

ACEIR
AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR INEQUALITY RESEARCH



ARUA
African Research
Universities Alliance



ACEIR is a research centre of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) that is hosted by the University of CapeTown. With country partners in eastern, western and southern Africa, ACEIR aims to contribute to deep, multidimensional and interdisciplinary understandings of inequality in each country context, and a continental and global understanding of how inequalities can be overcome.



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ACEIR NEWS BULLETIN

Second quarter, June 2023

This quarterly bulletin from the African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research brings news of celebrations, collaborations, and commemorations.

Shortly after we marked ACEIR's fifth year of existence in May, the news broke of a successful joint proposal with three European universities to set up a cluster of research excellence in inequalities, poverty, and deprivation.

Another source of excitement was to receive the green light for research on the role of politicians in adopting policies that contribute to the reproduction of wealth. The project is a partnership between four higher education institutions from Brazil, Germany, Scotland, and South Africa.

At the ACEIR node in Kenya, which is hosted by the University of Nairobi under the leadership of Prof. Damiana Manda, collaborations with development agencies led to two high-profile public events: a Kenya jobs and inclusive growth forum with The World Bank, and a Kenya discussion on the Global Food Policy Report 2023 of the International Food Policy Research Initiative.

Yet another high-profile collaboration is coming to fruition this week as we host the annual conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics at the University of Cape Town.

Also read about the inaugural Francis Wilson Memorial Lecture that was hosted by our UCT partners at the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) and DataFirst. We also list the latest journal and online articles published by members of the ACEIR teams in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa.

In closing, we invite you to save the date for the Inequality, Work, and Nature Conference in early November 2023. The event is in partnership with the South African Presidency, the Research Facility on Inequalities of the European Union and the Agence Française de Développement, and the University of Cape Town.

NEWS | Setting up an Africa–Europe cluster of research excellence



ACEIR's partners at the University of Ghana, University of Nairobi, and University of Cape Town will be part of the new Cluster of Research Excellence in Inequalities, Poverty, and

Deprivation (CoRE IPD). This comes after a proposal for this cluster to the African University Research Alliance (ARUA) and The Guild of Research-Intensive European Universities (The Guild) was successful. The CoRE IPD will be co-led by the University of Cape Town, which hosts ACEIR on behalf of ARUA, and the University of Groningen, which will co-lead on behalf of The Guild partner universities.

[Read more](#)

NEWS | New research project on politicians, policies, and the reproduction of wealth



Image: wirestock on freepik

The ACEIR South Africa node at UCT's SALDRU will be joining forces with partners from the Global North and Global South on a new research project. The study will investigate a novel mechanism behind the reproduction of wealth: that politicians contribute to the reproduction of wealth by adopting policies biased towards the wealthy; and that they do so by virtue of being connected to pro-wealth interests through their social and economic characteristics. This project is in partnership with Philipps-University Marburg (Germany); University of Strathclyde (Scotland); and FGV São Paulo Law School (Brazil). The convener of the South Africa node, Prof. Vimal Ranchhod from SALDRU, will lead the local component of the study. Work is due to commence towards the end of 2023 with the support of the VW Foundation.

[Read more](#)

NEWS | Hosting International Association for Feminist Economics annual conference



Envisioning Feminist Economics Strategies for an Equitable and Sustainable World

JULY 5-8, 2023 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



Programme
sessions open to
non-conference
participants

IAFFE 2023 Conference Opening Plenary
ENVISIONING FEMINIST ECONOMICS
STRATEGIES FOR AN EQUITABLE AND
SUSTAINABLE WORLD

IAFFE 2023 Conference Local Plenary
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN ECONOMICS:
EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES AND OVERCOMING
CONSTRAINTS IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT

IAFFE 2023 Conference Closing Plenary
MACROECONOMICS OF INVESTING IN CARE:
ADVANCES IN RESEARCH AND POLICY
IMPLICATIONS

**Conference Reception
& Panel Discussion**
FEMINIST ECONOMICS, DEBT,
STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT
AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

