

JIAS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/8



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**
SINGAPORE



Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study

An initiative of the University of Johannesburg
and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

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THE Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS) is a joint initiative of the University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa, and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Its purpose is to promote advanced research in the humanities and natural sciences, beyond the regular teaching and research activities at institutions of higher learning.

JIAS is the first fully fledged institute of advanced learning in Gauteng, South Africa's political and economic heartland. Although rooted within UJ, and committed to achieving UJ's institutional goals, JIAS collaborates with other institutions of higher learning throughout the country. The partnership between JIAS and the NTU provides meaningful opportunities for uniting African and Asian thought and multidisciplinary research.

JIAS is governed by a Board comprising senior representatives of both UJ and the NTU as well as six respected scientists, three nominated by each university.



JIAS is based in a dedicated facility in the suburb of Westdene, near the University of Johannesburg. It offers accommodation for fellows and other visiting scholars, as well as conference and workshop facilities.

No 5 Tolip Road, Westdene, adjacent to JIAS. UJ has purchased this property to enable JIAS to expand.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Peter Vale, October 2018

THE notion that 'the only constant is change' may seem post-modern, but was first coined by the Greek philosopher Heraclitus. The longevity of the idea doesn't give it less traction, however – if anything, the helter skelter of our uncertain age seems to have strengthened the power of Heraclitus's truism. Indeed, as this report will show, being in its fourth year has not allowed JIAS to escape from a constant process of change.

Following leadership changes at both UJ and NTU Singapore, the nature of their partnership in respect of JIAS may change as well. This will be a key topic at the JIAS Board Meeting, where this report will be tabled.

What is already clear, however, is that from now on JIAS will fall under the Nanyang Institute for Science and Technology for Humanity (NISTH). This is an exciting prospect. NISTH's mandate readily dovetails with UJ's interest in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which JIAS will advance as well. We look forward to learning from the NISTH initiative, and contributing to its work.

In September, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, UJ Vice-Chancellor and Principal, was invited to address a seminar at the NISTH on the 4th Industrial Revolution. Both Dr Bongani Ngqulunga, JIAS Deputy Director, and I were in attendance, as were two other UJ colleagues, Dr Oscar van

Heerden and Dr David Monyae. More than 60 people attended.

JIAS Writing Fellowships

One thing that has not changed is the JIAS Writing Fellowship. The Fellows selected for our 2018 intake included outstanding authors, journalists, and scholars in various disciplines from Africa and Asia. They have contributed to the growing archive of books, plays, exhibitions, research reports, and other output that speaks to the success of this programme in providing Writing Fellows with the time and space for creative work.

Our eleven Fellows from various countries lived and worked at JIAS from the beginning of February until the end of May. Their diverse disciplinary backgrounds contributed to the success of the Fellowship as a whole, and the Writing Fellowship programme remained a centrepiece of the JIAS programme. More than 300 applications were received for the 2018 Writing Term, attesting to growing international awareness of the programme, as well as its growing prestige. Indeed, at the time of writing, more than 400 applications had been received for the 2019 Writing Fellowship. These figures speak for themselves.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JIAS Colloquia

The format of JIAS Colloquia has changed. Instead of the sustained three-month format we adopted for the 2016 Colloquium on 'Why the Brain Matters', we have opted for shorter, more concentrated events. In June, we were pleased to partner with the Department of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at NTU in convening a three-day Colloquium on 'The Future of Multilingualism', and in October, in partnership with the Human Economy Programme at the University of Pretoria, and in association with Disrupting Africa, we will host a five-day Colloquium on Digital Finance in Africa. (This event will be covered in the 2019 Annual Report.)

JIAS expands

Early in 2018, a house next to JIAS at no 5 Tolip Road in Westdene came on the market. At our suggestion, UJ bought the property to allow JIAS to expand. In our motivation, we argued that JIAS was a growing and vibrant institute, and that we could significantly increase its footprint by moving our administrative function into the newly acquired house, and using the vacated space to expand our academic space. The construction and other work needed will be undertaken during the next academic cycle.

UBIAS

In March, I travelled to Brazil attended the biannual meeting of the University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS). This is an important network of more than 40 Institutes for Advanced Study which are spread around the world. Our hope is to apply for membership of UBIAS at the 6th Meeting of Directors of Institutes of Advanced Study due in 2020.

Before then, however, we will need to comply with a number of conditions, among them to establish an Alumni Association. Our plans for doing so are well under way.

JIAS in UJ

JIAS enjoys close and productive relations with many arms of the University of Johannesburg. During the past year we worked with the UJ Library; the Faculty of Law; the Faculty of Education; the Faculty of Engineering; the Faculty of Science; the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies; the Postgraduate Centre; the SARChI Chair in International Law; the SARChI Chair in South African Art and Visual Culture; the Department of Accounting; the Graphic Design Department; the Department of History; and the Department of Politics and International Relations. Our collaboration with these institutions has been extremely fruitful, and we have every confidence that this will continue.

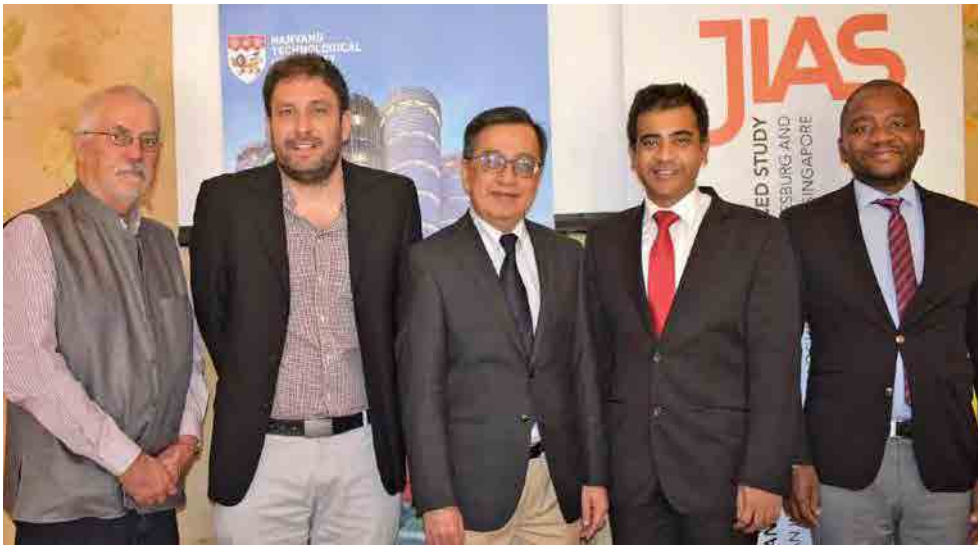
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR



