



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

The Centre for the
Advancement of Scholarship

2020 Annual Report



Make today matter

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Dr Jannie Pretorius

Professor Niko Sauer

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Professor Charles van Onselen

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Professor James Ogude

Professor Robin Crewe

Professor Tinyiko Maluleke

Professor Teboho Moja

Professor Sue Nicolson

Professor Emil Roduner

Professor Niko Sauer

Professor Frans Swanepoel

Professor Peter Vale

Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa

Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee

Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga

Dr Samuel Okunade





Over the last year, it is evident from its flagship projects that the Centre has continued to pursue its vision of cultivating research activities.

Professor Tawana Kupe

Chair of the Advisory Board of the CAS and
The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria



MESSAGE FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR AND ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

2020 was a year of unprecedented disruption and change across the globe, as well as a year presenting immense challenges to the university's mode of doing things. Around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to a halt as we struggled against the spread of this deadly virus. For many institutions of higher learning, ours included, the year 2020 became a period of adaptation, as we collectively moved from physical engagement to virtual modes of work and interaction.

The University of Pretoria had to revise its approach to teaching and learning, and to how research and related activities were undertaken in a world of social distancing and strict pandemic regulations. The University rose to the new challenge of hybrid and e-learning, and with it, learning to do research remotely – away from our usual sites of inquiry.

Despite all these difficulties, the University has continued to champion transdisciplinary research through its innovative platforms, such as this Centre, Future Africa and the Javett-UP Art Centre. As we grapple with the pandemic, we remain mindful of how the research undertaken at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS), can help us to reimagine and shape our societies and the environment post-COVID-19. The research focus at the University of Pretoria will continue to be of high quality, relevant, and impactful on our society, Africa and the rest of the world, as we seek to grapple with these human and global challenges.

While the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship was not immune to the disruption caused by the pandemic, it is noteworthy that it was able to rise to the challenge and

continued to produce excellent research outputs, while also offering the platform to engage with our society's problems. A good example was one of the most successful Webinars hosted in partnership with my office to discuss the current pandemic and its impact on health, economic wellbeing and our resilience systems in South Africa, and globally. In addition, the Centre's projects have continued to enhance our understanding of social phenomena and provide insights into the development of people and the improvement of society as a whole.

Over the last year, it is evident from its flagship projects that the Centre has continued to pursue its vision of cultivating research activities that cut across disciplinary boundaries, while offering cross-generational training and mentorship through its postdoctoral fellowships and postgraduate training. The Centre currently boasts of two A-rated scholars and a total of four B-rated scholars – easily one of the largest concentrations of top-rated scholars at the university. Professor Peter Vale was awarded the 2021 Francesco Guicciardini Prize for his book, *South Africa, Race and the Making of International Relations*, published in 2020, another clear testimony of the international standing of some of our Senior Research Fellows.

I wish to extend my appreciation to the Director and the staff at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship for their resilience in the face of the global pandemic and their continued work on projects that contribute to development and sustainability, locally and globally.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Despite the limiting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on both physical mobility and funding resources, 2020 proved to be a busy year for the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS). We not only continued to attract external funding and international research grants, but we also made excellent progress in the recruitment of postdoctoral fellows and consolidating our research footprints through sustained outputs in local and international outlets. The CAS was one of the first entities at the university to reflect on the impact of the pandemic. In many ways, and through its signature projects, the CAS is now gaining traction as an important home for transdisciplinary and socially engaged research within the university.

For example, the activities under the ARUA-SFS project are aimed at developing and directly influencing policy and practice in the food security, agricultural and education spaces. The Human Economic Programme continues to provide key insight into how different communities in Africa have structured themselves economically and socially to respond to human challenges in novel ways, often bypassing known conventional systems of doing business. The Centre's project on African Urbanities, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is an important example of how to analyse the ways in which our societies are structured by border-crossing.

Mellon, is an important example of how to analyse the ways in which our societies are structured by border-crossing. Furthermore, the project explores the role that culture and arts play in identity formation and the trafficking of ideas and practices across different spaces and regions. Our signature

project on environmental humanities, which is linked to an understanding of environmental challenges through humanistic disciplines, continues to attract international partnerships and collaborative research.

Besides our research profile, which has remained outstanding and impactful, if the NRF ratings of our scholars are anything to go by, the CAS has also continued to create platforms for dialogue, especially around major problems affecting society. The Webinar organised jointly by the office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Centre to take stock of the scientific and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was the highlight of the year. It was a convergence of some of the best minds in South Africa, drawn from diverse disciplines, with the aim of understanding not only the impact of the pandemic, especially those fault lines within our society that it has opened up, but also the ways in which it has disrupted ways of doing business, exposing our vulnerability and forcing us to be citizens of our little blocks, as one delegate put it.

Finally, 2020 also offered the Centre the opportunity to reimagine new ways of doing things virtually, while sustaining research dialogue, which is at the core of our business. For this, I wish to thank our Executive Committee, senior research fellows, postdoctoral fellows, and the Centre staff, many of whom have been forced to work from home, for their support of the work we are doing. Thanks also go to our Advisory Board members who, for the first time, had to meet virtually. Furthermore, huge gratitude is indeed owed to our Vice-Chancellor for his unwavering commitment to the Centre during these difficult times.

James Ogude
CAS Director



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The CAS was one of the first entities at the university to reflect on the impact of the pandemic.

ADVISORY BOARD



Professor Tawana Kupe
Chair of the Advisory Board and
Vice-Chancellor of the University
of Pretoria



Professor Akosua Adomako Ampofo
University of Ghana



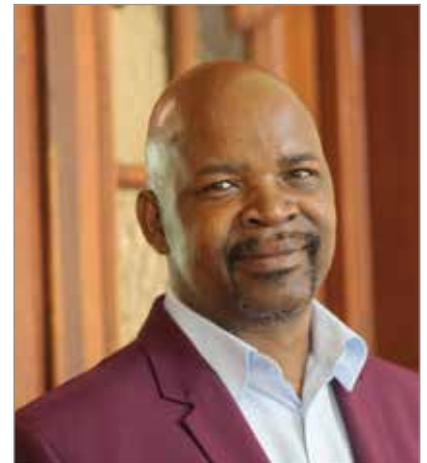
Professor Robin Crewe
CAS Research Fellow,
University of Pretoria



Professor Hendrik Geyer
STIAS Coordinator: Special Projects



Professor Theo Goldberg
Director of UCHRI,
University of California



Professor Tinyiko Maluleke
CAS Deputy Director,
University of Pretoria



Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga
CAS Postdoctoral Fellow,
University of Pretoria



Professor Njabulo Ndebele
Chancellor, University of Johannesburg



Professor James Ogude
CAS Director, University of Pretoria



Professor Anton Stroh
Acting Vice-Principal responsible for
Research and Postgraduate Education,
University of Pretoria



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Professor James Ogude
CAS Director, University of Pretoria



