

2019 Centre for Social Development in Africa

ANNUAL REPORT

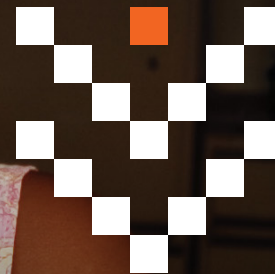
**CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH DRIVING
INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS**

**HOME OF THE DST/NRF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH
CHAIR IN WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

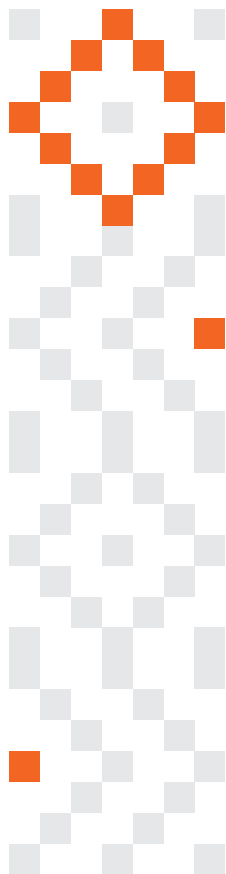


UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

**CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA**



**The Future
Reimagined**



Contents

1. Director's Report: Charting a new course	3
2. DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development Report: Building research capacity and mentoring emerging welfare and social development scholars	8
3. Five-year strategy 2020 – 2024: A fresh strategic focus	11
4. 2019 Flagship projects	16
4.1 Siyakha Youth Assets for Employability Study	17
4.2 <i>Sihleng'imizi</i> : Connecting cash with care	22
4.3 The 2019 Elections: Socio-economic performance and voter preferences	25
4.4 Basic Package of Support for youth who are Not in Employment, Education and Training	28
4.5 MPhil	30
5. Remembering Prof Tessa Hochfeld	34
6. Public engagement	36
6.1 Policy engagement: Breakfast Learning Forum	37
6.2 Seminar 1: <i>Sihleng'imizi</i> : Connecting cash with care	38
6.3 Seminar 2: What influences voter preferences in the run up to the 2019 general elections?	41
6.4 Seminar 3: How are social grant beneficiaries using grants to generate income?	42
6.5 Seminar 4: Men and the child support grant	44
6.6 Youth Colloquium	46
6.7 Media engagement	48
7. CSDA team 2019	49
8. CSDA 2019 publication output	50
8.1 Journal articles published 2019	50
8.2 SARChI journal articles published in 2019	53
8.3 Book chapters published in 2019	53
8.4 SARChI chapters published in 2019	54
9. Partners	55



1. Director's Report: Charting a new course

As I reflect on the past year – my first as the Director of the CSDA – what strikes me once again is how much we have achieved. In the course of the year we have released findings on four major projects, each of which represents significant theoretical and empirical depth and each of which therefore provides critical insights into various aspects of social development. They have all generated significant media and policy interest and we are proud that our model of engaging in excellent, empirically grounded but applied research continues to allow us to make both theoretical as well as practical and policy-oriented contributions. Here I give a few highlights from each of these projects, which are also profiled in more detail in the flagship projects section of this annual report.

2019 saw the release of our long-anticipated Siyakha Youth Assets for Employability Study findings – a collaborative project between the CSDA and the DST/NRF South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Welfare and Social Development. This longitudinal study has been underway for five years and includes a wealth of data on the trajectories of young people transitioning to work. We engaged them as they entered youth employability programmes and followed them for two years post programme completion to really understand the nature of

their journey in the labour market, as well as the effects that the youth employability programmes had in their lives.

A significant finding of the study is that investment in financial capability amongst young people has a positive effect on protecting young people from discouragement whilst unemployed, and that it plays a role in facilitating the transition to employment. This formative study comes at a time when youth unemployment has again increased and remains a critical priority for the state according to President Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address in 2020. The findings from this study have therefore piqued policy interest.

We released the findings of the Siyakha study during a two-day Youth Colloquium that the CSDA hosted as part of a series of events and public engagements that the Faculty of Humanities presented under the banner of "25 Years of Democracy". The Colloquium, under the theme "Reflecting on the issues of young people 25 years into democracy" drew together 26 presentations under seven panels with themes ranging from transitions to work, education, health, and political participation; as well as a vibrant panel debate with youth representatives from the not-for profit, public, and party political sectors. The hosting of the colloquium also provided opportunities for us to publicise much of our other youth-related research including our [Youth Transitions in South Africa](#) study and our ongoing

study focused on understanding the links between mental health and school dropout.

In line with the Faculty's 25 Years of Democracy theme for 2019 we also launched the findings of the second wave of research on voter behavior, just prior to the May elections. The SARCHI study was led by Prof Leila Patel. The findings received a great deal of media attention in the lead up to the elections with Leila's *The Conversation Africa* article ["Ramaphosa's presidency is drawing voters back to the ANC: new study"](#) being one of the most read articles on the platform in 2019.

We also released the endpoint findings of the *Sihleng'imizi* families study – another collaborative project between the CSDA and the SARCHI in Welfare and Social Development. The findings showed that the programme, designed by Leila Patel, Tessa Hochfeld, and other members of the research team, had positive effects in terms of reducing harsh forms of discipline, improved communication between parents and children, and greater involvement of parents in their children's schooling. It also showed that programme participants valued the support mechanisms that the programme put into place. The findings generated significant interest from welfare organisations focused on family strengthening, with requests to run the project with such organisations.

Another significant project that was completed in 2019 was the Youth Basic Package of Support project – a collaboration between the CSDA, the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at UCT, and the DG Murray Trust. Building on our previous work in developing an empirically based [Theory of Change for Youth Employment](#) this project saw significant research into understanding the challenges of young people not in employment, education or training, the policy responses to such young people, and developing an intervention that can better support them. The findings were presented to a small policy group made up of representatives from the National Treasury, the European Union, the Presidency's Working Committee on Youth, and the World Bank. It was incredibly well received, officially receiving endorsement from the Presidency's Working Committee on Youth.

Alongside these flagship projects there have been a number of other smaller projects underway including a review of policies to assess the extent to which they mainstream poverty and inequality, led by Dr Sophie Plagerson; a review of the White Paper on Families, and a follow up study on the socioeconomic conditions in communities surrounding Glencore's mining operations. All of these projects have, in their own way, made academic and policy or programme-relevant contributions.

In addition to the significant media, policy and programmatic attention that these projects received, we also continued to contribute to advancing knowledge and engaging in theoretical debates through our academic publications. This year, along with our research associates, we published 34 articles across a range of excellent publications including high impact factor journals such as *International Journal of Public Health and World Development*. We also achieved our target of increasing the percentage of publications originating from staff members and students. Special mention must go to Dr Amanuel Tewolde and Prof Eleanor Ross who each published four articles, and of course Leila who continues to publish prolifically (with five articles and two book chapters in 2019) alongside her many other commitments. We also wish to congratulate Leilanie Williams who had her first article published this year.

Alongside the significant efforts that have gone into these projects we also successfully ran our first year of the Interdisciplinary Masters in Social Policy and Development – a collaboration between the CSDA, SARChI and the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies. We accepted 21 students on the course, all of whom successfully completed the first two compulsory modules of the course. By the end of the year they had all successfully submitted their research proposals and we

look forward to them completing their research projects in 2020. The course evaluations reveal that the modules were very well-received by students, with both modules achieving evaluation scores well above the faculty average.

We also celebrated a number of graduations over the course of the year. Dr Zoheb Khan (supervised by Prof Leila Patel) and Dr Chibuekem Nnaeme (supervised by Prof Leila Patel and Dr Sophie Plagerson) both graduated last year with excellent comments from their examiners about the significance of their research. Their research was also very well received in the media and amongst seminar participants. Congratulations to them and their supervisors on these achievements. We also graduated four Masters and two Honours students last year.

These significant milestones were achieved alongside significant loss at the CSDA. We remember 2019 as the year in which we said a final farewell to our dear friend and colleague Prof Tessa Hochfeld. Tessa passed away on 17 August 2019. She was a founding staff member of the CSDA, having been an employee almost since the Centre's inception, and she had grown to be a pillar of support and strength, not to mention an incredibly inspiring researcher, teacher, and academic, in the time that she was with us. We hosted a memorial service for her and were moved by the reflections on the impact of her work. Her passing leaves us all with an ongoing sense of loss, but also a determination

to honour her memory through the kind of work we do. In collaboration with her family, we continue to honour her through a bursary fund that has been set up in her name, which is intended to support students to conduct research in her field of study – gender and social justice.

