2024 Social Policy in Africa Conference

15-17 April 2024

**Theme: Social Policy in post-COVID Africa:
In Search of an Inclusive and Equitable Architecture**

PROGRAMME
Southern Sun Hotel, City of Tshwane, South Africa

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The SARS-CoV-2 virus unleashed a global (Covid-19) pandemic. As of April 2023, the total global confirmed cases of infection were 762,790,388, and the total global confirmed deaths were 6,897,012. At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the predictions for Africa were dire. The predictions turned out to be exaggerated. The confirmed infection in Africa was 5,382,790 by 14 April 2023, and the confirmed fatality was 140,681. Against a global population share of 16.72 per cent in April 2023, Africa's infection share was 0.7 per cent, and the share of the death rate was 2.04 per cent. However, these figures hide huge regional and national variations. The Southern African region recorded the highest confirmed cases of infection and death, with South Africa accounting for 75.66% of infections and 72.93% of fatalities in the region.

Similarly, the impact of the pandemic on Africa's economies varied. With the widespread national lockdown measures, South Africa's GDP contracted by 16 per cent in the first and second quarters of 2020, with an annualised growth rate of -51 per cent Nigeria's economy contracted by 6.1 per cent in the second quarter of 2020—the steepest decline in 10 years—aggravated by a sharp decline in oil prices, its primary foreign exchange earner. Unemployment increased to 27 per cent. In Kenya, while the economy contracted by only 1.5 per cent, unemployment doubled to 10.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2020. Average working hours declined from 50 to 38 hours per week. A third of household-run businesses were not operating, with revenue falling 50 per cent.

From the complete dependence on import for testing equipment to the absence of any vaccine project, the pandemic laid bare the adverse impact of four decades of the retrenchment of Africa's developmental projects and investment in national systems of innovation.

The pandemic's impact was most severe at the household level. With the informal economy accounting for 85 per cent of employment in sub-Saharan Africa, most households depend on daily revenue intakes, which are severely impacted by public health mitigation measures, including restrictions on movements. Layoffs in the formal sector compounded the livelihood impact, and these had severe gender dimensions.

The livelihood shock that the Covid-19 pandemic produced has had different degrees of impact on the population depending on the pre-pandemic social policy architecture in place, with the post-adjustment period segregated social protection system that depend on social registers (targeting databases) on the one end of the continuum and the Mauritian welfare system at the other end of the continuum. To what extent did the Covid pandemic expose the limitations of stratified, segmented and segregated social policy architecture in place? To what extent did the more universalist social policy regime provide adequate responses to the health and livelihood impact of the pandemic?

To what extent has the experience of the strengths and weaknesses of the pre-pandemic social policy architecture provoked critical debate and reflections in the post-pandemic period? What are the post-pandemic options for social policy reforms under consideration in the different African countries? Indeed, has there been any introspection of the strengths and weaknesses of pre-pandemic social policy designs or did countries simply move on?

These questions are particularly pertinent considering the socio-economic conditions in the post-pandemic period. While economic activities have recovered, several countries are faced with rising levels of inflation, cost-of-living distress, fiscal constraints, and, in several cases, rising debt distress. In several cases, there has been a return to austerity measures that adversely impact different social policy domains. To what extent are these post-pandemic conditions adversely affecting the feasibility of a more inclusive and equitable social policy architecture?

These and many more questions will be explored in the different presentations that will be made at this conference. I wish to thank members of the conference's Organizing Committee for their engagement in the lead-up to the conference. I acknowledge the enormous contributions of Simangele Sithole, Hanli Wolhuter, Doc Mlambo, and Dr Newman Tekwa, in particular.

Also, I wish to acknowledge the generous funding support of the Open Society-Africa, the Research Support Department at the University of South Africa, South Africa's National Research Foundation, and CODESRIA towards the conference.

I wish you all a rewarding period of active engagement at this conference.

