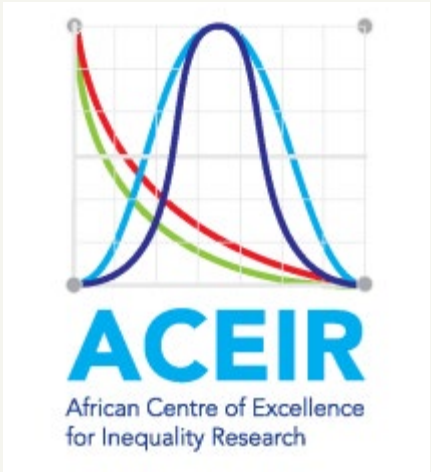


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ACEIR is a research centre of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). With country partners in eastern, western and southern Africa, ACEIR aims to contribute to deep, multidimensional and interdisciplinary understandings of inequality in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



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WELCOME TO OUR LAST NEWS BULLETIN FOR 2019

DECEMBER 2019

It's been just over 18 months since the African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR) was launched as one of 13 centres of excellence set up by the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). And 2019 was a busy year for the ACEIR team as some of the work started in 2018 came to fruition.

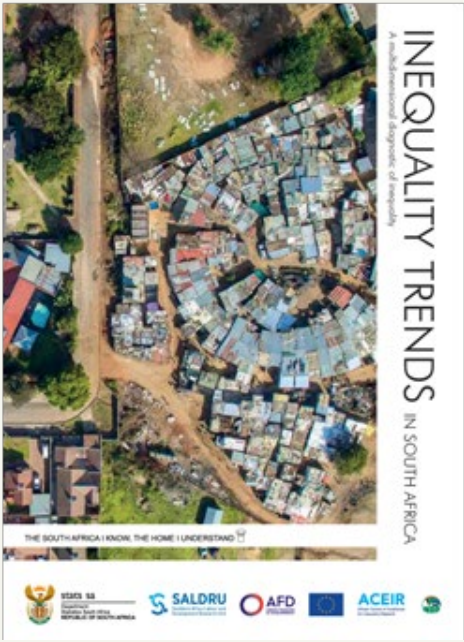
Several of the year's highlights, which spans ACEIR's nodes in Ghana (University of Ghana, Legon), Kenya (University of Nairobi) and South Africa (University of Cape Town), include:

- the release of ACEIR's first report on inequality trends for each node country – read more about that in this bulletin;
- the publication of the *Handbook on Inequality Measurement for Country Studies* that was developed by researchers at the University of Cape Town (UCT) where ACEIR's hub and the South African node are located. While the handbook was developed as an intermediate guide for ACEIR members, it may also be useful to researchers planning an inequality study within a particular country;
- ACEIR team members' participation in an ARUA workshop with N8 partners in Accra, Ghana earlier this year. The N8 Research Partnership is a collaboration of the eight most research-intensive universities in the North of England: Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield and York;
- ACEIR was also present at the Second Biennial Conference of ARUA, held recently in the Kenyan capital, where ACEIR's director – Prof. Murray Leibbrandt – participated in a policy roundtable as part of the final session of the conference;
- the South African node's seminar series on the Sustainable Development Goals in partnership with UCT's Poverty & Inequality Initiative – also read more about these below; and
- a new funding partner – UK Research and Innovation – through *ARUA's partnership with the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)*, funded by UKRI, to address the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, to strengthen Africa-UK research collaborations and enhance research capacity across African and UK research communities.

We are looking ahead to 2020 with excitement and anticipation since we will celebrate the release of the reports on inequality trends in Ghana and Kenya respectively. The findings of these reports will be workshopped in each country with policymakers and other role-players from government, civil society and development agencies. The first such engagement has been set by the South African team for February next year to engage constructively on ideas and strategies to tackle the country's monumental inequality challenges.

We are looking forward to report back on these and other developments in the ACEIR community and extend our best wishes for the festive season and prosperity for the New Year.

NEWS | Inequality trends in South Africa:
A multidimensional diagnostic of inequality



ACEIR was established to build capacity for frontier African data scholarship and to contribute to deep, multidimensional and interdisciplinary understandings of inequality that can help inform policies that address inequality. For that reason, the three country nodes – Ghana, Kenya and South Africa – have been doing textured analyses of inequality in these respective countries in collaboration with their national statistical agencies. In November, the first country report on inequality trends was released by the South African node. The report, which was launched by the Statistician-General, was a collaboration between Statistics South Africa, the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, and the Agence Française de Développement. Read some of the key findings in this [media statement](#).