We also said goodbye to a number of staff members who have made career and life changes. Leilanie Williams left us after three years to undertake full-time motherhood, Thobile Zulu took up a position in an NGO after three and half years with us, and Dr Zoheb Khan moved to a consulting company after six years with us. Jenita Chiba, Madoda Sitshange, Larry Onyango, and Dipuo Mokhokhane were all involved in short-term project contracts over the course of the year. While we are sad to see these colleagues go, we also see ourselves as a training ground, setting up staff for careers in a range of other fields. We wish all of these colleagues well in their life journeys going forward.

My first year as Director of the Centre has been a bittersweet one. I am amazed at what we have achieved, not only in terms of the quantity of output, but also in the impact of our work – measured by the quality of publications, and the public engagement with our research. These achievements are thanks to an incredible staff complement. I am privileged to work with people who are not only committed to conducting excellent research and providing sound administrative support, but also

have a profound commitment to addressing the challenges of poverty and inequality and achieving social justice. Thank you for being such an amazing team. I would also like to thank our research associates, Visiting and Honorary Professors, and other collaborators, all of whom continue to enrich our work.

I am also saddened by the losses we have experienced this year and keenly aware that this requires a focus on rebuilding and new directions for 2020. Much of my strategic planning and thinking about the future of the CSDA was necessarily put on hold towards the end of last year but I am pleased to say that the team have worked together early in 2020 to put forward our vision and strategic plan for the next five years. This plan is profiled in this annual report in the section *A fresh strategic focus* and will be publicised more widely in the coming months.

My thanks go to Leila for her ongoing support and mentorship as I have taken on this new role and to the CSDA's Advisory Board for their continued advice and encouragement. I am grateful for the leadership and backing of Prof Alex Broadbent, the Executive Dean, and Prof Kammila Naidoo, the Vice Dean of Research for the Faculty of Humanities. Their encouragement and advice have been affirming over this past year. The university, through Prof Saurabh Sinha (DVC Research and Innovation) and Dr Carol Nonkwelo, Executive Director: Research and Innovation and the University Research Committee continue to provide tremendous financial and institutional support for which we are grateful.

I look forward to guiding the CSDA over the next year as we work to put out five-year strategic plan into motion.

Associate Professor Lauren Graham
CSDA: Director





2. DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development Report: Building research capacity and mentoring emerging welfare and social development scholars

The DST/NRF funded Chair in Welfare and Social Development is nested in the CSDA. This has proved to be a mutually beneficial intellectual partnership which allows for sharing of knowledge, resources, infrastructure and the opportunity to grow research capacity for social development and change, locally and in the African context. This is a new and growing field that requires values driven, talented, innovative researchers and social development practitioners who will be the drivers and catalysts for social transformation in a fast changing, technological and digital world.

The Chair has been in existence for four years and an application was recently submitted to the National Research Foundation (NRF) to renew the Chair for a second five-year cycle starting 2021. One of the key deliverables of the Chair is to build research capacity in welfare and social development.

In this regard our *MPhil in Social Policy and Development*, a joint CSDA and Chair initiative, is the first interdisciplinary offering in social development nationally and is becoming a much sought after academic offering. This blended learning programme is innovative and offers opportunities for shared learning across different fields. It also combines classroom with web-based learning such as chat rooms and group and independent self-study, all of which are carefully tailored to student needs.

Our students are talented young people who are keen to grow their careers in social development in academia, government, non-governmental organisations, Corporate Social Responsibility, in human rights organisation's and in national and international development agencies. One of the student's said that 'this programme is just what I needed in my career' while others valued the opportunity for critical engagement and the relevance of the content. We will make changes as we learn more about what works and does not work.

In addition to post-graduate teaching and supervision, the Chair supervised eight Doctoral students over the past four years with three students graduating. Three students are expected to complete in 2020. A further five Post-Doctoral Fellows are currently hosted by the Chair who are conducting research on different aspects of social protection relating to the politics of social protection,

gender issues, social protection and child welfare regimes in Southern Africa and livelihoods activities. Other areas of research include the psychosocial dimensions of unemployment and issues of race, identity and social exclusion of migrants in South Africa.

In reflecting on the past four years, I have learnt so much from all the students, Post-Doctoral Fellows and emerging researchers that I have worked with and thank you all for your contributions. I had the privilege of working with enormously talented and brilliant young minds who have enriched my own research and shifted my perspectives as new evidence came to light.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and work closely with Associate Professor Tessa Hochfeld in co-create cutting edge research and innovation in areas such as gender and social protection, cash transfers and care, and thinking critically about the role and contribution of family policies in social development. Sadly, Tessa will not see the fruits of this work as it shapes social development thinking in the years ahead. But the work will continue and further her legacy.

Associate Professor Lauren Graham, Director of the CSDA, worked tirelessly on our youth assets and employment research and is taking her place as a leader in this field. I have also had a very productive partnership with Dr Sophie

Plagerson in research and publishing on critiquing, understanding and rethinking social policy theoretically in a Southern context. Sophie, I will miss you but look forward to working remotely on new projects. I am grateful for my partnership with Marianne Ulriksen, formerly of the CSDA, with whom I have co-authored two books. Marianne is now Associate Professor at the Danish Centre for Welfare Studies, University of Southern Denmark and conducts comparative cross-country research on the politics of welfare systems development in both the North and the South.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to Trudie Knijn who is retiring as Professor of Multi-disciplinary Social Science at Utrecht University, Netherlands. Trudie shared her wealth of knowledge with us over more than a decade. This was an incredibly productive partnership with Trudie who always provided a fresh eye on our research, whether it was on gender and care, families and social interventions and on evaluation research methodology. We hosted several post graduate students, with Trudie mentoring several young CSDA researchers. We wish Trudie well.

Looking back over the past four years, there is much to celebrate.

Professor Leila Patel
DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development

Please note that throughout the report the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development will be referred to as SARCHI.





3. Five-year strategy 2020 – 2024: A fresh strategic focus

Over the past 14 years, under the leadership of Prof Leila Patel, the CSDA has operated with a vision and mission that focuses on our core values and strengths, including – the applied nature of our research, the emphasis on social development and developmental welfare, the importance we place on quality and rigour, and our commitment to ensuring that our research is relevant and informs policy and practice.

Building on these core strengths and values which are part of our DNA as a centre, we took time at the beginning of 2020 to review our mission and vision statements as well as our areas of research in order to be able to communicate to our audiences the value and impact of our research. We also wanted to reflect on how our research is shaping and testing innovative solutions to the complex development challenges of contemporary society.

With the above in mind our strategic vision, guiding our work over the next five years, is presented here.

Vision statement

We aim to engage in cutting-edge, rigorous and interdisciplinary research that contributes to understanding and innovatively solving complex, contemporary social development challenges

facing people and communities in Africa and the global south. In doing so we aim to challenge and shape social development theory internationally.

Mission statement

We engage in high quality, rigorous, applied, interdisciplinary social development research in order to:

- Understand complex social development challenges in Africa and the global south
- Innovatively design and test evidence-based solutions to these challenges
- Shape important social development and welfare theory, policy and practice debates
- Train the next generation of social development scholars, policy-makers and practitioners.

The above mission statement leads us to work in four inter-related domains, all underpinned by excellence in our administrative and financial systems. The four domains are articulated in the figure below:





Our model



The model is underpinned by excellent administration and financial systems to drive accountability and sustainability.

In reviewing our contribution over the last 15 years, we have resolved to deepen and extend our work by engaging in research, teaching and engagement across four research themes:



THEMATIC AREA 1:

Social policy in the global south

Emerging social policy solutions in the global south need to be assessed with a view to understanding their intended and unintended consequences. Our work in this field brings theoretical insight to understanding social policy developments; analyses social policy outcomes; and makes recommendations for social policy innovation in the global south.



THEMATIC AREA 2:

Contemporary social development challenges

Poverty and inequality are complex challenges that require nuanced and in-depth understanding to solve. Our work in this field seeks to understand the complexities of how poverty and various types of inequality (age, gender, class, disabilities and geographic location) shape people's lives. New social challenges including climate change must inform our analysis of poverty and inequality and their effects.



THEMATIC AREA 3:

Welfare and social development innovations

Innovative and evidence-based solutions, informed by technological developments, are required to address the complex challenges of poverty and inequality. Our work in this field focuses on bringing evidence to bear on developing, adapting and testing social development interventions, informed by social development theory; and capacitating practitioners to implement successful interventions.



THEMATIC AREA 4:

Economic and social inclusion

Core to explaining challenges of poverty and inequality is how people and communities are excluded from social and economic opportunities. Our work in this field seeks to understand the nature of various aspects of exclusion, including how the changing nature of work affects people; and what strategies work to enhance and leverage agency of such groups; and challenge structural inequalities to promote better outcomes.