Asante Sana

Jimi O. Adesina

Programme

DAY 1: Monday, 15 APRIL 2024

07:45—08:25	**Registration** **Venue:** Banqueting Foyer
08:30—11:00	**OPENING CEREMONY** **Venue:** Cullinan B **Chair:** Professor Tennyson Mgutshini—Executive Dean, College of Graduate Studies, University of South Africa. **Welcome Messages:** · Prof Jimi Adesina: SARChI Chair in Social Policy · Dr Godwin Murunga: Executive Secretary, CODESRIA · Dr Katja Hujo: Representative—UNRISD **Welcome Addresses:** Prof Puleng LenkaBula: Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa **Keynote Address:** Prof Dzodzi Tsikata (School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK): States of Unlearning: Social Contracts During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa. Discussion (25 minutes) Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B
11:00 - 11:30	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:30 - 13:00	**1ST PLENARY SESSION: Precarious Financialization** **Venue:** Cullinan B **Chair**: Prof Adebayo Olukoshi (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) **Speakers:** · Ruth Caste-Branco (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa). *Fast-Tracking Financialization: Mozambique's Social Protection System in the Afterlife of the Covid-19 Pandemic.* · Radha Upadhyaya (University of Nairobi, Kenya). *Making Digital Credit More Responsible: Case Study of Evolving Regulation in Kenya.* · Kate Meagher/Aisha Modibo (London School of Economics, London, UK). *Micro-Pensions and the Calculus of Informality in Nigeria: Disrupting Precarious Financialization from Below.* · Vincent Guermond (Queen Mary University, London, UK). *Whose Money? Digital Remittances, Mon=bile Money and Fintech in Ghana* Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B

13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH

14:00 - 15:30	**1ST BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS**

Venue A: BAS-1A: Venue (Cullinan B): Social Security and COVID-19 Pandemic

Chair: Mary Bekoreire (Kabale University, Uganda)

Speakers:
- Brenda Aleesi (National Social Security Fund, Uganda). "Social Security and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda."
- Isaac Kyere (University of Ghana, Ghana). "Social Policy in Post-Covid-19 era in Africa: Social security scheme drawn from Ghana's Experience: A Doorknob or a Coffin?"
- Bright Muronda (North-West University, South Africa). "The South African government's social security responses to the Covid-19 pandemic."
- Shafiu Ibrahim Abdullahi (Bayero University, Nigeria). "Consumption and Households Welfare in Post COVID-19 Nigeria: Are Consumption Loans and Social Security Arrangements of help to Households in Kano Metropolis?"

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B

Venue B: BAS-1B: Venue (La Bib): Education Policy and Post-COVID Education

Chair: Constance Gunhidzirai (University of Botswana, Botswana)

Speakers:
- Alex Asakitikpi (Independent Institute of Education, South Africa). "Education Policies in South Africa: Progress, Challenges, and Future Directions."
- Wilson Akpan (Walter Sisulu University, South Africa). "University social responsibility through community engagement: Lessons from corporate social responsibility policy and practice."
- Kelly Arsene Mouongue (University of Dschang, Cameroon). "Digital Divide and its Implications for Education Equity in the Post-COVID-19 Era in Sub-Saharan Africa."
- Minenhle Matela (Southern African Policy and Development Nexus, South Africa). "Fostering Resilient Futures: An Exploration of the Nexus Between Social Policy, Development Planning, and Education in Post-COVID-19 South Africa."

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-LABIB

Venue C: Venue (Lynwood): Informal Social Policy and the Pandemic

Chair: Newman Tekwa (University of South Africa, South Africa)

Speakers:
- Phoene Oware (University of the Western Cape, South Africa). "Adaptive Responses of Informal Social Protection Systems of the elderly in sub-Saharan Africa to the COVID-19 pandemic."
- Temitope Bello (KolaDaisi University, Nigeria). "Shadow Palliatives: Informal Social Welfare Provisioning in Nigeria's Era of Pandemic."
- Chance Chagunda (Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative, South Africa). "Informal Welfare responses to the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa: Reflecting on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)."
- Stanley Ehiane (University of Botswana, Botswana). "Voluntary Welfare Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Mobilizing Compassion, Community Resilience, and Lessons for the Future."

