



8th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ENVISIONING DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGE OF (POST) PANDEMICS

PROGRAMME

17-19 OCTOBER 2022

In collaboration with
the
University of Botswana



MORNING SESSION: PLENARY

TIME: 08:00-11:00
VENUE: MAIN HALL

SESSION CHAIR: Dr. Lesedi Mashumba & Nelson Sello

Main Registration Monday, 17 October 2022 08:00-08:30

08:30-08:40	Welcome Address Dr Sethunya: <i>University of Botswana Head of Sociology</i>
08:40-09:00	Opening Dr Sebeko R Plaatjie: <i>SADSA President</i>
09:15-09:30	Address by Prof David Norris: <i>University of Botswana Vice Chancellor</i>
09:30-09:45	Address by Her Excellency Mrs Thaninga Shope-Soumah: <i>South African High Commissioner to Botswana</i>
09:45-10:00	Address by Honourable Minister Kereng: <i>Ministry of Environment & Tourism</i>
10:00-10:15	Setting the Scene: Masters and Doctoral students' performance in South Africa Prof David Mello <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
10:15-10:25	Housekeeping Dr L Mashumba
10:25-10:35	Event Group Photo
10:35-11:00	TEA BREAK
SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3EGL9W6	

DAY ONE: MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022**THEME: DEVELOPMENT THEORIES, TEACHING AND LEARNING**

SESSION: 1A
VENUE: MAIN HALL

SESSION CHAIR: Prof France Maphosa

11:00-13:00	Nhlamulo Decent Baloyi <i>University of South Africa</i>	Developing Public Administration Education in (South) Africa: can the colonised Decolonise?
	Clement Tlhogo <i>University of Botswana</i>	Teaching and learning of Development Studies trajectory in Botswana Secondary Schools
	Prof. Gretchen du Plessis <i>University of South Africa</i>	Securitization theory and tertiary education during COVID-19 <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Adelaide Selemela <i>University of Limpopo</i>	The role of education in socio-economic development <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3s0Po7E	

DAY ONE: MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022**THEME: DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AS MULTIDISCIPLINARY**

SESSION:1B
VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 1

SESSION CHAIR: Prof Gabriel Faimau

11:00-13:00	Kganathi Shaku <i>STADIO Higher Education</i>	Language development during COVID-19: A case of Sesotho sa Leboa language, in South Africa
	Phenyo Lekoma <i>University of South Africa</i>	Critical development studies in the South African Context: A review of theory and practice
	Ntombikayise Mandisa Bhomoyi & Madumetsa Godfrey Manamela <i>University of South Africa</i>	Livelihood diversifications in informal settlements of South Africa: human security and development context
	Keneuoe Alice Maphosa <i>University of Pretoria</i>	The utility of the social marginality thesis in explaining informal cross-border entrepreneurship by Basotho women <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3g03NxU	

DAY ONE: MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022**THEME: IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE****SESSION:1C
VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 2****SESSION CHAIR: Dr Godisang Mookodi**

11:00-13:00	Mayekiso, A. <i>University of Zululand</i> Khoza, A. <i>University of Limpopo</i>	Nutrition and health benefits linked to consumption of indigenous leafy vegetables: A strategy to combat food security during Covid-19 at Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Okem Andrew Emmanuel <i>University of KwaZulu Natal</i>	A Review of the Roles of Agricultural Cooperative in Africa's Recovery from the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Irene Modibetsane <i>University of Botswana</i>	The Importance of Agriculture: Technology Adoption: Sociological Methods and Theoretical Reflections
	Raselabe Thato Vincent Lesley <i>University of Venda</i>	Farmers' attitudes towards the formation of cooperatives in rural areas: A study of irrigation schemes in Makhado Local Municipality <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3MBjmsf		

LUNCH BREAK**13:00-14:00****DAY ONE: MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022****THEME: ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT****SESSSION: 2A
VENUE: MAIN HALL****SESSION CHAIR: Dr Kelebogile Paadi**

14:00-16:30	Itumeleng Dube Ms Clara Msiza <i>University of South Africa</i>	Investigating small-scale farmers and barriers to entry in cannabis cultivation in South Africa
	Ms Valery Louw <i>University of South Africa</i>	Usurping the role of an underperforming state: a case of South Africa <i>Virtual Presentation</i>

	Mpho Tshikororo Katlego Thaba <i>University of Venda</i>	The disparity of agricultural marketing performance under climate change threat: Comparison between contracted and non-contracted emerging farmers. <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Thabo F Saul <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>	Leadership development in the local government sphere in South Africa: A case of Kwa-Zulu Natal municipalities
SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3MBngRV		

DAY ONE: MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

SESSION: 2B

VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 1

SESSION CHAIR: Dr. Victor H Mlambo

14:00-16:30	Dr Matsebe J Thobejane <i>Mpumalanga Legislature</i> Prof. Mokgadi J Ngoepe-Ntsoane <i>University of South Africa</i>	A critical exploration on the importance of participation and involvement by the local structures to an improved service delivery in development processes: A case of the Sekhukhune District Municipality <i>Hybrid Presentation</i>
	Daniel N. Mlambo <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>	The Tragedy of the African National Congress (ANC) and its Cadre Deployment Policy: Ramifications for Municipal Stability, Corruption and Service Delivery
	Nonfo Mokwakwa <i>University of Botswana</i>	Monitoring and Evaluation, a Tool for Equity in a Transitioning Society <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Adelaide Selemela <i>University of Limpopo</i>	Youth participation and leadership in governance and development <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3yKb7V4	

DAY ONE: MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN DEFENCE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

SESSION: 2C

VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 2

SESSION CHAIR: TBC

	Dr Kezell Klinck <i>North-West University</i>	An evaluation of the efficiency and challenges of national rural youth service corps: A conceptual paper
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14:00-16:30		Virtual Presentation
	Sharon Tshipa <i>University of Botswana</i>	ICT delivered adaptation and mitigation measures should not exclude the underprivileged from the climate change fight: Lessons from Botswana
	Sifiso Mdluli <i>University of South Africa</i>	Exploring the barriers affecting people living with disabilities within the workforce of the Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Social Development Virtual Presentation
	Clement Tlhogo <i>University of Botswana</i>	Shifting from needs based community development to asset based community development in rural areas
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3D0Nfix	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

MORNING SESSION: PLENARY

Time: 08:00-10:30

VENUE: MAIN HALL

SESSION CHAIR: Dr Mashumba

08:00-08:30	Late Registration
08:30-08:45	President's Brief Remarks Botswana National Development Studies Association
08:45-08:55	Introduction of the Guest Speaker Ms Monene Mogashoa
08:55-9:30	Guest Speaker Prof Vusi Gumede Reflections on the role of the state in development: How can the South African government be more effective? Virtual Presentation
09:30-10:00	Discussions
10:00-10:10	Announcements

10:10-10:30	TEA BREAK
SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3EGL9W6	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: POLITICS IN DEVELOPMENT

SESSION: 3A
VENUE: MAIN HALL

SESSION CHAIR: Mr Decent Nhlamulo Baloyi

10:30-13:00	Daniel N. Mlambo <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>	Children of the Kivu Conflict: (Re) Scrutinizing the Many Decades of Child Soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Post-Independence Era
	Ndakaitei Makwanise (PhD) <i>National University of Science and Technology</i>	The Democracy that Destroys: The Curse of Elections in Africa Virtual Presentation
	Madumetsa G Manamela <i>University of South Africa</i>	Political Freedom and Consciousness in Africa: Towards Youth Empowerment and Demographic Dividend
	Sizo Nkala PhD <i>University of Johannesburg</i>	Is China Recolonizing Africa?
	Monene Mogashoa <i>University of South Africa</i>	Complexities of Development: Understanding land through the philosophy of Ubuntu
	Frank Lekaba <i>North-West University</i>	The war between Ukraine and Russia, a turning point in World Politics to Cold War and Bandung?
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3g52mhl	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: GLOBAL SOLIDARITY IN THE AGE OF PANDEMICS

SESSION: 3B
VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 1

SESSION CHAIR: Mr Itumeleng Dube

	Ms. Tshiamo Molamu Dr. Kelebogile Paadi <i>North West University</i>	Exploring Futuristic Skills for Sustainable Graduate Employability
	Dr Matsebe J Thobejane <i>Mpumalanga Legislature</i> Prof. Mokgadi J Ngoepe-Ntsoane <i>University of South Africa</i>	<i>The Frigidity of the District Municipalities towards the needs of Society</i> Hybrid Presentation

10:30-13:00	Mr. Collins Okene Dr. Kelebogile Paadi <i>North West University</i>	Adapting to the influences of the fourth industrial revolution in today's workplace: perspectives from human resource management practitioners
	Laone Tiny Desert Dimpho M. Matlhola <i>University of Botswana</i>	Factors Influencing Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in Alleviating Youth Unemployment in Maun, Botswana
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3eGDxYc	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

SESSION: 3C

VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 2

SESSION CHAIR: Dr. Victor H Mlambo

10:30-12:30	Dr Tamanda Kamwendo <i>University of the Free State</i>	Health Financing Reform in South Africa: Moving Towards The National Health Insurance Scheme <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Sharon Tshipa <i>University of Botswana</i>	Botswana's health system preparedness for management of public health disasters: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic
	Ms Maphuthi Elizabeth Choung <i>University of Limpopo</i>	Framing the Covid-19 ramifications on the planning and implementation of cervical cancer screening and prevention
	Desmond Mwembe <i>National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe</i>	A statistical analysis of time to a claim: A case of Zimbabwe's health insurance clientele <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3CDEd90	

LUNCH BREAK

13:00-14:00

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: INEQUALITIES AND GLOBAL CRISES

SESSION: 4A

VENUE: MAIN HALL

SESSION CHAIR: Ms. Tshiamo Molamu

	Prof Lucius Botes <i>North-West University</i>	All communities need shoulders to cry on: The Feminisation of volunteer Work in Eswatini <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
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14:00-16:30	Dr Juliet C Kamwendo <i>University of the Free State</i>	Looking beyond the horizon and join the dots in the quest to redress the prevalence of gender-based violence in South Africa
	Clement Tlhogo <i>University of Botswana</i>	Unruly intimate relationships resulting in gender based violence in Botswana
	Keatlegile Moses Mabena <i>University of South Africa</i>	Attitudes towards gender-based violence among women in Lesotho <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Dr. Nelson Sello <i>University of Botswana</i>	Policy paradox and skewed development analysing Botswana's social development in relation to minorities
SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3yJoHYB		

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022

THEME: DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SESSION: 4B

VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 1

SESSION CHAIR: Dr Daniel N. Mlambo

14:00-16:30	Bhekisisa Nyoni <i>National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe</i>	A nexus of Humanitarian Engineering, 4th Industrial Revolution and Society 5.0 for rural development
	Mr H van den Berg <i>University of Johannesburg</i> Professor K Mearns <i>University of South Africa</i>	Inclusion of local community farmers into the last mile logistics distribution systems of wildlife tourism destinations <i>Virtual Presentation</i>
	Dr Sebeka Richard Plaatjie <i>University of South Africa</i>	Towards a theory of development ethics in the age of the “pandemic”: Reflections from an African philosophical perspective
	SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3CuwESw	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022	
THEME: WHERE ARE THE DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS, ACADEMIA, DONORS AND RESEARCHERS?	
SESSION: 4C	
VENUE: BREAKAWAY ROOM 2	
SESSION CHAIR: Ms Mandisa Bhomoyi	
Ms Sipehelele N. Mahlaba Dr Daniel N. Mlambo <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>	The importance of multidisciplinary research in promoting development during COVID-19 Pandemic: A critical analysis paper
Mr Chigozie Azunna <i>University of South Africa</i>	Volunteerism, expectations and the reality in the post pandemic era for development in South Africa
Dr. Victor H Mlambo <i>University of Johannesburg</i>	A Break Down in service delivery and voter discontent: corruption in South Africa's Local Government sector
SESSION LINK: https://bit.ly/3eFX1wZ	

DAY TWO: TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022	
18:30-00:00	GALA DINNER

DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022	
11:00-14:00	Excursion

Developing Public Administration Education in (South) Africa: can the colonised Decolonise?

Nhlamulo Decent Baloyi

University of South Africa

Abstract

Public Administration as a discipline concerns itself with the training of potential public servants through streamlined educational pedagogies related to government and its administration. In the last decade, the debate on curriculum relevance in higher education has gained prominence in various sectors. Such debates have also widened the space for students, academics and practitioners in (South) Africa to compound the curriculum dialogue through the lens of ‘decolonisation’. Public Administration is no stranger to the decolonisation debate, as scholarly evidence continues to surface on the need to develop relevant, decolonised public administration education. While the focus of this paper is not to present a philosophical stance on both the existence of westernised public administration and the purported need for decolonisation therewith, current scholarly contributions to the subject are studied and analysed in this paper. The objective of such analysis is to arrive at an understanding of whether it is possible for current scholars to decolonise a systemic existence of westernised educational content and pedagogies. The paper asks the following question: can the colonised decolonise? In response, an argument is brought forward for scholars of public administration and higher education in general, to pursue a more ontological aspect of the subject, which is to ‘Africanise’ educational content. This will enable the development of various curricula that is contextually relevant and based on the lived experience of the (South) African student.

Livelihood diversifications in informal settlements of South Africa: human security and development context

Ntombikayise Mandisa Bhomoyi & Madumetsa Godfrey Manamela

University of South Africa

Abstract

The purpose and aim of this paper is to unpack an approach to human security and development in the informal settlements of South Africa. Within that context, the paper used a pilot study in one of the informal settlements named Diepsloot, Extension 12 in Gauteng Province, South Africa. Thus, the analyses and interpretations of data are based on the pilot study conducted to validate the primary and secondary data. It is worth noting that improving a living condition in informal settlements depends more on the context of livelihood strategies. However, there seems to be a despondency in the practice of the diversity of livelihoods due to a paucity of attention by the government while livelihood diversifications posited to be a quest that possibly quell the unpleasant living conditions in the informal settlements. The paper argues that there is a neglect and lack of adequate support towards livelihood strategies by the government in most informal settlements. The government discourses human security and development through legislation and policy frameworks, conversely the ambivalent dominates paucity and lack of support thereof. The paper recommends a shift and skewed approach towards a full support that is legislated. That is looking at the high unabated unemployment rates and the inept of creation of jobs in South Africa. The paper concludes that there are high poverty levels that increases amongst the disadvantaged groups hence the recommended notions of a support towards livelihoods strategies.

