



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

# JIAS

## 2019 Annual Report





Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study

2019

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Dr Bongani Ngqulunga

## Director's message

*Five years ago, the leaders of the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in South Africa and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore decided to establish the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) as a joint initiative. Through this partnership, the two universities cemented their relationship and consolidated an already close relationship between Asia and the African continent. Although it was always understood that UJ would play a leading role in the JIAS partnership with NTU playing a time limited supporting role, the partnership marked JIAS as one of the unique institutes for advanced study in the world, which embodied the aspirations and values of two universities and connected the two continents.*

Over a short period since its establishment five years ago, JIAS has become one of the leading institutes of its kind on the African continent with unique programmes that attract interest of scholars, researchers and writers from all over the world. Our flagship Writing Fellowship Programme, for instance, attracts applications from scholars and writers from all the continents. The conferences, symposia and workshops that are regularly convened by and hosted at JIAS draw participation from leading scholars and researchers in their fields. In 2019, JIAS expanded its fellowship programme by introducing

the Research, Visiting, Postdoctoral and Doctoral Fellowships. These new fellowships have begun to attract some of the best scholars to JIAS and have put the Institute on par with the leading institutes for advanced study in the world.

The year 2019 has been remarkable for JIAS for many other reasons. For the first time, applications for the Writing Fellowship Programme exceeded 400 for only 10 spaces! The calibre and the diversity of applicants were some of the best we have received since the founding of JIAS five years ago. The year 2019 was also the busiest at JIAS, with the institute hosting over 50 public events, including seminars, conferences, public lectures and symposia on some of the most topical issues that face humanity today. At the beginning of the year, for instance, JIAS, together with Intercontinental Academia, hosted the Colloquium on Human Dignity, which attracted the participation of leading legal scholars, philosophers, novelists, playwrights and social scientists from South Africa, Europe, North America and South America to interrogate the notion of human dignity. Another highlight for the year was a series of public lectures and seminars to commemorate and celebrate the centenary of four outstanding South African novelists: Eskia Mphahlele, Noni Jabavu, Sibusiso Nyembezi and Peter Abrahams. Ntongela Masilela, one of the outstanding scholars of African literary and political culture, presented a riveting public lecture on one of the centenarians, Eskia Mphahlele.

Among the great events hosted by JIAS in 2019 was a multidisciplinary conference on health and illness in South Africa. A partnership between JIAS and the National Department of Science and Technology, the conference drew interest and participation from writers, scholars,



students and researchers from different disciplines as well as from members from the public. Moving from the premise that health is neither a purely medical nor a purely biological question, the multidisciplinary conference put into focus the sociological and political questions that shape our wellbeing and illness, the questions at the very heart of humanity: questions of how we live and die. The conference followed on the heels of a similar conference on health and illness on the African continent jointly hosted with Harvard University and Wits University.

JIAS hosted other exciting events probing similar kinds of questions that confront humanity today. These include a series of conversations on the implications for humanity of the new technological advancements that have come to define our age. In line with the University of Johannesburg's focus on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), JIAS hosted several seminars by leading scholars who looked at the various dimensions of 4IR. Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, the Vice-Chancellor of UJ and one of the leading scholars on artificial intelligence, presented two lectures on various ways in which 4IR is transforming different fields such as health and aviation, while Maria Frahm-Arp, a professor of religion at UJ, presented a lecture at which she sought to answer the question of why miracle churches are proliferating in the age of 4IR. Prof Boaventura de Sousa Santos, one of the leading sociologists in the world, provided a more critical perspective on 4IR in his lecture titled 'Information, understanding, transformation: The challenges of the 4IR'. JIAS closed the year with an afternoon long symposium on 4IR organised with the European Chamber of Commerce.

JIAS saw considerable changes this year in its governance and leadership. The partnership with NTU ended, having run through the five-year period it was scheduled to last. We wish to express our gratitude to NTU for the support in initiating and setting up JIAS. JIAS grew in leaps and bounds over the past five years and looks forward to a future of growth. The founding director of JIAS, Prof Peter Vale, also retired. Peter's contribution is evident in every aspect of JIAS today. Without his breadth of vision and unwavering commitment, JIAS would not have taken off. We thank Peter sincerely for what he has done for JIAS and the broader University of Johannesburg.



# About JIAS

# 1

## 1.1

### Who we are

*The Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) is an institute based at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Although only launched in May 2015 as the first fully-fledged institute for advanced scholarship in Gauteng, South Africa's economic and political heartland, JIAS has grown to be one of the leading institutes of its kind on the African continent. Its purpose is to promote advanced research in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences beyond regular teaching and research activities that take place at institutions of higher learning.*

Since its inception, JIAS has striven to create conditions in which scholars, researchers and writers can deliver cutting interdisciplinary thought and research at the highest academic level. This is done by reaching beyond the regular teaching and research routines of contemporary institutions of higher education, and by encouraging collaborative scholarly cooperation in the humanities, natural and social sciences.

