

BAR

BRICS ACADEMIC REVIEW

Tapping into
Africa's

BEATING DRUM

Language and Deconolising + *Profile: City of Joburg*





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NATIONAL INSTITUTE
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South African
BRICS Think Tank

BRICS

2018

JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA

ENVISIONING INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH A
SOCIAALLY RESPONSIVE ECONOMY

10th ACADEMIC FORUM 2018

28 -31 May 2018

ED'S NOTE

Do we need another BRICS publication?

I WAS ASKED THIS QUESTION DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH MEDIA COLLEAGUES AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS. IT IS A GOOD QUESTION TO ASK.

If we're asking, "Do we need another BRICS publication?" then presumably, we're tired of the coverage we're seeing already. Just how much current media on BRICS is there, though?

A quick cursory search of BRICS on the internet reveals results that are sadly outdated; there is very little current information on BRICS due to lack of input on the subject matter.

Unfortunately, this means that not a lot of people are having a conversation about BRICS – or if they are, those conversations are all happening behind closed doors. And even if they are, that is not an encouraging idea.

Lack of transparency has been one of the criticisms in the way the development of BRICS is reported to the masses. This leaves the door open to speculation, a lack of confidence and negative reporting. It would be just plain irresponsible if we were passive about the role of media in influencing opinions.

We need to accept that the latest information about BRICS needs to be made available to the public frequently, to stimulate collaboration and cooperation between these five nations with huge economic, cultural and political differences.

This point was expressed very clearly by Cai Mingzhao, president of China's Xinhua News Agency and executive chair of the first BRICS Media Forum,

when he said: "Media as a carrier of information, communication and a messenger for cultural exchanges plays an irreplaceable role in deepening cooperation among the countries."

BRICS Media has come a long way since the first media forum in 2015, at which journalists were encouraged to report only stories that were positive, to counter the negative publicity from a hostile Western media determined to see BRICS flounder before it could be established as a stable alternative economic grouping. Indeed, this "report only good" stance made sense at the early stages of BRICS,

Where? When? and Why?

We also ask So What?

It is also important to mention that in a world where editorial integrity has fallen prey to advertising dollars, at BAR we strive to conform to strict standards of scholarship and editorial excellence, because the publication has been commissioned by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the custodian of the South African BRICS Think Tank.

As a member of the BRICS community, we would like you to be included in the process of developing content for this publication, and thus we



“ This publication analyses this information beyond positive reporting, answering the five W's: What? Who? Where? When? and Why? We also ask So What? ”

when it was vying for position in the global geopolitical space.

But what about now? As BRICS enters its second decade, we have an opportunity review the road travelled; to reflect and propose how BRICS can enter this second decade in a way that has the most positive impact on its citizens – the most populous and economically significant of any current global economic grouping.

This publication analyses this information beyond positive reporting, answering the five W's: What? Who?

encourage you to feel free to share your input on one of these platforms:

Email: bar.editor@nihss.ac.za

Twitter: @BRICSAcademicRe

Facebook: @BRICSAcademicReview

It is our hope that your input will contribute towards strengthening the voice of BRICS in the global media space. To answer the question at the start of this note: Yes, we most certainly do!

VUYO DLAMINI

Exploring the transformative potential of BRICS

This year is a milestone for BRICS, marking as it does the 10th anniversary of its formation. As the host country for the 2018 summit, South Africa has a role to play in shaping the discourse and the agenda regarding the future of BRICS.

There is growing academic and public interest in all matters related to BRICS and the Global South. Academics and researchers in South Africa have established long-term comparative research projects and networks in Brazil, Russia, India and China. The same can be said for civil society and labour organisations, which have established various networks with their counterparts in these countries.

However, there is often a missing link between academics, researchers and policy makers, civil society and labour.

It gives me great pleasure, then, to introduce this new publication, the *BRICS Academic Review*. It is hoped that this must-read will go some way towards bridging the gap between academics, researchers and policy makers.

The establishment of BRICS a decade ago goes beyond the simple concept of having five different countries come together to form a political and economic collaboration. The most compelling purpose for the formation of BRICS was, and still is, that of changing the geopolitical landscape.

To this end, the five member states making up BRICS seek to bring about a radical reinterpretation of the current narrative regarding the political economy,

which is dominated by a few superpowers.

The BRICS Academic Review seeks to provide critical and strategic ways of examining the role that BRICS has to play in a fast-paced, changing world system, and to serve as a platform where original proposals, concepts and theories can flourish. The language of BRICS will have to be different if it seeks to engage with the dominant discourse of the liberal world as espoused by its scholars, and transform it.

Critical studies that build on the body of knowledge within BRICS – referred to as *BRICSOLGY* – abound, and should be accessible to the broader public and policymakers alike. Strategies adopted in the BRICS countries should be based on empirical data and should be different in order to address the unique challenges confronting the 42% of the world's population making up BRICS.

For BRICS to succeed, citizens of these five member states need to understand the group's political and economic vision. And, most importantly, they need to see their lives change for the better.

It is appropriate, therefore, that the



the second golden decade of BRICS co-operation and solidarity.

In driving these objectives, the *BRICS Academic Review* will examine new narratives and policy alternatives being mooted in South Africa. These are many and varied, and are bound to provoke more

“*BRICS Academic Review* seeks to provide critical and strategic ways of examining the role that BRICS has to play in a fast-paced, changing world system, and to serve as a platform where original proposals, concepts and theories can flourish.”

theme for South Africa's tenure of the BRICS presidency is *Inclusive Development Through a Socially Responsive Economy*.

In the Xiamen Declaration of 2011, BRICS committed to working together to enhance its strategic partnership for the welfare of all its people. Likewise, South Africa is committed to building on the outcomes and consensus of the previous BRICS summits with unwavering conviction – and in so doing, usher in

thought and debate on the way forward for BRICS.

The time is ripe for new ideas; join us and our contributors as we map out an ever more promising future for BRICS.

PROF SARAH MOSOETSA
Chief Executive Officer
National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), custodians of the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT)

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The 3rd Annual Conference of the BRICS Network University

HOSTED BY:

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
TRAINING (DHET)**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (NCC)
OF THE BRICS NETWORK UNIVERSITY**

AND

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UNDER THE THEME: “UNBLOCKING
BRICS UNIVERSITIES’ PARTNERSHIPS:
POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES”

SCHEDULED FOR 5-7 JULY 2018

**Van der Sterr Building, corner Bosman and Victoria Street,
Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch**

The primary aim of the conference is to consolidate the BRICS education agenda as well as highlight strategic areas of research collaboration and exchanges through the BRICS Network University in order to position the BRICS nations in the global knowledge system.

Delegates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, block reservations have been secured at favourable rates for delegates at both Spier Hotel, R310 Stellenbosch (www.spier.co.za) and Protea Hotel by Marriot Stellenbosch Techno Avenue, Techno Park (proteahotels.com) Delegates are required to contact the hotels directly. Delegates who wish to stay at Spier Hotel must provide the reference no. 2144831 and email their request to reservations@spier.co.za for reservations at their own cost. The reservations will be held until 9 June 2018 for both hotels.

Any query regarding logistics and accommodation should be directed to the conference coordinator Ms Lidia du Plessis at lidia@sun.ac.za or mobile number: +27 (0)82 940 5700.

Queries relating to the conference content should be directed to Mr Simon Motthanke at Motthanke.s@dhet.gov.za; or Ms Mmudi Maphalla at Maphalla.M@dhet.gov.za.

Kindly confirm your participation by registering through the following link:
<http://www.bricsnetworkuniversityconference.co.za/>.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN UNTIL 20 JUNE 2018.

Looking forward to welcoming you



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UPFRONT

SOYA MAGIDA

BRICS must address injustices at home before it can fix the world



THE FORMATION CALLED BRICS HAS CAPTIVATED WORLD ATTENTION WITH ITS PROMISE TO ACT AS A FORCE THAT CAN DISCIPLINE IMPERIALISTIC DOMINATION OF WORLD AFFAIRS BY WESTERN POWERS. BUT THE BRICS WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES AT HOME, IN ORDER TO BECOME A GOOD FORCE IN THE WORLD

The association of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) approaches its 10th annual summit with a refreshing theme: “Envisioning inclusive development through a socially responsive economy.” Many are hoping and praying that this theme does not live and die as an empty slogan.

The theme speaks to a largely neglected inward-looking social factor in the life of the BRICS formation – an oversight that could potential scupper the critical BRICS project.

That grim possibility is well captured by Mills Soko, the head of the Graduate Business School at the University of Cape Town.



Soko notes that: “It will not be enough (for BRICS) to seek to correct uneven power relations in the global sphere without addressing socioeconomic vulnerabilities within the BRICS states themselves.”


Adds Soko, “For these countries to have appeal and project soft power, they must also be seen as credible. The power of their voice in global governance processes should echo their transformative actions domestically.”

BRICS is largely understood as a force with the capability to discipline the global political order – mainly the inequitable distribution of economic and political power at international level that favours the Western powers.

This relic of western imperialism remains visible in the constitution of multilateral organisations like the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and in international trade arrangements.

Simply put, Western nations – like the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, etc. – continue to dominate the world order, leaving a trail of despicable injustices in their wake. Their riches – the wealth and welfare of their populations – come at the expense of the people of the developing world.

The BRICS formation has largely shaped up as an effort to rectify these persisting geopolitical injustices. “As



a collective, (the BRICS nations) are unhappy with, and critical of, Western dominance of multilateral institutions,” argues University of Johannesburg academic Mzukisi Qobo. “This is because they have for many years been on the margins. They’re also dissatisfied with the perceived refusal of the West to share global power.”

In that understanding, BRICS takes an offensive posture, focused on disciplining the imperialistic forces. It’s a justifiable mission, but it needs to be accompanied by deep introspections to stand any chance of success. Otherwise, the BRICS will become a waste of time and energy.

There are already observations suggesting that BRICS is offering more of the same. That view is aired amongst others by Wits University academic-social justice activist, Patrick Bond. He warns that “The BRICS had promised to challenge an unfair global economic system.” But it seems to be failing in this mission by leading a “neoliberal life” that’s not so different to that of the Western/capitalistic states it is condemning.

And there are suspicions that BRICS sets out to become another elite group for itself within an order of world inequality. Its approaches to business and economic development seem to be not so different to the environmentally destructive practices of the modern era.

Those who make this charge point to some of the projects financed by the BRICS’ New Development Bank, among other activity. They are also concerned about the posture of the bank – its governance rhythms have so far failed accountability and transparency tests.

The New Development Bank, argues University of Pretoria academic Danny Bradlow, risks repeating the tragic mistakes committed by the Bretton Woods institutions. The main mistake of the latter was to concentrate only on economic issues in their operational decision – at the expense of social, human-rights and environmental factors. This and other behaviour could undermine the BRICS, argues Bradlow.

And a dismal performance on the gender-equity scales is not helping the situation. BRICS has thus far largely

lived as a club of men, with little ambition – if any – to enforce gender equality. A paradigm shift is required to fix this situation, argues Shubha Chacko, gender equality activist who penned the article titled: Taking it to the Bank: Gender Issues at the New Development Bank.

Most critiques agree that there is still time and considerable goodwill to mend the BRICS project. It’s partly reflected in the Xiamen Declaration from the 9th BRICS summit, which commits to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It says “We will also advocate equitable, open, all-round, innovation-driven and inclusive development, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.”

This was echoed by China’s President Xi Jinping. “We need to make the international order more just and

BRICS is indeed a good sign of some positive change in world economics. The bloc has emerged on the back of the rising significance of developing economies to world trade.

The numbers speak for themselves. Representing about 40% of the world’s population, the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa bloc has become a key driver of global economic growth. It generated 20% of world output in 2016 and has accounted for 50% of global growth since the end of 2009.

The prevailing world order has failed to recognise this change. Developing nations remain grossly under-represented in multilateral institutions, which feed into unfair trade relations driving inequality and poverty.

Inequality and poverty remains a fixture of the developing world; a reality that is well captured in the latest Oxfam report on inequality. The report does note the progress registered in recent years – for instance, the

“The world needs a new champion for inclusive development – which can only be achieved through socially responsive economies. The theme of the 10th BRICS Summit speaks to that need.”

equitable... We need to make economic globalisation open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, build an open world economy ...”

But then, talk is cheap. Follow-ups from the 10th BRICS summit will have to be watched closely.

The global inequalities

There is no doubt the BRICS mission needs to be breaking the glass ceiling for developing countries. The world remains a nasty place for the masses in the developing world. And yet the phenomenon called BRICS represents hope for positive change – in what makes for a schizophrenic development.

number of people living in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.90 a day) halved between 1990 and 2010.

The number continues to decline, but not fast enough – and the geographical biases in inequality and poverty trends remain largely intact.

The Oxfam report also notes that the many who have been lifted out of extreme poverty often remain very poor. They are in debt and struggling to feed their families. “Many may be only one step away from slipping back. More than half of the world’s population lives on between \$2 and \$10 a day.”

This, says the report, is a result of such a small proportion of global income growth

having gone to the poorest half of humanity in the past 25 years. It's a point taken from the latest World Inequality Report, put together by the World Inequality Lab.

That report shows that the top 1%, in economic wealth terms, captured 27% of total global income growth between 1980 and 2016, while the bottom 50% only received about 12% of total income growth.

The global average per-adult national income stands at €1,340 per month, according to the World Inequality Report. North Americans command an income that is three times higher than the average. That figure is two times higher than the global average in Europe.

China is said to be in a much better position than before. Average per-adult income in China is slightly lower than the global average. China has over the years risen to claim a higher share of global income than North America or Europe (19%, 17%, and 17%, respectively). That paints a marked improvement from the 1980s, when China represented only 3% of total global income. "Over this period, strong converging forces were in play that reduced global income inequality between countries. While growth slowed in Western Europe, it skyrocketed in Asia and China in particular, following the modernisation of its economy and its opening to global markets," says the World Inequality Report.

However, adds the report, diverging forces were also in play in other parts of the world. "From 1980 to now, average incomes in sub-Saharan Africa and South America fell behind the world average."

Clearly the world needs a new champion for inclusive development, which can only be achieved through socially responsive economies. The theme of the 10th BRICS Summit speaks to that need.

BRICS inequalities

The political diplomacy that has made BRICS the potent force it has become so far is not enough to realise its ideals of transforming world economics into a just affair. BRICS needs to be a ground-up movement to stand any chance of real success. That's to say the BRICS movement must enjoy the support of



Poverty in South Africa

Township of Kliptown is a suburb of the formerly black township of Soweto. Its origins are a very poor and impoverished black township under South Africa's Apartheid government. 24 years on and poverty still persists.

ordinary citizens in the member states and beyond to become a life changing reality. It can't be just about summits between business and government leaders – it must be people centred.

It's the ordinary people, the workers in factories and the small to medium-sized entrepreneurs and cooperatives, who can drive up the output that can rebalance world trade. A ground-up movement that can support the BRICS ideals will be shaped by the "soft power" and credibility that Soko speaks of.

Bradlow points out that for BRICS nations to achieve a just and equitable international economic order, they will be required to take seriously their commitment to protect and promote human rights as set out in the UN Charter and other human rights treaties.

Sadly, the domestic factor in the BRICS record is not looking good. These countries run with huge but varying human rights deficits.

The domestic factor has made BRICS vulnerable to attacks at home and abroad. That's partly because the global inequality numbers also show worrying inequality trends within BRICS countries themselves. South Africa, Brazil, India and to some extent Russia are struggling to address their inequalities and stubbornly high poverty levels. While China has achieved a lot in terms of lifting millions out of poverty, it still face criticism for the rural/urban welfare divide.

South Africa's stubborn inequalities

South Africa, the host of the 10th BRICS summit, is coming under the microscope in its struggle to facilitate inclusive growth. The country has come to be known as one of the most unequal societies in the world. That's not to disregard some progress achieved since the country transitioned from the apartheid system into a democracy in 1994.



have in general terms claimed a disproportionately higher portion of the post 1994 economic growth. That trend connects to the global feature highlighted in the Oxfam analysis.

“Last year saw the biggest increase in billionaires in history, one more every two days. Billionaires saw their wealth increase by \$762-billion in 12 months. This huge increase could have ended global extreme poverty seven times over. 82% of all wealth created in the past year went to the top 1%, while the bottom 50% saw no increase at all.” That’s more or less the story of South Africa.

The point is, while South Africa has addressed some of the poverty challenges facing its population, the level and quality is not good enough to address its inequality gap.

In an article explaining the dynamics of South Africa’s inequality, academics Edward Webster, David Francis and Imraan Valodia point out that “It is

growing as an important lens through which to understand the dynamics of inequality in South Africa. “Evidence from a 2012 study showed that intra-race inequality (inequality between members of the same race group) had exceeded inter-race inequality (between race groups).”

This, in other words, means that income inequality among black South Africans has become higher than in any other race group. They highlight the fact that in 1993, inequality within race groups accounted for 48% of overall inequality. By 2008, this had increased to 62%.

BRICS behaviour

The formation of BRICS came with a promise to deliver a new approach to global economic governance in what can become a significant driver of inclusive development. 10 years have passed since BRICS was formalised. It’s fair to look back and ask the question of how effective it has been in reforming global economic governance in practice.

Some academics have considered this question. The honest answer, argues Bradlow, is that as a group, BRICS hasn’t been an effective force at all. This is due to a number of reasons, not least failure to walk the talk.

Bond concurs, arguing that BRICS has wasted opportunities to change global economic governance after being invited into institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.

Bradlow uses the performance of BRICS members inside the G20 and within the IMF and the World Bank to look at its track record.

He adds that BRICS countries, together with other G20 developing countries, have become more active participants in organisations responsible for developing international financial regulatory standards. “This means that they now can participate in the writing of standards that guide the international financial system. But the system continues to be more responsive to the interests of the rich and powerful than those of the developing world.”

He further notes that while the G20 has supplanted the G7, made up of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan,

BRICS takes an offensive posture, focused on disciplining imperialistic forces. It’s a justifiable mission, but it needs to be accompanied by deep introspections to stand any chance of success.

Considerable upward mobility has occurred within the black section of the population. Some opening up of the economy has pushed many black households out of poverty to enter the low- to middle-income class. Many more – about a third of the population – have been saved from absolute poverty by a massive social grant programme. A few black individuals have moved into the middle- and higher-income bracket.

But inequality persists due to the fact that some of the key structural impediments remain in place. The historically privileged white groups

widely accepted that South Africa is one of the most unequal societies in the world – the top 10% of the population earn about 60% of all income and own 95% of all assets.”

The three academics further point out that “Gender inequality in wealth and income continues to be pervasive in South Africa. Significantly, black women continue to carry the burden of low-paid work.” In 2015, they argue, there were 1.1-million domestic workers in South Africa, 887,000 of them women, who earned less than R3,500 per month.”

They also point out that class is

the UK and the US, as the premier forum for global economic governance, the agenda of the G20 meetings is still largely set by the most powerful countries – which now include China, but not the other BRICS members.

On the IMF and World Bank participation, Bradlow says both these institutions changed their voting arrangements to give a louder voice to developing economies and emerging economies. “This has particularly benefitted China, India and Brazil. But BRICS hasn’t supported South Africa’s call for a third African seat on the board of the IMF. This has left Africa as the most underrepresented region on the board.”

Bond takes the argument further, arguing that “the BRICS [countries] are at their most self-destructive mode” in the role they play within global governance institutions. He notes that the latest rearrangement of voting right inside the IMF increased China’s voting power by 37%, Brazil’s by 23%, India’s by 11%, and Russia’s by 8%. “This is seen to have come at the expense of Nigeria, which lost 41% of voting power, Libya (39%), Morocco (27%), Gabon (26%), Algeria (26%), Namibia (26%) and even South Africa (21%).” This doesn’t augur well with the principles of equity that the BRICS are claiming to be serving.

Their claims, argues Bond, were further compromised by the deal that the BRICS New Development Bank signed with the World Bank. The deal would see the two organisations collaborate in the areas of project finance, facilitation of knowledge exchange, advisory services and secondment and staff exchanges. “The BRICS leaders may regret these growing ties to global power. As the BRICS-bloc coherence comes into question, a progressive BRICS-from-below network will offer a far more attractive version of South-South collaboration.”

To its credit, says Bradlow, BRICS has come up with new international financial institutions. The key ones are the BRICS’ New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement. But the New Development Bank operates in a less transparent and less accountable way than other multilateral development banks.



“ [BRICS]... opened spaces and opportunities for feminist activists from the global south to engage with the larger political economy debates. ”

- Priti Darooka, executive director, Programme on Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

For example, says Bradlow, it’s harder for outsiders to access information on the operational policies and practices of the bank than those of the World Bank or the African Development Bank. “Unlike those other banks, there isn’t yet a mechanism to hold the New Development Bank accountable if it causes harm.”

To fulfil their commitment to promote a more just and equitable global economy, the BRICS will need to up their game, says Bradlow “Achieving a just and equitable international economic order requires governments to take seriously their commitment to protect and promote human rights as set out in the UN Charter and other human rights treaties.”

The starting point, argues Bradlow, is

a commitment to respect and promote the rights of each individual affected by each project, programme or policy that the BRICS undertake.

“This requires developing a good system to forecast the impact of a project on the environment, society, and human rights. Another element is accountability. Any person adversely affected by a project should have access to a mechanism that can provide them with an effective remedy.”

Politics and civil society

Failure to engage broader civil society bases across the BRICS countries stands to undermine its vision to carve inclusive development through socially responsive economies. That failure is

partly reflected in the development of a civil society movement parallel to the BRICS annual summits.

Parallel to the ninth BRICS summit in Xiamen, China, stood the Hong Kong People's Forum. It is said to have been facilitated by Hong Kong's progressive labour, intellectual and faith leaders, and also drew other civil society representatives from 13 countries. They gathered to critique the exclusionary culture that's forming within the BRICS initiative. It was the latest on a trail of protest that includes

Women's rights in India

NCP's women wing president Supriya Sule with party workers protest outside the Sales Tax office, demanding exclusion of sanitary napkins from the GST ambit and to make it tax free.

the 2013 BRICS-from-below in Durban, the 2014 Dialogue on Development in Fortaleza, and the 2016 Goa People's Forum on BRICS.

This movement offers what is characterised as a "counternarrative to the neoliberal agenda" of the official BRICS summits. And they offer a platform for left-leaning civil society groups from the BRICS countries, who are excluded in official platforms, to air their views.

The character and role and impact of investment capital from within BRICS, particularly Chinese capital, comes under scrutiny. There are concerns that Chinese money in developing countries – with particular reference to resource-rich African nations – causes the same social havoc as that from Western nations. It can be extractive and exploitative against the people and the environment.

Bond, who attended the 2017 Hong Kong People's Forum, points out that the weaknesses run deeper. He argues there are powerful centrifugal forces that are tearing the BRICS and their stated agendas apart. This is partly driven by the changing ideological characters of new governments that have emerged in BRICS' states, argues Bond.

Gender sensitivity

BRICS philosophies, principles and ambitions are best reflected in the declarations issued after every annual summit. It's therefore fair to use these declarations to weigh up BRICS commitment on key issues. That exercise sees BRICS failing in its commitment to change from being a club of men.

A survey of the BRICS 2017 Xiamen Declaration draws no reference whatsoever to gender equality – there is a single and vague reference to the concept of "women economic empowerment". This can only undermine BRICS stature as an organisation that stands for inclusive development.

