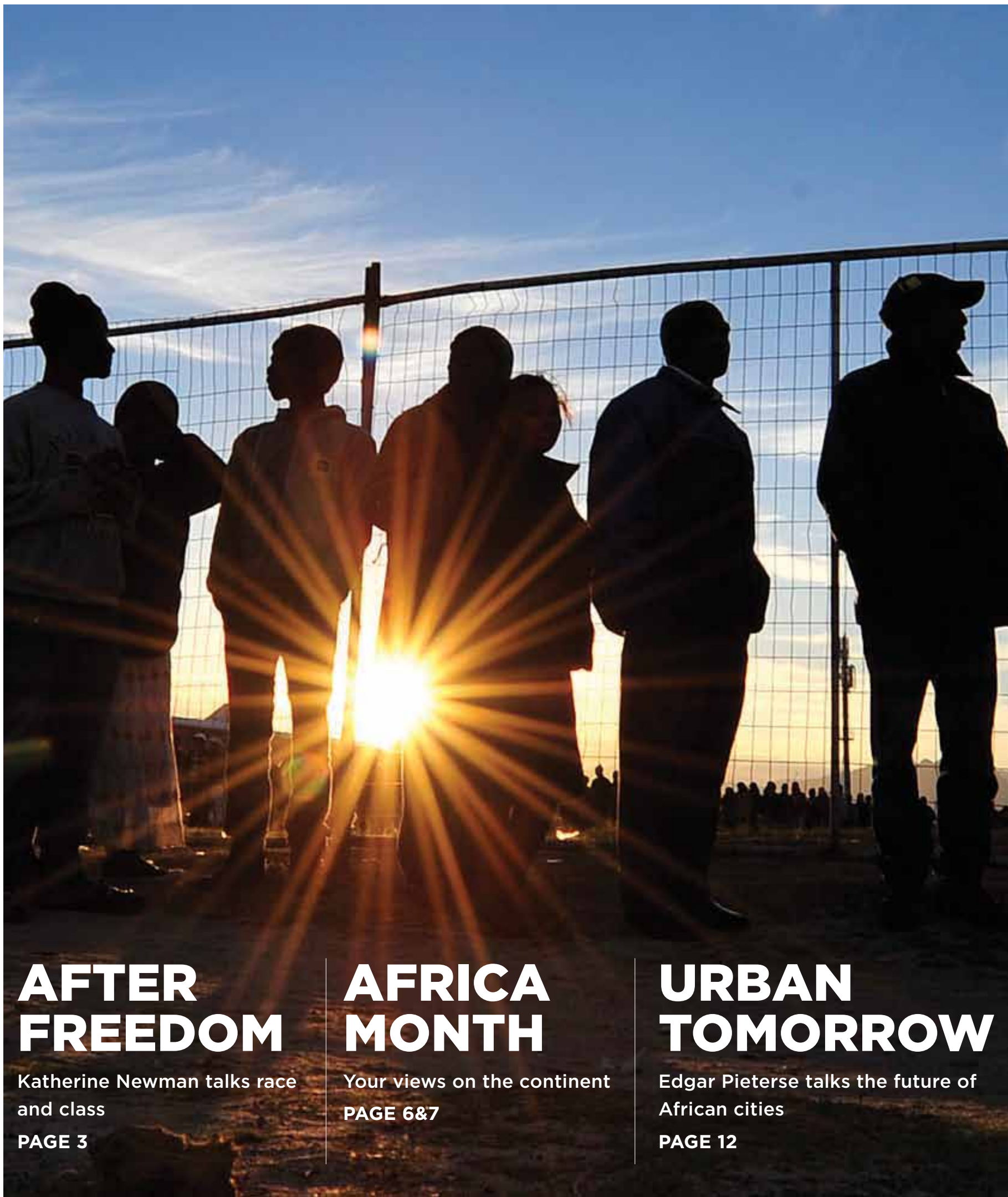


# MONDAY MONTHLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN NEWSPAPER

MAY 2014



2014 general election queues in Khayelitsha. Photo by Henk Kruger, Cape Argus

## AFTER FREEDOM

Katherine Newman talks race and class  
**PAGE 3**

## AFRICA MONTH

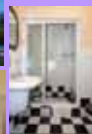
Your views on the continent  
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## URBAN TOMORROW

Edgar Pieterse talks the future of African cities  
**PAGE 12**

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Photo by Michael Hammond



Photo by Kevin Winter



Photo by Michael Hammond



Photo by Michael Hammond

# NEWS IN PICTURES

- 1 Who will buy?
- 2 Dip your paddle
- 3 Ultimate Frisbee winners
- 4 Big band jazz

A familiar face in the campus community, Jeremy Sols runs the fruit stall at the Jammie Food Court and interacts with hundreds of students every week. The former carpenter says the fruit trade is new to him. “I used to work as a cabinet-maker, but here I’ve learnt about respect and discipline. I go to the market at 4am, and I’m here from 7am until 4pm. They are long days, but I enjoy it here. The students are friendly, and always polite.” The picture above formed part of a regular photo essay – this time on campus retailers – on UCT’s homepage. Look out for upcoming photo essays that showcase the School of Dance as it celebrates its 80th birthday, and that introduce some of UCT’s recently acquired artworks.

Paddlers on the Black River during last year’s Peninsula Paddle, an event which highlighted the state of Cape Town’s rivers, canals and vleis – many of which remain polluted or clogged with weeds. The good news is that flamingos have returned to the Black River, previously one of the city’s most polluted waterways, indicative of how water management programmes are making a difference, says UCT’s Dr Kevin Winter, who leads the initiative. The UCT community is invited to participate in this year’s Peninsula Paddle through city waterways on 8 June, to mark World Environment Day on 5 June. Go to [www.peninsulapaddle.wordpress.com](http://www.peninsulapaddle.wordpress.com) to register and for more information.