ONE of the highlights of our year was the appointment of a permanent Deputy Director. With an eye both to succession and the sustainability of JIAS, the UJ Management Executive Committee (MEC) decided to conduct an open search for the best possible candidate. After a rigorous selection process, the position was offered to the academic, administrator and author Dr Bongani Ngqulunga. The appointment was applauded in the academic community and beyond.

Within a month of taking office, Dr Ngqulunga won the Alan Paton Award for non-fiction for his book *The Man Who Founded the ANC: A Biography of Pixley ka Isaka Seme* (Penguin, 2018). At the same time, a 2017 JIAS Writing Fellow, Harry Kalmer, won the Barry Ronge Fiction Prize for his book *A Thousand Tales of Johannesburg* (Penguin, 2017). These two prizes constitute the Sunday Times Literary Awards, regarded as the most prestigious literary accolades in South Africa, and we are proud to be associated with their recipients.

Dr Ngqulunga and I have held many long discussions over the past months, and he has exciting ideas about expanding the work of the Institute. We are also happy to report that our Singapore partner was fully involved in this appointment.



The JIAS Board meeting in October 2018. From left to right are Prof Peter Vale, Prof Hallam Stevens, Prof Alan Chan, Prof Saurabh Sinha and Dr Bongani Ngqulunga.

JIAS in Gauteng

We also worked with the Wits Medical School; the Wits City Institute; the Centre for Indian Studies; the Wits Department of Politics; and the Human Economy Programme at the University of Pretoria. This attests to our broader objective of forging ties not only with our parent institution, but with all the tertiary institutions in Gauteng and its environs.

Community outreach

JIAS continued to reach out to communities. In March, JIAS 2018 Writing Fellows participated in the 7th Annual 'My Space, My Body' Arts and Culture Fair in eNtoko-zweni, Mpumalanga.

In April, some Writing Fellows travelled to Limpopo for a three-day visit to the Polokwane Literary Fair. The JIAS team visited three rural schools; held a workshop for middle school learners; gave readings and held a seminar on writing in a local prison; and led a seminar on language with more than 60 participants.

The previous President of the NTU, Prof Bertil Andersson, donated a sum of US\$10 000 to JIAS for an outreach programme designed to address the shortfalls in Maths, Science and Biology education in South African schools. To this end, JIAS collaborated with the Soweto Science Centre at UJ, headed by Prof Debra Meyer, UJ's Dean of Science, on programmes for providing gifted students with extra tuition, and to introduce them to leading academics in these fields.

Communication

JIAS continued to maintain and expand a comprehensive and coordinated suite of instruments for publicising its activities and communicating these to participants in its events and a broader community of interested people. These included a free-standing website, as well as social media accounts. In the year under review, a dedicated mailing system was introduced. This has proven to be especially effective in keeping the growing JIAS community informed of news and events at JIAS. Systematically expanding these mailing lists to include relevant staff at academic institutions and NGOs in Gauteng and environs would be a productive exercise.

JIAS Staff

Reshmi Singh continued her management of JIAS 's ever expanding academic portfolio. She was assisted by Emelia Kamena and a student assistant, Christian Bwanakawa. The facilities portfolio was managed by Ronald Witte, assisted by Maria Matla, Johanna Menyoko and Seaka Sibanda. The success of JIAS is in large part due to the selfless efforts of the JIAS staff, which are universally appreciated by its visitors.

In closing

This will be my last report as Director. It has been a privilege to direct JIAS since its founding almost five years ago, and to work with such wonderful and creative people.



Prof Tshilidzi Marwala addresses the opening panel.

FROM 15 August to 12 September, JIAS hosted four high-level panel discussions on the future of work. The series was aimed at providing South African role players with an opportunity to discuss the nature and implications of the far-reaching technological changes under way in the workplace in South Africa as well as globally.

Representatives of government, business, organised labour and academia shared their views and experiences of the changing nature of work, and what the technological changes driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution

hold for work and the future. Participants included Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg.

The panel discussions were held at JIAS on four Wednesdays from 15 August to 12 September 2018 at 16h30 in the afternoon. The discussions lasted for 90 minutes, followed by informal discussions over refreshments. Details of each panel discussion appear below.

Panel 1: What's Fact and What's Fantasy? (Wednesday 15 August 2018)

This opening panel discussed the broad changes involved in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, their implications for the future of work, and whether South Africa is capable of addressing them. The panelists were Prof Marwala and Enoch Godongwana, chairperson of the NEC Economic Transformation Sub-committee of the African National Congress (ANC).

Panel 2: Trade Union Perspectives (Wednesday 22 August 2018)

This panel considered the views of workers on the implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for the future of work, and what trade unions are doing to secure their members' futures. Panelists included S'Dumo



The ANC's Enoch Godongwana.

Dlamini, president of COSATU, and Modupi Maile, first vice-president of NACTU. The discussion was chaired by Fiona Tregenna, holder of the SARCHI Chair in Industrial Development at UJ, and a Professor of Economics and Econometrics at the same university.

Panel 3: Business Perspectives (Wednesday 5 September 2018)

Besides offering industry-specific views, business leaders on this panel explored ways in which business and society can prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The panelists were M D Ramesh, President and Regional Head, Olam International, and Yolisa Kani, Head of Public Policy, Uber South Africa. The discussion was moderated by Prof Saurabh Sinha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UJ.