With the exception of South Africa, the BRICS countries generally reflect poor performance on gender-equality scales. The latest such scale would be the Gender Gap Report from the World Economic Forum. Only South Africa presents a respectable performance in this report, which measured the gender gap for economic participation and opportunity across 144 countries.

The report's overall finding was that the gender gap for economic participation and opportunity stood at 60% worldwide, which reflects a four-percentage-point improvement from 56% in 2006. The report measures the size of the gender inequality gap in four areas:

- Economic participation and opportunity – salaries, participation and leadership;
- Education – access to basic and higher levels of education;
- Political empowerment – representation in decision-making structures;
- Health and survival – life expectancy and sex ratio.

The report notes that the rate at which the world is addressing the gender gap is painfully slow. "Based on the prevailing trajectory, with all else remaining equal, it will take 81 years for the world to close the gender gap completely."

The Nordic nations remain the most gender-equal societies in the world. Iceland is on top, followed in the top 10 by Finland, Norway, Sweden, Rwanda, Ireland, Philippines, Slovenia, New Zealand and Nicaragua,

South Africa makes the top 15. The rest of the BRICS countries are laggards. Russia is at 75, followed by Brazil (79),

India (87) and China (99).

An initiative titled BRICS Feminist Watch may grow to save the situation. It has engaged the BRICS New Development Bank, among other interactions, to ensure that BRICS development activity is gender sensitive.

Priti Darooka, executive director of the Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, points out that BRICS Feminist Watch comes as a critical intervention, with a promise to add into BRICS space "the collective strength of feminist analysis and activism to promote gender-responsive inclusive economic development".

BRICS, argues Darooka, has to some extent created some chaos within the world order. The chaos "opened spaces and opportunities for feminist activists from the global south to engage with the larger political economy debates".

However, the central question of how to move the world out of the domination by the neoliberal model remains, Darooka argues: "BRICS offers one space upon which we can reflect and search for appropriate political strategies." BRICS Feminist Watch has a potential to seize the moment.

The BRICS Feminist Watch has wasted no time. Established last year, it has already commissioned and published a research paper on how to best tackle BRICS – and in particular the New Development Bank – titled: Taking it to the Bank: Gender Issues at the New Development Bank. Written by Shubha Chacko, the paper argues that the BRICS moment presents "a historic window of opportunity" to fashion a paradigm shift that is gender-sensitive on development approaches.

The NDB, says the paper, could offer the world not only a new way of doing business, but could also sow the seed of an alternative framing of the idea of development.

"The task for all of us is to keep the pressure up on the institution, and to monitor all aspects of its structure and activities to ensure greater adherence to its commitment to inclusion, equity and sustainability... It would be a tragedy if this new actor which could leverage for a stronger role of the global south in the field of development finance fails to do so," concludes Darooka. **BR**

INSIGHT

ABOUT WRITER

Ari Sitas, chairperson of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences & chairperson of the South African BRICS Think Tank

PROF. ARI SITAS

Reconfiguring the World System



ENVISIONING INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH A SOCIALLY RESPONSIVE ECONOMY

As South Africa assumes the BRICS chair, 2018 serves as a serious moment to take stock of achievements made collectively by the BRICS formation since its inception a decade ago. Perhaps the fact that we promulgated the initial ideas around the creation of a New Development Bank then, and also that we insisted that the inclusion of other non-BRICS countries – also known as BRICS Plus – in the summit should be about African pathways of development, were two critically important contributions.

What is South Africa bringing onto the agenda?

We are taking the lead at a time when the world system is experiencing unprecedented challenges and shocks, and where world economic growth has diminished from the 4.4% per annum during our 2013 stewardship to 2.5% per annum now. Only India and China are still pulling the statistics up above average – Russia and Brazil have plummeted into negative figures, and South Africa is growing at 1%; lower than our annual population growth.

As we take the BRICS lead after a year of decisive Chinese leadership, we take heed of Premier Xi Jinping's caution that all of us all need to respond creatively to what he called the "new normal", as the "pattern is changing from large-scale and





high-speed extensive growth to high-quality and efficient intensive growth". Gross Domestic Product expansion for him is not a panacea anymore. Rather, he urges, "ecological progress, advances in science and technology, and all-round innovation", are the factors that will hold the key to the door of the future. And not all innovation – "but innovation based on research and technologies of public benefit".

We are also taking the lead in a context where for our purposes the crises of poverty, unemployment and a gnawing inequality persist as serious impediments to the better life for all that our democratic breakthrough promised back in 1994. That is why the theme for our BRICS Think Tank for the year is Envisioning Inclusive Development

innovation.

What follows is a description of the prisms through which our work will be conducted, and the priorities for the BRICS Think Tanks Council and its Academic Forum in late May 2018. Then we will try to make transparent the framework through which we see our priorities as thinkers in the BRICS domain.

We are living in the midst of and witnessing a major reconfiguration of the world system – which is nudging us away from the unipolar world that emerged with seeming confidence under the USA's stewardship as the Soviet world collapsed.

Caught between the "end of history" talk and the enticing idea of the "information age" and its "global village", we were rather late in understanding a

“ We are living in the midst of and witnessing a major reconfiguration of the world system – which is nudging us away from the unipolar world that emerged with seeming confidence under the USA's stewardship as the Soviet world collapsed. ”

through a Socially Responsive Economy. We would like to inform our Chinese counterparts that we have taken to heart their premier's take on a new development concept: "the concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development".

As you shall see, we are working in tandem with critical priorities brought forward by the government's task teams to take the lead: in peace and security, in innovations for development based on the fourth industrial revolution, in the creation of a women and gender BRICS forum, and the creation of a platform for an research and development centre for vaccine development, implementation and

tectonic shift. But it was there in 2003 when the World Trade Organisation talks collapsed in Cancun, and very much there in 2008-9 when the economic meltdown scuttled parts of the global economy.

For a while the Braudellian School around Immanuel Wallerstein had been arguing that we are living through a systemic crisis and that the United States's hegemony was waning. Their arguments were dwarfed by the post-1989 dominance of neoconservative thinking in politics and neoliberalism in economics. The reconfiguration we are experiencing was of course punctuated by the emergence of BRICS as a developmental pact, rather than a "growth alliance". At first

it was shaped by a series of multilateral and bilateral interactions. Picture this: at a certain point of their endogenous development as industrial societies, each one of the BRICS partners sought a move towards an openness to the world economy. China's Four Modernisations Policy, Gorbachev's Perestroika, India's 4th Plan, Brazil's Cardoso-led globalisation and even apartheid's New Economic Policy (later taken over by the ANC's macro-economic policy after 1994) nudged all of these societies into a world of markets that were self-serving for those who deemed themselves "developed".

Thus what followed, as we say... followed: thus, the breakdown in Cancun, thus IBSA (India Brazil, South Africa cooperation), thus Russia-China Friendship agreement, thus China-Africa (Beijing Consensus), thus BRIC and later, BRICS. And by time of the BRICS Summits of Fortaleza in Brazil and Ufa in Russia, the concerns moved beyond the economic, to deal with interstate relations and a range of norms and agreements that will need a number of talks and discussions like these to seriously explore. It is through them that the principle of a multipolar world emerged as an architecture for and a commitment to the world system.

In other words, we are living through an epochal change, similar to the period between 1400-1700 which saw the gradual ascendance of the West and the involution of the Rest. But let us stay with the 1500s where China was undergoing an industrious revolution during the last century of its Ming period. Of the 21 cities with more than 100 000 people, 15 were located East and only 3 in Europe, with Paris catching up with Genoa and Venice.

As in that prior period, what is emerging and declining is highly interconnected, uneven and contradictory. For us in South Africa, the BRICS initiative is beyond the obvious new trade winds – the creation of a world system with a cooperative set of relations, respectful of sovereignty and difference was appreciated. What was also appreciated is that it may create a structured opportunity for Africa to move out of the blockages that rendered most of



“The reconfiguration we are experiencing was of course punctuated by the emergence of BRICS as a developmental pact, rather than a “growth alliance”.”

the continent a vassal state of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. However frightening and uncertain a move away from the Washington Consensus might be, it seems like an unavoidable reality.

But we cannot rely clichés: science demands that we understand what hegemonic powers “systematise” – and here, we have only two case studies in world history, but we can also look at smaller units of absolutist states in interaction from the 11th to the 15th

century CE. The clearest was what Britain achieved between the 1790s and the 1890s. It was remarkable and unprecedented in world history. For a brief period it reconfigured the world system, by the late 19th century managing to combine control over material and symbolic value. What it achieved in the eras of colonialism and imperialism was beyond industrialisation and pure competitive advantage.

Looked at with a cruel eye: it was a system that aimed and systematised towards unipolarity, but which compromised on variety to immunise deviance and threats. It is the very system that the US tried to re-steer after the Second World War.

It is the challenge to our academic community to decipher what about BRICS is novel in terms of its reconfiguration efforts, despite the fact that it is work in progress. But the critical work needs its time: in nudging the world towards a “cautious” multipolarity, how do the new steering systems work around equality of voice, what the Chinese are arguing for “win-win” relationships, “people to people” encounters and new developmental priorities? And what about South Africa? What do we bring to the agenda?

BRICS is not challenging the existing multilateral system, nor is it trying to subvert or create alternatives to the United Nations system's working institutions. What it is trying to do is to strengthen it, while at the same time create a multipolar framework for cooperation. How we understand the word “reconfiguration” must bear this in mind.

Finally, on narratives of success: whatever is articulated, it will not be heard clearly in networks that have already cast BRICS as a negative and short-term phenomenon. The fact that these countries represent 40 percent of the world population, that they generated 20 percent of world output in 2016, and have accounted for 50 percent of global growth since the end of 2009 (even though South Africa joined later) should add some gravitas. **BR**

Abridged version of a paper delivered at the first BRICS 2018 Lecture at WITS Business School in February 2018

OP-ED

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What's new about the New Development Bank?

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MARIANNE BUENAVENTURA
GOLDMAN & AMANDA LUCEY

The BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB) is the first multilateral development bank established exclusively by emerging and developing countries to support infrastructure and sustainable development in BRICS and other emerging-market economies. As such, it can be viewed as one of the first multiregional development banks led by the South, for the South.

The African Regional Center (ARC) of the NDB, launched in August 2017, heralds cautious optimism for the African continent. From the NDB's initial proclamations, it appears that there is a real opportunity for this new source of financing to provide resources for sustainable infrastructure that will first benefit South Africa, and then the

The president of the BRICS New Development Bank, KV Kamath and former International Relations Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane during the launch of the bank at the African Regional Centre on August 17, 2017 in Sandton, South Africa

continent at large, in a people-centred way. However, these promises will not be realised through rhetoric but through concrete action.

According to the NDB, infrastructure projects will incorporate economic, environmental and social aspects in their design, building and operation. The NDB intends to focus on infrastructure



projects related to urban development, water, energy and transport – areas that are not necessarily new to Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) but that present additional sources of financing for African countries in a climate of global austerity.

Where the NDB intends to be different, however, is in the way it engages in relationships, projects and instruments, as well as approaches, and in particular with civil society. Its operational strategy between 2017 and 2020 emphasises this, along with the principles often inherent in South-South co-operation: equality, mutual respect, trust and national sovereignty. While this sounds good on paper, the NDB has already initiated 13 projects at a total value of over US\$3-billion, but there has been no consultation regarding these projects with civil society or the greater public.

From a national context, the NDB has not undertaken any projects in South Africa since it put on ice a loan to Eskom to build transmission lines to connect renewable energy to the national grid. Given the financial crisis and numerous challenges faced by Eskom, one could ask how the decision was made in awarding Eskom the first NDB loan for South Africa.

BRICS civil society organisations (CSOs) had a meeting with the NDB board of directors in Shanghai in November 2017. Of the main key asks in their Shanghai Communiqué is a call for greater transparency and accountability. As part of its information disclosure policy, the NDB has provided a form on its website where the public can request information. Despite numerous requests put forward by BRICS CSOs submitted as far back as May 2017 through the NDB website's public information disclosure request form,

New Development Bank is currently headquartered in BRICS Tower (formerly the Oriental Financial Centre) in Shanghai

responses have not been forthcoming. While the NDB explains that having a lean structure with a six-month target of loan preparation process, a stronger emphasis should be placed on public engagement and civil society consultation.

It is also important to emphasise

“While this sounds good on paper, the NDB has already initiated 13 projects to a total value of over US\$3-billion, but there has been no consultation regarding these projects with civil society or the greater public.”

the value of feedback from communities, which should be taken into consideration at all stages of the project cycle. Community consultation is integral to ensure that projects are effective, efficient and benefit communities at large. To do this properly, the Shanghai Communiqué calls on the NDB to establish effective mechanisms of accountability, consultation and redress. These mechanisms should be established for projects in the BRICS countries and beyond. For Africa, this is critical as the NDB expands its membership in the continent with its focus on regional



MEET MONALE RATSOMA

head of the New
Development Bank
African Regional Center

Ratsoma took the reins as head of the New Development Bank (NDB) in mid-April 2018. His role entails managing the NDB's African regional operations and leading its African efforts in project preparation, project implementation and regional portfolio management. The role also entails collaborating with established infrastructure and sustainable development entities, as well as representative offices of multilateral and regional development banks.

Before his appointment at the NDB, Ratsoma served as National Treasury's deputy director-general for economic policy. He joined National Treasury in 2011 as chief director: liability management. He was later appointed as deputy director-general: economic policy in 2015. In 2016 he was given the additional responsibility to act as a director-general for the international and regional economic policy unit until March 2018.

Ratsoma spoke to Business Day TV a few days before he stepped into the position and said: "The focus is on the challenges that lie ahead and the quicker I rolls up my sleeves, the better."

On infrastructure investments on the continent, Ratsoma said that "Africa has large infrastructure gaps and South Africa is no exception. Where it becomes problematic is when you end up with a considerable amount of trade leakage to parts of the world beyond the continent because the infrastructure is not sufficient to facilitate free movement of goods and people. Until such time that we address the infrastructure bottlenecks, the continent will continue to underperform compared to the rest of the world".

He added that, "given that the bank itself is still in its infant stage and initially there will be balance sheet constraints, which is where we are, with the capital that the members have provided there are projects that have been approved elsewhere within member countries. In South Africa, there are projects that will be approved in the next few months. The idea, of course, is to expand the balance sheet of the New Development Bank to be able to have a much larger reach and that's where the continent will be benefiting increasingly. One such programme will be that the bank will be able to borrow money itself and then on lend money to various infrastructure programmes on the continent of Africa and other parts of the world as it expands."

**New Development Bank African
Regional Center Address
135 Daisy St, Sandown
Sandton, 2031**



NDB signed off the first loan agreement for financing Shanghai Lingang distributed solar power project

“Community consultation is integral to ensure that projects are effective, efficient and benefit communities at large.”

integration and co-operation.

Another important ask of the Shanghai Communiqué is for the NDB to develop a comprehensive and mandatory gender policy to guide all NDB’s structure, governance and operations. Such a gender policy would assist in ensuring the NDB is sensitive to the needs of those who are poorest and most marginalised, as well as tackle inequalities that exclude women and girls’ access to opportunities for economic, social and political participation in BRICS countries as well as in the Africa region.

The NDB clearly shows its interest to support infrastructure projects. Its mandate also emphasises support to

sustainable development. Despite many civil society actors’ call for the NDB to reject coal and nuclear energy projects, the bank still expresses openness to funding such projects. Civil society calls for this to be further reviewed and to show how NDB projects will incorporate not just economic aspects but also clear environmental and social benefits. Civil society is also keen to engage the NDB ARC on how it defines sustainable infrastructure, including criteria by which it selects its projects both for South Africa and the greater continent.

Many of the above concerns were discussed and debated at a meeting hosted by Oxfam and African Monitor

entitled ‘What’s new about the New Development Bank: Dialogue on the launch of the NDB ARC and what it means for Africa’ held in March 2018. Following the meeting, interested participants formed a CSO-NDB working group to consider important issues and keys asks on the NDB and ARC in preparation for a civil BRICS meeting to take place in Johannesburg on 25 and 26 June 2018. The meeting comes as South Africa has taken up the rotational chair for the 2018 BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Summit and will be hosting the 10th summit in July 2018.

The NDB offers the African continent promise of a new way of working that that is transformative, inclusive and participatory. But it must now begin to work in this way in order to live up to its name and show that it is truly an alternative to the older traditional development banks. **BR**



03

Prof Rasigan Maharajh,
Institute for Economic
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**BRICS Partnerships
for Cooperation on
Reform of Global
Financial Governance**

04 ESSAYS

PREFACE: AS WE REFLECT ON A
DECADE OF BRICS, WE ASKED
OUR ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTORS
TO PONDER OVER ISSUES THAT
HAVE OCCUPIED THEIR MINDS.

04

Seeraj Mohamed,
Economics
Research

01

Dr Philani Mthembu,
Executive Director,
Institute for Global
Dialogue

**Global Governance
in a Multipolar World:
BRICS and the Diffusion
of Power and Ideas**

02

Prof Siphamandla Zondi,
Department of Political
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of Pretoria



01



Following the unipolar moment that accompanied the fall of the Soviet Union, the United States emerged as the sole superpower in global politics. However, much has since occurred to dispel the notion that unipolarity would be the dominant post-cold war configuration of global power. Indeed the rise of Southern powers, (The term southern powers, as opposed to emerging powers, denotes the endless emergence of their geopolitical influence as countries of the global south. They fill a void that neither advanced economies nor emerging countries have been able to fill) most well encapsulated through the BRICS formation has gradually ushered in an increasingly multipolar world order that requires new thinking, global governance reforms, and new institutions to solve the most pressing problems of the day. However, due to the increasing number of actors outside of the nation state, the exercise of global governance will increasingly have to factor in the inclusion of non- traditional actors in problem solving. Attempts to not only involve more state actors, but to also create spaces for think tanks and the research they produce have become more evident in recent years, while the business community and various civil society stakeholders have also increasingly been granted the space to engage with policy makers on the sidelines of major international summits. This has been evident under the BRICS Summits and the through the G20 Summits.

In the South African context, the state has taken note of the changing geopolitical landscape and the increasing importance of non-state actors as both catalysts of global problems and as problem solvers, and this is captured through the country's 2011 white paper on foreign policy,

Global Governance in a Multipolar World: BRICS and the Diffusion of Power and Ideas

by Dr Philani Mthembu

titled the 'Diplomacy of Ubuntu'. Indeed when so many of the world's global threats are no longer confined to specific nation states (although these continue to pose their own threats), but involve a plethora of non-state actors, it is important that the evolving geopolitical landscape also takes this into cognizance.

Indeed it was not only at the state level that BRICS countries have sought global reforms, but their research community, non-profit organisations, and civil society have been actively pushing for the reform of the global governance institutions in line with the changing nature of global politics. In the absence of a global hegemon willing and able to impose its will on other countries, it will be more difficult to manufacture consensus, making the evolving landscape more complex with additional nation states and additional actors at the sub-state and transnational level.

The growing significance of BRICS countries – individually and collectively – in global politics is not in doubt. According to the 2014 World Economic Outlook BRICS countries together account for 19.8 percent of world GDP, US\$ 3.19 billion of total exports, share total trade worth US\$ 6.14 trillion, while they also account for 16.9 percent share of world trade.

However, while they have managed to work together on global governance reform and in the creation of new institutions, there is potential for further growth, intra-BRICS trade, as displayed in the following import and export numbers have been growing faster than world averages. What should also be noted is that 'the participation of BRICS in global exports more than doubled between 2001 and 2011, from 8% to 16%. In

those eleven years, their total exports have grown more than 500%, while total global exports grew 195% in the same period.' It should also be noted that '[b]etween 2002 and 2012, intra-BRICS trade increased 922%, from US\$ 27 to 276 billion, while between 2010-2012, BRICS' international trade rose 29%, from US\$4.7 to 6.1 trillion dollars'.

These trade figures provided by the Brazilian Ministry of External in 2017 have ensured that BRICS countries are able to push for gradual reforms to the existing global institutions while also applying pressure in the form of creating new structures such as the New Development Bank. This ensures that pressure has been applied from within and without institutions of global governance for reform and new thinking.

Strategic reformers on the rise: Pressure from within and without institutions of global governance

The reform agenda of BRICS countries is focused on the likes of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), World Trade Organisation (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank (WB) structures that were formed following the victory of the allies after World War II. While China and Russia are the only members in the UNSC, Brazil, India, and South Africa have argued for an expanded Security Council reflective of the contemporary global political and economic landscape. However, given the veto power entrusted to all members of the Security Council, it has proven difficult to see these reforms through, as they would entail current members losing some of their influence within the Security Council.

Within the WTO BRICS countries have called for a fair trade deal and greater transparency away from the more exclusive Green Room type negotiations. The increased bargaining power exhibited by Southern powers throughout the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) has partly led to developed countries seeking to circumvent the WTO through negotiating their own exclusive mega-

regional trade and investment agreements. This was evident in the failed attempts to negotiate the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and the EU.

While there has been transfer of power from developed countries to developing countries in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), for instance, power dynamics in these institutions remain disproportionately skewed against southern powers. Although these are integral aspects of the reform agenda within existing institutions of global governance, BRICS countries are not only involved in the strategic reform of existing institutions, but also in creating new institutions to fund their own ideas.

The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) is a case in point, and it has already begun to disburse loans to BRICS countries. The potential in the formation of the NDB lies not only in the loans it gives, but also in the inherent ideas emanating from leading countries of the global South. Possibilities abound of it becoming a knowledge bank, sharing and implementing new ideas on development. So far, over US\$1.5 billion worth of loans have been dispersed by the NDB to fund various development projects in the BRICS in the sectors of renewable energy and road infrastructure.

For South Africa, ensuring the full functionality of the NDB is pivotal since it will take up the BRICS Presidency in 2018. These new structures are thus adding new layers to the existing global governance architecture, which will allow Southern powers to demonstrate their record of accomplishment on development and international cooperation within existing structures of global governance, thus exercising pressure from within and without. What is important to note is that this challenges the existing monopoly of ideas. The diffusion of power towards a multipolar world order is thus being accompanied by a diffusion of ideas from the global South into traditional institutions of global governance, especially in the realm of international development.

“ The exercise of global governance will increasingly have to factor in the inclusion of non- traditional actors in problem solving ”

Towards a Diffusion of Power and Ideas

The BRICS as a share of global GDP, which is without question enormous, highlighting the reality of a shift in the configuration of power at the global level. The result of this pressure from within the post-1945 institutional architecture of global governance and the creation of new institutions led by countries of the global South is not only likely to lead to a diffusion of power in the global political and economic order. Indeed, it will increasingly lead to a diffusion of ideas away from the OECD DAC member states to an exposure of ideas from Southern powers, who have been experimenting with various development models instead of wholeheartedly adopting Western led policy directives. It will also lead to more collaborative research endeavours and joint policy advice from Southern and Northern researchers. Absent a major conflict, the evolving multipolar world order is thus one likely to witness the co-existence of a whole range of schools of thought instead of a consensus enforced through the economic and military power of a hegemonic power. Instead of a one size fits all model, there exists the opportunity for some countries to exercise greater sovereignty in their own regions while maintaining open relations with the rest of the world. This is especially true when one takes into account the values of non-interference in the domestic affairs of fellow

countries so entrenched in the ideas emanating from the global South. What will be important is to ensure that as the global architecture continues to evolve, the inclusivity comes not only in the inclusion of Southern powers through state led initiatives, but that non-state actors are also brought into the fold.

