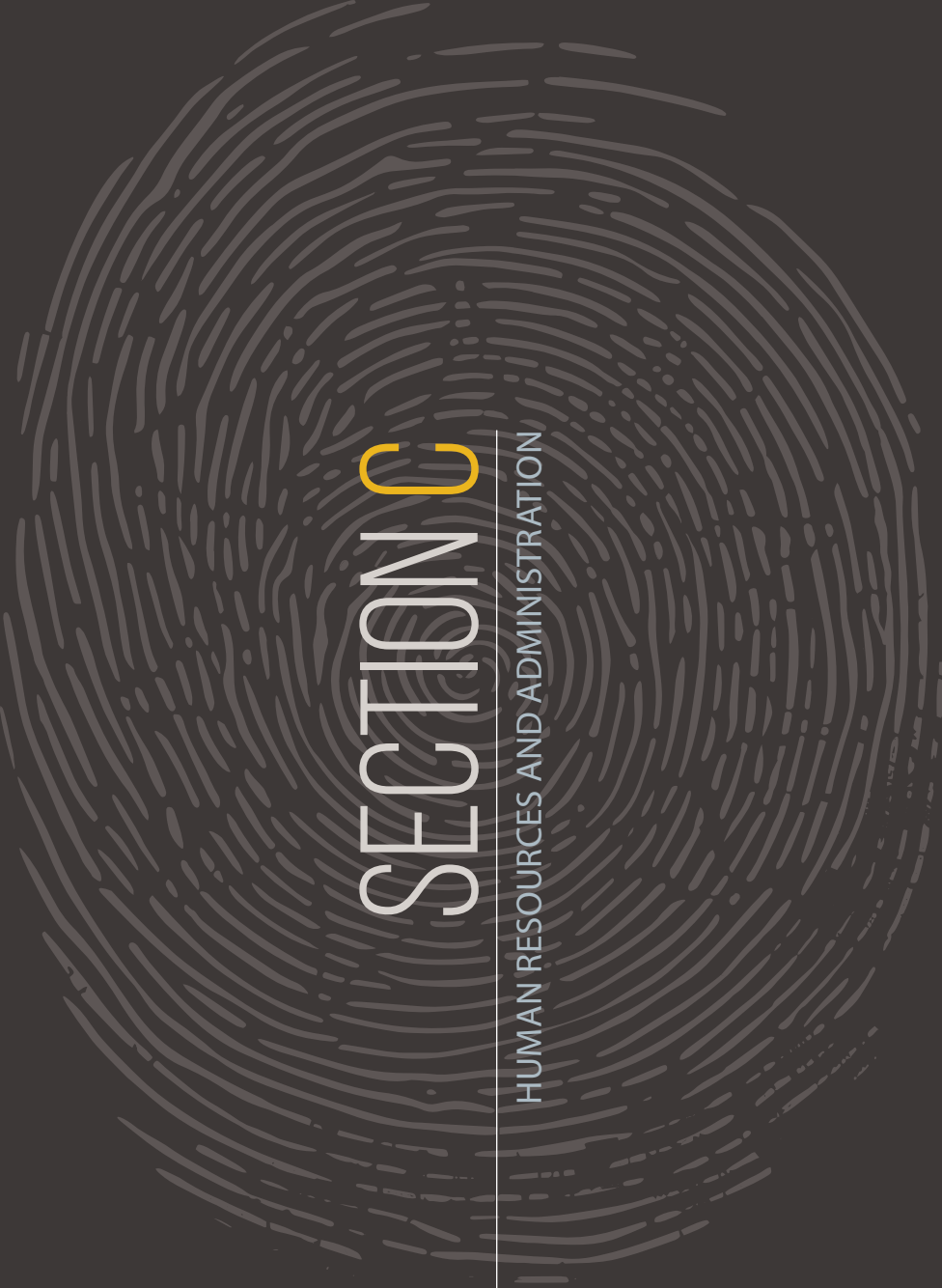
The closing address by Prof. Sarah Mosoetsa, the interim Chairperson of the SABTT and CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council, had a significant impact on the forum, akin to her introduction. The delegates of the BRICS Think Tank Academic Council expressed their respect and appreciation for Prof. Mosoetsa, leader of the South African delegation, by standing for her, shaking her hand, and offering resounding applause.

Once more, Prof Mosoetsa emphasised the importance of collaboration and highlighted South Africa’s commitment to the

African continent and the Global South. She boldly stated that they “stand tall in Moscow with Addis and many others.” She also underscored that South Africa looked forward to Brazil hosting them for the next Academic Forum, and in the interim, they keenly anticipated “participating as a Global South with China.”

In this rousing conclusion, Prof Mosoetsa’s reference to Africa was particularly stirring:

Tomorrow, the African continent is celebrating Africa Day. I want all South Africans and Africans to remember the Agenda 2063. In this meeting, it is essential, considering all the deliberations that have happened this week, to remember that we, as Africa, have said that we want a prosperous continent based on sustainable development, an integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a peaceful and safe Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth and caring for children. Africa is a strong, united and influential global player and partner.



SECTION C

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION



NIHSS team captured during the 10th Annual HSS Awards Adjudication Meeting, a pivotal moment in celebrating excellence in the humanities and social sciences.

The 2024/25 financial year commenced amidst ongoing governance vacancies, with the Chief Executive Officer and Board positions still unfilled. The resignation of the CFO during the financial year further compounded this issue. Coupled with a constrained fiscal environment, this necessitated that the Institute adopt stringent cost-containment measures, including limiting staff training allocations to studies already in progress and suspending the approval of new study grants for the year. Despite these challenges, NIHSS employees once again exhibited exemplary professionalism and agility, sustaining the high-performance culture that underpins the NIHSS mandate. Their unwavering commitment ensured continuous support to the NIHSS doctoral candidates, research partners and stakeholders in line with the adjusted APP, while day-to-day operations and strategic initiatives were executed in full and to a consistently high standard. The resilience demonstrated across all levels of the organisation has been instrumental in maintaining operational stability during a challenging period, and the Institute looks forward to building on this strength as it continues driving the mission of the NIHSS in the coming year.

As of 31 March 2025, the NIHSS staff complement stood at 27, indicating a consistent decline from 28 employees in the previous year and 29 the year before. The overall staff turnover for the 2024/25 financial year was 3.64 percent.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In total, the Institute invested R374 555 in staff training and development in 2024/25, equating to 1.73 percent of total expenditure. This was lower than the previous year's training expenditure of R683 390, which amounted to 3.01 percent of total expenditure.

The fiscal constraints that the NIHSS has experienced in this financial year dictated that the Institute adopt stringent cost-containment measures, including limiting staff training allocations to studies already in progress and suspending the approval of new study grants for the year. However, the Institute continued to fund memberships for staff associated with various professional bodies.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The NIHSS maintained its general compliance with health and safety during the year under review. Consequently, 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 15: 2024/25 personnel cost per salary band

Level	Personal expenditure (R)	Personnel expenditure as % of personnel cost	Number of employees	Average cost per employee (R)
Top management	4 885 329	23%	4	1 221 332
Senior management	1 093 200	5%	1	1 093 200
Professionally qualified	3 597 871	17%	4	899 468
Skilled, technical and academically qualified	6 794 854	31%	9	764 848
Semi-skilled	4 402 298	20%	6	733 716
Unskilled	863 957	4%	3	287 986
Total	21 637 510	100%	*27	

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

Table 16: 2023/24 staff training expenditure

Programme	Total expenditure	Staff training expenditure	As % of total expenditure	Number of employees	Average cost per employee
Staff training	21 637 510	374 555	1,73%	27	13 872

Table 17: Employment and vacancies as at 31 March 2024

Level	2024/25 approved posts	2024/25 number of employees	2024/25 vacancies	% of vacancies
Top management	2	3	2	100%
Senior management	6	1	5	83.33%
Professionally qualified	9	4	5	55.55%
Skilled	12	9	3	25%
Semi-skilled	8	7	1	12.5%
Unskilled	3	3	0	0.00%
Total	40	27	16	40%

Table 18: Employment changes during 2024/25

Level	Employment at 31 March 2024	Appointments (internal movements)	Terminations	Employment at 31 March 2025
Top management	3	*2	1	3
Senior management	0	*(1)	0	1
Professionally qualified	4	0	0	4
Skilled	10	0	1	9
Semi-skilled	8	0	0	7
Unskilled	3	0	0	3
Total	28	0	2	27

**The movement is as a result of changes in levels for employees and no actual appointments of new employees took place during the year.*

Table 19: Reasons for employee turnover for the 2024/25 financial year

Reasons	Employment at 31 March 2024
Dismissals	0
Contract non-renewal	0
Resignations	1
Separation agreement	0
Total	1

Table 20: Labour relations: Misconduct and disciplinary action

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

EQUITY TARGETS AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY STATUS

There was a slight increase in the proportion of women to men among the Institute's employees. Women accounted for 66.67% of the staff in 2024/25, compared with 64% in 2023/24.

In terms of employee race profile, 26 (92.86%) staff members were black, one (3.57%) was white and one (3.57%) coloured (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Gender profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15-2024/25)