## 1.2

### What we offer

*JIAS delivers on its core mandate by offering a variety of fellowships, hosting innovative conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops, and facilitating research collaboration among scholars and researchers from different disciplines of identified research themes.*

Similar to leading institutes of its kind in the world, JIAS offers a diversity of fellowships, which attract emerging and leading scholars who spend anything from a few weeks to a year at the JIAS campus. From the beginning of February to the end of May every year, JIAS hosts a group of exceptional creative writers, scholars and researchers from different disciplines to participate in the flagship Writing Fellowship. Each Writing Fellow focuses on his/her individual project while benefitting from interacting with other Writing Fellows and from the community of scholars and writers from the University of Johannesburg and from the broader Gauteng academic community.

The Research Fellowships are open to scholars, creative writers and artists who are involved in medium- to long-term projects. Although individuals who intend to pursue individual projects are not prevented to apply for the Research Fellowships, JIAS prefers to support scholars and writers who intend to work on collaborative interdisciplinary projects on identified research themes. The two other types of fellowships JIAS offers are Visiting and Postdoctoral Fellowships. Visiting Fellowships are open



Writing fellows at the JIAS facilities

to scholars, creative writers and artists who require the tranquillity and excellent facilities at JIAS on a short-term basis (from several weeks to a year). Postdoctoral Fellowships, on the other hand, are open to exceptional young scholars who have just completed their doctoral degrees.

In addition, JIAS regularly hosts academic conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops on some of the most important topics in the humanities, and natural and social sciences. These events are held at our beautiful campus in Westdene, Johannesburg, and sometimes at various venues in the University of Johannesburg's four campuses in Auckland Park, Doornfontein and Soweto. Over the years, JIAS (individually and often in collaboration with other academic departments and institutes at the University of Johannesburg and beyond) has organised conferences and seminars on cutting edge research, which have attracted participation of leading scholars in the relevant fields. For instance, the three-month colloquium on 'Why the Brain Matters' was attended by 50 leading experts in the field from 27 countries. Other events on innovative issues have included a series of seminars on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Future of Work, which brought in leaders from business, trade unions, the government and the academy.

### 1.3

## Research themes and projects

*From time to time, JIAS convenes and hosts scholars and writers from different disciplines to work collaboratively on specific research themes and projects. For the next few years, some of the research themes and projects that JIAS will focus on include a multidisciplinary study on health, disease and wellbeing on the African continent, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and society, social inequality, and a special project on African biographies. Work has already begun on all these themes and projects.*

### 1.4

## Facilities

*JIAS is based on a dedicated campus in the Johannesburg suburb of Westdene, near the University of Johannesburg. It offers beautiful accommodation facilities for fellows and other visiting scholars and writers, as well as conference and workshop facilities. Over the past year, the University of Johannesburg bought a dedicated facility close to the main JIAS for use by postdoctoral fellows, full-time staff and visiting fellows.*

## Highlights from the 2019 academic year

# 2

*The year 2019 was arguably the busiest since JIAS was established over five years ago and saw several significant changes at the Institute. One of the significant developments was the expansion of the Fellowship Programme beyond the flagship Writing Fellowship Programme. Other fellowships that were introduced are the Research, Visiting and Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. These new fellowships have already attracted considerable interest from scholars and writers in South Africa, the broader African continent as well as internationally. For the first time in 2019, several senior scholars joined JIAS on relatively long-term contracts as professors. These include Chris Brink, who joined as a Distinguished Visiting Professor for a period of three years. Prof Brink is an accomplished scholar of outstanding achievement, having worked for many years as Vice-Chancellor and Principal at Stellenbosch University in South Africa and Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. For the next three years at JIAS, he will lead a University of Johannesburg wide collaborative research project on the theme of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Society.*



Joining Prof Brink is Prof Vincent Maphai, who also joined JIAS in 2019 as an Honorary Professor. Prof Maphai brings in considerable and unique wealth of experience in academia, government and business positions, which equip him well to lead JIAS's research initiative on the study of social inequality. Prof John Rapley, a Visiting Professor from the University of Cambridge for 2019, completes the list of leading scholars who joined JIAS in 2019. Prof Rapley is a leading scholar on the political economy of development. He will lead JIAS's research initiative on the political economy of technological change.

Another exciting development in the year 2019 was the introduction of the African Biographies Project (ABP). First mooted by Prof Tshilidzi Marwala at his inauguration as the University's Vice-Chancellor in 2018, when he declared that UJ would support the writing of ten biographies of African leaders from various areas of public life, the ABP finally kicked off in early 2019 when it was given to JIAS to manage its implementation. In just a few months, JIAS has managed to attract participation of 14 writers in the ABP, who are busy researching and writing biographies of some of the outstanding leaders from South Africa and the African continent as a whole.

*The Brain Matters conference at the JIAS facilities*

# Fellowship Programme

# 3

## 3.1.1

### 2019 Writing Fellowship

Notwithstanding the expansion of the JIAS Fellowship Programme, the Writing Fellowship remains the Institute's flagship initiative. The call for applications for the fourth semester of the Writing Fellowship attracted considerable interest with over 400 applicants for only 10 available spaces. Among the 10 selected Writing Fellows were outstanding scholars, writers and artists from different continents. The 2019 Writing Fellows were:



**Romain Dittgen**

– a human geographer who holds a PhD from the University of Paris 1 (Pantheon Sorbonne). At the time Dittgen joined JIAS as a Writing Fellow, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. His research interests, framed around the spatial expression of capital and other subsequent changes experienced by urbanites, speak to the evolving nature of cities within Southern Africa. In the past, he has held positions as senior researcher at Spatial Analysis & City Planning, the South African Institute of International Affairs, and as a joint fellow at the African Studies Centre and the International Institute of Asian Studies at Leiden University. During the Writing Fellowship, Dittgen worked on a book manuscript on the Chinese urban spaces in Johannesburg and Lusaka.