Venue D: BAS-1D: Venue (Hazelwood): Inception Workshop (Closed Session)

15:30 - 16:00	COFFEE BREAK

16:00 - 17:30	**2ND PLENARY SESSION**

Venue (Cullinan B): Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Capacity, Leadership, and Funding in Africa (HYBRID)

Chair/Moderator: Boniface Ushie (African Academy of Sciences)

Panelists:
- Karuti Kanyinga (University of Nairobi, Kenya). 'Conditions and opportunities for capitalizing on social sciences knowledge to inform policy making in Africa'.
- Graeme Hoddinott (University of Namibia, Namibia). 'Leveraging the power of public health funding; examples of nested, ancillary, and complementary social sciences and humanities from tuberculosis in children adolescents, and their families'.
- Marema Toure Thiam (CODESRIA, Senegal): Addressing vulnerabilities for policymaking through social sciences: a reflection on gender equality'.
- Sandra Jumbe (Millenium University, Malawi): 'Using behavioural and social science approaches to improve youth mental health: case studies from Malawi'.
- Steve Ouma Akoth (Kenyatta University, Kenya). 'Reflections on foundations for the next generation of social scientists in Africa.'
- Ngandeu Ngatta Hugue (UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Kenya). 'Advancing standards for science and research to thrive: a perspective from the UNESCO Recommendation on Sciences and Scientific Researchers'.

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B

DAY 2: TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024

09:00 - 10:30	**3RD PLENARY SESSION**: Examining changes in the orientation and practices of the social policy architecture in Post-2018 Ethiopia: progress or regress? **Venue**: Cullinan B **Chair**: Katja Hujo (UNRISD, Geneva) **Speakers:** • Eyob Balcha Gebremariam (University of Bristol, UK): *Infatuation with Neoliberalism: Critical Review of Abiy Ahmed's Speeches and their implications on the social policy architecture of post-2018 Ethiopia.* • Ezana Haddis Weldeghebrael (University of Birmingham, UK): *The rise and fall of urban developmentalism: The shift from pro-poor and productive to upscale urban development policy imaginaries in post-2018 Ethiopia.* • Ezana Amdework Atsbeha (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia): *Basic Services Policies, Planning, and Delivery: Continuity and Change.* Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B
10:30 - 11:00	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:00 - 12:30	**2nd BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS** BAS-2A: Venue (Cullinan B): Informal Social Policy and the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic **Chair:** Clement Chipenda (University of South Africa, South Africa). **Speakers:** • Benjamin J. Mbaluka (South Eastern Kenya University, Kenya). "Beyond Crisis - Sustaining Voluntary and Informal Welfare in Post-Covid-19 Africa." • Mamie Ratsaramiafara (University of Antanarivo, Madagascar). "Social Policy in Post-Covid-19 Africa: between cultural and informal welfare responses, case of Madagascar. What lesson learned?" • Talent Moyo (Midlands State University, Zimbabwe). "On informal social protection: An introspection of post-covid 19 in Zimbabwe." • Isaac Ketu (University of Dschang, Cameroon). "Government action and survival strategies of informal businesses and households in Cameroon during and after the COVID-19." Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B BAS-2B: Venue (La Bib): Education Under COVID-19 Pandemic **Chair:** Paliani Chinguwo (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) **Speakers:** • Numvi Gwaibi (University of Bamenda, Cameroon). "Implementation of E-Learning at Higher Education Institutions During the Covid-19 Pandemic in Cameroon." • Abou-Bakr Mamah (Rhodes College, Memphis, USA). "COVID-19, Gender, and Social Policy Responses in Education: The Case Study of Togo." • Youssoupha Mane (Assane Seck University, Senegal). "The Senegalese Education System at the Wave Crests and Troughs of COVID-19 Pandemic: What Response and Perspectives for a Sustainable Learning?" • Mercy Dott Mushwana (University of Venda, South Africa). "Exploration of psychological effects of covid-19 among students in a rural based university in Limpopo Province." Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-LABIB