Panel 4: Perspectives from Higher Education (Wednesday 12 September 2018)

This panel considered the implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for tertiary institutions. Panelists discussed whether universities should only teach science and technology, whether the humanities have a future, and the extent to which universities should collaborate with industry. The panelists were Prof Babu Paul of UJ, Prof Ruksana Osman of the University of the Witwatersrand, and Prof Robin Crewe of Pretoria University.

Videos

Videos of some of the panel discussions are available on the University of Johannesburg YouTube channel.



Yolisa Kani, Head of Public Policy, Uber South Africa.



M D Ramesh, President of Olam International, addresses Panel 3.



Prof Babu Paul (above), Prof Ruksana Osman (far left), and Prof Robin Crewe (left) formed Panel 4.



Public lecture on Mandela as a lawyer

On 25 September 2018, JIAS and the UJ Faculty of Law, in partnership with the UJ Library, hosted a public lecture entitled 'Mandela as a Lawyer'. The keynote speaker was Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, and the discussant was former Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs.

Launch of book by Prof Chris Brink

ON Wednesday 19 September 2018, JIAS, the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education at UJ, and the UJ Postgraduate School hosted the Gauteng launch of a book by Prof

Chris Brink entitled *The Soul of a University: Why excellence is not enough*.

Chris Brink is Emeritus Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, and a former Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.

After an introduction by the author, the book was discussed by a panel comprising Prof Jonathan Jansen, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State, and Prof Tawane Kupe, a Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Seminar led by Prof Steven J Diner

On Thursday 23 August 2018, JIAS, the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies at UJ and the Wits City Institute hosted a seminar on 'Cities and Contemporary Higher Education: A Historical Perspective', led by Prof Steven J Diner of Rutgers University-Newark in the United States. Steven J Diner is a Professor of History, former Chancellor, and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University-Newark.



Above: Prof Tawane Kupe during the panel discussion at the launch of Prof Brink's book. Left: Prof Brink during his opening presentation.

Discussion of new book on Sol Plaatje

On Tuesday 21 August 2018, JIAS and Jacana Media, in partnership with the UJ Library, hosted a discussion of *Sol Plaatje: A Life of Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje, 1876–1932*, by Brian Willan.

Following Dr Willan's opening talk, the book was discussed by Prof Mcebisi Ndletyana and Prof Liz Gunner. A question and answer session followed. The event was chaired by Dr Bongani Ngqulunga, Deputy Director of JIAS.

Workshop on life-writing

On Monday 6 August 2018, JIAS hosted a full-day workshop on life-writing entitled 'Telling Lives: Trust, Lies, History'. The keynote speaker was Professor Carolyn Steedman of Warwick University in the United Kingdom.

The workshop was organised by the UJ History Department, the UJ Humanities Faculty, the Governing Intimacies Project, and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER). The convenors were Dr Stephen Sparks of the UJ Department of History and Prof Shireen Hassim of WiSER.

Launch of book by Vineet Thakur

On Friday 3 August 2018, the University of KwaZulu-Natal Press and JIAS hosted the launch of a book entitled *Jan Smuts and the Indian Question* by Vineet Thakur. The launch was held at JIAS, and took the form of a lunchtime seminar.

Vineet Thakur completed research for the book while working at JIAS as a post-doctoral student in 2015-16. Following an introduction, he was in discussion with Prof Dilip Menon, Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA) at the University of the Witwatersrand, and Prof Peter Vale, Director of JIAS.

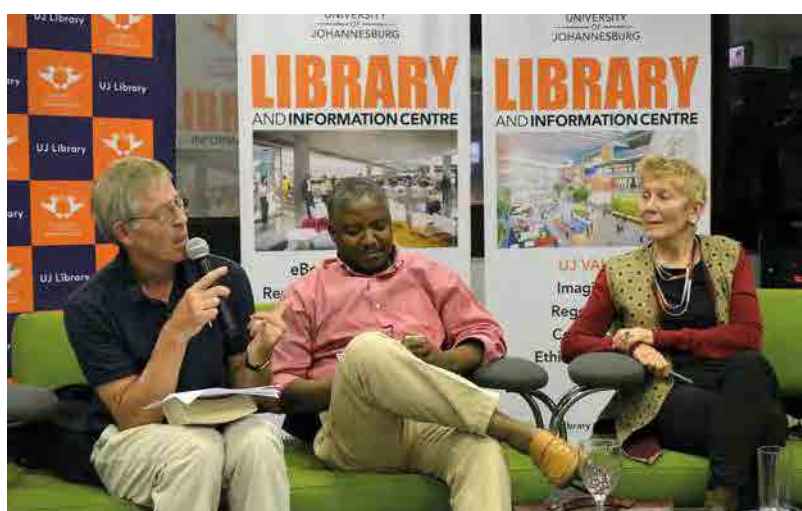
This book is the second in the series entitled 'Off-Centre: New Perspectives on Public Issues', a joint initiative between JIAS and the UKZN Press.

Colloquium on Multilingualism

On 28-30 June 2018, JIAS and the Department of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies in the School of Humanities of NTU Singapore hosted a Colloquium on 'The Future of Multilingualism'. It was held at JIAS in Westdene, Johannesburg.



Prof Jonathan Jansen addresses the Brink book launch.



Dr Brian Willan, Prof Mcebisi Ndletyana and Prof Liz Gunner.



Dr Brian Willan during his opening presentation.

Participants in the Colloquium on Multilingualism, hosted jointly by JIAS and the Department of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at NTU Singapore.



The Colloquium was aimed at taking advantage of multilingual sites such as South Africa and Singapore to explore the future of multilingualism. Questions addressed included the following:

- What is the future of multilingualism in these multilingual societies?
- How do anti-colonial and post-colonial nations reconcile multilingualism in the face of new linguistic ecologies?
- What are the challenges of nation-building when one is faced with multiple tongues?
- What does the way in which multilingual postcolonial nations deal with multilingualism tell us about a possible alternative framework for understanding the relationship between language and nation?
- How are present education systems and technologies dealing with multilingualism?