Towards an Inclusive Global Governance Architecture

This idea of an inclusive approach to both foreign policy making at home, but also to global governance in its entirety will be an important contribution made by South Africa's continuous engagement with the BRICS countries and global governance architecture. This is especially true because global Summits such as the BRICS and G20 are increasingly realising the added value of creating platforms for deeper engagement amongst a variety of non-state actors in the respective countries. The business community, civil society, think tanks, and even political parties have now become an integral part of the business of BRICS.

This is certainly welcome since it will deepen relations and make them more sustainable and enduring as political changes take place in individual countries. Indeed no nation state can implement any bilateral or multilateral agreement without the buy in from civil society, researchers, and the business community.

Recent years have indeed witnessed how epistemic communities, through experts, civil society, and labour movements have been able to mobilise towards international agreements. The Seattle talks of the WTO witnessed the largest global protests at the time, while in recent years civil society organisations, working with the research community have been able to indefinitely stop negotiations towards the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and the European Union. It is thus important to ensure that Southern powers, through their efforts to reform global governance structures, anticipate these changes and react in a proactive instead of a reactive manner.

02



There will always be good reason why large group of nations and peoples are discontented about their integration to a globalized system of economy, culture, security and politics. It is because the process by which globalisation came about was fundamentally unjust and unfair for them, being a process designed, managed, led and governed by a few nations of the West to their advantage. It is not an inclusive process seeking to make a better world for all, to the benefit of all, possible, but it is a process born about globalization of Western imperialism, coloniality, modernity and cosmopolitanism into which “others” were forced, cajoled and later “invited”. In this sense, the malcontents of globalization go beyond how it has benefitted some economically more than others, because they also relate to the very making of the global, alongside the international, unequal system of power extended over the globe. That many “emerging economies” have assumed a greater role in and benefits from a globalized economy does not mean globalization has then ceased to be a system privileging one part of the world as its centre. That China is set to become the biggest economic power globally and other emerging economies are leapfrogging established Western economies slowly will not change the underlying and foundational logic of globalization. It will not be until efforts are made to de-imperialize and decolonize it in the sense of giving an underlying logic that seeks to make the world a better place for all.

Point of Departure: The Geography of Reason

The priorities for us today in terms of thinking about solutions and finding innovative ways to achieve greater

A decolonial south-centric perspective on BRICS in the era of globalization and a new type of global governance

by Prof Siphamandla Zondi

benefits for our society are not matters we artificially create, but are handed down to us by a history we have emerged from. For this reason, what the global South ends up prioritizing as its crucial objectives in the process of making a better world for all possible arises out of a prior condition the South did not itself make. This prior condition is one of a world for some into which others were initially forced in processes including property dispossession, enslavement, colonization, genocides and other forms of violence, one where they are now being invited. It is the prior condition of a world in which they outside even after joining in, a world that put them in the periphery, including their cultures, their languages, their ways of being, their economic interests, and their worth. It is what JM Blaut terms “a colonizer’s version of the world”.

Small wonder the thinker from the periphery is predisposed to be combatant in their thinking and the radical shift towards the creation of a just world system. Calls from the south to quicken the reformation of institutions of global governance stem from awareness of position of subjugation reinforced by the lower rung of economic hierarchy on which countries of the south perpetually and downheartedly find themselves.

BRICS and the Globalization

It is in this context that BRICS’s emergence is seen as significant in the global South, a project for global reforms necessary for transforming over time towards a prosperous, peaceful and just world for all. The BRICs that the investment bank, Goldman Sachs, anticipated in the early 2000s was an addition in the making of the mainstream globalization and its global power structures.

It was a project in extending the responsibility for the Western-driven globalization to a few emerging economies of the South on account of the size of their GDPs and their growing voice in economic platforms. It is their capitalist and the liberal democratic credentials of some of the BRICs that qualified them as sub-imperialist forces to perpetuate the status quo with some reforms here and there, such as their participation in privileged discussion forums like the G20.

But the BRICS that emerged in 2009 was different from this, when seen from a critical South perspective. It is not significant only in its degree of integration into the global economy, but its discontent about the inequity in this integration. They are not measured just by the size of their GDP but the size of their ambition to transform the global system that they had no role in designing in the first place. Their value is not measured only by their growing participation in esteemed platforms for managing the Western-centred system, but their willingness to ask difficult and uncomfortable questions in these platforms. It is not just their participation in institutions of global governance, but their willingness to do so while representing the views, aspirations and ideas of those excluded from the centre.

The BRICS is a platform for seeking alternatives to Western-centric globalization, for pursuing another kind of globalization. It was born with the promise to transform the world in favour of the excluded, especially emerging powers. It was born not as an appendage to the imperial West, but a thorn in its flesh albeit in subtle and quiet ways. The BRICS has taken a posture that is almost completely opposite of what Goldman Sachs and the West generally anticipated. It is for this reason, there is fear in the North that the BRICS could scuttle the entire Western global agenda and open the system up to diverse influences and possibilities.

Critical to this is the growing cohesion in BRICS voice on its agenda in spite of its many weakness including internal divergences of political and economic situations

and fears that the BRICS is becoming a platform for sub-imperialism. This voice is for the reform of institutions of global governance, principally the UN Security Council, the IMF and the World Bank as well as its voice in favour of stronger and more effective G20 as a sort of a transitional phase towards a world for all. The following mark the key principles in the BRICS agenda so far and one that is evolving in respect of what must be achieved in transforming institutions of global governance:

Global equity: The BRICS want an end to the power of the West to single-handedly decide the leadership of the IMF and World Bank.

Global justice: The concentration of poverty, violence and despair in the global South is not an act of nature or just failure of the South, but it is an outcome of inherently flawed structural arrangements. Understanding deep-seated injustices that have been committed necessitates frank conversations about steps to advance the reformation of global governance agenda.

Global equality: BRICS messages require the agreement at the global level that the global poverty and inequality that persists through phases of global prosperity and crises are deeply structural and that they are part of the reason some parts of the world have prospered more continuously for decades.

Global fairness: In the main, the principles is about matters of procedure and process mainly, in our view. This principle creates space for thinking about reforms to the rules of procedure, to attitudes and to paradigms of international relations in the quest for greater procedural fairness and achievement of fair outcomes for all. Agency of the Developing World: The principle implies that the BRICS intend to ensure that the developing world is taken seriously. This entails recognizing the voice of alliances that are challenging for reforms and

transformation. This is the logic behind the founding of the New Development Bank, the common currency mechanism, the role played by BRICS in the climate change outcomes since 2011, the BRICS harmonized positions with the G20 and the WTO, the posture on IMF and World Bank reforms and so forth.

The BRICS do not have to achieve these principles by themselves, but because these are commonly held ideas right through the global South community of institutions, the BRICS can rely on alignment with other platforms seeking fundamental change of global governance. These include the G77+China, the G24, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), India Brazil South Africa (IBSA), and so forth. Progress in championing these and other related principles will depend on a number of conditions that the BRICS must think about and decide on. I offer these condition as recommendations and they are as follows:

Strengthening the BRICS cohesion: The achievement of its ambitious agenda in a world system hostile to the agency of the non-West in global governance will require greater internal cohesion within BRICS. This must related to three areas, at least: shared vision and aspiration; coherence in policy programmes across BRICS; and greater institutionalization of the BRICS in global governance.

Harnessing Catalytic Capacity: BRICS needs to acquire the ability to act as a catalyst for placing transformation of global governance at the centre of global discussions and activities across the globalisation landscape. Efforts should centre on forging strategic alliances among various global south formations, including civil society and inter-state initiatives that can water down the neoliberal and neo-colonial presence of the West.

Guarding the Credibility and Legitimacy of the BRICS: Legitimacy must derive from at least two factors: their connection with the peoples of BRICS and the rest

“ The BRICS is a platform for seeking alternatives to Western-centric globalization, for pursuing another kind of globalization ”

of the South by positioning themselves as advancing the interests of not only states in the developing world but also ordinary people; and projecting themselves to the world as concerned about creating a world that favours all, a message that people in both the South and the North need to hear. Credibility must derive, in our view, from the ability of the BRICS to follow through on their promises, ensuring that their bold actions such as funding alternative energy projects have a bearing on peoples on the ground.

A credible, legitimate, effective and efficient BRICS has a better chance of succeeding in building the momentum for a global push for fundamental transformation from colonially-inspired and imperial global system towards one that includes and works for all. The BRICS' promise to lead the efforts to bring about a new global governance should not mean that the BRICS will produce a blueprint that all must just rubber stamp, but that it should open the space for the whole world to design the alternative global governance by championing cardinal principles mentioned above in existing and new global governance institutions. But the BRICS will require conditions like own internal cohesion, catalytic ability and legitimacy and credibility to succeed in getting its ambitions translated into reality.



Sustainable Development for Us All: What the BRICS can do

by Prof Rasigan Maharajh

The global ecology has been under stress for a long period of time. Relentless economic growth has expanded production frontiers and incorporated more of the world into the logic of capitalism. The current challenges of accelerating climate change, decreasing biodiversity, and the widening metabolic rift is generating significant stresses for the existing countries of the world and exacerbating tensions between them. A lot of the pressure relates to the fact that the environment has been treated as a 'gift of nature' and hence, the assumption that it constituted a 'free' resource. We now recognise that this has led to pricing that was not based on realities, but rather framed as externalities. The net effect of such a presumption has been the accumulation of pollution and waste in the spaces that should have been protected as commons. The demands for full-cost accounting has however not advanced sufficiently to alter the desperate situation we are currently in.

The World Resources Institute has published its estimates of the cumulative emissions of carbon dioxide by the countries of the world between the year 1850 until 2011 (WRI, 2014). According to their dataset, the USA contributed 27% of the total cumulative emissions, whilst China produced 11%, Russia produced 8%, India produced 3%, Brazil produced 1%, and South Africa's figures were too low to feature. With these figures in mind, we can make the claim that the BRICS could be seen to have cumulatively emitted over 23% of carbon dioxide between 1850 and 2011. The BRICS total is therefore still less than that produced by USA on its own over the 161-year period. With respect to greenhouse gases, the WRI has measured the cumulative emissions between 1990 and 2011. In this

21-year period, the USA produced 16% of the world total and was followed respectively by China (15%), Russia (6%), Brazil (5%), India (4%), with a negligible amount from South Africa. Therefore, the BRICS generated less than 30% which is slightly less than what is produced by the rest of the world that accounts for 31% of GHG emissions.

The 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have concluded that the historical pattern of GHG emissions is unsustainable into the future. Scientific consensus suggests that persistence along the current trajectories would ultimately generate significant increases in surface temperature on the planet and result in catastrophic consequences for life. The Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC established an international agreement that sought to halt or at least reduce GHG emissions in Paris in 2015. According to the Paris Agreement, all member-states would publish their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) including both conditional and unconditional efforts at staving off the impending climate disaster (UNFCCC, 2015). By 2017, almost 193 member-states had submitted their INDCs, whilst 155 countries formally ratified the Paris Agreement and thereby translated their INDCs into nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The primary objective of the Paris Agreement was about a commitment to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels"

Climate Action Tracker further calculated that "if governments were to fully implement their Nationally

Determined Contributions, global warming in 2100 of 2.8°C above pre-industrial would result”. The United Nations Environment (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report of 2016 also found that “global greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow, and while the indications are encouraging that the growth rate of global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use and industry is slowing, it is still too early to say whether this is likely to be permanent”. In June 2017, the most advanced and mature capitalist economy, the USA, announced that it was withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. Preceding this unilateral exit from a multilateral agreement, the Trump Administration issued an Executive Order, which will have severe negative implications on meeting its Paris Agreement obligations by 2025. This decision has drawn reactions from various quarters such as the UN High Commission for Human Rights who expressed dismay at the U.S. withdrawal. Similar reactions came from the Atmospheric Research Environment Department of the World Meteorological Organisation cautioning that the U.S. decision could result in a rise in global temperatures by 0.3 per cent by the end of the century.

In light of these developments, the BRICS are resolute in their intent to continue efforts to meet this commitment. Thus, whilst the contemporary global hegemon - the USA - which has contributed the most to GHG accumulation excludes itself from redressing the looming ecological catastrophe, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa have all indicated plans to moderate their own developmental expansions and curb their respective emissions.

In the preface to the World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) 2016 of the UN, the Secretary General argues that the report “... advances our understanding of the many links between climate and development. Sadly, the people at greatest risk from climate hazards are the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized who, in many cases, have been excluded from socioeconomic progress”. Building on this important distinction, the report finds

that “(n)ot all countries experience the effects of climate hazards on their human and natural systems in the same way or proportion”. The report utilises the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index to estimate the risk of climate change of all countries and found that “countries at the highest risk of climate change are concentrated in Africa and South and South-East Asia, where the capacity to prevent (or even cope with) most negative impacts is poor”. The report also restates that “countries in Africa are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. By 2020, between 75 million and 250 million people in Africa are projected to be exposed to increased water stress owing to climate change and as a consequence, yields in some countries could be reduced by up to 50 per cent. Agricultural production, including access to food, in many African countries is projected to be severely compromised. By 2080, in Africa, an increase from 5 to 8 per cent in arid and semiarid land is projected under a range of climate scenarios. Further, the projected cost of adaptation could amount to 5-10 per cent of GDP”.

Marshall Burke and colleagues engaged with the micro- and macro-level data generated by coupled human-natural systems and the global impact of climate change to determine that “overall economic productivity is nonlinear in temperature for all countries, with productivity peaking at an annual average temperature of 13.6°C and declining strongly at higher temperatures. The relationship is globally generalizable, unchanged since 1960, and apparent for agricultural and non-agricultural activity in both rich and poor countries”. They provide an evidence-base which recognises that “economic activity in all regions is coupled to the global climate and establish a new empirical foundation for modelling economic loss in response to climate change”. On this basis, Burke et al establish that “unmitigated warming is expected to reshape the global economy by reducing average global incomes roughly 23% by 2100 and widening global income inequality, relative to scenarios without climate change”. The Brookings Institute goes further in arguing that “Sub-Saharan Africa

“ The BRICS should further improve its institutional capacities that seek to learn and teach effectively ”

is predicted to bear the brunt of climate change going forward. Not only will this phenomenon create droughts, floods, famines, and other disasters, unsurprisingly, is it also predicted to greatly and negatively impact the region's economic growth”.

Unmitigated changes in climate are estimated to have massive effects on the market value of all final goods and services produced in the 49 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This will reduce the possibility of redressing their developmental challenges and building productive and sustainable economies. It is in this context of the need for cooperation and solidarity, the BRICS should intervene to remedy the situation. The UN's Agenda 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a well-articulated and clearly indicated (sic) roadmap towards co-creating solutions that build the world that we want. This strategic perspective of the peripheral and semi-peripheral world systems should be counterpoised to the dominant competitive narrative that seeks economic growth for the purposes of private accumulation at the expense of shared social development. Such a discourse seeks to further the objectives of the advanced core capitalist economies and is reproduced variously through its media monopolies, cultural industries, and 'think-tanks' such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Sustainable Development Goals as a Global Mechanism for Transformation

BRICS countries welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UN. The 8th BRICS Summit welcomed all effort to create a just world premised on the values of fairness and equity for all nations of the world. According to the BRICS, the UN's Agenda 2030 poverty-eradication focused and thus places economic, social and environmental dimensions right at the heart of sustainable development. The BRICS also committed to “lead by example in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in line with national circumstances and development context respecting the national policy space”.

While the 17 SDGs may appear as a large number, they are in fact reduced as the result of numerous multilateral negotiations including a high-level political panel of the UN. The SDGs came into effect on the 1st of January 2016 and remains the main policy and funding framework for the UN over the next 15 years until 2030. As a normative perspective, the SDGs are underpinned by certain assumptions. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects of 2017, “world gross product is expected to expand by 2.7 per cent in 2017 and 2.9 per cent in 2018”. Compared to the previous year, the economic expansion expected for the current year is indicative of faster change. However, growth remains below requisite levels to ensure that the SDGs are realised within a reasonable time period. Thus, in the ninth year of the BRICS, the SDGs are already prone to not being achievable because of the sluggish global economic environment. The persistence of a negative international economic situation in fact extends since the global financial crisis of 2007/8 and has not significantly altered.

Failure of the UN member states to achieving the now defunct Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are well-documented and the SDGs are not merely their replacement, but simply a symptom of that failure. The International Council for Sciences (ICSU) have cautioned

against reproducing one-size-fits-all approach to achieving the SDGs. Positive interactions between policymakers and researchers are absolutely vital and this will require identifying and testing development pathways. The emergence of this need has prompted the ICSU to develop a framework aimed at reducing planning difficulties and allowing for a transparent assessment of interventions between the SDGs. For the BRICS, it may be necessary to push the research frontiers even further forward. As some within the BRICS consider an ecological civilisation, it is also important to redress the metabolic rift established in the long evolutionary history of humanity and further embellished with the advent of industrial capitalism. Consistent with the principles of constituting an alternative to the multilateral edifices of global capitalism, the BRICS as recognised in their endorsement of the SDGs of the UN will be required to encourage the construction of people-centred Infrastructures that in their design and implementation advance the BRICS commitment to sustainability and resilience. This entails re-envisioning the most critical contemporary tasks as requiring a focus on societal well-being, and not merely to mimic the global North's ecocidal fixation with economic growth whereby profits for elites' trump the demands of the overwhelming majority of global citizens and other living forms on the planet Earth.

Sustaining Development for a Brighter Future for All

It is imperative that the BRICS remain resolute and join with the UN-DESA who see that "renewed efforts are needed to ensure progress in key areas of global importance, including aligning the multilateral trading system with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; expanding international public finance and official development aid; supporting climate finance and clean technology transfer; and addressing the challenges posed by large movements of refugees and migrants".

The BRICS should further improve its institutional capacities that seek to learn and teach effectively. As the

leading edge of the semi-peripheral countries, the BRICS can utilise the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs to generate effective capabilities for "integrated policy-planning, monitoring and review" especially within a global situation which remains combined, uneven, and yet, common. Such needs and demands may be useful in also shaping and scaling the emergent collaborative BRICS competences in Science, Technology and Innovation.

The following three recommendations are made in light of the recent developments around climate change and the role of the BRICS thereof in championing the cause of equity and justice underpinning the SDGs:

Harnessing global South knowledge commons:
The BRICS must strive to address the international asymmetries in knowledge-intensive sectors such as the management of 'Big Data' and ensuring a widely informed public.

Spearheading innovation for development: The BRICS should patiently and harmoniously encourage innovation-driven development strategies to further enhance resilience and increase the sustainability-potential of its respective domestic economies to counter the aberrant behaviours of the global North.

Championing democratic global governance for all:
The BRICS can help co-create the establishment of more democratic governance frameworks that enable the realisation of a better world for us all. Such a better future must incorporate inclusivity, social justice, and redressing the imbalances between ourselves and the rest of the planet's inhabitants.

04



BRICS Partnerships for Cooperation on Reform of Global Financial Governance

by *Seeraj Mohamed*

The reforms of the international financial institutions (IFIs) occur in the context of lack of overall coordination of the global financial system. The efforts to reform the IFIs since the 1980s were slow until the Asian financial crisis but then ran out of steam until the 2007/8 global financial crisis. The reforms have been uneven across the IFIs and the general efforts to stabilise the global financial system have been inadequate and incomplete. The appetite for further reform and measures to coordinate regulation to stabilise the global financial system seems to have run out of steam.

While there have been G20 initiatives to address the problems in the global financial system the G7 countries still dominate this process. Countries such as the USA, Japan and many western European powers are still invested in maintaining globally dominant financial institutions. Their responses to the global financial crises were to bailout their financial institutions and to support those institutions to recover and increase lending. They have put in place stress tests and through the Bank for International settlements have made rules about liquidity requirements and levels of risk. However, the power of financial institutions has been supported and perhaps increased through these responses as there has not been policies to address banks that are too big to fail and to effectively regulate markets for derivatives (most of which occurs in over the counter transactions that are inadequately monitored) and securitisation. The shadow banking system has not been closed down.

The response to the global financial crisis and great recession is very small compared to the actions and coordination after the Great Depression. As long as there is an imbalance in the power of the G7 relative to the rest of the countries of the world, the global financial system will probably remain uncoordinated and unstable.

There are vast vested interests that profit from and support deregulated financial markets and cross-border flows. Even with growing turmoil, there is no system for financial governance similar to the WTO and trade. The Bank of International Settlements, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the Financial Stability Board and other international organizations have limited jurisdiction in cross-border financial matters

The IMF is important but even with recent reforms to change voting remains undemocratic. The IMF has broadened their language on financial crises and have even acknowledged that they have oversold the benefits of financial liberalisation. However, they continue to warn against financial regulation and use of capital controls. The change in language about financial crises does not seem to have filtered down into the policy advice given to countries. Overall, their approach to economic policies fall within a neo-liberal framework.

Some United Nations agencies have called for more coordination and a broader response to the crisis and governance of the global financial system. However, UN initiatives, for example, the Financing for Development (FfD) conferences, are generally ignored by the OECD and its member countries.

At the same time, possibility of global financial crisis and threats of contagion have grown while the instruments favoured by OECD countries such as quantitative easing have been shown to have limited success for recovery.

What BRICS countries can do

The aim of the authors of the Bretton-Wood agreements was to reign in the financial sector to play a role of supporting the productive sector and the citizens of countries. The Great Depression taught them that financial markets are prone to bubbles and crashes. They recognized that deregulated financial

markets are destabilizing and that to build mutually beneficial global economic relationships they required controls and other regulation over finance.

The initiatives already underway in the BRICS such as the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (operational since October 2016) to help BRICS countries that may have short-term balance of payments problems and the New Development Bank are important actions. However, individual BRICS countries remain vulnerable to global financial instability and contagion as well as the negative impact on non-financial sectors that occurs when there is volatility and instability in global financial markets.

It seems that the first step the BRICS countries should take is to look at their own situations. The economies of all the BRICS countries have become financialised but to different degrees. There is a need for discussion of their approaches to domestic financial regulation and rules with regard to cross-border flows. There are vast differences in financial regulation and capital controls within the BRICS countries. It seems that a joint approach to how finance and financial flows should be regulated as well as a shared vision for the governance and coordination of the global financial system is required.

The second step may be for BRICS countries to accept that they should be more assertive in shaping the global financial architecture because the G7 countries are not going to drive significant reforms of IFIs and rules that govern their financial institutions activities in global markets. The G7 do not seem much interested in more intentional coordination of the global financial system. Further, they should accept that G7 countries' continued inadequate domestic financial regulation could result in future crises and contagion that affect the BRICS countries. BRICS countries have yet to fully recover from the great recession and their economies are very much affected by low continued global aggregate demand, economic growth and poor levels of international trade.

The BRICS countries should continue to push for reform that gives increased voice, democracy and accountability of the IFIs, such as the World Bank and possibly support interventions and programmes of UN agencies more. They should definitely raise concerns about the pace of reform of the IFIs and push for greater coordination to stabilise the global financial architecture.