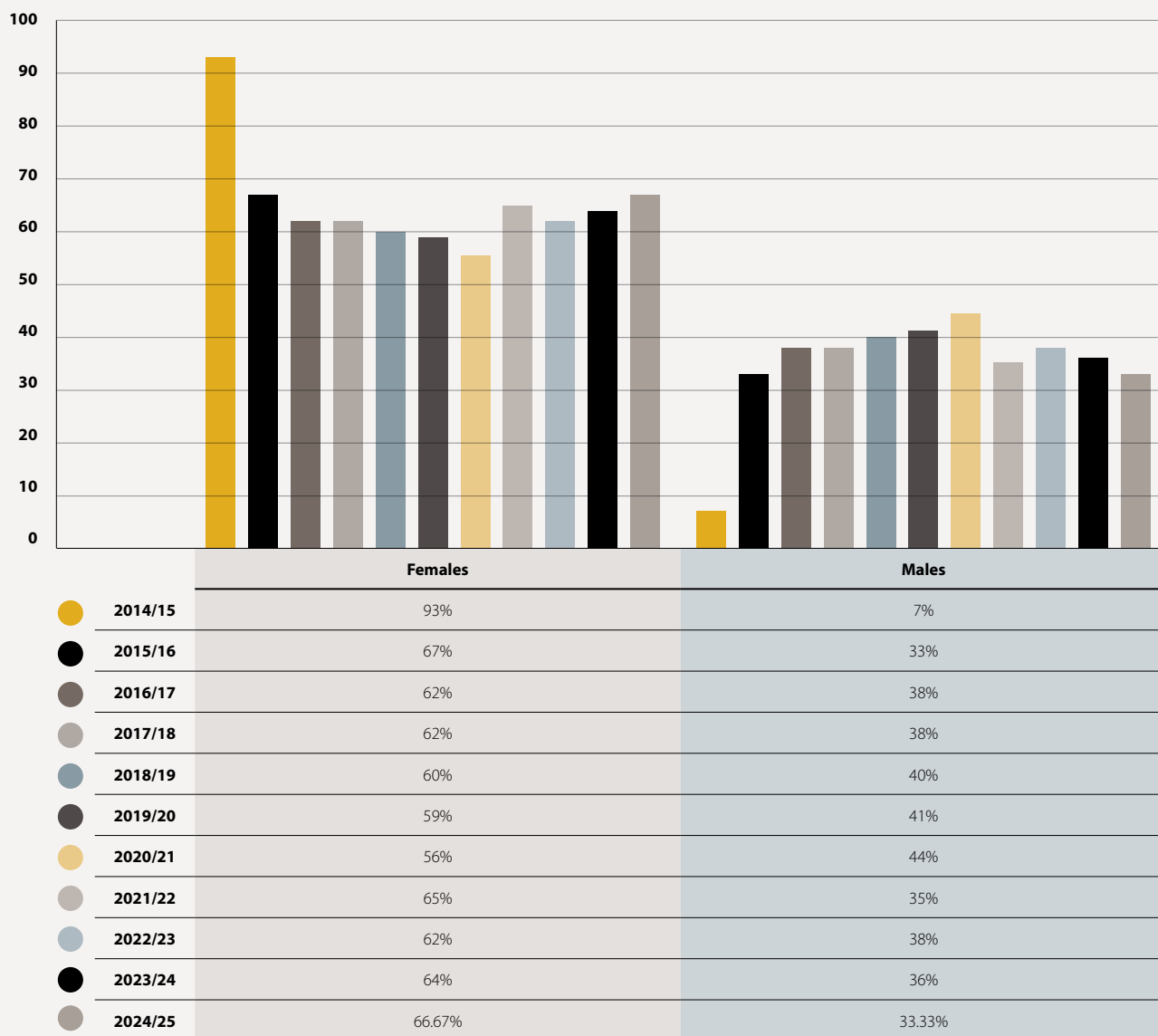
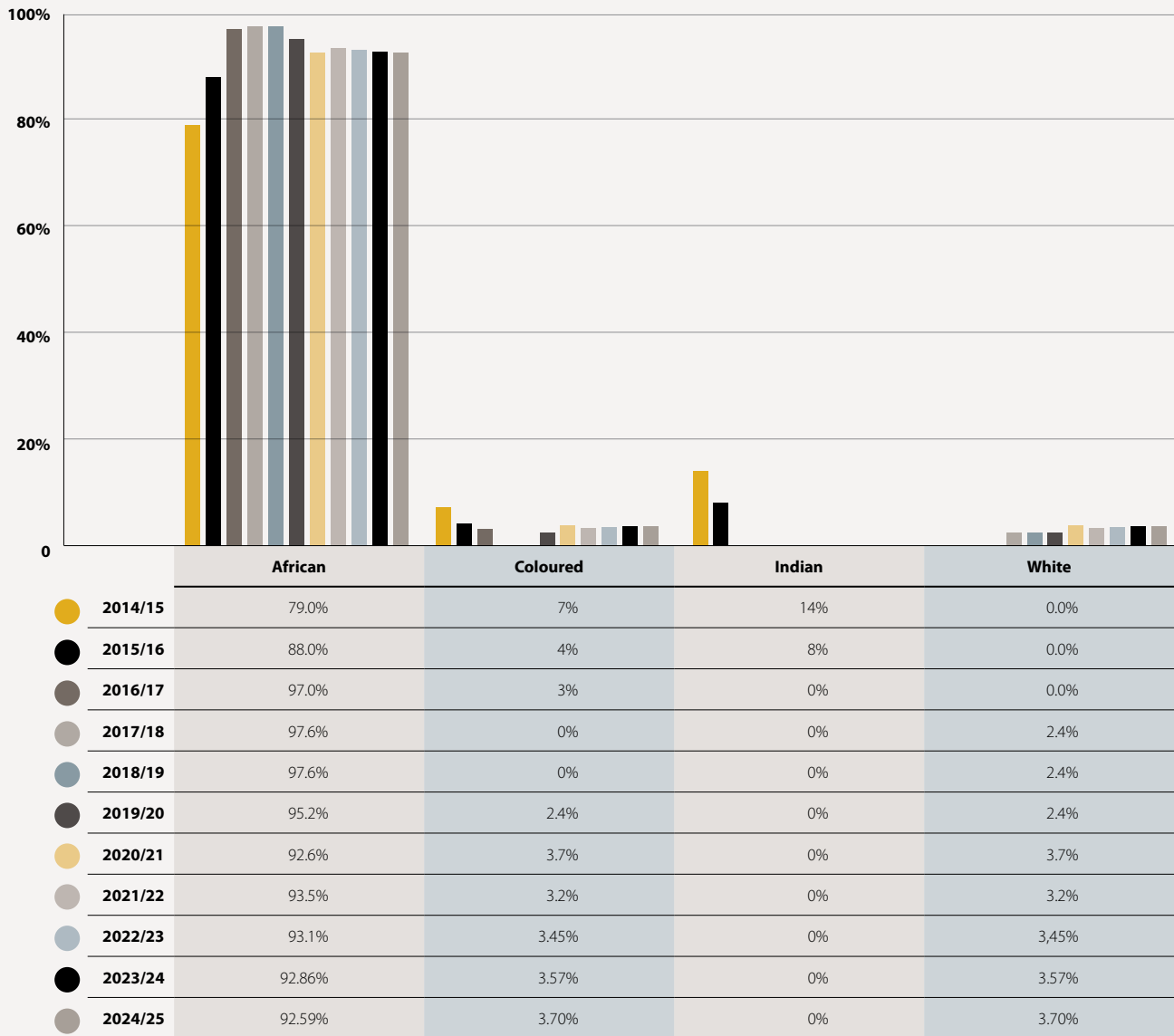


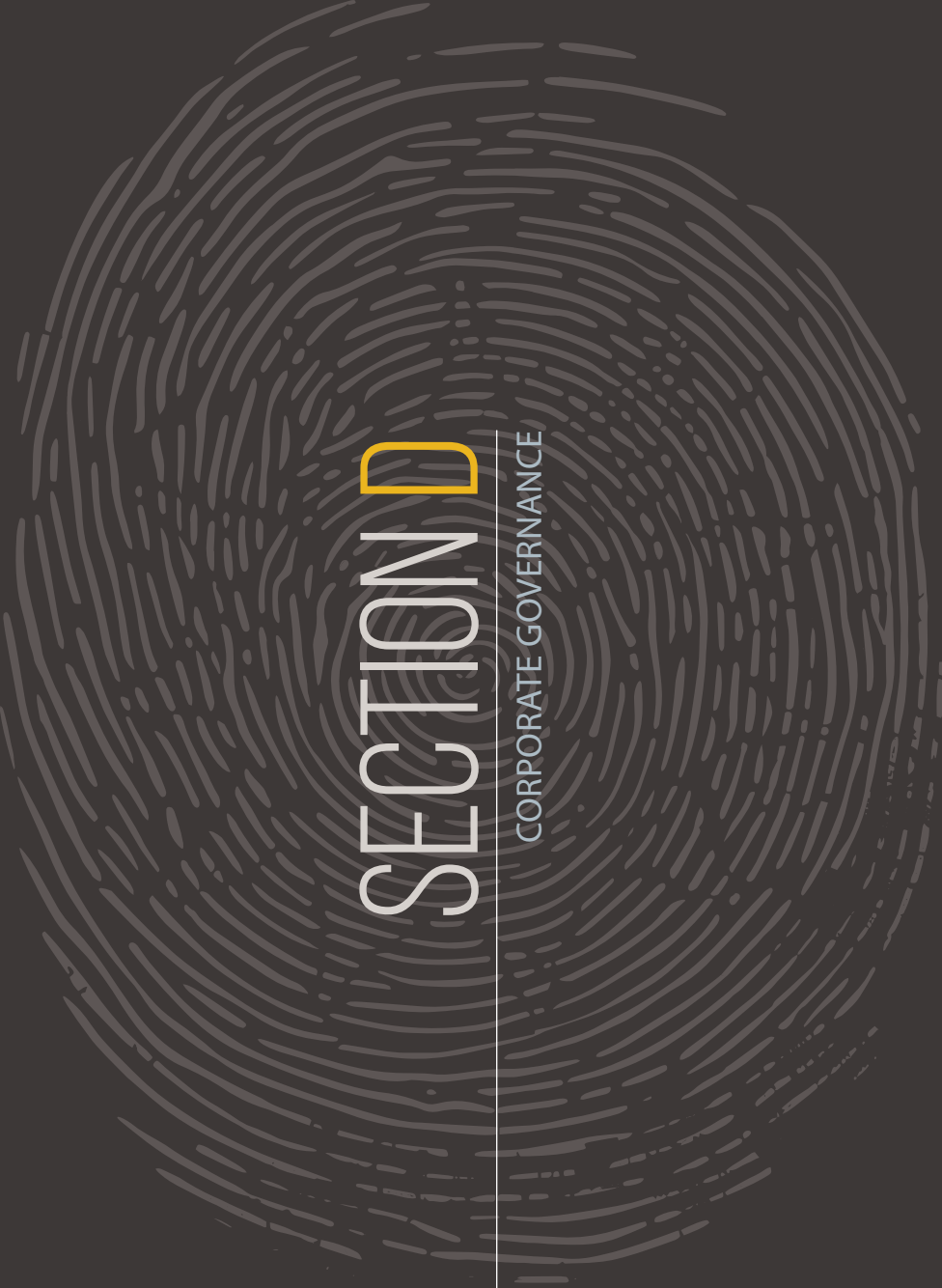
Figure 3: Race profile of NIHSS employees (2014/15 – 2024/25)



CONCLUSION

As an institute committed to fulfilling its mandate in collaboration with the higher education sector in South Africa and beyond, the NIHSS strives to build and maintain an organisational culture responsive to stakeholders' needs, including employees. Consequently, the NIHSS embodies

accountability, responsibility, and an appreciation for high ethical standards. While these qualities are not always easy to measure, feedback from stakeholders indicates that the Institute is largely successful in cultivating the desired organisational culture.



SECTION D

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



NIHSS staff members at the 10th Annual Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Awards, proudly supporting the recognition of scholarly and creative excellence.

NIHSS GOVERNANCE

As a steward of public funds, the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) maintains a steadfast commitment to ethical leadership, robust internal controls and effective governance structures.