By approaching this conversation from archives across Asia and Africa, the Colloquium sought to look at multilingualism and its future trajectory by taking into account the specificities of a range of colonial experiences, political regimes, and current infrastructures.

The gathering at JIAS was also aimed at generating contributions to an edited volume emanating from the first round of conversations which were held in Singapore earlier in 2018.

A Colloquium Report was written by Hans Pienaar, a 2018 JIAS Writing Fellow. It was circulated to participants, and placed on the JIAS website.

Second conference on colonialism and its implications

On 9—11 July 2018, JIAS and the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg hosted a conference on 'After the Prelude: Decolonisation, Evolution and Revolution'. This was the second in a series of three conferences on colonialism and its implications.

The convenors were Professor David Boucher of the Department of Politics and International Relations at UJ and Cardiff University, and Dr Ayesha Omar of the Department of Politics at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Conference on enslavement, conflict and forced marriage in Africa

On 25—28 June 2018, the University of the Witwatersrand hosted a conference entitled 'Enslavement, Conflict and Forced Marriage in Africa: Methods, Ethics, and Knowledge Production'.

The conference was held under the auspices of Conjugal Slavery In War (CSiW), a partnership for the study of enslavement, marriage and masculinities, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada.

The convenors were Prof Joel Quirk, a Senior Associate Fellow of the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation at the University of Warwick, and Head of the Department of Political Studies at Wits University;



Participants in the Conference on Enslavement, Conflict and Forced Marriage in Africa.

and Annie Bunting, Associate Professor in the Law & Society programme at York University in Toronto.

Bunting is the CSiW project director, and York University its host institution. The Department of Political Studies at Wits University is one of a number of project partners on several continents. While the SSHRC was the primary conference funder, JIAS provided additional support.

The conference focused on the different ways in which knowledge of patterns of enslavement, conflict and marriage in sub-Saharan Africa have been – and should be – collected and disseminated. It took place in both French and English (with simultaneous translations).

Launch of book on water by Larry Swatuk

A book by Prof Larry A Swatuk entitled *Water in Southern Africa* was launched at JIAS on 26 July 2018. Swatuk is a professor in the School of Environment, Enterprise and Development (SEED) at the University of Waterloo, Canada, and an Extraordinary Professor in the Institute for Water Studies at the University of the Western Cape. The book is the first in the JIAS / UKZN Press Off-Centre Series.

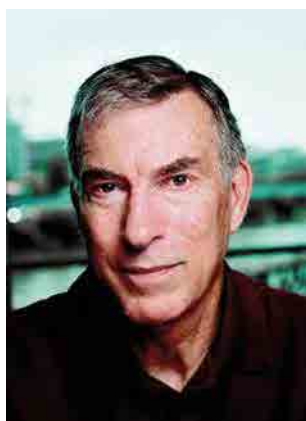
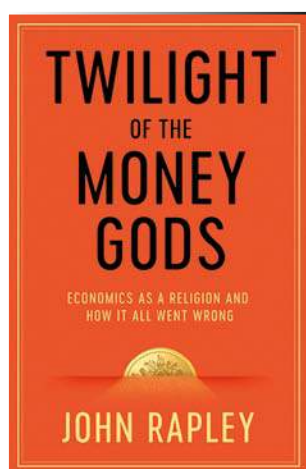
The opening remarks were due to be delivered by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Gugile Nkwinti. However, the minister was called away to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with his Chinese counterpart at the BRICS conference in Sandton, and his speech was read by Trevor Balzer, Deputy Director-General: Strategic and Emergency projects in the Department of Water and



Trevor Balzer, Prof Larry Swatuk and Prof Saurabh Sinha at the launch of Prof Swatuk's book on Water in Southern Africa.



Dr Mbongiseni Buthelezi.



Geoffrey Galt Harpham.

Sanitation. Prof Swatuk then discussed the book, followed by a question and answer session.

Pop-up seminar on land reform

On Thursday 12 April 2018, Dr Mbongiseni Buthelezi led a JIAS pop-up seminar on 'Land reform in South Africa: some prospects and pitfalls'.

Dr Buthelezi holds a PhD and MA in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University, New York. He also holds an MA in English Studies (cum laude) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a BA (Honours) in English and Drama (cum laude) from the University of Natal. Working in various academic and activist capacities, he has been interested in how the state interfaces with citizens in areas including land restitution, the role of traditional leaders in governance, and heritage and public archives.

John Rapley leads seminar on new book

On Thursday 5 April 2018, the academic and author Dr John Rapley led a pop-up seminar at JIAS on his new book entitled *Twilight of the Money Gods: Economics as a religion, and how it all went wrong*.

Dr John Rapley has made a vocation of working, and living, at the frontier where theory meets practice. After beginning his career at Oxford University's International Development Centre, he left for the developing world, where he spent the next two decades working as an academic, journalist, and the co-creator and director of a policy think-tank. Along the way, he worked at universities on three continents and, upon returning to the UK, lectured at the University of Cambridge's Centre of Development Studies. He now lives in London as a writer.

Seminar on scholarship and freedom

On Tuesday 13 March 2018, Geoffrey Galt Harpham of the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University presented a seminar at JIAS on 'Scholarship and Freedom', jointly hosted by JIAS and the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies at UJ.

All over the world, universities and academic work generally are being placed under pressure by governments, by the constant increase in corporate sponsored research, and often by hostile public opinion. Is scholarship really value-neutral, or does it contain an implicit set of values, even a politics or an ideology, that might conflict with others?

Geoffrey Galt Harpham is a Senior Fellow of the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University. He previously served as director of the National Humanities Center (2002-2015), and taught at Tulane University, Brandeis University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

A specialist in literary theory, linguistics, and the history of criticism, he is the author of nearly one hundred scholarly articles and ten books, most recently *The Humanities and the Dream of America*, and *What Do You Think, Mr. Ramirez?: The American Revolution in Education*.

Workshop on Language Vitality at NTU

Several South African academics participated in a workshop on 'Language Vitality in the World of Englishes', held at NTU Singapore on 15-16 March 2018.