Keywords: Livelihoods Diversification; Informal Settlement; Human Security and Development; South Africa; Sustainable Development Goals

Lihlombe Lekukhalela - ALL COMMUNITIES NEED SHOULDERS TO CRY ON: THE FEMINISATION OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN ESWATINI

Saul Chirume

University of South Africa

Lucius Botes

North-West University

Abstract

Community care work has grown enormously in the HIV and AIDS pandemic era in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The pandemic led to a crisis of care, which exposed shortfalls in health and social service delivery. In Eswatini, the declaration of HIV as a disaster spurred investment to scale up service delivery, leading to the growth of a care economy patterned along task-shifting and hinged on unpaid community volunteers. Community-based initiatives were established, and traditional Swazi customs resuscitated. While we credit community volunteer work for sustaining epidemic control, the gendered distribution of the care burden spotlights the assumptions underpinning the contemporary care economy in contexts epitomised by patriarchy, such as SSA. The study explored the socio-economic variables associated with community volunteering in Eswatini. In-depth interviews were conducted with 11 volunteers drawn from across different programmes, and five community members drawn from the two study locations. The 11 community volunteers also took part in a focus group discussion. We conducted key informant interviews with seven program personnel from volunteer involving organisations. The findings suggest gender and social norms are fundamental determinants traditionalising the uptake and experience of community caregiving.

Keywords: African volunteering, Community volunteering, Ethics of care, Gender equality, Unpaid care work

Volunteerism, expectations and the reality in the post pandemic era for development in South Africa

Chigozie Azunna

University of South Africa

Abstract

Unemployment and the quest for skills development, empowerment and full-time employment have led to a growing surge in volunteerism across the country especially since the post covid era in South Africa. The objective of this paper is consequently to examine how volunteer activities (YVAs) have offered opportunities and created an enabling development environment for young men and women to be employable, thereby improving their quality of life with special focus on what the volunteers want or expect for the time they sacrifice volunteering. To be able to achieve this objective, qualitative methodology is used to collect data for analysis. The researcher relied on secondary information from Statistics South Africa's (StatsSA) database. Other information (primary data) was obtained from the records at youth centres and the Department of Social Development. The study found that the youth volunteer rate has increased over the past decade by 2.1 percentage points from 3.7% to 5.8%. It also found that youth volunteerism has become a way of life and a route to fulltime employment that assured them and improved their quality of life. Importantly, for further analysis is what the volunteers actually expect for their time hence this study was carried out.

Keywords: Youth, volunteering, South Africa, employment, empowerment, development

Framing the Covid-19 ramifications on the planning and implementation of cervical cancer screening and prevention

Ms Maphuthi Elizabeth Choung & Prof Toks Oyedemi

University of Limpopo

Abstract

For decades, cervical cancer has been a challenging public health issue affecting women in South Africa and worldwide, with the under-developed and developing countries being affected the most. Despite the efforts of making screening (Pap smear) and treatment available across many healthcare facilities, outstanding issues regarding the communication and health promotion come into play as well implementation of health programmes. The current paper shares insights on the developmental aspects of health programmes that are initiated for the purpose of raising awareness and drive change in countries that are plagued by a scourge of non-communicable diseases such as cancer. With the recent impact of Covid-19, this paper discusses how the pandemic has affected the implementation of health programmes in South Africa and globally. With vast literature in this area, the current paper anticipates to add to the body knowledge and bring innovative and novel insights for health professionals involved in the planning of health campaigns for cervical cancer and stakeholders involved in the implementation of health policies.

Keywords: Cervical cancer, Covid-19, screening, health programmes, awareness, development and implementation

Factors Influencing Multi-Sectoral Collaboration in Alleviating Youth Unemployment in Maun, Botswana

Laone Tiny Desert & ²Dimpho M. Matlhola

University of Botswana; Okavango Research Institute

Abstract

Unemployment remains a controversial issue for policymakers, development practitioners, government, and youth activists in Botswana. The youth, aged below 35 years, constitutes about 70 percent of Botswana's total population (United Nations Population Fund, 2018) and are the highest unemployed, at 32.4 percent (Statistics Botswana, 2020). Drivers of youth unemployment include skills mismatch, increased start-up mortality rate, lack of economic diversification, poor government policies, jobless growth, and lack of proper work experience. Youth unemployment is a multi-faceted issue, affecting the economy and development of Botswana negatively and therefore cannot be addressed by one organization/sector. Studies have recommended collaboration between various stakeholders to address unemployment and improve the country's economy and development. This study, therefore, aimed at determining factors influencing multi-sectoral collaboration to alleviate youth unemployment in Maun, Botswana. The study also aimed at determining the extent of multi-sectoral collaboration as well as assessing the availability of resources and policy issues affecting multi-sectoral collaborations.

Purposive sampling was used to select ten (10) representative organisations from the public sector, private sector, civil society, parastatals, and job seekers. Data were collected from respondents through face-to-face interviews using an interview guide with open-ended questions and recording with a smartphone. Questions were adapted from the Thomson et al. (2007) model and the theory of collaborative advantage following themes from these models. The study used content analysis to analyse data and Thomson's model of collaboration dimensions were used to assess the extent of collaborations. The findings of the study established that there is limited multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing youth unemployment in Maun, especially in the public sector. Governance, administration, aims, identity, culture, resources availability such as funding, human resource, and policies were identified as factors influencing multi-sectoral collaborations. The majority of these factors are limited within the existing collaborations on addressing youth employment. However, funding seems to be available in some sectors. The study recommends that decision-making on collaboration should be decentralized, the government should introduce incentives for collaborations, better policy implementation strategies should be adopted, and resources should be availed to drive collaborations for addressing youth unemployment.

Keywords: youth, unemployment, multi-sectoral collaboration, economy, livelihoods

To investigate how spatial planning is contributing to gender-based violence in the informal settlements: In the case of South Africa

Ms Maite Dithebe

North-West University

Abstract

Providing adequate housing is a constitutional right and the Department of Human Settlement is amendment about providing change in the context of spatial planning to eradicate informal settlement by 2014; as stipulated in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 to respond systematically, to entrenched spatial patterns across all geographic scales that exacerbate social inequality and economic inefficiency. South Africa is contextualized by the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality which are directly linked to human security and the informal settlements of our country is characterized by these persisting challenges. There are a number of reasons why informal settlements exist and why people decide to establish and develop them. The main concept is that informal settlements have become a perpetual challenge and adversely imposing negative impacts to the environment and neighbouring areas. Living in informal settlements leads to exposure and vulnerability to numerous challenges; environmental, social, political and economical and violence. Women and young girls have no status, no protection and no prospects in many families and communities and that contributes to inequalities entrenched in our systems. Due to the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality crime levels are higher in informal settlement, leaving women and children at the receiving end. The argument of this paper states that the spatial planning policy should be more in favour of “planning with” in contrast to “planning for” to be more inclusive of a gender perspective should be integrated at all levels and in all facets of urban, spatial planning development. The study will look at how spatial planning in informal settlements impacts gender-based violence and offer a collective approach to achieving gender mainstreaming for planning with rather than planning for each other. The gender mainstreaming will imply that a gender perspective can be integrated in every activity undertaken and will inform decision-making processes at both policy and operational level. It is also important to clarify that gender mainstreaming is not a goal in itself; it is a way of working towards the goal of gender equality. This will be explored from the Marxist Feminism that anchors the importance of inclusivity. This paper will use the qualitative research methodology, will use desktop to collect data and use content analysis to analyse data collected. The inclusivity of women in spatial planning and transformation will reaffirm the international commitment to eradicate poverty, inequality, to address needs of all citizens for positive impact on sustainable development.

Keywords: Department of Human Settlement, Spatial planning, Marxist feminism, poverty, unemployment, inequality, informal settlements, gender-based violence (GBV)

The effective role of women and youth in achieving the SDGs

Ms Maite Dithebe

North-West University

Abstract

Poverty and underdevelopment remain daunting challenges for social and human development in developing countries. The UN-AU framework for enhancing peace and security will ensure that there is growth and corporation to ultimately eradicate factors like poverty, unemployment and inequalities. Furthermore, education has substantial benefits for human development which will enhance other sectors too, an educated population is better equipped to address issues affecting the world, continent, regions and countries which can benefit eradication of inequalities and poverty and promote skills development. The skills development goals (SDG) will help in ensuring that there is lasting peace, development and prosperity for all. The role of woman and youth in achieving the SDGs is very important as previous literature has not addressed the sufficient and important role woman and youth will play in achieving the SDGs. Education is an instrument that is very powerful. According to the world population (2019) the woman population and youth is the dominating factor and once both are educated development, and policy implementation is certain. This study will use qualitative research method, will use desktop to collect data, and use content analysis to analyse data collected. The role of youth and woman will reaffirm the international commitment to eradicate poverty, inequality and ensure that no one is left behind.

Keywords: Education, SDGs, Woman, Youth, unemployment, skills development

Securitization theory and tertiary education during COVID-19

Gretchen du Plessis

University of South Africa

Abstract

The Copenhagen School's theory of securitisation focuses on identifying vulnerabilities, insecurities, and perceived threats as a first step in a securitisation process that then unleashes extraordinary efforts to contain the threat and to reform existing processes to neutralise risks to the society. In applying the theory to tertiary education at a CODEL, the author identifies both new securitisation actors and additional implementation procedures that were introduced in this environment to protect academic integrity, an area of risk that grew exponentially during the pandemic where more teaching, learning and assessment were forced into the depersonalised online space than ever before. All securitisation interventions tend to produce counter-securitisation processes. Risks in this regard are delinked from the yet unfulfilled claims of inclusivity and student-centredness. The paper argues that the complex epistemological basis of securitisation is part of the colonisation of global intellectual capital. The argument is made in three stages. Firstly, I demonstrate how the tenets of securitisation theory can account for the emergence of the securitised academic integrity claims of a university. Secondly, I attempt to show that this securitisation of education offers a glimpse at a nascent colonisation of global intellectual capital. Finally, I tease out the implications of the securitisation for the transformation of universities, but also for the practice of teaching, learning and research in tertiary education. In the paper I argue that fear and excessive securitisation can subsume teaching and obscure the basic principles of setting lofty expectations for students, imagining courageous goals for learning, and encouraging critical thinking. The purpose of this paper is to explore the concept of securitisation, and then to use it to frame the understanding, critique, and resistance of the current language around the securitization of academic integrity. The paper concludes with an invitation to open up the space for an ethic of care as a counter-hegemonic practice.

Investigating small-scale farmers and barriers to entry in cannabis cultivation in South Africa

Itumeleng Dube, Nonceba Ntoyanto, Sizile Makola, & Clara Msiza

University of South Africa

Abstract

The return of the prodigal green crop has left the most vulnerable small-scale cannabis farmers high and dry. In 2018 the South African constitutional court legalised the use of cannabis for personal and medical use. The 2018 regulations on cannabis in South Africa were welcomed and thought to bring jobs and a new lifeline in the eradication of poverty. However, in the haste to join the global urgency in cultivating cannabis, small-scale farmers were left behind and prevented in the bid of the green-gold rush. Small-scale farmers in South Africa have been left out of the cannabis boom. With the ease of criminalisation of cannabis, the rest of the world is celebrating and benefiting from the medical cannabis boom. However, for small-scale farmers that have been growing the crop for years and have supplied the black market with cannabis, celebrations were short-lived. These farmers have now been left out of the legal, economic benefits of cannabis because of the administrative and financial barriers put forth in the legal transition from the illicit to the now legal and profitable cannabis cultivation. The cannabis legislation and laws that were created to enable South Africans to participate in the lucrative cannabis market has done the opposite and has crafted barriers of entry. Using a desktop study, secondary data, government documents, reports and legislation, this article explores how the 2018 regulations on cannabis cultivation prevent small-scale farmers in participating in the legalised market in South Africa. The aim of this paper is to highlight the challenges that small-scale cannabis farmers face in South Africa and how their participation in the newly opened market would benefit the communities they live and operate in. The main findings of the research indicate the challenges for small-scale farmers of no support system and transformational issues persist even after the 24 years of democracy in South Africa.

Keywords: Small-scale farmers, Cannabis, Cannabis cultivation, Rural livelihoods, Cannabis legalisation, Agriculture reform

China, Civilian Protection and the Responsibility to Protect in Africa: From Non-Meddling to Norm Cascading

Nicholas Idris ERAMEH, PhD & Prof. Victor OJAKOROTU

North-West University

Abstract

China's engagement in African conflicts has been widely condemned over the years, yet it is hard to ignore. The existing literature on China's participation in Africa has primarily concentrated on peacekeeping missions, with little discussion of its role in preventing horrific crimes and safeguarding the civilian population in Africa under the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). This paper examines the patterns, motives, and dynamics that have defined China's engagement in conflict resolution and civilian protection in Africa via the RtoP, based on realist presuppositions and secondary sources. Despite its skepticism and pragmatism against armed interventions, recent events imply that China is moderating its position in Africa, agreeing to and engaging in RtoP initiatives. While China remains a staunch supporter of state sovereignty indivisibility, its surprising shift, flexibility, and support for RtoP interventions in a series of conflicts stems from its recognition that a conflict-free region is critical to its long-term economic expansionism. This demonstrates a deliberate shifting from non-meddling to norm-entrepreneur and suggests that China is unconsciously ensuring the RtoP cascading in Africa. This is more likely going to affect China's disposition to its deployment in Asian countries where it had hitherto rejected such calls.