Professor Anton Stroh
Acting Vice-Principal responsible for
Research and Postgraduate Education,
University of Pretoria



Professor Sue Nicolson



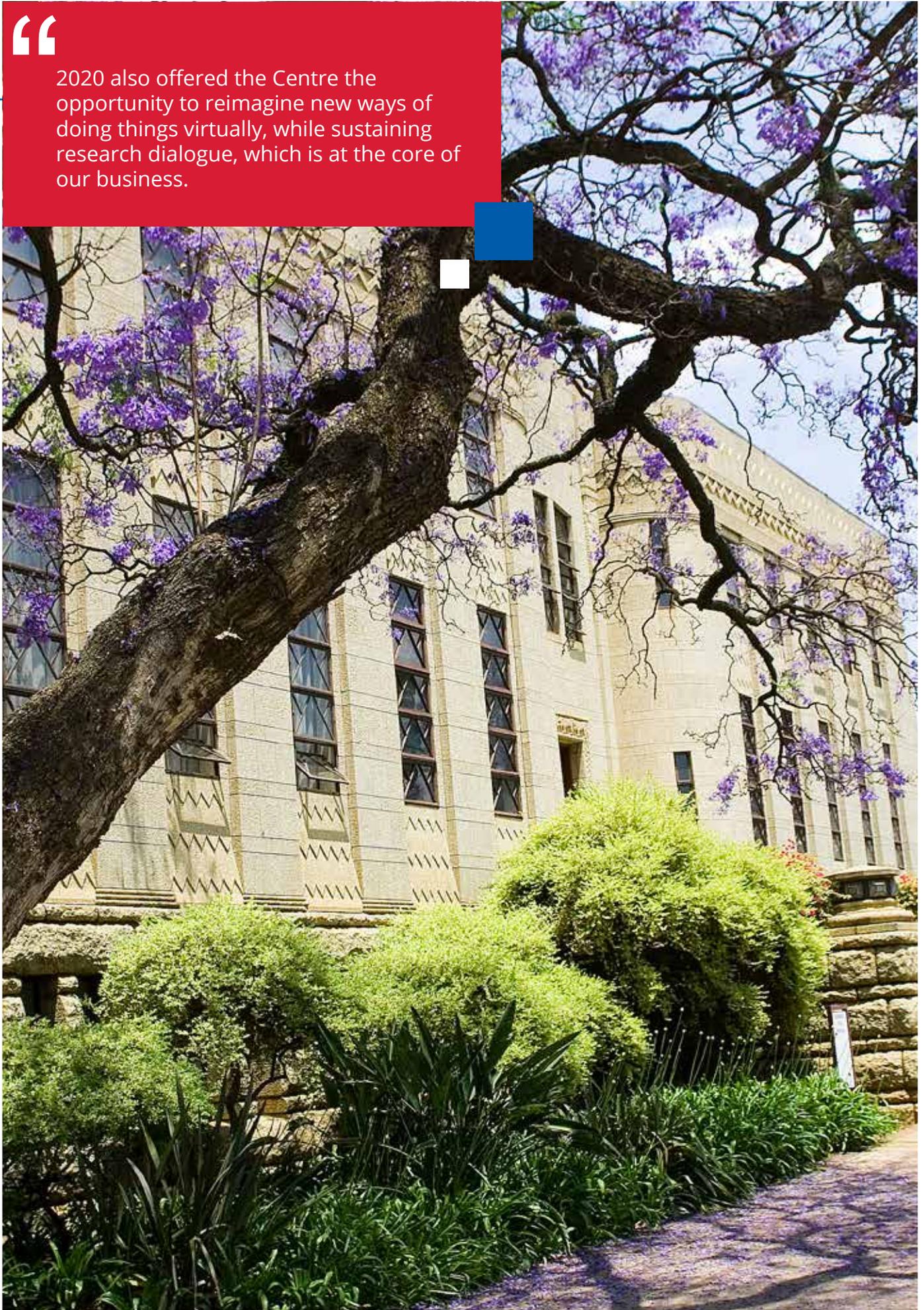
Professor Barend Erasmus
Dean of the Faculty of Natural
and Agricultural Sciences,
University of Pretoria



Professor Vasu Reddy
Dean of the Faculty of Humanities,
University of Pretoria



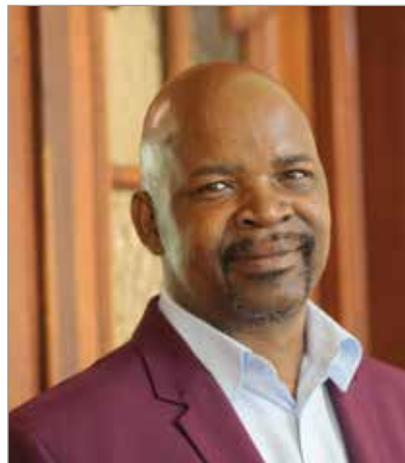
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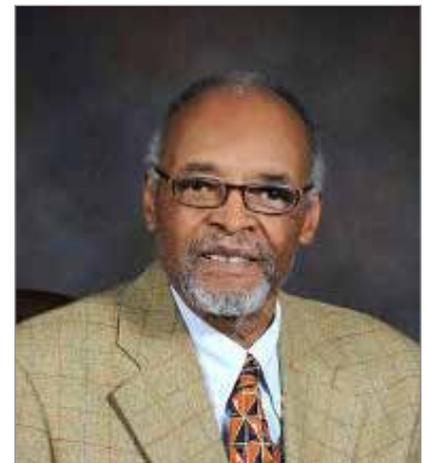
STAFF



Professor Robin Crewe



Professor Tinyiko Maluleke



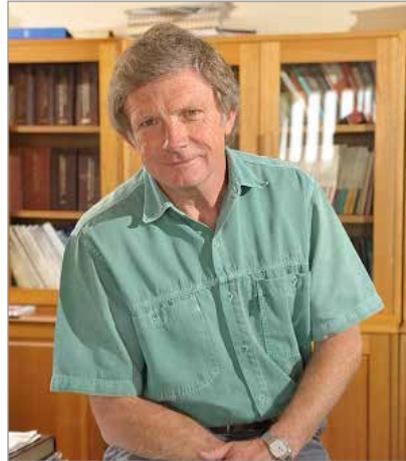
Professor Chabani Manganyi

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Despite all these difficulties, the University has continued to champion transdisciplinary research through its innovative platforms.



