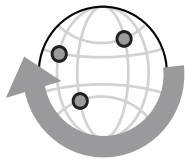


DST-NRF South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Industrial Development



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A shift towards digitisation and the nature of virtual work arrangements drove innovative research outputs and new collaborations.



Prof Fiona Tregenna

OVERVIEW

2020 was another successful year for the DST–NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI-ID), with the new conditions bringing both new challenges and opportunities, including the need to adapt to new ways of working.

SARChI-ID has been renewed for a second five-year term (2021–2025). Our NRF-funded Community of Practice in Industrialisation and Innovation (CoP) was renewed (for 2021–2022), and in the second half of 2020, we began preparatory work towards this and commissioned a series of research papers, in-house as well as from national and international collaborators and partner institutions.

An extensive body of policy-relevant research was produced through the Industrial Development Think Tank (IDTT), a collaboration between the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED) and SARChI-ID (hosted at CCRED). IDTT was also active in policy engagement and advice. As well as being a partner in IDTT, we partnered with IDTT in a research project based on a firm-level survey on 4IR and digital technologies among South African manufacturing firms.

We were involved in various activities around the economic implications of and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These included research papers, presentations in various webinars and other virtual events, extensive advice to the Government, and working with different United Nations organisations on the economic response internationally.

TALENT MANAGEMENT

In the course of 2020, our staff complement included administrators Ms Beverly Magome and Mrs Koketso Manyane-Dlangamandla; research assistants Rex Asiama, Santos Bila and Sodiq Tunde; and several affiliated and visiting researchers (Visiting Professors and Associate



Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Clement Mulamba flanked by a former Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Rajesh Many and Senior Research Associates, Rendani Mamphiswa and Karmen Naidoo.

Professors, Visiting Associate Professor in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Professors of Practice, and Senior Research Associates).

Postdoctoral Research Fellows (PDRFs) hosted at SARCHI-ID and supervised by Prof Tregenna during 2020 were Dr Clement Mulamba, Dr Zhuqing Mao, Dr Hlalefang Khobai, Dr Jefferson Galetti, Dr Arpan Galetti, Dr Jonathan Jenner, Dr Milene Tessarin and Dr Paulo Morceiro. Several honours (4), master's (8) and doctoral (12) students were hosted at SARCHI-ID and supervised by Prof Tregenna and colleagues.

We had graduations, albeit virtual, of both master's and doctoral students during 2020. We are delighted to have such a large and dynamic team with related research interests, making for vibrant exchange and the development of ideas.

EVENTS

SARCHI-ID did not hold the usual number of events throughout the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but focused on co-hosting a few key events, which were held virtually. We co-hosted the TIPS Annual Forum, with the theme 'Regional Industrial Development'. The keynote address was delivered by Prof Arkebe Oqubay, a Senior Minister in Ethiopia and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, who is also a widely published author and a Professor of Practice at SARCHI-ID. Our PDRF Dr Zhuqing Mao sat on the Steering Committee alongside Prof Tregenna and several of our postdocs and postgraduate students presented

their research at the conference. The conference was successful despite the new virtual format, with high-quality presentations from around the continent and the world, many of the papers having strong policy relevance.

We also co-hosted 'Rethinking Economics for Africa' (REFA) 2020. The 2020 conference had four major streams: gender in economics; the natural environment in economics; labour and work in economics; and economic inequality. Our PDRFs Dr Milene Tessarin and Dr Paulo Morceiro sat on the Steering Committee along with Prof Tregenna, PDRF Dr Jonathan Jenner made a presentation, and several of our postgraduate students participated in the event. The virtual format of the event allowed for wider international presentation than in past events.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Researchers at SARCHI-ID produced many outputs during 2020, including from our postdocs and international research associates. Research topics included industrialisation and deindustrialisation, structural change, industrial policy, innovation, technological change, a range of dimensions of the 4IR, value chains, trade, learning and capabilities, spatial dimensions of development, financialisation, entrepreneurship and the economics of skills development.