The resilience of rural communities in the Global South

Claire Fordred & Prof Kevin Mearns

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Abstract

Within a social-ecological system, rural areas and communities face many challenges that consist of material elements such as population density, location, resources endowment and immaterial factors such as people's trust, social norms, behaviours, and actions. Fortunately, social-ecological systems are adaptive and are capable to bounce back through diversity and resilience. Rural resilience was first defined as the rural capacity to absorb shocks and stresses while adapting to maintain the system's basic structure, identity, and functions while meeting the needs of a resilient livelihood. This rural capacity is multifaceted with three advancing attributes; resistance, adaptation, and transformation all of which are practised with a bottom-up planning approach. Rural resilience contributes to upholding rural stability and people's livelihood standards by preparing the communities' response to unexpected challenges and disturbances. This preparation contributes to the rural interaction with the external environment and the maintenance and stability of the system - the community. Resilience is a basic trait of rural communities and plays a major role in contributing to and sustaining rural development. The purpose of this study is to highlight the resilience of rural communities and how rural resilience has an impact on community livelihoods. A comprehensive literature review was conducted in conjunction with empirical observations from visiting two rural communities in South Africa. Systematic review methods were used to characterise and synthesise the range and extent of the application of resilience in rural contexts. It is evident that the study of social resilience of rural areas is significant in the development of global change, especially in addressing rising inequalities in the Global South. A community that is considered a resilient community is one that can influence what happens to it in situations of constant and unexpected social, environmental, and political change. Rural resilience has become prominent in the foreground of sustainability as an answer to several challenges that rural communities face and a daily basis.

Keywords: rural resilience, social-ecological systems, livelihoods, rural development, Global South

MAHIKENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY'S EVALUATION OF THE EFFICIENCY OF NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS

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Abstract

The National Rural Youth Service Corps (NRYSC) is a youth training program that was launched in 2010 under the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR). It was launched to train youth and to address some of the challenges faced by youth in rural areas of South Africa. This study examines how well the National Rural Youth Service Corps is working in the Mahikeng Local Municipality. The report was based on data showing the high rates of youth unemployment, illiteracy, and poverty in South Africa, which included the North-West Province. The area's seeming distance from facilities and socioeconomic possibilities is one of the area's most noticeable disadvantages. Youths are primarily seen as agents of creativity, wealth creation, and social change. Due to the high proportion of unskilled labour and lack of job possibilities among young people, the NRYSC aspires to establish employment opportunities that promote skill development for young people, particularly unemployed youth and school dropouts. Data was gathered to accomplish this goal through interviews with some of the youth development program participants. Therefore, a structured interview schedule was used in the study's qualitative research approach to collect data from a sample of five participants. According to the report, while some young people who successfully completed their training have obtained employment in various government agencies, others are still having difficulty starting their own enterprises. The report made several recommendations, including reviewing training programs and using some of the MOU's clauses as assurances when young people apply for loans from financial institutions.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Training, Youth, Development, Implementation

Looking beyond the horizon and join the dots in the quest to redress the prevalence of gender-based violence in South Africa

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Abstract

The prevalence of gender-based violence in Sub-Saharan Africa is an intergenerational, intense, and widespread problem that has impacted almost every aspect of women and girls' lives. Extant studies show that Africa still suffers greatly from inequalities and behavioral problems related to gender. The act of violence encompasses, but not limited to both physical, psychological, emotional and sexual. Literature globally shows that at least one in three women around the world is estimated to have been coerced into sex, physically beaten and/or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights articulates that gender-based violence not only causes pain and suffering but also dehumanize individuals and families; undermines workplace productivity, diminishes national competitiveness, and stalls development. In South Africa, reports shows that domestic violence has taken a different unprecedented direction. in 2021, the country registered 11315 rape cases, which on average translates to 123 cases a day while the total of 902 women were murdered, with 232 of these murders directly linked to domestic violence and women dependence on men. Regrettably, the whole world is now grappling with Covid-19 challenges, and South Africa is not spared from it. The social and economic stress brought by COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated gender inequality and women dependence on men. While other continents seem to have been able to manage and control these inherent problems of behavioral shifts, it appears that South Africa in particular has lost control of these snags. Despite measures designed to tackle these problems, South Africa is still grossly and largely grappling. This paper argues that tackling GBV requires a look beyond existing human rights articulations, policies and economic empowering of women. The quest to mitigate GBV South Africa needs to take a holistic approach of state accountability and repurposing its legislation, inclusiveness where all stakeholder and civil society is involved as well as Africanized research methodologies designed to get to the root cause of the existing challenges other than replicating the Eurocentric methodologies which in many cases undermines Africa's existence and realities.

Health Financing Reform in South Africa: Moving Towards the National Health Insurance Scheme

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Abstract

Access to healthcare remains an intractable challenge in the African region. Although the South African constitution guarantees a right of access to healthcare services for everyone, access to health care services in South Africa has historically been skewed in terms of gender, race, disability, and a number of other reasons. As such, the structures developed to provide healthcare facilities continue to inherit a disproportionate prejudice towards certain groups of people. It is undeniable that access to healthcare services should not be dependent on one's financial capabilities. Poor and rural black South Africans still experience unfair access to health care services and the gap with their rich counterparts is ever-widening. Accordingly, it is hoped that the proposed establishment of the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme will be an equalizer between the rich and the poor.

While the NHI is motivated by the Constitutional mandate under section 27 to make the healthcare system in South Africa more accessible to everyone irrespective of socio-economic background, it must meet and pass constitutional muster by meeting all tenets of the right of access to healthcare. The purpose of this paper is therefore to analyse the efficacy of the National Health Insurance Bill in addressing South Africa's health challenges. Considering that the South African healthcare system is in a state of perpetual health crisis, this paper will focus on the NHI's effectiveness in emolliating the concurrent health epidemics South Africa is currently battling with — Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: A CASE STUDY IN NORTH WEST PROVINCE – NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT

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Abstract

Transport planning has mostly focused at urban areas, transport infrastructural developments, and most of funds were channelled to urban areas. However, recent research papers, transport plans, policies, and strategies are now incorporating rural areas into building better sustainable transport systems. One such predominantly rural area in the North West Province is Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality (NMMDM) which is one of the four districts within the province. Mahikeng which is provincial capital city of the North West Province is also found within the district. NMMDM is largely rural and is made up of eight (8) towns, twenty-one (21) townships, 198 villages, and 103 wards. The paper used secondary data sources of NMMDM, national transport plans, Acts, policies, and academic literature. This paper focuses on transport modes that are mostly used within the district which are: Non-Motorised Transport (NMT), minibus taxis, and subsidised bus system. Further discusses on rural road infrastructural challenges as key components in measuring the accessibility and social inclusion of users in the district. The paper then recommends potential solutions to improve rural transport and social inclusion, which include amongst others, the need for more investments in rural road infrastructure, with walkways being prioritized as majority of district population use walking as their means of transport. It also recommends maintenance of existing infrastructure, as well as monitoring and evaluation of all road networks in rural areas. The study further recommends transport stakeholders' participation maximization to ensure inclusivity.

Keywords: Infrastructure, Mobility, Participation, Rural transport, Social inclusion

BACKYARD FARMING VIS-À-VIS FOOD SECURITY

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Abstract

The current situation in South Africa obliges households to protect themselves regarding the supply of food. Most households are dependant on the state due to unemployment, poverty, and inequality. Some developed countries have adopted this subsistence farming to abate poverty. Mostly, households in developing countries do not practice this, hence the reason for this study. Households struggle to form cooperatives in their villages due to a couple of reasons. The South African government is always ready to assist cooperatives to venture in any business, however, the current challenge in the villages is lack of trust among members of cooperatives. Due to the above reasons, it is best for them to utilise their back yards for agricultural purposes. This paper argues that if most of the households in the developing countries could adopt the backyard farming, poverty would be abated. The study is a theoretical study and is going to be a desktop study, and will use mostly literature, journals and other documents that discuss food security. Crop farming is also a good solution if one plants vegetables on the backyards to avoid always going to the market for the things that can be readily available. A pilot study was conducted with the chickens that produce eggs and also meat. The study proved that poultry farming is the easiest way to abate poverty in the developing countries. Eggs and chicken meat are currently expensive and using your chickens from the backyard could make a household to save. Working with chickens proved that households could survive with eggs and meat from their backyards. Buying chickens that lay eggs and at the end of their life span, be eaten as meat for the households. The pilot was done with ten chickens that were fed at first the starter mash, then the grower mash and thereafter the laying mash. Chickens were able to produce each an egg every day, which was enough to supply the household with nutritious meals. The researcher ensured that when these chickens were six weeks old, then another batch was purchased.

Keywords: food security, back yard farming, chicken farming, crop farming

Higher education and development in Tanzania: The students' perspectives

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Abstract

Globally, there has been increasing realisation of the purpose of higher education for individuals and nations. But this realisation seems to be aimed predominantly at economic competitiveness and opportunities. This is linked to the processes of associating higher education with the labour market and economic competition. However, in articulating the purpose of higher education, less is understood about how students define the role of university education to themselves and the broader society. In this paper, I describe the perceived value of higher education by students in two universities in Tanzania. Findings show that understanding of the purpose of higher education among students is more nuanced and versatile. Together with the economic benefits, students also emphasised universities' role in providing knowledge and awareness and enhancing societal development. These findings have implications for HE policy and practice. Specifically, the purposes of HE, as articulated by the students, should be given greater appreciation by policymakers, teaching and learning methods, and the wider public.

Keywords: Students, Higher Education, Economic Development, Tanzania

Students account on higher education and employability in Tanzania

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Abstract

The changing nature of work is a real concern in higher education (HE) today, in which preparing students for jobs has become a trend latched to broader transformations in the global knowledge economy. This changing nature of work also manifests in the national and local context within which graduates operate. In Tanzania, the experience of students and graduates within the labour market is complex. I, therefore, explore how students' perspectives are being featured in such discourses. The analysis is based on empirical data of survey responses from 172 students and six focus group discussions. While students report that the emphasis on their learning in classes is firmly on developing employment competence, they articulate less clarity regarding their levels of satisfaction with the university curriculum in preparing them for the world of work. Issues raised include the imbalance between practical and theoretical learning and the irrelevance of curriculum to the changing needs of society. However, when juxtaposed with the mission of the university and the socio-economic and political context, the students' perspectives present a more complex picture of the Tanzania labour market.

Keywords: Students. Higher education. Employability. Curriculum. Tanzania. Development

The Benefactions of Corporate Social Responsibility towards Community Empowerment in Rural Mining Communities: A Case of South Africa

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Abstract

The purpose of the paper is to extensively investigate the benefactions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) towards community empowerment in rural mining communities. Therefore, this paper puts forward an argument that the industrial mining companies operating in rural settings are not doing enough in contributing to community empowerment using the CSR initiatives. Communities in which industrial mining takes place, are directly or indirectly affected by the mining manipulation experience and unfair distribution of welfare. Most of the mining companies extract natural minerals from rural communities, but a little has been done in contributing to community empowerment, hence people in rural communities in which they operate in, are still confronted with social difficulties including joblessness, poverty, low level of skills, poor educational standards, and other economic issues. This paper attempts to answer the fundamental question of how CSR contributes towards community empowerment. The paper seeks to discuss and provide analysis of the typologies, roles, and challenges of the CSR. Furthermore, describe the determinants of community empowerment and provides the contributions of the CSR towards community empowerment. Secondary data is used to analyze data to achieve the objectives of the study. This paper is purely conceptual which adopted literature based methodology to fortify the argument of the study and critique CSR. Secondary data is used to achieve the objective of the study and explore the benefactions of CSR on community empowerment. The study concludes that; CSR could be used as a vehicle to deliver community empowerment. On the same line, the study indicated that, the contribution of CSR cannot be overlooked when deliberating on issues relating to community upliftment. Therefore, the paper recommends that CSR can play a significant role towards community empowerment, can make a great positive change only if CSR get institutionalized, and there is an urgent need to institutionalize CSR.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, Community Empowerment, Education, Skills Development, Job Creation, Poverty Alleviation

The War between Ukraine and Russia, a turning point in World Politics to Cold War and Bandung?

Dr Frank Lekaba

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Abstract

The war between Ukraine and Russia has seemingly polarised world politics into the conditions of the cold war. The presence of the Wagner Group in West Africa, and the discussion ensuing in the United States of America on “the countering Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act” are pointing to the possibility of a return to cold war world politics. Western ministers and leaders, and Russia’s minister of foreign affairs had numerous visits to African countries to influence their positions on the war between Ukraine and Russia. In this context, African leaders have opted for a non-aligned approach, seemingly akin to the principles of the Bandung Conference. With the use of critical literature review and decolonial lenses, this paper examines firstly, the possibility of a non-alignment approach by African leaders and secondly, the adequacy of theories of International Relations in explaining current world politics and Africa’s position. The analysis will be focused on the resolutions of the AU, SADC, and South Africa’s foreign policy to make sense of these politics, characterised as “rewesternisation” and “dewesternisation” by Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni. How to rethink Africa’s development in this context? Would this seemingly cold war, be hot in the African continent? Are there possibilities for a Bandung Conference? These are some of the questions the paper seeks to address. The paper will contribute to the body of scholarship on Africa’s position in world politics, and an understanding of the drivers and influences of this position.