Our strategic approach :

- We use, test and extend the social development lens as a theory and practice framework in all of our work.
- We **conduct deep, nuanced and locally relevant work** and connect it with **macro** themes, data, and analysis in order to shape important macro social and welfare theory, policy and practice debates and develop social development solutions that are relevant for low and middle-income countries.
- We engage on an ongoing basis with relevant stakeholders across the spectrum in the course of our research (from high-level policy-makers, to local-level practitioners, and community-based stakeholders; as well as the media).
- We engage students and emerging researchers in practical ways in our research (in the field and in the classroom) in order to build social development capacity.

Our values:

- We do our research with heart, cognisant of the need to improve people's lives not only in the outcomes of our work but in how we do our work.
- We do our work with ethical and financial integrity, mindful of the need to manage resources well.
- We conduct our work in a way that places people (including our staff and students) at the centre, aware of the need for our work to enable people's ongoing growth and development.



4. 2019 Flagship projects

2019 was an exciting and productive year for the Centre for Social Development in Africa and the SARCHI as we published findings from four important research projects.

The research on these projects took many years to complete as they were longitudinal studies that in some instances involved designing and testing interventions. The projects sought to (1) investigate what shapes voter behaviour, (2) understand what features of youth employability programmes are most effective at helping young people find work, (3) develop and assess an innovative family support programme designed to assist child support grant recipients, and (4) develop a package of support for vulnerable youth. All these research projects have provided rich insights that the CSDA and the SARCHI intends to use to inform policy and programme design, to amplify the impact of the CSDA's work within the sector. After many years of work it is immensely gratifying to share this research with those in the sector and the general public.

Much of the Centre's work focuses on the needs of local communities within the context of broader national, regional and global challenges. This focus was particularly true of the *Sihleng'imizi* study, which made use of partnerships with local government to test a family support approach to amplify the impact of the child support grant.



2019 also saw the launch of the MPhil in Social Policy and Development, this multi-disciplinary Masters Programme is an exciting collaboration between the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, the CSDA and the Faculty of Humanities at UJ. The Masters programme is an effective way for the Centre to influence policy and practice by producing high-quality graduates within various sectors working on social development challenges.

Here we unpack each of these flagship projects and their impact on the social development and welfare sector.

4.1 Siyakha Youth Assets for Employability Study

For the average 15 – 24 year old South African the future looks bleak. Many of the millions of vulnerable young people have finished their schooling with a qualification of little value in the eyes of employers, and they lack the basic skills that employers now need.

South Africa has grappled with high unemployment for many years. Today youth unemployment sits at 39,6% (narrow definition) or 55,2% (expanded definition which includes those who have stopped actively looking for work) despite intensive investment in interventions to address the problem by the private sector, civil society and government.

Youth Employability Programmes (YEPs) are one such intervention. These programmes aim to help young people make the transition from school to work more seamlessly via technical and general workplace skills training, matching of work seekers to job opportunities, advice and support to find work.

These initiatives all have different features and approaches but almost all lack a critical component – basic financial skills – despite strong evidence to suggest that providing young people with these skills leads to far better education outcomes.

A team of researchers at the CSDA completed the Siyakha Youth Assets for Employability Study with a view to a) understanding what programme elements work best and b) investigating whether including financial skills in existing programmes could help more young people find and keep work. The research also sought to identify what programme features are most effective at helping young people find and stay in work.

What we found

The team found that providing young people with financial capabilities does improve the picture: two years after completing the training, those who received financial skills training were nine percentage points more likely to be employed than those who did not.

Our research found that programmes that offer matching have the biggest impact on employment success. Matching young people, with the right skills, directly with employers and orientating training to employer demands is associated with a 28 percentage point increase in their employment probability.

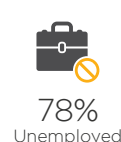
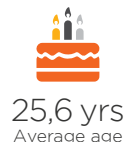
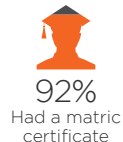
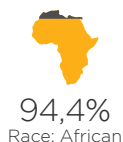
A snapshot of the research

The study, which ran from 2013 to 2019, tracked 1974 people who participated in one of eight YEPs at 44 sites across the country.



The participants in the study were fairly typical of unemployed youth in the country more broadly, except that the majority of them had a matric certificate.

A PICTURE OF OUR PARTICIPANTS



We did a comparison of employment rates between the Siyakha study participants and a sample of youth from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey to ascertain the effects of YEP participation; and a comparison of those who participated in the training programmes only with those who participated in the training programmes and the financial capability intervention.

HOW THE STUDY WORKED

We conducted research at eight different Youth Employability Programmes at 44 sites across the country. Half of the training sites were randomly assigned to receive a short savings training module and access to a no-cost bank account.

21 Sites
Participants
received:



23 Sites
Participants
received:



This study design meant we could assess the effect of the financial capability intervention

The results

YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES ARE EFFECTIVE

Participating in a YEP increases
your chance of employment



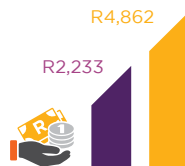
28%

Two years post-training 28% of participants were employed (as compared to 11% pre-training)

Young people who participated in a YEP were 11% more likely to be employed*.

**Compared to a matched sample from the QLFS.*

Average earning increases over
time showing a progression to
better quality jobs



Average earnings improve from R2,233 per month to R4,862 per month

YEP participants also
go on to study further.



17%

Just over 17% of the participants had gone on to study further, for higher-level qualifications

Youth Employability Programmes
also foster resilience in the face of
chronic unemployment.



54%

Over 54% of participants were experiencing chronic unemployment but were motivated to continue searching for work

We found that young people who participated in a youth employability programme had a better chance of finding a job than a closely matched sample drawn from the Quarterly Labour Force Survey data. We found that 28% of the young people had found and retained employment two years after participating in the programme – up from 9% as they entered the programmes.

OUR FINDINGS

WHICH PROGRAMMES FEATURES WORKS BEST?

Matching young people directly with employers increases the chances of employment success by 28 percentage points.



1. Matching is linked to higher earnings.
2. Matching reduces the average time young people remain unemployed.
3. Matching increases the number of job applications made.
4. Matching improves the probability of still being engaged in work-seeking.

Increasing exposure to soft skills training improves employment outcomes.



1. In the absence of matching, soft skills training is the most important predictor of employment.
2. Soft skills training closes the gap for young people without a matric and those who live in non-metro areas.
3. Transferable soft skills training reduces the amount of time a young person is unemployed.
4. Soft skills training improves persistence in work seeking activities.

We also observed positive outcomes in further education. Two years after the training, just over 17% of the participants had gone on to study further, achieving typically higher-level qualifications.

Despite participation in YEPs, the majority remain unemployed, with 40% of participants experiencing chronic unemployment (unemployment for at least a year) two years after YEP completion. However, job search resilience was maintained.



How to create impact from this research

This research affirms the importance of youth employability programmes. These findings provide critical insights into what government, civil society and the private sector need to do to support young people as they navigate the labour market.

1. This study points to the need for more effective employment services that help employers to connect with work seekers with the right skills.
2. Possible next steps include leveraging existing resources in labour centres to offer better matching of employers and work seekers as a low-cost intervention.
3. The CSDA recommends that YEPs work directly with employers in the development of training curricula.
4. Human capability skills training should become more prominent in YEPs as this training can mitigate the impact of having a lower level of education and living outside a metro area, especially for those who may not be able to go back to school.
5. Additional research is required to understand how financial literacy training works to determine if financial literacy training improves self-esteem, future orientation, motivation and the desire to achieve their goals which in turn improves job-seeking. Additional research should also look at whether basic financial training helps young people to better manage the high cost of working-seeking.



Supporting research excellence

The Siyakha Youth Assets Employability Study has contributed substantially to the knowledge base around youth employability programmes and the inclusion of basic financial literacy training in these programmes. The research provides a strong evidence base that can be used to build on existing theory and practice around how best these programmes should be structured to serve the needs of young people, and employers in order to tackle South Africa's unemployment crisis.

In addition, because this research was completed with the support of a range of partners, the hope is that this research will ultimately feed back into the partner organisation, ensuring that the learnings are incorporated into programme design and development going forward.

4.2 *Sihleng'imizi*: Connecting cash with care

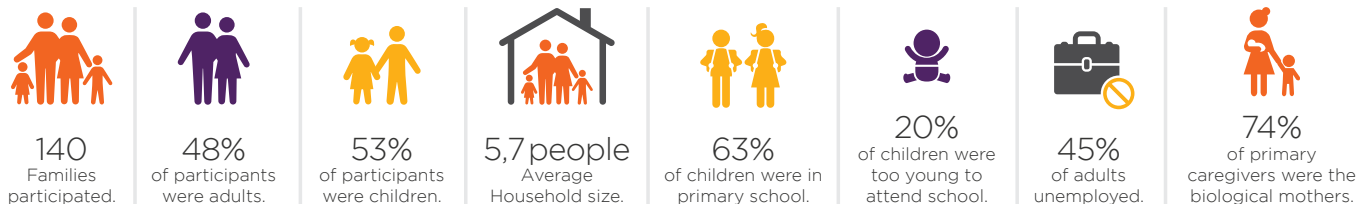
In a country with profound inequality, the Child Support Grants (CSGs) are a life raft for around 12 million children (over 60% of children in South Africa) and their families. The provision of CSGs has been shown to help improve child nutrition and school attendance, and to reduce income poverty in poor families with children.