“ BRICS countries should continue to push for reform that gives increased voice, democracy and accountability of the IFIs, such as the World Bank and possibly support interventions and programmes of UN agencies more ”

There should be a concerted effort to examine the destabilising impacts of global capital flows cooperation amongst BRICS countries to improve managements of cross-border capital movements. The management of illicit capital flows, including but not only proceeds from illegal activities and corruption, money laundering and tax avoidance, should be coordinated. A good place to start would be to improve and coordinate collection and sharing of information and monitoring of financial institutions and multinational corporations.

The disruptive power of financial institutions such as hedge funds and instruments such as derivatives remain inadequately regulated globally and within BRICS countries. These institutions and instruments have been used to get around regulations and in the formation of the shadow finance system. BRICS countries should coordinate to monitor these institutions and the markets for these financial instruments within and across BRICS countries.

The BRICS countries have to confront the negative impact of neo-liberal policies and 'financialisation' on development and inequality across the globe and within their economies. The impact of 'financialisation' has been to shift finance away from long-term productive social and economic investments towards speculative activities to pursue high short-term financial returns. They should set up public institutions and programmes that support economic development and service delivery to reverse 'financialisation' and to reduce the size and power of private financial institutions. **BR**

Marang a Letsatsi: 'TO SEE THE SUN RISE'



JERRY OBAKENG GAEGANE

Marang a Letsatsi reflects the hardship of unemployment in South Africa as people turn to informal mining to eke out a living on the old, long-abandoned mines around Johannesburg. An entire informal industry exists around trying to find a single granule of gold and my intention with this photo-documentary project is to document these struggles of humanity.

My initial interest was piqued when I saw a cluster of miners occupying abandoned mining spaces in Johannesburg, particularly the Marie Louise dumping site informal settlement, Durban Deep Mine, Matholeville, Roodepoort (West Rand) and Booysens. I realised that what I was witnessing was

a growing community of informal miners and the subsidiary informal sorting and hawking practices that accompany it.

Gold mining has defined Gauteng, which has been mined for more than a hundred years, and these desolate mines dot the Gauteng landscape as monuments to this long tradition. With South Africa's unemployment rate between 25 and 30 percent of the population, the unemployed are having to find many ways to earn whatever living they can. Many turn to various forms of informal work and although it is difficult to document informal activities, statistics suggest that as much as 30 percent of South Africa's GDP is





Many informal miners originate from countries like Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho come to South Africa to find work.



contributed by informal trade – many of these workers are still previously disadvantaged South Africans and migrants.

Miners seem to group themselves according to their cultural or ethnic groups. By my count, approximately 70 percent of the miners working on the sites mentioned above are migrants and the rest South Africans. These informal miners originate from different countries like Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho and come to South Africa for work, particularly to Gauteng.

Informal trade often runs into problems with legality. Mining old mines is illegal for a number of reasons, ranging from land rights (i.e. who owns these disused spaces) and mining licences, to the safety hazards that occur when miners go underground into these unstable shafts. Mining is the process of extracting minerals such as gold or other valuable

substances from the ground. There are different types of informal miners, including surface miners who normally mine for minerals on the surface and underground mining, which occurs in mines or shafts that were closed down – the miners are nicknamed “rock collectors”.

Mining involves processes of long, hard labour. Underground miners work within treacherous environments, low visibility and haul rocks from closed shafts to the surface manually. Surface miners carry many bags of soil to drains that have to be set up next to a water supply – without water, there is no production process.

The drains, although simplistic in material, are sophisticated in structure and process. Built from bricks, stones and clay, plastic is used to cover the surface of the drain on top and on the sides so that the structure doesn't collapse during the filtration process. A towel is then placed on

1. Young informal surface miners at home, Matholeville (West Rand) Roodepoort

2. Informal surface miners, Booyens

3. Informal surface miner, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort

4. Informal surface miners, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort

the surface of the drain to collect minerals not dissolved and washed away by the water passing through the drain. A brick-and-rod structure is then built, complete with a plastic crate used to transport bread to supermarkets, along with a plastic tub with holes punched in the base.

To separate the minerals from the soil, the miners pour a bag of soil and crushed rocks into the open plastic tub and then water from a bucket. The water sends the soil floating to the surface over the towels and into the plastic base below. Gold-retaining heavier ore is trapped within





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the towels. Mercury is added to the silt and stirred by hand, until silver and small black dots appear – this is the gold ore that forms a solid mercury-gold amalgam. This is then poured into an umbrella cloth and twisted until the remaining material is gum-like. This also shaped the gold into a physical shape that is easy to transport and sell.

Informal miners also have to be street savvy and know beforehand what price they are going to get per gram of gold – prices fluctuate drastically but in mid-2013, 1 gram was worth about R370, whereas smaller granules only fetch about R30. Trust is vital at this time and if the miners don't completely trust their buyer, they will walk away – it's not uncommon to hear of miners being assaulted, robbed and even murdered.

“We are impatient and sensitive because we work in difficult spaces and difficult conditions and we experience discomfort and claustrophobia and all sorts of bad things,” said one of the miners. “Our work is not easy, that's why we are so gevaarlik” (Afrikaans for “dangerous”).

And yet it is not usual to hear from these miners (they are colloquially called ‘Zama Zamas’) that it is better to turn to informal mining than stealing – the term Zama-Zama is a Zulu word that means “to try”. In informal mining terms, ‘trying’ means hours of back-breaking work and a vast amount of courage. Underground miners normally leave their homes at 4pm and work through the night, leaving the mine shaft at 5am the next morning. They say that to see the light of day is very important for them as it gives them ‘spirit

5. Legomasha, Informal surface miner, Booyensens

6 . Informal surface miners, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort

7. A room that is shared by three informal surface miners, Matholeville (West rand) Roodepoort

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of life’ to live for another day and to be able to see the sun. This is an important life philosophy when death is a constant threat. One of the young South African informal underground miners said to me: “To live and to die is the same as long as I can survive, maintain myself and my family. At home we are a family of two. My mom died a long time ago and now I am left with my sister. I don’t want to be a burden to her. I support her with the

money that I get. Informal mining helps me to survive and I have a place of my own.”

The activities around informal mining have also provided a means of work for a number of other people who have formed a community around these processes: underground miners employ women from nearby shack settlements for a few days to crush stones; people hawk and provide food for sale to the miners as

well. This community is a vulnerable one and documenting and interacting with them required earning their trust over many months and respecting the bounds of what they would or would not allow to be documented.

During this project, I was keenly aware of my status as an outsider and it was difficult for me to photograph groups of informal miners as their anonymity was important to them.



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8. Informal underground miner ready to go and sell gold to the buyers, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort



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9. Informal underground miners assess potential gold residues, Matholeville (West rand) Roodepoort



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10. Magomasha, (Sotho word referring to informal migrant mine workers from Lesotho), Booyens



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11. Informal surface miner, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort

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12. Informal mine workers draining soil water, Booysens

13. Informal surface miner at a drain, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort

14. Hawkers provide food for sale to the informal miners, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort

It took some time and a lot of explanation for my presence to be accepted but also for them to understand my intentions. They allowed me to stay with them in their places and I went to dark spaces that not many people can find. I instituted a process that I called 'Nika Nika' (which is Zulu for 'giving'), meaning 'I photograph you and in exchange I will give you a print of the photograph'. After I introduced this system of exchange, my photography was in demand as people wanted photographs of themselves that they could send home – a memento to remind and 'reunite' people, but also to be used as a means of pride to show people back home the kinds of work they were doing. Some of the miners even bought photo albums for their photos to

document this part of their life.

During this work, I was also reminded of growing up in Zone 7 in Meadowlands, Soweto, which is situated next to a mine dump. I remember the different sounds that came to be associated with the mine dumps, like the explosion of dynamite or the sound of motorbikes used for races around the dump. There were different sounds during the day, especially on weekends, and sometimes one could hear miners at night from underground. This photographic exhibition is also accompanied by audio recordings I've done with miners, in this way giving them a voice to create a dialogue between image and sound about absence and presence, about home and strangeness, work and friendship, about hardship and survival.

My work always attempts to explore traces or marks upon the landscape, natural or man-made, that makes us wonder about the presence that made them. Mining is one such trace in our history – it is the backbone of our society

but it has also been built upon the backs and bodies of many. The tensions between miners and their employers remain as strained as ever within a climate of high unemployment and global economic crisis, as the horror of the Marikana massacre testifies. As people fight for their means of survival, we are all tasked with opening our eyes and understanding what that means for a growing number of people in this country and on this continent. **BR**

- 15. Legomosha, Informal surface miner, Booyens
- 16. Informal miners draining the soil, Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort



About the Market Photo Workshop

The Market Photo Workshop is a Johannesburg-based school of photography, gallery and resource centre for practicing photographers. Since its establishment in 1989, the school has played an integral role in the training and growth of photographers from South Africa and further afield, while promoting photography through exhibitions, public debates and collaborative projects, especially within marginalised communities. The Market Photo Workshop is a division of The Market Theatre Foundation.

About the photographer

Jerry Obakeng Gaegane was born and raised in Meadowlands, Soweto. After matriculating in 2005, he studied Ceramic Design at Siyavuka Lateral Improvement Foundation, Ipelegeng Community Centre. Thereafter he completed a course in Graphic Design at Rosebank College. It was here that he discovered photography and felt a definite connection with analogue photography, completing his course at Rosebank College in 2008.

In 2009, he enrolled at the Market Photo Workshop to study the Foundation Course in Photography. During this time, he won second prize in the Seed Competition from the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation. Thereafter, Gaegane completed the Intermediate Course and the one-year Advanced Programme in Photography in the following 2 years.

During the Advanced Programme, he produced a body of work that looked at collectors who distribute coal and collect steel and metal waste in Soweto. Collectors travel on carts collecting scrap metal to sell at the recycling scrapyards. They also sell or distribute 'amalahle' (coal) in Soweto and collect rubbish for a fee and burn it in dumping places.

Gaegane participated in a heritage project about Makweteng (a historical township in Potchefstroom, Tlokwe, North West Province) with the Market Photo Workshop in 2011/12. The project aimed to reconstruct and conserve the history and heritage of Makweteng. Gaegane and other participants travelled to the historical township in Potchefstroom a number of times in 2011, engaging with the community members and taking part in workshops. He produced a body of work titled Tsena that focused on individuals and sometimes families who live in hostels and who make home in strange and difficult spaces in Ikageng, Potchefstroom.

Tsena was shown as part of the Market Photo Workshop's presentation at the FNB Joburg Art Fair, 2012. Tsena was exhibited as part of My Joburg at La Maison Rouge, Paris, 2013 and as part of 3-Generations at La Chambre, Strasbourg, France, 2013.

Gaegane participated in the Market Photo Workshop's Joburg-Photo-Harare Masterclass during 2012-2013.

In 2014 Gaegane joined the Kliptown Youth Project to teach documentary photography to the youths of Kiptown township in Soweto. Later in the year he went on a Photography Residency for European Heritage Days in La Reunion in Saint Denis.

On his return in 2015, Gaegane received an Honourable mention for the 2015 Ernest Cole Award for his project Tsena. He there after ventured into documentary film through the Youth Documentary Projects initiated by JBA Production with support from the French Institute of South Africa and the Arte France. His film projects included investigation and documentation of Illegal Initiation and Informal Mining. The projects fell under *Soweto, Times of Wrath*.



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OBSERVATION

IN DECOLONISING AFRICA, WE MIGHT START WITH LANGUAGE IN ADVERTISING



PROF NHLANHLA MAAKE

Advertising is the hallmark of the postmodern world – a random count of billboards, posters and electronic and digital advertisements will attest to the industry’s ubiquitous dominance in both public and private spaces. However, we need to question the impact of advertising on African languages and humanistic values, and how advertising affects their place in the African public sphere.

This article seeks to explore advertising’s ideological impact in environments where we would expect indigenous African languages to predominate. I will explore:

- How African languages and values – as manifested in visual and textual images in advertisements – feature in public spaces in selected geographical locations;
- What the degree of their prominence or obscurity in these spaces is;
- The impact of advertising on African languages and African values, within the theoretical framework of advertising as fabricated, fictitious and fantastic worlds; and
- Situating this within the framework of decoloniality.

To this effect I have selected four cities; two in the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) – Accra in Ghana and Bamako in Mali – and two in the SADC (Southern African Development Community), namely Gaborone in Botswana and Johannesburg in South Africa.

The sampling of advertising texts in these centres was:



- convenient, in the sense that my presence at the selected cities was for purposes other than studying the content and form of adverts;
- random, in that I haphazardly took photographs of adverts as a leisurely pastime, while I was perambulating over a radius of about three kilometres and driving a radius of about 35 kilometres, and
- purposive, in the sense that I deliberately selected the genre of adverts over

other possible genres, i.e. newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets, etc. I collected more than 500 advertisements; about 100 in each of the cities – but for the unit of analysis in this paper, I considered 25 from each.

THEORIES AND AIMS OF ADVERTISING

The fundamental aim of advertising is to persuade, using certain strategies and tactics. Bhasin (2017) asserts that there

ABOUT WRITER

Professor Nhlamla Maake is a South African writer who writes fiction, non-fiction and critical works in Sesotho and English, and has published more than twenty books. He holds degrees from University of the North, University of the

Witwatersrand (Wits), University of Strathclyde (UK), University of Keele (UK), and the University of South Africa. He has served as a member of the English National Language Body and acting chairperson. He is a Council member of the English Academy of Southern Africa. He speaks English, Sesotho, (isi) Zulu, Sepedi, Setswana, (isi)Xhosa and Afrikaans.



Pedestrians pass a billboard advertising the latest BMW AG X4 automobile for sale on a roadside in Soweto, South Africa.

are five advertising theories. In order to situate my discussion within this theoretical framework, I would like to highlight their saliency and potential impact on African languages and values. Bhasin's five theories are:

The mediation of reality. This theory explains how advertisements 'utilise the media to elicit the world of fictions and that of actions together and not necessarily the content.' Relevant questions to ask is who the protagonist(s) of the actions

depicted are, what values they seem to propagate, and what language they are presumed to speak. Since action is often depicted in a combination of words and images, language and value become important in this question.

Shifting loyalties. The second theory explains how advertisements 'play upon

and replicate clashed loyalties that keep on changing [...].'

The magic of meaning. The third theory explains 'how advertisements influence the values and other fundamental beliefs of the consumers [...] and are increasingly becoming involved with the shaping of individual and social values [...] and affecting social goals and public attitudes'

The hidden message. This theory explains how advertisements use 'persuasion' with messages that are 'emotionally loaded'. Since the message is hidden, there is a tendency for viewers' critical resistance to be deluded, reduced or mitigated.

“Advertising is the lifeblood of capitalism, and peoples of the developing world are mainly consumers rather than producers and sellers of commodities.”

Imitative desire. The final theory explains how advertisements play 'upon consumers' tendency to want what other people also wish [...] by building 'this castle in the air that keeps the desire alive' – tantalising by illusion.

These explicatory theories converge into what Marcuse calls 'false needs' and 'superimposed needs', which are:

'[S]uperimposed upon the individual by particular social interests in his

repression: the needs which perpetuate toil, aggressiveness, misery, and injustice [...] Most of the prevailing needs to relax, have fun, to behave and consume in accordance with the advertisements, to love and hate what others love and hate, belong to this category of false needs.' (1970) (my italics).

Marcuse continues to question the idea of freedom of choice in a world where needs are artificially created: 'Free choice among a wide variety of goods and services does not signify freedom, if these goods and services sustain social controls over a life of toil and fear – that is, if they sustain alienation' (1970). Marcuse's thesis is in line with that of his predecessor in historical materialism, Marx, that:

'The increase in the quantity of objects is accompanied by an extension of the realm of the alien powers to which man is subject, and every new product represents a new potency of mutual swindling and mutual plundering [...] The need for money is therefore the true need produced by the modern economic system [...] Excess and intemperance comes to be its true norm. Subjectively, this is even partly manifested in that the extension of products and needs falls into contriving and ever-calculating subservience to inhuman, refined, unnatural and imaginary appetites.' (1961)

There are several instruments of illusion and alienation — and the most fundamental aspects of culture that they set out to undermine are language and values, through the idiom of words and images that create false needs, illusionary euphoria and false status.

HOW ADVERTISING, AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND VALUES INTERSECT

Advertising is the lifeblood of capitalism, and peoples of the developing world are mainly consumers rather than producers and sellers of commodities.

With regard to the binary oppositions of Africa/Europe, Old World and New World/Third World and Developed/Undeveloped Economies, the contradiction between the values promoted by advertising and humanistic values tends to coincide with race, in most cases.

For purposes of this discussion

'humanistic values' refers to values underpinned by Ubuntu, *motho ke motho ka batho / umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* – a person is fulfilled through others, not through secondary material objects.

HOW SUPERIMPOSED NEEDS ALTER VALUES

Food, clothing, shelter and health are in the first instance primary needs, if one were to be faithful to Maslow's theory of needs – but they can be expanded to secondary needs through the creation of false, artificial needs, dictated by packaging, or the manner of consumption dictated through advertising.

For instance, food is a primary need, but consumption of food with utensils, or eating in a particular manner add a

class distinctions' (Marcuse, 1970).

English is generally regarded as a language of the upper class that dominates the political economy, and it is often the only language in which economic power can be attained and exercised. It is thus an efficient instrument to instigate a false consciousness among those placed on the periphery by its domination and control. The fictional personae portrayed in adverts are accompanied by texts that are not in their languages, and environments that are fictional, ideal, epicurean, refined – and in most cases, alien to them. In order to dislodge that alienation, they are perpetually fixed in a paradox that maintains their marginality and the mirage of upward material mobility – like Tantalus or Sisyphus.

“Part of the decoloniality project should be questioning our failure to manifest a private discourse in African languages, practices and desired values among the citizenry of Africa”

secondary need – 'false' and 'superimposed' in Marcuse's terms, and in Marx's terms, 'refined, unnatural and imaginary'.

The 'superimposed need' displaces the language and values of the targeted audience and substitutes them with a 'fictional' environment that evokes refined aspirations and grand illusion. Advertising thus creates a 'world of fictions,' 'play[s] upon and replicate[s] clashed loyalties,' resulting from constant manipulations, 'use[s] persuasion' in a manner that is 'emotionally loaded,' and thereby 'play[s] upon consumer's tendency to want what other people also wish [...], so that they should 'love and hate what others love and hate,' to revert to Marcuse's phrase.

By aspiring to the goods or commodities that are advertised, the target audience succumbs to the fallacy of 'equalisation of

ADVERTISING AND DECOLONIALITY

The colonial enterprise occupied African lands to exploit material resources – for the production of commodities – and people, by exploiting their labour and creating a consumerist culture.

When African colonies gained independence, colonialism retreated geographically, but left markers of neo-colonialism (colonialism after its historical time) and coloniality (the continuation of colonialism through its recalcitrant institutions). These institutions continue to control the political economy of the formerly colonised world.

Edward Said claimed that: 'The slow and often bitterly disputed recovery of geographical territory which is at the heart of decolonisation is preceded – as empire had been – by the charting of cultural territory.' (1994)

Concerning the stages of decolonisation, Said proposed that: 'After the period of "primary resistance", literally fighting against outside intrusion, there comes a period of secondary, that is, ideological resistance, when efforts are made to reconstitute a "shattered community, to save or restore the sense and fact of community against all the pressures of the colonial system"(1994)

It is this ideological resistance that should be the heartbeat of decoloniality. If the quest of decoloniality is to destabilise and disestablish the colonial or neo-colonial system, it has to 'rechart and then to occupy the place in imperial cultural forms reserved for subordination, to occupy it self-consciously, fighting for it on the very same territory once ruled by a consciousness that assumed the subordination of a designated inferior Other.(1994)

Following on Said, it is plausible to explain commercialisation and consumerism as the remnants of colonial capitalism – as demonstrated by advertising.

The colonial-capitalist enterprise displaces the essence of the target audience by tantalising it with textual images and fictitious worlds to which it is enticed to aspire. This displacement takes the form of new ('world') languages and new ('world') values.

That the culture of commercialisation and consumerism – and its instrument of perpetuation, advertising – should be so confident as to presume that it can capture its target audience without even attempting to speak that audience's language or adjust to its values, shows not only supremacist arrogance, but also complacent confidence that entrenched coloniality will do the rest.

This is evident in the language of advertisements and images in my rather concise case studies of Accra, Bamako, Gaborone and Johannesburg – metropolitans in which the majority's first languages are not English or French, and whose indigenous cultures are not European. In Gaborone and Johannesburg, there is an attempt to revert to the national language(s), but given the predominance of English, this tends to be only symbolic or poetic. Whether this is symptomatic of French assimilation and

English laissez faire colonial motifs, is an open question.

The tragedy of this advertising is that industries are fully aware of the need to address their target audience in their own languages:

'To communicate effectively with African consumers, companies need to deliver their marketing messages in a plethora of languages. South Africa has 11 official languages. Nigeria has only one – English – but Nigerians speak more than 500 local languages. Further complicating consumer communications is the continent's low literacy rate of 62 percent. In some countries, including Burkina Faso and Niger, the literacy rate is below 30 percent'. (Agvenim-Boateng, Benson and Russon, 2015)

originality, but a case study seeking to address a particular dimension of this dominance. The questions I sought to address led me to propositions that seem rational – namely, that the dominance/subordination and prominence/obscure antithesis in private/public discourses in four selected African cities suggests continuing dominance by imperial languages and competitive values, which are perpetuated through the false needs created by advertising, at the expense of humanistic values.

Part of the decoloniality project should be questioning our failure to manifest a private discourse in African languages, practices and desired values among the citizenry of Africa. We need to seek strategic and tactical means to destabilise

“ In Gaborone and Johannesburg, there is an attempt to revert to the national language(s), but given the predominance of English, this tends to be only symbolic or poetic ”

What stops them from doing so is open to conjecture, but for the time being, I will take comfort in the lackadaisical explanation that it is the overt and subliminal values dictated by the imperial metropolitan centre.

Perhaps another walk in other metropolitan cities of Africa and a more in-depth discussion might shed more light on this preliminary exercise that I have taken serendipitously.

CONCLUSION

At the risk of stating the obvious, there is no doubt that imperial languages dominated, and continue to assert domination, over African languages and values during and after the colonial period, and the consumer market has found no reason not to replicate this.

The claim of this discussion is not

the superstructure (commercialism) and base (capitalism) of coloniality; to 'rechart and occupy the space'.

This is not to oversimplify things by advocating that everything Western should be eschewed – only that it be interrogated and subverted where necessary. What modus operandi should be used, I can either say in a language that is not mine – 'Je ne sais pas' – or give the final word to Maldonado-Torres:

Decoloniality is never pure nor perfect, and it does not count with a full picture of what a decolonised institution, society, or world can be. Asking for purity or for perfection, for a complete plan of action, or for a complete design of the new decolonised reality, are forms of decadence and bad faith. They do not tend to be real questions, but rather attempts to delegitimise decolonisation movements. **BR**

IN FOCUS

ABOUT WRITER

Mbokazi is a writer, editor and communication specialist who is passionate about developmental issues, especially youth and women empowerment on the African continent.