NIHSS BOARD AND TRANSITION

As of the reporting period, the NIHSS is still in a transitional phase following the conclusion of the previous Board's term on 30 June 2022. Since then, we have not appointed a new board. Recognising the critical role of governance in our operations, we are currently in the interim phase of appointing a new board. This interim board will play a crucial role in facilitating the transition process and ensuring continuity, stability and effective leadership.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

After the Board's term ended, the Risk Management Framework, which was implemented in the 2020/21 financial year, together with the Risk Register, was monitored by management in the 2024/25 financial year. The previously approved policies serve as a

structure and guidelines for decision-making, ensuring the proper utilisation of the Institute's resources. The Institute has approved policies on ICT, governance, fraud prevention, conflict of interest, finance and supply chain management, among others.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

Internal committees, such as the ICT Steering Committee and the Risk Committee, have quarterly meetings to ensure the upholding of rigorous governance standards and compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, ensuring transparency and accountability in all operations.

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, providing assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of internal financial controls and systems.

Internal audit operates under a formal mandate, in full compliance with the International Professional Practices Framework for Internal Audit (Standards), and uses leading risk-based and integrated methodologies.

As in previous years, the NIHSS outsourced the internal audit function to an independent firm, Nexia SAB&T (SAB&T). SAB&T's mandate is supported by unrestricted access to the Chief Financial Officer.

The duties of SAB&T as the internal auditors during the year under review were as follows:

- 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 2022/23 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 management 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 2023/24 financial year, internal audit activities included a financial management review of ICT vulnerability, a review of performance information and core functions, a follow-up of external and internal audit findings and a compliance review.

The evidence obtained from the audits performed for the 2023/24 financial year indicated that the processes and related systems 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 appropriate action plans developed to mitigate the risks.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

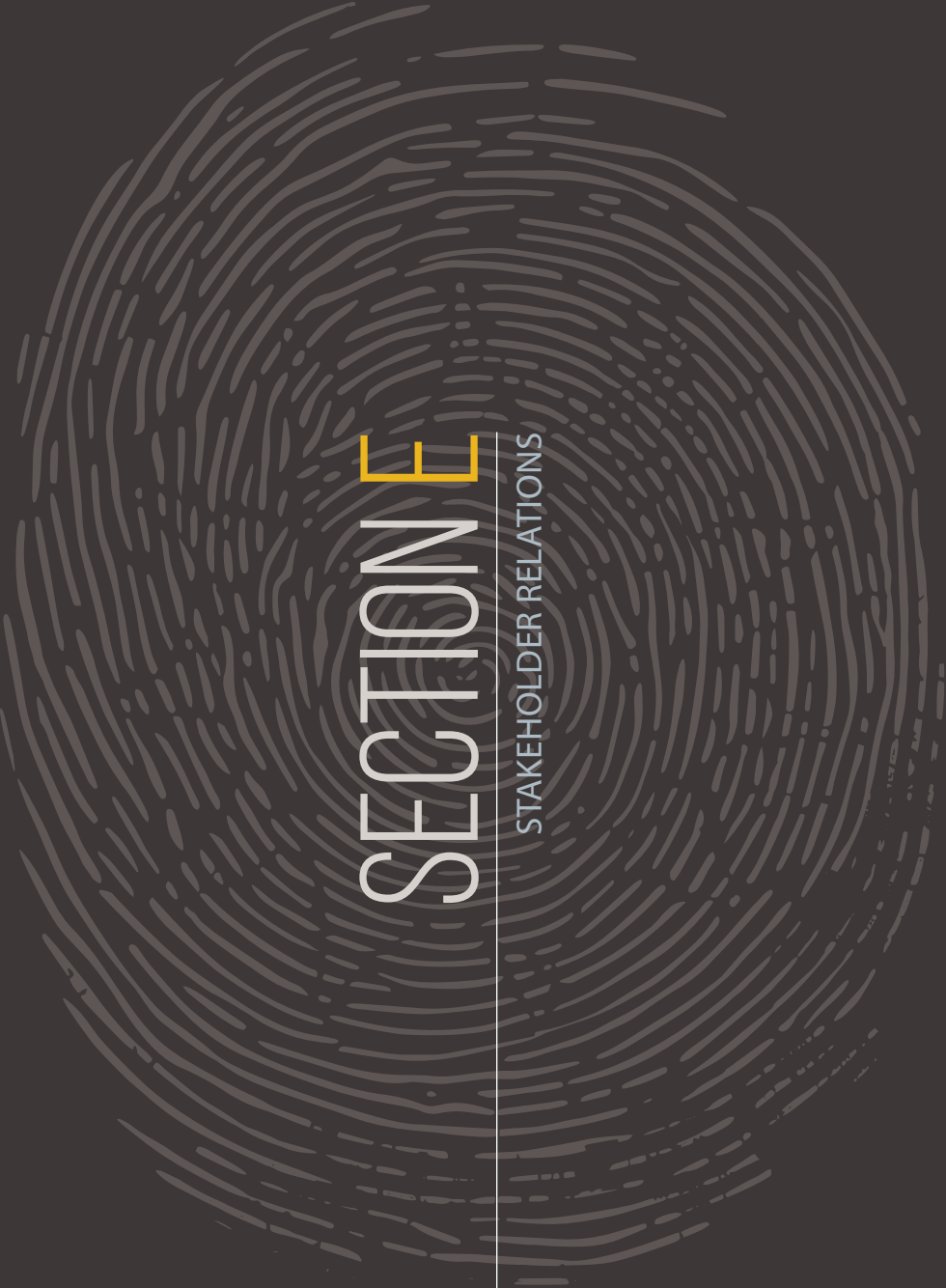
The Auditor-General South Africa (AGSA) is the external auditor, responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the NIHSS annual financial statements and performance information.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The previous Board 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 maintains a robust Fraud Prevention Plan, including the implementation of a fraud and ethics hotline in the 2021/2022 financial year. The Fraud Prevention Plan continued to be monitored by management in the 2023/24 financial year, underscoring its commitment to ethical conduct and zero tolerance for fraud. The plan is integral to promoting transparency and applies to any fraud, or suspected fraud, involving employees, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies and any other parties in a business relationship with the Institute. It also provides internal mechanisms for the detection and reporting of fraudulent activities through the relevant governance structures and regulatory bodies. Details of the reported fraud cases in the previous financial years are contained in Note 28 of the Annual Financial Statements.



SECTION E

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS



The NIHSS team raising ten fingers in celebration of a remarkable 10-year journey of advancing the humanities and social sciences in South Africa.
(Front row) Adelaide Kubeka, Palesa Maine, Bbalwa Siswane, Boitumelo Mosoane, Auriel Miemack, Anyanda Zondi, Gosego Tladi, Hlanzekile Mbokazi,
(Middle row) Nonohle Ilanga, Ignatia Mabalane, Cebile Jali, Kkeketso Ntsibande, Asemahle Skosana, Clothilda Mogafe, Nicola Critchfield, Thandiwe Sechele
(Back row) Senkhu Maimane, Petros Mashaba, Papama Magqwasha, Taiki Mokgatle, Katlego Scheepers, Tebogo Molaoa, Kambale Muhongya, Siphwe Zondi, Tshiamo Molapisi.

Healthy stakeholder relationships are a prerequisite for the Institute's ability to carry out its mandate of enhancing and supporting the humanities and social sciences (HSS). It is through the continued acceptance and cooperation of our key stakeholders that the Institute has succeeded in establishing itself as a credible, authoritative facilitator of HSS development.

In strengthening and deepening the connections with different stakeholder groups, the Institute makes use of a range of channels and platforms. These include workshops, colloquiums, dialogues, conferences, book launches and other events, tailored to the needs of stakeholders groups and designed to foster value-adding, cohesive relationships.

Key stakeholder groups that influence or are influenced by the NIHSS include partners such as SAHUDA, CODESRIA, public universities, think tanks and professional associations, as well as the Institute's community of master's and doctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, mentors and researchers participating in or leading our Catalytic Research Projects, Humanities Hubs, Working Groups and international collaborations.

In each stakeholder relationship, there are specific deliverables that the NIHSS works towards.

Table 21: Stakeholders and related NIHSS deliverables

Stakeholder	Deliverables
South African doctoral and master's students	The Institute provides funding and academic support for students on HSS doctoral and master's studies.
African Pathways Programme students	The NIHSS works with partners such as CODESRIA to enable non-South African HSS doctoral students to study at public universities in South Africa.
Postdoctoral research fellowships	Increased funding for HSS postdoctoral research fellows contributes to the academic growth of emerging academics and researchers.
Doctoral alumni	Through opportunities such as the annual HSS Alumni Conference, alumni network, share ideas, explore future collaborations and receive support for their transition to the next phases in their careers.
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	The DHET provides funding for the Institute's operations. For the purposes of accountability and transparency, the NIHSS: · conducts comprehensive reporting at agreed levels; · carries out performance monitoring in terms of the NIHSS mandate; · provides policy advice on matters related to the HSS; · Advises the Minister of Higher Education and Training and government on HSS-related matters; · Promotes increased and guided academic discourse about the crucial social issues that face South African citizens (thus helping to influence the character of the South African community and contributing to the creation of a more humane, responsible and just society).
Doctoral Schools mentors	These highly experienced, respected HSS academics provide support for NIHSS-funded students on their master's and doctoral journeys.
NIHSS employees	In attracting and retaining high-calibre employees, the NIHSS strives to offer: · favourable working conditions; · support for staff enrolled for studies; and · Opportunities to develop their careers, community leadership and academic growth.
Funders	Potential partnerships for ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels
Higher education institutions (HEIs)	The Institute contributes to the status and reputation of HSS faculties at HEI institutions by funding research through Catalytic Research Projects and Working Groups and by providing funding and academic support for master's and doctoral students. In turn, HEIs administer NIHSS scholarships and research funding through their internal financial processes.
National Skills Fund (NSF)	The NSF funds all the NIHSS's award projects (including the African Pathways scholarship)
South African Humanities Deans' Association (SAHUDA)	SAHUDA and the NIHSS collaborate in the screening of applications for Doctoral Schools and Scholarships Programme through panel reviews.
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)	The NIHSS seeks to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships for ad hoc projects in line with agreed upon service levels.
South African citizens	The NIHSS strives to: demonstrate social responsibility and societal responsiveness; · Offer informed perspectives to help address the socio-economic challenges facing South Africa and her citizens; · provide advice to civil society bodies on HSS-related matters; and · stimulate increased and guided public discourse about the crucial social issues facing citizens, to help build a better South Africa for all.
BRICS partner countries	Through the SABTT, the Institute engages with other official think tanks from the BRICS countries.
Department of International Relations and Cooperation	The NIHSS fosters a close working relationship between the SATBB and government to align the SABTT with government policy.
BRICS Think Tank Council (BTTC), a network of five official think tanks from the BRICS countries	The NIHSS responsible for the coordination and management of all SABTT activities in relation to the BTTC.
SA Parliament	As and when required, the Institute provide s sound and independent policy advice on HSS matters.



CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CASS)

CASS is a Chinese research institute and think tank, focused on the social sciences, policymaking and philosophy. Through this partnership, CASS and the NIHSS fund and oversee collaborative research between South African and Chinese researchers in the HSS.