The UCT Ultimate Club trounced the University of Stellenbosch’s 1st team 17-10 in the annual Intervarsity held recently in Stellenbosch. Niell Strydom, captain of the Flying Tigers – UCT Ultimate’s first team – is seen here faking a throw to the force side. Strydom is one of six UCT players selected for the South African team to compete in the World Ultimate Club Championship in Italy this August. UCT Ultimate recently finished third in the South African National Club Championships following on from winning the Cape Town Ultimate Summer League for the first time in its history. The growing sport of Ultimate, formerly Ultimate Frisbee, is a cardio-intensive game (similar to touch rugby), with the aim of getting the Frisbee over the goal-line without being intercepted by the opposition.

UCT’s Big Band wowed a packed audience recently when they performed at the South African College of Music (SACM). The concert took place under the auspices of UCT’s annual celebration of everything African – Africa Month – and also raised funds for the band to perform at this year’s National Arts Festival held in Grahamstown. Pictured here accompanying jazz artist Zoe Modiga, the band comprises jazz students from SACM, led by the head of Jazz Studies Associate Professor Mike Campbell. The band can be seen in action again at the Big Band Festival at the Baxter Theatre on 31 May, followed in early June by another fundraising concert at the SACM.



2014 general election voting stations in Harare, Khayelitsha

## AFTER FREEDOM: RACE, CLASS AND IDENTITY IN SA’S FREEDOM GENERATION

Story by Helen Swingler  
Photos by Lulama Zenzile, Foto24

A rising cohort of young South African adults across the colour lines are looking for a new definition of the country of their birth, one not bound by race or class, says US scholar Katherine Newman.

Newman was delivering the Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture at UCT on 5 May, on the eve of the country’s fifth general election and shortly after the launch of *After Freedom: The Rise of the Post-Apartheid Generation in South Africa*, co-authored with Ariane De Lannoy of UCT’s Children’s Institute. The book created the backdrop for the lecture; two years of fieldwork that tracked the lived experiences of seven young adults – all children when apartheid fell – taking the team from the leafy suburbs of Cape Town, to Manenberg, the Northern Suburbs, Sea Point, and the backwaters of Seymour in the Eastern Cape. For an audience preparing to vote in the undertow of Nkandla, Bekkersdal and the Marikana Enquiry, Newman’s study provided a disquieting view of prospects for the ‘freedom generation’. Although politically free, they’re still bound by the constraints of class and colour. “The distance yet to be travelled on those promises, the deplorable corruption of public officials, what appears to be the loss of political fervour of Madiba’s ANC, have all tarnished their faith and left them with more questions than answers.” Newman’s work was informed by US anthropologist Hortense Powdermaker’s book, *After Freedom: A cultural study in the Deep South*, which examined “people at the bottom of American society” 65 years after the American Civil War in the Deep South, in 1932, during the Great Depression. Powdermaker sought to understand how race relations had developed. But they had scarcely changed, and the class differences within each group were just as profound on either side of the colour line. “Hierarchy was everywhere,” Newman observed. Twenty years after the first free election in South Africa seemed an appropriate time to ask similar questions here, she said.

“They’re poised to inherit a country where democratic institutions and the popular vote prevail, but confidence in the political elites is shaky and the loyalties that infuse their parents’ generation can no longer be taken for granted.” This generation is seeking a government that, while it acknowledges the injustices of apartheid, embraces

a non-racial future and will “make good on the promises that were greeted with relief and celebration 20 years ago”. “Black and coloured youth are especially vulnerable, with high levels of school dropouts and unemployment, and large numbers of discouraged work-seekers. In this they parallel the experience of their age-mates worldwide, as the toll of the downdraft of slow economic growth has pushed unemployment for young people in Europe, the UK, US and Asia to levels not seen since the 1930s,” Newman added. These portraits showed that racial and class inequalities continue to impact people’s daily lives, whether rich and privileged, or poor and disadvantaged. “Black and coloured youth are especially vulnerable, with high levels of school dropouts and unemployment, and large numbers of discouraged work-seekers. In this they parallel the experience of their age-mates worldwide, as the toll of the downdraft of slow economic growth has pushed unemployment for young people in Europe, the UK, US and Asia to levels not seen since the 1930s,” Newman added. subjects; “who, while not statistically representative, might be thought of as archetypes of class position within the major ethno-racial populations of the regions”. Newman made the point that in that case, integration – and the benefits that followed – lasted only with vigilant enforcement. “When the pressure was off, the old patterns returned. Not exactly in the same form, but no less damaging.”

cannot aspire to the type of job his father had before employment equity squeezed him out. But no young democracy can ignore the importance of watch points in its development, Newman said. She cited the 1950s example of Central High School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the product of three schools integrating after a court order to do so. The new school soon entered a golden age, as national academic, sporting and cultural awards followed. Twenty years later, however – released from that order and court oversight – the school went backwards. Today it retains little of the golden era, a struggling facility with 99% poor black pupils. Newman believes the lesson is twofold: there’s importance in social science for the kind of research embodied in *After Freedom*, which tries to bring to the public the “fruits of ethnographic enquiry, direct attention to the lived experience of ordinary people”. Second, and perhaps more importantly she believes, it tells us that what follows after a social revolution like

the anti-apartheid movement, or the American civil rights crusade, is “rarely a straight line”. “It moves in the right direction only as long as people insist it must. “As is true of a lot of democracies all over the world, including the one I come from, there’s unfinished business here. “It is a business of policy and of political confidence that waxes and wanes with the explosion of inequality. It is a business in which race and class intertwine to produce toxic combinations that threaten to undermine the progress we’ve made.” But there is hope. “Despite their criticisms and lack of belief in the political elite, there is a strong belief in the country as a project, and a desire to find a place and identity that works within that project. “Brandon, too, is looking for a way to think about himself, separated from the evils of the past. He may disavow responsibility for it, but he still feels like he needs to find some way of thinking about himself that’s constructive inside the context of the country as it is today. “And that’s the aspect of the book that we hope will be assuring and uplifting. There is a confidence in this country in this generation, even if that confidence doesn’t extend to the ruling political elite.”