Participants in the three-day workshop on computational history.

Convened by Tan Ying Ying of NTU Singapore, the workshop was jointly organised by JIAS and the Linguistics and Multilingual Studies Faculty at NTU, with support from the NTU President's Office Global Dialogue and the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), CoHASS NTU.

The South African participants were Matthias Brenzinger of the University of Cape Town, Susan Coetzee-Van Rooy and Bertus van Rooy of North West University, and Morwesi Sitto of the University of Johannesburg. The workshop also featured presentations by scholars from the United States, Singapore, Cameroon and Canada.

Workshop on 'Teaching IR Globally'

On 22–25 January 2018, JIAS, in collaboration with the World International Studies Committee (WISC), hosted a workshop on 'Teaching IR Globally'. IR scholars from various countries discussed how International Relations as an academic discipline was being taught and should be taught globally.

Questions they considered included the following: Is IR necessarily biased towards a 'national' perspective, or could and should it break free from the 'methodological nationalism' in which so many academics in the social

sciences and humanities seem trapped? If a 'view from nowhere' is impossible, how should the discipline reflect on this (potentially) inevitable perspectivity?

WISC (<https://www.wiscnetwork.net/>) seeks to bring together academics from all over the world – but especially from the Global South – to explore different aspects of international studies from multiple perspectives. To this end, WISC has already funded a variety of 'Exploratory Workshops' in the Global South.

It co-sponsored an international workshop for Early Career Researchers on the theme 'World Order and Peace: International Politics in the 21st Century in a Global Perspective' in December 2017, and will sponsor another one later in 2018. Its collaboration with JIAS forms part of this endeavour of reaching out beyond the Northern hemisphere.

Workshop on computational history

On 14–16 November 2017, JIAS hosted a workshop on 'Understanding the pre-colonial world through computational history'. The workshop was aimed at assessing the scope for southern African input into the Interactive Global Histories (1205–1533) Project based at NTU Singapore.



Profs Yussuf Adam and Andrea Nanetti.



Prof Bo Xing during the seminar on Big Data.



More specifically, it was aimed at assessing how machine learning techniques could contribute to historical data-bases on the precolonial world and provide data-driven modelling and simulations to fill a crucial gap in the study of Afro-Eurasian networks, namely sharing primary sources, and making them machine-readable.

The event was of interest to historians and scientists interested in the pre-colonial world, and to those interested in the developing field of the digital humanities. The presenters included:

- Andrea Nanetti, Mikhail Filippov and Joty Shafiq Rayhan of NTU;
- Maarten de Wit of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University;
- Simon Hall, Abigail Moffett and Nicholas Zachariou of UCT; and
- Yussuf Adam and Mussa Raja of Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo.

Financial services and entrepreneurship

On 27 and 28 November 2017, JIAS and the UJ College of Business and Economics hosted two events focusing on financial services and entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa.

The first was the launch of a book entitled *Developing Africa's Financial Services: The Importance of High Impact Entrepreneurship*, edited by Dr Dana T Redford, and published by Emerald Press.

The second was an all-day workshop on the same subject. Both the launch and workshop were addressed by Dr Redford, founder and president of the Policy Experimentation and Evaluation Platform (PEEP), and an international expert on entrepreneurship and public policy.

Seminar on 'Big Data and Distributed Ledger'

On 2 November 2017, Associate Professor Bo Xing, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Intelligent Systems in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment FEBE) at UJ, led a seminar at JIAS entitled 'Big Data and Distributed Ledger'. This was the final seminar in the series entitled 'The Challenge of Big Data', hosted by FEBE and JIAS.

Seminar led by Pascal Lamy

On 24 October 2017, JIAS and the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) hosted a seminar led by Pascal Lamy, former Director-General of the World Trade



Left: Pascal Lamy addresses the workshop on challenges and opportunities for the South African economy. Discussants included former South African Cabinet Minister Sydney Mufamadi (below).

Organisation (WTO), on 'Challenges and opportunities for a small open economy such as South Africa in the late globalising world'. The discussant was the former Cabinet Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

Launch of book by Lesego Rampolokeng

ON 14 September 2017, JIAS, the UJ Department of English, and the publishers Deep South hosted the Johannesburg launch of the novel *Bird-Monk Seding*, by Lesego Rampolokeng.

Lesego Rampolokeng is a poet and performance maestro and the author of 12 books, including two plays and three novels. He has collaborated with visual artists, playwrights, film-makers, theatre and opera producers, poets and musicians. His no-holds-barred style, radical political-aesthetic perspective and instantly recognisable voice has given him a unique place in South African literature.

Bird-Monk Seding, Rampolokeng's third novel, is a stark picture of life in a rural township two decades into South Africa's democracy. Listening and observing in the streets and taverns, narrator Bavino Sekete, often feeling desperate himself, is thrown back to his own violent childhood in Soweto. To get through, he turns to his pantheon of jazz innovators and radical writers.





Part of the audience at Prof Morten Kringelbach's lecture, the last in the Brain Matters Seminar Series.



Dr Samantha Brooks.

In 2016, JIAS staged a three-month-long international Colloquium on 'Why the Brain Matters'. Following the colloquium, two of the participants – Dr Tanya Calvey and Dr Sahba Besharati, both of Wits University – launched a follow-up in the form of an interdisciplinary seminar series entitled 'Brain Matters Seminars: the past, present and future of neuroscience in southern Africa'.

The series was a joint initiative between JIAS and the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Human Development at Wits University, with additional support from the Southern African Neuroscience Society and the Wits Cortex Club.

Launched at the School of Public Health at Wits on 23 March 2017, it comprised five seminars, which started in April 2017. All the seminars were open to members of the public. Three were held in the previous reporting period, and the two below in the current reporting period.

Seminar by Dr Samantha Brooks

On Thursday 26 October 2017, JIAS hosted a seminar by Dr Samantha Brooks, Senior lecturer in Psychiatry at the University of Cape Town, on 'Working Memory for Cognitive Control in Anorexia vs Addiction: A Bayesian Brain Perspective'.