DOWNLOAD REPORT

SEMINARS| A focus on the Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the last quarter of 2019, ACEIR co-hosted three seminars that dealt with research related to the United Nations SDGs. The seminars were part of the 2019 seminar series of UCT's Poverty & Inequality Initiative. The three SDG seminars focused on:

- South Africa's first phase of voluntary reporting for the SDGs (in partnership with the African Centre for Cities, UCT);
- global health and the HIV response in the SDG; and
- climate policy and poverty reduction.

On a related matter, colleagues from the South African node of ACEIR are participating as members of the steering committee providing guidance and oversight for the International Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, to be hosted by the University of Cape Town in April 2020. The summit will be hosted in partnership with three strategic university networks: the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU), and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). Together these networks comprise over 40 of the world's leading research universities, with a wide global spread and a strong presence in Africa.

IN THE NEWS | SA faces enormous challenges



Published in the *City Press*, 23 November 2019: An opinion-editorial on the *Inequality Trends in South Africa* report by the director of ACEIR, Prof. Murray Leibbrandt; Dr. Anda David, the French Development Agency research officer for inequality, poverty and migration; and Werner Ruch, the director for research and product development in the Poverty and Inequality Statistics division of Statistics South Africa.

[READ](#)

A selection of media coverage on the report's release:

South Africa's income inequality is particularly uneven

IOL, 18 November 2019

Whites earn three times more than blacks: Stats SA

Times Live, 18 November 2019

Black South Africans among most vulnerable in country - Inequality trends report

Eyewitness News, 16 November 2019

Whites still earning three times more than blacks in SA

Fin24, 15 November 2019

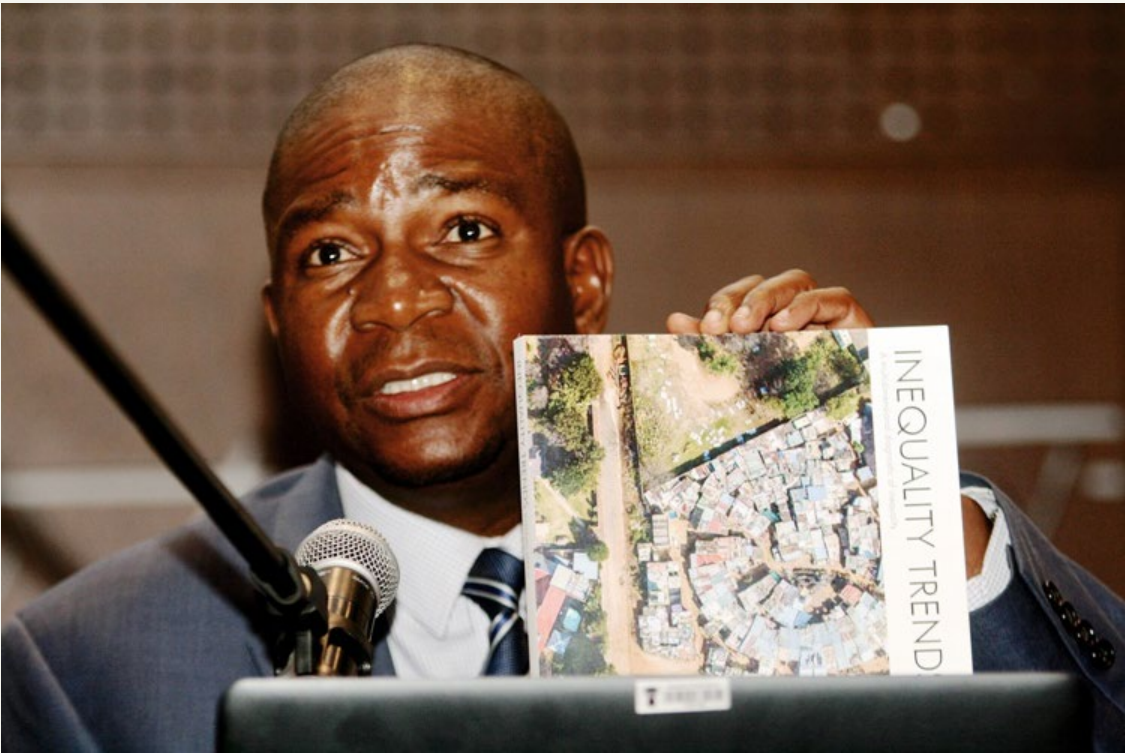
Stats SA report reveals state of inequality in SA

Daily Maverick, 15 November 2019

THE NEWS IN PICTURES

From top to bottom:

- South Africa's Statistician-General, Risenga Maluleke, at the media launch of the *Inequality Trends in South Africa* report on 14 November 2019. (Photo: Statistics South Africa)
- Prof. Murray Leibbrandt participating in a policy session on the last day of the ARUA Biennial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Team members from the Ghanaian, Kenyan and South African nodes of ACEIR in Nairobi for a strategic planning meeting.





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