# WORLD FIRST FOR ZAR

Bridging the divide in child health

Story by Judith Browne  
Photos by Michael Hammond

Paediatric pulmonologist Prof Heather Zar has just been awarded the 2014 World Lung Health Award in recognition of work that has “the potential to eliminate gender, racial, ethnic, or economic health disparities worldwide”. What work has warranted this international acclaim?

Respiratory illnesses like asthma, pneumonia and tuberculosis (TB) are global issues. The burden of these diseases, however, falls in large part on Africa and other low-and-middle-income countries, a significant portion of whose populations are under the age of 17 years.

That’s why it is particularly important that the World Lung Health Award – given out every year by the American Thoracic Society – is going, for the first time, to someone from Africa and someone specialising in childhood health. Prof Heather Zar, head of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital, received this award at a ceremony in San Diego in May.

“This award was given to me, but it reflects a lot of work done by a lot of people, and strong collaborations with excellent colleagues,” says Zar. “My hope is that it helps shine a spotlight on this relatively under-resourced area of research. Children are so seldom prioritised on the health agenda. There’s a lack of knowledge about the burden of childhood illnesses – even though children make up 37% of the population in South Africa, and 50-60% in other African countries.”

Her expertise has long been locally and internationally acknowledged: The past president of the South African Thoracic Society and the current president of the Pan African Thoracic Society, Zar is set to become the next chair of the Forum of the International Respiratory Societies. Her career highlights are many and varied.

## African innovation

After finishing her postgraduate training in the United States specialising in paediatric pulmonology, Zar returned home and applied for the only available position at Red Cross – as a medical officer. “Day after day, I saw children and mothers coming for asthma, and they were being given oral treatment, theophylline,” recalls Zar, “which is really not great and has lots of side-effects. Why? Because asthma spacers [the chamber you attach to an asthma inhaler, allowing children to breathe in their medication more easily over a number of breaths] were too expensive, and the hospital couldn’t afford it. That’s how I got started, thinking about a homemade spacer.”

Zar and her team pioneered the use of what others might think of as waste: an empty 500ml plastic coldrink bottle. “It’s a good example of using the sophisticated resources of an institution like this [UCT and the Red Cross Children’s Hospital] to improve care, to do something that is low-cost and impactful on child health.” Zar’s team ran nuclear medicine scans on the bottles, to test how much medicine had been deposited in the lungs, as well as clinical studies in which its effectiveness in treating children was tested compared to other regular spacers.

Thanks to their low-budget solution and rigorous testing, theophylline and its side-effects are a thing of the past, and the use of coldrink bottles as asthma spacers is now included in guidelines from the Global Initiative for Asthma and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Another advancement now included in WHO guidelines and national recommendations is the use of sputum induction for rapid TB testing in children. A few short years ago, it was widely believed that children couldn’t provide enough sputum for a TB test. Instead doctors used gastric lavage or stomach pumping, a process that involved starving a child overnight, then sticking a tube down their nostrils or throat, into their stomach, and sucking all the contents out. Children were subjected to this process three days in a row before doctors could retrieve a specimen large enough for testing.

Zar and her team found a surprisingly simple, less invasive solution: by nebulising a child beforehand and suctioning the back of their throat very quickly, you can induce enough sputum for a rapid TB test (using Gene Xpert). This retrieves a better specimen than that from three days of gastric irrigation.

## Building capacity

The Department of Paediatrics and Child Health has historically run a fellowship programme that trains paediatricians, nurses and sub-specialists from universities across the continent and helps them set up training centres in their home countries. When Zar took over as head of department, however, the fellowship was on the point of being shut down.

Under her leadership, the African Paediatric Fellowship Programme

(APFP) has been re-established. Today it boasts partnerships with 22 academic institutions from 11 different countries in Africa, has trained over 55 paediatricians in general paediatrics, and many different paediatric sub-specialities (with a further 22 trainees per year accepted from 2014). In addition, the parallel nursing training programme under Assoc Prof Minette Coetzee has been developing nursing skills across the continent. “APFP doesn’t just generate research, qualifications and skills development,” says programme director and Head of Paediatric Neurology Prof Jo Wilmshurst. “It creates change in local practice.”

Zar’s research projects and the training programmes have involved significant capacity building, not only in the care of patients but also in clinical research, ensuring the development of the next generation of African leaders in child health.

## Researching child health

Another signature initiative Zar heads up today is the Drakenstein Child Lung Health Study, a longitudinal research initiative studying 1 000 mother-child pairs in Paarl from before birth until 5 years. The study looks at a wide range of factors (from mental and physical health, to nutrition, the role of the surrounding environment and the microbiology involved in childhood illness). Funded by the

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and initiated in 2011, it stands to be a landmark study for developing new ways of preventing and addressing early child health issues.

What’s more, observes Drakenstein project manager Whitney Barnett, through clinic referrals, research staff are helping to diagnose and get treatment early on for children, who otherwise may have been overlooked. Soon-to-be mothers are now asking to be enrolled in the study, as opposed to researchers seeking their permission. According to a survey of 208 study participants conducted in early 2014, over 90% of mothers feel that they are learning through their participation and that their child’s health is better because they are part of the study.

The Drakenstein study is one of several supported by REACH, the Research Centre for Adolescent and Child Health – the first centre of its kind on the continent, and conceived by Zar – opened at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital in October 2013. This state-of-the-art, expanded clinical research unit serves as a hub supporting clinical research sites in the community and other healthcare facilities.

## Ongoing advocacy

What work does Zar still see ahead of her? “My projects have always arisen out of need, really. People have long accepted the dogma that says ‘we can’t do better for children’

but time and time again, we have to revisit what we once accepted,” says Zar.

“Our role at the Red Cross and at UCT is to move the field forward so we do things better for children, for the future. It’s not good enough to do more of what we’ve been doing. We have to develop better ways of preventing and treating childhood disease. It’s up to us to contribute to, if not set, the global research agenda and to develop stronger capacity in child health, particularly in Africa. We have to be very strong advocates for child health.”