**Lorena Nunez-Carrasco**

– a Chilean born social anthropologist with specialisation in Medical Anthropology, Nunez-Carrasco is an associate professor at Wits University in Johannesburg. Her broader academic interest is on topics that intersect health and culture. In her research, she explores the linkages between migration and health with a focus on mental and reproductive health. Her research project explores the role of the state and civil society through policies and practices in the realm of healthcare in relation to migrants, both in South Africa and Chile. It poses the questions of how and when common categories such as class, gender and race become more or less salient in relation to migrants in the area of healthcare.



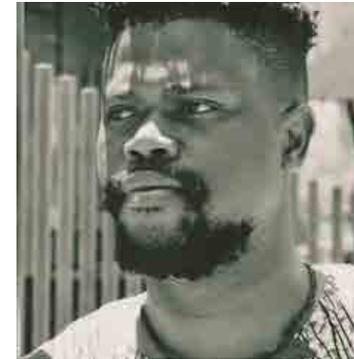
Julie Grant started working with South Africa's indigenous Khomani Bushmen in 2006 when she undertook her PhD fieldwork. In 2009, she worked with !Xun and Khwe Bushmen also based in South Africa. Her research interests lie in the areas of land reform, perceptions of poverty and development, indigenous knowledge, and culturally responsive education, health and social care.



Tanya Zack is an urban planner, writer and reflexive practitioner who straddles the worlds of planning practice, policy, academia, and creative writing. Her planning experience over 25 years in Johannesburg has included academic writing and research, policy and the development of planning frameworks, as well as activist and participatory planning in a scope of work that includes informal settlement upgrading, community participation processes, the informal economy, migrant entrepreneurialism, inner city policy for transformation and a host of housing related work. While at JIAS, Zack worked on a book manuscript on the so-called Ethiopian quarter of the inner city of Johannesburg.



Anthea M Lesch is a scholar, lecturer, activist and qualitative researcher based in the Psychology Department at Stellenbosch University. Her work adopts a community psychological approach to examining inequality and its impact on the health and wellbeing of marginalised and oppressed groups in society. Her current research focuses on exploring processes of community engagement in biomedical HIV research; using creative research methodologies to explore black women's sexual and reproductive health literacy; and documenting the lived experiences of people living on the streets of urban Cape Town. While at JIAS, she wrote a series of essays that use auto ethnographic and political narrative approaches to explore race, racism and the racial collective consciousness in contemporary South Africa.



Thabo Jijana – spanning colonial history, politics of space and the self, Jijana's book of 100 errata entries is driven by enthusiasm for that which is rural-centred and seeks to problematise how the rural has been imagined and images in 'Mandelafrican' popular culture. Reading rurality into Cesaire's notion of absent presence and Mafenuka's avowal re: *ukurhuda ude ubhodle* as antfiction in order to perpetually question his rural identity, he strives to correct erroneous portrayals of village living by assigning a variety of refreshing but no less in-depth, well-articulated *sui generis* interpretations of present day village life as a way of showing how the rural has for far too long suffered from a devastating misrepresentation by writers, musicians, film makers, opinion makers and artists who overburden it with false, harsh, unbalanced and ultimately patronising and utterly ignorant depictions.

Awarded the Ingrid Jonker Prize for Poetry (2016), for his volume, *Failing Maths and My Other Crimes*, and most recently featured in an exhibition, *To See This Better, Close Your Eyes*, at the Reid Gallery, The Glasgow School of Art, Scotland (2018), Jijana hails from eNgqushwa, rural Eastern Cape and is a publisher at Black Letter Media in Johannesburg.



Ivan Panovic is an assistant professor of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies in the School of Humanities at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Prior to this appointment, he was an Andrew W Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford. Panovic is a sociocultural linguist who draws on ethnography and multimodal discourse analysis to study vernacular writing and literacies as social practices, language ideologies, language creativity, sociolinguistic aspects of migration and social and spatial mobility, as well as the relationships between language, gender, and sexuality. While at JIAS, he worked on a monograph on vernacular literacies in Cairo, Egypt.



Jodi Mikalachki is an associate professor of English at the University of Burundi. A Canadian by birth and upbringing, she received her doctorate from Yale University and has taught in the United States, Kenya and Burundi. She writes about national stories with a particular interest in questions of gender and violence. Exploring how communities find passages through violence, she reflects on nonviolent social and aesthetic practices of solidarity. Her novel in progress, set in a cyclical violence of post-colonial Burundi, follows individuals, families and the nation as they negotiate trauma and the ruptures it leaves in their histories. Bringing together characters from different Burundian social groups as well as foreign missionaries, it examines the fascinations, dangers, impasses and opportunities of cross-cultural relationships.



Thando Mgqolozana is a novelist whose books include *A Man Who is Not a Man* (2009), *Hear Me Alone* (2011), and *Unimportance* (2014). He was selected as one of the 100 Most Influential Africans (2016); and awarded the Mandela Rhodes (2006) and Canon Collins (2018) scholarships. He is the co-author of *Inxeba: The Wound* (2018), an Oscar shortlisted, record-breaking film. He is the founder of Abantu Book Festival, a hallmark literary event held in Soweto.