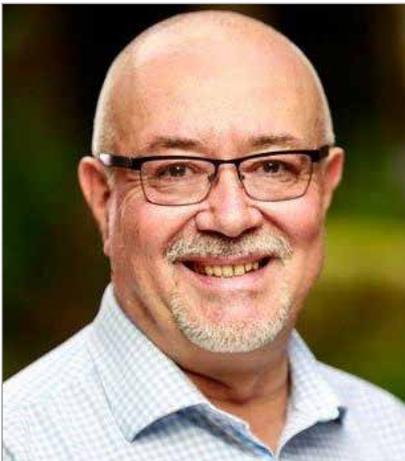
Professor Niko Sauer



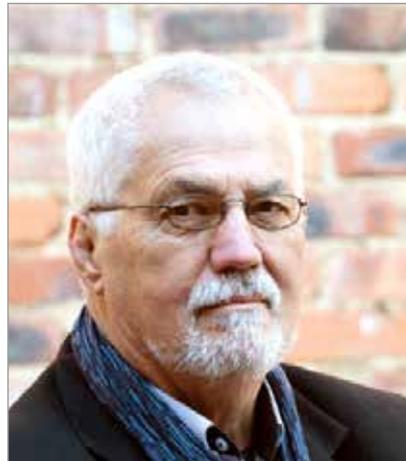
Professor John Sharp



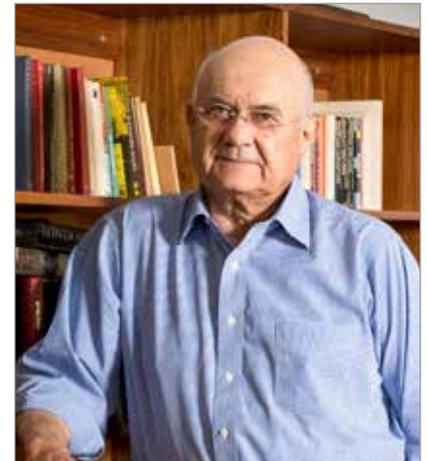
Professor Lindiwe Sibanda



Professor Frans Swanepoel

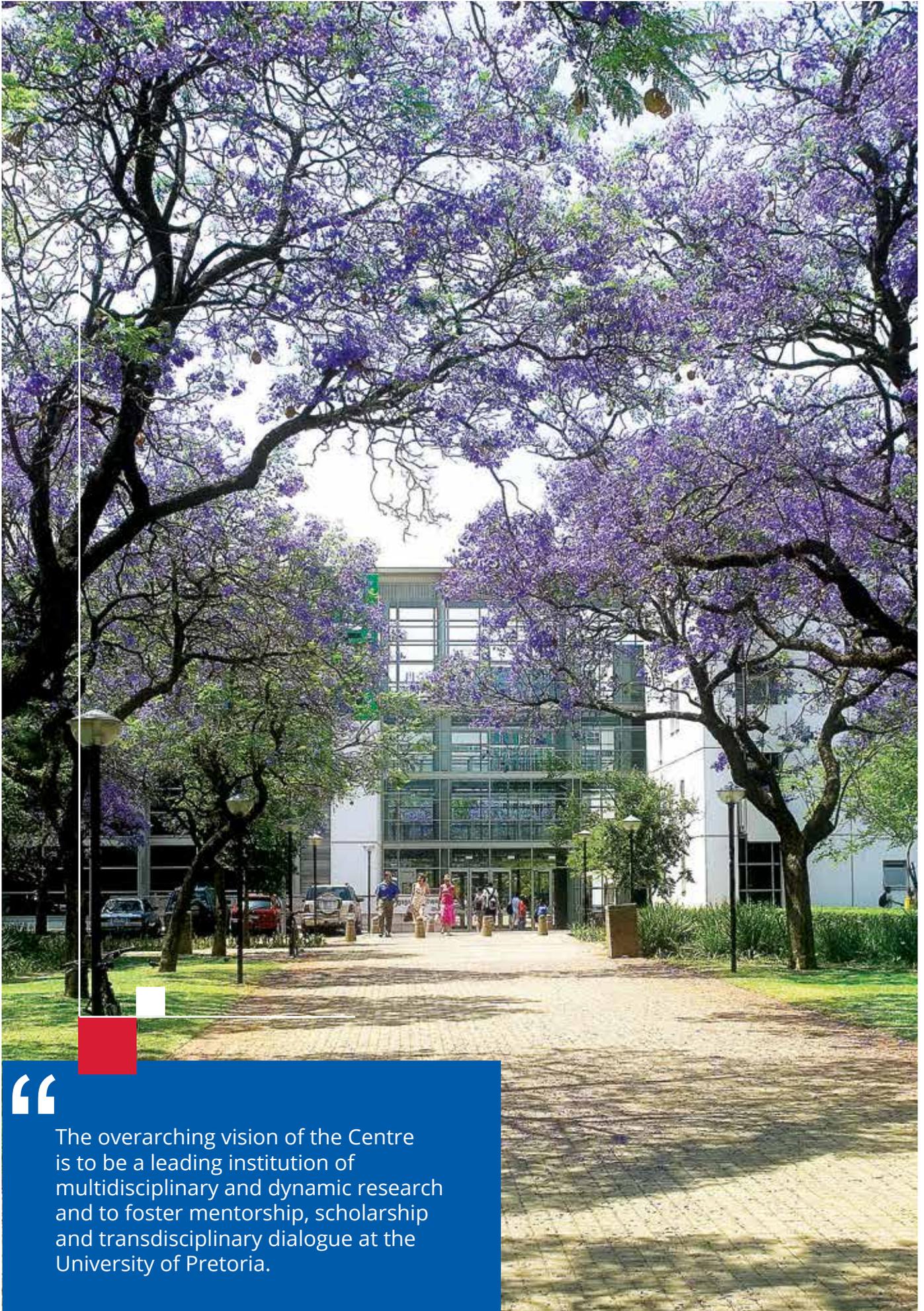


Professor Peter Vale



Professor Charles van Onselen





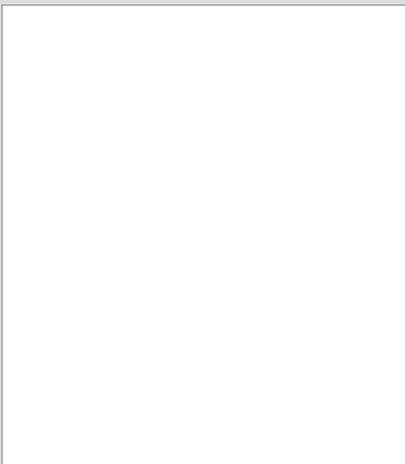
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The overarching vision of the Centre is to be a leading institution of multidisciplinary and dynamic research and to foster mentorship, scholarship and transdisciplinary dialogue at the University of Pretoria.

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS



Professor Teboho Moja



Emil Roduner

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES



Dr Siphiso Mahala



Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee



Elizabeth Mkwandawire



Dr Jannie Pretorius

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



Dr Pyemo Afego



Dr Femi Eromosele



Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa



Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga



Dr Samuel Okunade

SUPPORT STAFF



Ms Cecilia Bailie



Ms Kirsty Nepomuceno



Ms Cecelia Samson



Ms Ayanda Sihlahla



Mr Jonathan Tager



Ms Esley van der Berg



AFRICAN OBSERVATORY FOR HUMANITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Professor James Ogude

In 2020, the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship joined a transnational project, titled "Climate Change and Problems of Scale", in collaboration with the University of Texas Humanities Institute, in terms of a grant awarded by the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), located at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. The project leader at the University of Pretoria is James Ogude, assisted by our Senior Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga.