There is, however, far more to caring for children and enabling them to thrive than financial assistance. Complementary family strengthening interventions, for example, can amplify and accelerate the positive impact of CSGs, promoting child well-being in disadvantaged families.

Sihleng'imizi (meaning 'we care for families') Family Programme is an example of an evidence-based preventative social-educational intervention. The programme – designed to build on the existing strengths of families, supplemented with improved knowledge and skills – is a South African adaption of the SAFE Children Family Programme, developed by the Families and Communities Research Group, University of Chicago.

The programme was implemented in collaboration with City of Johannesburg social workers and was funded by the SARCHI. The innovative intervention aimed to help participating families gain and extend their skills by improving child-caregiver relations, involving caregivers in the child's education, improving social networks and social supports, enhancing basic budgeting and financial skills and improving nutrition and hygiene knowledge.

A snapshot of the participants



How the intervention worked

Each family attended weekly group meetings (run over 14 weeks) facilitated by childcare staff and social workers employed by the City of Johannesburg. One group was run in each of ten of the most deprived wards of the City of Johannesburg.

The research included pre- and post-intervention data collection, as well as a comparative control group.

What we found

Of the families involved in the programme:



There was a reduction in the use of harsh parenting methods, including physical punishment.



There was improved communication between caregiver and child.



Caregivers felt more effective as parents.



There was a small reduction in depression amongst caregivers

There were further effects, including strengthening of wider family ties, improvements in savings and budget management, and increased understanding of nutrition.

We have also concluded the longer-term follow up report, which will be released early in 2020. This indicates that many of the same positive effects are sustained over time.



How to create impact from this research

We believe the study demonstrates that these interventions that tackle the structural barriers faced by poor families with children could thus contribute towards breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty, inequality and social disadvantage in South Africa.

Given this finding, the future of social policies for families should look beyond cash provision, to a more holistic approach incorporating the concept of care, to scale up the positive effects of the CSG.

These findings have been picked up by various family-focused NGOs that are keen to work closely with the CSDA to implement the programme in their organisations. Our 2020 plans are to train interested parties from the NGO sector and to work collaboratively to monitor and evaluate the programme.

“Sihleng’imizi demonstrates what’s possible when teachers, social workers, local authorities and university researchers work together to design and test local innovations. Holistic interventions that cross the silos between social sector agencies will take countries closer to achieving better outcomes for children and their families.” – The Conversation Africa



Supporting innovation in application

Sihleng’imizi is broadly an innovative social development intervention, intending to assist families and to promote child well-being in the long term through providing targeted support for caregivers. This study demonstrated an innovative intervention that was effective when applied in communities.

This work was based on a sound theory of change, namely, that child well-being is multi-dimensional, and these different dimensions of well-being are interrelated. The results from the study are contributing to the existing body of knowledge around how the benefits of cash grants can be enhanced when combined with care interventions, and demonstrated that the intervention was successful in practice.

We believe that the resulting analysis shows that implementing policy of this nature would have the potential to scale up the impact of social grants, relevant to the well-being of children and families, particularly socially and economically disadvantaged ones.

4.3 The 2019 Elections: Socio-economic performance and voter preferences

Despite the clear parliamentary dominance of South Africa's ruling party, and the profound historical loyalty it has enjoyed post-1994, there is a strong sense of shifting political tides in the country. What does a breakdown in trust or loyalty mean for the African National Congress (ANC) – and its rivals?

With a view to unpacking this dilemma, in April 2019, the CSDA together with the SARChI released the second set of results from our three-year research into what drives voter behaviour. A nationally representative survey was conducted in Q4 2018 to understand the ways in which socio-economic rights are likely to shape voting behaviour.

The study was located within the South African context – a constitutional democracy and an upper middle-income country with a well-developed welfare system. Specifically, the research attempted to answer the following question: to what extent are government performance in the delivery of socio-economic rights, perceptions of corruption, and issues of governance likely to influence voter preferences in the run-up to the 2019 national general elections?

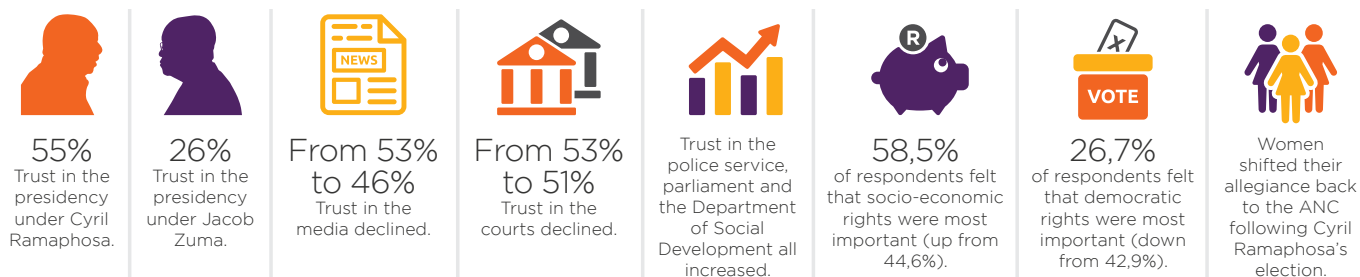
The researchers also wondered what other factors might be associated and correlated with voter preferences, such as socio-demographic factors, and land restitution. These matters are not just of general import and interest, but more so in a time of significant leadership change, as seen in South Africa.



The findings were contrasted with the 2017 results and following Cyril Ramaphosa's election as ANC President, a new element was introduced, namely, an attempt to assess the impact of trust in the presidency under his leadership.

What we found

After robust statistical analysis, researchers found that these leadership changes in the governing party and government have bolstered trust in the presidency.



Writing for *The Conversation Africa*, at the time of the findings release, Professor Patel said:

“When Ramaphosa was removed from the equation, governance or trust in institutions such as parliament and the courts was no longer a predictor of voter preference. But when inserted as a factor on its own and independent of trust in institutions, trust in the presidency emerged as the single most important predictor of voter preference for the governing party in the upcoming elections”.

Our research also found that a highly significant factor in voter choices was the fear that they would lose their social grants if another party came to power.

Interestingly there was no statistically significant difference in terms of voting choice of ANC or opposition party across the three age groups.



How we did the research

The study was carried out on a nationally representative sample of 3 431 respondents – considered reliably representative of over 38 million potential voters. Post-collection exploratory factor analysis was undertaken and a logistic regression was employed.

How to create impact from this research

When the CSDA released this research it was very well received by the media and was featured across a range of publications including *The Citizen*, *e-News* and *SABC 2* ultimately reaching over 29 million viewers and readers. We are proud that this research resonated with South Africans and contributed to ongoing dialogue and public engagement about the links between electoral politics, the achievement of socio-economic rights and issues of governance.

Public engagement



Supporting public engagement

This research was shared at a seminar to engage academics and civil society but it is also an example of the power of research to stimulate debate and discussion among the general public. This research has also opened up a space to investigate how socio-economic exclusion intersects with political preferences.

4.4 Basic Package of Support for youth who are Not in Employment, Education and Training

In 2018 the CSDA in partnership with the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at the University of Cape Town completed an evidence synthesis project focusing on the drivers of youth unemployment in South Africa and a review of what interventions work to address youth unemployment.

The [Systematic Overview of Youth unemployment](#) led to the development of a Theory of Change for youth unemployment. A critical gap that was identified through that project was that young people face multiple deprivations in their transition to work and that leaving these unaddressed contributes to the staggered nature of their transition to work.

In 2019 we partnered with SALDRU as well as DG Murray Trust, JPAL Africa (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab), the Capacity Building Programme for Employment Promotion and the National Treasury to begin to conceptualise a





project that could better support young people in their challenging journey towards the labour market. Over the course of 2019 we conducted a policy review, a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the situation of young people not in employment, education and training, engaged youth in dialogues, and scoped existing services in several sites to inform the design of a Basic Package of Support (BPS) for Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training.