Critical development studies in the South African Context: A review of theory and practice

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Abstract

The paper is situated in the South African context. The country is faced with stubborn development problems in unemployment, poverty and inequality. On the one hand, academics, political parties, government, non-governmental organizations, business and the media seem to be in constant conversations about how to address the three major development problems faced by the country. On the other hand, there is an apparent increase in the number of tertiary institutions offering development studies curriculum to interested individuals. The focus of the paper is the gap between what development studies teachers emphasize in their organized intellectual conversations and what the country's development policy crafters prioritize. The ANC is the governing party of the country and has just completed its sixth development policy conference. The content of the discussions had at its conference show an interesting pattern when compared with themes of the SADSAs' 8th Annual International Conference. The themes of the two events demonstrate the lack of convergence between what teachers of development converse about and what development policy crafters are focusing on. There may be an expectation that tertiary education should add value to the advancement of development in the country. Organized conversations like conferences should also be a reflection of alignment if not convergence of topics about development. Convergence does not mean embracing mainstream thinking in development studies. Convergence could also mean adopting a critical approach to development studies and yet moving in the same direction. Diversity of views about one common development agenda could be of benefit to the country. Likewise, tertiary institutions should design their educational programmes to respond to the current development needs of the country. Knowledge production is about theorizing and theories should lead to advancement of development to the benefit of the marginalized. As development is a multidisciplinary phenomenon, the paper is anchored on a number of relevant concepts. Literature is reviewed to establish the relationship between theory and practice in the study of development. The paper delves into top-down and bottom-up development. Commentary on colonized and decolonized curricula is done within the context of mainstream theory and critical theory in development studies.

Keywords: Critical development theory; Bottom-up development praxis; Mainstream development theory; Top-down development praxis; Decolonized curricula

Governance in Africa - The impact of Social Movements on Development

Nyakallo Lekuta

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Abstract

In the post-modernist age where there is significant emphasis on lived experience and feeling, entire movements have emerged that demonstrate the desire for various demographics to feel understood. Development Studies acts as a structured, formal means through which leaders of populations can understand the most optimal ways to identify and then respond to the needs of those who will live the results of their leadership. This brings leaders closer to their populations. A question arises, though, as to whether resource allocation is merely at the discretion of governing leadership, or if, perhaps, social movements have a hand in what state coffers come to accommodate or disregard. This proposed paper analyses the effectiveness of social movements in influencing societal conditions, and how, upon facing resistance from leadership structures, social movements without support can fail. Leaders themselves can note how their own legitimacy can be affected by social movements, and with that observation made, this paper aims to outline how Development Studies can offer leaders a lens through which social movements can be examined and made a part of governance, as opposed to an unpredictable occurrence.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: ADAPTING STRATEGIES FROM THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC GLOBAL RESPONSE

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Abstract

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a global issue which acts across all societies and encompasses health, social and human rights matters. Women and girls experience violence mainly at the hands of people they know and the majority of the perpetrators are men. There have been many efforts implemented by different governments, non-governmental organisations as well as civil society organisations to try to curb this violence. These strategies have not been effective as cases continue rising with many of them unreported. Emerging reports show that the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which disrupted the normal functioning of populations around the world and continues to impact societies has exacerbated the situation. However, unlike in the case of GBV concerted efforts at a global level were put in place to mitigate against major catastrophes of the COVID 19 pandemic. Strategies were formulated and implemented at a global scale supported by massive funding as evidenced by pharmaceutical companies working around the clock to come up with vaccines. The COVID 19 strategies also utilized the already existing global structures that had been used to control diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, polio, and influenza. In this paper it is argued that if the same concerted efforts put to combat COVID 19 were applied to curb GBV- they would yield positive results. The paper also discusses the sharp increases in GBV especially during COVID and also outlines some of the underlying factors which contribute to GBV.

Language Politics in Development: the naming (or lack thereof) of mineral resources in indigenous languages

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Abstract

Naming is an outward manifestation of how people perceive themselves, both their history and value system. The naming of things and what people make of them is as old as human attachments to portions of the earth. In the South African context, many studies have focused on toponyms i.e., the naming of places, buildings and streets, but there is no evidence of a study on naming of mineral resources in indigenous languages. The lack of indigenous names for mineral resources (such as platinum, palladium, iron ore, silver, copper and uranium) found in the land where majority speak indigenous languages negates the attachment and identity of the population to the mineral resources. The vast majority of the South African population continue to be excluded from the mineral resources space. South Africa has 11 official languages with isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sepedi in the top 5 of languages spoken as first language. One would expect that these three languages would be used to address the complexities of development in the country.

The paper aims to illustrate the importance of the naming of mineral resources in indigenous languages in a multilingual country to facilitate social development. Qualitative descriptive approach and purposive sampling are adopted to blueprint the study. Documents are used as a data collection tools since they are an unobtrusive source of information. Content analysis is used to scrutinise the data towards the significance of the study. The study addresses the question of land in the text of the South African national anthem, and links it to language politics of development in South Africa. It also highlights that naming of mineral resources in indigenous languages aims at unifying the nation and showing recognition to various natural, political and socio-economic aspects that formed part in rebuilding South Africa after 1994. The paper finally looks at how the South African government can handle the issue of naming of mineral resources whilst in the pursuit of significant strides in land restitution.

Keywords: onomastics; mineral resources; development; ownership; land

USURPING THE ROLE OF AN UNDERPERFORMING STATE: A CASE OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Abstract

South Africa, like many African states after independence, has begun its downward spiral in several areas including development, lawlessness, poverty, and poor service delivery. These are the primary hallmarks of an underperforming state. Some critics have begun viewing South Africa a failing state. It is the authors' conviction that the downward spiral can be arrested if there is will and interventions are implemented timeously. The envisaged paper will define a failed state and look at the symptoms of a failing state which seem to be creeping into South Africa. Furthermore, the paper will consider the burden put on the poor, middle class and rich respectively by a failing state as they must take over the responsibilities of the state as individuals and the collective. Most importantly, the paper will consider a city-state model in arresting failure of the South African state in performing its crucial functions. The paper is conceptual in nature. It will rely on secondary data to achieve its primary objectives.

Attitudes towards gender-based violence among women in Lesotho

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Abstract

Nearly one in three (30%) women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her life time by their intimate partner (Fidan & Bui 2016; Shea Mahoney & Lacey 1997; WHO 2013 & 2016; Muluken 2020: 2; Matzopoulos et al 2019:382). In Africa, the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) is higher with 36.6% of women experiencing this problem (World Health Organisation, 2013:1). The purpose of this paper is to identify the socio-economic factors (age, region, type of residence, current marital status, highest educational attainment, religion and wealth index) that influence women's attitudes towards gender-based violence in Lesotho. Understanding these factors is extremely important because they affect the family life, individual's health and education, status of women and the economic development of the country. This paper will analyse data from 2014 Lesotho Demographic and Health Survey. Univariate analysis will be employed to show the distribution of the variables in the study followed by the bivariate analysis (Pearson's chi-square statistics) showing the relationship between individual variables and the dependent variable. Lastly, the paper will use multivariate analysis (Binary regression Model) to determine the socio-economic variables that are significantly associated with the dependent variable while controlling for the effects of other variables. The paper will reveal whether or not the social, economic and demographic factors selected are important in understanding the attitudes and perceptions of gender-based violence in Lesotho. This paper will adopt a conceptual framework explaining the factors influencing the GBV in Lesotho. The relationship outlined in the conceptual framework will be developed from the literature reviewed. The conceptual framework will be guided by Heise's framework which deals with the complex interplay between different factors such as individual, household, community and society at large that cause GBV.

Keywords: Gender-based violence, socio-economic factors, perceptions, Heise's framework

The importance of multidisciplinary research in promoting development during COVID-19 Pandemic: A critical analysis paper

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Abstract

COVID-19 has appeared to be a major threat to public health and development globally due to lack of research on the vaccinations that were rolled out during the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas adaptation of COVID-19 to new environments, and acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines tend to be challenging and difficult especially in countries like South Africa. Most African countries were indebted during COVID-19 due to loss of economic growth and imported vaccines that were rejected by many people. Most countries failed to conduct research on the effects of COVID-19 vaccines on people, thus people relied on assumptions and conspiracy theories. Such assumptions and conspiracy theories led to the rejection of the vaccine by most people in African countries. Researchers and academic scholars were supposed to conduct multidisciplinary research on COVID-19 vaccines. Such multidisciplinary research could have mitigated the assumptions and conspiracy theories, thus improving global health and development in Africa. This paper therefore attempts to understand the importance of multidisciplinary research during COVID-19 pandemic and seeks to discuss the role of universities and research institutes in promoting development in Africa. Methodologically, a systematic literature review will be conducted to gather existing literature on research and development during COVID-19 pandemic, and the role of universities and research institutes in stimulating development in Africa. Qualitatively, a thematic content analysis will be conducted to analyse secondary sources. Results from this analysis will be used as foundation for future research in development studies and other disciplines. This paper will provide recommendations for policy development.

Keywords: multidisciplinary research, development, COVID-19

Monitoring and Evaluation, a Tool for Equity in a Transitioning Society

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Abstract

Botswana is among the most unequal society in the world, over the years the country has prioritised equitable access to quality health and education as a way to achieving prosperity for all. This is demonstrated by the budget share allocated to education, health services and other social services meant to improve the standard of living among citizens. Although a lot has been achieved over the years, the country is still struggling to address some social outcomes, including under five mortality and maternal mortality. The persistence of these development challenges are especially concerning given that Botswana is an upper middle income country.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a performance management tool used across sectors, including in the public sector. Botswana adopted the Performance M&E Policy (PMEP) in 2017, the policy and its associated tools are meant to strengthen performance management and attainment of the country's development objectives. The overall objective is to create policy, programme and project efficiency, effectiveness and strengthen accountability across all level. The COVID 19 pandemic has further heightened the focus on M&E, highlighting the need to close service delivery gaps within society and achieving more with less resources.

The study seeks to explore Botswana's approach to monitoring and evaluation as performance management tool and its use to effectively address social equity to achieve prosperity for all.

The Democracy that Destroys: The Curse of Elections in Africa

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Abstract

It is an indisputable fact that elections are increasingly becoming useless in Africa due to the fact that they are becoming synonymous with unbridled violence and instability before, during and after. The amounts of money, time and other resources pumped into elections is not commensurate with the outcome and African elections are now among the most expensive elections on the globe. The sponsoring of elections and the possibility of compromising on sovereignty is also another challenge. Most election monitoring bodies are failing to manage these elections with most of the elections being deemed not free and fair. Moreover, people in Africa are suffering more from elections related violence than natural disasters. Based on reviewed electoral literature from across Africa this paper argues that African countries are better off without elections. There is need of finding better ways of selecting leaders which are less violent and less costly. The attention and resources given to the process of elections can bring better results if channelled to other developmental areas. There is no evidence in Africa that holding elections makes people's lives better politically and economically. The idea of holding elections in the hope that they will increase democracy has been proven wrong in most African countries, if holding elections in Africa is a form of democracy then it is a democracy that destroys lives and livelihoods. While the author acknowledges the need for selecting leaders in a civilised way, it seems elections in Africa are doing exactly the opposite. Moreover holding elections constantly has led African leaders to be in election and not developmental mode all the time. Instead of focusing on the future and the next generation, an average African leader is focusing on the next election. Holding elections to elect leaders is a faulty system which in the developed countries favours the rich, and in Africa and the developing world it favours the incumbents, who use their positions and state apparatus to cling to power. The fact that elections are not bringing the desired effect is seen by the military coups which have rocked especially Sub-Saharan Africa since 2020.

Keywords: Democracy, elections, Africa, violence, instability

Political Freedom and Consciousness in Africa: Towards Youth Empowerment and Demographic Dividend

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to unpack youth empowerment in the political freedom and consciousness context considering the demographic dividend Africa. This paper debates the peak of political freedom and consciousness in the context of political ageism amongst the youth with respect to empowerment and development. Politics have been in existence for years in Africa, this could be traced from the colonial era overlapping to liberation era. Some African countries have developed a paradigm shift of adopting the liberation with its administration in their respective parliament spearheaded by a political party chosen by constituencies through elections. Accordingly, government administrations perceived to be the pivotal role player in radiating party politics. Within that context, there was number of miss irregularities executed and reported ever since the liberation in most African countries. As a result, irregularities in that regard purportedly impaired empowerment and development of the youth. While the empowerment of the youth may meaningfully contribute to the economy, they are faced by numerous challenges such as voicelessness on political issues, unabated high youth employment rate, access to higher education, financial support on both education and businesses inter alia. It is in that context that in relative majority of African countries, empowerment of the youth in political arena has been pushed under the rug, predominantly in apparatchiks. Thus, the paper recommends the demographic dividend transition which switches from political old to allow youth e-participation platform(s) through digital platform for governance in issues faced by the youth. This is a conceptual paper which relies more on the qualitative research method for a detailed explorative form of research on the main issues, challenges and possible opportunities for the youth in Africa.

Keywords: Political Consciousness; Political Freedom; Youth Empowerment; Demographic Dividend; Africa

Police work during a pandemic: Implications for development

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Abstract

On the 11th March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. Subsequently many governments put in place measures intended to facilitate governments' response to the pandemic including the imposition of states of emergency. These included lockdown regulations which prohibited all individuals except those involved in essential services or transporting of essential goods from moving out of their homes. Individuals were also expected to practice social distancing and good hygiene by regularly washing hands and sanitizing. A state of emergency implies an extension of the state powers. it empowers state to impose laws and regulations that it would otherwise not do in a democracy. As law enforcers police in an emergency are expected to assume roles that are out of the ordinary roles relating to police work. How the police understand and manage their roles in an emergency and how the public understand and respond to these new roles has a significant impact on how the pandemic is controlled as well as how it affects development. Everyday police work involves considerable stress, arising from administration, bureaucracy, shift work and uncertainty (Ven, 2014). In the fight against the coronavirus the police are some of the first responders (font-liners as they are now popularly known) together with health workers, social workers and volunteers. They might have to work longer than normal, to carry out duties that they are not familiar with and to enforce rules that they might not have had time to understand. At the same time they are also vulnerable to infection. Stone (2020) states that in countries where the virus has had the most devastating impact, police officers are also getting sick and dying in great numbers. Despite their critical role as first responders, the conceptual role of the police in law enforcement during emergencies or disasters has largely been ignored in literature (Verano and Schafer, 2012). This paper, based on ongoing research, seeks to fill this gap by discussion the psycho-social impacts of policing.