SOUTH AFRICAN HUMANITIES DEANS' ASSOCIATION (SAHUDA)

- SAHUDA comprises the Deans of Humanities at South African public universities;
- It is a strategic NIHSS partner who played an instrumental part in initiating the Institute
- SAHUDA and the NIHSS collaborate in awarding and monitoring scholarships for PhD studies.



INDIAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ICSSR)

The ICSSR is the national body overseeing research in the social sciences in India. It is a key international NIHSS partner and jointly funds collaborative research between India and South Africa.

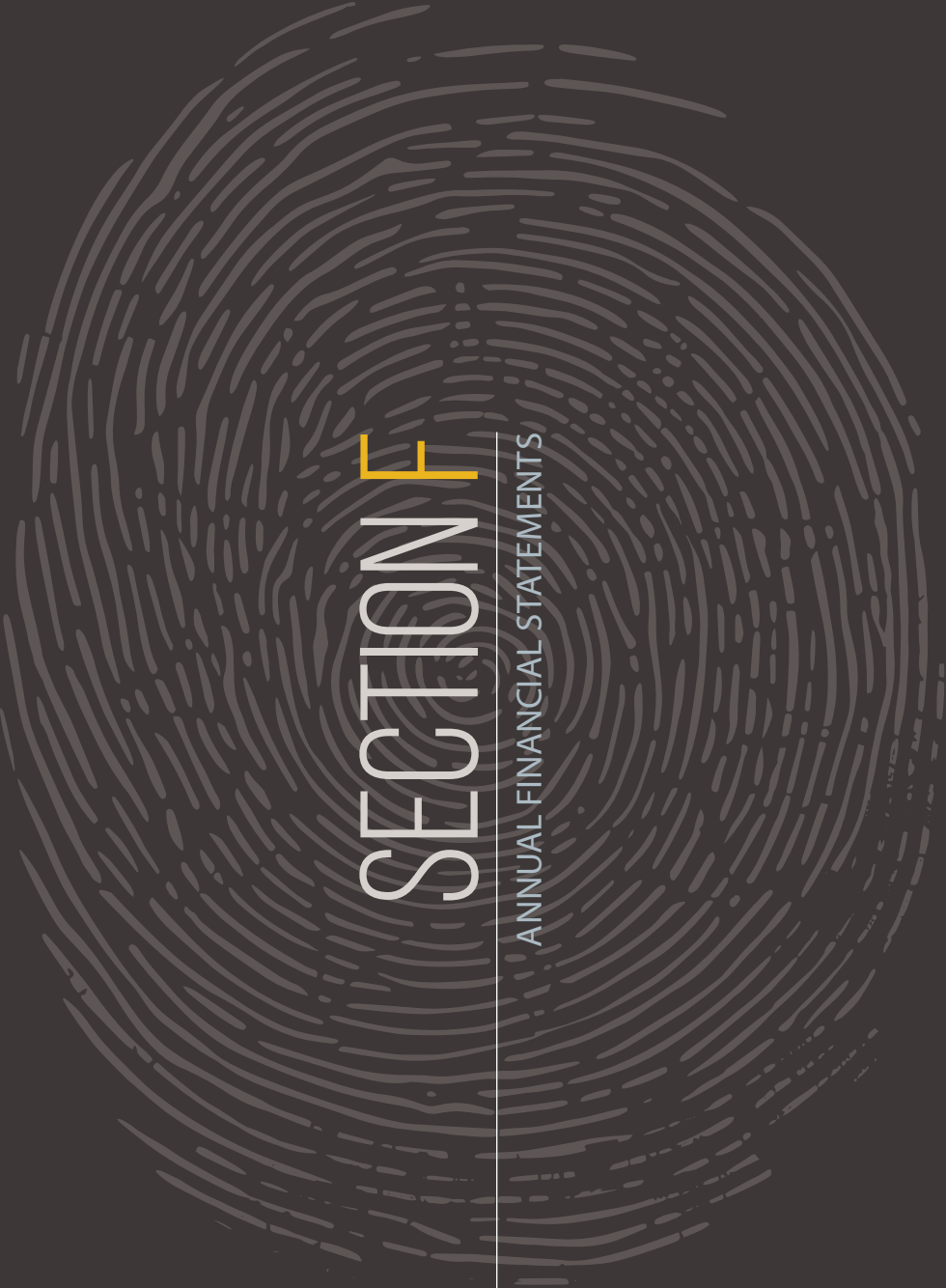


COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN AFRICA (CODESRIA)

- CODESRIA is a pan-African research organisation that partners the NIHSS in:
- awarding scholarships for full-time non-South African PhD students based at South African universities.
- Awarding mobility grants to South African researchers and postgraduate students pursuing collaborations and scholarship within the African continent.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Maintaining sound relationships with all key stakeholders and partners enables the NIHSS to elevate HSS scholarship and research in South Africa and further afield through focused and effective collaboration and cooperation.



SECTION F

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Mr. Tshiamo Molapisi
Acting CFO

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

I am extremely proud and honoured to present the financial report of the NIHSS for the 2024/25 financial year. 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 in changing the lives of ordinary South African within the Humanities and Social Sciences sphere. As we look forward to another year, we remain eager and optimistic on the journey ahead.

Great strides continue to be made through the NIHSS (SAHUDA collaboration) scholarships to grow the HSS within the South African borders. From inception to date, the NIHSS has reported a total of 602 PhD completions and/or graduations cumulatively, inclusive of South African and non-South African students. This is evidence yet again that the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the NIHSS, is slowly and gradually being transformed. A definite positive impact on the state of Academia within the HSS.

Funding for the 2024/25 financial year was received as follows:

- A total of **R41 652 000** was received from the DHET to fund our operational requirements as the NIHSS. The amount is inclusive of the BRICS programme funding, which is a project expenditure. This amount was received quarterly in four tranches and was recognised as revenue in full. For the current year, no amount was received from the NSF to fund administration costs of projects.

- A total of **R209 695 760** was approved by the Department of Higher Education for programmes and project funding subject to funding availability from the NSF.
- Interest income of **R2 510 942** was received from investments and bank accounts.

The total revenue recognised for the 2024/25 financial year was therefore **R42 034 500** which represents an decrease of **10%** from the previous year. This decrease was as a result of the non-receipt of project funding from NSF, for the 2024/25 financial year.

The expenditure on projects was as follows:

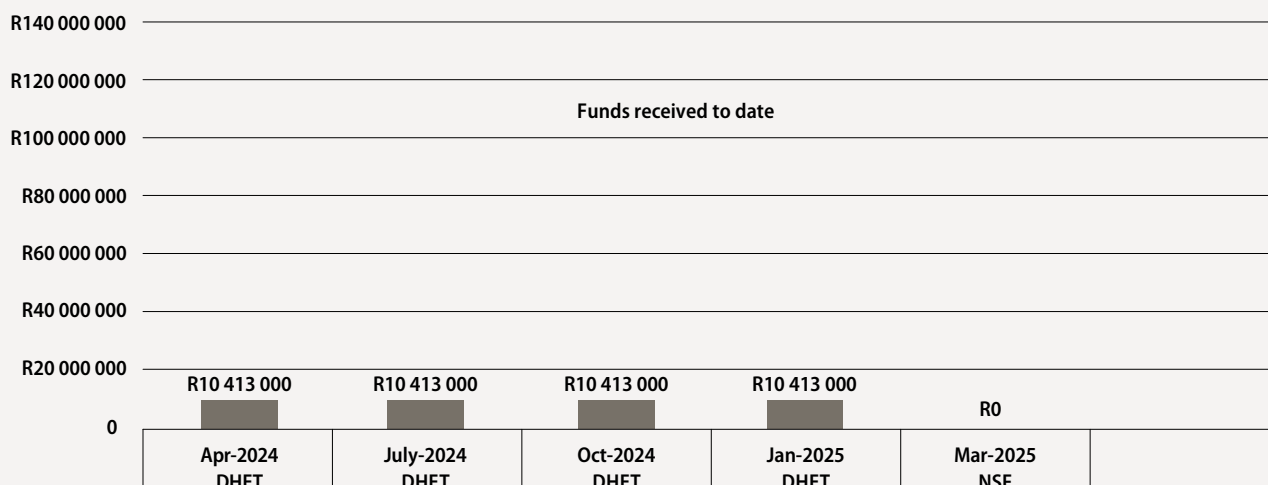
NIHSS scholarship programme

A total of **R9 927 864** was disbursed to NIHSS-funded PhD fellows within the South African public universities. This represents a decrease in disbursement of **45%** from the previous financial year. This was only for returning (renewed). No intake of new students was done in the current financial year.

Other significant projects supported during the period under review are:

- Catalytic Research Projects – a total of **R2 495 830** was funded, resulting in a decrease of **67%** from the previous year.
- Humanities Hubs – a total of **R293 000** was committed for support, totalling a decrease of **84%** from the previous year.

Figure 4 provides a more detailed breakdown of revenue for the year.



- BRICS Think Tank – a total of **R7 562 735** was funded, reflecting a decrease of **73%** from the previous year.
- Working Groups – a total of **R2 013 450** was funded, reflecting a decrease of **60%** from the previous year.
- National Mentorship Programme – a total of **R2 975 000** was spent, reflecting a decrease of **31%** from the previous year
- HSS Book awards – a total of **R12 768 760** was committed for this initiative, with its aim being to recognise the contribution of individuals within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society to the humanities and social sciences.

Overall, total project expenditure decreased by **53%**, primarily due to the absence of new project calls. The focus during this period was on monitoring and fulfilling commitments related to previously initiated projects.

Audit outcomes

Given that the Institute is in its tenth 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 consecutively for the 5 year from 2016/17 until 2020/21 and 2022/23 financial year. An unqualified audit opinion was expressed for the 2021/22 and 2023/24 financial years. An unqualified audit opinion was expressed for

the 2024/25 financial year. 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 2024/25 financial year, which worsened as the funds for 2024/25 were not received by 31 March 2025. This created challenges in terms of disbursement to the beneficiaries. However, funds were committed accordingly by the end of the financial year.

Tshiamo Molapisi
Acting Chief Financial Officer

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

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. I have reviewed the financial statements of the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) set out on pages 104 to 136, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025, 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 notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences as at 31 March 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Higher Education Amendment Act, No.9 of 2016.

Other matter

3. I draw attention to the matter below. My conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Governance Structure

4. The institute did not have a formally appointed board during the financial year ended 31 March 2025. As a result, governance oversight responsibilities, including approval of strategic documents, internal controls, and financial reporting, were not executed through a constituted governing body. This matter, while not impacting our audit opinion, is relevant to users' understanding of the governance context in which the audit was conducted.

Responsibilities of the board for the financial statements

5. The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GRAP and the requirements of the Higher Education Amendment Act, No.9 of 2016, and for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
6. In preparing the financial statements, the board 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.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements

7. My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. I conducted my review in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised), *Engagements to review historical financial statements*. The standard requires me to conclude on whether anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This standard also requires me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.
8. A review of financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. I am required to perform procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the auditee, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluating the evidence obtained.
9. The procedures performed in a review engagement are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

10. In accordance with the Public Audit Act, No.25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for the selected material performance indicators presented in the annual performance report. The Board is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.
11. I selected the following material performance indicators related to strategic objectives presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 31 March 2025. I selected those indicators that measure the institute's performance on its primary mandated functions and that are of significant national, community or public interest.