African youth skills question

YOUTH VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE
THE AFRICAN UNION YOUTH
VOLUNTEER CORPS IS HELPING
ADDRESS THE SKILLS SHORTAGE
AND ENSURE THAT YOUNG
AFRICANS REALISE A BRIGHTER
FUTURE ON THEIR CONTINENT
AS SET OUT IN AGENDA 2063.
THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
FOR DEVELOPMENT IS JUST
ONE OF THE AVENUES SET
OUT TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE
SOLUTIONS BY RECRUITING
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FROM
ACROSS THE 55 AFRICAN
NATIONS TO VOLUNTEER THEIR
SERVICES AND CAPACITATE
VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS FOR
ONE YEAR'S SERVICE.



AURELIA MBOKAZI-DYANTYI

Lack of education and mismatched skills are the principal obstacles to labour markets, resulting in high unemployment across different age groups. The mismatch affects both university graduates and young people with secondary education. In this context, it becomes a critical issue to provide the required skills to Africa's youth along the value chain of our resources. The underlying issue to be resolved is the absence of linkages between education systems and employers.

A shortage of technical and mechanical employees co-exists with a surplus of workers in audit, sales and communication. Particularly in manufacturing, many of the positions that go unfilled are at a level that does not require tertiary education and does not pay the salaries that university graduates expect. What is required, rather, are the technical skills necessary to maintain equipment and supervise unskilled workers.

Higher education systems in Africa need to become more diversified to meet the need for a variety of levels of skills and education. Furthermore, at tertiary level, young Africans are confronted with a university system that has traditionally been focused on educating for public sector employment, with little regard for the needs of the private sector. Often a degree from a tertiary institution is an entry requirement for government employment with little attention paid to a specific skill set.

At the same time, tertiary education in technical fields tends to be significantly more expensive than in the social sciences, which makes expansion of such faculties more challenging for public

education institutions. Private providers of education could fill this void, leaving the government with duties of quality control and oversight.

In addition, it appears that African universities do not educate for African needs. Unemployment rates vary by field of study such that graduates in technical fields (engineering and information technology) have less problems finding employment than those from the social sciences or humanities, resulting in consequently higher unemployment numbers. It also appears that the most difficult sectors in which to find candidates with tertiary education are those that need specific technical qualifications, such as the extractive industries, logistics, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, manufacturing in general and agri-business.

Given Africa's comparative advantage in agriculture and the great potential for international trade in processed agricultural products, the low number of graduates in the area of agriculture is striking. With 2% of students specialising

It should be noted that the fields with the fewest problems in finding candidates are banking, education, commerce and IT and telecommunications. Banking, IT and telecommunications, in particular, are fast-growing sectors, suggesting that the link between industry needs and tertiary education works well in these areas.

Options for consideration: change education curricula;

- Education system adapted to African market requirements in technical fields and agriculture, with a focus on improving quality;
- Expanding women participation in education systems, with a focus on quality and relevance;
- Technical and vocational skills development has the potential to provide young people with more applied skills and better chances in the labour market;
- Formalise traditional apprenticeship that predominates in the informal sector, especially in rural areas.

“Higher education systems in Africa need to become more diversified to meet the need for a variety of levels of skills and education.”

in agriculture, the discipline occupies the same rank among graduates in Africa as it does in Europe, even though agriculture contributes 13% to Africa's GDP compared to 1.4% in Europe (both for 2010, World Bank, 2011c). Agri-business is one of the few sectors in which finding high-level managerial candidates is almost impossible in Africa, according to a large recruitment firm active in many African countries. Given the important role that extractive industries play in many African countries, the lack of graduates available to work in the sector is similarly striking.

The African Union Youth Volunteer Corps

According to the UN World Population Prospects 2017, young persons aged 15-24 account for 19 percent of the total population of Africa. More remarkable is the fact that about 46 percent of the 1.3 billion increase in Africa's labour force over the period 2015-2063 will be made of young people aged 15-34, averaging 12.1 million a year (World population Prospects, the 2017 Revision, UN DESA). With this rapid transformation in the age structure, volunteerism is one of the ways to harness the energy and



enthusiasm of youth and turn it towards the development of the continent, while at the same time building the skills and experience of young people.

Many African countries are therefore making effort to put policies and programmes in place that meet the needs of youth. At continental level, youth development is an important element of the AU's Agenda 2063 and strategies.

The African Union Youth Volunteers Corps (AU-YVC) is one of African Union's initiatives for promoting youth participation, capacity building and empowerment through service and skills exchange, driven by the philosophy of Pan-Africanism and youth leadership. The programme is in line with the African Youth Charter and Assembly Decision

“ ‘The Africa We Want’. It brings people together to share skills, knowledge, creativity and learning to build a more integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent driven by its citizens. ”

by AU heads of state and government (Assembly/AU/Dec.274 (XVI)) to launch a continental youth volunteer initiative. The AU-YVC was officially launched on 3 December 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The initiative promotes volunteerism

to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key actors in the continent's development targets and goals, enhancing their participation in policy development as well as design and implementation of relevant interventions towards the AU



Agenda2063 – ‘The Africa We Want’. It brings people together to share skills, knowledge, creativity and learning to build a more integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent driven by its citizens.

The AU-YVC recruits and works with young professionals age 18-35 from across the continent and diaspora to serve for a period of 12 months in their respective fields of expertise in an AU member state other than their own. Priority areas of deployment of the AU-YVC include: education, youth entrepreneurship, agriculture, health (access to youth-friendly health services), institutional capacity building, youth mainstreaming, information and communication, post-conflict reconstruction and peace building. **BR**

Alumni Comments:

Saminas Belaynh Seyfu, from Ethiopia, is a banker with a passion for youth development. Before joining the AU-YVC programme, he was a branch controller at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia.

He holds a BA degree in Business Management from Debre Birhan University, a fast-growing university located in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. As a student, he actively participated in student politics and rose up the ranks from deputy president to president of the student association.

“I have always been passionate about youth development. Through the AU-YVC programme, I have been able to live my dream and was deployed to the role of fundraising officer at the AU Foundation based in Johannesburg, South Africa. My portfolio included drafting concept notes for the various AU Foundation initiatives, communicating with different stakeholders and representing the AU Foundation at associated youth platforms. The AU-YVC programme allowed me to contribute my own skills for our continental programs like Agenda 2063, as well as for human development on the African continent, says Belaynh Seyfu.

“Volunteerism is part of our culture as Africans. I am proud of having been given the opportunity to serve as an AU-YVC volunteer and contribute towards a prosperous Africa,” adds Belaynh Seyfu.

Mohamed Naeim, from Sudan, has a considerable experience in the non-profit sector gained in South Africa, the Philippines, Malaysia, Ethiopia and the Republic of Sudan. His passion is to find sustainable solutions for poverty alleviation and developing Africans through human development.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Studies from Cardiff Metropolitan University and a master’s degree in

International Development Management from the University of Nottingham, Malaysia.

Mohammed encourages young Africans to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the AU-YVC and change their lives as well as those of fellow Africans.

“My mission in life has always been to achieve prosperity for my country, the whole of Africa, and in turn, the human family. I studied development and gained experience in Sudan, Malaysia and the Philippines. The AU-YVC programme gave me the opportunity to follow my passion and become a front liner in the fight for Africa’s prosperity,” explains Naeim.

“As Africans, we have built a civilisation that baffled minds and created a standard for all civilisations to come – and we are able to do it again! Africa isn’t only the cradle of humanity, it has a bright future and the AU-YVC is part of that future,” says Naeim.

Furaha Yesaya Ndossi, private secretary of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, is a young Tanzanian who started her career as a volunteer, gaining immense knowledge and exposure to Pan-Africanism.

“Being part of the AU-YVC family was an incredible experience and I gained great knowledge and networks of likeminded young people from across the continent. A session called ‘Knowing who you are’ during the two-week training before deployment stood out for me. I believe that as young people, we need to have a clear sense of who we are, what our values are and to love ourselves in order to achieve our goals and serve our continent wholeheartedly – and this was cemented during the volunteer programme. My journey as a volunteer was life-changing and inspired me to touch and inspire others across Africa,” explains Ndossi.

FOOTNOTE

Applications are open to all citizens of AU member state or African diaspora aged 18-33 years who are in possession of a post-secondary certified qualification. To learn more about the programme, visit www.africa-youth.org/auyvc.

PhD GRADUATES

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (NIHSS) IS HEEDING THE 'THUMA MINA' ('SEND ME') CALL MADE BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WITH ITS PhD GRADUATE PROGRAMME.



BATANDWA MALINGO

According to NIHSS chief executive officer Professor Sarah Mosoetsa, the programme has assisted more than 600 South Africans realise their dreams of becoming part of young minds empowered with intellectual knowledge that will feed the country's National Development Plan's (NDP) vision of producing 5 000 PhD graduates per annum to meet the economy's needs by 2030.

Mosoetsa said the institute, which will celebrate its fifth birthday in December 2018, strives to be an intellectual hub that helps define and shape the future of humanities and social sciences (HSS) through its initiatives, including its flagship PhD Graduate Programme.

"We are heeding the call to redefine what constitutes African humanities and social sciences knowledge, to develop an inclusive HSS curriculum that re-centres African intellectual traditions and languages, as well as rethink and cultivate African epistemologies that ultimately build a HSS scholarship archive that is not only relevant in Africa, but the world," said Mosoetsa.

Some academic institutions have



shrunk their intake and investment in humanities and social sciences in the last few years due to the growing digital world, but the NIHSS has continued with its quest to push for development of the sector. Dean of Applied Human Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize argued that the sector helped shape social revolutions seen in the world today.

"The humanities and social sciences have played a significant role in the social and scientific revolutions that shaped the national state in Europe, as well as the various colonial enterprises.

"Persuasive knowledge cannot hide in a corner, hence the significance of Africans' contribution to global knowledge. This was the intended idea behind the NIHSS," said Mkhize.

He added that Africa may be the second-largest continent, but its production of knowledge remains 'tiny' and the NIHSS PhD Programme would close that gap.

Executive secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science research in Africa (CODESRIA) Dr Godwin Murunga shared Mkhize's

sentiments and said funding remained a challenge for most African students, as in most cases it "tended to come from non-African external sources that made it difficult to create programmes not influenced accordingly".

"We must develop our own theoretical ways of drawing on our experiences, strengthen partnerships and hope for reciprocity. Too much knowledge is being lost," he said.

To achieve this, Mkhize challenges students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to take advantage of NIHSS's PhD Graduate Programme to transform the sector that was dominated by one race and males due to the apartheid regime that objected to advancement of other races and gender in the country.

NIHSS's quest to contribute to high-level capacity building through the funding of doctoral students continues to bear fruits, with a steady throughput rate of those graduating with their doctoral degrees.

The first group of the doctoral students graduated from the University of KwaZulu Natal, University of Limpopo, University of South Africa,

University of Venda, University of Fort Hare, University of Stellenbosch, University of North West, University of Western Cape, Rhodes University, Wits University, University of Free State and University of Pretoria.

One of the scholars selected to benefit

father is sick, your sister is missing,” he said.

Koba, whose topic for his doctoral degree was pornography consumption in South Africa, said that NIHSS came at the right time and made his financial load bearable.

prompted them to take to the streets and demand free higher education through the Fees Must Fall movement in 2016.

Government, through its funding scheme, allocated some financial resources to undergraduate students, but the burden remains for those who wish to further their studies. The NIHSS partners with universities to assist where it can with its PhD Programme.

The NIHSS’s Mosoetsa said the higher education system may change, but the scholarship programme would remain.

“The realignment of geo politics brings exciting times. As we grapple with the notion of transformation, we grow academically and produce catalytic project leaders,” she said.

A total of 66 PhD graduations have been reported by SAHUDA and CODESRIA scholarship recipients to date. **BR**

“Persuasive knowledge cannot hide in a corner, hence the significance of Africans’ contribution to global knowledge”

– Professor Nhlanhla Mkhize, University of KwaZulu-Natal

from the NIHSS PhD Programme, Dr Siyabonga Yolo Koba said life has not been kind as he fought struggle after struggle from the day he set foot at Wits University in Johannesburg.

“From the moment I entered university, there were concerns about culture, scholarships, academic language, city people, money, assignments, deadlines and rent. Family news, your

Koba qualified for funding as he could not afford to pay the full amount for his studies and was under the age of 35.

Most of these young people face challenges from paying student loans, taking care of their siblings and starting families which contribute to their finances being stretched.

Lack of funding has been a challenge for most African students and this

ABOUT WRITER

Batandwa Malingo is a South African journalist. He has worked for South African leading daily newspapers, as well as for a magazine with a focus on BRICS bloc matters. His interests include international relations as well as local politics. He holds a B.Tech qualification in Journalism from Walter Sisulu University.

In numbers: the BRICS bloc youth

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa form BRICS, a union of the five nations aimed at sharing knowledge, skills and finances for development. These countries may share a lot but numbers differ immensely when it comes to their youth. From the age group to population, we bring you the youth in BRICS countries in numbers.

SOUTH AFRICA

Age: 14-35 (as stated by the South Africa’s National Youth Commission Act of 1996)
Population: 20 million (according to Statistics South Africa)

INDIA

Age: 15-29 (as stated in India’s National Youth Policy, 2014)
Population: 350 million (United Nations Population Fund’s State of the World’s Population report, 2017)

RUSSIA

Age: 15-29 (according to Russia’s Federal Agency for Youth Affairs)
Population: 33.7 million (Federal State Statistics Service)

CHINA

Age: 14-28 (as stated in Revisiting China’s Youth Policy, 2011 by the Communist Youth League)
Population: 269 million (United Nation’s Population Fund’s State of the World’s Population report, 2017)

BRAZIL

Age: 15-29 (as per Brazil Youth Statute, 2013)
Population: 50 million (Guide to Public Youth Policy, 2013)

We doff our hats off to these three:



Dr Kgothatso Bruce Shai, 30

Institution: *University of Limpopo*

Study: *An Afrocentric critique of the United States of America's foreign policy towards Africa – the case studies of Ghana and Tanzania, 1990-2014.*

Dr Shai is a poet, lecturer, political analyst and published scholar.

He graduated with his PhD in International Politics from University of Limpopo after obtaining an MA in Political Science cum laude from the University of Venda.

His published work on policy analysis, US foreign policy, Africa's international relations and politics has seen Dr Shai present several academic papers at local and international conferences.

He has achieved numerous scholarships and academic research awards over the years, including the Africa Institute's Best Research Paper Award in 2011 and Africa Institute's Best International Young Scholar Award in 2008.

He is currently a senior lecturer in Political Science at the University of Limpopo.



Dr Zibonele France Zimba, 30

Institution: *University of Fort Hare*

Study: *The impact of family preservation and family reunification services on families in South Africa – a case study of Amathole district municipality in the Eastern Cape province.*

Dr Zimba, who hails from Driekoppies in Mpumalanga, has dedicated his life to sharing knowledge and contributing to the advancement of the humanities and social sciences.

His masters dissertation on traditional healing and HIV unlocked his knowledge production capabilities and he has published two papers that were presented at national conferences.

That dissertation paved the way for his doctoral thesis, on probing the impact of family preservation and family reunification services on South African families.

In 2017, his career peaked thanks to his involvement in multiple knowledge-sharing projects, culminating in his PhD (University of Fort Hare) and being peer reviewer for the *Journal of Human Ecology*.

Zimba, a lecturer in the University of Stellenbosch's Social Work department, also contributed to a collaborative research project with Wits University's Social Work Department.

His wish is to become a prolific publisher and share research knowledge with the rest of the world.



Dr Preya Pillay, 29

Institution: *University of Kwa-Zulu Natal*

Title of Thesis: *Gender representation in four SADC high school business studies textbooks.*

Dr Pillay's commitment to gender transformation resulted in her dedicating her PhD research to gender-inclusive business textbook knowledge production.

"Gender norms embedded in patriarchy continue to be reproduced through exclusion and choices of inclusion. My research study highlighted the need for textbook writers and editors to deconstruct personal bias and regressive gender perspectives," Pillay said.

During the three years of her PhD, she presented her research at various conferences both internationally and locally, and also published articles with accredited journals.

In 2017, she supervised four honours students, five masters of education students and two PhD students. She has also served as a board member for the *Perspectives in Education Journal*.

Dr Pillay has since secured an invitation as a candidate of The Black Women Professoriate Project, initiated to support young black female academics to become professors.

She is a permanent lecturer of Curriculum Studies and Social Justice Education at the University of Free State School of Education.

GUIDE

TO THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Exploring the heart of
Africa's
economic capital to the full

KNOWN FOR ITS BUZZING STREETS FILLED WITH COLOURFUL VENDORS AND A SKYLINE DECORATED BY SKYSCRAPERS THAT HOUSE 74 PERCENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP CORPORATES, JOHANNESBURG HAS MADE A NAME FOR ITSELF AS THE HEART AND ENGINE OF AFRICA'S BURGEONING ECONOMY.

ABOUT WRITER

Bernice Maune is a freelance journalist, postgraduate student studying the Economic Challenges of African Development at the University of Cape Town in conjunction with the London School of Economics.

BY BERNICE MAUNE



It will come as little surprise that for two years in a row, Johannesburg, which goes by several monikers including Jozi and Maboneng (translated from Tswana and meaning 'Where we see it all'), has been ranked by the Mastercard Global Cities index as the continent's most-visited city. Esteemed business publication The Wall Street Journal has also labelled this dynamic city as part of the world's 'four emerging cities you should know'.

For business travellers and tourists, Johannesburg is multi-faceted. The city plays host to several activities and experiences that incorporate a diverse cultural feel and urban atmosphere, offering visitors a compelling and interactive atmosphere.



GUIDE



THEN



NOW

Johannesburg has cemented itself as a destination of choice for travellers around the world and as a centre of booming trade and economic development. It has effectively branded itself as a city that offers its guests a plethora of activities ranging from cultural museums and historical monuments, to a thriving night life and monuments dedicated to the birth of the country's democracy.

Founded only 128 years ago, Joburg began as a mining town rich in gold. This essential commodity then attracted hundreds of settlers who made their way from around the country to discover how they could partake in that mining revolution. Within a few years, a thriving economic exchange had been established with thousands of residents working and settling in towns where the gold trade

“Johannesburg has cemented itself as a destination of choice for travellers all over the world and as a centre of booming trade and economic development.”

thrived. Today, the city is home to 4.9 million people, all of various ethnicities and the majority of whom are aged between 19 and 39.

The shift from gold mining to a more advanced industrial economy has taken place over the last century, with key industries and areas of innovation consisting of multiplicity of commercial and creative activities – from banking and finance, manufacturing and health sciences, to transport, business services and outsourcing, information



Q&A

with MMC for economic development Leah Knott

BRICS Academic Review engaged with the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Economic Development at the City of Joburg metro about her role and future plans for this dynamic and crucial portfolio. Knott holds an LLB and has served as a ward councillor, where she was a champion for community activism and ensuring residents received service delivery and their rights to basic and essential services were met. She also has years of experience in the property development planning industry prior to becoming a councillor. In her position as MMC, Knott is responsible for driving strategy of job creation and investment in the informal and formal economic sectors.

When were you appointed City of Joburg's MMC for Economic Development?

My term as a city councillor commenced in 2016 but I was appointed MMC in July of 2017.

What was your first priority when you were appointed to this pivotal position?

I met with the entire core department and with the two municipal entities who report to Economic Development, it is a substantial enterprise to get to grips with. I needed to develop a bird's eye view of city development quickly.

Does the City of Johannesburg have a relationship with other cities in Brazil, Russia, India and China?

The City of Joburg has had a number of learning exchanges with cities from BRICS countries. We had extensive exchanges with major Brazilian cities for the 2014 FIFA Football World Cup, as we had played host before Brazil and we have similar challenges in providing tourist safety and security. We do, however, still have many economic synergies that our countries and cities can explore.

What is the city's approach to economic development?

We take the contemporary approach to sustainable development. This involves creating an environment that is conducive to development. All city departments must play their part holistically. We need to ensure that the city is safe, we create liveable spaces with pleasant surroundings and we reduce unnecessary barriers to entry for business. We are also investing heavily in infrastructure.

What are the main investment opportunities that exist for other BRICS nations in Johannesburg?

We have competitive advantages in the areas of financial services, manufacturing and light industry. In addition, our labour costs are comparable with other BRICS nations and our currency does not make investment costly. Currently we are engaged in a major inner-city revitalisation plan that will create many opportunities in the field of property development.

There are companies and individuals from other BRICS countries who have set up shop in Johannesburg. What attracts them to the city?

Chinese mobile technology company Huawei and Brazil's flip flop enterprise Havaianas come to mind, but there are many. China, as one BRICS nation, has invested over \$30-billion in South Africa to date. Investors are attracted to Joburg as a city because it is the economic capital of the country and the economic engine room of the Southern African region.

What plans are currently in place to boost economic growth of the city?

We are shortly due to release our new investment incentives. These will be used to steer investment towards industrial areas of our city, as well as CBD areas that are in need of rejuvenation. This is combined with heavy infrastructure and bulk service investment on the part of the city for a prolonged period.

From a safety perspective, we are introducing an extra 1 500 policeman onto the central business district's streets over the next two years.

Finally, we would like to alter the perception that Joburg is a purely business destination. There are a multitude of activities and places that a leisure tourist could enjoy in our city. Joburg has great history and a cultural blend that has created a number of unique attractions for foreign visitors.

and communication technologies, automotive, television, film and creative industries.

In addition, the informal sector also contributes to the city's gross domestic product with street vendors and small-to-medium enterprises plying their trade in the active central business district.

Similar in size to Los Angeles in the United States, the city of Johannesburg covers 2 300 square kilometres and as the most powerful commercial centre on the African continent, it generates 16 percent of South Africa's GDP and employs 12 percent of the national workforce.

According to the City of Joburg council, its infrastructure matches leading first-world cities, yet the cost of living is far lower. The city is recognised as the financial capital of South Africa and is home to 74 percent of corporate headquarters. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) rates as one of the top 20 exchanges in the world in terms of market capitalisation.

Joburg has infrastructure on par with world-class standards, evident in the Gautrain that transports travellers between the inner city, Sandton, the OR Tambo International Airport and the capital city of Pretoria.

There is also the efficient Rea Vaya bus system used by Joburg locals to commute between surrounding suburbs and to get to and from work in the bustling CBD.

The roads are considered some of the best in Africa, with priority given to both main and residential routes, while the OR Tambo International airport receives 55 airlines, making it an easily accessible destination and connecting port for other international destinations.

Global travellers are clearly impressed with the hotel attractions, restaurants and leisure activities on offer in and around the Joburg metro. Online travel application Trip Advisor's Travelers' Choice Destination Award, released in March 2015, noted that Joburg had placed twelfth on its prestigious list of top holiday destinations in Africa.

Travelers' Choice Destinations Awards honour top travel spots worldwide based on the millions of valuable reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor users. TripAdvisor has recognised 469



destinations around the world, covering 47 markets including Africa, Argentina, Asia, Australia, Austria and Brazil.

Rated the second Most Inspiring City in the World, after Hong Kong, in the annual Good City Index, Joburg is certainly not short of accolades dedicated to its charm and joie de vivre. GQ magazine named it the coolest city in 2015 and it appears to have lived up to this title with lively concerts hosted at the FNB stadium by top live acts Rihanna, UB40, Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber.