## HEALTH FACT

According to the World Health Organisation, an estimated 235 million people suffer from asthma; more than 1.3 million children die each year from pneumonia; and 1 million children and 8.7 million people develop TB annually.



94% of mothers participating in the Drakenstein Child Lung Health Study – an initiative Prof Heather Zar heads up – feel they have close relationships with research staff. Here, a study mother attends a follow-up visit with study staff at the Mbekweni clinic.



# A HANDFUL OF STARS

Story by Helen Swingler

In the endless expansion of space, the great distances between stars are cold and terrible, writes Dennis Overbye in his book about science’s quest to understand the universe, *Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos*. But not beyond science’s understanding, says astronomer Michael Feast, an authority on the cosmic distance scale and galactic structure.

It’s this work that’s earned Feast a National Research Foundation A-rating, making him one of an elite corps of South African astronomers who carry the badge ‘world leader’.

At the age of 87 Feast remains a prolific author, and has published another paper (on Cepheid stars, one of the tools used in studies of the cosmic distance scale) in the science journal *Nature*. This is another milestone in a career that has spanned 66 years – as a fresh-faced 21-year-old, his first offering also appeared in this prestigious, multidisciplinary journal.

He served as director of the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) from 1976 to 1992, and as a senior research associate at SAAO from 1992 to the present. He has been an honorary professor at UCT since 1983.

Now white-haired and craggy, the still rangy octogenarian is a familiar sight, a beanpole among jostling students daily tackling the steep hill to upper campus. Few would know that the unassuming man headed for the RW James Building is listed in the *International Who’s Who*.

## New paper

Feast’s new paper, co-authored with long-standing friends and colleagues Patricia Whitelock and John Menzies, with Japanese collaborator Noriyuki Matsunaga, studies only five of these pulsating Cepheid stars.

Just five, among trillions. “It’s amazing that you can get a paper in *Nature* on so few stars,” he jokes. Astronomers study great swaths of the galaxy, sifting millions of stars through telescopes.

“But these are quite special stars.”

The Milky Way, which appears as a bright band across the night sky, is part of a great disc of stars and other matter that is the most prominent component of our galaxy, explains Feast.

“Our sun is in this disc, about 28 000 light years from the centre. The region within 10 000 light years of the sun has been well studied, and it’s been shown that stars are kept in the disc by the combined gravitational attraction of all the stars there.”

The paper in *Nature* relates to what happens as one explores the outer regions of our galaxy.

Radio astronomers have used observations of hydrogen gas to show that the disc still exists there, though it’s thicker than near the sun (astronomers describe this as ‘flared’).

“However, the density of stars is not sufficient to hold the gas in place, suggesting that dark matter of an unknown type may provide some of the gravitational force. The behaviour of the gas is difficult to study, as its distance cannot be determined in any direct way, and our understanding of the outer galaxy depends on a theoretical model.”

The authors have been studying five stars (Cepheid variables) whose distances they can determine directly, and which they show to be in this flared outer disc – the first stars to be discovered there.

“These stars,” says Feast, “are 75 000 light years from the sun, and up to a million times fainter than the faintest stars visible to the naked eye.

“To study them we needed observations from the Japanese-South African Infrared Survey Facility as well as crucial observations from

the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), both at SAAO Sutherland.

“The few stars we have located must be just the tip of the iceberg. Future work, for instance involving ground-based follow-up of observations made by the recently launched astronomical satellite Gaia, will present opportunities to probe in detail the distribution of dark matter in the outer galaxy and give clues to its nature.”

## Milestones

Why do stars hold us in thrall?

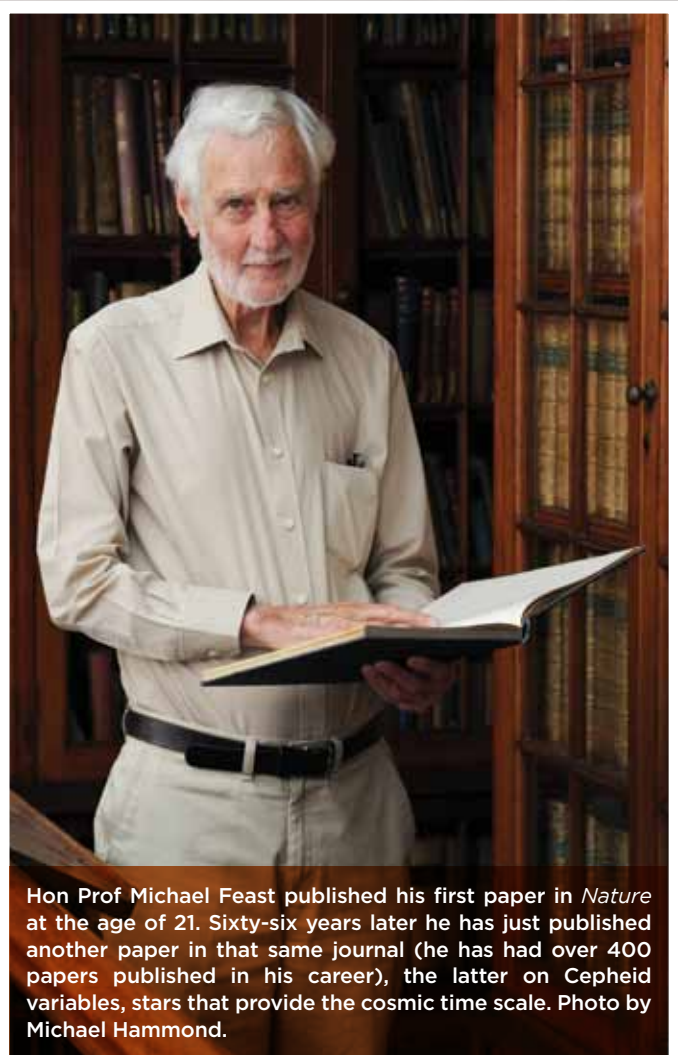
“Astronomy is a very soft sell to the public,” says Feast. “Try interesting them in nuclear physics, and see them turn off!”