This project aims to explore climate change as a social, historical, and cultural force that transforms all lives, but does so in an uneven and often unequal fashion. Behind the Institute is the premise that problems of scale make it difficult to understand the differing ways in which climate change affects individual lives, specific communities, and the earth. Comprehending climate change and acting to mitigate its damages demands a major cognitive stretch in several dimensions. First, it requires us to place the deep past, recent history, the present, and the short- and long-term futures on a continuum, instead of approaching each as an isolated entity. Second, it demands that we bridge the gap between the global scale of climate change and the much more circumscribed scale of everyday lived experience. Finally, it insists that we map relationships between the macro-level and the macro-level.

This overall research focus will be connected to the "Climate Justice and Problems of Scale" project through research

themes that will include, but not be limited to, food systems and the environment; extractivism, disease ecologies and climate change; and climate justice and environmental movements. This project is a deliberate broadening of our signature project: "The Poetics and Politics of Extraction and the Environment".

The project is a collaboration between six CHCI member institutions, comprising the Humanities Institute (the University of Texas at Austin), the Sydney Environmental Institute (University of Sydney), the Center for American Studies and Research (American University of Beirut), the Institute for Humanities Research (Arizona State University), the Humanities Center (Carnegie Mellon University) and the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (University of Pretoria).

The other staff members from the University of Pretoria involved in the project include Dr Rory Du Plessis (Senior Lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts) and Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga (postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship). In 2020, Dr Elijah Doro joined the Centre as a postdoctoral fellow and has become part of the project owing to his work on environmental history.

In addition, the project hosted academic seminars and coordinated the development and authoring of publications as part of its broader aim to advance scholarship. In 2022, the Centre plans to host the Global Humanities Institute's meeting on "Climate Justice and the Problems of Scale", which was postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Professor James Ogude

Professor James Ogude was invited, as one of the keynote speakers, to the Streams Transformative Environmental Humanities Conference in Stockholm (Sweden), from 4 to 8 August 2020, on the theme, "Earth System at Risk: Challenging Environmental (In)Justice". Although the conference was postponed to 2021, the Streams held a series of 'teasers' in conversations with the keynote speakers. Professor Ogude was interviewed live by Dr Isabel Perez-Ramos. The interview was subsequently published, due to its wide reception, in an Italian journal, *Diacronie: Studi di Storia Contemporanea*. The translated title of the article is Ubuntu and the Principle of Co-Agency in African Ecology. The Abstract is as follows:

In this interview, starting from the concept of ubuntu, James Ogude explains the ethical and philosophical implications of this term by focusing on current health and environmental emergencies. Ubuntu is based on the ideas of co-agency and relationality, ideas that go far beyond a purely anthropocentric worldview. Ogude applies the concept of ubuntu to postcolonial studies and ecocriticism and shows that it represents an important analytical tool to retrace the phenomena of appropriation of nature and environmental injustice in the Anthropocene age.



Tafadzwa Mushonga

In 2020, **Dr Mushonga** completed two peer-reviewed journal articles and contributed to 'The Conversation Africa' for publication in 2021. Within the centre, Dr Mushonga contributed the first blog piece on "Sand Extraction Wreaking Havoc along the Manyame River" and was a founding coordinator of the Centre's blog, which was launched in 2020. Dr Mushonga submitted a book proposal for a volume titled "The Violence of Conservation in Africa: State, Militarisation and Alternatives" to Edward Elgar Publishers. The book proposal was accepted for publication and a contract was signed between Edward Elgar, Maano Ramutsindela, Frank Matose, and Tafadzwa Mushonga on 18 November 2020.

Dr Mushonga is also working with Professor Ogude as a Co-Principal Investigator on the Andrew Mellon Foundation Global Humanities Institute on "Climate Justice and Problems of Scale" and participated in a series of planning meetings on behalf of the Centre. Within this project, Dr Tafadzwa worked on producing informal outputs for the Centre's website.

In October 2020, Dr Mushonga moderated the session on the social and educational impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was part of the Centre's two-day symposium on "Reflections on the Scientific and Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic".

Dr Mushonga was invited to participate in the STREAMS conference, which was to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2020. This conference was postponed to 2021, and Dr Mushonga participated in preparing a short video for the conference's introduction trailer. Following on from the 2019 colloquium on Extraction and the Environment, in 2020, Dr Mushonga worked on reviewing the papers submitted for an edited volume (currently in progress).

HUMAN ECONOMY PROGRAMME



Professor John Sharp

In 2020, the major research activity conducted before the lockdown of South Africa was the hosting of visiting research fellow, Professor Sibel Kusimba.

Professor Sibel Kusimba (American University, Washington) arrived for a three-month visit to give seminars and lectures on her work, write papers, and plan future conferences. Her research is on how innovations in digital finance, such as Kenya's M-Pesa, mesh, or fail to mesh, constructively with existing networks of social exchange in Africa. Unfortunately, South Africa's stringent COVID-19 lockdown began two weeks after Professor Kusimba's arrival, with the result that she was confined to her accommodation on campus, and many of her proposed activities could not be completed.

Despite this, she managed to write four short articles, in collaboration with principal investigator Professor John Sharp, which appeared on the blogsite of the Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI) at the University

of California, Irvine, before she returned to the US. She also participated in planning for a virtual workshop on Digital Finance intended for 2021, and (COVID permitting) a 'real' international conference on this topic, to be held on the UP campus in 2022.

After her return to the US, further progress was made on a couple of joint papers with Professor John Sharp, which would be suitable for presentation at these gatherings. These papers compare and contrast digital innovations that have had a positive impact on the lives of ordinary, often poor, people in Africa, with those that have not succeeded in achieving this goal, despite the hyperbole that invariably accompanies their development.

At the end of 2020, the Centre successfully applied for a no-cost extension on the remaining Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funding for the Human Economy Programme from 2015 to 2018. This funding will result in the programme recruiting several doctoral students and postdoctoral students in 2021.

Doctoral Students

Two students who were part of the second cycle of the Human Economic programme completed their doctoral theses in 2020. Dr Saint Jose Inaka was awarded a doctoral degree in Sociology for a thesis on current attempts to reconstruct a 'labour market' in his home country (the DRC). Mike Chipere-Ngazimbi's Development Studies thesis on mobile money and the rural poor in Zimbabwe was successfully submitted for examination late in 2020, and he will graduate early in 2021.

These successes bring to nine the total number of doctoral degrees earned by students – all from Africa – who have been awarded a Human Economy doctoral scholarship since the research project started.

There are three doctoral students, supported by Human Economy scholarships, whose research is currently in progress. They started late in 2019 and managed to get into the field (in South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe) to undertake research in mid-2020. Their research methods had to be adapted initially in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, but the partial lifting of the restrictions late in the year meant that they were finding it increasingly possible to engage in face-to-face methods of interview and observation. Their period of support will last until 2022.