Strategic objective 1: Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities:

- Performance Indicator 1.1: Number of NIHSS-SAHUDA Masters scholarships monitored.

- Performance Indicator 1.2: Number of NIHSS funded South African doctoral students monitored.
- Performance Indicator 1.4: Number of NIHSS funded South African post-doctoral fellows monitored in the humanities and social sciences.
- Performance Indicator 1.6: Number of regional doctoral workshops co-hosted by mentors through the NIHSS Doctoral schools to enhance the creativity and technical capacities of NIHSS-funded Masters and doctoral students.
- Performance Indicator 1.7: NIHSS-hosted Annual National Doctoral and HSS alumni conferences as an innovation to advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities.
- Performance Indicator 1.8: Number of Research Outputs/ Publications by doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, NIHSS Alumni and Emeritus Writing fellows, contributing further to the HSS.

Strategic objective 2: Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects, Working Groups and Humanities Hubs:

- Performance Indicator 2.1: NIHSS Catalytic Research Projects monitored.
- Performance Indicator 2.2: NIHSS Humanities Hubs monitored.
- Performance Indicator 2.3: Number of Working Groups monitored.
- Performance Indicator 2.4: The number of research outputs in the humanities and social sciences produced by the Catalytic and Humanities Hubs projects leaders and collaborators.
- Performance Indicator 2.5: Number of conferences, workshops, colloquiums, and similar academic events organised by NIHSS-funded projects leaders and collaborators.

Strategic objective 3: Uphold the integrity, reputation and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society at large:

- Performance Indicator 3.1: Number of Professional Associations monitored.
- Performance Indicator 3.2: Number of NIHSS Annual Awards Ceremony held to recognise individuals within the higher education's community contribution to HSS.

Strategic objective 4: 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:

- Performance Indicator 4.1: Number of BRICS Institutes/ Cluster projects and BRICS Research Institutes monitored.

- Performance Indicator 4.2: Number of Research Outputs/ Publications produced by the BRICS project leaders.
- Performance Indicator 4.3: Number of seminars, workshops, and conferences hosted/ co-hosted and funded.
- Performance Indicator 4.5: Number of South African BRICS Thinktank Forums (Pre - academic forum, Academic forum & BTTC)

12. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected material performance indicators against the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice. When an annual performance report is prepared using these criteria, it provides useful and reliable information and insights to users on the institute's planning and delivery on its mandate and objectives.

13. I performed procedures to test whether:

- the indicators used for planning and reporting on performance can be linked directly to the institute's mandate and the achievement of its planned objectives
- all the indicators relevant for measuring the institute's performance against its primary mandated and prioritised functions and planned objectives are included
- the indicators are well defined and verifiable to ensure that they are easy to understand and apply consistently and that I can confirm the methods and processes to be used for measuring achievements
- the targets can be linked directly to the achievement of the indicators and are specific, time bound and measurable to ensure that it is easy to understand what should be delivered and by when, the required level of performance as well as how performance will be evaluated
- the indicators and targets reported on in the annual performance report are the same as what was committed to in the approved initial or revised planning documents
- the reported performance information is presented in the annual performance report in the prescribed manner
- there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and for the reasons provided for any over- or underachievement of targets.

14. I performed the procedures for the purpose of reporting material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

15. I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected indicators.

Other matters

16. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

17. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides explanations for over- and under achievements.
18. The table that follows provides information on the achievement of planned targets and lists the key performance indicators that were not achieved as reported in the annual performance report. The reasons for any underachievement of targets are included in the annual performance report on pages 18 to 21.

Strategic Objective 1: Advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities

Targets achieved: 90%

Key performance indicator not achieved	Planned target	Reported achievement
Performance indicator 1.4: Number of NIHSS funded South African post-doctoral fellows monitored in the humanities and social sciences.	60	53
Performance Indicator 1.7: NIHSS-hosted Annual National Doctoral and HSS alumni conferences as an innovation to advance postgraduate scholarship in South African Universities	2	0

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

19. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The Board is responsible for the institute's compliance with legislation.
20. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the AGSA findings engagement methodology. This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
21. Through an established AGSA process, I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the institute, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.
22. I did not identify any material non-compliance with the selected legislative requirements.

Internal control deficiencies

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

Professional ethics and quality control

25. 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 engagements in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
26. In accordance with the International Standard on Quality Management 1, the AGSA maintains a comprehensive system of quality management that includes documented policies and procedures on compliance with ethical requirements and professional standards.

Auditor-General

Pretoria
30 June 2025



ANNEXURE TO THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Compliance with legislation – selected legislative requirements

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations
Higher Education Amendment Act, No.9 of 2016	Section 49M; Section 49N Section 49O; Section 49P Section 49Q; Section 49R Section 49S; Section 49T Section 49U
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, No. 12 of 2004	Section 34(1)

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THE REPORTS AND STATEMENTS SET OUT BELOW COMPRISE THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTED TO THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE:

Statement of Financial Position	104
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Cash Flow Statement	106
Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts	107
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Notes to the Audited Annual Financial Statements	115

The audited annual financial statements set out on page 115, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the Acting Director in the Office of the CEO on 30 April 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Ms. Auriel Niemack
Acting Director, Office of the CEO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	1,951,280	2,375,366
Intangible assets	4	1,353,235	1,941,927
		3,304,515	4,317,293
Current assets			
Inventories	7	223,514	217,176
Receivables from exchange transactions	8	734,778	959,814
Prepayments	6	632,567	554,747
Cash and cash equivalents	9	20,636,044	47,507,745
		22,226,903	49,239,482
Non-Current Assets Current Assets		3,304,515	4,317,293
Cash and cash equivalents		22,226,903	49,239,482
Total assets		25,531,418	53,556,775
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Finance lease obligation	10	416,502	-
		416,502	
Current liabilities			
Operating lease liability		-	581,166
Payables from exchange transactions	5	1,849,346	3,075,491
Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions	11	9,775,501	3,623,756
Provisions	12	937,793	991,752
Bank Overdraft	9	1,150	66,516
		12,563,790	8,338,681
Non-Current Liabilities		416,502	-
Current Liabilities		12,563,790	8,338,681
Total Liabilities		12,980,292	8,338,681
Assets		25,531,418	53,556,775
Liabilities		(12,980,292)	(8,338,681)
Net assets		12,551,126	45,218,094
Accumulated surplus		12,551,126	45,218,094
Total net assets		12,551,126	45,218,094

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Revenue			
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Other income		35,898	24,358
Investment revenue	14	2,510,942	6,411,504
Total revenue from exchange transactions		2,546,840	6,435,862
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfer revenue			
Government grants and subsidies	15	42,034,500	40,422,000
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		42,034,500	40,422,000
Total revenue from exchange transactions		2,546,840	6,435,862
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		42,034,500	40,422,000
Total revenue	13	44,581,340	46,857,862
Expenditure			
Employee-related costs	16	(21,637,510)	(22,728,122)
Depreciation and amortisation	17	(1,447,569)	(1,529,494)
Lease rentals on operating lease and utilities	21	(3,476,528)	(3,419,876)
Loss on disposal of assets and liabilities		-	(59,429)
General expenses	19	(9,933,065)	(9,987,294)
Project expenses	18	(40,667,237)	(85,915,236)
Project administration fees	19	(186,990)	(3,826,370)
Total expenditure		(77,348,899)	(127,465,821)
Deficit before taxation		(32,767,559)	(80,607,959)
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(32,767,559)	(80,607,959)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Figures in Rands	Notes	Accumulated surplus / deficit	Total net assets
Balance at 01 April 2023		125,398,283	125,398,283
Deficit for the year		(80,607,959)	(80,607,959)
Opening balance as previously reported		44,790,324	44,790,324
Adjustments			
Prior year adjustments		427,770	427,770
Balance at 01 April 2024		45,218,094	45,218,094
Changes in net assets			
Deficit for the year		(32,767,559)	(32,767,559)
Prior year adjustment		100,591	100,591
Total changes		(32,666,968)	(32,666,968)
Balance at 31 March 2025		12,551,126	12,551,126

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Grants		41,995,480	40,550,186
Interest income		2,510,942	6,411,504
Other Income		35,898	24,358
		44,542,320	46,986,048
Payments			
Compensation of employees and Board members		(21,637,512)	(22,728,123)
Payment to suppliers		(8,751,601)	(20,003,801)
Project expenses		(40,854,229)	(89,741,605)
		(71,243,342)	(132,473,529)
Total receipts		44,542,320	46,986,048
Total payments		(71,243,342)	(132,473,529)
Net cash flows from operating activities	20	(26,701,022)	(85,487,481)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	3	-	(528,406)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	3	-	36,691
Purchase of other intangible assets	4	(33,848)	(546,749)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(33,848)	(1,038,464)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Finance lease payments		(71,468)	-
Net cash flows from financing activities		(71,468)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(26,806,338)	(86,525,945)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		47,441,233	133,967,178
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9	20,634,895	47,441,231

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

Budget on accrual basis

Figures in Rands	Approved budget	Adjustments	Final budget	Actual amounts on comparable basis	Difference between final budget and actual	Reference
Statement of financial performance						
Revenue						
Revenue from exchange transactions						
Other income	-	-	-	35,898	35,898	
Interest received – investment -	-	-	-	2,510,942	2,510,942	30
Total revenue from exchange - transactions	-	-	-	2,546,840	2,546,840	
Revenue from non-exchange transactions						
Transfer revenue						
Government funding - operations	41,652,000	-	41,652,000	41,652,000	-	30
Government funding - projects	209,695,760	-	209,695,760	382,500	(209,313,260)	30
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions	251,347,760	-	251,347,760	42,034,500	(209,313,260)	
'Total revenue from exchange transactions'	-	-	-	2,546,840	2,546,840	
'Total revenue from non- exchange transactions'	251,347,760		251,347,760	42,034,500	(209,313,260)	
Expenditure						
Operating Expenditure	41,652,000	-	41,652,000	36,868,652	(4,783,348)	30
Scholarships and Programmes	209,695,760	-	209,695,760	40,480,247	(169,215,513)	30
Total expenditure	251,347,760	-	251,347,760	77,348,899	173,998,861	
Deficit for the year	-	-	-	(32,767,559)	(32,767,559)	

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Presentation of audited annual 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 audited annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the NIHSS.

1.2 Going concern assumption

These audited annual financial statements have been prepared based on the expectation that the entity will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next 12 months. A review process was conducted by a review panel as appointed by the Minister and assessed the mandate of the NIHSS with a recommendation send through to the Department in terms of its extension. During the review of the mandate, a budget was allocated and approved for the current year ended 31 March 2025. The Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 has been submitted and approved by DHET during March 2025. Furthermore, a budget vote has been approved for the NIHSS for the next 3 financial years (from 2025/26 to 2027/28 financial year) in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost. The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost.