The Maboneng Precinct is an attraction for tourists, featuring art galleries, museums, restaurants and the ever-popular Neighbourgoods market on weekends. It is also where crafts and souvenirs can be found, some of which are originals created by local artists. This precinct was branded one of the world's coolest tourist attractions by Travelandleisure.com in 2015. **BR**

What to do in Joburg



The **Mandela Family Museum** is regarded as one of the most popular remnants of the Mandela family's contribution to the struggle. Having served 27 years on Robben Island while Winnie Madikizela-Mandela spent over a year in solitary confinement, the Mandelas raised their young family in this Soweto home that has been well preserved and turned into a museum at the dawn of democracy in the early nineties. Admission fees range from R40 to R60 per person and bookings are not necessary for individuals and small groups. Contact 011 936 7754 for more information. www.mandelahouse.com



The current location of the **Constitutional Court** was once a prison where women and men who fought against apartheid were held. Winnie Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Fatima Meer were all once prisoners at Constitution Hill situated in inner Joburg. The monument serves as a reminder of South Africa's hard-won democracy and its colourful messages are concrete relics of hope of an equal society that struggle stalwarts fought to keep alive. Appointments to explore the museum can be made telephonically on 011 381 3100. www.constitutionhill.org.za



In 1976, Hector Pieterse was murdered by apartheid police for protesting against an unfair system of education that saw black pupils taught in Afrikaans instead of their native languages or English. His death was captured in an iconic image telling the story of desperation and pain for black students who were marching for equality and the right to be taught in a familiar language. The **Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum** is dedicated to honouring Pieterse's memory and those who died while standing up for freedom. Photographs, videos and a talk encompass this experience. Tour bookings can be made on 011 536 0611.



Hundreds of cadres of liberation movements including that of the ANC used **Liliesleaf farm** as a haven to escape and take refuge from the oppressive apartheid regime. Former president Nelson Mandela chronicled his own experience while underground at Liliesleaf in his book Long Walk To Freedom. Rivonia trialists were arrested on the site for colluding against the apartheid government. Today the farm has been turned into a world-class heritage site and also has a café where visitors can dine after taking a tour. Call 011 803 7882 to book an educational tour. www.liliesleaf.co.za

Minister of International Relations and Co-operation
Lindiwe Sisulu on BRICS 2018 Summit.

“Our priority is to make the summit a spectacular success. What we have tried to do which is different in this particular summit is to involve civil society and labour, as we are avoiding a situation where we are not seen as inclusive” www.iol.co.za

BRICS
AGENDA



BRICS: poised for a bigger global role?

BRICS gets a health assessment by Dr Aquina Thulare

GLOBAL VIEW

YAROSLAV LISSOVOLIK

Alternative Globalization in the making?

B



By building a network of economic alliances across continents, the BRICS may take the lead in shaping global economic integration against the backdrop of waning integration impulses in the developed world. Apart from opening new pathways and fostering new alliances, the BRICS could also perform the role of an ‘aggregating platform’ for some of the RTAs (Regional trade agreements) and other types of agreements.

Against the backdrop of waning integration impulses in the developed world, the largest developing economies are forging ahead with new initiatives directed at revitalizing regional integration. China in particular appears to exhibit activism in building new development institutions (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – AIIB), mega-regional projects (‘One Belt One Road’) as well as new economic alliances across the globe. Nonetheless, in the past several years even as the activism of BRICS countries in building economic alliances across the globe has increased, the development of the BRICS formation itself lacked vigour.

Indeed, despite the creation of the New Development Bank and some of the initiatives to boost economic ties between BRICS members, there is a sense that the BRICS is starting to encounter limitations to further integration. Perhaps BRICS as merely a forum of discussion among its members may be the right



ABOUT WRITER

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format after all, but given the size and potential of each of the BRICS members, one cannot help but hope for more synergy in interaction between the leading developing economies of the world.

One of the ways to overcome the limitations in BRICS development as well as the lingering contradictions may be to shift the focus from trade liberalization or large-scale integration amongst its core members towards building a wider framework of integration/cooperation in the developing world that fills the voids of integration and opens new gateways for cooperation among BRICS and their partners across continents. That kind of framework may be realized through China's initiative to create a BRICS Plus circle that according to China's foreign minister Wang Yi will represent a new platform for the South-South cooperation via holding dialogues with other major developing countries or groups of developing countries to establish a more extensive partnership. "We will widen the circle of friends of the BRICS and turn it into the most influential platform for South-South cooperation in the world," declared Wang Yi.

The new BRICS Plus initiative is coming not just at the right time as the BRICS is seeking to find new gateways to development, but it would also perhaps be one of the first truly global undertakings of the developing world in shaping a new, more balanced economic order. This in turn is made possible due to the unique nature of the BRICS, which is represented by one or several major powers in virtually every continent of the developing world.

The Uniqueness of BRICS and the BRICS+ Circle

The first thing to realize about the uniqueness of the BRICS is that each member is also a leading economy in its continent or sub-region within a regional integration arrangement: Russia in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), Brazil in Mercosur, South Africa in the South African Development Community (SADC), India in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and China in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), in the

China-ASEAN Free Trade Area and the prospective Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

All countries that are partners of the BRICS in these regional integration arrangements may form what might be termed as the ‘BRICS Plus circle’ that becomes open to flexible and multiple modes of cooperation (not exclusively via trade liberalization) on bilateral or regional basis. Thus, rather than expanding the core set of BRICS members, the BRICS Plus initiative seeks to create a new platform for forging regional and bilateral alliances across continents and aims at bringing together the regional integration blocks, in which BRICS economies play a leading role.

Platform for Trade and Investment Integration

In the trade and investment sphere the BRICS Plus network could encourage expanding the set of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) or Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) across individual countries or regional blocks of the BRICS Plus grouping. Trade alliances do not have to follow the standard path of comprehensive FTAs, but could also involve targeted or limited liberalization via preferential agreements (PTAs). Investment alliances and liberalization measures could be concluded in the form of lowering barriers for Foreign Direct Investment into strategic sectors or companies as well as via lowering capital controls in mutual transactions. One of the transmission mechanisms that could be employed to facilitate the propagation of trade and investment alliances within the BRICS Plus framework might be raising the priority accorded by BRICS Plus economies to an alliance with a country that has become a member of one of the core Regional Trade Agreements (RTA) within the BRICS Plus network or that has concluded trade or investment alliances with an individual country or regional block within BRICS Plus. An FTA alliance forged by South Korea, for example, with the Eurasian Economic Union could improve the possibilities for this country to conclude alliances with other regional blocks or individual countries in BRICS Plus.

Cooperation in international organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions to increase the consolidated voting share. In the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the consolidated share of the BRICS is just below the 15 percent mark. The addition of BRICS PLUS partners would raise the consolidated share of the vote by 1–2 percentage points (depending on the exact composition of the BRICS PLUS circle) to more than 15 percent, which would enable the BRICS PLUS to have a blocking stake with respect to the key decisions of the IMF. BRICS PLUS countries could also form alliances in other international organizations,

“We will widen the circle of friends of the BRICS and turn it into the most influential platform for South-South cooperation in the world,”

- Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China

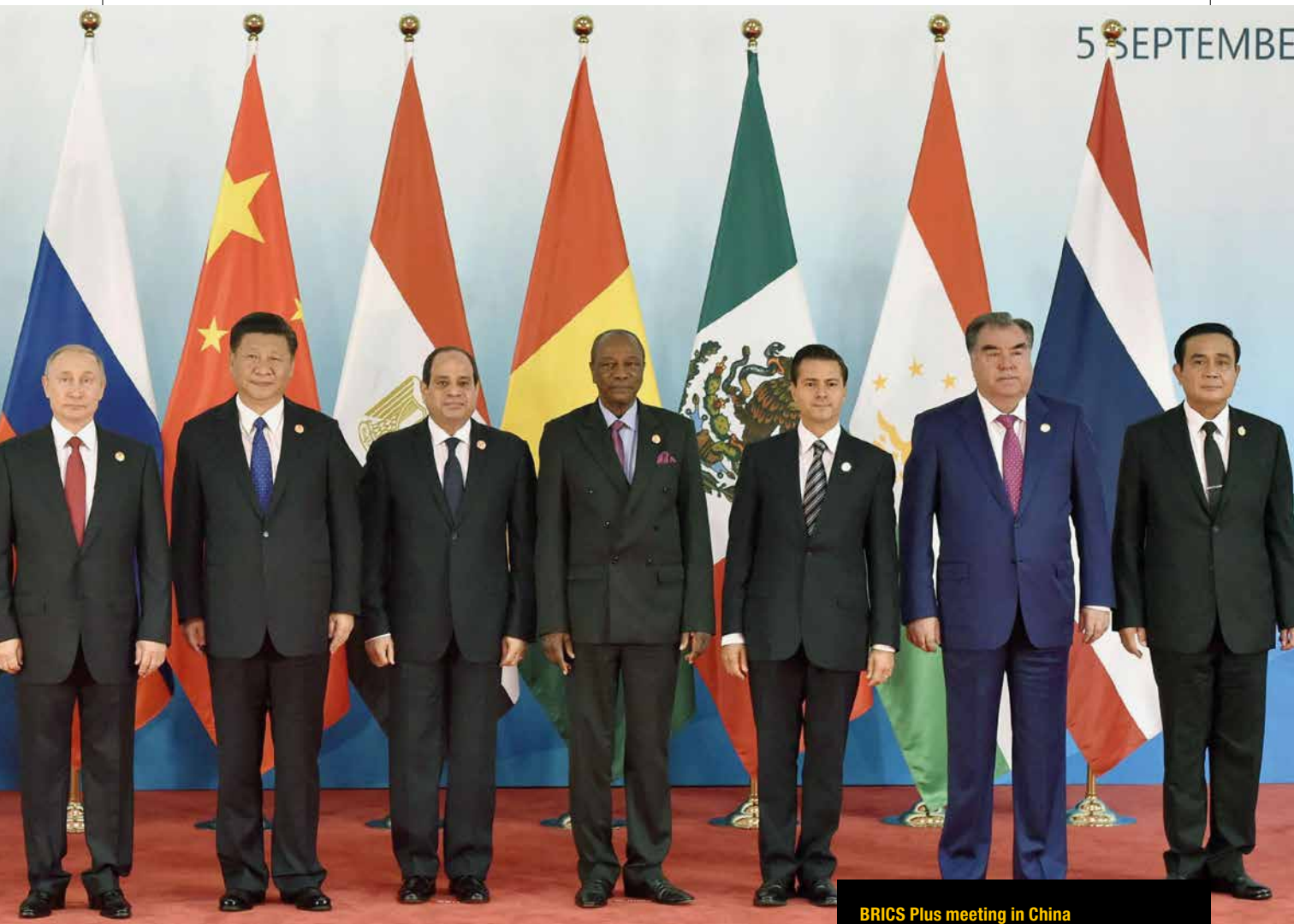
including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), where a BRICS PLUS group in negotiations could complement other South-South alliances, for example in G20 or G33. Cooperation between development banks and other development institutions formed by BRICS PLUS economies, namely the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), the SAARC Development Fund (SDF), Mercosur Structural Convergence Fund (FOCEM), China Development Bank (CDB), China ASEAN Investment Cooperation Fund (CAF), and the New Development Bank (NDB). Within this group of development institutions,



the NDB could potentially perform a coordinating role with respect to BRICS PLUS initiatives, while there could also be a role for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which can serve as a platform for bringing together the financing from developing and developed economies. Within this network of regional development institutions, cooperation could be targeted at co-financing investment projects as well as initiatives and programs aimed at fostering the attainment of key development goals (human capital development, ecology, financial sector integration/cooperation).

Use of national currencies or payment

5 SEPTEMBER



BRICS Plus meeting in China

Chinese President Xi Jinping (5th from L) and other leaders of the BRICS grouping, along with heads of five other countries, prior to their BRICS Plus meeting in Xiamen, China on September 5, 2017.

systems: the BRICS Plus circle could serve as an extensive platform for creation of BRICS Plus countries' payment systems and expansion in their use. It could also serve as a platform for extending the use of national currencies in mutual trade and investment transactions, thus reducing dependency on the US dollar and the euro. Cooperation in establishing own reserve currencies or regional and global financial centres. The countries that form part of the regional blocks of BRICS Plus could support each other's efforts in promoting creation of international financial centres (though admittedly there may be also competition, particularly in a regional context) via listing companies in

the exchanges of BRICS Plus economies. There may also be greater cooperation in advancing some of the BRICS Plus currencies as reserve currencies that become part of gold and currency reserves of the respective Central Banks.

In effect, closer cooperation between the regional blocks and the development banks in the BRICS Plus circle is already taking place. In terms of cooperation between the regional blocks, Mercosur signed a memorandum of understanding with the Eurasian Economic Union and henceforth continued discussions on a possible cooperation agreement between the two blocks. Another example is the PTA between Mercosur and SACU

entered into force on 1 April 2016. In terms of cooperation between the development banks of BRICS countries in 2016, the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) in collaboration with the New Development Bank, Nord Hydro, and the International Investment Bank (IIB) reached an agreement on construction of small hydropower plants in the Republic of Karelia (Russia). The BRICS countries' New Development Bank (NDB) will

fund the construction of the plants in Karelia with a total amount of \$100 million, making its first investment in the Russian Federation. In addition, the NDB will provide the IIB and the EDB with targeted financing of \$50 million each for opening a credit line for Nord Hydro in Russian roubles. The maturity of the loan is 12 years, with the IIB and the EDB covering associated project risks. In April 2017, the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) signed a memorandum on cooperation with the NDB. The BRICS Plus network expands the possibilities of forming alliances within and across continents for developing economies on the basis of bilateral country-to-country alliances or via trade or investment deals between regional blocks. The combination of alliances between the respective RTAs and the network of the respective development institutions strengthen the micro-level foundations (bottom-up) of potential alliances at the macro-level (FTAs, PTAs, investment accords, etc.). However, even this expanded version of the BRICS is not sufficiently comprehensive to encompass the entire South-South dimension – further mechanisms and steps are needed to render the BRICS outreach more extensive.

Through pursuing regional integration across virtually all continents (which makes such integration truly global and inclusive) and due consideration accorded with global WTO rules, the above sequencing of BRICS-induced integration would not only deliver greater trade and investment liberalization, but would also reconcile some of the contradictions between regionalism and multilateralism. Overcoming the contradictions between bilateral, regional, and multilateral or global integration would serve as a crucial breakthrough in removing the roadblocks to global growth.

In effect, the BRICS Plus circle forms the inner ‘regional rim’ of partnerships for BRICS economies, which is composed of the key regional integration blocks such as Mercosur, SACU, EEU etc. The BRICS Plus + ambit makes a circle of bilateral alliances (with individual countries or regional blocks) on an FTA basis or on the basis of other types of economic



TAKING BRICS PLUS A STEP FURTHER: the BRICS Plus + Circle

The operation of the BRICS Plus framework need not be solely circumscribed to the regional blocks of the BRICS core. Indeed, each of the regional integration groups led by BRICS economies also has its own network of economic alliances with third countries – EEU has an FTA with Vietnam, while Mercosur concluded an FTA with Israel. These countries and/or regional blocks that have signed agreements with BRICS countries’ regional blocks, may form the ‘BRICS Plus+ circle’, which further expands the possible set of alliances that may be facilitated for BRICS economies and their partners.

The expansion in the BRICS network to several circles of alliances not only enhances prospects for integration, but also improves their optionality as each country can vary integration within the network and render it more piecemeal and gradual. Hence, the BRICS Plus + framework expands the BRICS Plus through adding a layer of bilateral alliances that may be made by regional blocks

and individual economies via the following options:

- One of the BRICS Plus regional blocks concluding an agreement with a developing economy that is outside of the BRICS Plus circle;
- BRICS Plus country concluding an agreement with a developing country regional block;
- One of the BRICS Plus regional blocks building an alliance with another regional block;
- BRICS Plus country forming an economic alliance with another developing economy.

Formation of such alliances expands the wider BRICS ‘circle of friends’ to what may be termed as BRICS Plus +, which complements the possible alliances within the BRICS Plus circle with an opportunity to form a set of alliances with the rest of the developing countries. In effect, the BRICS Plus model is akin to the competitive liberalization policy in the developed world, in which regionalism is complemented and reinforced by bilateral alliances. The BRICS Plus network in such a setting increases

incentives for developing countries to join the regional blocks led by the core BRICS economies, while the BRICS Plus + provides opportunities and benefits in making bilateral deals with the BRICS+ members.

More broadly, the economic integration agenda for BRICS+ and BRICS Plus + could envisage the following stages:

Bilateral trade and investment accords between the key members of the BRICS grouping. For Russia, which has already advanced significantly in developing trade ties with China, trade accords based on FTAs may be considered with respect to South Africa, Brazil, and India. Compatibility with WTO rules would be an important part of this construct. Mutual integration could also be pursued on the basis of liberalization of mutual investment flows as well as flexible forms of trade/investment integration that do not necessarily amount to a full-fledged FTA.

Continental or regional integration within the BRICS Plus network. Each of the BRICS members serves as the core for regional integration – Russia in the post-Soviet space, China in East Asia, India in South Asia, South Africa in the African continent, as well as Brazil in South America. The BRICS may seek to provide impetus to the regional or continental integration to share the benefits from bilateral integration with members of regional or continental groupings.

Trans-continental trade/investment integration via the BRICS Plus and BRICS Plus + frameworks. Such closer ties across continents may be founded on anterior headway in bilateral and regional trade integration. Accordingly, with sufficient progress in forming regional accords led by the respective members of the BRICS, the next stage could involve trans-continental alliances between the likes of the EEU and Mercosur.

Global integration initiatives. Greater integration among BRICS+ and BRICS Plus + could increase their leverage in global institutions, including in the WTO and the IMF. With Russia now a member of the World Trade Organization, the BRICS may form a full-fledged alliance/club to coordinate their trade strategies.

integration agreements (including the investment sphere). Both BRICS Plus and BRICS Plus + expand the set of alliances for all the countries included into this wider circle, whereby existing trade or investment agreements can provide the basis for multilateralizing such deals with other members of the enlarged group. If successful in building its economic weight, the enlarged BRICS network may exert significant impact on trade and investment flows in the world economy and become a focal point of attracting these flows on a ‘cumulative causation’ basis much as was the case with the developed economies in the preceding decades.

What about the rest of the world that is not immediately part of the BRICS Plus and BRICS Plus + frameworks? Firstly, there is a need for a framework of cooperation between the BRICS Plus circle and the developed world, which can be based on the existing FTAs or comprehensive economic agreements with developed countries formed by the BRICS Plus economies (FTA between SACU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement). The investment liberalization with the countries of the developed world may be pursued in the context of such joint projects as well as within the WTO and other global organizations where the BRICS Plus economies could form a unified group.

BRICS plus as a New Type of Integration in the Global Economy

The expediency of the BRICS Plus format emanates in part from the tendencies that the BRICS and the global economy have been affected in the past several years. Firstly, there is the increasing domination of regionalism in the global economy that manifests itself in the creation of regional mega-blocks. Secondly, trade policies of some BRICS members are increasingly determined by their priority RTA – the EEU in the case of Russia, SACU in the case of South Africa, and Mercosur in the case of Brazil. Indeed, regionalism appears to be an important element of trade and overall external economic policy in the majority of BRICS economies. In fact, when China advanced its BRICS

FTA proposal, other BRICS countries alluded to difficulties in following this format due to the transfer of trade policy to the RTA level (Brazil and Mercosur being a case in point).

Another sign of increasing importance of regionalism in BRICS policies was the decision of India as a host of the 2016 BRICS summit to invite leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for

“BRICS Plus initiative ... would also perhaps be one of the first truly global undertakings of the developing world in shaping a new, more balanced economic order”

Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to hold a joint meeting with the BRICS.

Indeed, this practice of inviting representatives of the main RTAs (and possibly the relevant development banks/funds) formed by BRICS countries could be the modus operandi for BRICS Plus during the initial stages of formation. Heads of the five main regional blocks as well as the respective development institutions could meet during BRICS summits to review their integration agenda and set development/integration goals for the future.

Alternatively, each country hosting a BRICS summit may invite the representatives of their respective regional block to foster a closer partnership between this RTA and the BRICS countries. Such an arrangement leaves largely a coordination role for the BRICS

Plus framework to formulate the agenda for globalization and South-South cooperation during the initial stages of its operation. In the framework outlined above the essence of the BRICS Plus initiative is not the enlargement of the BRICS core to include the largest developing countries, but rather to create a network of alliances that would be comprehensive and representative of all major regions or continents across the developing world. In this respect, the BRICS Plus paradigm is more about inclusiveness and diversity rather than about selecting the largest heavyweights. By its very nature of being present in all of the key regions and continents of the developing world, the BRICS could perform the unique role of a comprehensive platform for economic cooperation across the globe. Thus, the BRICS Plus concept is first and foremost about a different approach to economic integration and a different way to structure alliances globally. In this regard, the principle of BRICS Plus is in some ways a technological step forward compared to the principle of territorial and exclusive regionalism. A BRICS Plus integration framework that is spread throughout the world is much like the eBay marketplace, which grants all potential members of the network the opportunity to exchange preferences and concession regardless of their location. This is different from the regionalism of Trans Pacific Partnership (TTP) or Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) that is circumscribed to a certain location or neighbourhood, however large. Rather than being a drawback in terms of integration, the dispersed and decentralized nature of BRICS is an advantage in promoting a more open and inclusive integration framework. BRICS Plus in this regard is not a territorial, unipolar, civilizational concept – it is a global, multipolar and a cross-cultural paradigm.

With respect to the developing world the BRICS Plus system could focus on filling the gaps in global integration – via addressing insufficient integration in some regions of the developing world (most notably in Asia and Africa) the pattern of economic integration could



become akin to what may be termed as ‘balanced regionalism’ or ‘sustainable regionalism’, rather than the regionalism that seeks to benefit solely the front-runners of the world economy. The sustainable regionalism could involve assistance to developing economies in reaching the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals through obtaining greater access to markets and technologies as well as the development of infrastructure. The key question to ask today is: ‘What kind of integration and globalization framework do we need for sustainable development?’ The answer is to move away from the core-periphery model of globalization that is characterized by extreme global imbalances and high inequality towards a decentralized “no core – no periphery” framework of BRICS Plus. The BRICS Plus framework also needs to recognize that globalization will be inherently incomplete and thus should seek to emphasize the opportunity for varying standards and modes of integration as opposed to the proselytizing approach of enforcing universal standards that is fraught with disruptions and reversals. Most importantly, the nature of trade integration pursued by the BRICS and its institutions could be rendered more inclusive (open to participation for other developing and developed economies) as opposed to the exclusive

nature of integration largely pursued in the past that was based on narrow geographical or ‘commonality of values’ criteria. The emergence of BRICS offers the world economy a unique opportunity to reload the international integration process and to make it truly global, non-discriminatory and more compliant with the global rules of the WTO.