Lecture by Prof Morten Kringelbach

On 6 December 2017, the NRF Science for Society hosted a lecture entitled 'The Parental Brain: New Insights from Brain Imaging', by Professor Morten Kringelbach of Aarhus and Oxford Universities. Held at the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital in Johannesburg, it was the last in the Brain Matters Seminar Series.



Prof Barbara Wilson.

BRAIN MATTERS SEMINAR SERIES

Three further events emanated from the seminar series, which are outlined below.

Workshop on 'Illustrating the Brain'

On Wednesday 28 March 2018, JIAS hosted a one-day workshop on 'Illustrating the Brain' presented by Professor Oliver Turnbull of Bangor University in the United Kingdom.

Based on Bangor University's 'Visceral Mind' programme, it was aimed at postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers as well as academic staff with a background and interest in cognition, emotion, and mental health.

It comprised sessions of anatomical drawing, followed by supervised observation of brain dissections. Students practised the drawing and labelling of core brain structures. They also visited the Hunterian Museum of Anatomy at Wits University.

Professor Oliver Turnbull is a neuropsychologist and clinical psychologist. He is Professor of Neuropsychology and Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) at Bangor University in the United Kingdom. He is the author of a number of scientific articles on these topics, and (together with Professor Mark Solms) of the popular science text *The Brain and the Inner World*. He is also a previous editor of the journal *Neuropsychanalysis*. The workshop was fully subscribed, and was very successful.

Lecture by Prof Barbara Wilson

On Monday 29 January 2018, Prof Barbara Wilson of the Oliver Zangwill Centre in Cambridge in the United Kingdom presented a lecture on 'Integrating Theory and Practice in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation' at Wits University. Professor Wilson is a clinical neuropsychologist who has worked in brain injury rehabilitation for 40 years. She has won many awards for her work, including an OBE.

Seminar led by Prof Martijn van den Heuvel

On Tuesday 24 April 2018, Prof Martijn van den Heuvel of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam led a seminar on 'Principles of Wiring of the Human Connectome' at the Adler Museum of Medicine, Wits Faculty of Health Sciences. The seminar was hosted by the Wits Cortex Club. Prof Van Den Heuvel took part in the Colloquium on the Brain, held by JIAS in 2017.



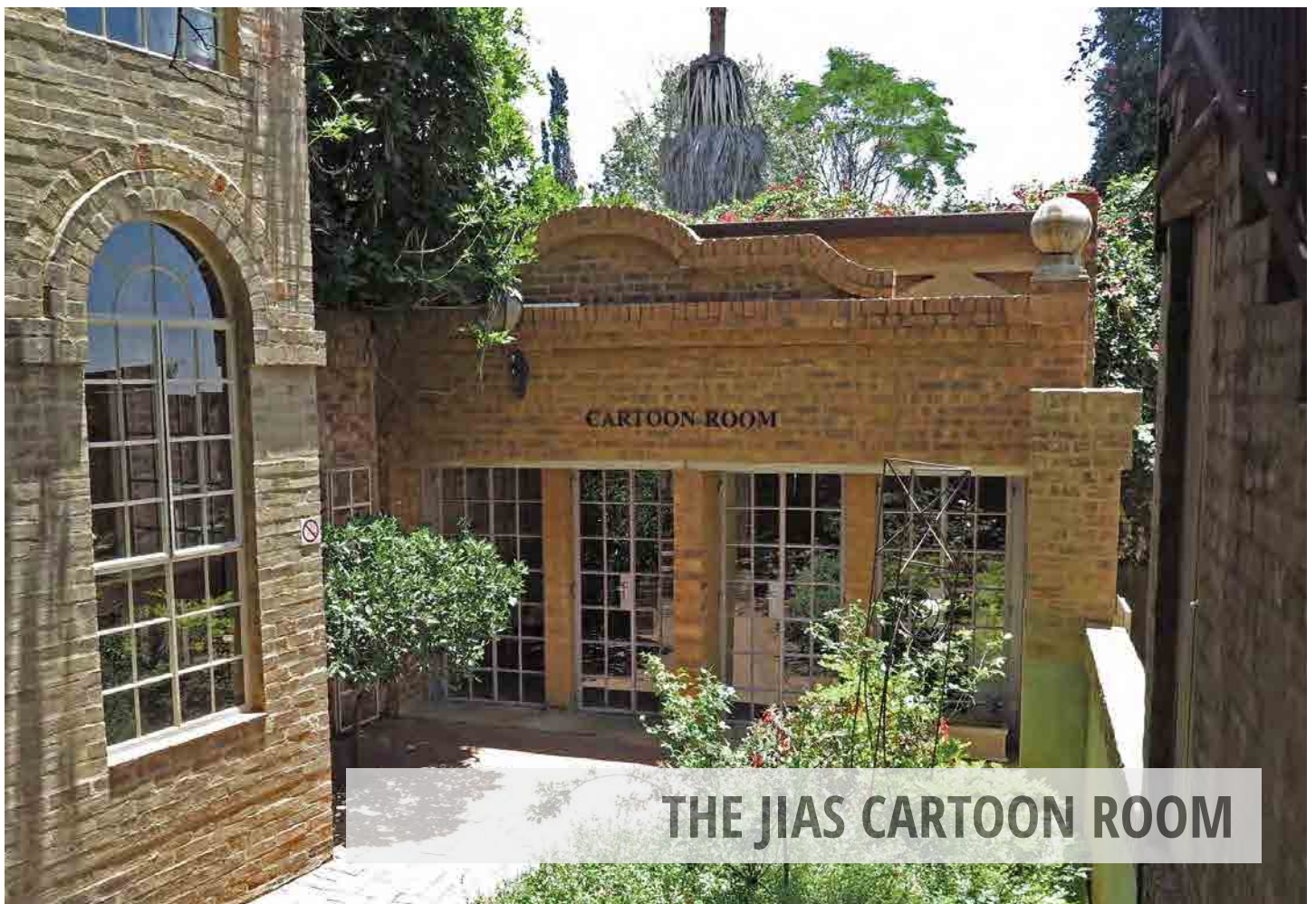
Dr Morten Kringelbach, centre, with the organisers of the seminar series.



