

# IFK 2021 First Quarterly Report

21 April 2021

## Summary

The first quarter saw the establishment of five research groups, two of which immediately established regular webinar series: the PhilAI reading group focusing on philosophy of artificial intelligence, and the Data Science Across Disciplines monthly webinar. The Institute also hosted a webinar on social media. We published one chapter, submitted three other articles or chapters and one monograph proposal, and won the contract to edit an Oxford Handbook. We also wrote three op eds, featured in three media interviews, and were featured in a podcast. It was an extremely active quarter for speaking engagements, with a total of nine lectures or talks delivered on external and mostly international platforms, in addition to the seven events that we hosted. The total number of graduate students supervised at IFK rose to 10. We welcomed three new staff members. We continued to build on our partnerships with Tübingen and Durham, and further opened conversations with Africa Leadership Academy (South Africa) and the Government Communication and Information System (South Africa).

## Media

### Interviews

Broadbent, A. 2020-12-28. Live interview on eNCA with Jane Dutton and Tumelo Mothotoane concerning COVID-19.

Smart, B. 2021-03-31. Interview on Radio 786 (Cape Town), on the article 'Experts Caution Against Stricter COVID-19 Regulations'.

Smart, B. 2021-03-31. Interview by R. Mpofu on 'Experts Caution Against Stricter COVID-19 Regulations', *Sunday Independent*.

### Opinion pieces

Krubiner, C, Y-Ling Chi, Regan, L, Barasa, E, Beatriz DS, Bayani, CB, **Broadbent, A**, **Smart, B**, Tumwesigye, N and Walker, D. 2021-03-31. [The Indirect Health Effects of COVID-19: Emerging Findings from Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa and Uganda](#). *Center for Global Development* blog.

**Tella, O** and Fagbayibo, B. 2021-03-20. [Burna Boy and WizKid's Grammys: Afrobeats As Source of Global Africa](#). *Premium Times*.

Tella, O. 2021-01-28. [America's Tarnished Hegemony: President Biden will Have to Do More Damage Control after Trump's Isolationism on the Global Stage](#). *Daily Maverick*.

## Podcasts

[COVID Research at UJ: Philosophy of Medicine](#) by Professor Alex Broadbent.

## Publications

### Chapters

Kaziboni, A. 'Apartheid Racism and Post-apartheid Xenophobia: Bridging the Gap', in Rugunanan, P and Xulu-Gama, N (eds.). *Migration in Southern Africa* New York: Springer. (In press)

Tella, O. '[Agenda Setting or Reinforcement? The Media and AFRICOM's Soft Power](#)', in Gwatiwa, T and van der Merwe, J (eds.). *Expanding US Military Command in Africa: Elites, Networks and Grand Strategy*. London: Routledge.

## Submissions

### Books

Broadbent, A. *The Reverse Counterfactual Theory of Causation*. (Proposal submitted)

Venkatapuram, S and Broadbent, A (eds.). *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Public Health*. (Under contract)

Broadbent A (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Medicine*. (Contracted)

### Journal articles

Broadbent, A and Grote, T. 'Can Robots do Epidemiology? Machine Learning, Causal Inference, and Predicting the Outcomes of Public Health Interventions'. (Submitted)

Tella, O. 'Nigeria's Democracy Promotion in Africa: Hard, Soft or Smart Power Strategem?' *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*. (Submitted)

Tella, O. 'South Africa's Curriculum Transformation: Insights from Post-Independence Africa and Post-civil Rights Movement in the United States'. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*. (Submitted)

### Chapters

Grote, T and A Broadbent. 'Machine Learning and Public Health: Philosophical Issues', in the *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Public Health*. (Submitted)

## Teaching and Learning

### Supervision

IFK staff supervise the following students:

Name	Level	Department	Supervisor
Wesley Geyer	PhD	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Donatus Kum	Honours	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Gontse Lebakeng	Masters (CW)	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Likhwa Ncube	PhD	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Ernest Nkomotje	Masters (Res.)	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Masechaba Ntsane	Honours	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Seipati Malinga	Honours	Sociology	Anthony Kaziboni
Caitlin Rybko	PhD	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Ragnar Van Der Merwe	PhD	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent
Ethan Vorster	Masters (CW)	Philosophy	Alex Broadbent

## Events

### Hosted

Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (PhilAI) Reading Group<sup>1</sup>: 'Deep Learning: A Philosophical Introduction', by Cameron Buckner (2019) (Webinar, 4 February)

PhilAI Reading Group: 'Explanation in Artificial Intelligence: Insights from the Social Sciences', Tim Miller (2019) (Webinar, 18 February)

Data Science Across Disciplines (DSAD): *A High-Level Overview of the Applications of Deep Learning-Based Forecasting in Finance* (Webinar, 22 February)

PhilAI: 'Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and the Big Questions', Judea Pearl and Dana Mackenzie (2018) (Webinar, 4 March)

*The Future of Knowledge on Social Media* (Panel Discussion, 17 March)

PhilAI: 'Can Robots do Epidemiology? Machine Learning, Causal Inference, and Predicting the Outcomes of Public Health Interventions', Alex Broadbent and Thomas Grote<sup>2</sup> (Webinar, 18 March)

DSAD: Robot of Robots – Hyperautomation for the 4IR (Webinar, 29 March)

### Guest lectures, talks and presentations

Broadbent A. 2021-01-27. Robo-epidemiology: Machine learning, causal inference, and public health. Interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics, Jagiellonian University.

Broadbent A. 2021-01-28. Robo-epidemiology: Machine learning, causal inference, and public health. Centre for Humanities Engaging Social Sciences, Durham.

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<sup>1</sup> The Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (PhilAI) Reading Group is a virtual discussion on work in the emerging field of philosophy of artificial intelligence co-hosted by the University of Johannesburg's Institute for the Future of Knowledge and the [University of Tübingen's Cluster of Excellence for Machine Learning in Science](#).

<sup>2</sup> This article is under review.

Broadbent A. 2021-02-26. Global Perspectives on Public Health: Conceptual issues in causation and prediction. Guest lecture, Global Perspectives on Public Health online course: University of Cincinnati.

Kaziboni, A. 2021-02-28. 'Anthropogenic water scarcity in South Africa: Causes and solutions', presented [virtually] at the IV International Sociological Association (ISA) Forum held in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Broadbent, A. 2021-03-04. Is lockdown right? Global health, bioethics, and COVID-19. Guest lecture, New York University School of Law.

Broadbent A. 2021-03-17. Will the fourth industrial revolution happen? Guest lecture, Advanced Social Research Methodology in Sociology Course: University of Johannesburg.

Broadbent, A. 2021-03-19. 'What is a good prediction?' Invited talk at University of Athens Philosophy and History of Science Department interdisciplinary workshop on prediction in the sciences.

Broadbent A. 2021-03-22. Robo-epidemiology: Machine learning, causal inference, and public health. Data Science Research Group, University of Haifa.

Kaziboni, A. 2021-03-30. 'The use of 4IR technologies to achieve water security in South Africa during and post-COVID-19', presented [virtually] at the African Young Graduates and Scholars held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Collaborations

- [Africa Leadership Academy](#) (South Africa): MOU and collaborative project (The Future of Diplomacy, In process)
- Government Communication and Information System (GCIS): Digital Media Forum (In process)
- Tubingen University Cluster of Excellence: Machine Learning for Science: PhilAI reading group, conference planning (Data Science Across Disciplines)

## Funding

Application in preparation: Prediction and the Future of Knowledge (Alex Broadbent), collaborative grant with Centre for Humanities Engaging Social Sciences, Durham University.

## Recruitment

Dr Martin Bekker, Postdoctoral Research Fellow (computational sociology)

Ms Caitlin Rybko, Doctoral Student Assistant (epistemology of Google search)

Dr Pieter Streicher, Research Associate (Managing Director - BulkSMS.com)