Keywords: Coronavirus; pandemic; police; lockdowns; emergency

The utility of the social marginality thesis in explaining informal cross-border entrepreneurship by Basotho women

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Abstract

The social marginality theory suggests that people will be motivated to alter or reconstruct their social reality if they sense a significant degree of incongruence between their personal characteristics and the role they play in society. Marginality is a multidimensional state of disadvantage that people and communities may endure due to weaknesses that may result from unfair or inequitable racial, ethnic, cultural, social, political, and economic causes. This paper presents the lived experiences of Basotho women informal cross-traders. It is a result of an ethnographic study used in-depth interviews as the main data collection instrument and adopted the interpretivist research paradigm. The study took place in Maseru, Lesotho. Ethnography was preferred for this study because of its ability to provide insightful data and this allowed the researcher to gain an understanding of the lived experiences of Basotho women informal cross-border traders during data gathering. The deep insight of qualitative research is explained by (Strauss & Corbin, 1998) that it does not entail making statements about relationships between a dependent variable and an independent variable, as is typical in quantitative studies, because its objective is not to experiment with hypotheses. The study found that Basotho women traders are a group of disadvantaged citizens to whom informal cross-border trade was initially a means of survival. However, most of them had graduated into successful entrepreneurs. Evidence from the study therefore seems to lend credence to the social marginality thesis in explaining entrepreneurial behaviour.

Keywords: Social marginality; informal cross-border trade, entrepreneurship

Innovative Teaching in a Post-Pandemic Classroom Matters: An Assessment of how E-Learning Could be Fostered through Innovative Teaching Post the Pandemic in Botswana

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Abstract

Although, today's 'online' and 'blended' learning long began back in the 1990s with the dawn of the Internet and World Wide Web, the Covid-19 pandemic accelerated its use and opportunities for innovation in education, and technical platforms for education reformation. During the pandemic, the most critical questions became 'are things ever going back to 'normal' post the pandemic?' If not, what will the "new normal" look like? Would classroom management become simple or harder in the post-pandemic world? What steps can we take as educators to support our students while also creating an optimal learning environment? The proven fact through several studies is that the global COVID-19 pandemic has created a 'new normal' which requires in a large scale the implementation of online education across the globe. This is so because online education has brought forth a number of advantages such as easier information accessibility, flexibility, real time global reach, efficiency, equity, innovation, and continuity of life. Thus, a growing number of countries and educational institutions have been striving to offer online and hybrid education systems, and Botswana has not been an exception. We, therefore, utilize the holistic model as proposed by Palvia, Kumar, Kumar, and Kumar (2017) as a framework to perform an analysis of the status of online education in Botswana, however, with a focus only on country-level factors/indicators. In this paper, we focus on country factors for Botswana that are likely to determine the success of online education post the pandemic such as its historical background and ICT capacity, the current status of its national e-education policy, challenges, and future prospects. Lastly, we propose a sustainable service model for Botswana for fostering innovative teaching and e-learning post the pandemic.

Nutrition and health benefits linked to consumption of indigenous leafy vegetables: A strategy to combat food security during Covid-19 at Joe Gqabi District Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

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Abstract

Indigenous leafy vegetables (ILVs) are recognised for their potential to improve the diets and well-being of people in communities, particularly in areas characterised by high poverty levels like those of South Africa. Also, South Africa is reported to have several kinds of these vegetables, such as Amaranth, Nightshade, and Pumpkin leaves to mention some that can be utilised for food and medicine purposes, especially within the regions of KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces to mention a few. Regardless of the abundance of these vegetables in the country, residents acknowledged lower consumption, leaving communities vulnerable to malnutrition and eventually susceptible to several diseases. Thus far, it is projected that South Africa is likely to have the most significant number of food insecure people at 13.7 million, consequently representing about 24% of the country's population. This is qualified to the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19, which does not strike only at national levels but worldwide, with many households and individuals dragged down into life-threatening poverty and food shortages.

Therefore, the study aimed to describe consumers' beliefs about the nutrition and health benefits of ILVs in Joe Gqabi District Municipality to curb food security. A simple random sampling was employed and 93 consumers of ILVs from the study area were chosen, and primary data was gathered through face-to-face interviews using a questionnaire. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviations, percentages and frequencies and a Chi-Square test was done to check the relationship between variables (nutrition and health benefits). The results revealed and concluded that, women are dominant in the consumption of ILVs with most of the consumers characterised with unemployment. Also, most consumers affirmed nutrition and health benefits associated to consumption of ILVs while most consumers lack an understanding of the nutrition and health components entailed by ILVs.

Keywords: Chi-Square test, Consumers' wellbeing, Improved diets, Indigenous knowledge sustainability

The idea of social grants being used as a tool for alleviating some of the socio-economic effects of the global pandemic

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Abstract

Many scholars, incorrectly, trace the genealogy of idea development back to the post-World War II era. Despite being historically incorrect, these scholars emphasize the significance of the concept of development following a traumatic and tragic event. Following its own national traumatic and tragic apartheid years, South Africa sought to right the wrongs of the past through its own development ideal. The introduction of social grants as a developmental tool was one of the mechanisms for correcting past injustices. Amid another traumatic and deeply tragic period in our history, as a result of the current pandemic, social grants were and continue to be seen as a useful tool for addressing the development and social inequalities that have been exacerbated by the various lockdowns in the country. In this paper, we first examine how the current pandemic has brought the concept of social grants to the forefront once more. Governments around the world increased their social grants to alleviate the economic strain caused by the pandemic. The South African government followed suit, introducing R350 for unemployed people and increasing the child support grant. Secondly, in this paper, we argue that social grants remain a key aspect of the development idea which needs to be further explored in order to yield positive results from it. And, lastly, we argue that the pandemic, much like previous traumas mentioned above, necessitate for the expansion of social grants. We argue that the South African government should consider having the unemployment social grant permanently.

Keywords: social grants, development, pandemic, unemployment, poverty-alleviation

Exploring the barriers affecting people living with disabilities within the workforce of the Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Social Development

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Abstract

People living with disabilities have been marginalised from development opportunities, mainly because disability has been associated with inability or the unwillingness to work or participate in any other activity productively. The South African Cabinet set a target to achieve 2% representation for people living with disabilities in the public administration, unfortunately the target was never met within the set timeframe at the time. People living with disabilities remain marginalized in developmental opportunities twenty-eight years post the democratic government. The main objective of this study is to explore and describe the barriers affecting people living with disabilities within the Department of Social Development in Mpumalanga Provincial Administration. The study will also be exploring the representation of the respondents according to gender, race, age group and level of employment, support systems or programmes provided by the department to its employees living with disabilities? The limitations of the study are that some participants of the workforce may be having disabilities which they did not disclose to the employer, which served as an exclusion on the designated grouping. Additionally, self-administered surveys which are electronically submitted may hinder the participation of potential respondents that have sight impairments and require braille. The study utilises the qualitative research approach where non-probability sampling is employed based on voluntary response sampling. The data analysis will follow inductive reasoning technique. The study will adopt the survey research design for data collection. A hyperlink that leads to a series of open and close ended questionnaires will be sent to the respondents as an instrument for data collection. These would serve to protect the privacy of respondents. The study will contribute to the body of knowledge globally within the sustainable development agenda.

From Development Administration to Development Management for Policy Making and Implementation in South Africa: Issues and Opportunities

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Abstract

Before the democratically elected government came into power post 1994, a host of government programmes were oriented towards exclusionary planning for the interest of the elite minority. Principles of Development Administration which originated in the early 1960s in Europe were dominating national planning efforts. Development Administration was later heavily criticized in that it had an elitist bias and that government was regarded as panacea development. In the early 1990's a paradigm shift was realised and development management was considered an appropriate in development thinking in that its ideals appeared more people-oriented inter alia. It is against this background that the paper asserts that post 1994, South Africa is yet to achieve its primary goal of forging a developmental state. Instead, as opposed to rectifying the impacts of exclusionary planning, government trajectory still seems to feed the interest of the elite minority and those who have close proximity to political power. Approximately twenty (20) years into democracy, South Africa only gets close to being a democratic country on paper; pragmatically, the legacy of coloniality through principles of development administration are still visible. The high gini-coefficient, unemployment rate, mushrooming informal settlements, low service delivery and soaring inflation rate are indicative of the failed attempt towards achieving principles of development management. Nonetheless, the paper uses critical realist world view to underscore how South Africa still seems to operate in the times of development administration even after the paradigm shift towards development management. Additionally, the paper relies on literature based survey and desktop analysis for its methodological approach. It finds that on paper, South Africa appears to be subscribing to the ideals of development management; however, in reality, development administration principles and thinking remains ubiquitous in contemporary South Africa. The paper suggests that national policy making and implementation efforts should move towards alignment to development management thinking as it speaks more to the much needed people-centred development. It concludes that the pragmatic realisation of development management thinking in South Africa should rest on the country's ability to solve vexed questions around forging a developmental state through inclusive planning and participatory policy making efforts that include the intended beneficiaries in their design and implementation.

Keywords: Development Administration, Development Management, South Africa

Ethical leadership, a basic ingredient for a better and corruption free South African public service in the 21st century

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Abstract

Ethics is gaining more attention in the in the discussions about good governance and minimizing corruption in the public service. Corruption in the public service has become an everyday news in the South African media. It is widely known that corruption is the archenemy of good governance and nothing good comes out of it. Chapter 9, section 195 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa advocates for a public service that promotes high standard of ethics and professionalism. This is somehow lacking as reports on ethical misconduct in the public service are dominating the news. This has dented the image and the integrity of the public service in the country. The integrity of public servants including their leadership has a direct bearing, not only on their performance but also on public perception of government credibility. In most countries today as well as in South Africa, there are increasing expectations from ordinary citizens, business leaders and civil society that governments will establish and deliver higher standards of ethicality and integrity in the civil Service, agencies of government, and government itself (Whitton, 2001). Ethical leadership is what South Africa needs to improve public service delivery, curb corruption, retain credibility and promote good governance. Though ethics alone cannot solve corruption and other unethical behaviour, it can be the basis and the foundation for eliminating such behaviour. This paper seeks to discuss how ethical leadership can curb corruption and promote good governance for a better South Africa in the twenty first century. It is a theory-based study, which will review the existing theory about ethics, corruption and good governance. A few cases of unethical conduct in South African will also be drawn from the available literature and recommendations will be made.

Keywords: Ethical leadership, corruption, public service and ethics

A conceptual framework for assessing climate adaptation and resilience in the smallholder agriculture sector: insights from Malawi

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Abstract

Suitable methods, approaches and frameworks for assessing climate adaptation and resilience in the agriculture sector are essential for decision making by Government and Donor Agencies supporting agricultural development programmes. However, most of the available monitoring and evaluation tools, methods and approaches were not developed to track adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience in the agricultural sector. In this presentation, we use findings from studies across Malawian smallholder farming systems to conceptualise an inclusive framework for climate adaptation and resilience assessment. Firstly, through stakeholder engagement in three study regions, we developed indicators for adaptation and resilience local parameters. Then through literature review, we identified gaps from existing tools before conceptualising and proposing a suitable framework. Our work reveals that it is essential to follow a framework with iterative steps to ensure locally-appropriate, policy-relevant findings. These steps should include, (i) clearly defining the overall goal of assessment, (ii) local definition of entities or parameters to be measured, (iii) the unit of measure, (iv) ability to co-develop the baseline context, (v) differentiating adaptation and resilience indicators from development indicators, (vi) the role of innovations to handle inputs and outputs rather than use of the concept of the Theory of Change, (vii) the need for assessing or tracking adaptation co-benefits. Building on insights from Malawi, including health and labour availability, non-availability of inputs, food shortages, limited capital and productivity traps, we found that smallholder farmers face challenges in adopting available adaptation measures, and resilience is low in these communities. This could be because the measures are not site-specific and are not always directly relevant to a given local situation. Therefore, a framework advocating site specific approaches to assess climate change adaptation and resilience in the smallholder agriculture sector co-created with stakeholders, can help them in decision making for specific investment priorities for agriculture-based livelihoods.

A Break Down In Service Delivery And Voter Discontent: Corruption in South Africa's Local Government Sector

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Abstract

The former Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr. Zweli Mkhize, painted a bleak picture about the state of local government. The minister stated that 87 municipalities – about a third of South Africa's total of 257 – remain dysfunctional or distressed. Underpinning this dysfunctionality was mismanagement due to political instability or interference, corruption, and incompetence, often resulting in poor service delivery, thus prolonging the periods of underdevelopment and poor access to basic service. The lack of service delivery coupled with the increased food prices, inequality and the unemployment rate has increased voter discontent with the government. Such discontent was manifested in the 2014 local government election when prominent political party's lost voter support, the same was witnessed in 2019 when new political parties made considerable ground at the expense of prominent parties, this discontent was driven by what voters perceived A Break Down Inservice Delivery Corruption in South Africa's Local Government Sector. The looting of malls and warehouses in KZN and Gauteng province in 2021 reflects the public's dissatisfaction within adequate service delivery. This paper examines how the breakdown in service has given rise to voter discontent and how voters have publicity displayed this discontent in the election process. A qualitative research approach was employed where the review of the literature was undertaken. The paper makes use of the participatory theory of governance to further probe Service Delivery and Voter Discontent. Over the years, there have been increasing calls for accountability and transparency in the local government sector, citing a lack of service, corruption, and nepotism. However, rather than improved service delivery, we have witness more and more municipalities being placed under administration, and this has had a detrimental effect on South Africa's developmental ambitions and commitment to improve the lives of marginalized people

Keywords: Development; Support, Role, Government

Children of the Kivu Conflict: (Re) Scrutinizing the Many Decades of Child Soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Post-Independence Era

Daniel N. Mlambo

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Abstract

It is a worthy fact that post the colonial era, some parts of Africa have remained unstable driven by an array of factors including dictatorship rule and political instability. Some regions have witnessed major internal conflicts and economic declines that have threatened socio-economic development, human security, sovereignty, the territoriality of states, and the stability and legitimacy of political regimes. Since its freedom from its colonial rulers, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been hampered by internal instability of many forms and sizes driven largely by the country's rich natural resources base, many rebel groups, and tribalism.