His long career comes with many highlights. He’s been editor of *The Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* since 1993, making him, in all likelihood, its longest-sitting editor. He also served on the first Hubble Space Telescope Time Allocation Committee, which had the thankless task of determining which programmes and proposers were granted observation time.

“It’s extraordinary how much science has changed in all that time,” Feast says, referring to the span of his career. “There’s so much more to learn these days. It was so simple when I was a student. Practically, if you could add you were alright.”

He recalls his introduction to astronomy. Feast was involved in laboratory physics in Canada when he got the opportunity to work at the British-run Radcliffe Observatory in Pretoria, which in the 1950s was the largest telescope in the Southern Hemisphere.

This image, from NASA’s Hubble Legacy Archive, is of Cepheid variable star RS Puppis – a star ten times larger than our sun and on average 15 000 times more luminous. It’s about Cepheid stars, significant for their usefulness in estimating cosmic distance scale, that UCT astronomer Michael Feast has written in his latest *Nature* paper. Image processing by Stephen Byrne



Hon Prof Michael Feast published his first paper in *Nature* at the age of 21. Sixty-six years later he has just published another paper in that same journal (he has had over 400 papers published in his career), the latter on Cepheid variables, stars that provide the cosmic time scale. Photo by Michael Hammond.

“I came in during the photographic era and spent many years of my life taking photos of the spectra, photos of stars and their fields, and getting my fingers dirty working with plates. That’s all changed, and the technology of telescopes is so much more complex. With today’s telescopes we can see much deeper – and in much greater detail.

“When I came into astronomy we were just getting used to the idea that the universe is expanding. Now we’re so much closer to the physics, or the particles the universe is made of, although there are still many questions to be answered.”

Projects like the Square Kilometre Array require a different kind of astronomer, he says.

“You’ve got to be able to play in a very large team and be one very small component.”

There’s a parallel there, in the cosmos.

“It’s extraordinary how much science has changed ... There’s so much more to learn these days. It was so simple when I was a student. Practically, if you could add, you were alright.”

Hon Prof Michael Feast



# AFRICA MONTH BIGGER AND BETTER

There is still ample opportunity to explore your 'Africanness' by participating in the exciting blend of academic, social and sporting events taking place in the remainder of Africa Month.

A headline event was the *Celebrate Africa* concert, which included performances by renowned musicians and UCT honorary graduates Letta Mbulu and Caiphus Semenya, and UCT alumni Mimi Ntenjwa, Amanda Tiffin and Mduduzi Mtshali, on 16 May at the Baxter Theatre.

The inaugural Traditional African Games and ever popular Mini Africa Cup of Nations have come and gone, with panel discussions, exhibitions and seminars on various subjects related to Africa at various venues all over campus.

If the programme for UCT's third Africa Month is bigger than ever, there's also the opinion that it is better than ever, says Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for internationalisation and realising UCT's Afropolitan vision.

"The scaling-up will, we hope, demonstrate that the idea is getting embedded at UCT," he explained. "And that idea is that for a month we allow space for members of the UCT community – that's all of us – to express our 'Africanness', to express our view of Africa and our place in it.

"It allows us to reflect – through art, through cuisine, through intellectual debate and discussion, through scholarship, through song, through dance, through dress – our experiences of being African," he added.

Exciting forthcoming events include the Big African Debate, on 20 May, which this year centres on sexuality and the law. On 22 May UCT will celebrate 20 years of democracy with a concert featuring Vusi Mahlasela, Mi Casa, PJ Powers and Freshlyground.

For more information, go to [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za).



Africa Month kicked off on May Day with intra-varsity games in the Sports Centre. The theme – Celebrating Africa Through Sport – found fitting tribute, as indoor footballers celebrated goal after goal, while the court next door shook as basketball players slammed some impressive dunks. Teams played under the flags of various African countries, with the flags themselves draped above the courts. While the Keith Grainger Memorial UCT Open Squash Tournament was in full swing downstairs in the Sports Centre, Capoeiristas in the hall above displayed an array of gravity-defying moves. Photo by Michael Hammond

# 20 years of HIV/AIDS education

Story by Abigail Calata

Another anniversary – commemorating 20 years of UCT running an HIV/AIDS programme and the ACE's student peer education programme – was celebrated at the annual candlelight memorial on 8 May.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo said the event serves to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS. "With 33 million people living with HIV today, the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial is an important intervention for global solidarity and in breaking down the barriers of stigma and discrimination," he commented.

Cal Volks, director of the HIV, AIDS Inclusivity and Change Unit (HAICU), explained that the memorial is about "remembering those we have lost to AIDS and renewing all of our commitment to addressing HIV prevention, treatment and stigma".

"On this day, at this gathering, we also speak out as members of the university community about the rights of people who identify themselves as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, questioning, transsexual, intersex, (LGBTI) and men who have sex with men – in Africa and the world. We support your human rights," she added.

Another speaker at the event, Professor Pierre de Vos from the law faculty, observed that "one of the big problems with prejudice and stigma is that it is usually internalised by those at the receiving end of it".

Past peer educators attended the events, which formed part of the university's Africa Month celebrations. A UCT alumnus who was a peer educator in 1994, Dr Marc Hendricks, performed musical items together with Amanda Tiffin, a lecturer at the South African College of Music.

The memorial was used to inform UCT students and staff of a new initiative, with the name Out Zone/Zone In. Volks pointed out that wherever the Out Zone/Zone In sign is seen on an office door, it designates a safe space, where members of the LGBTI community can discuss issues related to being gay, lesbian, bisexual, questioning, transsexual and intersex, without being judged or stigmatised. The initiative is run jointly by HAICU, RainbowUCT and the Student Representative Council (SRC).

Students who spoke at the event included RainbowUCT's Ashcen Bhagwandin, together with Keenan Hendrickse and Carey McIntosh, both from the SRC.



Keenan Hendrickse, SRC secretary-general, and Carey McIntosh, SRC health coordinator, added their voice to support for those living with HIV/AIDS and members of the LGBTI community at UCT's annual candlelight memorial.