Towards “Diversified Integration”

The current global setting characterized by waning integration and liberalization impulses in the developed world presents a possibility and a need for a renewed impetus towards economic integration in the world economy. The global integration process is in need of a sufficiently strong starting engine, a new platform of integration that can compensate for the lack of momentum coming from the ‘old platform’ of the developed world. The BRICS grouping, being present in all the key regions and continents of the developing world, could serve as the basis for such a new comprehensive global platform of integration, but may encounter limitations in large-scale integration among its core heavyweights. To overcome these limitations a wider context for the BRICS that may take on the form of BRICS Plus would serve to broaden the possibility set of economic alliances that can be forged across a greater array

of countries and regions. In this respect China's BRICS Plus initiative announced earlier last year is timely in terms of breathing new life into the evolution of the BRICS as well as delivering a new impetus to the process of global economic integration. The BRICS Plus framework provide opportunities for greater trade and investment integration as well as a supportive institutional framework of coordination among regional development banks and development of financial systems. The key principle in this process is to allow for substantial flexibility in the multilateralization of alliances to include trade and/or investment, as well as the possibility of regional and/or bilateral alliances. In this respect the pattern of BRICS Plus integration is more akin to that of ASEAN and East Asia in general, which is characterized by the prevalence of bilateral alliances and variations in integration patterns as opposed to the pattern of the European Union predicated on a set of uniform standards targeting the creation of one single block. On the contrary to the core-periphery pattern prevalent in the preceding decades, the BRICS Plus model provides an opportunity for open and diversified integration in the global economy. The result is a global economy that is characterized by divergence of various models of development rather than a convergence towards one sole model or standard.

In the end, the new vision of integration in the form of BRICS Plus could drag the world economy out of its misery of persistently low growth rates. It appears that new principles and new approaches in advancing openness and integration are required. We need to think about integration, growth and globalization in new and in hitherto abnormal ways to surmount the 'new normal'. We need to shift gears from the old 'core-periphery' paradigm to veritable sustainable development, which in the integration sphere is to be based on greater diversity, equality of opportunity and due care with regard to spillover and trade diversion effects. **BR**

*The full version of the paper first appeared on:
<http://valdaiclub.com/>

TIME TO TALK?

We'd love to hear from you!

BR*a***R**
BRICS ACADEMIC REVIEW



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HEALTH

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH
COVERAGE USING KNOWLEDGE
SHARING AND INNOVATION
AMONG BRICS NATIONS.



DR AQUINA THULARE

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely that of disease or infirmity, according to the World Health Organisation. It is a component and an essential value of the social and economic life of humans and its determination, expression and evolution are framed in the historic development of a society. The attainment of the highest possible level of health is an important world-wide social goal, whose realisation requires not only the actions of the health sector, but many other sectors such as social and economic clusters. Good health is an indispensable prerequisite for poverty reduction, sustained economic growth and socio-economic development.

Factors such as socio-economic, political, cultural and environmental conditions; designs of health systems; living and working conditions; social and community influences; individual lifestyle factors and globalisation (SA Medical Research Council's Determinants of Health and their Trends paper) are material conditions that cause ill health and impact on health equity and human development (Mapping global health inequalities: challenges and opportunities by Diderichsen et al). In many developing countries, the gains ushered in modernity increasingly benefit a wealthy 'elite' at the



expense of the poor and working-class communities in socially stratified societies. They are the 'causes of the causes', or social determinants of health, and help to explain how and why differential exposure and vulnerabilities have an impact on illness, people's lifestyle choices, as well as how these have differential consequences of good health and inclusive development.

Modernity in health through conventional allopathic medical care has ameliorated the worst ravages of industrial and post-industrial capitalism by producing some wonderful technological fixes for real human problems, partly due to the advances in science and technology, as well as philanthropy and humanist altruism. But its success can only be seen

as such at the individual level. If the focus is kept at the individual level, then the real health issues and the 'causes of the causes' can be hidden away as historically, medicine was largely silent in the face of poverty and inequity.

Placing health within a market-based capitalist system results from a dialectical interplay between the social classes, and the exact nature of this interplay differs from country to country, as to whichever social force is best able to set the agenda. Modern medical care and the supporting research tends to also focus on the needs of the rich and affluent global north, where practice is based on profit and not need, as is the case in the global south.

Economic globalisation and the role

ABOUT WRITER

Dr Aquina Thulare is a medical practitioner and currently holds the position of technical specialist on health economics for the National Health Insurance (NHI) in the South African Department of Health. Her responsibilities are in the areas of policy and legislative development, as well as the development of the implementation plan for the NHI. She previously held the position of secretary

general of the South African Medical Association (SAMA). She also held the position of deputy chairperson of the South African Medical and Dental Practitioners Association. Dr Thulare is a lieutenant colonel in the Reserve Force of the South African National Defence Force, as well as a member of the Reserve Force Council. She is a member of the Medical and Dental Board (MDB) of the Health Professions Council of South Africa and is the chair of the Practice Committee of the outgoing MDB.



modifying the conditions of competition to favour domestic firms. Linked to this is the WTO's Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) regime, in which availability of medicines can be adversely affected, as can research into curing diseases prevalent in developing countries. It is evident that economic globalisation presents conditions that influence the behaviour of multinational corporations, governmental and non-governmental organisations from the global north where they can apply

that social, economic and environmental factors influence health and health inequalities and, in turn, countries and economies benefit from a healthy population. SDG 3 is health related and the overarching target on SDG 3 is target 3.8 on universal health coverage (UHC), to which all other SDG 3 targets must ensure its realisation.

A key health system's goal in addressing social determinants of health is to move towards UHC with equity (Frenz and Vega's Universal Health Coverage with

“A key health system's goal in addressing social determinants of health is to move towards UHC with equity (Frenz and Vega's Universal Health Coverage with Health Equity: What we know, don't know and need to know).”

played by transnational corporations such as big pharmaceuticals have produced conditions in which access to modern innovations such as medicines and technology are hampered by requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) healthcare commitments. The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) rules have significantly constrained domestic policy options (Skala's The World Trade Organization and Health Care: The Potential Impact of the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services on Health System Reform and Regulation in The United States) and such policies may be challenged by multinational companies if they have an effect on

pressure that adversely affects local health systems and universal access to essential medicines in the global south. Economic globalisation therefore needs to be posited with the BRICS dimension of Social Justice, Sustainable Development and Quality of Life and the quest for inclusive and responsive socio-economic policies.

The global community has responded to constraints towards inclusive and responsive socio-economic policies through adopting the United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs situate health as a key feature of human development in a more integrated manner than was the case for the Millennium Development Goals, emphasising the fact

Health Equity: What we know, don't know and need to know). UHC is a long sought-after public health and developmental objective, embodying shared global values and egalitarian principles as expressed in international human rights law and underlying theories of justice (United Nations General Assembly's Universal Declaration of Human Rights). Equity in health implies that resources are distributed and processes are designed in ways most likely to move toward equalising the health outcomes of disadvantaged social groups with that of their more advantaged counterparts. This refers to the distribution and design not only of healthcare resources and programmes, but



Students from the University of Witwatersrand explain the HIV self-testing kit, in Hilborw, Johannesburg, on March 2018

of all resources, policies and programmes that play an important part in shaping health (including social determinants of health). Globalisation has an impact on countries moving towards UHC and the role of multinational and global players in addressing access to needed health services such as medicines and health technology.

BRICS CONTEXT

BRICS has committed to developing proactive policies that will invigorate domestic economies and establish stronger economic relationships by influencing the international context and reducing excessive dependence on exports to developed markets (BRICS: Towards a Long Term Strategy for BRICS). Promoting co-operation for economic growth and development is a long-term strategy of BRICS as per BRICS: The

Fortaleza Declaration and is informed by the central ideals of pursuing economic and development sustainability, as well as building an international economic and political order that is just.

The BRICS Long Strategy provides a platform for strengthening the agenda of BRICS and the global south through various means, including: promoting co-operation for economic growth and development; peace and security; social justice, sustainable development and quality of life; political and economic governance; and progress through knowledge and innovation sharing. The agenda is aimed at fostering international research collaboration within BRICS and with countries of the global south, as well as enhancing the capacity to analyse and generate informed positions within BRICS and with broader international engagements. To do such requires capabilities to be developed for knowledge sharing and innovation, as encapsulated in the BRICS long-term strategy:

“To enhance co-operation between member states and to capitalise on

comparative advantages, BRICS should commit to investing greater effort and resources to increase joint research among member states. It is, therefore, important to support intra-BRICS knowledge production and dissemination and to facilitate researcher and student exchange. BRICS should aspire to nurture world-class research institutions and education facilities that can make a significant contribution to global education and knowledge systems”.

BRICS has prioritised health through the social justice, sustainable development and quality of life dimension as a key area of development and co-operation. Inclusive and responsive socio-economic policies should promote healthcare and healthy populations by moving towards UHC and promoting social inclusion and integration. Economic growth and social inclusion within BRICS is contributing towards the stabilisation of the global economy, job creation and poverty reduction.

BRICS accounted for 29.5 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP) (based on purchasing power parity – PPP)

in 2013 and they are regarded as some of the fastest growing economies. The best socio-economic indices correspond to Brazil, Russia and China and the worst are in India and South Africa (as per Buss, Ferreira and Hoirisch's Health and development in BRICS countries: Saúde Soc). South Africa has the highest income and wealth inequality (0.674), followed by Brazil (0.574), while India (0.334) is the most egalitarian.

The performances of the five BRICS nations has been varied in terms of growth performance, human development and the single most important hard social indicator: life expectancy at birth. In 2010, the global estimated healthy life expectancy at birth (HALE) was 58.3 years for males and 61.8 for females (Institute of Health Metrics and

on infant and maternal mortality, while South Africa is also an outlier in respect of the HIV prevalence and the TB-and-HIV disease burden. South Africa underperformed in terms of growth and human development, with a further decline in life expectancy at birth (due to widespread HIV/AIDS infection), even though it succeeded in reducing extreme poverty. NCDs constitute 63% of global deaths and 80% of deaths in low- and middle-income countries. When analysing the risk factors that lead to NCDs, Brazil, Russia and South Africa are above the global average in terms of obesity in adult men who are 20 years of age and above (Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation; Seattle and World Health Organisation; World Health Statistics).

a Long Term Strategy for BRICS). The introduction of UHC strategies will be appropriate for each country's context, depending on its sources of revenue, size and age distribution and health status of the population (BRICS: Towards a Long Term Strategy for BRICS). One of the indicators that is used to measure the move towards UHC relates to Total Health Expenditure (THE) as a percentage of GDP, general government expenditure and out-of-pocket (OOPs). These indicators vary across BRICS countries and in 2011, THE as a percentage of GDP ranged from 8.9% in Brazil to 3.9% in India. Russia, on the other hand, spent more on health as a percentage of total government expenditure (59.7%) compared to India (31.0%). India also had the highest OOPs at 59.4%, while South Africa had the lowest at 13.8%. Monitoring and evaluation of Wellness Indicators for BRICS as well as UHC indicators are key towards reaching and achieving SDGs. Economic and social indicators are important for expressing social determinants of health – the 'causes of the causes' in health (Health and development in BRICS countries: Saúde Soc).

“South Africa underperformed in terms of growth and human development, with a further decline in life expectancy at birth (due to widespread HIV/AIDS infection), even though it succeeded in reducing extreme poverty.”

Evaluation: Health Life Expectancy) within BRICS. Three of the countries – Russia, India and South Africa – are below the global estimates.

BRICS countries face different epidemiological and structural challenges of health systems in their contexts and are generally facing increasing public health challenges and health risk factors such as communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (BRICS: Towards a Long Term Strategy for BRICS) that are that associated with population migration and urbanisation. The epidemiological profile of BRICS countries varies from context to context and the differences are marked between the countries. South Africa and India are performing poorly

BRICS has prioritised UHC as a strategy to promote inclusive human development, to end inequities in access to healthcare and to provide social protection and a safety net. Through moving effectively towards UHC, BRICS aim to improve access to quality healthcare services for the most vulnerable sectors of society and to improve access to health technologies and medicines (Health and development in BRICS countries: Saúde Soc). The move towards UHC is aimed at ensuring that citizens have health coverage in a publicly financed health system; to reduce out of pocket expenditure for healthcare; and to target diseases that are prevalent in each BRICS country (BRICS: Towards

HEALTH PROFILE WITHIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

The South African government's massive redistributive efforts have been overwhelmed by the scale of problems that were inherited by the democratic dispensation in 1994. The challenges have been exacerbated by increasing the burden of disease and the structural disintegration of the health system. The many redistributive social policies have been understood just as 'poverty alleviation' instead of state-led interventions that potentially help to alter the class balance of forces by partially de-linking the livelihoods of the popular strata from naked dependency on the capitalist market. The socio-economic policies have been seen to focus on redistribution but with insufficient structural transformation of the systemic features of the productive economy to achieve inclusive development.

South Africa has a high burden of TB and the disease is one of the leading causes

of death, with an estimated 80 000 people with TB who are either not diagnosed or diagnosed but not on TB treatment. The highest prevalence of latent TB, estimated at 88, has been found among people in the age group 30-39 years of age. Infection levels are high among those who live in poor socio-economic conditions, including: inmates in correctional services; miners; people living in informal settlements, especially in neighbouring mines; diabetics; pregnant women; children; and healthcare workers.

According to census figures from Stats SA, TB is the biggest contributor to years of life lost, followed by pneumonia and influenza; intestinal infectious diseases; other forms of heart diseases; cerebrovascular disease; diabetes mellitus; HIV/AIDS; hypertensive disease; chronic lower respiratory tract disease; and other viral diseases (Statistics South Africa: Mid-year population estimates). The national HIV prevalence among the general adult population aged 15 to 49 has remained stable at around 17.3% since 2005 and the estimated number of people living with HIV and AIDS was 6.4 million in 2012 (StatsSA, 2013: Spectrum Policy Modelling System). HIV, AIDS and TB have significantly contributed the most in this increased death rate.

South Africa is also experiencing increasing levels of drug-resistant TB that occurs when the TB bacteria becomes resistant to the medication used to treat the condition. Drug-resistant TB can occur when the drugs are misused or mismanaged. Examples of misuse or mismanagement include: patients not completing a full course of TB treatment; healthcare providers prescribing the wrong treatment (the wrong dose or length of time); drugs for proper treatment are not available; and drugs are of poor quality. Drug-resistant TB is more common in people who do not take their TB medication regularly; do not complete their prescription; develop the TB disease again after being treated for it in the past; come from areas of the world where drug-resistant TB is common; and have spent time with someone known to have the drug-resistant TB disease. Drug-resistant TB is spread the same way that drug-susceptible TB is spread,

and approximately half a million people around the world suffer from multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB) each year. A staggering 19 000 of those cases are seen in South Africa, and 59% of people diagnosed with TB are co-infected with HIV.

In addition to the quadruple burden of disease, there are other common challenges facing the South African health system, namely: curative hospicentric health system; inequitable healthcare financing; fragmentation; human resources challenges; costly private sector; and financing that punishes the poor. These problems have affected all sectors of the South African population adversely, although the poor and needy have felt the impact even more significantly.

but it can also affect other parts of the body such as the brain, the kidneys, or the spine. In most cases, TB is treatable and curable; however, people with TB can die if they do not receive proper treatment.

Globally, an estimated 9 million people developed active TB in 2013, of which approximately 1.5 million died. TB is a disease of poverty as demonstrated in the United States of America (USA) where it adversely affects groups that have historically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group. The percentage of TB cases that occur in Hispanics, African Americans and Asians is higher than expected, based on the percentage of these minorities in the USA's population. In 2015, about 87% of the TB cases reported in the USA

“Poverty alleviation reduces the risk of tuberculosis transmission and the risk of progression from infection to disease. It also helps to improve access to health services and adherence to recommended treatment.”

In pursuit of the goal of UHC and to address the structural challenges and high disease burden, South Africa is implementing National Health Insurance (NHI) as part of transforming its healthcare system and how it is financed to ensure that all South Africans, irrespective of socio-economic status, have access to quality health services based on their needs. NHI will ensure that the strengthened public health sector remains the backbone of the country's population health service delivery structure.

TB presents an opportunity to analyse the impact of globalisation on access to health and medicines. TB is caused by mycobacterium tuberculosis and is spread through the air from one person to another. TB usually affects the lungs

were in racial and ethnic minorities. The percentage of cases occurring in foreign-born people was 66% of the national case total in 2015. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO):

“Poverty is a powerful determinant of TB. Crowded and poorly ventilated living and working environments often associated with poverty constitute direct risk factors for tuberculosis transmission. Undernutrition is an important risk factor for developing active disease. Poverty is also associated with poor general health knowledge and a lack of empowerment to act on health knowledge, which leads to risk of exposure to several tuberculosis risk factors, such as HIV, smoking and alcohol abuse.”



A medical worker is pictured at a mobile testing facilities for Tuberculosis (TB) at Driefontein Gold Mine in South Africa.

To eradicate TB requires that countries address the social determinants of health as a shared responsibility across disease programmes and other stakeholders within and beyond the health sector. On poverty and its relationship to TB, the WHO has advised that:

“Poverty alleviation reduces the risk of tuberculosis transmission and the risk of progression from infection to disease. It also helps to improve access to health services and adherence to recommended treatment. Actions on the determinants of ill health through ‘health-in-all-policies’ approaches will immensely benefit tuberculosis care and prevention.”

The WHO has further recommended that countries introduce social, economic and public health policies that pursue overarching poverty reduction strategies and expanding social protection, thereby reducing food insecurity; improving the living and working conditions; improving the environment and living conditions in prisons and other congregate settings; addressing the social, financial and health situation of migrants; and promoting healthy diets and lifestyles, including the

reduction of smoking and harmful use of alcohol and drugs to eradicate TB.

To address the high burden of TB, South Africa has signed up to the Stop TB Partnership’s targets of 90-90-90. These targets are aimed at eradicating TB by aiming at ensuring that 90% of those that have TB should be found; to initiate treatment on 90% of those that have been found; and to ensure that 90% of those on TB treatment are successfully cured. Through a PEPFAR/USAID-funded National Surge Campaign, the country will screen 14 million people for HIV and TB, seeking to target South Africans who do not know their HIV status and those who do not know that they have TB.

In response to the multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR/TB) epidemic, the EndTB trial partnership has been initiated between Partners in Health, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Interactive Research and Development and financial partner UNITAID. Other role-players in the partnership include Epicentre, the Harvard Medical School and the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp in Belgium. The partnership

aims to undertake clinical trials on MDR/TB subjects in order to expand new drug markets for TB and to obtain increased uptake of new TB drugs as part of treatment regimens that are more effective and less toxic. EndTB clinical trials will not use the injectable treatment that is deemed toxic to the user. The project is also working to remove policy and market barriers that limit the new drugs’ widespread availability and use.

The partnership is undertaking observations and clinical trials using new MDR/TB drugs, namely bedaquiline (a product of Janssen, based in Beerse, Belgium which forms part of the USA’s Johnson & Johnson Group) the first new drug that has received accelerated approval from the US Food and Drug Administration in December 2012, and delamanid, a product of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co, Ltd, based in Tokyo, Japan that has received approval from the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (right), Director General WHO and Issac F Adwole, Health Minister Nigeria (centre) at the inauguration of END-TB Summit and launch of the TB Free India Campaign

European Medicines Agency and Japan's Pharmaceuticals Medical Devices Agency in 2014. Bedaquiline and delamanid are the first new anti-TB drugs to have been developed in almost 50 years. Bedaquiline, a diarylquinoline, and delamanid, a nitromidoxazole, have received conditional stringent regulatory approval and have the WHO interim policy guidance for their use as they are being used outside clinical trial settings.

The observational study is conducted in 17 countries in the global south including Vietnam, and the clinical trials are being undertaken in six countries including

Georgia, Peru, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Kyrgyzstan and South Africa. In South Africa, the EndTB partnership has identified Khayelitsha as a trial site and aims to enrol between 90 to 120 patients until 2020, while a total of 750 patients are set to be enrolled in the clinical trial. Patients are promised to receive treatment at primary healthcare facilities rather than hospitals in Khayelitsha. Alongside these completely new drugs, a potential role of repurposed medicines, including clofazimine and linezolid, are being considered against drug-resistant forms of TB in experimental combinations with fluoroquinolones and pyrazinamide administered alongside existing TB regimens in countries with a high burden of the disease.

The critique of the EndTB project is that it emerges after it has taken big pharmaceuticals 50 years to develop new drugs for TB and MDRTB while

other diseases of the global north that are not linked to poverty have been prioritised through continuous research and innovation as they have the greatest potential for return on investment.

The EndTB project has also been identified by the big pharmaceuticals in the global north as the preferred method for eradicating TB and MDRTB in the global south. The stated goals of the EndTB trial are within a neoliberal paradigm of 'expanding new drug markets for TB'. The project fails to painstakingly analyse and evaluate the costs of putting right social and political causes of illness – the material conditions of life that bring misery, the 'causes of the causes' of ill health, the social determinants of TB and poverty.

The notion of 'expanding new drug markets for TB' can be described as quick fixes introduced by market capitalism using expensive drugs with the promise of shareholder profits and using clinical

trial subjects from the global south for the benefit of multinational pharmaceutical manufacturers. This is demonstrated by the lack of intervention in addressing social determinants of health, poor access to and mismanagement of allopathic medicines needed for diseases (such as TB) that are driving the epidemiological profile of South Africans.

COLLABORATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN BRICS

Sustaining a healthy nation and the provision of basic health services is a pre-condition for the development and economic growth of the BRICS nations, both individually and collectively. The BRICS long-term strategy provides a platform for, among other dimensions, strengthening social justice, sustainable development and quality of life, as well as making progress through knowledge and innovation sharing by fostering international research collaboration within BRICS and with countries of the

knowledge economy. This will be possible only if countries take an integrated approach to development. Identifying priorities, aligning activities aimed at scientific and technological development, and upgrading production capacities will need to be accompanied by targeted actions addressing skills-based, financial and infrastructural obstacles. Barriers and incentives differ from country to country, therefore there will be no single, unique response. Each country has to develop its particular, innovative way of shaping its own development trajectory.”

BRICS has committed to work together nationally, regionally and globally to create comprehensive and contextually sensitive universal health-care systems that will ensure that UHC is achieved. Strategies for moving towards UHC may differ from country to country but should aim to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for healthcare, as well as target diseases that are prevalent in each BRICS country. The implementation of publicly financed

creating new markets for TB drugs without considering factors for alleviating the material conditions and livelihoods of the popular strata through state-led interventions that can alter the class balance of forces from naked dependency on the capitalist market.

The BRICS nations need to work together to develop the requisite capability for research and production of appropriate innovations, as well as knowledge that will ameliorate diseases from the global south through the development of relevant and appropriate policies to move countries towards UHC. These should include capability to produce disease prevention technologies such as vaccines and medicines for internal needs for BRICS and the global south. The establishment of an African Biomedical Research, Innovation and Vaccination Centre has been proposed and this can provide a platform for BRICS member states to co-operate in developing innovation platforms and solutions to respond appropriately to epidemics in the global south, such as those presented by TB and MDRTB.