Recognition of costs in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment ceases when the item is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line basis over their expected useful lives to their estimated residual value.

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Furniture and fixtures	Straight-line	9 - 11 years
Office equipment	Straight-line	4 - 12 years
IT equipment	Straight-line	2 - 11 years
Office equipment - Project	Straight-line	4 - 12 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	Over the lease term (3 -10years)

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that the entity expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the entity revises the expected useful life and/or residual value accordingly. The change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

Items of property, plant and equipment are derecognised when the asset is disposed of or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of 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.

The entity separately discloses expenditure to repair and maintain property, plant and equipment in the notes to the financial statements (see note 3).

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Impairment of assets

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.

For the current financial year, indicators considered were assets which had a zero net book value. No external factors existed that indicated impairment of assets.

1.4 Intangible assets

An intangible asset is initially measured at cost.

Intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided to write down the intangible assets, on a straight-line basis, to their residual values as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Computer software, other	Straight-line	2 - 11 years

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 have 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, Receivables from exchange and nonexchange transactions. 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 their fair value, which is the amount of cash on hand at year-end.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each year end.

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.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 assets. 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 and non-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 (1) (cA) (i) 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 lease refer to a contract that transfers the risk, 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 terms 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 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.

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.

The discount rate used in calculating the present value of the minimum lease payments is the interest rate implicit in the lease.

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 of on the remaining balance of the 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. This has been disclosed under Note 10 of the Annual Financial Statements.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Operating leases – lessor

Operating lease revenue is recognised as revenue on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging operating leases are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as the lease revenue.

The aggregate cost of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental revenue over the lease term on a straight-line basis.

The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis.

Income for leases is disclosed under revenue in statement of financial performance.

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.

Subsequently inventories are 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 entity has a present obligation as a result of a past event;
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount of a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

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.

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the NIHSS. Contingent assets are not recognised in financial statements but disclosed in the notes to the financial statements where an inflow of economic benefits or service potential is probable.

1.11 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

1.12 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.

Interest income is accrued on a time proportionate basis, taking into account the principal outstanding and effective interest rate over the period to maturity.

1.13 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.

1.14 Comparative figures

The NIHSS was established on 5 December 2013. The financial period for the 2023/24 financial year is over a 12 month period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

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.

1.15 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.

1.16 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.

1.17 Budget information

The approved budget on an accrual basis covers the fiscal period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

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.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.18 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.

1.19 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.

1.20 Significant judgments and sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts represented in these financial statements and related disclosures. Use of available information and the application of judgement 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 have 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 judgements 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.

1.21 Reserves

Any surplus funds at the end of the financial year are retained and utilised for project expenditure in the new financial year.

1.22 Reporting period

The reporting period for the 2024/25 financial year is over a 12 month period.

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 emerged out of a wide ranging consultative process inaugurated by the then Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 establishment of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (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 sciences 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 ensuring collaboration, co-ordination or collaboration 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 AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2. New standards and interpretations

2.1 Standards and interpretations 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	01 April 2025	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 1 Presentation of Financial statements	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	In terms of the standard when preparing financial statements, management shall make an assessment of an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.2 Standards and interpretations 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:
GRAP 103 - Heritage assets	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 105 on Transfer of Functions Between Entities Under Common Control (amended)	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 106 on Transfer of Functions Between Entities Not Under Common Control (amended)	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	No significant impact on future disclosures
GRAP 107 on Mergers (amended)	To be determined by the Minister of Finance	No significant impact on future disclosures
IGRAP 22 on Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration	01 April 2025	No significant impact on future disclosures

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Property, plant and equipment

	2025			2024		
Figures in Rands	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Furniture and fittings	3,451,417	(2,901,928)	549,489	3,451,417	(2,556,787)	894,630
Office equipment	1,914,410	(1,362,819)	551,591	1,513,468	(1,319,795)	193,673
IT equipment	2,097,481	(1,655,732)	441,749	2,097,481	(1,346,663)	750,818
Office equipment – Project	38,190	(35,725)	2,465	38,190	(35,417)	2,773
Leasehold improvements	4,686,010	(4,280,024)	405,986	4,686,010	(4,152,538)	533,472
Total	12,187,508	(10,236,228)	1,951,280	11,786,566	(9,411,200)	2,375,366

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2025

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fixtures	894,630	-	(345,142)	549,489
Office equipment	193,673	400,942	(43,024)	551,591
IT equipment	750,818	-	(309,069)	441,749
Office equipment – Project	2,773	-	(308)	2,465
Leasehold improvements	533,472	-	(127,487)	405,986
Total	2,375,366	400,942	(825,030)	1,951,280

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2024

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fixtures	1,240,717	-	-	(346,087)	894,630
Office equipment	272,451	7,500	(40)	(86,238)	193,673
IT equipment	993,251	355,723	(96,080)	(502,076)	750,818
Office equipment – Project	3,184	-	-	(411)	2,773
Leasehold improvements	738,872	165,183	-	(370,583)	533,472
Total	3,248,475	528,406	(96,120)	(1,305,395)	2,375,366

During the 2024/25 financial year, a total of R143 419 was incurred to repair and maintain various assets.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Intangible assets

Figures in Rands	2025			2024		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Computer software	1,989,979	(1,735,585)	254,395	1,989,979	(1,541,246)	448,734
Internally generated computer software	4,749,825	(3,650,986)	1,098,840	4,715,977	(3,222,785)	1,493,193
Total	6,739,804	(5,386,571)	1,353,235	6,705,956	(4,764,031)	1,941,927

The NIHSS has developed a Grant Management system internally during the 2016/17 until 2024/25 financial years.

The cumulative expenses on developing the system have been recognised in the carrying amount of these intangible asset and the development is still ongoing.

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2025

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	448,734	-	(194,340)	254,394
Internally generated computer software	1,493,193	33,848	(428,200)	1,098,841
Total	1,941,927	33,848	(622,540)	1,353,235

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2024

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software	337,766	278,714	(167,746)	448,734
Internally generated computer software	1,281,508	268,035	(56,350)	1,493,193
	1,619,274	546,749	(224,096)	1,941,927

5. Payables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Trade payables		1,174,489	117,307
Trade accruals		8,663	2,247,900
Employees' payables - 13th cheque		101,448	68,783
Accrued leave pay		564,746	641,501
		1,849,346	3,075,491

The carrying amount of trade and payables approximates their fair value due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial liabilities

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6. Prepayments

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Assets paid in advance		186,390	186,390
Rental paid in advance		362,688	334,278
Medical aid prepayment		83,489	34,079
Total		632,567	554,747

7. Inventories

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Consumable stores		223,514	217,176
		223,514	217,176

8. Receivables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Other debtors		238,685	461,621
Recoverable amount of fruitless and wasteful expenditure		496,093	498,193
		734,778	959,814

Included in Other Receivables is a balance of R175 069 which was awarded during 2022/23 in terms of a court case, for legal costs in favour of the NIHSS.

9. Cash and cash equivalents

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash on hand		1,863	867
NIHSS Operating Bank Account		3,203,858	6,208,343
NIHSS NSF Bank Account		784,655	1,136,798
NIHSS Current Bank (NSF)		987,998	2,641,615
Investments		15,132,818	37,515,570
NIHSS Corporate Cheque Account		100,860	4,552
Operations and project bank account		423,992	-
		20,636,044	47,507,745
		-	-
Credit Card		(1,150)	(66,516)
		20,634,895	47,441,231

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10. Finance lease obligation

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Minimum lease payments due			
- within one year		171,523	-
- in second to fifth year inclusive		314,459	-
less: future finance charges		485,982	-
		(69,480)	-
Present value of minimum lease payments		416,502	-

The Institute has entered into a finance lease agreement for the rental of 2 photocopying machines during the 2024/25 financial year. There are no annual escalation clauses associated with the leases. The leases have been accounted for in terms of GRAP 13.

The lease agreement starts from November 2024 and will end in October 2027 with an option to purchase the leased assets at the end of the lease term.

11. Trade and other payables from non-exchange transactions

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Unspent conditional grants and receipts comprises of:			
Unspent conditional grants and receipts			
Deferred revenue**		419,953	802,453
Trade payables		7,133,164	2,470,053
Accruals		2,121,524	351,250
Deferred - Sahuda***		100,860	-
		9,775,501	3,623,756

** 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. 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.

***NIHSS has received funds on behalf of Sahuda organization from October 2024, these funds are not for the NIHSS use however these funds will be handled and utilized on behalf of Sahuda as it is stipulated in the MOU between NIHSS and Sahuda.

Deferred Revenue

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed	Total
Provision for incentive	-	100,860	-	-	100,860

12. Provisions

Reconciliation of provisions – 2025

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Provision for incentive	991,752	781,275	(810,000)	(25,234)	937,793
	991,752	781,275	(810,000)	(25,234)	937,793

Reconciliation of provisions – 2024

Figures in Rands	Opening balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Provision for incentive	987,147	991,752	(700,192)	(286,955)	991,752
	987,147	991,752	(700,192)	(286,955)	991,752

The provision relates to the following:

- Provisions for performance incentives which are expected to be paid out before the end of December 2025. These are performance based and are driven by the employees' performance evaluations

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

13. Revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Other income		35,898	24,358
Interest received – investment		2,510,942	6,411,504
Government grants and subsidies		42,034,500	40,422,000
		44,581,340	46,857,862

The amount included in revenue arising from exchanges of goods or services is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Other income		35,898	24,358
Interest received – investment		2,510,942	6,411,504
		2,546,840	6,435,862

The amount included in revenue arising from non-exchange transactions is as follows:

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) - Operations funding		41,652,000	39,862,000
National Skills Fund (NSF) - Unconditional		382,500	560,000
		42,034,500	40,422,000

14. Investment revenue

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Interest revenue			
Interest received		2,510,942	6,411,504

15. Government grants and subsidies

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Operating grants			
Government grant		42,034,500	40,422,000

16. Employee-related costs

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Basic		19,068,439	20,334,041
Performance incentives		756,040	910,134
Medical aid - company contributions		357,066	370,422
Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)		57,564	61,006
Skills Development Levy (SDL)		201,616	208,226
Acting allowances		1,217,271	799,689
Provident fund - Employer contributions		56,269	60,259
Other deductions and payments withheld		(76,755)	(15,655)
		21,637,510	22,728,122

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

17. Depreciation and amortisation

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Property, plant and equipment		825,030	1,305,395
Intangible assets		622,539	224,099
		1,447,569	1,529,494