The country's resources have resulted in the formation of many rebel groups which has made the country remain unstable. Apart from this, other motives have included the absence of the rule of law, competition for land, weak state capacity, and external influence. The existence of these rebel groups has resulted in a breed of a new form of the army in child soldiers, especially in the unstable Kivu district. By implying a qualitative methodology supplemented by secondary data, this article delves into the use of child soldiers and what impact this has on the country's economic growth prospects, internal and regional stability, and Southern Africa's security architecture.

The Tragedy of the African National Congress (ANC) and its Cadre Deployment Policy: Ramifications for Municipal Stability, Corruption and Service Delivery

Daniel N. Mlambo

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Abstract

The much-anticipated shift from apartheid to democratic rule in 1994 brought with it much jubilation not only in Africa but globally. South Africa had now entered a terrain where it was governed by a democratically elected party in the African National Congress (ANC). Looking to alter the apartheid policies of the erstwhile National Party (NP); the ANC came into power with no formal experience of governing a state. However, the Nelson Mandela to the current Ramaphosa administration has made some strides in development and economic growth blueprints in South Africa's relatively young 28-year democratic history. As a form of government closer to the people, municipalities are seen as a fundamental area of government among other things poverty alleviation, employment creation, and service delivery. However, in the past two decades, the ANC has taken center stage in its cadre deployment policy which has resulted in an upsurge in corruption, lack of service delivery, poor performance, and a relative decline in its hegemonic political power. This article aims to ponder the link between cadre deployment, municipal stability, corruption, and service delivery. The article rightfully shows that cadre deployment has not benefited individuals at the grass-root level because of incompetent individuals, lack of qualifications, corruption, tender greed, comrade beneficiary, and lack of managerial vision at the local government level.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE: TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION: SOCIOLOGICAL METHODS AND THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS

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Abstract

Agricultural development is one of the most critical challenge to end extreme poverty, hunger, create income, and attain food security amongst poor members of society. In an effort to develop agricultural sector there is vigorous investment on technology adoption to subsistence farmers in order to improve efficiency and productivity. Agricultural technologies have long been promoted by governments in Sub Saharan Africa and development organizations like the Food and Agricultural Organizations of the United Nations (FAO), Southern African Development Community (SADC) as effective ways to increase agricultural productivity and reduce poverty. However, adoption of various technologies remains low especially among subsistence farmers who are majority in the farming population and land ownership. Studies on adoption attempt to identify the motivation for adoption based on differences in characteristics between adopters and non-adopters. This paper will discuss Importance of Agriculture in Development with focus on technology adoption. The focus will be on technology adoption: sociological methods and theoretical reflections. Recent decades have seen a dramatically accelerating pace in the development and adoption of new technologies. This rapid technological change is affecting almost every area of the economy, society and culture. Technology is not only the instrument itself but is the whole set of relationships between human beings, utensils and fields of knowledge. The role of technology in a society shows the indissolubility of the relationships that bind technology, society and the individual. Despite the contributions of technology to the development of the society, studies have shown that technology adoption varies among organisations and social groups.

The paper will define and discuss technology adoption from a sociological perspective and demonstrate technology adoption through Rodgers model.

Complexities of Development: Understanding land through the philosophy of Ubuntu

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Abstract

The mention of land evokes a sense of belonging, and access to land is therefore intimately related to identity, belonging and kinship. Through land dispossession, forced removals and resettlements, and also through human integration, and diffusion, colonialism inaugurated new hybridized forms of existence amongst the conquered peoples, and their conquerors as well, and fundamentally transformed human relations in African society in general. The philosophy of Ubuntu, which is the guiding philosophy and value system of traditional African society is no longer the apex philosophy guiding social relations amongst Africans in their communities. Ubuntu espouses the values of communitarianism, sociality, and preservation of life. In this paper, contrary to modern popular conceptions of land, I demonstrate how land is conceived from a perspective of the philosophy of Ubuntu, and how land and community are inseparable and are mutually reinforcing. Further to this, this paper demonstrates how the idea of motion in Ubuntu, is the philosophical basis of communitarianism and hybridity, or hybrid forms of existence in traditional African society. We reflect of the latter by using the land restitution programme in South Africa and a community in Sydney-on-Vaal for more critical reflections.

Keywords: Ubuntu, hybridity, land, & identity

Exploring Futuristic Skills for Sustainable Graduate Employability

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Abstract

The success and growth of organisations depends on the effectiveness of its employees., who need to meet the organisation's set standards and perform tasks competently. These employees need to have relevant competencies that match the requirements of the job. As a result, employers require employees to have both non-technical and technical skills. Currently, the number of unemployed youths keeps rising and organisations are concerned with the attraction and retention of scarce and critical skills. There is a great need to ensure proper development of the youth in Africa so they can think, analyse and critically solve problems.

The main objective of this research was to explore the concept graduate employability and the key skills that could be transferred to graduates for their development and ensure future sustainability. A qualitative research approach was followed to ensure in depth conversations. Interviews were used to collect data from Human Resource Management practitioners in different government departments and the private sector who have been in the field for more than five years.

A very interesting finding was that ethical conduct was cited among the main key behavioural skills that graduates need for the modern workplace. In addition most of the participants outlined the following as key skills: - critical thinking, problem solving, technological skills, ethics, entrepreneurship, confidentiality, report writing as some of the key as skills graduates need to possess to enhance their employability and development. Another concern raised was the way graduates are developed in higher education- it sometimes does not align with industry needs. Participants have advised that graduates should gain experience by volunteering at organisations, getting a mentor, creating a good digital profile, furthering their studies and enrolling for short courses in order to enhance their employability and development among the recommendations made.

Keywords: Employability, graduate employability, skills

A Revolution Betrayed or Rectified: Thomas Sankara and the Culture of Coups in Burkina Faso

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Abstract

Thomas Noel Isadore Sankara's August 4th (1983) revolution is widely hailed as one of the relatively successful revolutions in Africa despite being short-lived. On the one hand, some interpret events of August 4 as just another military coup in the long list of coups in Africa, yet they acknowledge that this regime achieved a lot for the downtrodden. On the other hand, there are those (the author included) who are of the view that the military takeover of August 4 was not a coup, in a classical sense of the word. It was rather an insurrection, and the role of the army was a supportive one to the will and wishes of the Burkinabe` people. The recent six coups (failed and successful) in West Africa between 2020 to 2022 alone are a serious cause for concern for the democratic trajectory of the continent and Burkina Faso is used as a case study to gauge the implications of this worrisome trend. This country is chosen because it is the most coup-prone in West Africa and ironically it has had arguably the most successful revolution in Africa under the reign of Thomas Sankara in the period 1983-1987.

Keywords: Sankarism, Thomas Sankara, endogenous development, coups, West Africa, Burkina Faso, military and democracy, cessations

A statistical analysis of time to a claim: A case of Zimbabwe's health insurance clientele

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to find factors influencing time to a claim among the insured population of Zimbabwe. The factors under consideration were age, sex, medical aid scheme and amount claimed from the medical aid society. These were chosen on the basis of the variables that were collected at hospitals where claims were made. Claims data between 2013 and 2016 from the health insurance companies were used. Data were collected from government hospitals and were then cleaned and analysed using R-package and SPSS. Cox regression model from the survival analysis was proposed to find the influential factors in the study. It was established that without interactions, age, sex, and scheme type were influential in shortening time to a claim. After introduction of interactions, scheme type and amount claimed were found to be highly influential in shortening time to a claim. It was concluded that clients with medium premium schemes had a shorter time to a claim irrespective of their gender, medical aid society, age, and amount claimed. The study recommended that medical aid societies should know the expected time to a claim in each medical aid scheme and likely range of amount to be claimed by their clients in order to optimize benefits packages to cover clients' medical expenses, yet remain within sustainable operating limits.

Keywords: Health, insurance, Cox model, time to a claim, Zimbabwe

Analysing the rising oil price shock driven by Russia-Ukrainian tensions - effect on inflationary pressure in South Africa

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Abstract

At the onset of 2022 the Russian Federation occupied Ukraine in a major intensification of the Russo-Ukrainian War that instigated in 2014. The result of the Russians invasion in Ukraine caused a major intensification in the inflationary levels and weakened global economic growth. As a result of the conflict the Brent Crude Oil prices increased from \$92.98 per ounce on 24 February to \$122.43 per ounce on the 8th of June 2022 which is an increase of 31.67 per cent in less than 4 months. The result of this invasion reformed the macroeconomic environment which fundamentally affected the international commodity markets and consequently leading to insufficient financial linkages between Russia and the rest of the World. The aim of this paper is to examine the relationship between the CPI, the brent crude oil price, the PPI for final manufactured good as well as the Rand/Dollar exchange rate. The study used South Africa as a proxy for developed countries. A quantitative methodology was used through the estimation of an econometric model by utilizing monthly time series data from January 2017 to May 2022. The CPI was chosen as the dependent variable while the independent variables included the PPI, Rand/Dollar exchange rate and the brent crude oil. Short- and long-run relationships were established between the variables using the vector error correction model (VECM) and the Johansen co-integration equation methods. The long run conclusions indicated that high brent crude oil prices, a depreciating exchange rate and increasingly high PPI levels will lead to an increase in the CPI (Inflation). In conclusion, the results of the study showed that a perpetual international and national macro-economic environment is crucial to prevent inflationary pressures and price shocks, while volatile exchange rates unsteady PPI's and significantly high oil and commodity prices causes cost-push inflation. Policy certainty and political stability is important to keep inflation stable and economic growth positive, which could lead to a more self-sufficient economy which are not reliant on political instability as an obstacle for positive future economic growth.

Keywords: Brent crude oil prices, CPI, economic growth, exchange rates, PPI, Russian-Ukrainian conflict

THE IMPACT OF MENSTRUATION ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: IS THIS A DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUE FOR WOMEN?

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Abstract

It is estimated that most girl-children miss attending classes when they have their period or a menstruating. Since it is only girls that have a period, it means boys do not have disrupted school attendance as compared to girls. Absence from school due to menstruation is argued to happen mostly at primary school than high school. The onset of menstruation can be very traumatic for young girls if unprepared. This can also be exacerbated by patriarchal views of menstruation as dirty and something that must be hidden from the public eye, meaning hidden from men. In South Africa, the then President of the Republic Mr Jacob Zuma highlighted the need for services related to sanitary towels for women in his presidential speech in 2011. This sparked a lot of debate around access to sanitary products. Interestingly little has been done with regard to the provision of sanitary towels whilst strides have been made in making sure that condoms are accessible for men. This research is a desk top analysis of the impact of menstruation of girl's school attendance and how that impact on women's participation in developmental issues. According to the study patriarchy plays a role in how menstruation is viewed creating feelings of shame and thus perpetuating the subordination of women. The study confirms that missing school due to menstruation has a serious effect on girl's performance at school and in turn women's participation in development since it has direct impact of women's literacy levels.

Is China Recolonizing Africa?

Sizo Nkala

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Abstract

China's revitalization of the African dimension to its foreign policy at the end of the 20th century laid the foundation for the meteoric growth of China-Africa relations in the first two decades of the 21st century. The relations between China and Africa have been intensified across the economic, cultural, and diplomatic spheres. This has seen China being Africa's largest trading partner since 2009, its largest bilateral lender and one of the biggest sources of foreign direct investment. It is reported that there are over 10 000 Chinese enterprises operating in Africa. The continent also hosts over a million Chinese citizens. Frequent high-level political visits and multi-level political dialogue has become a feature of the relationship. Chinese companies win a lion's share of infrastructure contracts in Africa. China is now the second most popular destination for Africa overseas university students after France. China has established a significant presence in areas like the media, peace and security, technology, education, and arts and culture among others. However, China's large footprint in Africa has led to concerns that the Asian giant is harbouring colonial ambitions. China has been accused of using debt-trap diplomacy and exporting its culture and political and economic systems to Africa in order to influence African leaders and publics. Beijing has also been charged with stripping the continent of its natural resources like the erstwhile colonising powers did in the 20th century. That said, this paper will interrogate the notion that China is recolonizing Africa with a view to assessing its validity.

A nexus of Humanitarian Engineering, 4th Industrial Revolution and Society 5.0 for rural development

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Abstract

Great strides have been made to improve the livelihood of the urbanites through the ‘Smart Cities’ approach, but the progress in enhancing access to various critical services in rural communities has lagged behind. Achieving parity in terms of access to services is likely to remain elusive for the foreseeable future however something can be done to at least narrow the gap between urban development and rural emancipation. Admittedly, the COVID-19 pandemic was not as severe in rural sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) as it was in the urban centres yet the interventions that were triggered to continue with necessary daily activities showed that rural areas lag behind in terms of infrastructural development. This paper sought to explore how a combination of Humanitarian Engineering, Industry 4.0 technologies and the Society 5.0 framework can give impetus to the development agenda of rural communities towards realising smart rural villages in SSA. It is a culmination of several research methods; reviewing chosen scholarly papers and other literature and an analysis of the schools of engineering in universities in SSA. The examination of literature unearthed how Humanitarian Engineering (Development Engineering), Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0 may be leveraged to come up with a complimentary framework for rural development post pandemic. The study also revealed the extent to which Humanitarian Engineering as a discipline in engineering education has permeated Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the SADC region of SSA. A search of the 66 universities who are members of the Southern African Regional Universities Association and 1500 universities in SSA, showed that none offered Humanitarian Engineering or its variants as standalone programs of study that teach, while some cover aspects of development engineering. The research seeks to underscore the relevance of this relatively new discipline in engineering education as well as make a case for leveraging a nexus of such engineering, Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0. Several research may spin off this work including, strategies of getting more HEIs to adopt this discipline as a standalone or as a subset of other disciplines; transitioning from the theory into practically implementing the recommended interventions in rural communities.