Stephen Hahlani

Research Topic: History of the Mbare Agriculture Market



Nelco 'Zakes' Hlatshwayo

Research Topic: Land Reform in post-apartheid South Africa



Eric Magale

Research Topic: Quick loans on mobile platforms in Kenya/unsecured lending in South Africa

Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr Pyemo Afego published a paper in 2020, based on his earlier doctoral research (at Kyoto University, Japan), in an international economics journal. As far as COVID-19 restrictions have allowed, he has continued his current research on how small entrepreneurs in Mamelodi, who do business with the state (at national, provincial and local levels), cope with late payments.



URBANITIES PROJECT



Professor James Ogude

In 2020, the project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, on *Entanglement, Mobility and Improvisation: Culture and Arts in Contemporary African Urbanism and its Hinterlands*, deferred its face-to-face events due to the global lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, project fellows were able to continue with their work, and progress was made in collating a joint repository of texts that form the major literature of the project across the four institutions.

In 2020, Mr Tinashe Mutero joined the Department of Music in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Pretoria, with a proposal titled "Townshipisation and transformation of Johannesburg: An ethnographic expository of social practice placemaking and urban sprawl".

The postdoctoral candidate, Dr Ehijile Femi Eromosele, who had submitted a motivation looking at the Nigerian, specifically Lagosian, music video genre and its representation of the city in this medium, completed his first year as a fellow in the project. In 2020, he published two journal articles, with one of the articles, titled "What Happens When a Music Video Goes Viral? Gastrocomedy and Prosumer Recreations of Timaya's *I Can't Kill*", being published in the *Journal of African Cultural Studies* and being directly linked to the themes of this project. Dr Eromosele has further reported submitting two outputs that are currently under review.

At the end of 2020, the University of Pretoria recruited a further two postdoctoral fellows. Dr Agnetta Adiedo Nyabundi's fellowship will focus on urban migration and health, with a special focus on Nairobi, one of the cities targeted in this project. Dr Agnetta Nyabundi joins the project

from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Maseno University, Kenya. Dr Ronald Musanje, a University of Pretoria graduate, having completed his thesis within the Department of English, was also appointed as a postdoctoral fellow on the project. His project proposal, titled "Metropolitan Imaginaries, Hinterlands and Urban Spatialities in Ugandan Fiction", intends to use Henri Lefebvre's triad of spatial practice (1988, 39) and Michel de Certeau's theory of walking in the city (1998, 97) to explore how contemporary Ugandan texts, which feature the circuitous flux of literary characters from rural locations into metropolitan areas of Kampala and vice versa, mediate literary understandings of links between the rural and urban in the country.

The University of Pretoria also made progress towards presenting a dramatic production for the 2021 exhibition, which was unfortunately postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The play titled *Bloke and His American Bantu* is written by the project's early career scholar Dr Siphiso Mahala. The dramatic piece is not only about the trafficking of ideas between the North and the South in the making of African urbanities, but also about the rendering of a nascent emergence of cosmopolitan culture in Johannesburg.

At partner institutions of the University of Cape Town, the University of Ghana, and Makerere University, several postdoctoral fellows and doctoral students were recruited to the project and research activities have continued, despite the restricting COVID-19 regulations.

The project plans to move to face-to-face events to 2021, including the first Summer Institute, to be held at the University of Pretoria in September / October.

SOCIAL INSECTS RESEARCH GROUP

Members:

Professor Robin Crewe, Professor Sue Nicolson, Professor Christian Pirk, Dr Fabien Demares, Dr Hannelie Human and Dr Abdullahi Yusuf



The Social Insects Research Group (SIRG), also known as the Bee group, is a Research Group in the Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, with members based at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship. This group studies fundamental and applied aspects of sociality in ants, bees, termites and wasps, with a particular focus on honeybees; hence, we teach and build capacity for bee research on the continent and beyond.

In 2020, Professor Robin Crewe and Professor Sue Nicolson continued their research activities, albeit largely from their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Crewe conducted ongoing work with members of the Research Group in pheromone biology and pursued the study of colony population densities by using quadcopter drones to sample congregation areas of honey bee colonies. He was awarded the 2020 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarly Book award in the category of natural sciences for the book "The Dark Side of the Hive", which he co-authored with Professor Robin Moritz in 2019. Professor Crewe's doctoral student, Dr F. Mumoki, completed her thesis and graduated in April 2020.

In 2020, Professor Crewe served as the Chair of the Board of INSiAVA (Pty) Ltd, as a scientific advisor for MARTI TB Diagnostics (Pty) Ltd, and a board member of SERA (Pty) Ltd and SERA Fund Managers (Pty) Ltd. He further served as the chair of the following South African organisations: Committee on Scholarly Publications in South Africa (ASSAf), National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum (ASSAf), Scholarly Journal Editors' Forum (ASSAf), and SciELO South Africa Advisory Board (ASSAf). Professor Crewe continued as a board member for the South African Council for the Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and a member of their executive committee. He was the chair of the Strategic Projects Committee of SACNASP and a trustee of the Skye Foundation. Internationally, Professor Crewe was a member of the working group in honey fraud for APIMONDIA International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, and the chair of the Human Rights Working Group, African Academy of Science.

Professor Crewe was appointed as the editor of the South African Bee Journal in late 2019. Both Professor Crewe and Professor Nicolson continued to publish extensively on their respective research. They both participated in the Centre's two-day symposium on Reflections on the Scientific and Social Impact of the COVID-19 Impact in October 2020.

Professor Nicolson's B1 rating by the National Research Foundation (NRF) was renewed in 2020.

FSNET-AFRICA, ARUA-SFS AND PERKA PROGRAMMES

Professor Frans Swanepoel, Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Prof Teboho Moja, Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee, Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa

Professor Frans Swanepoel is the Principal Investigator for the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) – African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Research Excellence collaborative project between University of Pretoria, Leeds University and FANRPAN – entitled Food Systems Research Network for Africa (FSNet-Africa).

He is also the Director: International Strategic Partnerships responsible for the comprehensive internationalisation of the university in the form of the African-Global University Partnerships Project (AGUP).

The CAS Webinar, held after the national lockdown, took stock of the pandemic in the form of “Reflections on the Scientific and Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Prof Swanepoel presented a session on “What has been the social impact of the pandemic and what is the prognosis for its long-term effect on civil liberties; food security and its sustainability; education and access to affordable learning; and gender-

based violence against women and the vulnerable?” How will the pandemic impact the world’s weaker economies – the so-called “global south”? Prof Swanepoel spoke, moderated and organised various virtual events during the pandemic, including as moderator of the World Food Day webinar on the topic of “Policy Actions to transform African food systems to achieve Zero Hunger in South Africa”, hosted by FSNet-Africa; as discussant for the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) webinars, “Collaborative action to strengthen agricultural development and food and nutritional security in the continent”; and as an invited panellist for “Delivering food for Africa in a transforming agri-food system in the ‘new normal’”.