18. Project expenses

Awards

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Awards			
Catalytic Projects		2,495,830	7,526,320
Humanities Hubs		293,000	1,839,608
Awards		2,108,650	1,655,000
Evaluation Panels and Award Ceremony		12,768,760	9,353,886
Working Groups		2,013,450	5,095,500
Professional Associations		-	450,000
BRICS Think Tank		7,562,735	27,593,634
Skills Advisor		-	913,500
Covid-19 research		-	150,000
Emeriti Professors		2,975,000	4,300,000
Annual National Doctoral Conference		46,506	8,858,965
National and Regional workshops and seminars		475,442	169,323
Total awards		30,739,373	67,905,736
African Pathways (NSF-funded scholarships)		-	33,000
SAHUDA (NSF-funded scholarships)		9,927,864	17,976,500
Total Scholarships		9,927,864	18,009,500

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19. General expenses

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Audit fees - external		927,052	913,721
Audit fees - internal		361,733	317,642
Advertising and promotion		101,283	252
Consulting Fees		504,115	816,095
Legal Fees		-	60,896
Bank charges		43,424	44,458
Cleaning		141,987	62,525
Insurance		361,954	319,553
Workshop Costs (operational)		2,551,024	2,078,659
Internet costs		16,119	12,524
Groceries		96,830	84,667
Printing and stationery		429,535	426,195
Workmens compensation		5,873	54,516
Repairs and maintenance		143,420	506,130
Licenses		1,483,375	818,790
Security Expenses		-	1,967
Staff welfare		101,301	256,198
Subscriptions and membership fees		218,196	591,421
Telephone and fax		384,683	421,631
Staff Training		374,555	683,390
Travel & Accommodation		443,834	343,552
Staff refreshments		20,109	17,028
Small assets		27,326	9,421
Water and electricity		848,396	841,386
Rates and Taxes		183,020	154,193
Supplies and Services		76,896	145,448
Rental of equipment - finance costs		87,028	5,036
		9,933,065	9,987,294

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Project administration fee

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Doctoral Schools		1,205,578	837,137
Workshop costs – NSF		534,012	2,201,973
NSF project administration costs		(1,552,600)	787,260
		186,990	3,826,370

20. Net cash flows from operating activities

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Deficit		(32,767,565)	(80,607,960)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortisation		1,447,569	1,529,494
Gain on sale of assets and liabilities		-	59,429
Movements in operating lease assets and accruals		- (506,817)	(385,481)
Movements in provisions		(130,714)	(11,050)
Changes in working capital:			
Inventories		6,338	125,485
Receivables from exchange transactions		147,223	98,681
Payables from exchange transactions		5,283,993	(6,163,849)
Payables from non-exchange transactions		(281,640)	(560,000)
Retained earnings adjustment		100,591	427,770
		(26,701,022)	(85,487,481)

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Commitments

Operating lease commitments - As lessee (expense)

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Minimum lease payments due:			
• within one year		4,352,256	4,011,342
Rental expenses relating to operating leases			
Minimum lease payments		3,476,528	3,419,876

The lease contract ended in March 2025 and it was extended by a year to end in March 2026. The building is located on Erf 902, 24 St Andrews Road, Parktown.

Finance lease Commitments - As Lessee

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Minimum lease payments due:			
• within one year		128,642	-
• in second to fifth year inclusive		314,459	-
		443,101	-

Figures in Rands	Present value	Interest	Payment
Reconciliation of total future minimum lease payments and their present values:			
Due not later than one year (current liabilities)	97,878	30,804	128,642
Due later than one year and not later than five years (non-current liabilities)	275,879	38,579	314,459
	373,757	69,383	443,101

The Institute has entered into a finance lease agreement for the rental of 2 photocopying machines for a period of three years. There are no escalation clauses. The leases have been accounted for in terms of GRAP 13. The lease agreement will expire on 31 October 2027.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Project commitments

All Projects are funded by the National Skills Fund (NSF)

The contract period ranges from 1 to 3 years for all projects.

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Commitment Balance March 2024	Corrections to Opening Balances	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
Market Theatre Foundation	Humanities Hubs programme	00201712HUB_C	198,000	-	-	-	-	(198,000)	-
Javett Art Centre	Humanities Hubs programme	00202102HUB_B	475,000	-	-	-	(475,000)	-	-
Wits University	Working Group Programme	WGP22/1061	147,000	-	-	-	-	-	147,000
Durban University of Technology	Working Group Programme	WGP23/1002	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
University of Pretoria	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1003	350,000	-	-	-	-	-	350,000
HSRC Press	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1006	220,000	-	-	-	-	(220,000)	-
University of Western Cape	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1007	165,000	-	-	-	-	(165,000)	-
Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni	Professional Association	PAP20/1017	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
University of South Africa	Mobility Grant	BMG22/1044	130,800	-	-	-	-	(130,800)	-
University of Venda	Mobility Grant	BMG22/1065	90,000	-	-	-	-	(90,000)	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Mobility Grant	BMG22/1066	180,000	-	-	-	-	(180,000)	-
University of Limpopo	Promotion intra-BRICS	BC01/2020/01/1080	-	179,340	-	-	-	(71,736)	107,604
University of Cape Town	Mobility Grant	AMG22/1080	48,000	-	-	-	-	(48,000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Mobility Grant	AMG22/1034	59,840	-	-	-	-	(59,660)	180
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	African Pathways and Internation, BRICS	BMG22/1041	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Durban University of Technology	Growth and sustainability of livelihood in BRICS countries	BRI22/1215	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	(1,000,000)	-
University of Western Cape	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UWC	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UJ	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of Limpopo	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UL	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of Cape Town	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UCT	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of South Africa	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UNISA	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Commitment Balance March 2024	Corrections to Opening Balances	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
University of Free State	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UFS	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of ZuluLand	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25-01:UNIZULU	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
Prof Fred Hendrick	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25- 02	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Mentorship programme	NMP2024/25- 01	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
Wits University	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-01:WITS	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
Nelson Mandela University	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-01:NMU	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of KwaZulu- Natal	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-01:KZN	-	-	175,000	-	-	(175,000)	-
University of Cape Town	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:UCT	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
University of Johannesburg	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:UJ	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
University of Free State	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:UFS	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
University of ZuluLand	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:UNIZULU	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
Prof Fred Hendrick	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25- 03	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
Prof Nhlanhla Maake	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25- 04	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
Wits University	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:WITS	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
Nelson Mandela University	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-01:NMU	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:KZN	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
University of Limpopo	Mentorship Programme	NMP2024/25-02:UL	-	-	175,000	-	-	(87,500)	87,500
University of Cape Town	Humanities Hubs Programme	00202101HUB	600,000	-	-	-	-	-	600,000
University of Western Cape	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201710HUB_C	95,000	-	-	-	-	-	95,000
Wits University	Humanities Hubs Programme	00201708HUB_C	372,608	-	-	-	-	-	372,608
Institute for Global Dialogue	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/06	100,000	-	-	-	(100,000)	-	-
University of Witwatersrand	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/03	99,820	-	-	-	-	(99,820)	-

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Commitment Balance March 2024	Corrections to Opening Balances	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
University of Johannesburg	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/04	299,400	-	-	-	(299,400)	-	-
University of the Free State	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/01	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Rhodes University	BRICS Joint NIHSS-CASS Research Project	BC01/2019/05	98,400	-	-	-	(98,400)	-	-
University of Limpopo	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/10	60,000	-	-	-	(60,000)	-	-
Institute for Global Dialogue	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/02	60,000	-	-	-	(60,000)	-	-
University of Pretoria	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/01	179,340	-	-	-	-	-	179,340
University of Venda	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1033	59,600	-	-	-	-	-	59,600
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1026	2,700	-	-	-	-	-	2,700
North-West University	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1017	178,056	-	-	-	(178,056)	-	-
University of KwaZulu-Natal	BRICS Joint NIHSS-ICSSR Research Project	JNI20/1047	59,460	-	-	-	-	-	59,460
Tshwane University of Technology	Joint International Collaboration Research Project	JNI20/1010	57,200	-	-	-	(57,200)	-	-
University of Cape Town	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1020	117,000	-	-	-	(117,000)	-	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1096	147,000	-	-	-	-	-	147,000
Wits University	Working Groups Programme	WGP20/1075	96,000	-	-	-	(96,000)	-	-
Rhodes University	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1088	360,000	-	-	-	(360,000)	-	-
The Hani Legacy	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1044	114,634	-	-	-	-	-	114,634
Nelson Mandela University	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1107	189,208	-	-	-	(189,208)	-	-
Wits University	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1131	840,000	-	-	-	-	(504,000)	336,000
University of Zululand	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1049	199,888	-	-	-	-	-	199,888
Winnie Madikizela Mandela Memorial	Working Groups Programme	WGP21/1138	377,574	-	-	-	(377,574)	-	-

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Commitment Balance March 2024	Corrections to Opening Balances	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
University of Fort Hare	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1003	55,000	-	-	-	-	(33,000)	22,000
Rhodes University	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1099	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Jacana Media	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1008	-	-	-	220,000	-	(220,000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1067	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
University of Pretoria	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1003	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
University of KwaZulu-Natal (Press)	Working Groups Programme	WGP22/1006	149,700	-	-	-	-	(149,700)	-
Wits University-Press	Working Groups Programme	WGP23/1004	40,000	-	-	17,250	-	(57,250)	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP24/1001	-	-	240,000	-	-	(240,000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP24/1004	-	-	300,000	-	-	(180,000)	120,000
University of Johannesburg	Working Groups Programme	WGP24/1003	-	-	21,500	40,000	-	(61,500)	-
University of KwaZulu- Natal Press	Working Groups Programme	WGP24/1002	-	-	111,000	-	-	(66,000)	45,000
South African Humanities Deans Association (SAHUDA)	Professional Associations Programme	PAP20/1016	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Wits University	Brics Academic Cluster	BC01/2020/04	329,400	-	-	-	-	-	329,400
University of Limpopo	Catalytic Research Programme	CRC21/1016	150,000	-	-	-	(150,000)	-	-
University of Kwazulu-Natal	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1055	200,000	-	-	-	-	(200,000)	-
North West University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1090	376,000	-	-	-	-	(188,000)	188,000
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1095	400,000	-	-	-	-	(400,000)	-
Tshwane University of Tehnology	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1071	400,000	-	-	-	-	(200,000)	200,000
North West University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1014	200,000	-	-	-	-	(200,000)	-