11:00 - 12:30	BAS-2C: Venue (Lynwood): Post-Covid Healthcare
	Chair: Wilson Akpan (Walter Sisulu University, South Africa).
	Speakers:
	• Grace Murigo (African Policy Centre, Kenya). "Covid-19 pandemic as a catalyst for healthcare innovations: a blessing in disguise for the healthcare sector."
	• Jeremiah Muneeni (Kenyatta University, Kenya). "In Pursuit of a Future Healthy Nation: Post-Covid-19 Kenyan Healthcare Social Policy Review and Re-alignment."
	• Jihad Ait Soussane (Ibn Tofail University, Morocco). "The determinants of African countries' preparedness for future epidemics/pandemics: an empirical analysis using the Global Health Security Index in the light of post-Covid-19 era."
	• Stephen Okumu Ombere (Maseno University, Kenya). "Healthcare in the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic Era in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities, and Innovations."
	BAS-2D: Venue (Hazelwood): Gender, the Pandemic, and Beyond
	Chair: Bianca Chigbu (University of Fort Hare, South Africa)
	Speakers:
	• Newman Tekwa (University of South Africa, South Africa). "COVID-19, Gender and Labour Market-Based Social Policy Responses: Experiences from Zambia, Mauritius and South Africa."
	• Kwazinkosi Sibanda (University of South Africa, South Africa). "Between the hammer and the anvil: A case of Zimbabwean Migrant Women in Botswana during the post-Covid era."
	• Olusegun Oladeinde (Bells University of Technology, Nigeria). "Post COVID-19 Pandemic and Social Fractures in Nigeria: Challenges to Building Gender Inclusive Social Policy."
	• Adefolake Ademuson (University of Ibadan, Nigeria). "COVID-19 Pandemic and Gender-Based Violence in the Lagos Metropolis."
12:30 - 13:30	**LUNCH**
13:30 - 15:00	**3RD BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS**
	BAS-3A: Venue (Cullinan B): Healthcare Under COVID-19 Pandemic
	Chair: Wanga Zembe Mkabile (South African Medical Research Council)
	Speakers:
	• Justus Muusya (Kirinyaga University, Kenya). "Health Policy Gaps in Mitigating Covid-19 Pandemic in Kenya."
	• Paliani Chinguwo (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa). "Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated workforce crisis in health care: The case of clinical officers at public hospitals in Malawi."
	• Peter Gutwa Oino (Kisii University, Kenya). "Socio-Cultural Innovations in Public Health Care for Covid-19 Response among Elderly People in Kakamega County."
	• Grace Olufunke-Peters (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa). "Healthcare Provisioning Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic in Africa: An Analysis of Strategies and Challenges."
	Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B

13:30 - 15:00	BAS-3B: Venue (La Bib): Social Transfers/Social Protection

BAS-3B: Venue (La Bib): Social Transfers/Social Protection

Chair: Eyob Balcha Gebremariam (University of Bristol, UK)

Speakers:
- Kouider Boutaleb (University of Tlemcen, Algeria). "Social policies and social transfers in Africa: the case of Algeria."
- Faniry Ranaivo Rahamefy (University of Antananarivo, Madagascar). "Towards more encompassing and transformative social protection: assessing the "Tosika Fameno" cash transfer programme in Madagascar during the Covid-19 pandemic."
- Hana Sarsar (Ibn Tofail University, Morocco). "Advancing Healthcare Access in the Post-Covid-19 Era: The Impact of Social Protection Generalization in Morocco."

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-LABIB

BAS-3C: Venue (Lynwood): Food Security and Smallholder Farmers under the Pandemic

Chair: Kolawole Omomowo (University of Namibia, Namibia)

Speakers:
- Adama Sawadogo (Thomas Sankara University, Burkina Faso). "Effect of COVID-19 on food security in Sub-Saharan Africa."
- Clement Chipenda (University of South Africa, South Africa). "The Shifting Role of Small-Scale Farms in Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation in a Post Covid-19 Context: Critical Lessons from Zimbabwe."
- Newman Tekwa (University of South Africa, South Africa). "Land Reform, Family Farming and Short Food Supply Chains: COVID-19 Practical and Policy Lessons."
- Tom Tom (University of South Africa, South Africa). "Smallholder Farmers and Covid-19: Lessons of Transformative Social Policy in Zimbabwe."

BAS-3D: Venue (Hazelwood): Informal Sector and the Pandemic

Chair: Brenda Aleesi (National Social Security Fund, Uganda).

Speakers:
- Bianca Chigbu (University of Fort Hare, South Africa). "Navigating Crises: Technology and Innovation in Supporting Informal Workers and Businesses During the COVID-19 Pandemic."
- Mary Bekoreire (Kabale University, Uganda). "The Politics of Social Protection Policy: Unleashing the Barriers of Inclusive Social Protection Strategies for Informal Sector Workers in Uganda."
- Stan Kaunda (Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences, Malawi). "The Informal Urban Sector and Social Policy in Africa."
- Richmond Amponsah (Ulster University-Belfast, UK). "Addressing COVID-19 Lockdown and Its Related Impacts on Informal Settlements in sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review."