Prof Tregenna published several journal articles and book chapters. She also collaborated with



Senior Research Associate Dr Elvis Avenyo.



Top: Visiting Associate Professor in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Prof Antonio Andreoni.



Beow: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Milene Tessarin.

Imraan Valodia and Arkebe Oqubay as co-editors of the Oxford Handbook of the South African Economy. This is a landmark volume with forty-eight chapters contributed by leading national and international authors. Another volume, Structural Transformation in South Africa: The Challenges of Inclusive Industrial Development in a Middle-Income Country, was co-edited by Antonio Andreoni, Pamela Mondliwa, Fiona Tregenna and Simon Roberts. Both books will come out this year.

Several of our postdocs published journal articles, for example by Dr Hlalefang Khobai in the International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy and by Dr Clement Mulamba (co-authored with Prof Tregenna) in the Journal of Regional Science, as well as articles by our PhD candidate Rex Asiama in African Journal of Business and Economic Research and in International Journal of Social Economics.

We organised several research workshops or discussions, for example, one among researchers working on Global Value Chains. Students continued to participate in activities such as our biweekly seminar series, public lectures, colloquia,

workshops, and conferences that were hosted or co-hosted by SARCHI-ID.

During 2020, Prof Tregenna was appointed to the Editorial Boards of international journals Competition and Change and Economia Politica. Various members of our team, including postdocs, reviewed for several journals.

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

We commenced an international partnership on industrial policy in Africa (AIP21), with seed funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). New institutional partnerships were forged with PRISM (UCT), the University of the West of England (United Kingdom) and Roskilde University (Denmark) and we continue to focus on strengthening partnerships with several other institutions.

Prof Tregenna spoke (including keynote addresses) at various international webinar events, for example, hosted by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (Austria),

International Development Economics Associates (India), Getulio Vargas Foundation Center for Studies on New Developmentalism (Brazil), Columbia University Center for Sustainable Development (USA), the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and the YSI/MIT Geography of Innovation and Complexity Online Conference. Pre-lockdown presentations were also made at the University of Mauritius and to Mauritian policymakers and stakeholders. These are in addition to a few national-level presentations.

Several of our students and postdocs presented their research at virtual national and international conferences. For instance, Dr Zhuqing Mao presented her research at the Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics and the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy international conferences, and Dr Paulo Morceiro delivered six presentations by invitation at international events.

PUBLIC AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

We were engaged in various research and advisory activities and presentations around the economic response to COVID-19.

Prof Tregenna was deeply involved in economic policy and public engagement during 2020, including various high-level national and international roles in the COVID-19 economic response. She continued to serve on the Presidential Economic Advisory Council, advising

President Ramaphosa on economic policy, in addition to serving on various high-level boards, councils, steering committees and panels. She was appointed as a Member of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Reviews and Evaluations Standing Panel and the ASSAf Membership Advisory Committee for Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as continuing to serve in several other ASSAf committees. She participated in closed economic colloquia and spoke at many policy events. She was also interviewed by television, radio, electronic and print media.

Our postdocs have also been involved in various forms of public and policy engagement. For example, Dr Milene Tessarin and Dr Paulo Morceiro have presented webinars, been interviewed for a number of newspaper articles, while Paulo has started a blog.

CAPACITY BUILDING

In addition to supervision, SARCHI-ID made various broader contributions to capacity. This included the capacity building of young scholars internationally as Prof Tregenna lectured at the Young Scholars Initiative; National School of Government (South Africa); Summer School of University of Campinas (Brazil); and the United Nations UNCTAD YSI Summer School (Geneva). Prof Tregenna also mentored, including through the Accelerated Academic Mentorship Programme (AAMP). We arranged and funded additional external training for our postgraduate students. Our PDRF Dr Clement Mulamba taught a course in the MPhil Industrial Policy programme.