## 3.1.2

### Research Fellowship

The JIAS Research Fellowships were introduced in 2019 to facilitate long-term multi- and interdisciplinary collaboration. The fellowships are awarded to scholars and writers who intend to use the facilities of JIAS to work together on joint research projects. Over the next few years, JIAS will select research themes around which to organise the Research Fellowships. As mentioned in the introductory paragraphs of this section, Profs Brink, Maphai and Rapley have joined JIAS partly to lead research on identified research themes. This work is in its formative stages still. Most of the Research Fellows who have been appointed are participants in the University of Johannesburg's strategic project on writing the biographies of African leaders, the ABP. The Research Fellows in the ABP are:

- **Janice Golding** is writing a biography of *Wangari Maathai*, the African environmentalist who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her work in championing environmental sustainability. She was the first African woman to be awarded the Prize. Golding holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford and is an accomplished researcher and environmentalist in her own right.
- **Vincent Maphai** is writing a biography of *Father Simangaliso Mkhathshwa*, the South African Roman Catholic priest who led the struggles against apartheid, especially in the 1970s and 1980s and was a leading figure in the United Democratic Front. Vincent Maphai is a professor in politics at the University of Johannesburg based at JIAS.

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- **Maureen Isaacson** is writing a biography of the Nobel laureate for literature, *Nadine Gordimer*. Isaacson is an accomplished writer, researcher and editor with a long history in journalism.
- **Victoria Collis-Buthelezi**, an academic at the University of Johannesburg, is writing a biography of Peter Abrahams, a South African born novelist, journalist and commentator who left the country and settled in Jamaica.
- **Siphiwo Mahala** is writing a biography of Can Themba. Themba became famous as a leading member of a group of writers and journalists who worked for *Drum* magazine in South Africa in the mid-20th century. He was also an accomplished short story writer.
- **Andries Nel** is writing a biography of *Bettie du Toit*, a South African trade unionist and anti-apartheid activist, who for many years lived in exile in various countries in the African continent and Europe for her political activism.
- **Mxolisi Dlamuka**, a historian of the South African liberation struggle, is writing a biography of *Harry Gwala*, a prominent leader of the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress, who was imprisoned on Robben Island for many years.
- **Antonio Tomas**, an associate professor at the University of Johannesburg's Graduate School of Architecture, is completing a biography of Guinea-Bissau's revolutionary leader, *Amilcar Cabral*. He is also in the formative stages of researching a biography of Angolan *Jonas Savimbi*.
- **Buntu Siwisa** is writing a biography of another prominent civic, sports and political leader from Port Elizabeth, *Dan Qeqe*. Qeqe rose to prominence during the 1970s and 1980s during the heated struggle against apartheid. He was also a central figure in promoting sports in black communities, especially rugby.
- **Sipho Sithole** is writing a biography of the longest serving chief of the amaChunu in Msinga, *iNkosi Simakade Mchunu*. Through the biography of Mchunu, Sithole traces the evolution of the institution of traditional leadership in South Africa in the 20th century and how it was shaped by changing social and economic dynamics.
- **Buti Kompi**, a historian based at the University of Fort Hare in the Eastern Cape Province, is writing a biography of one of the prominent founders of the ANC, *Mtobi Thomas Mapikela*. In addition to his long and distinguished political career, Mapikela was a successful entrepreneur and civic leader in the Free State province of South Africa.
- **Thami ka Platjje** is writing a biography of *Mangaliso Sobukwe*, the founding president of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) in South Africa. In 2019, Platjje published the



Prof Nomalanga Mkhize, Nelson Mandela University

first volume of the Sobukwe biography. He is currently working on the second volume.

- **Bavumile Brown Maaba**, another historian of the liberation struggle in South Africa, is writing a biography of one of the outstanding political figures of the late 19th and early 20th century South Africa, *Walter Rubusana*. Rubusana was a pioneer in several areas, including journalism, politics and civic affairs.
- Another pioneer was *John Knox Bokwe*, who was a prominent leader of the black community in the second half of the 19th century and the early half of the 20th. He did not only distinguish himself in politics, journalism and church affairs, he built civic institutions such as schools.
- **Mcebisi Ndletyana**, an associate professor of politics at UJ is writing a biography of Bokwe.

### 3.1.3

#### Visiting Fellowship

JIAS hosted two Visiting Fellows in 2019, both scholars at the University of Johannesburg. In the first half of the year, February to May, Dr Khumisho Moguerane, a senior lecturer at the University's Department of History, was a Visiting Fellow working on her book manuscript. In the second half of the year, Dr Sean Muller, a senior lecturer in the School of Economics at UJ, was Visiting Fellow also working on a book manuscript.

### 3.1.4

#### Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

JIAS admitted the first group of PDFs in late 2019. The first two PDFs are Drs Sifiso Ndlovu, a political scientist with a PhD from Wits University in Johannesburg, and Tshepo Moloi, a political scientist with a doctorate from the University of Johannesburg. Ndlovu is working on a book manuscript on Ndebele identity in post-apartheid South Africa, while Moloi is working on a book manuscript on Eskia Mphahlele.