15:00 - 15:30	**COFFEE BREAK**

15:30 - 17:30	**4th BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS**

BAS-4A: Venue (Cullinan B): Informality and Precarity in Urban Contexts

Chair: Stanley Ehiane (University of Botswana, Botswana)

Speakers:
- Faith Zengeni (Midlands State University, Zimbabwe). "Precarious Work and Social Policy Interventions to Create Decent Work in Post-COVID-19 Zimbabwe."
- Clayton Hazvinei Vhumbunu (University of the Free State, South Africa). "The Impact of Social Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Zimbabwean Urban Areas: The City of Harare in Perspective."
- Oluranti Samuel (Lagos State University, Nigeria). "Covid-19 Pandemic and the Deficits of Effective Social Policy Responses on the Informal Economy Operators in Lagos State, Nigeria."
- Ndangwa Noyoo (Southern African Policy and Development Nexus, South Africa). "Searching for the nexus between Spatiality and Social Policy in South Africa."

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B

15:30 - 17:30	**BAS-4B: Venue (La Bib): Sundry Themes in Social Policy (HYBRID)**

Chair: Sofiane Bouhdiba (University of Tunis, Tunisia)

Speakers:
- Mohammed Bousetta (Université Internationale de Rabat, Maroc). "La politique sociale au Maroc post COVID 19: Enjeux et contraintes."
- Yousra Mellouki (Mohammed V University, Morocco). "Analysis of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional socio-economic variables in Morocco using spatial econometric modelling."
- Peter Kipng'eno Kirui (University of Eldoret, Kenya). "Securitization of Covid-19 in Kenya and South Africa: implications and lessons for emergency preparedness in Africa."
- Kadidiatou Kadio (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, Burkina Faso). "Comparative historical analysis of social policies in 3 francophone countries from the postcolonial period to the advent of Covid 19: the case of Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Burkina Faso."

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-LABIB

BAS-4C: Venue (Lynwood): Innovation, Financialisation and Collective Consumption

Chair: Hlengiwe Dlamini (University of Eswatini, Eswatini)

Speakers:
- Ariel Herbert Fambeu (University of Douala, Cameroon). "Are innovation and E-commerce effective firm recovery responses during the Covid-19 pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa?"
- Salimah Valiani (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa). "Financialisation and Social Policy in 21st Century Africa."
- Kolawole Omomowo (University of Namibia, Namibia). "The Practice of Collective Consumption of Housing in a Fragmented Social Policy Context, Windhoek, Namibia."
- Ndeye Faty Sarr (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Canada). "Gendered social policies? Lessons learned from research on the histories and trajectories of social policies in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal."

BAS-4C: Venue (Hazelwood): Inception Workshop (Closed Session)

DAY 3: Wednesday, 17 April 2024

09:00 - 10:30	**5TH BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS**

5TH BREAK-AWAY SESSIONS

BAS-5A: Venue (Cullinan B): Intersections of Poverty (HYBRID)

Chair: Temba Masilela (Human Science Research Council, South Africa)

Speakers:
- Kate O'Donnell (International Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands). "Institutionalising Poverty Targeting: An examination of the institutional and political implications of social registries."
- Davina Osei (Leiden University, The Netherlands). "COVID-19, catastrophic health expenditures and multidimensional poverty in Ghana."
- Constance Gunhidzirai (University of Botswana, Botswana). "Governance of Social Protection Programmes for Poverty Alleviation in Middle-Income Economies."
- Victor Ogharanduku (Save the Children International, Nigeria). "Social Protection Adoption and Institutionalisation in Kaduna State, Nigeria: The Politics and Political Economy."

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B

BAS-5B: Venue (La Bib): Post-Covid-19 Social Protection Reforms: A refocus of Social Policy in SADC? (VIRTUAL)

Chair: Ndangwa Noyoo (Southern African Policy and Development Nexus, South Africa)

Speakers:
- Susan Mlewa (SASPEN Lusaka, Zambia). "Advancing Evidence for Social Protection reforms Post-COVID in Southern Africa."
- Gift Dafulya (University of Venda, South Africa). "Social Protection Overview before and during COVID-19 in SADC."
- Mildred Mushunje (University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe). "Pay Attention! Social Protection is a gender issue: Time to prioritise women and girls in social policy formulation."
- Isaac Kablenga (University of Zambia, Zambia). "Influence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOS) and Trade Unions in reforming social policy in South Africa during COVID-19: A focus on non-contributory social protection reforms during COVID-19 – Lessons for other SADC Countries."

Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-LABIB

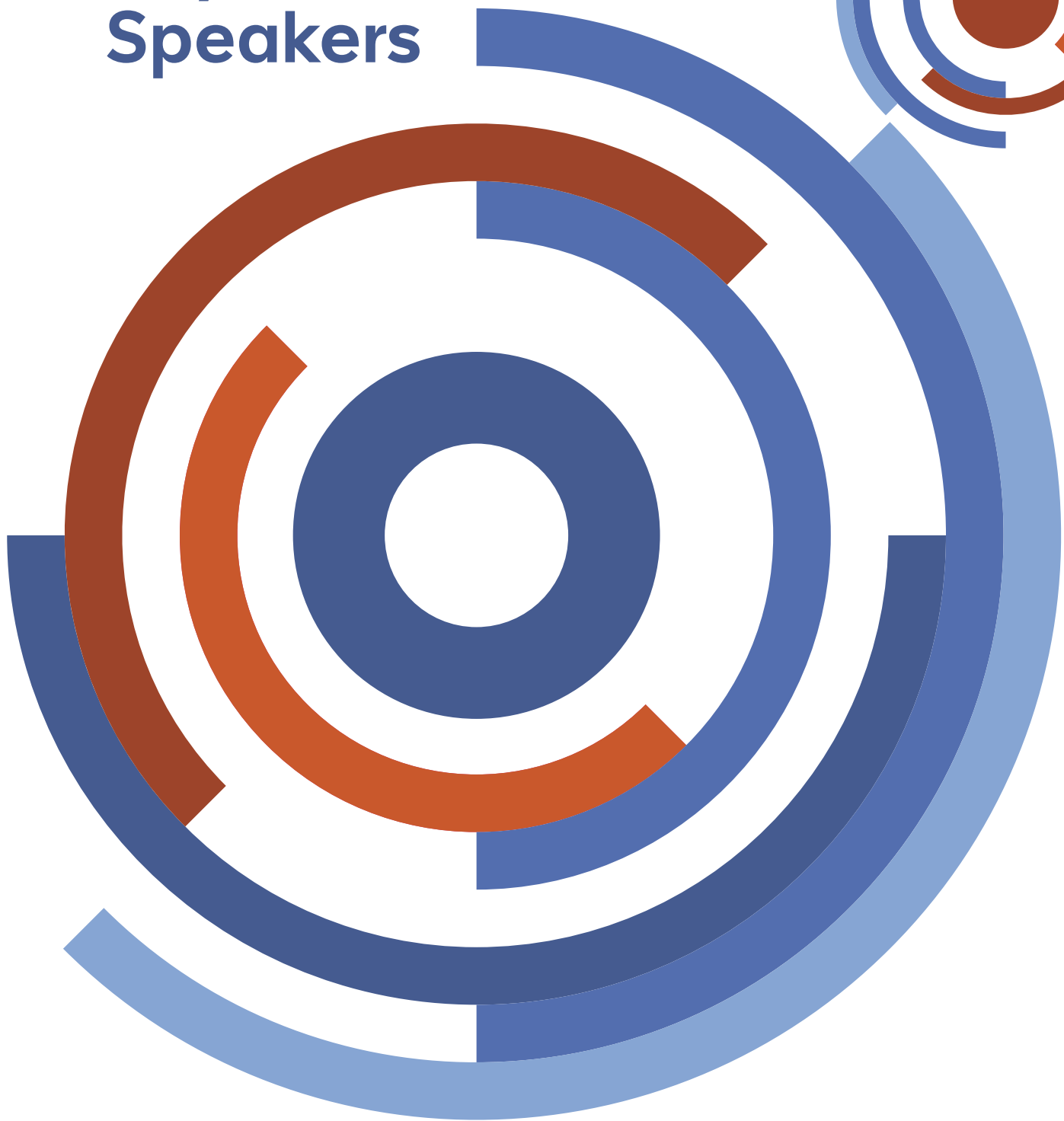BAS-5C: Venue (Lynwood): Social Policy During and After the Pandemic