Prof Swanepoel co-organised the 8th World Sustainability Forum, in collaboration with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the University of Basel. He moderated the session stream on “Food Systems Transformation in Africa” and the two panels on “Conceptualising the African Food Systems” and “Gender Roles and the Unequal Status of Women in African Food Systems.” He was invited as a Guest Editor for a Special Issue of the journal ‘Sustainability’.



THE PEER-LEARNING FOR EMERGING RESEARCHERS' KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCEMENT (PERKA)

The Peer-Learning for Emerging Researchers' Knowledge and Advancement (PERKA) programme is a two-year initiative funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY). It is implemented by the NRF of South Africa, in collaboration with the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

The objective of PERKA is to identify, analyse, document, and share the key lessons learned from the Corporation's investment in postdoctoral fellowships in Africa through a collaborative, participatory peer-learning approach, and to document and investigate partnership models for a postdoctoral fellowship in Africa. PERKA also provides an opportunity for institutions, organisations, and programmes that fund postdoctoral fellowships to share experiences,

build networks and learn about models for good practice from peers across the continent.

Although several delays were experienced in the programme due to the COVID-19 pandemic, adjustments were made to the work programme to enable the momentum gained in the first year of the project to be maintained. An extensive global literature review on postdoctoral fellowships around the world has been concluded, along with a survey on the experiences of postdoctoral fellows in CCNY programmes. The PERKA project was featured in the Nature Careers Working Scientist podcast series focusing on postdoctoral fellowships, globally.

Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee is the Research Fellow at CAS working on PERKA, and Dr Nadia Fouche was the postdoctoral fellow in the initiative before joining the FSNet-Africa project.

AFRICA GLOBAL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT (AGUP)

The Africa Global University Partnerships Project (AGUP) was conceptualised in 2019 and presented to Deans and Directors for faculty consultations during early 2020. The project aims to enable UP's vision of "to be a leading research-intensive university in Africa, recognised internationally for its quality, relevance, and impact, and also for developing people, creating knowledge, and making a difference locally and globally." To ensure that partnerships and collaborations play their intended role in achieving UP's strategic goals and

targets, AGUP was approved by the Executive in November 2020. Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa, in concert with the Department of Research and Innovation's (DRI's) International Cooperation Division partnerships mapping exercise, led a literature review to inform the scientometrics for the careful selection of UP's existing, new, and future partners. The Implementation Plan and the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (MEL) is planned for completion in June 2021.

FSNET-AFRICA

The Food Systems Research Networks for Africa (FSNet-Africa) seeks to strengthen the capabilities of food systems research and translate evidence into implementable policy solutions and practical interventions in support of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets for Africa. This will be achieved through leading systems analysis research on climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive, and poverty-reducing food system solutions, designed and implemented in partnership with relevant food systems stakeholders.

The FSNet-Africa proposal, led by Professor Frans Swanepoel, submitted to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) – African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Research Excellence was approved for funding in 2020. FSNet-Africa is one of the flagship initiatives of the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food

Systems, led by the University of Pretoria in collaboration with the Universities of Nairobi and Ghana. The three FSNet-Africa lead partners – the University of Pretoria, the University of Leeds (UoL) and the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) – bring together a unique and expansive set of strengths in food systems research, as well as an array of current partnerships and networks with higher education and research institutions, policymakers, private sector stakeholders, and grassroots organisations.

Although the start of FSNet-Africa was delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the project officially started in January 2021. In preparation for the start of the project, the FSNet-Africa partners hosted a successful 14-day online campaign, leading up to World Food Day on 16 October 2020.



The collaborative project will invest £1.9 million over three years for developing the capacities of up to 30 African early career researchers in six African countries. The two-year structured fellowship will launch in July 2021, with a cohort of fellows selected from ten academic partners in Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa. Professor Frans Swanepoel is the FSNet-Africa principal investigator and director. He is supported at UP by Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee (Senior Research Fellow) and Dr Elizabeth Mkandawire (Network and Project Manager). Dr Nadia Fouche and Dr Coletta Gandizanwa are the postdoctoral fellows linked to the project. Dr Stefano Marras also worked as a postdoctoral fellow before joining Bayer Crop Science as a Director of Global Partnerships.

As a crucial component of UP's continued local, continental, and global networking projects, the FSNet-Africa project is a flagship project of the GCRF-ARUA. UP also hosts the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS). To optimise the UP's position as a leader in food-related research platforms (including the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, jointly hosted with UWC, where Prof Swanepoel is PI, and the Institute for Food Nutrition and Well-being, where Professor Hettie Schönfeldt is SARChi Chair), a revision of the ARUA-CoE in Food Security was undertaken with success. The capacity of the ARUA-SFS was strengthened by Prof Sibanda assuming leadership for the CoE's next phases of excellence.



ARUA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS (ARUA-SFS)

Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda was appointed in CAS as Visiting Professor in July 2020, with strengths as a food systems specialist, an advisor, and International Development Policy. In September, she was appointed as Director of the newly restructured ARUA-SFS. This Centre of Excellence focuses on much broader objectives of reducing poverty and engaging relevant stakeholders and systems – from farm to fork – in delivering food security and nutrition for all, so that the economic, social and environmental bases for generating food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised. The UP Executive approved this change in name and structure, and ARUA was consulted throughout the process. UP is currently in the process of formalising this change with UKRI to ensure alignment with funding criteria. Prof Sibanda will, from 2021, act as the PI of the Capacity Building in Food Security for Africa (CaBFoods-Africa) programme. Prof Sibanda is the Co-Chair of the UN Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture, presenting scientific advice to the African Special Envoy to the UN Food Systems Summit in New York in 2021.

A new website was launched to reflect the changes that took place, as well as recording activities and outputs.

Professor Sibanda was involved in several events in 2020, including an expert panel discussion with the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability and Nature Sustainability on “Innovations to build sustainable, equitable, inclusive food value chains”; the Regional Universities (RUFORUM) International Advisory Panel meeting; the Africa Regional Resilience Dialogue; and the UN CFS event “Scaling-up Investment for Climate Smart Agriculture projects in Food Systems. In October, Prof Sibanda presented a keynote address to, and further participated in, the IAEA Vienna VIRTUAL Technical Meeting on Leveraging Stable Isotope Techniques in Evaluating Food-based Approaches to Improve Diet Quality.



Professor Teboho Moja

Professor Teboho Moja is a visiting Professor in CAS and PI on the CCNY Science Granting Councils Initiative (SCGI), and led particularly productive partnerships and research cycle in 2020. The NRF-led SCGI, launched in April 2015 with support from the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and South Africa’s NRF, is strengthening the capacities of Councils in 15 sub-Saharan African countries through work in four inter-related thematic areas. It aims to produce more effective research management practices among Councils, to strengthen the ability to design and monitor research programmes based on the use of robust STI indicators, and to increase the ability of Councils to promote knowledge transfer to the private sector and the increasingly coordinated and networked Councils. Dr Samuel Okunade is a postdoctoral fellow working with Prof Moja on the project.