**Pre-Conference & Mentoring
Workshop with Panel Discussion**
BUILDING A CAREER
IN FEMINIST ECONOMICS



<https://bit.ly/attend-IAFFE-2023>

ACEIR’s hub at the University of Cape Town is hosting the 31st annual conference of IAFFE this week. The conference, which focuses on the theme of Envisioning Feminist Economics Strategies for an Equitable and Sustainable World runs from Thursday, 6 July until Saturday, 8 July. While the conference is restricted to registered participants, a plenary session on each day can be followed live on our YouTube channel. The gathering includes a pre-conference and mentoring workshop, organised by IAFFE’s Young Scholars Initiative and the Pre-Conference & Mentoring Members Committee; and a panel discussion and reception hosted by the South African think-tank, the Institute for Economic Justice, and the International Development Economics Associates.

Conference website

NEWS | ACEIR showcased at Africa meeting of the Econometric Society



*Main picture: Prof. Murray Leibbrandt (South Africa) and Prof. Damiano K. Manda (Kenya).
Inserts: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey (ARUA), Prof. Carlos Gradin (UNU-WIDER), Prof. Nkechi S. Owoo (Ghana).*

ACEIR's works as one of ARUA's centres of excellence was showcased at the 2023 Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society. The event was hosted by the African Economic Research Consortium in Nairobi, Kenya, in June. With the leadership and participation from ARUA secretary-general, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, and ACEIR director, Prof. Murray Leibbrandt, a panel session was organised to reflect on ACEIR's work over its first five years, and future key areas and projects. Prof. Damiano K. Manda, the convener of ACEIR's Kenya node, and Prof. Nkechi S. Owoo, from the Ghana node, participated. Also speaking at the conference was Susan Kumandia, who presented her research on the factors explaining utilisation of maternal health care in Kenya at a session on human capital. Susan is a PhD student at ACEIR's South Africa node at SALDRU, UCT.

NEWS | Co-hosting Kenya jobs and inclusive growth forum with The World Bank



Panel discussion on human capital for inclusive growth. Image: World Bank Kenya on Twitter.

The ACEIR Kenya node, together with The World Bank and the Department of Economics and Development Studies of the University of Nairobi, organised a Kenya jobs and inclusive growth forum in June. The day comprised several sessions on topics related to growth, human capital, agriculture and jobs. Around 120 people attended and included cabinet secretaries, principal secretaries, policymakers, academics, and development partners, among others. ACEIR Kenya researcher, Dr. Reuben Mutegi, was a member of a panel discussion on human capital for inclusive growth in a session chaired by Prof. Damiano Manda. Another ACEIR colleague, Prof. Germano Mwabu was a panellist during a roundtable on policy actions to promote inclusion and productive job creation. The gathering was well received and an in-principle agreement was made to hold such a forum each year.

NEWS | Kenya discussion on the Global Food Policy Report 2023



Top row: Prof. Damiano K. Manda and Dr. Martine O. Oleche, University of Nairobi.
Bottom row: Dr. Clemens Breisinger, head of IFPRI's Kenya office, presented key findings from the report .

In May, ACEIR Kenya also co-hosted a Kenya discussion on the Global Food Policy Report 2023. The report is published by the International Food Policy Research Initiative, a research centre of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, the world's largest agricultural innovation network. The 2023 edition of the report focuses on rethinking responses to the global food crisis. The event was hosted in collaboration with the University of Nairobi Department of Economics and Development Studies. ACEIR researcher Dr Martine Oleche, gave the opening and closing remarks for the hybrid event, and Prof. Damiano K. Manda facilitated a panel discussion and questions from the audience.