AFRICA MONTH HIGHLIGHTS	
20 MAY	<b>The Big African Debate</b> A discussion around sexuality and the law Kramer Quad from 14h00
22 MAY	<b>20 Years of Freedom</b> A celebratory concert featuring Vusi Mahlasela, PJ Powers, Freshlyground and Mi Casa Rugby Field C from 18h00
28 MAY	<b>Debate on Accents</b> An interactive debate on the distinctive ways we speak in South Africa Mafeje Room, Bremner from 12h00
29 MAY	<b>Queer in Africa: confronting the crisis</b> A symposium and festival focused on gender and identity on the continent CAS Gallery from 18h00
31 MAY	<b>Critically Queer Exhibition</b> A panel discussion and walkabout with the artists CAS Gallery from 11h30

# HELLO AFRICA

What does Africa mean to you?

Photos by Raymond Botha



“I'm an American student, and it's interesting to see transformation happening in South Africa and Africa as a whole. I know a lot of people are quick to celebrate democracy, but there are a lot of things that are not happening quick enough, a lot of corruption is still happening on the continent ... That said, I love it here in Africa. The people are amazing, kind and warm. I like it better than home. The people, they put things into perspective, and don't care about things that don't matter.”

Brian Palmer



“For me, Africa is my home. It's my identity.”

Shamila Kara



“I see Africa as my home, the place I grew up. Do I see transformation in Africa? I think we are less than 20% there. I would like to see Africa as a unified country where the effects of, for example, girls getting kidnapped in Nigeria, also affect South Africa. We need to do more instead of waiting for other nations to make us realise and recognise what we need to do. We are getting there, but I would like to see a more transformed Africa.”

Regokgopetse Pataki



“What do I think of Africa? I think it is a beautiful continent, rising up, and a lot of countries moving forward. As a country, South Africa has transformed, moving from apartheid to democracy and moving forward. Within Africa there are a lot of countries that still lack the leadership that requires them to transform and to become democratic and equal.”

Aneesa Lockhat



“Africa – I feel like it's a responsibility. I was raised by a family that went through apartheid, and I'm living up to their expectations. It's more of a responsibility.”

Wandile Matshinge



# WOMBS IN LABOUR

## UCT sociologist Amrita Pande on commercial surrogacy in India

Story by Carolyn Newton  
Photos by Miriam Hinman Nielsen

Tens of thousands of the poorest women in India sell their wombs in the fastest-growing market for commercial surrogacy in the world, living in dormitories, under contracts that include consent to any birth procedure or medical intervention. However, the women in these 'baby factories' are not simply passive victims, according to research by Dr Amrita Pande from the Sociology Department.

Pande equates the commercial surrogates to factory workers in China and Bangladesh. They live in dormitories during their pregnancy, where they are disciplined by a raft of rules enshrined in a contract they sign at the start of the process. As part of the contract, they give consent to any birth procedure and to selective abortion.

However, the surrogates, are terrified at the thought of a caesarian section, says Pande, who has spent years in the field talking to and living with the surrogates as part of her research.

"This was the first time in hospital for almost all the women," she says. "They were nervous of any medical procedure, even injections. Their own childbirths had been at home, with a midwife or a relative in attendance."

Nevertheless, all but one of the women Pande studied gave birth through caesarian section. Pande believes this is for several reasons: firstly, "...the doctors feel that the child is very precious; the women are often anaemic and generally not in the best of health". Further, the doctors believe that surrogates are

less likely to become attached to their babies if they give birth through caesarian section. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, having a set date is convenient for the client.

### Booming market

The US\$2.3-billion market for commercial surrogacy is growing exponentially in India: second only to the US, and the largest in the Global South. There are currently around 30 000 infertility clinics in India, of which 3 000 are registered and offer surrogacy.

“We were told that if anything happens to the child it’s not our responsibility; but if anything happens to me, we can’t hold anyone responsible. I think the contract says that we will have to give up the child immediately after the delivery – we won’t even look at it. Black or white, normal or deformed, we have to give it away.”

Salma, a surrogate for a couple from Los Angeles



“To convince the women, I often explain to them that it’s like renting a house for a year. We want to rent your womb for a year, and Doctor Madam will get you money in return. I tell them surrogacy is not immoral. It is much better than a woman going from one man’s bed to the next to make money.”

Vimla, surrogacy broker



“The child is most important, not our bodies. But I cannot complain. Nature gave me a healthy body. I decided to let others cut it apart.”

Ramya, surrogate mother

What is common to all the countries served by these clinics is that they do not allow commercial surrogacy, which makes surrogacy a rare option for infertile couples. In India, however, commercial surrogacy is not only legal but flourishing, with very few formal regulations. It operates as an open market, in which clinics and clients determine the price and treatment of the surrogate.

Feeding this exploding market is difficult, because the concept of surrogacy is new and highly stigmatised, says Pande.

"Most Indians equate surrogacy with sex work: Bollywood has contributed to this misperception by depicting surrogates as former sex workers in every one of the three movies in which surrogates appear," she explains.

There were many examples of individual resistance; but Pande also saw the women coming together to form what she describes as 'dormant unions', in which they would share grievances and make collective demands.

As a result, changes were made to the surrogacy process. For instance, women who were initially given computer training and education while pregnant lobbied for, and received, training as beauticians – a skill better suited to life outside the hostel.

This is therefore not a simplistic story in which the surrogates are passive victims of commercialised childbirth. However, Pande notes

### Recruitment programmes

Clinics therefore have to actively recruit surrogates by sending brokers into villages and cities, where they draw on the poorest women in India. The average price a surrogate is paid is low (between US\$4 000 and US\$7 000, a quarter of the price anywhere else in the world); nevertheless, almost all the surrogates Pande studied were in informal employment, and earned so little that the price they were paid for surrogacy equated to three to five years of their normal earnings.

Pande initially viewed her research through a radical feminist lens, in terms of which she saw the

surrogates as passive patients in a 'baby farm'. However, living in the surrogacy hostels, she saw and experienced a camaraderie among the women and found that they were challenging attempts at control in unexpected ways.

