

Director: Bob Mattes

The Democracy in Africa Research Unit (DARU) effectively began as a functioning unit in January 2002. Activities this year were focused around: (1) refining its mission to concentrate on three core research programs; (2) developing partnerships to support research and data collection in these areas; (3) putting people in place to begin research in these areas; and (4) initiating research output.

Refining the Mission

DARU will support students and scholars who conduct systematic research on:

1. Public opinion and political culture in Africa, and its role in democratization or the consolidation of democracy.
2. Elections and voting in Africa, and their role in democratization and consolidation.
3. The impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on democratization in Southern Africa.

DARU may also support research projects on topics related to other aspects of democratic politics in Africa that are based on a systematic research design. But projects focusing on the three core areas will receive priority when selecting among proposals.

Research Partnerships

In order to facilitate research in the core areas and to make more effective use of donor funds, DARU has developed working partnerships with at least one other research organization or project in each focus area. These partnerships will enable DARU supported researchers to both gain access to existing data as well as participate in new data collection projects.

University of Cape Town / University of Michigan South African "Generation of Hope, Generation of Despair" Panel Study

DARU will develop one sub project in this proposed ten year panel study focusing on the development of a national democratic culture among South African's next generation.

Elections and Voting in Africa

DARU will be the South African partner in the *Comparative National Elections Project* (CNEP), coordinated from Ohio State University. This project consists of a series of national post-election studies currently conducted in old and new democracies in Europe and North and South America. It focuses on how voters choose in light of the filtering effects of political parties, news media, and effects of other parts of social context, and how this supports the democratization project. In the next round, the project will expand into new democracies in East Asia and Africa.

HIV/AIDS and Democratization In Southern Africa

DARU has already begun a working partnership with the *Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division* (HEARD) at the University of Natal, Durban to initiate and support exploratory research projects in a number of different areas. We are presently using survey data to corroborate the validity and reliability of epidemiological data as well as explore the links between the pandemic and political culture. We will also jointly support exploratory research on the impact of HIV/AIDS on local government in KwaZulu/Natal (see www.und.ac.za/und/heard).

Afrobarometer

Through the director, Bob Mattes, DARU is a partner in Afrobarometer.

The Afrobarometer is a state of the art cross national survey project currently operating in fifteen African countries. It measures citizen attitudes to democracy, markets and civil society in countries that have embarked upon significant political and economic reform (see www.afrobarometer.org). In order to make fuller use of this unique source of African social scientific survey data, DARU will support African and other academics to conduct research with this data. DARU will work with Michigan State University, an Afrobarometer core partner, to build analytic capacity among Afrobarometer researchers and other scholars who wish to use this data by running an annual training workshop based at UCT.

People

Director

1. Robert Mattes (A/Prof, Political Studies) devoted the first half of the year to focusing the DARU mission and concluding working partnerships with other research organizations. In the second year, Mattes has published three CSSR Working Papers and begun analysis on several new projects that promise to generate exciting outputs for 2003.

Visiting Fellows

2. Ryann Manning (Researcher, HEARD). DARU provided support to Manning to conduct exploratory research on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the governance capacities of the Durban Metropolitan Council and explore the possibilities of developing systematic indicators to monitor the impact of AIDS on local government in the future. She presented the results of her work at a CSSR Seminar in November.

Research Assistant

3. Namhla Mniki (Junior Lecturer, UCT) Mniki was a Research Assistant for the experimental Cape Town Political Attitudes Survey conducted by Third Year students in the Department of Political Studies senior level "capstone" course in research methods, and also served as Teaching Assistant to this course as well as the Department's introductory research methodology course. In the future, this position will help support the CSSR's Cape Area Study as the students will conduct fieldwork in English speaking areas. The position also builds research methodology capacity among students who would like to conduct post graduate research in DARU's focus areas.
4. Libbi Downes edited and prepared CSSR Working Papers and helped develop funding and personnel strategy for 2003.

Student Research Grants

5. Gavin Davis & Heidi Mattisonn (Masters students, UCT) began a project using experimental research to assess South African voters' abilities to complete complicated ballots.

Research Output

Conferences

"The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Democracy in Southern Africa: Setting the Research Agenda"
The core research area on HIV/AIDS and democracy is an extremely fuzzy area. While many implicit arguments and propositions are scattered about the literature, there has been no attempt to centralize them and then determine the potential areas of greatest impact. Thus, before making decisions about which projects are most deserving of support, we cooperated with HEARD and the Institute for Democracy in South Africa to hold a two day workshop in Cape Town (22-23 April 2002) with approximately twenty-five Southern African AIDS researchers to identify research priorities in this area. The Conference proceedings can be found at <http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/cssr/daru/aprilwshop.pdf>

Working Papers

- ▶ Alan Whiteside, Robert Mattes, Samantha Willan & Ryann Manning, *Examining HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa Through the Eyes of Ordinary Southern Africans* CSSR Working Paper No. 11 (August 2002)
- ▶ Robert Mattes & Roger Southall, *Popular Attitudes Toward the South African Electoral System* CSSR Working Paper No. 16 (November 2002).
- ▶ Robert Mattes, Michael Bratton & Yul Derek Davids, *Poverty, Survival and Democracy in Southern Africa* CSSR Working Paper No. 27 (December 2002)