[WATCH RECORDING](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS | Conference on inequality, work, and nature



Funded by
the European Union

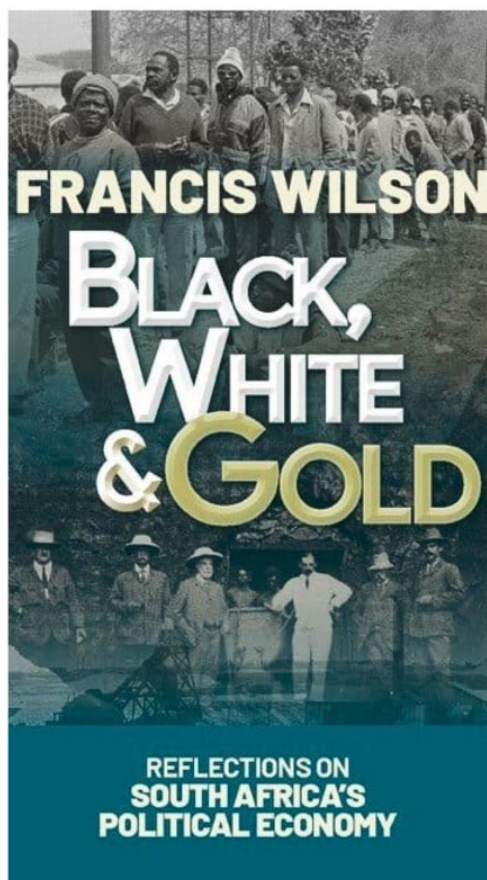


Thanks to a collaboration between the South African Presidency, the EU-AFD Research Facility on Inequalities, and the University of Cape Town, the inaugural conference on Inequality, Work and Nature will take place on 8 – 9 November 2023.

Are you an academic, an activist, a policymaker or an opinion leader? Would you like to help identify both the strategic dilemmas of a just transition and the policy solutions? Book these two days to take part in an interactive and innovative dialogue.

Let's find explicit compromises together to build a resilient response to climate change in line with a just transition within the framework of sustainable economies.

PAST EVENTS: The politics of numbers: Economists confront poverty and inequality

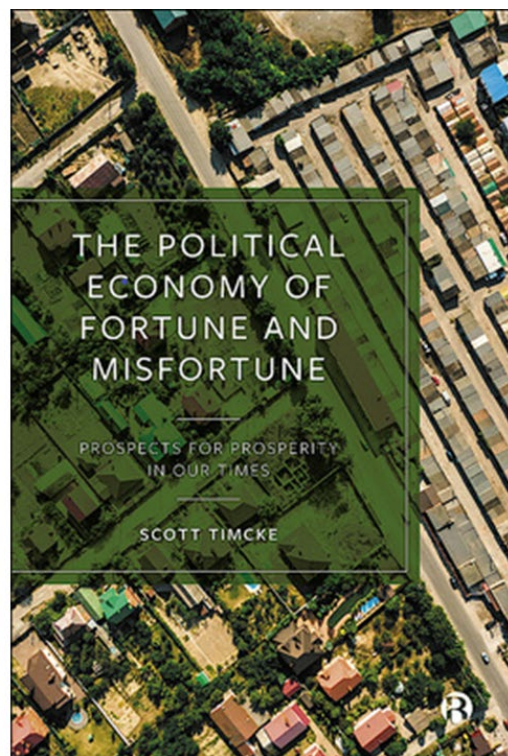
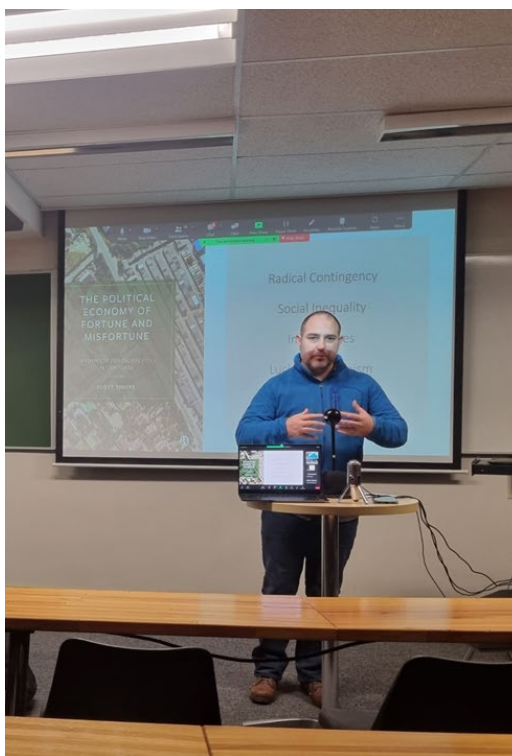