### 3.1.5

#### Visiting Professors

Profs John Rapley, Grace Khunou and Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni spent the whole year, 2019, at JIAS as Visiting Professors. John Rapley comes from Cambridge University where he works on the political economy of development. He spent the year at JIAS working on a book manuscript on the broad area of development. Prof Grace Khunou also spent the whole year as a Visiting Professor at JIAS working on a several projects, including a book manuscript, on the sociology of the family, particularly on issues of fatherhood. Ndlovu-Gatsheni, whose scholarship focuses on decoloniality, is a full professor at the University of South Africa. He used his Visiting Professorship at JIAS to also work on a book manuscript.



*Workshop of participants in the African Biographies Project*



*Professor Vincent Maphai and Professor John Rapley, who are professors at JIAS*



*Professor Ntongela Masilela giving a public lecture on Eskia Mphahlele in March 2019*



*JIAS hosted Professor Boaventura de Sousa Santos who is from the University of Coimbra, Portugal*



*Joint event between the National Research Foundation, the Swedish Embassy in South Africa and JIAS. Prof Sinha, Ms Cecilia Julin, Dr Magona and Prof Gqola was part of the delegation*

## 3.2

## Conferences, Symposia, Seminars and Workshops

*JIAS organised and hosted over 50 events during the course of 2019. The events ranged from conferences and symposia that attracted the participation of scholars and writers from different parts of the world to small seminars, public lectures and book launches. Some of the highlights for the year included a colloquium that JIAS jointly hosted with the "2nd UBIAS Intercontinental Academia on Human Dignity". Taking place at the beginning of the year in January, the symposium brought scholars from different disciplines, writers and practitioners to interrogate the concept of human dignity. The research group on human dignity was a joint initiative of the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) in Jerusalem and the Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZiF) in Bielefeld, Germany. South African scholars joined scholars from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania and the USA.*

Following the successful colloquium on human dignity, JIAS joined Harvard University and Wits University to host the first Africa-Asia Partnerships in Health and Healthcare Delivery for Women and Youth Conference in March. The two-day conference brought together scholars,

policymakers and practitioners across disciplines from Harvard, Asia, Africa and the rest of the world to deliberate on health and healthcare in the African continent. Deliberations at the conference focused on sexual and reproductive health, the double burden of undernutrition and over-nutrition, infectious diseases, non-communicable disease including mental health.

Another significant event organised and hosted by JIAS, with substantial support from and in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology, was a four-day long interdisciplinary conference on the State of Disease and Illness in South Africa. The conference centred on issues of health and illness in South Africa and drew participation from people in the health and medical industries including students and members of the public. The Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, opened the conference and delivered the keynote address.

JIAS also organised a series of public lectures and seminars to commemorate and celebrate the centenaries of four prominent South African black writers: Eskia Mphahlele, Noni Jabavu, Sibusiso Nyembezi and Peter Abrahams. As part of this series, Prof Ntongela Masilela gave a riveting public lecture on Eskia Mphahlele, which was attended by scores of established and young scholars. In the same week Masilela delivered his public lecture, Zakes Mda, one of the prominent South African novelists, visited JIAS from the United States of America to launch his latest novel, *The Zulus of New York*. Tshepo Madlingozi, a legal scholar based at the University of Witwatersrand, also presented a seminar on Eskia Mphahlele.

Together with philosophers from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, JIAS hosted a symposium on the 'Absent Community'. Held in August 2019, the symposium brought together a small group of scholars from the disciplines of Philosophy, Political Science, History, Jurisprudence and Literary Studies. The theme was sparked by the idea that 'absence' tends to be coded as loss, which animates many claims and programmatics in the political arena, such as loss of 'unity in the party', and of 'social cohesion'; and loss in relation to land, place, home, and work. Critically taking up some of these notions, contributors addressed the question of how the framings of absence, 'loss', and envisaged restitution differentially structure political agency, social policy, and collective identifications, claims, and mobilisations – past and present.



Another significant event for the year was the third JIAS Conference on the Legacies of Colonialism and Imperialism. Jointly hosted with the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg, the conference looked at the impact that colonialism and imperialism had on the cultures and languages of the subject peoples. The aim of the conference was to explore the effects of 'creolisation' and to investigate the respects in which they have been both negative and positive, particularly in the areas of language and culture. Two of the most influential theorists and activists in the national liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s, for example, took opposing views on the use of the coloniser's language, with Frantz Fanon taking a critical view and Amilcar Cabral viewing language in instrumental terms.

JIAS also organised a series of seminars and public lectures on the impact of technological change on society. Taking up the theme of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, the University's Vice-Chancellor, presented a seminar on 'Driving Aviation Safety in the Era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'. The seminar looked at one of the deadliest aviation accidents in recent times, the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 crash, which killed 157 people on board and how the technologies of 4IR can improve aviation safety. Following Marwala on the theme of 4IR was a seminar by Prof Maria Frahm-Arp, who looked at miracle churches in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Taking a more critical view was Prof Boaventura de Sousa Santos, who delivered a public lecture on 'Information, Understanding, Transformation: The Challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution'. In his lecture, De Sousa Santos argued that the good and bad consequences of 4IR will be unevenly distributed and will reinforce the current hierarchies of the world system.

*Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice Chancellor of UJ, was giving a public lecture on 4IR at JIAS*

The theme of inequality was taken up in other various seminars and lectures presented at JIAS during the course of the year. For instance, Oxford University professor, William Beinart, presented a seminar on land reform in South Africa, which highlighted the inequities of land ownership in the country. Prof Nomalanga Mkhize from Nelson Mandela University took up the theme of land dispossession during her seminar on *The Khoikhoi-Xhosa Wars of Land Dispossession in the 18th and 19th century Cape Colony and the Making of South Africa's Working Class*. A seminar on Britain post Brexit raised similar issues and the impact they have had in affecting political decision making in countries such as Britain.

JIAS continued to collaborate with other institutions in the university and beyond in the form of seminars, conferences and workshops.



*Could the Asian model work in South Africa- Lessons from South Korea conference. From left to right: Prof John Rapley, Prof Jangsaeng Kim, Dr Park Jong-Dae, Menbacho Shiferaw Teklemariam, Prof Yiva Rodny-Gumede, Prof Vincent Maphai, Busani Ngcaweni and Dr Bongani Ngqulunga.*

Together with Wits University, JIAS hosted a workshop on the brain, which brought together some of the researchers and scholars who participated in the JIAS Colloquium on the Brain. JIAS also collaborated with the UJ Centre for Africa-China Studies (CACS) to host a symposium on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Prof Martin Jacques and Hannah Ryder presented keynote addresses. Right at the end of the year, JIAS collaborated with the UJ Graduate School of Architecture and the Department of Politics and International Studies from the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) from the University of London to host a weeklong symposium on the politics of architecture in Africa.

JIAS also organised several book launches during the course of the year. Important among these were book launches by three JIAS alumni. South African novelist and former Writing Fellow at JIAS, Fred Khumalo, launched his book of collection of short stories, *Talk of the Town*, in June 2019. This was followed by another launch of a book edited by a JIAS alumnus, Melissa Myambo. Titled *Reversing Urban Inequality in Johannesburg*, the launch attracted a sizeable crowd of scholars and writers from the city. Late in the year, JIAS hosted the book launch of another JIAS alumnus, Niq Mhlongo. Provocatively titled *Black Tax: Burden or Ubuntu?*, the edited volume generated considerable public debate.

### 3.3

## Partnerships

*Considerable effort was put into building partnerships in the University of Johannesburg and beyond in order to strengthen the standing of JIAS and extend its influence and reach. There is improved collaboration between JIAS and various faculties, departments and research institutes from the University, which is evident in the number of UJ scholars who use the facilities and opportunities that JIAS offers. For instance, JIAS, together with the Department of Philosophy at UJ, hosted a workshop on the philosophy of medicine. Another collaboration was with the English Department on a symposium on Black Studies. It also hosted a number of UJ scholars who presented lectures and seminars organised by JIAS. The UJ scholars who presented seminars at JIAS during the year include Profs Tshilidzi Marwala, Maria Frahm-Arp, Alex Broadbent, Vincent Maphai, Adekeye Adebajo, and Yu Ke, and Drs Khumisho Moguerane and Sean Muller.*

The JIAS collaborations and partnerships extend beyond the University. Already mentioned are several events that JIAS jointly organised and hosted with various academic institutions in Gauteng and other provinces in South Africa. The director also joined the UJ delegation that visited several Nordic countries to build partnerships and collaborations. Especially important from the perspective of JIAS were fruitful engagements with similar institutes for advanced study at universities in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark. There were fruitful discussions with the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Amsterdam, with focused attention on specific areas of collaboration.

JIAS has also improved its public presence through a strong social media presence and the publication of op-ed pieces by the fellows. Events hosted by JIAS continue to attract considerable interest and attention from the academic community and the public in the Gauteng region.



*Dr Bongani Ngqulunga with the Minister of Science and Technology,  
Mrs Mammoloko Kubayi-Ngubane*



## Concluding remarks from the Director

# 4

2019 has been a year of tremendous change and growth for JIAS. With the five-year partnership with our founding joint partner, NTU, coming to an end and the founding director retiring, it would have been justified to be anxious about the future of JIAS. We viewed the changes as the opportunity to build on the foundation laid in the first five years of JIAS. We have considerably expanded JIAS's offering and sought to reach out to scholars and writers who, for one reason or the other, might not have thought of JIAS as a platform to pursue their academic, creative and artistic endeavours. The results of these bold new initiatives have been instant and significant. We have received incredible proposals from scholars and writers to pursue their ambitious and innovative projects at JIAS. As a result, JIAS hosted the most number of events in 2019 than it has ever done since its founding. The expansion of the

JIAS Fellowship Programme is bringing outstanding established and exceptional young scholars to the Institute to write books and articles, conduct research, and collaborate with scholars and writers from other disciplines. The instant interest and growth of the African Biographies Project, which continues to attract interest beyond the target of 10 biographies, set by the University Vice-Chancellor, bears testament to the excitement this project and JIAS as a whole has brought to the academic and artistic community in Johannesburg and beyond. For the second year running, we received hundreds of top quality applications for the Writing Fellowship for 2020. We continue to receive applications for our Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from young scholars from all over the world. We are grateful to the University of Johannesburg for purchasing a property, which expands our capacity to accommodate more scholars and writers at JIAS, particularly young scholars, who are coming to join the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

We have used 2019 to intensify our efforts to raise financial resources for JIAS in order to meet the expectations of scholars and writers by providing them an environment that promotes scholarship of the highest standard. The future of JIAS looks bright and we invite all of you to visit our beautiful premises at Westdene and to present papers or simply to spend a day thinking or writing.