Chair: Salimah Valiani (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)

Speakers:
- Kofi Asante (University of Ghana, Ghana). "Between Ambition and Retrenchment: Social Policymaking during and after the Pandemic."
- Olayinka Akanle (University of Ibadan, Nigeria). "Misinformation and COVID-19 Vaccination in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria: Lessons for Post-Covid-19 Social Policy in Africa."
- Waidi Adebayo (Universitat Witten/Herdecke, Germany). "Resilience in the Face of Ecological Challenges: Strategies for Integrating Environmental Considerations into Social Policy Planning in Africa."
- Hlengiwe Portia Dlamini (University of Eswatini, Eswatini). "COVID and Social Policy in Eswatini: From fry pan to fire."

09:00 - 10:30	BAS-5D: Venue (Hazelwood): Diverse Issues in Social Policy
	Chair: Ramola Ramtohul (University of Mauritius, Mauritius)
	Speakers: • Sofiane Bouhdiba (University of Tunis, Tunisia). "Covid-19 and Xenophobia in Africa: did anything change since Black death?" • Abigirl Mukeya (University of Venda, South Africa). "Navigating Dual Responsibilities: Coping strategies of female academics with young children during the Covid-19 Pandemic – A Comparative Study of the University of Venda and University of Mpumalanga." • Douglas Mpondi (Metropolitan State University of Denver, USA). "The socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the informal economic sectors in Zimbabwe." • Idris Ahmed Jamo (Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria). "Effect of E-Learning in the post- COVID-19 era on Students' Academic Performance of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Kaduna State Nigeria."
11:00—11:30	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:30—13:00	**4th PLENARY SESSION** **Venue:** Cullinan B **Chair:** Marlize Rabe (University of the Free State, South Africa) **Speakers:** • Ramola Ramtohul (University of Mauritius, Mauritius): Social Policy in post-pandemic Mauritius: Lessons for Africa. • Marion Ouma (University of South Africa, South Africa): Analysing social policy in Kenya post-COVID-19: Missed opportunities at critical junctures. • Jimi Adesina (University of South Africa, South Africa): Rethinking Social Policy in post-COVID-19 Africa: the nexus of social policy and development. Discussion Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B
13:00 - 14:00	**LUNCH**
14:00 - 15:30	**CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS** **Venue** (Cullinan B) **Chair:** Godwin Murunga (CODESRIA, Senegal) **Closing Keynote Speaker:** Dr Ilcheong Yi (UN Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva) **Title:** *New Directions in Social Policy and Alternative Economies: Lessons from and for Developing Countries* Virtual Link: https://bit.ly/SPiA-CONFERENCE2024-CULLINAN-B
19:00—22:00	**GALA DINNER (Cullinan B, Southern Sun Hotel)**
	18:30 - 19:00: Arrival 19:00 - 22:00: Dinner **Chair:** Prof Thenjiwe Meyiwa (Vice Principal – Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation).

Keynote
Speakers

Prof Dzodzi Tsikata

Dzodzi Tsikata is Distinguished Professor of Development Studies at SOAS, University of London, and the immediate past Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Ghana.

