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## UCT's Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII)

The most recent Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII) newsletter – which focuses heavily on youth matters - provides an update of the work done by the PII, which is one of the University of Cape Town (UCT)'s four strategic initiatives.

To read the full newsletter, please click [here](#). Please see below for a summary of the stories that are of interest.

- **Indicators to monitor Youth Well-Being** – Led by Dr Ariane de Lannoy, this project was launched in January 2015 and has grown into a broad partnership between the PII, Statistics South Africa, the Western Cape Department of the Premier, Code for South Africa and the City of Cape Town. It draws on a number of data sources to develop a dashboard of local-level indicators that measure key dimensions of youth well-being in South Africa, with the Western Cape as a first pilot area. The aim is to contribute new knowledge and insight about how young people in the country are experiencing life by offering a tool for assessing their individual outcomes and environmental influences at a small area level and over time. Ultimately, it is anticipated that the indicators will provide a strong evidence base to inform youth-related policies and interventions implemented at the sub-municipal or local community level.
- **2015 Youth-focused Child Gauge** - The South African Child Gauge® is an annual publication of the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. It provides a snapshot of the status of children in South Africa, and in particular monitors progress towards the realisation of their rights. Each year, the publication focuses on a major challenge affecting children's well-being as a lens to critically analyse the position of children and the potential policy responses required. In 2015, the Poverty and Inequality Initiative partnered with the Children's Institute to produce a youth-focused edition of the Gauge. This publication highlights the precarious situation of children as they transition into young adulthood and the need for interventions that support youth development. As a key communication and advocacy tool, the 2015 youth-focused Gauge makes academic research accessible to a wider audience. It provides evidence to educate and raise awareness of critical issues affecting the country's youth towards ensuring that government policies, programmes and services promote the realisation of their rights and of the rights of the next cohort of children.

- **Yazi: PII's Youth Information Portal** - In an attempt to meet young people in their request for information, The Poverty and Inequality Initiative, in partnership with The Children's Institute, Ikamva Youth and the DG Murray Trust have developed 'Yazi', an easily accessible information portal that visually maps the pathways through the educational system – from grade 9 onwards – into higher education or into the world of work. It is meant to provide young people with the details they need to make informed decisions about their educational or career trajectories. After an initial pilot stage, it is envisaged that the portal will be evaluated and the outcomes of the evaluation translated into policy-relevant material.
- **Systematic Review of Youth Unemployment** - Aiming for a multi-disciplinary approach, UCT's PII and UJ's CSDA are leading a dedicated team of researchers to conduct the systematic overview, to suggest a more comprehensive and integrated Theory of Change for youth employability and to translate this into policy-oriented documents. Senior staff are collaborating to support junior researchers or post graduate students in producing the overview, synthesis and final reports. This project is supported by the Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution, and Inclusive Growth.
- **Ongoing Youth Policy Dialogues** - A recent policy workshop on Youth, Inequality and the Labour Market was jointly convened by the Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII) and the Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth on 19th April 2016. The aim of the workshop was to bring policymakers and researchers together to engage on what sort of policies would be most effective in steering the country towards a new and more inclusive development path. It was attended by a range of academic researchers and NGO leaders who are pro-active in helping young people make the difficult transition between school and employment, and policymakers.
- **Youth Day Lunch Seminar** - Dr Ariane De Lannoy, a sociologist and senior researcher, explored the idea that our country currently lacks a thorough analysis of youth-specific poverty data – including data that shows the extent to which poverty varies from one small, local area to another, or that can track possible progress over time. This kind of information is key to the development of these efforts. The lunch time seminar took place on June 14<sup>th</sup>, leading up to Youth Day.

| <b>Program</b>                                       | <b>Details</b>   | <b>Contact</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Title:</b> Indicators to monitor Youth Well-Being | The project develops local-level indicators that measure key dimensions of youth well-being. The aim is to contribute new knowledge about how young people in the country are experiencing life and provide a strong evidence base to inform youth-related policies and interventions implemented. | <b>Name:</b> Ariane de Lannoy<br><b>Email:</b> ariane.delannoy@uct.ac.za<br><b>Tel:</b> 021 650 4491   |
| <b>Title:</b> 2015 Youth-focused Child Gauge         | The South African Child Gauge® is an annual publication of the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. It provides a snap-shot of the status of children in South Africa, and in particular monitors progress towards the realisation of their rights.                                      | <b>Name:</b> Lori Lake<br><b>Email:</b> lori.lake@uct.ac.za<br><b>Tel:</b> 021 650 1465<br><b>Name:</b> Janet Jobson<br><b>Email:</b> janet@dgmt.co.za |
| <b>Title:</b> Yazi - PII's Youth                     | Yazi is an easily accessible information   | <b>Name:</b> Ariane de Lannoy  |

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| Information Portal                                    | portal that visually maps the pathways through the educational system into higher education or into the world of work. It is meant to provide young people with the details they need to make informed decisions about their educational or career trajectories.         | <b>Email:</b> ariane.delannoy@uct.ac.za<br><b>Tel:</b> 021 650 4491<br><b>Name:</b> Zoe Mann<br><b>Email:</b> zoe@ikamvayouth.org                                       |
| <b>Title:</b> Systematic Review of Youth Unemployment | The program aims to suggest a more comprehensive and integrated Theory of Change for youth employability and to translate this into policy-oriented documents.   | <b>Name:</b> Murray Leibbrandt<br><b>Email:</b> murray.leibbrandt@uct.ac.za<br><b>Tel:</b> 021 650 2726<br><b>Cell:</b> 072 221 1543                                    |
| <b>Title:</b> Ongoing Youth Policy Dialogues          | The aim of the workshop was to bring policymakers and researchers together to engage on what sort of policies would be most effective in steering the country towards a new and more inclusive development path.   | <b>Name:</b> Ariane de Lannoy<br><b>Email:</b> ariane.delannoy@uct.ac.za<br><b>Tel:</b> 021 650 4491<br><b>Name:</b> Pippa Green<br><b>Email:</b> pippa.green@uct.ac.za |
| <b>Title:</b> Youth Day Lunchtime Seminar             | Dr Ariane De Lannoy explored the idea that our country currently lacks a thorough analysis of youth-specific poverty data. This kind of information is key to the development of these efforts. The lunch time seminar took place on June 14th, leading up to Youth Day. | <b>Name:</b> Ariane de Lannoy<br><b>Email:</b> ariane.delannoy@uct.ac.za<br><b>Tel:</b> 021 650 4491  |

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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