## APPENDIX: LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2019

### January 2019

1. **Joint Colloquium on Human Dignity:** 21-25 January 2019

### February 2019

1. **The Chaos Precinct**, Tanya Zack: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 20 February 2019
2. **Complementarism and Consolitionism: Mapping out a 21st Century African Philosophy Trajectory**, Ada Agada, 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 27 February 2019

### March 2019

1. **Reading Tweets, Hashtags and Other Ephemera in Cairo: Literacy Practices in New Spaces of Sociolinguistic Freedom**, Ivan Panovic: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 6 March 2019
2. **On Rationality: An Artificial Intelligence (AI) Perspective**, Tshilidzi Marwala, UJ Vice-Chancellor – 8 March 2019
3. **Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Experience of Bushman Communities in South Africa**, Julie Grant: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 13 March 2019
4. **Karl Mittermaier Symposium**, JIAS/Wits – 18 March 2019
5. **Africa-Asia Partnerships in Health and Healthcare Delivery for Women and Youth Conference**, JIAS/Harvard/Wits – 19-20 March 2019
6. **Launch of the *Zulus of New York* by Zakes Mda**, JIAS/UJ Library – 20 March 2019
7. **State of Disease Conference**, JIAS/DST – 25-28 March 2019
8. **100 Years of Eskia Mphahlele: An Incomparable Figure for All Seasons**, Ntongela Masilela – 26 March 2019
9. **A Source of Denial: A Novel of Burundi**, Jodi Mikalachki: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 27 March 2019

### April 2019

1. **Border Poetics and the Burden of Misrepresentationality in (Re)Imagining the Mandelafrican Village**, Thabo Jijana: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 3 April 2019
2. **When Robots Become Unstable: The Ethiopian Boeing 737 Max Crash**, Tshilidzi Marwala: UJ VC – 9 April 2019

3. **The Khoi-Xhosa Wars of Dispossession in the 18th and 19th century Cape Colony**, Nomalanga Mkhize, Nelson Mandela University – 10 April 2019
4. **(Re)Imagining the (Extra)Ordinary Chinese Spaces and the Urban in Southern Africa**, Romain Dittgen (2019 JIAS Writing Fellow), Gerald Chungu and Mark Lewis – 10 April 2019
5. **Revisiting Nguni Formations, the Mfecane and Migrations in Southeastern Africa**, Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatshezi: 2019 JIAS Visiting Professor – 16 April 2019
6. **Migration and Society in the South: Comparing South Africa and Chile**, Lorena Nunez-Carrasco: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 17 April 2019
7. **Advancing Science in the Global South: The Role of the World Academy of Sciences**, Romain Murenzi, ED: TWAS – 23 April 2019
8. **Narrating Race and Racism in Contemporary South Africa**, Anthea Lesch: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 24 April 2019
9. **Ripples in the Space-Time Continuum: South Africa's Involvement in Gravitational Wave and Multi-Messenger Astronomy**, Petri Vaisanen, SAOO – 25 April 2019

### May 2019

1. **The Life Cycle of Empires**, John Rapley: 2019 JIAS Visiting Professor – 7 May 2019
2. **Reversing Urban Inequality in Johannesburg**, Book Launch – 14 May 2019
3. **Ten Years of A Man Who Is Not A Man**, Thando Mgqolozana: 2019 JIAS Writing Fellow – 15 May 2019
4. **Why in the Fourth Industrial Revolution are Miracle Churches Attracting So Many People?** Maria Frahm-Arp – 22 May 2019
5. **New Directions in Philosophy of Medicine** Workshop, JIAS/ACEPS – 23-24 May 2019
6. **Celebration of Mphahlele's Centenary**, Tshepo Madlingozi, Wits – 28 May 2019

### June 2019

1. **Book Launch: *Talk of the Town*** by Fred Khumalo – 6 June 2019
2. **Authors' Workshop of a Book Project on South African National Identity** – 7 June 2019
3. **Workshop on the States of Black Studies**, JIAS/UJ – 27-28 June 2019

### July 2019

1. **Priorities of Land Reform in South Africa: A Pragmatic Approach**, JIAS/UJ History Department, William Beinart, Oxford University – 23 July 2019
2. **Symposium on 'The Absent Community'**, JIAS/UP – 26 July 2019
3. **The Mute Filmic Slave Narrative in *Django Unchained: Practices of Freedom and the Myth of Vengeful Fantasy***, Tendayi Sithole, Unisa – 30 July 2019

### August 2019

1. **Migrations of Gender/the Gender of Migration: Meditation on Mobility and Movement from the Commonwealth Caribbean**, Prof V Eudine Barriteau: UWI-Cavehill – 20 August 2019
2. **Bernard Magubane's Critique of Anthropology in Southern Africa**, Bongani Nyoka: Unisa – 22 August 2019