The Intervention

The intervention is premised on the need for spaces of support and guidance that can refer young people to services that are appropriate to meeting their short-term goals and needs and that can place them on a trajectory towards a more secure livelihood that they desire for themselves. A core component of the BPS is ongoing support and guidance to ensure that youth do not keep “falling through the cracks”. The intervention is complemented by the setting up of communities of care at the local level, which bring together partners that provides services for youth to problem solve how to offer better quality services and support youth to continue their pathway towards work. The full report of the study can be found [here](#).

The model was presented to several high level policy makers from the World Bank, the European Union, UNICEF, the Department of Social Development and the Department of Employment and Labour amongst others, and has received very positive feedback.

Late in 2019 the BPS received formal endorsement from the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, which was announced in the State of the Nation Address in February 2020. This endorsement will ensure that the BPS informs the interventions of the Presidency to scale up support for youth as they seek work.

In 2020 we will be conducting further research in preparation to pilot the programme in four locations in partnership with the City of Johannesburg, Western Cape Province, and the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative.

4.5 MPhil

2019 saw the long-anticipated launch of the MPhil in Social Policy and Development. This exciting and challenging Masters course is an initiative resulting from collaboration between the Department of Anthropology and Development Studies, the CSDA, and the Faculty of Humanities at UJ.



Training the next generation of social development researchers and practitioners

We believe the course is ideally positioned to support the strengthening of the policy and development community

in a time when deeper understanding, fresh thinking, and evidence-based planning and innovation is critically needed.

The programme focuses specifically on social policies and interventions, within the context of South Africa and other developing countries. It consists of two compulsory modules, an elective module and a research dissertation.





Theory component	Methods component
<p>The theory course focuses on trends, theories and their application in social policy and development. Real world case studies are used for critical reflection, learning and action.</p> <p>The focus is on understanding the complexity of implementation and the gap between policy and implementation. The course tackles advanced research methods in social policy and social interventions.</p>	<p>The methods module Advanced Social Research Methods for Social Policy and Interventions focuses on research designs and methods that can be used to understand social problems, inform programme or policy design, or can be used to evaluate social interventions.</p> <p>Students are guided through the approaches and have to develop a proposed project that can be executed to deepen understanding of a social problem or inform or test a social intervention.</p>
Research dissertation	Elective
<p>The research dissertation is a self-led individual research project undertaken with the guidance of an expert research supervisor.</p> <p>By the end of this degree, students should be able to demonstrate an ability to design a social policy or social intervention, and conduct a research study that is ethically sound, contextually appropriate, outcome-oriented, and innovative in addressing the needs of particular populations.</p>	<p>Students are able to take any of the exciting Honours or Masters level courses on offer across departments in the Faculty of Humanities. Students can make their choice based on what they feel would most enrich their careers.</p>

We believe the MPhil programme has been successfully conceptualised to support practitioners, researchers, and professionals from a diversity of fields to develop and strengthen both their theoretical and practical capabilities to the highest levels. It offers the right mix of global relevance and local application.



Coordinators and guest lecturers

CSDA staff administering the course included SARChI Professor Leila Patel and Associate Professor Lauren Graham, a development sociologist with a Doctorate in Sociology from UJ, and the Director of the CSDA.

Students also enjoyed engagement with esteemed guest lecturers and experts in the field, presenting on real world case studies and relevant projects such as:

- Dr Tamlyn Roman, Cancer Programme Manager, Clinton Health Access Initiative
- Dr Sophie Plagerson, Senior Research Associate: Centre for Social Development in Africa Faculty of Humanities University of Johannesburg
- Prof Trudie Knijn, Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Science, Utrecht University
- Dr Liz Fouksman, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow African Studies Centre, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies Research Fellow, St. John's College, University of Oxford
- Mastoera Sadan, Acting Chief Sector Expert: Social in the National Planning Commission Secretariat.

Students also participated in an exciting fieldtrip to Afrika Tikkun in Orange Farm to gain real life experience of approaches to research in an organisation implementing several different social development interventions.

As evidenced by the above list, the course offered MPhil students the opportunity to engage with some of the world's leading development and policy specialists, giving them unique exposure to these internationally recognised academics.

First MPhil cohort

In this its inaugural year, we engaged with 21 students from diverse economic, racial and professional backgrounds, but with a shared interest in developing their understanding of complex issues like poverty, unemployment, inequality, gender disparities, social development issues, social welfare, and how to find solutions for them.

The varied experiences and viewpoints of the group brought a great deal of richness to the classroom, and also provided

vital networking opportunities for these emerging contributors to the development sphere.

Aside from the face-to-face intensive contact sessions, they also participated in online tutorials, completed research proposals, and formed their own peer-learning networks.

All of the first intake progressed to year two, where they will be presenting their proposals to the Higher Degree Committee within the first half of 2020. The students will then be engaged in their independent research, supervised by staff members from the CSDA. Ten students in the class are supervised by Leila as part of her SARCHI activities. Of these three students (Z. Mahlamvu, D.M. Mokhokane and B Nyagumbo) have received funding through the Initiative.

We look forward to them completing their research in 2020, and to welcoming a new cohort of students onto the programme. We anticipate accepting a further 20 students into the course in 2020.





5. Remembering Prof Tessa Hochfeld

Although 2019 was a year of many highlights and achievements for us, staff at the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) were also rocked by an unexpected and devastating loss, the August 2019 passing of our dear friend and colleague, Associate Professor Tessa Hochfeld.

Tessa worked as an Associate Professor and member of the management team at the CSDA and had been a staff member for 13 years – creating a rich body of insightful academic analysis, as well as social- and gender-related action.

Prior to her time with us, she earned a BA in social work from the University of the Witwatersrand, an MSc in gender and development from the London School of Economics, and a PhD (also from Wits).

Tessa was a respected researcher, with an interest in cash transfers, social and welfare services, gender, school nutrition, and social policy, among other things. She also contributed to research planning and conceptualisation, plus fundraising for CSDA projects.

Her output was a reflection of her personality, outstanding and driven by a deep sense of human empathy and justice.

As we wrote at the time of her passing, sharing the heart-breaking news with our extended network:

“[Tessa] cared deeply about those she interacted with. She was an excellent researcher, outstanding academic and a gifted teacher. The body of intellectual work that she leaves behind, both in her written contributions and public engagements, will continue to shape social development thinking, policies and practice for years to come”.

The fact that Tessa was taken from us in National Women’s month was particularly poignant. We believe that she has earned her place alongside the remarkable, justice-seeking women of our country including Helen Joseph, Amina Cachalia, and Ellen Kuzwayo.

On a personal level, she was described as lionhearted, a serious intellect and a deep thinker, with an infectious laugh and zany sense of humour. She was respected and loved by so many of her colleagues and students, many of whom considered working with her a true privilege. We, her work family, grieved alongside her friends and family at her memorial at the Protea Auditorium on 23 August 2019.

Staff at UJ and the CSDA extend condolences to her husband Rafi; her children, Jordan and Asher; her parents, Penny and Steven; and her sisters, Kim and Claire.

A memorial web page for sharing memories and condolences has been set up, and can be accessed at <https://remembr.com/en/tessa.hochfeld>

Hamba Kahle, Tessa.



6. Public engagement

The Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) is a research centre committed to influencing social development and welfare issues in South Africa. One effective way that we do this is by contributing to debate and discussion on a wide range of issues from poverty and inequality, social policy through to social inclusion. All these issues are viewed through a lens that acknowledges the vulnerabilities that gender, age, disability and location bring to bear on these complex social issues.

We are proud of the enormous contribution we make to the knowledge base around these issues and we use communications and engagement platforms like seminars, colloquiums, conferences, and media engagements to engage with other researchers, academics, practitioners, government, civil society and the private sector. By sharing our research findings we aim to take our research beyond a journal article and apply it in innovative and appropriate ways to drive evidence-informed social change.





All our public engagements are designed to nurture conversation around the science of research, as well as to encourage debate and discussion – both within academia, and between academia, government, industry and civil society.

In 2019 we hosted four seminars to highlight some of the key research that was completed by CSDA and SARCHI researchers. We also hosted a breakfast learning forum to engage with partners and stakeholders involved in South Africa's National School Nutrition Programme. Finally, we hosted a Youth Colloquium in June to reflect on the gains young South Africans have made over the last 25 years and what challenges persist.

6.1 Policy engagement: Breakfast Learning Forum

On 26 February 2019 the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) in partnership with the Tiger Brands Foundation and the Department of Basic Education, convened a day-long learning forum to discuss how partners can work together to expand delivery of breakfast to children who currently receive the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) meal.

The forum was attended by representatives from the private sector, foundations, not-for-profit organisations, Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the Provincial Education Departments.

The learning forum aimed to secure an in-principle commitment from state, civil society, and private sector players to work towards providing breakfast to learners from poor households. The forum also sought to consolidate information on the in-school breakfast programmes and models currently operating in South Africa and establish next steps to speed up the rollout of breakfasts in these schools.