Her research in the last 30 years has been in the areas of the labour relations of agrarian and urban informal economies, the trajectories of African social policy regimes and gender and development policies and practices. Her recent publications include, with Dzifa Torvikey, **"COVID-19 and Africa: A Synthesis of 12 Country Studies"**, published by the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform (2021) and with Joanna Bourke Martignoni, Christophe Gironde, Christophe Golay and Elisabeth Prügl, an edited book, **"Agricultural Commercialization, Gender Equality and the Right to Food: Insights from Ghana and Cambodia", Routledge, Taylor, and Francis** (2023). She is also the Principal Investigator of a pan-African research, networking and advocacy project, the Gender Equitable and Transformative Social Policy for Post-COVID-19 Africa (GETSPA), which is now in its second phase. Dzodzi is the secretary of the Executive Committee of IDEAS, a member of the Steering Committee of the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana and a member of the Agrarian South Network and South Feminist Futures. She is Managing Editor of Feminist Africa and a member of the editorial collective of Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy. She is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.
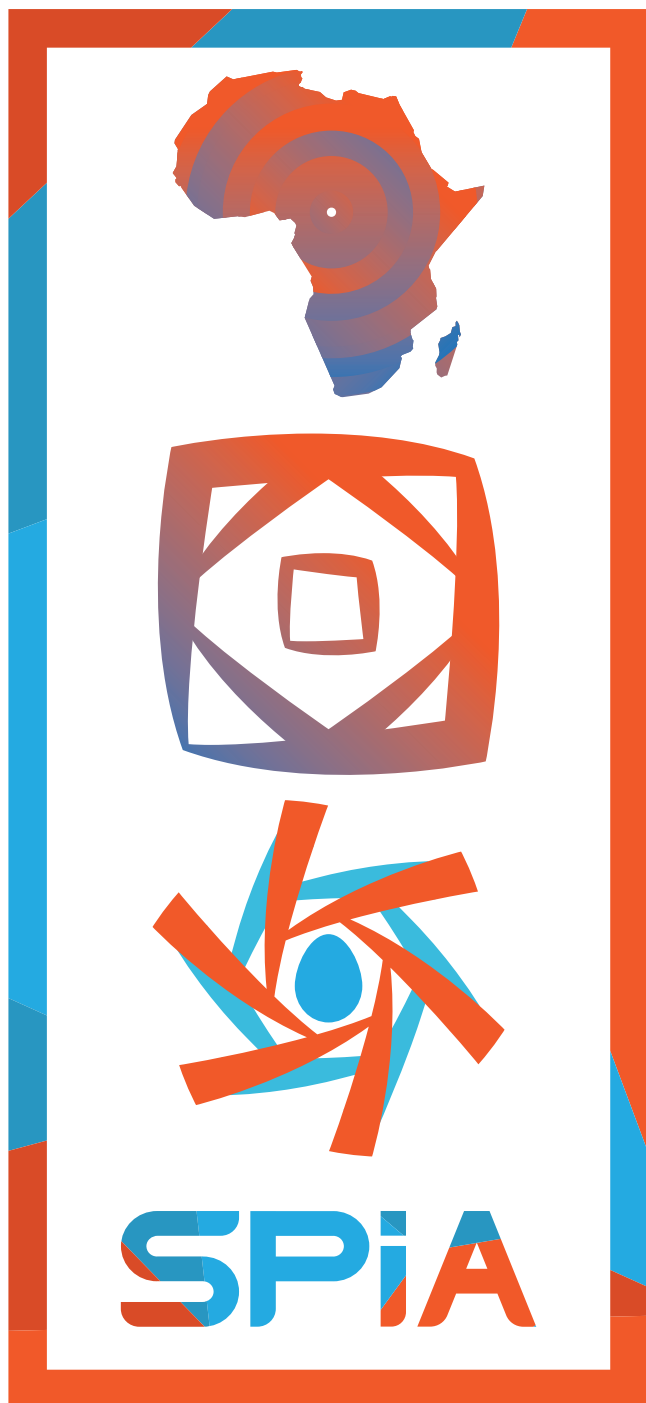
Dr Ilcheong Yi

Ilcheong YI is Senior Research Coordinator leading Alternative Economies for Transformation Programme at UNRISD. He joined UNRISD in October 2008.

Born in the Republic of Korea, he was trained as a political scientist (B.A. and M.A. from the Department of Political Science, Seoul National University, Korea) and as a social policy expert (D.Phil from Oxford University, the UK). He has been working on various issues of social and economic development, social policy in development context, alternative approaches to market fundamentalism, democratic governance and integrated approach to fragile and conflict affected countries and borderlands. Prior to joining UNRISD, Ilcheong was Associate Professor at Kyushu University, Japan (2004-2008), Korea Foundation Visiting Professor in the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Malaya, Malaysia (2003-2004), and Visiting Research Fellow at the Stein Rokkan Centre, University of Bergen, Norway (2002-2003). His newly co-edited book, Ilcheong Yi, Alexandra Kaasch and Kelly Stetter, *Emerging Trends in Social Policy from the South: Challenges and Innovations in Emerging Economies* (Policy Press) is going to be published in May 2024.

Design and Meanings

Ideas reverberating through Africa.

Ideas as windows to the world.

Knowledge as egg to be protected.

Social Policy in Africa

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