*Top row: SALDRU director, Prof. Murray Leibbrandt, thanking Sir Prof. Angus Deaton, for an excellent lecture.
Bottom row: Pippa Green, Moeletsi Mbeki and Geoff Budlender at the book launch panel earlier in the day.*

This week marked the first Francis Wilson Memorial Lecture and launch of a collection of the works of this [renowned economist and social activist](#) who dedicated his career to fighting poverty and inequality in South Africa. Francis was the founder of SALDRU, which manages the ACEIR hub at the University of Cape Town and serves as ACEIR's South Africa research node. He also founded ACEIR's data partner, DataFirst. The inaugural memorial lecture was delivered by his long-time colleague and personal friend, Sir Prof. Angus Deaton, who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 2015 for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare.

The lecture was preceded by a discussion on the life and work of Francis Wilson to launch *Black, White and Gold*, a collection of his works. The discussion was held by two long-time friends of Francis: Moeletsi Mbeki, a political economist and chairperson of KMM Publishing, which printed the book; and Geoff Budlender, a well-known lawyer and human rights defender. Pippa Green, a South African journalist who is part of the SALDRU team, moderated the conversation.

PAST EVENTS: [The role of luck in redistributive justice](#)



Dr. Scott Timcke was hosted by ACEIR's South Africa node in June to share insights from his new book, *The Political Economy of Fortune and Misfortune*, which provides new thought on the role that luck plays in redistributive justice in 21st century capitalism. He reflected on the consequences of inequalities and how a person's race, family, class, and location of birth largely determine their life opportunities, wealth, and even health. Scott is a comparative historical sociologist who studies race, class, and technology in modernity and a senior research associate with Research ICT Africa where he leads the Artificial Intelligence & Democracy team.

[WATCH RECODING](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY ACEIR RESEARCHERS | Journal articles

Ichwara, J.M., Kiriti-Ng'ang'a, T.W., & Wambugu, A. (2023). [Changes in gender differences in household poverty in Kenya](#). *Cogent Economics & Finance*, 11(1), p.2191455.

Kumandia, S. (2023). [Spatial dependence and spatial non-stationarity in the factors explaining utilisation of maternal health care in Kenya](#). 2023 Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society of African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi, 1-3 June.

Thornton, A. (2023). [Leaving the parental home in post-apartheid South Africa](#). SALDRU Working Paper Number 292. Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development

Research Unit, University of Cape Town.

Thornton, A. (2023). *Trends in household headship and living alone in South Africa, 1995-2011*. SALDRU Working Paper Number 293. Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town.

Thornton, A. (2023). *Household formation, living alone, and not getting married in South Africa*. SALDRU Working Paper Number 295. Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town.

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY ACEIR RESEARCHERS | Online articles

Men must be held accountable

D+C, 25 June 2023

In this article, **Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón** explains that men have more opportunities than women and are exposed to fewer risks, and that this is reiterated around the world and becomes most evident in times of violence and war. He calls on men to take responsibility for their actions, recognise and openly address gender-based injustices and challenge social structures that have directly favoured men in all areas.

Africa, don't swallow the poison pill of austerity any more

Aljazeera, 25 May 2023

Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón and Thokozile Madonko discuss how Africa's debt crisis is not of its making. An estimated 55 million people in Africa fell into poverty after the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, amid the threat of recession and continuing inflation, at the time that needs are greatest, governments across the continent are reducing public spending. The authors contend that this may aggravate problems.

A dangerous trek

D+C, May 2023

Fabio Andrés Díaz Pabón explains that the crisis of refugees/migrants trekking from Colombia to Panama is not a purely Latin-American phenomenon. Almost 10% of people making the arduous journey across the Darien gap, seeking access to North America, are from Africa and Asia.

IN THE MEDIA

Carbon notes 4 | From feast to famine: Apartheid's power bonanza and the genesis of South Africa's electricity crisis

Adam Tooze on Substack, 16 April 2023

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We are encouraging our readers across the continent and beyond to share ACEIR news with colleagues and associates. If they want to stay connected, they also can [sign up](#) for future news from the us.

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