Prof Moja facilitated the signing of an MoU between New York University and UP in July 2020. She also facilitated the transfer of the DHET-accredited “Journal of Student Affairs in Africa” to UP. She is also a founder member and the Editor-in-Chief of the journal.

RESEARCH FELLOWS IN 2020



Professor Tinyiko Maluleke

Professor Tinyiko Maluleke's publications in 2020 include five book chapters, three journal articles, and 11 opinion pieces that were featured online on News24 and in the Sunday Independent newspaper.

At the Centre, Professor Maluleke, together with the Director, Professor James Ogude, organised the Centre's major event in 2020, the two-day symposium titled "Reflections on the Scientific and Social Impact the COVID-19 Impact". The symposium included speakers from within the Centre and several invited notable academics and practitioners. Professor Maluleke continued to serve on the boards of the National Research Foundation and the MTNSA Foundation.



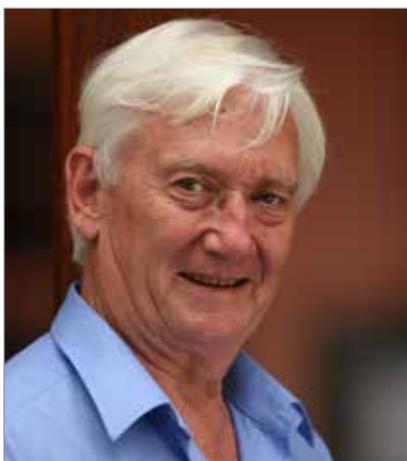
Dr Jannie Pretorius

In 2020, **Dr Jannie Pretorius** continued to provide support to a range of departments at the university, including Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, Mechanical Engineering, Mineralogy / Pyrometallurgy, and the Faculty of Health. External to the University, Dr Pretorius collaborated with the Centre for Nuclear Safety and Security (CNSS) and the Natural Hazard Centre, on separate projects.

Dr Pretorius collaborated with Prof Johan Malherbe (Physics Dept.) and identified two (2) new Graphite phases deposited in a CVD (Chemical Vapour Deposition) process during the formation of crystalline ZrC. A formal 2nd paper was prepared and submitted to the ROYAL SOCIETY and, with small changes, should be approved. A further paper in this regard was prepared and submitted for publication to "Composite Science and Technology".

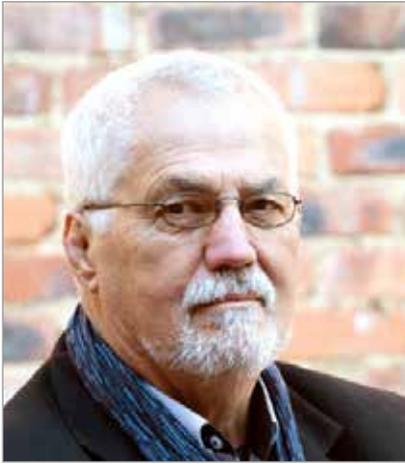
The Bio-Diversity project, now established officially at UP, required an extensive 3D database on all South African Indigenous plants and their extracted chemical components for tracing studies in medicinal applications. Dr Pretorius has converted the entire OLD CSIR-based design of this database to portray proper chemical content and structure. Dr Pretorius also worked closely with Prof Hannes Rautenbach on topics of weather prediction for the Malaria project.

Dr Pretorius continued to provide postgraduate support to both the Physics and Chemistry Departments, with seven students from honours to doctoral levels benefiting from Dr Pretorius' assistance.



Professor Niko Sauer

Professor Niko Sauer wrote and published a paper online, titled "Dynamic boundary conditions and the Carslaw-Jaeger constitutive relation in heat transfer" for the Springer Nature journal, Partial Differential Equations and Applications. The paper studies a dynamic boundary condition problem in heat transfer, which represents the interaction between a conducting solid enclosed by a conducting shell. The paper is due to appear in the journal in 2021.



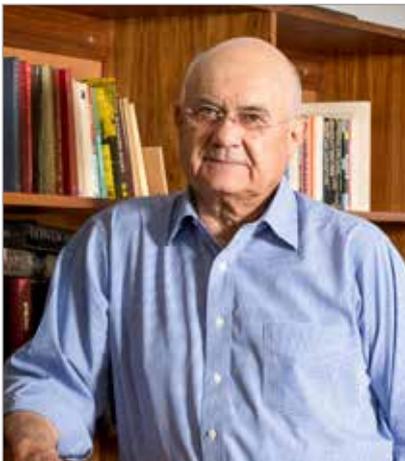
Professor Peter Vale

Professor Peter Vale collaborated with colleagues in the United States and Australia in 2020 to coordinate a series called “Living and Thinking Crisis”, hosted by the Thesis Eleven, journal of critical theory and historical sociology. Some forty essays from across the world considered the COVID-19 pandemic through a range of conceptual and comparative framings. In November, Professor Vale participated in a Special Online Workshop on the topic “How can social theory make sense of living in this time of crisis?”. The Australian Sociological Association organised the workshop, and co-panellists Peter Beilharz (Curtin and Sichuan and Curtin) and Craig Calhoun (Arizona) joined him.

With Dr Mosa Padi (PARI), Professor Vale edited a series of the journal, *Transformation 104*, which focused on Local Government in Limpopo. In the following number of the same journal, together with Professor Gerhard Mare, he launched a new platform called “In Theory”, devoted to theorising the social world.

The International Studies Association awarded the Francesco Guicciardini Prize for Best Book to *South Africa, Race and the Making of International Relations*, written by Dr Vineet Thakur (Leiden) and Professor Peter Vale. A second book (written by Thakur, Vale and Dr Alex Davis (Western Australia)) called *The Imperial Discipline: Race and the Founding of International Relations* was also published during the year.

For the second consecutive year, Professor Vale served in the UP Book Award Selection Committee and with colleagues at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship in the Faculties of Humanities and Law to develop an inter-disciplinary hub around Cannabis Studies at the university.



Professor Charles van Onselen

Professor van Onselen is currently researching and writing eight or nine extended essays/chapters that explore the complex historical relationship between Anglophone, industrial, Protestant and urban South Africa and Lusophone, commercial, Catholic, rural Sul do Save neighbouring Mozambique during the colonial era. The basic research for this expansive project has, in large measure, been completed and the author has begun drafting two of the earlier chapters. These chapters focus on how, in the era of primary industrialisation in southern Africa, the Mozambican economy changed from being an Indian-Ocean-facing entity, trading in the global south and beyond, to becoming a predominantly labour-exporting enclave, facing inland, towards the mineral-rich highveld interior, with consequences for the structured underdevelopment of the latter.