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## A DRAMATIC OUTCOME

There can't be many sociologists who present their academic work as a piece of theatre, but that is exactly what the Department of Sociology's Dr Amrita Pande has been doing in Europe – with huge success.

Pande, who is also a performer and educator in theatre production, was approached by Danish producer and director Ditte Bjerg, who was interested in her research and wanted help in developing it into a script. However, after the producer discovered that Pande used to act, they worked together to turn her work into an interactive performance, featuring Pande herself.

The first performance was at the German Sociological Association in 2010, but since then Pande has played to ordinary theatregoers in Denmark and in 14 Swedish cities, garnering considerable media attention.

Pande is now working on an English-only version to be presented in Copenhagen in June this year, after which she hopes to perform it at the American Sociological Association conference in 2015.



Dr Amrita Pande is a senior lecturer in Sociology at the University of Cape Town. Her research will be published later this year as *Wombs in Labour: Transnational Commercial Surrogacy in India* by Columbia University Press in the USA and Open University Press in India.

“What really helped us take this decision was that we knew our surrogate wouldn’t spend the money for drugs or a flat-screen TV. She would be using it to feed her family, build her own house. I am not religious, but this seemed almost like god’s work, call it a worthy cause ... a mission.”

Judy, an intended mother from the US, on hiring a surrogate in India





Just a few of the over five million jobless South Africans wait patiently on a corner of Cape Town's Strand Street in the hope of a day's employment. According to a policy paper spearheaded by the Graduate School of Business's (GSB) Aunnie Patton, social impact bonds could make a significant contribution to job creation in South Africa.

# INVESTING IN SOCIAL GOOD

Story by Helen Swingler  
Photos by Michael Hammon

Social impact bonds can help government drive vital job creation in South Africa, says a policy paper delivered to the National Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry in early April. Spearheaded by the Graduate School of Business's (GSB) Aunnie Patton, the policy report is the outcome of a six-month study, funded by the Treasury.

Social impact bonds first made headlines in the UK in 2010 after they were pioneered by NPO Social Finance in a pilot project to reduce recidivism among 3 000 short-term prisoners in Peterborough Prison, Cambridgeshire.

Three years later, interim figures from Britain's Ministry of Justice showed a 6% decrease in recidivism among this group between 2010 and 2012, compared to a 16% national increase for the same period. The results were encouraging, and the world took notice.

Like microlending, social impact bonds have followed in the wake of a recent worldwide wave of innovative financing ideas designed to tackle social problems in innovative ways.

Social impact bonds do not operate on a debt and repayment system. Instead, they're social investment vehicles, outcomes-based contracts between government, private investors and philanthropic organisations. Investors provide capital to underwrite the social projects usually funded by tax money and philanthropists.

If a project is successful when measured against pre-agreed benchmarks, the investor gets a return on the economic value created for government. If the project doesn't work, investors lose their money. Only successful projects are rewarded.

Set against a global backdrop of shrinking funding, the concept took

off. By 2013, there were reportedly over 40 social impact bonds in operation or in development. Early adopters were the US, Canada, and Australia.

Developing countries like South Africa have been slower off the mark. But that's set to change, says Aunnie Patton, who heads the Bertha Centre's Innovative Financing Initiative at the GSB, part of the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Patton is hopeful that the recent policy paper will pave the way for the country's first social impact bond, designed to catalyse job creation by providing business development services to small and medium enterprises. The policy paper was developed in conjunction with Genesis Analytics and Social Finance, and underwritten by the National Treasury and the Flanders International Co-operation Agency.

The envisaged intervention rests on a partnership between the Treasury, corporations, foundations and other possible 'outcome funders', via an innovation fund that would commission simplified, tariff-based social impact bonds for business development services.

As Ryan Short – a partner at Genesis Analytics – points out, there's no shortage of business development services. But there is limited evidence of what *works*. Social impact bonds

are geared to finding what works, quickly, and replicating these efforts.

"Social impact bonds could play a significant role in addressing the limited understanding of what works and what doesn't, driving future funding to the most effective providers," says Patton.

## New social investing

"It's a tide that's starting to turn, and it makes a lot of business sense," she adds.

For high-worth investors looking to leave a legacy, it's a win-win situation. "For example, they can invest in a youth unemployment programme and have a return on their capital investment.

"We're working to help the government get their head around the concept. The Bertha Centre sits at the middle of this, trying to catalyse these intermediaries to help them develop and initiate the bonds.

"We have traction at national, provincial and local levels, and we have a whole lot of philanthropists and foundations looking to make their giving sustainable. We also have very separate worlds starting to talk to each other: government, financiers, and philanthropists."

Job creation is just the start. Other critical needs are early childhood development, education, and healthcare.

“For high-worth investors looking to leave a legacy, social impact bonds are a win-win situation.”

Aunnie Patton

## ABOUT ANDREA ‘AUNNIE’ PATTON

Patton is a Social Finance Fellow at the GSB, Dean's Fellow at the University of Oxford's Said Business School, and co-founder of Insight Capital Partners. Her background is in mergers and acquisitions in investment banking in her native US. After reading Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus' *Creating a World Without Poverty*, she did some soul-searching and volunteered in India. She became enamoured with the idea of using finance as a creative tool to address "wicked" problems, particularly social problems, and helped to start Unitus Capital, an investment bank in Bangalore. While tackling an MBA at Oxford, Patton began researching novel financial instruments, while also teaching finance to fellow students. This resulted in an invitation to teach in the finance department at Oxford. A chance meeting with UCT's Dr Francois Bonnici, director of the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, brought her to Cape Town. After a particularly bad UK winter it seemed a good idea to stay. "I'd wanted to do some work on the ground again, and South Africa was the perfect place." Patton does a "crazy commute" between Oxford, where she still teaches, and the Mother City.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## EVENTS

### Philosophy Society Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 20 May @ 20h00.  
**Speaker:** Ms Anna Hartford (Philosophy, UCT). **Title:** The excuse of ignorance in the age of information. **Venue:** Lecture Theatre 1, Humanities Building.