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Commitment Balance March 2024	Corrections to Opening Balances	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
Nelson Mandela University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1074	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	400,000
Nelson Mandela University	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1100	144,230	-	-	-	-	(144,230)	-
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1105	400,000	-	-	-	-	(400,000)	-
University of South Africa	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1050	363,600	-	-	-	-	(363,600)	-
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1017	400,000	-	-	-	-	(400,000)	-
University of Johannesburg	Catalytic Research Programme	CRP22/1093	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	400,000
Prof Andries Oliphant	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Diana Ferrus	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Fred Hendricks	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Prof George Mahashe	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	22,000	-	-	(22,000)	-
Prof Jessica Murray	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Dr Lukhanyo Makhenyane	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Malika Ndlovu	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	35,000	-	-	(35,000)	-
Prof Michelle Williams	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Prof Molly Brown	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Dr Napjadi Letsoalo	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Nhlanhla Maahe	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Nompumelelo Zondi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Dr Nthambeleni Netshisaulu	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Pfunzo Sidogi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	22,000	-	-	(22,000)	-
Prof Ronney Ncwadi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Institution / Entity	Programme	Reference	Commitment Balance March 2024	Corrections to Opening Balances	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
Dr Sibongiseni Mkhize	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	55,000	-	-	(55,000)	-
Prof Sikhumbuzo Mngadi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Prof Siphokazi Magadla	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Prof Sisanda Nkoala	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	22,000	-	-	(22,000)	-
Prof Stephanus Muller	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	30,000	-	-	(30,000)	-
Prof Sekoluhle Nyathi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Ms Terry-Ann Adams	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	27,000	-	-	(27,000)	-
Mr Thembela Vokwana	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	22,000	-	-	(22,000)	-
Dr Thoko Mnisi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	47,000	-	-	(47,000)	-
Ms Tshiamo Mokgadi	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	22,000	-	-	(22,000)	-
Prof Zoliswa Fikelepi-Twani	Evaluation Panels and Awards		-	-	22,000	-	-	(22,000)	-
University of Pretoria	South African BRICS Think Tank Academic Research Cluster Grants: Economic and Development	BRI22/1216	882,200	-	-	-	-	(250,000)	632,200
University of Kwazulu-Natal	BRICS Security system as a means of fruitful cooperation	BRI22/1076	964,000	-	-	-	-	(964,000)	-
South African Institute of International Affairs	BRICS Shaping climate governance and the just transition: Partnership between India and South Africa	BRI22/1232	989,691	-	-	-	-	(989,691)	-
Total			16,752,349	179,340	5,373,500	277,250	(2,500,838)	(12,416,987)	16,752,349
Non-contract expenditure[^]			-	-	-	-	-	(18,322,387)	-
Total			-	-	-	-	-	(30,739,374)	-

[^] These are operational expenses incurred to support the NSF projects that do not fall under a contract.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Scholarships (SAHUDA)	Contractual value at 31 March 2024	New contracts for year ending 31 March 2025	Additional funding	Transfers/ Adjustments	Write backs	Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025	Contractual value at 31 March 2025
	22,480,000	1,233,000	-	-	(3,705,000)	(9,927,864)	10,080,136
Total	22,480,000	1,233,000	-	-	(3,705,000)	(9,927,864)	10,080,136

22. Contingencies

Contingent liabilities

2024/25

No possible obligation was identified during the 2024/25 financial year.

2023/24

No possible obligation was identified during the 2023/24 financial year.

Contingent assets

2024/25

NSF project funding

A possible asset of R209,695,750 exist due to funding for 2024/25 projects not yet received by the end of the financial year 2024/25, The 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan (APP) was

approved by DHET, consequently, the asset is contingent upon initiating the funding application process with the National Skills Fund (NSF) as per the approved APP.

NSF Scholarships defaults

A possible asset of R99 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 obligation and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process

2023/24

NSF Scholarships defaults

A possible asset of R220 540 000 exists due to funding for project for 2023/24 not yet received as at the end of the financial year. As at 2023/24 financial year-end, all submissions for funding had been made to DHET and therefore the asset is contingent upon finalisation of the process with DHET as well as approval of Annual Performance Plan (APP). The APP was not yet approved as at 2023/24 financial year end.

23. Related parties

Relationship	
Member	Currently no board in place
Controlling entity	Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
Entities under common control:*	NSF
Members of key management	Auriel Niemack
	Tshiamo Molapisi
	Hlanzekile Mbokazi

****The DHET has a number of institutions and entities which reports to it, including universities, TVET colleges and SETAs. For the year under review, the NIHS did not transact with any of those entities, except universities. All transactions with the universities have been disclosed under Note 21 Project Commitments. The nature of the transactions with universities is grants awarded to student for studies.**

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Related party balances

Figures in Rands	2025	2024
Loan accounts - Owing (to) by related parties		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	-	-
Amounts included in Trade receivable (Trade Payable) regarding related parties		
National Skills Fund	419,953	802,453
Sahuda funds	100,860	-
Commitments with related parties		
National Skills Fund	-	-

All related party balances and transactions to DHET include the transfer to/from the National Skills Fund

Related party transactions

Figures in Rands	2025	2024
Grants received from related parties		
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	41,652,000	39,862,000
National Skills Fund	382,500	560,000
Total	40,034,500	40,422,000

Management class: Executive management 2025

Name	Basic salary	Bonuses and performance related payments	Total
Chief Executive Officer	1,643,258	30,000	1,673,258
Chief Financial Officer	1,558,460	30,000	1,588,460
Executive Manager	1,218,727	30,000	1,248,727
	4,420,445	90,000	4,510,445

2024

Name	Basic salary	Bonuses and performance related payments	Total
Chief Executive Officer	2,671,715	120,311	2,792,026
Chief Financial Officer	1,164,380	56,097	1,220,477
Executive Manager	1,328,436	54,782	1,383,218
	5,164,531	231,190	5,395,721

The key management group consists of the Acting Director(Office of the CEO), Acting CFO and Executive Manager.

The Executive Manager was appointed as the Acting Director in the office of the CEO since 2023/24 financial year

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

24. Change in accounting estimate

Property, plant and equipment

The useful lives of computer equipment, leasehold improvements and computer software are as follows:

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Furniture and fixtures	9-11 years	11% - 9%
Office equipment	4-12 years	25% - 8.33%
IT equipment	2-11 years	50% - 9%
Computer software	2-11 years	50% - 9%
Leasehold improvements	3-10 years	33.33% -10%

An assessment was done during the 2024/25 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 have 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 revised as follows (only on those specific items):

	Average useful life	Depreciation rates
Office equipment	Extended by 1 more year	25% - 8.33%
IT equipment	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 9%
Computer software	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 9%
Leasehold improvements	Extended by 1 more year	33.33% - 10%
Internally generated computer software	Extended by 1 more year	50% - 9%

The revised useful lives had the following effect on the carrying amounts of the assets:

	Average useful life	Amounts
Office equipment	Increase in carrying amount	113 132
IT equipment	Increase in carrying amount	195 611
Office equipment - projects	Increase in carrying amount	179 143
Computer software	Increase in carrying amount	384 403
Leasehold improvements	Increase in carrying amount	2 464
Internally generated computer software	Increase in carrying amount	322 857

The effect on the current and future periods will be an decrease in the depreciation charge of R1 197 612 in the current period and an equal Increase in the depreciation charge of R1 197 612 over the next period.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

25. Risk management

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' short, medium and long term funding and liquidity management requirements. The liquidity risk as pertains to the finance lease is minimal and therefore has not been included in the analysis.

2024/25	6 months or less	6-12 months	1-2 years
Payables from exchange transactions	1,849,350	-	-
2023/24	6 months or less	6-12 months	1-2 years
Payables from exchange transactions	3,075,491	-	-

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 and funds are invested in short-term deposits and call accounts. As such, the NIHSS is not exposed to significant credit risk related to the risk or loss of interest earned on cash and cash equivalents.

2024/25

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due*	734,778	-	734,778
<i>*Not past due is defined as when a counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due. As such, the receivable as relates to the recovery of legal costs are not past due.</i>			
The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	-	-	-
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	20,636,044	-	20,636,044
	20,636,044	-	20,636,044

2023/24

The ageing of receivables from exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due*	959,814	-	959,814
The ageing of receivables from non-exchange transactions:	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	-	-	-
The ageing of cash and cash equivalents	Gross	Impairment	Total
Not past due	47,507,746	-	47,507,746
	47,507,746	-	47,507,746

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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' 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. The funds are invested in short-term deposits and call accounts and as such, the NIHSS is not exposed to significant interest rate risk related to fluctuations in the interest rate for interest earned or charged cash and cash equivalents. The amount of cash and cash equivalents as well as interest earned has been disclosed on the face of the Statement of Financial Position as well as Note 9.

26. Going concern

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. In prior years a review process was conducted by a review panel as appointed by the Minister and assessed the mandate of the NIHSS with a recommendation send through to the Department in terms of its extension. During the review of the mandate, a budget was allocated and approved for prior year as well as current year ended 31 March 2025. The Annual Performance Plan for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 has been submitted and approved by DHET. Furthermore, a budget vote has been approved for the NIHSS from 2025/26 to 2027/28 financial years in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

27. Events after the reporting date

No event after reporting date was identified during the 2024/25 financial year.

28. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Figures in Rands	Notes	2025	2024
Opening balance as previously reported		498,194	327,719
Add: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure identified - current		-	173,175
Less: Amount recovered - current		(2,100)	(2,700)
Closing balance		496,094	498,194

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is presented inclusive of VAT.

2024/25

Opening balance of Fruitless and wasteful expenditure relates to the following:

1. 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.
2. Also included is an amount of R177 069 which was as a result of a cyber crime that occurred prior year (The matter is still under investigation with SAPS).
3. A penalty to an amount of R32 658 as a result of late payment of the PAYE, sdi and UIF during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.
4. An erroneous payment of R29 712.70 was made to a former employee of the NIHSS in the prior year. Steps were taken to recover the funds from the relevant employee and the institute is considering other avenues in having the matter resolved.
5. The former employee committed theft where tablets to the value of R143 462 were stolen from the premises of the institute. The employee has signed an acknowledgement of debt.

In 2024/25 there were no new additional fruitless and wasteful expenditure identified.

NOTES TO THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2023/24

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. Also included is an amount of R177 069 which was as a result of a cyber crime that occurred prior year (the matter is still under investigation with SAPS) as well as penalty to an amount of R32 658 as result of late payment of the PAYE, sdl and UIF during the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

An erroneous payment of R29 712.70 was made to a former employee of the NIHSS in the prior year. Steps were taken to recover the funds from the relevant employee and the institute is considering other avenues in having the matter resolved. During the financial year an employee committed theft where tablets to the value of R143 462 were stolen from the premises of the institute. The matter is under investigation.

29. Irregular expenditure

There was no irregular expenditure incurred during the 2023/24 financial year.

30. Budget differences

Differences between budget and actual amounts basis of preparation and presentation

Item	Reason
Interest revenue	Amount relates to actual interest earned on current and investment accounts.
Government funding	The full allocation of funding for operations(including BRICS funding) was received during the financial year. Of the total allocated budget of R209 695 750 for the 2024/25 no funding has been received for the financial year. R382,500 is income recognised after utilizing conditional funds resulting in reduction of deferred revenue.
Operational expenditure	General expenses were incurred during the financial year and in line with budget. The R4,783,348 budget under spending is as a result of applying measures to cut costs and save funds . This is due to of lack of project funding and governance matters still to be resolved.
Project expenses	The NIHSS did not receive 2024/25 funding from the NSF, for project expenditure. As such, the expenditure is below budget. Projects were funded from reserves.



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