

## Conferences and Workshops

### **“Collecting and Analysing Data from Panel Surveys in the Social Sciences” 3rd August 2002**

This workshop was intended for faculty and students interested in the uses of panel survey data in a variety of areas in the social sciences. Panel surveys are surveys where the same sample of respondents is re-interviewed at several points in time, so they provide rich data on the processes and dynamics of change.

### **“The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Democracy in Southern Africa: Setting the Research Agenda” 22-23 April 2002.**

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, DARU cooperated with HEARD and the Institute for Democracy in South Africa to hold a two day workshop in Cape Town with approximately twenty-five AIDS Southern African AIDS researchers to identify research priorities in the area of HIV/AIDS and democracy. The Conference proceedings can be found at (<http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/cssr/daru/aprilwshop.pdf>).

### **Workshop on Social Science Longitudinal Analysis: Focus on Stats SA, Cape Town, 20 March 2002**

On 20 March 2002 a second workshop was held at UCT on longitudinal social science analysis in South Africa. This was a joint activity of the CSSR at UCT with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) in Cape Town. EPRI took the lead in organising the event, and we are grateful to EPRI's directors (Ingrid van Niekerk and Kenneth MacQuene) and EPRI's research director (Michael Samson) for this. The morning session entailed a presentation by James Serwadda (Stats SA) on Stats SA's current suite of surveys and especially how they generate longitudinal data.

### **The ‘Social Hubble’ Workshop, Cape Town, February 2002**

In February 2002 researchers from China, Poland, Brazil, the USA and South Africa came together in Cape Town for a week-long workshop of the ‘Social Hubble’ project. The ‘Social Hubble’ project links social scientists working in city area studies in five different countries: Detroit (USA), Beijing (China), Warsaw (Poland), Bela Horizonte (Brazil) and Cape Town (South Africa). The goal is to generate internationally comparable data on inequality and other social, economic and political phenomena. The overall project has become known as the Social Hubble project, on the basis that the five participating Area Studies serve as the bases of a social laboratory in much the same way as various astronomical observatories comprise the Hubble telescope.

### **Workshop on Panel Studies in the Social Sciences, 1 October 2001**

On 1 October 2001 the CSSR hosted the first-ever workshop in South Africa on panel surveys, i.e. surveys in which a fixed panel of respondents is re-interviewed across a period of time. There is a strong feeling that going beyond the kinds of surveys that have been done in South Africa hitherto will require panel or other longitudinal studies. It has even been suggested that a South African household panel study should be initiated, along similar lines to the British Household Panel Study or the Panel Study on Income Dynamics (PSID) in the USA. The workshop was attended by researchers involved in a number of other panel study initiatives:

- ▶ the Wits-based Birth-to-Ten-to-Twenty project, which has been tracking a birth cohort of children born in mid-1990;
- ▶ the KwaZulu-Natal Income Dynamics Study (KIDS), which in 1998 reinterviewed respondents previously interviewed in 1993 as part of the SALDRU/World Bank survey;
- ▶ the Demographic Surveillance Study initiated in 2000 in Mtubatuba (Hlabisa) in northern KZN; and
- ▶ the Transitions to Adulthood in the Context of AIDS study, also in KZN, which has tracked a panel of young people from a first interview in 1999 to a second interview at the end of 2001.

This workshop exposed many of the participants to the details of existing panel studies and was also the first occasion on which some of the researchers involved in panel studies had met each other! The workshop provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the possibilities for future panel studies.