The forum was an opportunity for representatives from DBE to outline their vision for in-school breakfasts as well as challenges that are hampering scale-up. A range of organisations shared their in-school breakfast models and lessons learnt.

The participants then engaged in robust discussion on how to expand the in-school breakfast programme looking at what cost saving strategies could be used, and how systems could be strengthened, partnerships leveraged and M&E enhanced to inform an effective rollout strategy.

To take the work forward the CSDA was tasked with convening two task teams to focus on product

development and monitoring and evaluation and to develop a workstream that focuses on mapping partners, geographical locations and more broadly understanding the NSNP landscape.

The learning forum was a highly productive and engaging space that resulted in meaningful discussion and debate with various stakeholders on how best to collaborate to scale-up the in-school breakfast programme.

In 2020 the CSDA will hand over the coordination of the Product Development Task Team to UJ's Food Evolution Research Lab, which has the required expertise to lead this task team. The CSDA will remain involved in supporting the broader Breakfast Learning Forum initiative with research expertise as required.

6.2 Seminar 1: *Sihleng'imizi*: Connecting cash with care

At the Connecting Cash with Care seminar – 5 March 2019 – the CSDA and SARChI shared the results of our intervention study (assessing the *Sihleng'imizi* Family Programme) with a wider audience, as part of our ongoing commitment to meaningful and practical science engagement, as well as fostering grounded innovation for the wider good.



Presenting the programme

The evidence from our evaluation of the *Sihleng'imizi* (meaning 'we care for families' in isiZulu) Family Programme (discussed under the Flagship Projects section) was shared with welfare practitioners and social workers working in fields related to family strengthening.

The engagement also offered an opportunity for practitioners from different organisations to learn from the experiences of the City of Johannesburg social workers who implemented the programme.

Opening up the conversation

Connecting Cash with Care was the first of our quarterly seminars in 2019.

In addition to Professor Patel's presentation; Mayke Huijbregts, Chief of Social Policy and Child Protection for UNICEF South Africa, and Blanche Rezant, Programme Manager Parent-Infant Programme, The Parent Centre, Cape Town provided responses to the results, offering insight into the relevance of the findings for policy and programming respectively. Ms. Huijbregts noted how the





findings help us to think through practical ways in which cash programmes can be enhanced by connecting them with care initiatives.

There was great interest from practitioners in the seminar. They were particularly interested in how the programme seems to have influenced the resilience of caregivers, how having networks of support is an important factor in caregiver wellbeing, how food security is particularly important, and that the programme reduced harsh forms of parenting.

We see the impact of these seminars as contributing to enhancing the entire sector and are ultimately part of our commitment to upskilling, as well as taking research beyond the classroom or pages of a journal, and into quantifiable real world action. Stemming from their interest we will in 2020, train several practitioners from NGOs to deliver the programme in their own settings.

6.3 Seminar 2: What influences voter preferences in the run up to the 2019 general elections?

Our second seminar of the year held on 9 April 2019 was a media engagement to publish the results of our second survey on voting behaviour titled: *The 2019 elections: Socio-economic performance and voter preferences*. The media engagement was an opportunity to engage the broader public in discussion and debate around the factors that influence voter behaviour.

The research was conducted by Prof Leila Patel, SARChI Welfare and Social Development and the CSDA; Prof Yolanda Sadie, Department of Politics (UJ); and Megan Breyer from the CSDA.

The study measured the influence of socio-economic rights delivery, issues of governance, corruption, land restitution, and party loyalty among other issues on voter preferences (discussed under the Flagship Projects section).

At the media engagement, Prof Leila Patel together with Prof Yolanda Sadie presented the research and then engaged in a lively debate with Prof Victoria Graham, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Johannesburg.

Since significant leadership changes had occurred in the governing party and in the government since our previous survey in 2017, we provided insight into how party loyalty, views on corruption and service delivery, and trust in the President have shifted and what the likely impact (if any) might have be on voter preferences in the 2019 elections. We also discussed how the land question is shaping voter preferences and how the women's vote has shifted. Finally, we considered how fear of losing grants continue to shape voter choices.

6.4 Seminar 3: How are social grant beneficiaries using grants to generate income?

In South Africa, seventeen million people receive social assistance every month, in the form of a Child, Disability or an Older-Persons grant. But many critics of welfare systems believe that social grants are a drain on public resources and that this money should be invested elsewhere to help stimulate the economy and drive job growth.



Chibuikem Nnaeme a PhD student with the CSDA , who was funded and supervised by SARChI Professor Patel, conducted research into how social grant beneficiaries in an urban area use their grants to generate income and improve their livelihoods amid high rates of poverty and unemployment.

He presented his finding at a seminar hosted by the CSDA on 31 July. He found that social grant beneficiaries in the study were highly industrious and strategic. They established businesses and invested their grant money to grow their income to meet their households' basic needs.

Chibuikem's research built on existing research by the World Bank which suggests that social grants do not meet beneficiaries' consumption needs. The qualitative research confirmed this finding and looked at how grant beneficiaries bridge the gap between the grant and their needs.

Using a narrative research approach, he conducted in-depth interviews with 17 grant beneficiaries living in Doornkop, Soweto - a community with high levels of poverty, unemployment, grant recipients and informal income-generating activities.

Typically grant recipients had no previous source of income and they used their grants to 'kick start' and sustain their businesses and invest in future livelihoods by for example

paying for a child's education. Many participants in the study ran several businesses and the research found that these income generating activities helped to improve their living conditions, with participants earning on average R2000 per month through their businesses.

His research found people engaged in 30 livelihood activities that included trading, supply of goods, provision of services, traditional healing and participating in a form of gambling called fafi.

Beneficiaries' stories highlighted how grants and livelihood activities work together to stimulate the township economy. We now also have new insight into what entrepreneurs look like - often older and female, they are people who have gained the trust of their communities.

Chibuikem's research shows that social grants are not enough to move people out of poverty and that social grants should form one aspect of a multi-pronged poverty reduction package. Grants combined with livelihood support, such as microfinance programmes that provide financial and productive skills to the poor would offer improved sustainable livelihood outcomes.

There was extensive interest in the findings from several large NGOs and government departments, who intend to use his work to inform their own programme design. In

addition to sharing his findings with a group of academics, researchers and other practitioners at the seminar, this small study also received media coverage on *Radio 702*, *News24* and *The Conversation Africa*.

6.5 Seminar 4: Men and the child support grant

In October the CSDA and the SARCHI hosted the fourth seminar for the year, which looked at recent research on men and the Child Support Grant.

Cash transfer programmes have become a popular social protection mechanism across the developing world. South Africa's Child Support Grant follows international trends where the overwhelming majority of women who receive the grant are women. Very little is known about men who receive the Child Support Grant in South Africa or elsewhere.

Dr Zoheb Khan's doctoral research, which was funded and supervised by SARCHI Professor Patel, aimed to fill this gap to find out more about the minority of men who receive the Child Support Grant.





In South Africa more than 12 million Child Support Grants are disbursed every month and South Africa's grant system is progressive in its gender-neutrality, allowing any primary caregiver to collect the grant. Despite this provision, only 2% of those who collect the child grant are men. This finding reflects widespread father absence and the fact that South African women continue to bear overwhelming responsibility for the care of children.

The study mined insight from analyses of both the National Income Dynamics Study – a nationally representative household survey that tracks people over time – and interviews held with men who receive the grant in Soweto, Johannesburg.

Dr Khan's research debunks the myth that men are more likely to spend the money on alcohol, tobacco and gambling. Their children are also not more likely to be malnourished. According to Dr Khan's research men spend the grant on their children's needs specifically on food and schooling.

The men interviewed all believed that taking responsibility for one's children, and being involved in their lives, was an important part of what constitutes being a man and a father. Despite this perception, half the men in the survey held onto the idea that caregiving is "feminine" and had isolated themselves from their male friends out of embarrassment.

The evidence shows that men are capable of parenting and would not necessarily spend the grant money any differently than women would. This finding suggests that more men should be motivated to claim the grant and to enact associated caregiving roles, which could relieve women's burden of childcare.

In addition, this study highlighted that men need not be bound by the damaging norms and beliefs with which they would have grown up.

In addition to robust engagement with academics, researchers and practitioners at the seminar this research was featured in *The Conversation Africa* and on *Radio 702s Midday Report*.