Keywords: post-pandemic, Humanitarian Engineering, Development Engineering, Industry 4.0, Society 5.0, smart rural villages, sustainable development, smart city, SDGs

A Review of the Roles of Agricultural Cooperative in Africa's Recovery from the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the global economy. In Africa, the impact of the pandemic has been worsened by pre-existing factors such as high levels of poverty, unemployment, and a weak social security system. Recent estimates revealed that the pandemic has pushed more than 40 million Africans into extreme poverty with youths and women bearing a disproportionately higher burden of poverty and unemployment. This paper adopts a literature review approach to understand the roles of agricultural cooperatives in Africa's economic recovery. Cooperatives (particularly agricultural cooperatives) has a long history in Africa. There are over 85 thousand cooperatives on the continent with more than 18 million members and clients. This makes cooperatives an important contributor to the continent's economy. The literature review demonstrates that cooperatives, because of their principles and values, are positioned to weather the impacts of the shocks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This, coupled with the significant footprint of cooperatives across the continent, positions agricultural cooperatives as a critical force in Africa's COVID-19 recovery response. Findings of the study revealed that leveraging the benefits of agricultural cooperatives in the post-pandemic recovery requires the creation of enabling conditions including supportive policies, access to market, finance, education and training and government financial incentives such as tax relieves and grants.

Keywords: agriculture, cooperatives, COVID-19, economic recovery, poverty unemployment

Adapting to the influences of the fourth industrial revolution in today's workplace: perspectives from human resource management practitioners

Mr. Collins Okene & Dr Kelebogile Paadi

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Abstract

The fourth industrial revolution necessitated many organisations to change their business operations and adapt to the new way of doing things influenced by the development and introduction of new and advanced technologies. Whilst busy with these changes the COVID-19 pandemic became a disruptive force of change that accelerated the use of technology in many workplaces. Many were not ready for this but were forced to adapt to remain operational and in business.

This study was motivated by the current state of technological changes occurring in the workplace in recent times, and how it has impacted how employees conduct work activities. Human Resource Management practitioners play a key role in the management of any change in organisations, hence this study intended to explore their own awareness and readiness concerning these changes. this study aimed to uncover their existing knowledge about the nature of technological changes in the workplace that has been brought about by the fourth industrial revolution.

A qualitative design approach was followed, and data was collected from fifteen human resource management practitioners in managerial positions using semi structured interviews through purposeful sampling. This was to ensure that the study objectives are met by having in depth discussions with the people directly involved in managing these changes.

Some of the findings indicated that most employees had very limited knowledge about the implications of the fourth industrial revolution in their workplaces. There were also some serious concerns about job security because of the distorted views that their jobs will be taken over by machines. Some of the recommendations included proper change management processes and relevant training and development interventions to ensure that employees are reskilled where there is a need.

Keywords: employee, fourth industrial revolution, job security, labour market, technology

Towards a theory of development ethics in the age of the “pandemic”: Reflections from an African philosophical perspective

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Abstract

COVID-19 and its disastrous effect to human life reminded the world about the fragility and contingency of human life, including the need for human solidarity against life threatening phenomena. Poverty, hunger, diseases, and unjustified human suffering are some of the premature life ending pandemics confronting humanity today. These pandemics pre-date COVID-19, yet ironically continue to persist and have intensified amid “development discourse”. This once more proves development to be ineffective to the survival of many who continue to perish due to poverty, hunger, and unjustified suffering. We ascribe this inefficiency of development to tackle these pandemics to epistemic injustice: An injustice championed by development’s narrow Euro-American epistemic paradigm. This is the apex epistemic paradigm which enjoys the sole status of defining development discourse the world over. The failure of development and its epistemic paradigm to contain the said pandemics challenge us to rearticulate development to be meaningfully responsive to these life threatening socio-economic and political challenges of our times. In this paper we attempt to rearticulate development or development discourse from an African philosophical perspective of Ubuntu. Ubuntu is an African philosophy and a moral theory at the same time. We deploy this philosophy to construct a theory of development ethics, for development, and development pedagogy to offer an alternative perspective to its Euro-America epistemic paradigm. We do this in the hope that our theory will open possibilities for confronting the said pandemics of our time, whose possibilities are to be found in epistemic justice.

Keywords: African philosophy; Development; Ethics

Decomposing the Technical and Scale efficiency of Small-scale sugarcane growers and the factors affecting their efficiency in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

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Abstract

The low productivity in agriculture particularly on the small-scale sectors has raised a concern about the secure food that is required among rural households whose livelihoods are heavily dependent on the agricultural sector. The concern might be attributed to the need to feed the broader society and the lack of knowledge and information on how new technologies can be adopted to improve the efficiency production of food with limited resources. Thus, the application of limited resources is also dependent on the socio-economic factors that affect the production efficiency of small-scale sugarcane growers and are unique to their existence.

Therefore, the study aimed to measure the technical and scale efficiency of small-scale sugarcane growers in Mpumalanga and determine the socio-economic factors that affect technical efficiency. This study applied the input-oriented Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) model and the Truncated regression model to sample 90 small-scale sugarcane growers in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa. Cross sectional data was analysed, and the results revealed that small-scale sugarcane growers exhibited 75% technical efficiency level and 64% scale efficiency. It was further revealed that gender, education, employment, and extension had a significant relationship with technical efficiency.

Keywords: small-scale sugarcane production, technical efficiency, Data Envelopment Analysis, food security

The role of mining and agriculture in promoting rural development to alleviate poverty: A comparative analysis of Botswana and Democratic Republic of Congo

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Abstract

Rural development is a multifaceted concept which entails the overall development of communities from education, healthcare, agriculture and technology use. When done right, it has a great potential in improving the livelihood of citizens as poverty is one of the major problems faced by rural dwellers in many developing countries. Although mining and agriculture are co- dependent, few studies have been done in Botswana and the Democratic Republic of Congo which place them under the scope to examine the role they play in fighting poverty affecting rural dwellers. Botswana and the DRC are in Sub- Saharan Africa with economies that although evidently different in terms of gross domestic product, are very much reliant on agriculture and mining industries. In this paper the researcher explores the role of agriculture and mining in promoting rural development to attain poverty alleviation. Document analysis used in this study provided a glimpse of overview data on agriculture and some factors affecting it such as extension programs. It takes a look at wages in the agricultural sector which although ample people are employed in this sector, the remuneration and terms of employment are inadequate to get the employed out of poverty. In the mining industry, the study uses some case studies in both countries and analyses the sectors based on such. The study concludes that there is a need for policy evaluation to enforce more regulation of the sectors so as to avoid the worsening ‘resource curse’ in the mining sector and ensure that people in rural communities’ benefit from these industries. It further recommends development that is context- specific so as to create jobs because what is a solution in one setting does not necessarily guarantee progression in another location. Furthermore, the time has never been right for both countries to strengthen oversight institutions, governance and policies in both sectors to achieve rural development which is key in alleviating rural poverty.

Farmers' attitudes towards the formation of cooperatives in rural areas: A study of irrigation schemes in Makhado Local Municipality

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Abstract

The study looked at agricultural cooperatives as one of the important tools for enhancing the living standards of farmers in rural areas. It was therefore very clear that cooperatives are for the benefit of the farmers. The development of cooperatives in the study area was not at a desired level yet; hence, it was necessary to determine farmers' attitudes and their willingness towards forming cooperatives.

The study was carried out in the Makhado Local Municipality, Limpopo South Africa. Three irrigation schemes were selected for the study, which consisted of 215 smallholder farmers. However only 152 farmers were selected for the study using the purposive sampling procedure. This was done to eliminate farmers who were renting the land and were not the registered owners. The Binary Logistic regression was used as the analytical tool for the study (SPSS).

The study revealed that majority of the farmers were willing to form cooperatives and male farmers were more likely to form cooperatives than females. It showed that the higher the age of the farmer the less likely their willingness to form cooperatives ($p < 0.1$). The study also revealed that farmers who use hired service providers were less likely to form cooperatives ($p < 0.05$). Farmers who experience higher costs of inputs were more likely to form cooperatives ($p < 0.01$). Farmers who attended training and workshops were more likely to form cooperatives than those who did not ($p < 0.01$). Farmers who had access to agricultural information were more likely to form cooperatives ($p < 0.05$). Farmers who viewed their land as being adequate for production were less likely to form cooperatives ($p < 0.01$). Lastly farmers with access to markets were more likely to form cooperatives ($p < 0.1$).

The study recommended that with the help of extension officers, strategies can be formed and implemented on how cooperatives can be formed and enhance their success. The study also showed that future research can be done looking at youth participation in agriculture and cooperatives, cooperatives partnering with agricultural companies and other developmental organisations.

Weaving an integrated community early warning system continuum web model for biological hazards

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Abstract

Biological hazards like any other natural hazard require an early warning system (EWS). Failure in handling associated emergencies or risks can also lead to a disaster similarly as with the other natural hazards. The global rapid spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic demonstrated that there is still a lacuna in early warning systems (EWS) for biological hazards as they are still underdeveloped. The main aim of developing an early warning system is to generate information before losses are incurred. An EWS is more than just prediction as it prevents hazards from turning into disasters. The best solution to the recurring problem of biological hazards could be through applying an integrated early warning system. It is an essential tool that builds the capacities of communities so that they can reduce their vulnerability to hazards or disasters. As such, Early warning systems (EWS) are a critical element in preventing hazards from turning into disasters since they are more than just prediction and serve as safety-critical systems. Disaster Risk reduction should be achieved by coming up with a complete conceptual framework of elements that are well-thought-out and capable of reducing vulnerabilities to hazard risks. Their reliability and effectiveness (a relative measure of achieved risk reduction) rely on its elements and the ability of the system to identify the intended hazard. From the authors' view, an EWS should be woven comparably to a spider weaving an elaborate orb-web (system) using its silk thread (resources). The developed orb web (EWS) will act as safety-critical net (system) that intercept hazards, shielding (preventing) communities from being affected by the hazard. This study sought to interweave, salient constituents or elements (threads) and tailor-make a system (orb-web) of associations that protects (prevents) people from being affected by biological hazards. The study was guided by the qualitative research method and Literature in tandem with the relevant theme was systematically reviewed. Particularly the constructivist grounded theory was employed in collecting and analysing the qualitative data from which an integrated EWS for biological hazards was drawn.

Keywords: Disaster, Hazard, Reduction, Risk, Pandemic

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPHERE IN SOUTH AFRICA: A KWA-ZULU NATAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

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Abstract

Organisations have the responsibility to attract and employ skilled and qualified employees, and municipalities should not be exempted from this norm. In this regard, the purpose of the study is to examine leadership capacity in local government sphere in South Africa (SA) with specific reference to Kwa-Zulu Natal Municipalities. This study argues that leadership development for Councillors in the local government sphere is essential for the success and productivity towards the achievement of service delivery mandate, organisational goals and objectives. The study is qualitative descriptive in nature and is based on secondary data collected from sources, such as books, reports, newspapers, journals, magazines and internet. The study's analysis of the data revealed that 298 of the KZN's 1 944 Councillors do not have adequate writing and reading skills, and others have no formal education. It was also found that about 300 KwaZulu-Natal municipal Councillors cannot read and write. This implies a need, therefore, exists that Kwa-Zulu Natal local government focuses on training and development that will lead to the municipalities having the best skilled workforce and envisaged service delivery to the citizens. The study concludes that training and development of councilor's are essential, result in success and meeting the envisaged service delivery to the citizens, organisational goals and objectives while providing employee personal development commitment. In order to respond to development issues and put this local government vision into practice, the study advises that structures be put in place to ensure that councillors get ongoing training and development for the improvement of their skills. Since they serve as a platform for developing human competence for both their own purposes and the purposes of the nation as a whole, municipalities in particular have a crucial role to play in the realization of a national strategy.

The study recommends that that structures be put in place to ensure that councillors get ongoing training and development for the improvement of their skills. Particularly in municipalities, competency for both their own objectives and the purposes of the nation as a whole has a significant role to play in the execution of community development since they act as a platform for service delivery at a leadership level.

Keywords: Training and development, Leadership, and Councillors

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The importance of education cannot be overstated in any way. Investing in human capital is essential to achieving sustainable economic development. Through education, people gain a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. It improves the quality of their lives and leads to broad social benefits for individuals and society. Education raises people's productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurship and technological advances. In addition, it plays a very crucial role in securing economic and social progress and improving income distribution. Education needs to be improved, and educational institutions should be established that provide free education to disadvantaged groups. It would be easier for individuals to obtain employment opportunities if they developed literacy skills and acquired education. The main purpose of this paper is to show the role of education in economic development and the effect of education on labour productivity, poverty, trade, technology, health, income distribution and family structure. Education provides a foundation for development, the groundwork on which much of our economic and social well-being is built. It is the key to increasing economic efficiency and social consistency. Increasing the value and efficiency of their labour, it helps to raise the poor from poverty. It increases the overall productivity and intellectual flexibility of the labour force. It helps to ensure that a country is competitive in world markets now characterised by changing technologies and production methods. By increasing a child's integration with dissimilar social or ethnic groups early in life, education contributes significantly to nation building and interpersonal tolerance. This paper aims to scrutinise the role of education in socio-economic development. To evaluate the effect of education on socio-economic development and recommend measures for promoting quality education. This paper will explore the role of education in economic development based on a theoretical perspective. A desktop study based on the education and socio-economic development of other countries and South Africa will be used to draw conclusions and provide recommendations.