BRICS can provide a platform for member states to co-operate in developing knowledge-sharing platforms for the development of common wellness and universal health coverage indicators for country, region and global purposes. Monitoring of UHC can focus on coverage of the population with quality, essential health services and financial protection (as per the World Bank and World Health Organisation: Tracking Universal Health Coverage). Monitoring of BRICS Wellness indicators can consider social determinants of health such as vulnerability, livelihoods, empowerment health-seeking and navigation skills, while also monitoring the characteristics of the health system in terms of resources, the organisation, service outreach, participation and permeability. Measuring and monitoring the equity dimension entails understanding health needs, availability of services, accessibility, utilisation patterns and whether coverage is effective or not (according to Frenz and Vega's Universal Health Coverage with Health Equity: What we know, don't know and need to know). **BR**

“The implementation of publicly financed health systems with improvements in government expenditure is key as a strategy for moving member countries towards achieving UHC.”

global south, as well as enhancing the capacity to analyse and generate informed positions within BRICS, and with broader international engagements. Equitable and socially responsive policies are a pre-requisite for inclusive development within BRICS as supported by Helmut Reisen's assertions in the 2013 paper on Economic Policy and Social Affairs in BRICS, stressing that:

“Sustaining growth and addressing the equity challenge in the long run will require the BRICS countries to strengthen capacities for production and innovation, while improving links with the global

health systems with improvements in government expenditure is key as a strategy for moving member countries towards achieving UHC.

Globalisation and the role of multinational corporations of the global north and the associated NGOs and academics have opted to expand new drug markets for TB without analysing why drug-resistant TB has manifested. Big pharmaceuticals and other role-players have opted not to consider closely the role of social determinants of health in the spread of TB and the development of MDRTB. Globalisation focuses on

OVERVIEW

INSIGHTS, NEWS AND COMMENTARY ABOUT BRICS

COMPILED BY VUYO DLAMINI



Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018 – New Name, Wider Frame

by *Phil Baty, Editorial director, global rankings*

You may already have noticed something a little different about the 2018 edition of the Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Rankings – a small but significant tweak to its name. Since first publishing this ranking in

2014, we have included in its title the famous “BRICS” acronym – coined in 2001 by the economist Jim O’Neill to highlight the major emerging economic powerhouses of Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa added later. But now we have dropped the “BRICS” from our name.

This move is in no way to diminish the importance of the BRICS nations in global higher education – indeed,

China in particular is now clearly established as a world higher education superpower competing alongside the traditional Anglo-American heavyweights.

Russia is making solid progress on the global scene with its ambitious “Project 5-100”, which aims to propel five universities into the ranks of the world’s top 100 by 2020.

And India has launched its own version of the “excellence initiatives” that have raised standards in many emerging-economy higher-education systems: its “Institutions of Eminence” plan will allow a select group of up to 20 leading institutions from both the public and private sectors to embrace global competition with additional funding and unprecedented levels of institutional autonomy.

Our name change is not about belittling any country’s hard-won achievements. Rather, it aims to recognise the exceptional strength in the wide diversity of the emerging-economy nations, BRICS and all.

Any nation deemed an emerging economy by the FTSE Group’s Country Classification process is included for analysis in this ranking. This edition includes a total of 42 nations represented among more than 350 institutions ranked.

The ranking includes the “MINT” nations predicted to become economic giants – Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey. It also takes in most of the group that THE itself labelled the “TACTICS” – Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Turkey, Iran, Colombia and Serbia – which appear to be particularly poised for success in higher education, with young populations, strong growth in higher education participation, and expanding research output.

So a subtle change to the name of this ranking represents a far less subtle change taking place in global higher education – the rise of a rich and diverse range of nations, spread across the globe, powered by higher-level skills, talent, research and innovation. We are delighted to celebrate that.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

India Seeks Aadhaar-Like ID For All BRICS Nations



STOP TERRORISM

I India has suggested introducing an Aadhaar-like unique identification number for every individual and company across BRICS nations to tackle terrorism financing and strengthen counterterrorism measures.

A seven-member team comprising senior officials of the Union ministries of home and external affairs, National Security Guard and Enforcement Directorate participated in the two-day meeting attended by BRICS nations' joint working group on strategy for counterterrorism and tackling terrorism financing, which was held in South Africa on 18 and 19 April this year.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to join the BRICS meeting in July, sources revealed. Significantly, they said, a subgroup on terrorism financing has subsequently been formed.

Read more at: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>



POLITICS

“Now is the time to lend a hand. Now is the time for each of us to say 'send me'. Now is the time for all of us to work together, in honour of Nelson Mandela, to build a new, better South Africa for all.”

- Cyril Ramaphosa, President, South Africa, State of the Nation Address, 2018

TECH

The Gospel Of Soap And Water: Russia Develops Space Sauna And Washing Machine

T The Moscow-based Research and Design Institute of Chemical Engineering (NIICHIMMASH) has been tasked with creating water-recovery systems for prospective spacecraft, as well as orbital stations and on-planet bases. The international space station (ISS) may be equipped with sauna and shower units in the future, according to NIICHIMMASH, Russia's leading hub for the development of life-support systems for spacecraft.

During a recent meeting of NIICHIMMASH's scientific and technological council, a decision was made “to begin the development of sanitary-hygienic



means, including shower, sauna, wash-hand basin and washing machine, capable of operating in the conditions of a space flight”. Additionally, NIICHIMMASH will focus on developing water-recovery systems, to be used by the personnel of future spacecraft, orbital stations and on-planet bases. NIICHIMMASH's scientific and technological council underscored that “the most important stage of the work” will be testing the new equipment on board the ISS.

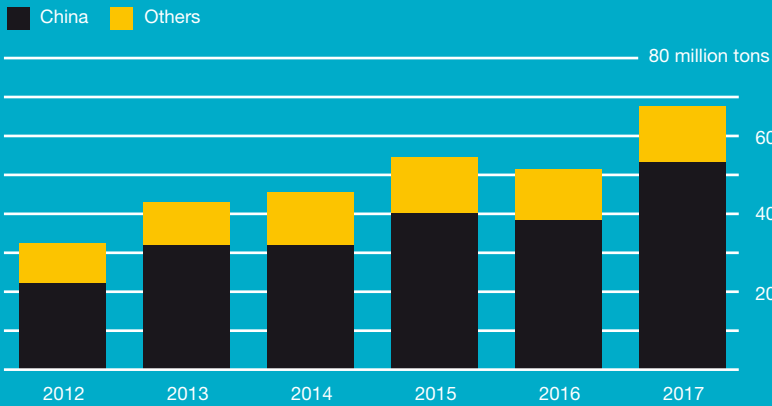
<https://sputniknews.com>

TRADE

China's Appetite For Brazilian Soybeans Grows

C China's demand for Brazilian soybeans has increased by almost 300 percent in the past eight years. Just last year, Brazil supplied over 53 percent of China's total soybean imports (excluding processed soybean meal or oil). The crop has been critical in padding Brazil's coffers; the country posted a US\$ 20-billion trade surplus with China last year, due in part to a 40 percent rise in soybean exports.

Source: Brazil Trade Ministry



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

An Indian Startup Offers All-Natural Sanitary Napkins Made Of Cornstarch And Bamboo

F For years, Tanvi Johri, a business-school graduate from New Delhi, had suffered allergies and chafing rashes caused by the regular sanitary napkins available on the market. So when she decided to turn entrepreneur in 2016, she chose to not just find a solution to this problem faced by millions of Indian women,

but also to deliver it to their homes.

The result was Carmesi, a New Delhi-based company that manufactures all-natural sanitary pads made of cornstarch and bamboo fibre, which was launched in January 2018. The company has over 5,000 customers today, who place orders on Carmesi's website and elsewhere. Its customer base has been growing 30 percent month-on-month, according to Johri, and the firm has now raised an undisclosed amount from five angel investors.

For more information visit <https://mycarmesi.com>



ARTS

China Screens First Gay Film In Wide Release

L Looking for Rohmer has made LGBT+ history in China. The French-Chinese co-production – about a dancer (Han Geng) mourning his friend Rohmer (Jérémie Elkaim), who died in an avalanche – premiered on Friday, 13 April, becoming the first film with a central gay storyline to be released in the Asian nation.

Source: www.advocate.com

TIMELINE

BRIC(S) Summits over the decade:

- 2009: Yakateringburg, Russia
- 2010: Brasília, Brazil
- *South Africa joins BRICS
- 2011: Sanya, China
- 2012: New Delhi, India
- 2013: Durban, South Africa
- 2014: Fortaleza, Brazil
- 2015: Ufa, Russia
- 2016: Goa, India
- 2017: Xiamen, China
- 2018: Johannesburg South Africa



SOCIAL

Philanthropy On the Rise in China

C China's super-rich are increasingly becoming engaged in philanthropic causes, as their wealth expands in accordance with the country's astronomical economic growth. In the past 12 months through March, 76 Chinese individuals donated more than US\$ 5-million to education, healthcare, poverty

Evergrande Group chairman Xu Jiayin

alleviation, and other social goods, according to Shanghai-based Hurun Research, known for its annual ranking of the wealthiest individuals in China.

The debut philanthropy list, Hurun USA-China Philanthropy List 2018, ranked the most generous individuals from the U.S. and China, the world's biggest economies, which are currently on the verge of a trade war.

The two biggest givers from China were He Xiangjian, founder of Midea Group, a manufacturer and distributor of electric appliances, and Xu Jiayin, chairman of property developer Evergrande.

www.barrons.com

ECONOMICS

Russia Predicts World Cup Will Have US\$ 31-Billion Economic Impact

T The World Cup could have a total impact on the Russian economy of nearly US\$ 31-billion, organisers have predicted.

A new report on the economic impact of the tournament said the boost for the country's GDP could amount to between 1.62-trillion rubles (US\$ 26-billion) and 1.92-trillion rubles (US\$ 30.8-billion) over the 10 years from 2013 through to 2023. That's attributed to growing tourism plus large-scale spending on construction, plus later knock-on effects from those government investments. It even suggests the World Cup will encourage Russians to exercise more, so they take fewer sick days.

The World Cup "has a considerable economic effect," Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich says in the report. "The tournament has already boosted the economic development of the host regions and will continue to have a positive long-term economic impact."

The report says the total spend on the tournament will be 683-billion rubles (US\$ 11-billion), though that doesn't include some costly new infrastructure and stadiums, which organisers say would have been built regardless. Around 220,000 jobs have been created, the report says.

Economic-impact figures for earlier tournaments have been hotly disputed, given the difficulty of separating the World Cup from other economic factors. Russia also spent big to host the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, with as much as US\$ 50-billion spent, according to one government estimate. The Olympics were seen as key to national prestige – much as the World Cup is today – and became the costliest Winter Games in history.

That lavish spending helped to turn the host city of Sochi into a major year-round tourism hub for Russians, though opposition activists accused the government of allowing waste and large-scale corruption.

The government later claimed the true cost of the Sochi Olympics was much lower, and insisted it would have built major rail and road upgrades even if the games had not been in town.

www.espn.com



TOURISM

#EveryDropCounts: Tourism Partners In Cape To Launch Water Campaign

S South Africa's tourism capital Cape Town is launching a global "water-wise" campaign to make it a more sustainable destination as it responds to a severe drought, the city's tourism, trade and investment promotion agency Wesgro reported.

It said over the past three years, citizens, industry and the tourism sector had cut consumption of water by almost 60 percent, a feat that had not yet been matched by any other major city globally.

The new water programme by the city of Cape Town included groundwater abstraction from underground aquifers, temporary desalination and re-claimed/re-used water, which already supplies 12 percent of the city's daily usage, and would increase to more than 45 percent within a year.

"These steps will secure the sustainability of the region's economy, its communities and natural resources, and employment. They will also help build a more resilient destination," it said.

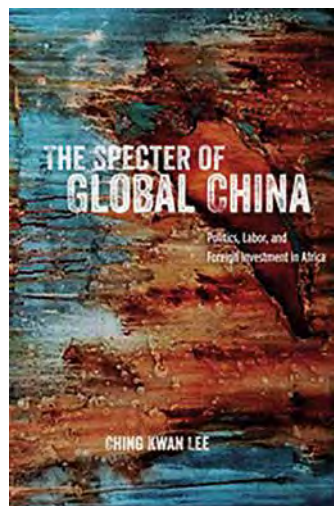
Wesgro noted that international tourists, who make up only one percent of the population of the city at any one time, contribute to a multibillion-dollar sector that supports over 300,000 direct and indirect jobs in the entire Western Cape province.

"It is for this reason that the tourism industry has taken a leadership role in working with the local communities and government to deliver more sustainable business practices," it said.

The campaign, set to launch in August, would be driven mainly through digital media and partners' existing marketing channels and would focus on engaging with potential visitors in main source markets such as Europe, USA, Asia and within South Africa. **Source: African News Agency**

LITERATURE GUIDE

Essential books to read this quarter



The Specter of global China: politics, labour and foreign investment in Africa

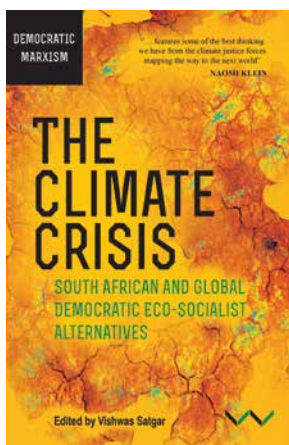
China has emerged as one of Africa's top business partners, aggressively pursuing its raw materials and establishing a mighty presence in the continent's booming construction market. Among major foreign investors in Africa, China has stirred the most fear, hope and controversy. For many, the spectre of a Chinese neo-colonial scramble is looming, while for others China is Africa's best chance at economic renewal. Yet global debates about China in Africa have been based more on rhetoric than empirical evidence. Ching Kwan Lee's *The Specter of Global China* is the first comparative ethnographic study to address the critical question: is Chinese capital a different kind of capital?

Offering the clearest look yet at China's state-driven investment in Africa, this book is rooted in six years of extensive fieldwork in copper mines and construction sites in Africa's copper giant Zambia. Lee shadowed Chinese, Indian and South African managers in underground mines, interviewed Zambian miners and construction workers, and worked with Zambian officials. Distinguishing carefully between Chinese state capital and global private capital in terms of their business objectives, labour practices, managerial ethos and political engagement with the Zambian state and society, she concludes that Chinese state investment presents unique potential and perils for African development. *The Specter of Global China* is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of China, Africa and global capitalism.

Author

Ching Kwan Lee is professor of sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *Gender and the South China Miracle: Two Worlds of Factory Women* and *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt*.

Publisher: the University of Chicago Press
www.press.uchicago.edu



Climate Crisis: South African and Global Democratic Eco-socialist Alternatives

Volume 3 in the Democratic Marxism series The Climate Crisis investigates eco-socialist alternatives that are emerging. It presents the thinking of leading climate justice activists, campaigners and social movements advancing systemic alternatives while also developing bottom-up, just transitions to sustain life. Through a combination of theoretical and empirical work, the authors collectively examine the challenges and opportunities inherent in the current moment. This volume builds on the class-struggle focus of Volume 2 by placing ecological issues at the centre of Democratic Marxism. Most importantly, it explores ways to

renew historical socialism with democratic, eco-socialist alternatives to meet current challenges in South Africa and the rest of the world.

Editor

Vishwas Satgar is a democratic eco-socialist who has worked as an activist for over three decades. He is an associate professor of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Vishwas also edits the Democratic Marxism series, for which he has received the distinguished contribution award from the World Association of Political Economy.

Publisher: Wits University Press
www.witspress.co.za

Industrial Relations in Emerging Economies: The Quest for Inclusive Development

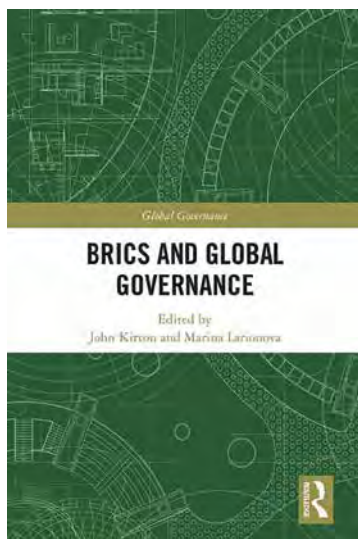
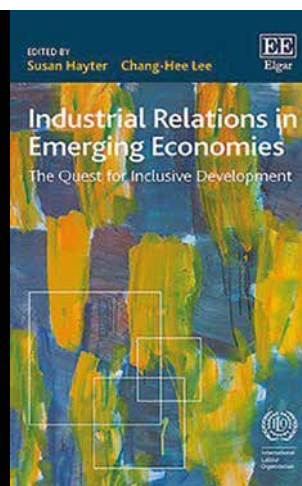
This book examines industrial and employment relations in the emerging economies of Brazil, China, India, South Africa and Turkey, and assesses the contribution of industrial relations institutions to inclusive development. The book uses real-world examples to inspect the evolution of industrial relations and that of organised interest representation on labour issues. It reveals contested institutional pathways, despite a continuing demand for independent collective interest representation in labour relations.

Editor (s) Bio

Susan Hayte is a senior specialist on industrial relations at the International Labour Office, Switzerland. She received an MSc in Industrial Relations from the London School of Economics, United Kingdom.

Chang-Hee Lee is a director at the International Labour Office, Vietnam and former industrial relations specialist at the ILO. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the Seoul National University, Republic of Korea.

Publisher: Edward Elgar
www.e-elgar.com



BRICS and Global Governance

The past few decades have witnessed the development of an increasingly globalised and multipolar world order in which the demand for multilateralism becomes ever more pronounced. The BRICS group, established in 2009, has evolved into a plurilateral summit institution recognised both by sceptics and proponents as a major participant in the international system.

Addressing the BRICS' role in global governance, this book critically examines the association's birth and evolution, mechanisms of inter-BRICS co-operation, its agenda priorities, BRICS countries' interests, decisions made by members, their collective and individual compliance with the agreed commitments, and the patterns of BRICS engagement with other international institutions. This volume advances the current state of knowledge on global governance architecture, the BRICS role in this system, as well as the benefits it has provided and can provide for world order.

This book will interest scholars and graduate students researching the rise and role of emerging

powers, global governance, China and India's approach to global order and relationship with the United States, Great Power politics, democratisation as a foreign policy strategy, realist theory-building and hegemonic transitions, and the (crisis of) liberal world order.

Author(s) Bio

Marina Larionova, PhD, is head of the Center for International Institutions Research (CIIR), Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) and co-director of the BRICS Research Group

John J. Kirton, Munk is the director of the G7 Research Group and co-director of the G20 Research Group, the Global Health Diplomacy Program and the BRICS Research Group, all based at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at China's Renmin University.

Publisher: Routledge
www.routledge.com

Humanities and Social Sciences AWARDS 2018

Round up of the event proceedings

BY VUYO DLAMINI

The South African Humanities and Social Sciences Awards (HSS Awards) celebrate outstanding creative works by academics, curators and artists based at participating universities in South Africa to advance the humanities and

social sciences. The iconic Market Theatre in Newtown, Johannesburg was a fitting venue for the event, which took place on the 15th of March. It was no sombre affair – the audience ululated and clapped for those taking the stage to receive their awards.





“ All this creativity around the awards is beginning to define what learning might be. We have nothing to fear about our creativity and scholarship, all we need is the confidence to move forward. ”

- Prof Ari Sitas, Chairperson of the NIHSS & Chairperson of the South African BRICS Think Tank



1. Nduduzo Makhathini accompanied by his band as they kicked off the awards with healing sounds

4. Professor Ari Sitas

2. Jazz Maestro Nduduzo Makhathini on the piano

5. Publisher of the winning book Tjieng Tjeng Tjerries and Other Stories Colleen Higgs with HSS Awards Judge Chairperson Professor Pumla Gqola

3. Passionate and moving performance by Gregory Maqoma accompanied by dancers and music. The piece is inspired by Zakes Mda's book titled Cion. The production also goes by the same title

6. Dikgang Moseneke, Winner: Non-fiction Monograph

“ I'd like to dedicate this special award to my recently passed mother as she sits at the heart of my story, our story, and our search for freedom and our humanity. ”

- Dikgang Moseneke, Winner: Non-fiction Monograph



2018 HSS Award Winners:

This year's awards saw a submission increase of over 23 percent compared to the previous year

NON-FICTION EDITED VOLUME



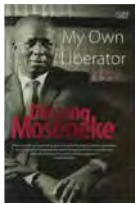
Sol Plaatje's Native Life in South Africa: Past and Present, by Brian Willan, Janet Remington and Bhekizizwe Peterson (Wits University Press)



Hanging on a Wire, by Rick Rohde and Siona O'Connell (Fourthwall Books)

NON-FICTION MONOGRAPH

BEST FICTION SINGLE AUTHORED



My Own Liberator, by Dikgang Moseneke (Pan Macmillan South Africa)



Tjang Tjerries and Other Stories, by Jolyn Phillips (Modjaji Books)

CREATIVE COLLECTIONS BEST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

KAFKA'S APE

Kafka's Ape, by Tony Miyambo, Phala Phala



CREATIVE COLLECTIONS BEST MUSICAL COMPOSITION

Noem My Skollie, by Kyle Shepherd



CREATIVE COLLECTIONS BEST VISUAL ART

When the moon waxes red, by Sharlene Khan

DIGITAL HUMANITIES BEST DH VISUALIZATION OR INFOGRAPHIC

Artists' Books in South Africa, by David Paton, Jack Ginsberg

DIGITAL HUMANITIES BEST DH PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Joshua Pulumo Mohapeloa Critical Edition in Six Volumes, by Christine Lucia

“The HSS Awards were born of a strategic intent to build a robust post-apartheid higher education system shaped by an equally spirited HSS, while promoting, recognising and celebrating members of the HSS community who are creating post-apartheid and post-colonial forms of scholarship, creative and digital humanities productions.”

- Prof Sarah Mosoetsa, CEO, NIHSS



9

9. Creative Collections Best Visual Art category Winner Sharlene Khan accepting their award from judge chairperson Professor Jyoti Mistri

10. Creative Collections Best Public Performance category winners Tony Miyambo and Phala Phala



10



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

MANDATE

The National Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) is a statutory body established in accordance with section 69, read with sections 38A, 38B and 38C of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act no 101 of 1997).

OUR MISSION

The Institute will fulfil its mission – alone and/or in partnership – by doing the following:

Providing strategic and intellectual resources to the higher education sphere within the humanities and social sciences;

Advancing research, teaching and learning by ensuring collaboration and/or coordination of the work of higher education institutions;

Advising the Minister of Higher Education on matters relating to the Institute's strategic objectives, or to higher education generally; Advocating equity, justice and social responsibility.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Provide doctoral scholarships for postgraduate students studying in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa.

Dynamise the fields of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences in South Africa through a range of Catalytic Projects and Humanities Hubs.

Promote the integrity, reputation and recognition of the humanities and social sciences within the higher education community, the science and technology community and society.

Advance postgraduate scholarship through a range of innovations and collaborate supervision of doctoral students.

Build and strengthen networks and partnerships with organisations working in areas related to the humanities and social sciences.

Foster international research collaborations between South Africa and the rest of Africa, and countries of the Global South, including Brazil, India and China.

Act as a dynamic broker between the world of knowledge and policy action on behalf of South Africa, as the South African BRICS Think Tank (SABTT).

Coordinate and manage all BRICS Think Tank-related activities on behalf of South Africa.



OUR VISION

To become the epicentre of scholarship, pedagogy, community practice and social responsibility for the humanities and social sciences, in South Africa and beyond.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Scholarships Programme

- Doctoral Scholarship Programme
- National Mentorship Programme
- African Pathways Programme



Research Programme

- Catalytic Research Programme
- Humanities Hubs
- Working Groups and Strategic Initiatives



BRICS Programme

- BRICS Research Programmes
- BRICS Think Tank Council
- SABTT and Academic Forum





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