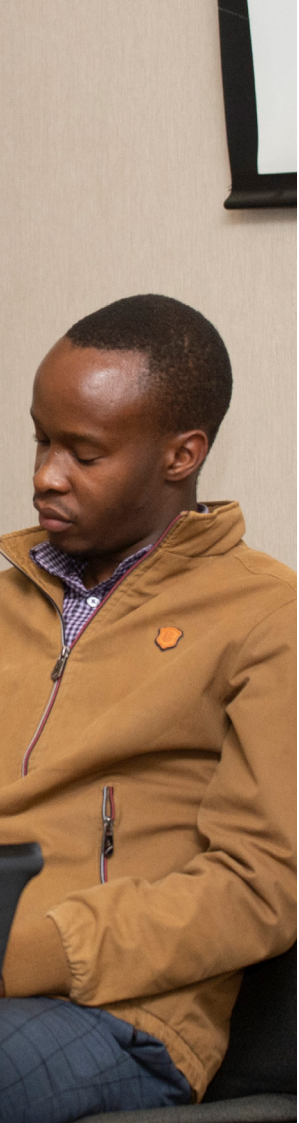
6.6 Youth Colloquium

As South Africa celebrated a quarter of a century of democracy the Faculty of Humanities hosted a series of events under the banner of “25 Years of Democracy”. The Centre for Social Development in Africa took the opportunity to reflect on the gains that young people have made in democratic South Africa by hosting a Youth Colloquium, under the theme “Reflecting on the issues of young people 25 years into democracy”.

The CSDA hosted the colloquium from 12 to 13 June and invited academics, researchers, civil society, policy makers, practitioners and students to present research and engage in robust discussion and debate on some of the most pertinent issues affecting young people today.

The two-day event focused on themes including youth agency and belonging, youth politics and citizenship, youth and work, young people’s sexuality, health and wellbeing and skills and education.





The National Planning Commission's Tessa Dooms said: "I'm really happy to be at this colloquium, it's really important that we start to formalise the knowledge that we have around youth and young people's development. In a country that is very youthful and where the youth crisis is as big as it is, it's important that we don't just talk about what the problems are but that we have an evidence-based way to think about the solutions and to really get young people participating at an intellectual level and thinking deeply about these issues. This colloquium gives us an opportunity not just for young researchers but for people working with young people, to give them a voice".

The programme

Over the course of the Colloquium there were seven panel discussions with 26 presentations with research ranging from the value of reference letters (Prof Rulof Burger) and research on the experiences of black single student mothers at UJ (Banele Masilela) and the voice of second-generation immigrant youth in South Africa (Chioma Joyce Onukogu) through to understanding the social economy in South Africa (Kerryn Krige) and young lesbians narratives of disclosure (Andrea Jacobs).

The Siyakha Youth Assets for Employability Study launch

The CSDA also used the Youth Colloquium as a platform to launch the results of its six year research project into Youth Employability Programmes. The results were presented by principal investigator Professor Leila Patel, co-principal investigator Professor Lauren Graham and lead researcher Zoheb Khan at a function on 12 June.

The launch, which was attended by over 150 people, saw the key results from the research presented. The researchers looked at whether including basic financial literacy skills in Youth Employability Programmes could help more young people find and keep work. The presentation also showed how particular programme features – specifically matching, financial capability, and psychosocial skills support – are most effective at helping young people find and stay in work.

Professor Patel says: *“Our research has implications for the role and design of youth employment programmes. Multiple component interventions work best and must be supported by enabling policies and resourcing.”*

6.7 Media engagement

A core part of our mission is to use evidence to inform public opinion about critical social development issues and responses. To this end we engage the media in many of our seminars and study launches and are regularly invited to comment on key issues.

During 2019 we generated significant media coverage, with an Advertising Value Equivalent (calculated using a database called Professional Evaluation and Research) of R10, 113, 922.51 million. Our articles appeared on several online, broadcast and print platforms both locally and internationally, all helping to inform and shape public opinion.

There was particular interest in the articles that were published during Youth Month with our articles during that month reaching over 45 000 readers on *The Conversation Africa* platform alone. These articles were republished by different media platforms during the month ensuring a wide readership. There was also significant media interest in the Voter Behaviour research that was released just prior to the May elections. Articles appeared in *The Conversation Africa* and *The Citizen* and Professor Patel made appearances on *e-news* and *SABC 2*, ensuring that the messages from that study reached over 29 million viewers and readers.

7. CSDA team 2019

Our commitment to cutting-edge research and the quality and quantity of effort and output this year requires a team of dedicated researchers, and support staff.

Back row (L to R): Amanuel Isak, Samantha Murugan, Thembeke Somtseu, Eleanor Ross, Isaac Chinyoka, Leila Patel, Melinda du Toit, Pamela O'Brien, Sophie PLAGerson, Nina Vels (Utrecht University exchange student), Tino Patsika, Courtney Edwards

Middle row (L to R): Senzelwe Mthembu, Sibusiso Mkwanzani

Front row (L to R): Vinah Adonis, Lauren Stuart, Lauren Graham, Chibuekem Nnaeme, Khuliso Matidza

Other staff members who worked at the CSDA during 2019:

Zoheb Khan, Leilanie Williams, Thobile Zulu, Madoda Sitshange, Larry Onyango, Jenita Chiba, Meryl Marcks, Dipuo Mokhokhane, Oliver Odhiambo, Ninky Shuenyane.



8. CSDA 2019 publication output

8.1 Journal articles published 2019

1. **Ajefu, J.** and Abiona, O. (2019). 'Impact of Shocks on Labour and Schooling Outcomes and the Role of Public Work Programmes in Rural India'. *Journal of Development Studies*, 55(6): 1140-1157.
2. Ansong, D., **Chowa, G.A., Masa, R.**, Despard, M., Sherraden, M., Wu, S. and Osei-Akoto, I. (2019). 'Effects of Youth Savings Accounts on School Attendance and Academic Performance: Evidence from a Youth Savings Experiment'. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 40: 269-281.
3. Ansong, D., Eisensmith, SR., Okumu, M. and **Chowa, G.A.** (2019). 'The Importance of Self-Efficacy and Educational Aspirations for Academic Achievement in Resource-Limited Countries: Evidence from Ghana'. *Journal of Adolescence*, 70: 13-23.
4. Chen, J. and **Jordan, L.P.** (2019). 'Psychological Well-being of Coresiding Elderly Parents and Adult Children in China: Do Father-child and Mother-child Relationships make a difference?' *Journal of Family Issues*, 40(18): 2728-2750.
5. **Chowa, G.A.** and **Masa, R.D.** (2019). 'Asset Ownership and Academic Achievement Among Youth in Ghana: Examining Associations Based on Asset Type and Academic Subject'. *Educational Forum*, 83(2): 181-198.
6. Chui, CHK., **Jordan, L.P.** and Wang, N. (2019). 'Non-Governmental Organisations and Informal Associations in Service Delivery for African Migrants in China: Evidence of Voluntary Sector Failure?' *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 28: 196-207.
7. Elliot, W., **Chowa, G.**, Ellis, J., Chen, Z. and O'Brien, M. (2019). 'Combining Children's Savings Account Programs with Scholarship Programs: Effects on Math and Reading Scores'. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 102: 7-17.



Number of journal articles published



Number of book chapters published



Conference presentations

8. **Graham, L., Williams, L.** and Chisoro, C. (2019). 'Barriers to the Labour Market for Unemployed Graduates in South Africa'. *Journal of Education and Work*, 32(4): 360-376.
9. Hoang, A.P. and **Jordan, L.P.** (2019). 'Internationalisation and intersectionality in Hong Kong university student life: An exploratory study of social exclusion'. *Multicultural Education Review* 11(2): 114-134.
10. **Hutchinson, A.J.** (2019). 'Research Evidence to Inform Strengths-Based Policy and Practice: Mapping the Coping Strategies of Young Women in Mozambique'. *British Journal of Social Work*, 49(1): 116-134.
11. **Masa, R. and Chowa, G.** (2019). 'Correlates of animal source food consumption and its association with psychosocial functioning of adults in rural Western Uganda'. *Food Security*, 11(3): 665-677.
12. **Masa, R. and Chowa, G.** (2019). 'The association of material hardship with medication adherence and perceived stress among people living with HIV in rural Zambia'. *Global Social Welfare*, 6(1): 17-28.
13. **Masa, R., Graham, L., Khan, Z., Chowa, GA. and Patel, L.** (2019). 'Food Insecurity, Sexual Risk Taking and Sexual Victimization in Ghanaian Adolescents and Young South African Adults'. *International Journal of Public Health*, 64(2): 153-163.

The article was published in the *International Journal of Public Health*, which appears on the high Source Normalised Impact per Publication (SNIP factor) journals list, an indication that the journal has a high impact factor. It was the first of our Siyakha Youth Assets Employability Study articles to be published and points to the links between poverty (expressed as food insecurity) and the realities of risk in young people's lives.

