



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2023 at a glance

Team: 6 Academics, 11 postgrads, 1 Postdoc, 60 research associates

Visiting researchers: 3 Professors & 5 Postdocs/PhDs

Collaborations: 17

Publications: 29 articles/chapters & 3 books

4IR Initiatives: 1

Postgrads: 11

Talks: 27—including invited, keynotes, interviews

Grants: R 2, 300, 000

Grant applications: 4

Conferences organised: 8

Weekly: Research, Reading & Writings Retreats

2023 Key performance highlights

Background



ACEPS was established in 2018 with the aim of capitalising on UJ Philosophy’s unique concentration of expertise in epistemology and philosophy of science, as well as to cultivate young African talent in these areas. The aim is to continue to earn our African name by putting to work these traditionally Eurocentric fields in our African context. As a result, we have acquired a growing reputation for our research on epistemic decolonisation and injustice, and their links to 4IR and AI.

ACEPS Director—Prof Veli Mitova

Where ACEPS wants to be

ACEPS became an independent centre in July 2022, giving it the space to concentrate on growing grant funding and international collaborations. We hope to add 4 PDRFs in 2024, to our 11 postgraduates, to ensure a unit of sufficient depth and international excellence. ACEPS will actively involve academics from the UJ Philosophy and other UJ departments to strengthen and broaden UJ offerings.

ACEPS postgraduates had fun in 2023



ACEPS postgraduates enjoyed the full benefits of weekly writing retreats, research groups, seminar series, presenting at ACEPS conferences, and funding to present overseas. Not to mention a steady stream of international visitors!



Our team at the Hague in collaboration with TILT

Our team at home, writing

ACEPS postgraduates worked hard in 2023

We are especially proud that 4 of our PhDs submitted in 2023!



Grant funding for 2023

- NIHSS: *Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South*: R 1 000 000
- Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs: *Epistemic Reparations* 3-year project with Jennifer Lackey (Northwestern): R 600 000.
- GES funding for the *Epistemology of 4IR* project: R 170 000
- John Templeton Foundation renewal grant for *Geography of Philosophy* project: R 360 000
- Bielefeld funded Visiting Research Fellowship—2 months: R 160 000
- URC: *Decolonising Experimental Philosophy*: R 110 000

Consolidated our position in Africa

ACEPS is in the business of decolonising knowledge and markets itself by making its mark! In 2023, we ran five international conferences all on topics related to decolonising knowledge and epistemic injustice. ACEPS also hosted a book launch for Prof Serote’s biography, *Mme Ruth Mompati: a life of courage and service* (left).



Our researchers got noticed

- 6 one-week funded visits to: Norway, Australia, Holland, Tanzania, Canada, Germany.
- 1 two-week NIHSS grant visit to India.
- 1 two-month visiting research fellowship to Germany.
- 1 two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at University of Quebec–Montreal

8 SA and International Conferences/Workshops organised by ACEPS

- Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Conference
- TiLT–ACEPS Global Data Justice Workshop
- Epistemic Injustice and Epistemic Decolonisation Workshop
- Epistemic Injustice and Datatech
- Lund-ACEPS Work in Progress workshop
- Epistemic Blame and Epistemic Reparations Workshop
- Philosophy through Indigenous Knowledge in the Global South Workshop
- Mme Ruth Mompati, a life of courage and service - book launch

4 Ongoing collaboration negotiations

- Great Zimbabwe University
- University Dar es Salaam
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Erasmus Mundus MA programme application — partner with Glasgow University

2024 Looking Good

In the bag

- *Thinking from Everywhen: Between Philosophy and Indigenous Knowledges*: 6–week RSSS visiting research fellowship to Australian National University (ANU)
- ‘Decolonising Philosophy’ invited talk as part of a book launch colloquium – “*Andean and Amazonian Epistemologies. Indigenous Concepts of Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom*” @ Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- 7 overseas-funded in-coming PhD, PDRF & Professor visitors to ACEPS
- 4 ACEPS workshops/conferences in the process of being organised
- 5 talks by ACEPS members at Philosophical Society of Southern Africa Conference, Stellenbosch

18 Continuing Collaborations

- 2 Australia: Australian National University; University of Melbourne
- 1 Brazil: PUCR
- 2 Canada: University of Brandon, University of Quebec - Montreal
- 1 China: Zhejiang University
- 3 EU: University of Vienna, University of Tilburg, University of Bielefeld
- 1 Peru: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
- 1 South Africa: UJ Heteronormativity in Higher Educational Institutions, NIHSS
- 2 Switzerland: University of Zürich, University of Basel
- 2 UK: University of Kent, Liverpool
- 3 USA: Northwestern University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rutgers