Keywords: Human Development, Economic Growth, Poverty, Labour Productivity, Education, Technology, Trade, Health

YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

According to the mid-year estimates of 2019, the youth (aged 18-34) constitute almost a third of the population (17,84 million) in South Africa, with 9,04 million males and 8,80 million females. From the data collated, the Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG) has found that the average (mean) age of Members of the Pan-African Parliament (NA) is 59. PMG's findings show only 30 members of the NA (9%) fall under the category of youth (35 and younger). This study looks at 342 MPs (86% of the total). The results from statistics show that the current cabinet is dominated by pensioners, although the percentage of young ministers has slightly improved, it is still not enough to have most ministers above 70 years including the president and most in the top 6 of the African National Congress (ANC). Most of the time, youth is excluded in governance and development. Youth development is guided by the vision of a non-racial and non-sexist society that is being built through transformation, reconstruction and development. Public policy, which consists of policy formulation and implementation significantly requires good governance practice intervention. Public policy is crucial in the context of scientific and practical perspectives. An in-depth understanding of the causes and effects of public policy on society is very important for strategic improvement in the context of a scientific perspective. In the context of a practical perspective, participation of society in the process of public policy which is formulation and implementation is imperative. Henceforth, the public policy process needs the cooperation and involvement of multiple stakeholders that requires good governance. It is in this context, that this paper seeks to promote youth involvement in governance and development. This paper heartens young people to develop the skills, knowledge, and support needed to make informed decisions about their communities, countries, and the world. This paper avows on promoting youth leadership and participation as a key to achieving economic growth and development.

Keywords: Democracy, Good Governance; Youth Leadership; Public Policy; Governance and Leadership

Language development during COVID-19: A case of Sesotho sa Leboa language, in South Africa

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Abstract

The emergence of COVID-19 brought many challenges to societies worldwide. The affected areas include, but are not limited to health, economic, political, and educational. Moreover, linguistically language practitioners also experienced challenges because language was central in the dissemination of information from the genesis of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because COVID-19 came as a foreign phenomenon to countries such as South Africa, and its arrival demanded the understanding of the disease to be constructed in the languages understood by the people (local languages). Since COVID-19 affected everyone – literate and illiterate, monolinguals, bilinguals, and multilinguals; the effectiveness of communication about COVID-19 disease relied more on the language of communication used during the distribution of information. South Africa as a multilingual country with 11 official languages and the 12th one still underway, required multilingual dissemination of COVID-19 information to the people, for ease of understanding. This necessitated language practitioners such as translators to be innovative in the representation of COVID-19 disease through the indigenous languages of South Africa. Translators had to coin new words so that South Africa's linguistic communities could make sense of the COVID-19 disease. As a result, the translation of COVID-19 terminology in the South African official languages such as Sesotho sa Leboa, (also known as Sepedi), manifests how translators were instrumental in the development of the Sesotho sa Leboa language during the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper focuses on the development of the Sesotho sa Leboa language through the translation of COVID-19 terminology from the English language. This is a qualitative study and data is collected through documents and digital material. The data analysis method applied is qualitative discourse analysis.

The impact of pandemics on diplomacy in Southern Africa: a case study of Southern African Development Community (SADC)

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Abstract

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region has been affected by pandemics, including HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS pandemic in southern Africa attracted the attention of global actors, which include states, global health organizations, medical drug manufacturers, human rights groups and various transnational actors. The involvement and response of multiple actors in the fight against pandemics have presented both opportunities and challenges to diplomacy. Pandemics have created inconsistencies in the conduct of diplomacy, enhancing relations on one hand and straining them on another. Pandemics have also made SADC vulnerable to health crises and undue interference by international actors with other vested or covert interests. Therefore, this research uses the concept of pandemic diplomacy to analyse the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic on diplomatic relations in the SADC region. It assesses the role of SADC in the global fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic. The research shall also evaluate the impact of SADC global partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS on diplomacy in the region. SADC's institutional strengths and weaknesses in the fight against HIV/AIDS will be also evaluated. Furthermore, this study shall seek to identify challenges to diplomacy in the fight against pandemics. The research shall be a qualitative explanatory study relying on secondary sources of data, and limited to HIV/AIDS pandemic in Southern Africa. The data shall be subjected to content and thematic analysis.

Keywords: diplomacy, pandemics, Southern Africa, sub-region, international

Shifting from needs based community development to asset based community development in rural areas

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Abstract

Community development is demanding and fascinating field of practice. It has undergone different phases of attractiveness and decline. In African situation the term community is often used in the idealized image of a traditional village. Top down community development programs have not generated best results. There is however a general consensus that participatory people centred development may results in positive outcomes. There is also the realization that most community's skills are not deliberately employed to drive communities forward to alleviate poverty. Community's potential can be achieved by shifting from needs based community approach to asset community development based approach.

Teaching and learning of Development Studies trajectory in Botswana Secondary Schools

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Abstract

Development studies as a school subject was pioneered by Patrick Van Ransburg at Swaneng Hill in the 1960s just before Botswana got her independence. It was introduced under the philosophy of Education with Production (EWP). The subject has evolved and has become part of the school curriculum not only in Botswana but also in many countries including the developed countries. The subject was viewed with suspicion within some quarters. However shortly after the subject was introduced it went on an abeyance following the government position that the subject taught socialist ideas. Later it was reintroduced in school curriculum and today it is taken as an optional subject with a practical component involving community project.

Unruly intimate relationships resulting in gender based violence in Botswana

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Abstract

Intimate relationships and love are often shown on TV, movies, novels drama series, songs, poems, radio, internet and social media. Consequently we are inundated with so many stereotypes regarding ideal love. Intimate relationships are unique vast complex multifaceted phenomenon and there are diverse experiences that underlie the simple expression “I love you”. There is the need to recognize that human beings are social animals and at the core of their existence are social interaction especially intimate relationships. Since intimate relationships are central to people’s lives they are indispensable to understand how they start, how they operate, how they are sustained, how they thrive and sometimes end up in explosive outburst, anger, pain, violence and even death of the partners. Botswana is also now plagued by the so called “passion killings” involving intimate partners which is a crisis in development.

A critical exploration on the importance of participation and involvement by the local structures to an improved service delivery in development processes: A case of the Sekhukhune District Municipality

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Mpumalanga Legislature (MPL) & University of South Africa (UNISA)

Abstract

This article explores the importance of local structures' participation and involvement in an attempt to improve service delivery to enhance development. The local structures in this article refer to the non-governmental organisation, traditional leaders, local municipalities and business sectors in the Sekhukhune District Municipality. The aim of this article is to explore the importance of local structures' participation and involvement for an improved service delivery in development processes. The paper employed a qualitative methodology within a phenomenological and descriptive design embracing non-probability sampling underpinned by purposive sampling procedure. An Atlas TI software program was used for data analysis. The article postulates that due to lack of resources and coordination among the local structures, development is compromised while service delivery is collapsing. It is envisaged that more resources need to be mobilised whilst the local structures are well coordinated. The future research will embark on the comparisons with the other municipalities in Limpopo province for the purpose of inference for generalisation in case of similar findings. This paper contributes to the body of knowledge on the development policies for sustainable development.

Keywords: Local structures, development, service delivery, participation, and involvement

The Frigidity of the District Municipalities towards the needs of Society

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Abstract

In the recent past, the notion of development has taken the centre stage as it encapsulates an intrinsic aspect of human life. Development is a fundamental requirement for the improvement of the material conditions of communities contending with poverty. It conversely justifies the understanding of development as it provides and informs socio-economic and political context. This social science research study examines the frigidity of the district municipalities towards improving the needs of the society which negatively impacts on the livelihoods of the ordinary citizens. The primary focus is on the disentangling of those issues which have a negative bearing on development initiatives. This study navigates the social ills through a lens which would in turn reveal and expose the key stumbling blocks which deter infrastructure and socio-economic development. This is a qualitative study which inter alia embraces a phenomenological approach to fulfil the descriptive observation of the phenomenon under investigation. Data was collected in the form of observations and focus groups amongst the respondents. This study has postulated the intrinsic recommendations which would inform policy shift in the development arena. It is arguably articulated that development is people-centred and people-driven where society remains the focal point of service delivery. Municipalities are regarded as machineries for enabling development and service delivery however, there is an evidence of a chaotic system. A complexity of eminent causes and effects are revealed with policy recommendations to contribute to the body of knowledge with new insights.

In-depth understanding of price dynamics for rural agricultural sustainability in the face of climate change

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Abstract

Climate change negatively affects food security, leading agricultural sustainability under threat, particularly in grassroots communities. The impact of climate change has significantly influenced agricultural price dynamics leading to the interrupted and reduced food supply. Furthermore, climate change has contributed to increased agricultural production costs; meanwhile, farmers settle for minimum selling prices for survival. With the continuous farming adjustment to adapt to climate change, the focus of the study was to identify the disparity between the increased cost of production and the continuous decline in the selling price of agricultural produce, leading to threatened agricultural sustainability. North-West is one of the most beautiful provinces, rich in tourism and agricultural production. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the participants of the study. Data was collected through interviews with the farmers; 256 questionnaires were administered during face-to-face interviews. The Multinomial Logit (MNL) model was used to analyze the influence of climate change on farmers' selling price, performance and subsequently impact on their sustainability.

The study's findings revealed that the price of agricultural inputs that are useful in mitigating diseases outbreak and excessive temperatures have generally increased. The study also uncovered that emerging farmers do not have any discretion in price determination. Instead, they must settle for the minimum market price for their survival. Furthermore, the study's results also revealed that most emerging farmers are on the verge of leaving farming as they deem it an unsustainable business venture. The result of the study suggests that food security for societies in remote areas is in danger as most emerging farmers cannot keep up with production costs and cannot attain their investment. In conclusion, the study discovered a mismatch between a high production cost and a low selling price. Thus, most emerging farmers cannot sustain their agricultural enterprises, leaving most societies in remote areas at a high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. The study recommends that various mechanisms that could protect farmers from the gradual decline in agricultural selling prices should be explored to enhance emerging farmers' sustainability.

Botswana's health system preparedness for management of public health disasters: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

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University of Botswana

Abstract

Globally, numerous health care systems are marred by acute resource constraints that inhibit the efficacy of universal health coverage. Without the necessary funding to fulfil their service delivery commitments, governments and health authorities often find themselves battling varied health care disparities. The COVID-19 pandemic have since proved that the constant lack, the inadequate planning, and the unfortunate mismanagement of limited resources available in some nations leaves health systems unprepared for any potential phenomenon that may threaten people's human rights to health and life. Hence, this study assessed the preparedness of Botswana's health care system for future pandemics. Guided by the Media Social Responsibility Theory and the Framing Theory, the study undertook a document analysis of local online news articles. Overall, findings revealed that media coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic was not extremely negative. Though informative and educational, a high number of the stories were sensational. Coverage concern was that articles did not engender trust and they had the potential to cause fear, that is considering the impact of repetitive frames over time. News publications played a moderate role in encouraging dialogue and engagement in health management and health financing issues. Yet a high number of articles highlighted possible strategies the country can adopt in its preparedness for future pandemics.

Keywords: Health communication, health financial reforms, health care system, development, COVID-19

ICT delivered adaptation and mitigation measures should not exclude the underprivileged from the climate change fight: Lessons from Botswana

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Abstract

Experienced across the world, floods, limited rainfall, recurring droughts, heatwaves, and cyclones are but a few felt and seen climate change threats to human rights. To ensure that communities are resilient, and that they can adapt and mitigate effectively, development stakeholders resorted to the use of ICTs to extensively channel strategic solutions. Guided by the normative structural and integrated approach theoretical perspective, this paper assessed factors that promote the uptake of ICT delivered climate change messages among residents of the Okavango Delta community of Shakawe. The study utilised a convergent parallel mixed method design, using a random sample of household respondents, 303 of which were interviewed, and a purposive sampling technique for key informants, the point of saturation was reached after 21 interviews. Data collected was analysed using qualitative methods such as content and thematic analysis, and statistical procedures such as descriptive statistics. Logistic regression was conducted to explore the effect of demographic variables on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. Results revealed that inadequate monthly income, or a lack thereof, is a strong factor thwarting mitigation efforts by citizens. Since women are largely unemployed, compared to men, they are less likely to adapt as they have limited access to the very ICTs that are delivering climate change messages. Findings also suggested that the higher an individual's educational level, the higher the likelihood of adapting.

Keywords: climate change, development, ICT, communication, environment

Inclusion of local community farmers into the last mile logistics distribution systems of wildlife tourism destinations

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Abstract

When tourists visit a wildlife tourism destination, they create a demand for local crafts and fresh produce in the immediate vicinity of the wildlife tourism destination. Through local procurement this demand creates potential opportunities for local communities and the possibility exists that it could stimulate local economic development where communities live. When a wildlife tourism destination is able to establish a working relationship with community farmers it contributes to sustainability as well as green procurement practices (GPP). GPP is a process of locally procuring fresh produce from community farmers taking into account the social, economic and environmental impacts of the local community. When local communities are included into the last mile distribution of the fruit and vegetable supply chains (SCs) for wildlife tourism establishments, it could have significant potential of financial and social benefits for the local communities. Tourism establishments would in turn benefit from a shorter fruit and vegetable SC as well as a possible reduction in distribution costs. Because of a shorter last mile distribution there will be less carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions into the air from a shorter fruit and vegetable SC. Through the establishment of fruit and vegetable gardens fresh produce could be sold to both wildlife tourism establishments and local communities. The inclusion of local communities into the SCs of wildlife tourism establishments support the sustainable development goals (SDG11, SDG12, SDG13 and SDG17) of the United Nations (UN) 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. When wildlife tourism establishments support SDGs, it is a progression towards the main objective of sustainable development, that of a higher quality of life for all people. This study attempts through key informant interviews and community member interviews to match fresh produce demand by three luxury wildlife tourism lodges in southern and east Africa to potentially supporting the local community farmers.

Keywords: Wildlife tourism, local procurement, fresh produce, sustainability

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