In the northern hemisphere, the historical relationship between neighbouring Protestant and Catholic countries has often been characterised by deep and pervasive differences, including armed conflict. But, in the colonial deep south, the connections between the two – often entered into at the expense of a third party, Africans – appear to have been more complex and nuanced. In what is hoped to be a two-volume set of essays, the author will attempt to delineate the parameters of co-operation and conflict that shaped the historical interactions between South Africa and Mozambique in the century before attaining independence, and explore how they shaped the world beyond existing national boundaries.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020



SYMPOSIUM
Reflections on the
Scientific and Social Impact of
COVID-19 Pandemic

22 – 23 October 2020

RSVP BEFORE 20 OCTOBER 2020



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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Make today matter

CAS SYMPOSIUM: REFLECTIONS ON THE SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In October 2020, the Centre hosted a two-day digital symposium titled 'Reflections on the Scientific and Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic'. The event was streamed in three sessions on the University of Pretoria's YouTube Channel.

The symposium featured more than ten scholars from diverse disciplines who reflected on the history of pandemics and their impacts on spatial arrangements in the context of apartheid, on their impacts on governmentality, and on the various challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. These challenges range from problems in our resilience systems,

to our fragilities as humans, to excess surveillance, and to the hoarding of power by the state, among other issues. These speakers included academics from the Centre, such as Professor Peter Vale, Professor Frans Swanepoel, Professor Lindiwe Sibanda, Professor John Sharp and Professor Robin Crewe, as well as invited speakers such as Professor Glenda Gray (The President of the South African Medical Research Council), Professor Howard Phillips (University of Cape Town), Professor Veronique Tadjó (University of the Witwatersrand) and Professor Francis Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town).

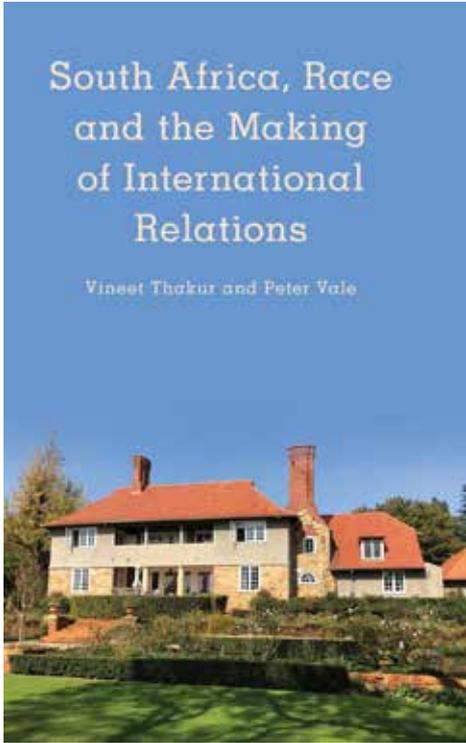
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION AWARDS PROFESSOR JAMES OGUDE AN A2 RATING

The Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, Professor James Ogude, was awarded A-2 ratings in 2020 by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

"This recognition has been long coming ever since I received my B rating over a decade ago," Prof Ogude said. "It is an affirmation of many years of hard work and an excellent record of postgraduate student supervision. I dedicate this

recognition to an incredible cohort of former students who have inspired my scholarship. It is a resounding vote of confidence in our research centre, which now boasts two A-rated researchers."

Professor Ogude is now one of two A-rated researchers at the Centre, joining Professor Charles van Onselen, who also enjoys this rating.



PROFESSOR PETER VALE RECEIVES THE 2021 FRANCESCO GUICCIARDINI PRIZE FOR BEST BOOK IN HISTORICAL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In 2020, Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship research fellow Professor Peter Vale and his co-author from Leiden University, Dr Vineet Thakur, published *South Africa, Race and the Making of International Relations*. In late 2020, the book was awarded the 2021 Francesco Guicciardini Prize for Best Book in Historical International Relations.

The Francesco Guicciardini Prize is given annually and recognises the best book copyrighted in the previous calendar year(s) on subjects related to historical International Relations. It is aimed at histories of international relations and/or the use of history to illuminate theoretical, conceptual and analytical issues in IR.

LAUNCH OF CAS BLOG IN 2020

At the end of 2020, the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship launched a virtual platform for disseminating thoughts, opinions, and research generated within the Centre and by guests.

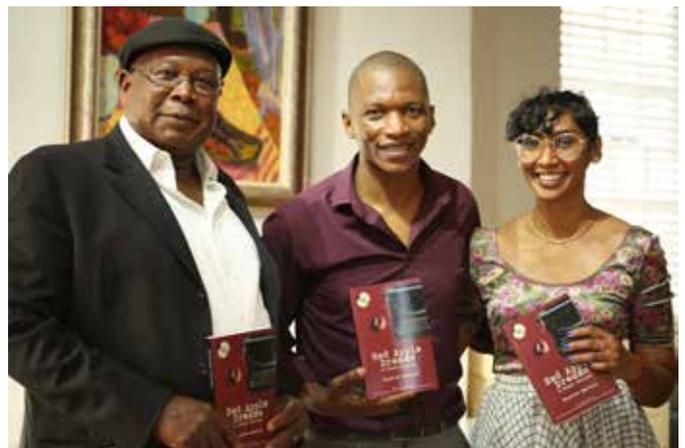
In keeping with the Centre's aim of fostering scholarly debate on a range of inter- and multi-disciplinary topics, the CAS Blog will be used to highlight and engage necessary and

relevant topics linked to the Centre's key projects and research themes. This includes (but is not limited to) the environmental humanities, social insects, urbanities and their hinterlands, the human economy, chemistry and computational science.

By the end of 2020, the Blog included contributions from Dr Tafadzwa Mushonga and Professor Tinyiko Maluleke, and three blogs as part of the World Food Day campaign.

LAUNCH OF DR SIPHIWO MAHALA'S BOOK "RED APPLE DREAMS AND OTHER STORIES"

On 27 February 2020, the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship hosted the launch of Dr Sipiwo Mahala's book, *Red Apple Dreams and Other Stories*. The book is a compilation of fifteen stories — eleven penned by Sipiwo Mahala and four by guest authors. The stories range from the 1950s to the present era, from rural to urban landscapes, and interrogate both marginal and complex topical issues like the land question. In the picture, from the left, are Professor



James Ogude, Dr Mahala, and the moderator of the launch, Dr Nedine Moonsamy of the English Department, at this launch.

Dr Mahala is a South African writer, plying his trade in English and isiXhosa, and a Research Associate at the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship. He is one of the early career scholars associated with the Andrew W. Mellon funded project on "Entanglement, Mobility and Improvisation: Culture and Arts in Contemporary African Urbanism and its Hinterlands".

PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Professor James Ogude

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Other Publications

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Professor Robin Crewe

Journal Articles

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Professor Tinyiko Maluleke

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Professor Teboho Moja

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Professor Sue Nicolson

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Professor Emil Roduner

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Professor Niko Sauer

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Professor Frans Swanepoel

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Professor Peter Vale

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Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa

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Dr Melody Mentz-Coetzee

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