## VACANT POSTS

### EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

**Director**, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering and The Built Environment, Closing date TBC 2014

**Lecturer**, Centre for Film and Media Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 30 May 2014

**Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor** in Social Innovation and Academic Convener of MPhil in Inclusive Innovation, Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship, UCT Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 23 May 2014

**Professor/Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer**, African Institute of Financial Markets and Risk Management, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 31 May 2014

**Professor of Marketing:** John Garlick Chair in Business Science, School of Management Studies, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 2 June 2014

**Senior Research Officer and Research Officer/Assistant Research Officer (2 posts)**, Energy, Poverty & Development, Faculty of Engineering and The Built Environment, Closing date: 6 June 2014

**Lecturer x 2**, Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 6 June 2014

**Senior Lecturer**, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of Ornithology, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 27 June 2014

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Chinese, School of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 7 July 2014

### RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS) POSTS:

**Research Finance Administrative Officer**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and The Built Environment, Closing date: 21 May 2014

**Senior Scientific Officer**, Molecular and Cell Biology, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 23 May 2014

**Communications Officer**, CARIAA, African Climate & Development Initiative, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 26 May 2014

**Senior Technical Officer/Lab Technician**, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and The Built Environment, Closing date: 26 May 2014

**Institute Manager**, African Institute of Financial Markets and Risk Management, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 31 May 2014

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**Accommodation near UCT:** Fully furnished 3 bed 2 study house with garden and pool in Kenilworth available from September. Contact [christina.murray@uct.ac.za](mailto:christina.murray@uct.ac.za)

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Newlands. The flat is in a small block with security access, garage, communal swimming pool and live-in caretaker. The block is an older block and therefore boasts large rooms with high ceilings. It has recently been renovated and is well run by an active body corporate. No pets or smokers accepted. Rent is R8 000 p.mth. The flat is available from the 1 July 2014. For a viewing please contact: Juliet on 0822533624 or [julietclavaux@absamail.co.za](mailto:julietclavaux@absamail.co.za)

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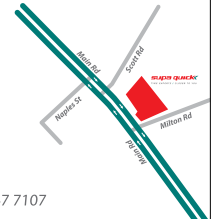
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The overflow of urban migration in Cape Town. Photo by Bruce Sutherland of the City of Cape Town

# AFRICA'S GREAT URBAN MIGRATION

Story by Yusuf Omar

Africa is urbanising rapidly. The ongoing human migration – of people pulling up roots in rural areas and resettling in cities – that happened in the Global North over a period of 200 years, is happening in the Global South (including Africa) in less than half the time. This rapid change is not only placing extraordinary strain on society and its structures, argues Professor Edgar Pieterse, director of the African Centre for Cities. It also demands an entirely new approach to how we think of – and design – our cities.

Just two metrics are needed when planning future African cities: that the designs ensure that everybody has access to basic services, and that the environments are resource-efficient.

So argued Professor Edgar Pieterse, director of the African Centre for Cities at UCT, at a public lecture arranged by the Gordon Institute for Performance and Creative Arts in April.

The talk, titled *African Urban Revolution: Epistemic Adventures*, wove together threads from Pieterse's two key lines of enquiry in recent years.

The first explores the empirical dimensions of Africa's urban transition and its implications for a range of aspects of urban life, while the second is where Pieterse lets go of the shackles and reimagines the idea of African urban living, hoping to find a smorgasbord of fresh thinking to spawn alternative ways of life that benefit all urban dwellers.

Pieterse's two co-edited volumes, *Africa's Urban Revolution* (2014) and *Rogue Urbanism: Emergent African Cities* (2013), explore these issues in detail.

## Africa's urban transition

Laying the foundation for his argument, Pieterse explicated the unique nature of Africa's urban transition.

The Global North's urban transition – when its population moved from 10% in urban areas to 50% – took 200 years (1750 to 1950) to unfold, says Pieterse. In contrast, Africa's took half that time, with 18% of the population living in urban areas in 1913, and 56% in 2013.

This has serious implications with regard to well-being, as societies struggle to maintain lifestyles.

"The mind boggles, and it's impossible to wrap one's head around what that might mean in terms of the speed at which you build cities and the speed at which you need to provide services. What this means for governance, how citizenship is instituted, and the overlay of that – the tumult of the post-colonial era in the last fifty years – and what that has meant for the economic insertion of these countries into the global economy," says Pieterse.

That process must contend with a number of global challenges, notably climate change, while still seeing to people's basic needs.

The regulatory framework governing this is "essentially stuck in an industrial-era paradigm", says Pieterse.

## Growing population

The forecasts are of a far bigger urban population, which will bring challenges. Although it is important to note that rural areas are also growing, cautioned Pieterse.

Pieterse put the strain on the current system in perspective.

"It's important to understand the tension that will emerge between the global middle classes and ... global slum populations. We're anticipating the slum population to treble.

"The aspirations and consumption desires of the middle classes and the slum dwellers is at the heart of how the urban [space] is constructed, and how politics will be mediated.

"Only 3% of African urban dwellers are eligible for a mortgage,"

he observes. Moreover, only 28% have "stable" jobs (which includes the lowest-paid employees), and 63% are in "vulnerable" jobs and liable to lose their source of income at any time.

This leaves urban planners in the precarious position of building infrastructure that is sorely needed, but that the society might not be able to maintain.

"What this essentially means is that you cannot build infrastructure that assumes that people are able to pay rates and services," says Pieterse. Simply put, the African urban environment is teetering towards a crisis and the solution would entail a paradigm shift to a society that is able to sustain itself, and an urban environment in which people's needs inform engineering plans, not the other way round.

“It's impossible to wrap one's head around what that might mean in terms of the speed at which you build cities and the speed at which you need to provide services.”

Prof Edgar Pieterse

Pieterse was awarded the South African Research Chair in Urban Policy in 2007, and leads a team of experts developing an Urban Development Framework for South Africa.