### September 2019

1. **Conference on Language, Culture and Decolonisation**, JIAS/UJ Department of Politics – 2-4 September 2019
2. **Intelligence and Learning in the Age of AI, Yu Ke**: UJ – 9 September 2019
3. **Book Launch: *To Survive and Succeed*** by Khusta Jack – 12 September 2019
4. ***The Eagle and the Springbok: Essays on Nigeria and South Africa***, Adekeye Adebajo: UJ – 17 September 2019
5. ***Quo Vadis South Africa? Some Useful Footprints***, Vincent Maphai: JIAS – 25 September 2019

### October 2019

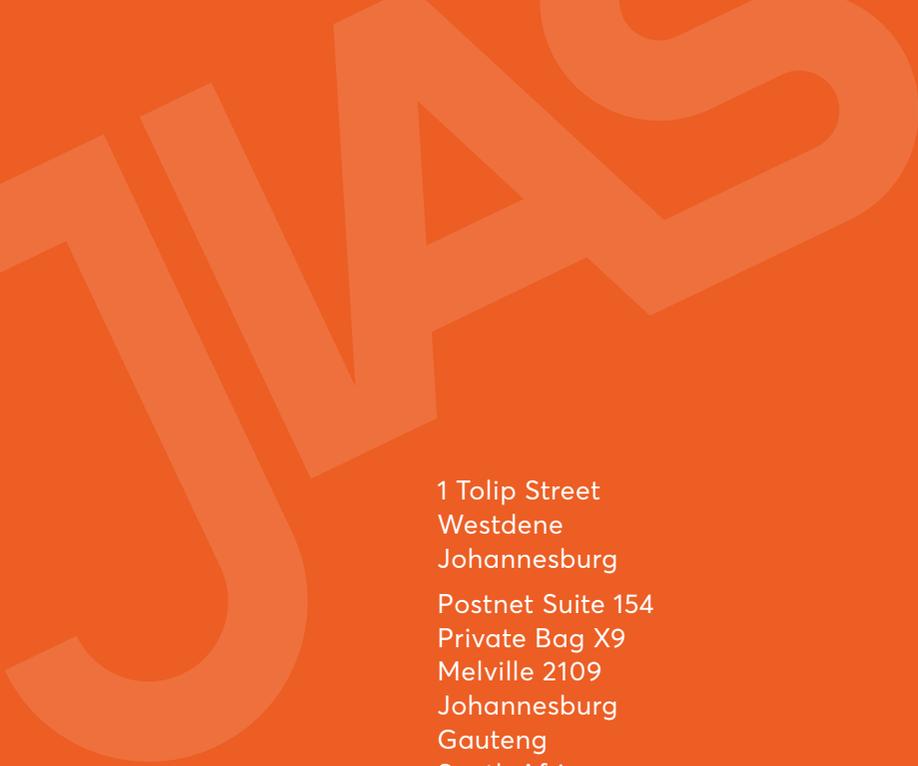
1. **Information, Understanding, Transformation: The Challenges of the 4IR**, JIAS/ Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies/UJ Postgraduate School, Prof Boaventurade Sousa Santos – 3 October 2019
2. **Book Launch: *Sobukwe: The Making of the Pan Africanist Leader*** by Thami ka Platjie – 8 October 2019
3. **The People's Republic of China at 70: Policy, Institutions and Development**, JIAS/CACS – 9 October 2019
4. **Nobel Inspired Lecture on Literature**, JIAS/NRF/UJ Library – 11 October 2019
5. **Book Launch: *Black Tax: Burden or Ubuntu*** by Niq Mhlongo (ed.) – 16 October 2019
6. **ERP-EEG Workshop**, JIAS/Wits NeuRL – 23-25 October 2019

### November 2019

1. **The New Colonial Missionaries: Basic Education Policy and Randomised Trials in South Africa**, Sean Muller: JIAS Visiting Fellow – 5 November 2019
2. **Buying Land on Credit: Networks of Debt, Risk and Investment Among Land Purchasers in Early Twentieth Century South Africa**, Tara Weinberg: Doctoral Candidate, University of Michigan – 12 November 2019
3. **Could the Asian Model Work in South Africa? Lessons from South Korea**, JIAS/ Embassy of the Republic of Korea – 14 November 2019

### December 2019

1. **Roundtable on Shaping the 4IR Future for South Africa**, JIAS/EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Southern Africa/Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry – 2 December 2019
2. **The Politics of Architecture in Africa Workshop**, JIAS/UJ GSA/SOAS, London – 1-8 December 2019



1 Tolip Street  
Westdene  
Johannesburg

Postnet Suite 154  
Private Bag X9  
Melville 2109  
Johannesburg  
Gauteng  
South Africa

Website  
[www.jias.joburg](http://www.jias.joburg)

Facebook  
[@JoburgIAS](https://www.facebook.com/JoburgIAS)

Twitter  
[@JIAS\\_UJ](https://twitter.com/JIAS_UJ)

Instagram  
[jias\\_uj](https://www.instagram.com/jias_uj)

Director  
**Dr Bongani Ngqulunga**  
[ngqulungab@uj.ac.za](mailto:ngqulungab@uj.ac.za)

Marketing Manager  
**Vanessa Kennedy**  
[vanessak@uj.ac.za](mailto:vanessak@uj.ac.za)

Enquires  
[jiasinfo@uj.ac.za](mailto:jiasinfo@uj.ac.za)