14. Mendu, E. and **Ross, E.** (2019). 'Biomedical Healthcare and African Traditional Healing in the Management of HIV and AIDS: Complementary or Competing Cosmologies'. *African Journal of AIDS Research*, 18(2): 104-114.
15. Mutasa, S. and **Munsaka, E.** (2019). 'Botswana and International Policies on the Inclusion of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Scholl Curriculum: Exploring the Missing Link'. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 40: 1-7.
16. Mutwali, R. and **Ross, E.** (2019). 'Disparities in Physical Access and Healthcare Utilisation Among Adults with and without Disabilities in South Africa'. *Disability and Health Journal*, 12: 35-42.
17. **Plagerson, S. and Patel, L.** (2019). 'Welfare Regimes in the Global South: Does the Capability Approach Provide an Alternative Perspective?' *Journal of Poverty & Social Justice*, 27(1): 23-40.

18. **Plageron, S., Hochfeld, T., and Stuart, L.** (2019). 'Social Security and Gender Justice in South Africa: Policy Gaps and Opportunities'. *Journal of Social Policy*, 48(2): 293-310.
19. **Ross, E.** and Rasool, S. (2019). 'You go to campus with fear and come back with fear: University Students' Experiences of Crime'. *SA Crime Quarterly*, 68: 7-20.
20. **Schmid, J.** and Morgenshtem, M. (2019). 'Pulling Together the Threads: Current Understandings of Contextualised Social Work Education'. *Critical Social Work*, 20(1): 76-95.
21. Sherridan, M., **Lough, BJ.**, Sherridan, MS., Williams Shanks, TR. And Huang, J. (2019). 'Applied Social Research: Aiming for Impact'. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, 10(4): 545-570. doi.org/10.1086/706153.
22. **Tewolde, Ai.** (2019). "What is you race?" Eritrean Migrant Encounters with Racial Identification Questions in South Africa'. *African Studies Quarterly*, 18(3): 29-46.
23. **Tewolde, Ai.** (2019). 'Everyday Discourses of Belonging of First-Generation Eritrean Refugees in South Africa: Lived Experience and Attachment'. *Migration Letters*, 16(2): 175-182.
24. **Tewolde, Ai.** (2019). 'Navigating Black Identity: Self-Identification Strategies of Refugees in Post-Apartheid South Africa'. *South African Review of Sociology*, 50(1): 34-50.
25. **Tewolde, Ai.** (2019). 'Embracing Colouredness in Cape Town: Racial Formation of First-Generation Eritrean Refugees and Asylum Seekers in South Africa'. *Current Sociology*, 67(3): 419-437.
26. Tiessen, R. and **Lough, BJ.** (2019). 'International Volunteering Capacity Development: Volunteer Partner Organisation Experiences of Mitigating Factors for Effective Practice'. *Forum for Development Studies*, 46(2): 299-320.
27. **Trani, JF.**, Bakhshi, P., Mozaffari, A., Sohail, M., Rawab, H., Kaplan, I., Ballard, E. and Hovmand, P. 2019. 'Strengthening child inclusion in the classroom in rural schools of Pakistan and Afghanistan: What did we learn by testing the system dynamics protocol for community engagement?' *Research in Comparative and International Education*, 14(1): 158-181.
28. Wills, R., Channon, A., Viana, J., LaValle, H. and **Hutchinson, A.** (2019). 'Resurrecting the Interval of Need concept to improve dialogue between researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. *Health and Social Care in the Community*, 27(5): 1271-1282.
29. Zhoux, X., Li, J. and **Jordan, L.P.** (2019). 'Parental Intent for Children to Study Abroad: The Role of Educational Aspiration and Children's Characteristics'. *Cambridge Journal of Education*, 49(26): 789-807.

8.2 SARChI journal articles published in 2019

1. Baldry, K., **Patel, L.** and Ross, E. (2019). A Comparative case study of well-being in a rural versus an urban coal mining community in Mpumalanga, South Africa.' *International Journal of Happiness and Development*, 5(2): 95-114.
2. **Plagerson, S., Patel, L., Hochfeld, T., & Ulriksen, M.S.** (2019) 'Social Policy in South Africa: Navigating the Route to Social Development'. *World Development*, Elsevier, vol. 113 (C): 1-9.

The article was published in *World Development*, the most prestigious and high impact journal in the development field. The article applies a theoretical lens to understand tensions that are evident in SA's social policy framework – particularly between redistribution as a transformative goal, recognised in the South African Constitution, and redistribution as a secondary goal, dependent on economic growth. Importantly the article features key social policy lessons that are directly relevant to other developing countries.

3. **Patel, L; Hochfeld, T & Chiba, J.** (2019). Perspectives of South African Caregivers in Receipt of Child Support Grants: Implications for Family Strengthening Interventions. *International Journal of Social Welfare*. 0:1-11.

8.3 Book chapters published in 2019

1. **Midgley, J.** (2019). 'Social Assistance, Poverty and Development'. In: J. Midgley, R. Surender and L. Alfes (editors). *Handbook of Social Policy and Development*. Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, Northampton. (Chapter 19, 352-372).
2. **Midgley, J.** (2019). 'Social Insurance, Pensions and Development'. In: J. Midgley, R. Surender and L. Alfes (editors). *Handbook of Social Policy and Development*. Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, Northampton. (Chapter 18, 333-351).
3. **Midgley, J.** (2019). 'Social Policy and Development: an Overview'. In: J. Midgley, R. Surender and L. Alfes (editors). *Handbook of Social Policy and Development*. Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, Northampton. (Chapter 1, pgs. 14-34).
4. **Schmid, J.** (2019). 'Autoethnography: Locating the Self as Standpoint in Post-Apartheid South Africa'. In: S. Laher, A. Fynn and S. Kramer (editors). *Transforming Research Methods in the Social Sciences: Case Studies from South Africa*. Wits University Press: Johannesburg. (Chapter 17, pgs. 265-279).

5. **Ulriksen, MS.** (2019). 'Pushing for Policy Innovation: The Framing of Social Protection Policies in Tanzania'. In: S. Hickey, T. Lavers, M. Nino-Zarazua, and J. Seekings (editors). *The Politics of Social Protection in Eastern and Southern Africa*. (Chapter 5).

8.4 SARChI chapters published in 2019

1. **Patel, L.** (2019). 'Social Development, Management and Supervision of Social Workers'. In L.K. Engelbrecht. (ed). *Management and Supervision of Social Workers: Issues and Challenges within a Social Development Paradigm*, second edition. Cengage Learning: Hampshire.
2. **Patel, L.** (2019). 'Gender: Toward gender equality and poverty reduction.' In Midgley, J., Surrender, R., and Alferts, L. (ed). *Handbook on Social Policy and Development*. London: Edward Elgar publishing. Accepted.
3. **Hochfeld, T.**, Chiba, J., and **Patel, L.** (in press) 'Sihleng'imizi: The Nature of Care in Poor Families in South Africa'. In L. Manderson and N. Makhwanazi. *Connected Lives: Households, Families, Health and Care in Contemporary South Africa*.

9. Partners

At the heart of our work is collaboration. By working with partners from a range of academic institutions, the private sector, government and civil society we are able to draw together the best implementing partners and researchers to conduct research that is grounded in theory and can be applied effectively to bring about social change. We would like to acknowledge all our partners for their contribution during 2019. We must also give our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors, without which much of work would not be possible.

Partners who have funded our research:

- The European Union through the Capacity Building Programme for Employment Promotion
- National Development Agency
- National Research Foundation
- National Treasury Jobs Fund
- National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences
- The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) through the National Research Foundation and the Department of Science and Technology
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
- University of Johannesburg's University Research Committee
- University of Johannesburg's Faculty of Humanities Research Committee
- Harvard Ministerial Leadership Programme
- Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator
- IPSOS
- JPAL Africa
- loveLife
- National Treasury Jobs Fund Poverty and Inequality Initiative at the South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), University of Cape Town (UCT)
- Raymond Ackerman Academy for Entrepreneurial Development
- Standard Bank South Africa
- Thabiso Skills Institute (TSI)
- UNICEF
- Utrecht University
- Department of Social Development
- City of Johannesburg Department of Social Development

Institutional partners

- Afrika Tikkun Services (ATS)
- Center for Social Development, George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, St Louis
- DG Murray Trust
- EOH Holdings Limited
- Fit for Life, Fit for Work
- Global Social Development Innovations at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Institutional Affiliations

- Southern African Social Protection Experts Network
- International Consortium for Social Development

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: +27 (0) 11 559 1904

Fax: +27 (0) 11 559 1575

Email: csdainfo@uj.ac.za

Website: www.uj.ac.za/csda

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Centre for Social Development in Africa
House 9, Humanities Research Village
University of Johannesburg
Bunting Road
Auckland Park

POSTAL ADDRESS

Centre for Social Development in Africa
University of Johannesburg
P.O. Box 524, Auckland Park
Johannesburg, 2006