Prof Martijn van den Heuvel with organisers and participants.



Prof Oliver Turnbull with participants in the workshop on 'Illustrating the Brain'.



JIAS continued to pursue its interest in politically and socially relevant cartoons. Cartoons remained on permanent display in the Cartoon Room, the main JIAS venue for workshops and seminars.

30 years of Stacey Stent

In the year under review, JIAS contracted Africartoons to hang an exhibition entitled '30 Years of Stacey Stent' in the JIAS Cartoon Room. Stent is South Africa's first and only woman professional editorial cartoonist.



The curator, John Curtis of Africartoons, wrote: 'Stacey Stent is one of South Africa's pre-eminent editorial cartoonists, and one of the few who have covered the shenanigans of both the apartheid regime and the democratic dispensation that followed it.'

'Her free-flowing lines and clever, witty dialogue are very accessible, and her trademark satire can be simultaneously light and biting – but it is always thought-provoking.'

'A committed champion of the voiceless and dispossessed, she follows a progressive line, and is a feminist. These sympathies are reflected in her work.'

Conversation about 'Gender and Cartooning'

On Thursday 19 October 2017, JIAS hosted a conversation on 'Gender and Cartooning in South Africa'. The speakers were Stacey Stent, South Africa's only woman cartoonist, whose work was exhibited at JIAS, and Brenda Schmahmann, NRF Research Professor in South African Art and Visual Culture at UJ.

The event was chaired by Prof Sarah Gravett, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research at UJ.

Exhibition of cartoons by Eddie Roux

An exhibition entitled 'MAYIBUYE! – the Umsebenzi Cartoons of Eddie Roux' opened at JIAS on Monday 17 September 2018.

The opening was addressed by Deirdre Pretorius, Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA) at UJ; Jeremy Cronin, Deputy Minister of Public Works, and member of the Central Committee and Politburo of the South African Communist Party (SACP); and Steven Friedman, Professor of Politics at UJ.

The exhibition was curated by Prof Pretorius. At the opening, she talked about the cartoons, and Cronin and Friedman about Roux's life and politics. The exhibition was due to hang at JIAS for a year, and could be viewed by appointment.

Best known as the author of *Time Longer than Rope* (1948), Roux was a botanist, a founder member of the Young Communist League, a member of the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA), and later a member of the Liberal Party.

In 1930, he took over the production and distribution of the CPSA weekly newspaper *The South African Worker*, and renamed it *Umsebenzi* (The Worker). He continued to work on the paper in various capacities until he left the CPSA in 1936. In this period, he not only wrote for and edited the newspaper, but drew cartoons for it as well.

Roux's cartoons called for liberation through the slogan "Mayibuye", voiced opposition to the unjust laws under which the majority of South Africans were subjected, and depicted worker solidarity against common enemies: the capitalist, politician and policeman. He used linocuts because they were a "cheap means of illustration", and the skill was relatively easily acquired.

A monograph containing the wall text and timeline of Roux's life compiled by Prof Pretorius as well as reproductions of some of the exhibits can be downloaded from the JIAS website at www.jias.joburg.



Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin, Prof Deirdre Pretorius and Prof Steven Friedman at the opening of the Eddie Roux cartoon exhibition.



JIAS WRITING FELLOWS

JIAS selected 11 Writing Fellows for its four-month Writing Term from February to May 2018. Drawn from more than 300 applicants, they included authors, journalists, and scholars in various disciplines from Africa and Asia.

As in previous years, Writing Fellows had access to live-in suites at JIAS in Westdene, Johannesburg, where they enjoyed a quiet space for work and reflection, and participated in academic community-building. Each Writing Fellow was required to lead a public seminar at JIAS, and were expected to produce systematic work on a chosen project. The Writing Fellows were:

Dr Meng-Hsuan Chou, Nanyang Assistant Professor in the Public Policy and Global Affairs Programme at NTU Singapore.

Dr David Huang Junsong, Assistant Dean: Research Strategy in the Office of Education Research of the National Institute of Education (NIE) in Singapore, and a research scientist at the Learning Sciences Lab, NIE.

Dr Geoffrey Maiyoh, Senior Lecturer and Postgraduate programme coordinator in the Department of Medical Biochemistry, School of Medicine, Moi University, Kenya.

Gerhard (Gerry) Maré, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and former director of the Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity, which he founded in 2006.

Niq Mhlongo, a prize-winning novelist based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Hans Pienaar, a journalist, playwright and novelist and poet based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Joel Quirk, Professor of Politics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Kevin Riordan, Assistant Professor of English at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Amrita Shah, a prize-winning journalist and writer based in Mumbai, India.

Charlie Samuya Veric, a Filipino writer, critic and poet, and lecturer in literature and cultural theory at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.

Zukiswa Wanner, a prize-winning novelist based in Johannesburg, South Africa, judge for numerous African literary prizes, and facilitator of African writing workshops.

Seminar series

Each Writing Fellow presented a public seminar at JIAS on their field of interest or expertise. The seminars were held on consecutive Wednesdays, from February to May.

Other events and activities

On Thursday 22 March 2018, Amrita Shah gave a talk at the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA) at Wits University on 'Ahmedabad: A city in the world'.

On Wednesday 25 April 2018, Dr David Huang of NTU Singapore presented a seminar hosted by the UJ Faculty of Education entitled 'Developing future-research learners'.

On Wednesday 25 April 2018, JIAS hosted a joint book launch for two of its 2018 Writing Fellows, Zukiswa Wanner and Niq Mhlongo. Zukiswa launched her book entitled *Hardly Working: A Travel Memoir of Sorts*, and Niq launched his book *Soweto under the Apricot Tree*, a collection of short stories. The launch was chaired by Danai Mupotsa of Wits University.

On Thursday 10 May, JIAS, in partnership with the UJ Library, hosted a discussion of these two books.

On Tuesday 22 May 2018, Hans Pienaar staged a reading at JIAS of his latest play, 'My Brother My Hero'. This was his first new work since 'The Good Candidate', which was written in 2014.

Book by former JIAS Writing Fellow

In June 2018, Routledge released a book entitled *Reversing Urban Inequality in Johannesburg*, edited by former JIAS Writing Fellow Melissa Tandiwe Myambo. The book forms part of the Routledge Contemporary South Africa series, aimed at publishing original, high-quality work by both new and established scholars on all aspects of South Africa.

Melissa is a Research Associate of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA), and an Honorary Research Fellow at the Wits City Institute. She holds a PhD from New York University, and was a JIAS Writing Fellow in 2017.

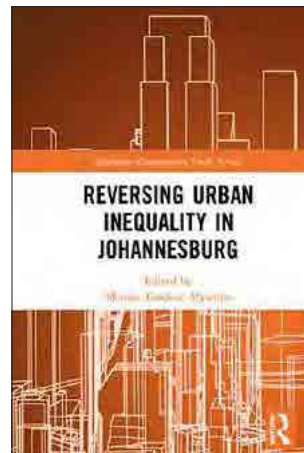
Visit to the Cradle of Humankind

On 18 May, seven 2018 JIAS Writing Fellows visited the Cradle of Humankind, the World Heritage Site north west of Johannesburg in Gauteng province. This excursion has become an annual event. This year, it was led by Dr Ian McKay of the Evolutionary Studies Institute at Wits University.

The group first took a guided tour of the Sterkfontein Caves, and then returned to the visitor's centre, Maropeng, where they explored the museum and other features. Following lunch at the Centre, the group returned to Johannesburg.



The JIAS group outside the Visitor's Centre at the Cradle of Humankind.



'Reversing Urban Inequality in Johannesburg', edited by former JIAS Writing Fellow Melissa Tandiwe Myambo.



Polokwane Literary Fair

On 17–20 April 2018, a JIAS team, including some 2018 Writing Fellows, participated in the Polokwane Literary Fair in Limpopo. The Fair is a flagship project of the Department of Cultural Services of the Polokwane Municipality, in the provincial capital of Limpopo. JIAS has participated in this event every year since 2016.

Following the visit, JIAS staffer Emelia Kamena reported as follows: 'The JIAS team comprised the director, Prof Peter Vale; Emelia Kamena, administrative assistant; and five 2018 JIAS Writing Fellows, namely Niq Mhlongo, Zukiswa Wanner, Amrita Shah, Hans Pienaar, and David Huang. Adam Brown, a visitor from Singapore, was also with the group. Most of these Writing Fellows are published authors, and they looked forward to the excursion with great anticipation.

'Upon arrival, we were met at the City Library in Polokwane by our host, Malose Lekganyane of the Polokwane Municipality, and colleagues. We then attended an opening dinner with various guests and partners of the Literary Fair, including the directors of the City Library, and members of the offices of the Mayor of Polokwane and the Premier of Limpopo.

'On the first day, Writing Fellows visited three high schools in Mankweng, 30 kilometres outside Polokwane, for an engagement with learners and to hand over books donated by JIAS. These schools were the Frans Mohlala Secondary School, the Mamabudusha High School, and the Ramashobohle High School. JIAS Fellows engaged with learners in their classrooms, and donated copies of their books.



Amrita Shah and other members of the JIAS outreach team during a visit to a high school outside Polokwane.

'Zukiswa Wanner also managed a workshop at the Polokwane City Library for 35 children aged ten and eleven.

'In the evening, the Writing Fellows attended a conversation about language with academics and students from the University of Limpopo. Prof Peter Vale, Director of JIAS, gave a presentation about the Institute.

'The second day began with a visit to a local prison, where Writing Fellows engaged with more than 100 inmates. Readings were given, and inmates were provided with insights on how to produce written texts. It was agreed that an anthology of poetry written by the inmates would be published. JIAS and the City Library donated books to the Correctional Services Library.

'On one evening, the JIAS group attended a conversation about memory, this time with members of the local Timbuktu Book Club.'

Comment by Zukiswa Wanner

'I kicked off my JIAS Fellowship on the very first day by reading a story I had written for World Read Aloud Day to a thousand children in Mofolo Park in Soweto. While we ambitiously hoped that a million children would read that story aloud in South Africa, almost 1,3 million children ended up reading it.

'It was gratifying to note that among the children who had read that story were children I workshopped on the art of storytelling at Polokwane Literary Festival. Not only had they read it, but they had creatively adapted it for



Zukiswa Wanner leads a workshop for children in Polokwane.

stage, and performed it for me and other students during the Festival.

'I also immensely enjoyed the prison visit, as our clients at Polokwane Correctional Services were not only well-read, but also asked incisive and insightful questions. I think this is an important part of the Festival, and both JIAS and Polokwane Municipality should ensure that this remains a permanent feature.'

Comment by Amrita Shah

'Visiting Polokwane provided me and other Writing Fellows with a valuable opportunity both to observe life in South Africa and to interact with readers and budding writers.'



JIAS staffed a booth at Science Forum South Africa 2017, held at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria on 7–8 December 2017. From left to right are Prof BVR Chowdari (NTU), Prof Peter Vale (JIAS), Reshmi Singh (JIAS), Prof Alexander Zehnder (NTU), Emelia Kamena (JIAS), Ronald Witte (JIAS), and Dr Kristen Sadler (NTU). JIAS also organised a panel discussion.



The widely appreciated JIAS facility staff. Clockwise from top right are Ronald Witte (manager), Maria Matla, Johanna Menyoko and Seaka Sibanda.

JIAS Staff as at 30 September 2018

Director: Prof Peter Vale

Deputy Director: Dr Bongani Ngqulunga

Academic Manager: Reshmi Singh

Facility Manager: Ronald Witte

Administrative Assistant: Emelia Kamena

Facility Staff: Maria Matla, Johanna Menyoko, Seaka Sibanda



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