

Director's introduction

2003 was an excellent year for the CSSR. We ran two large surveys, involved many students in data collection and analysis, and produced a substantial body of working papers, journal articles and books. The Data First Resource Unit expanded its number of computer workstations, purchased more data sets and provided on-going training for students. In addition to supporting quantitative analysis, we conducted qualitative and analytical research, and initiated projects which probed the interface between quantitative and qualitative research. The AIDS and Society Research Unit (ASRU) expanded its outreach activities through the work of the Memory Box Project, and pushed the boundaries of academic research in innovative ways (particularly around art and representation).

Our main achievement was the development of genuinely collaborative and inter-disciplinary research projects. This has resulted in a blurring of the boundaries between the activities of CSSR's component research units. Most notably, the Cape Area Panel Survey run by the Social Surveys Unit (SSU) included modules which were designed and implemented with the help of researchers in ASRU. Similarly, the Cape Area Study, also run by the SSU, included material developed in ASRU and the Democracy in Africa Research Unit (DARU). Another innovative collaboration was that between ASRU and the SSU with regard to the training of field workers. Rather than use professional field workers for the interviews

in Khayelitsha, we recruited and trained people who had been reached through the work of the Memory Box Project. They proved to be dedicated and thoughtful field-workers and we will be expanding this initiative in the future.



*Prof Nicoli Natrass,
Director of the CSSR*

The CSSR hosted a very popular seminar programme which has resulted in more students and researchers getting involved in CSSR activities. It provided a focal point for inter-disciplinary interaction and a forum for our visiting scholars to discuss their research.

In short, the CSSR made great strides in 2003 towards meeting our goal to promote quantitative social science whilst facilitating greater synergies between different academic disciplines, and between quantitative and qualitative research.

We are most grateful to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for providing core institutional funding for the CSSR.

CSSR directorate

*Nicoli Natrass, Kathy Forbes,
Libbi Downes*

The CSSR Directorate provides central administration services for the various CSSR units. This entails, primarily, managing the finances. Kathy Forbes and Libbi Downes check the SAP accounts regularly. Kathy Forbes manages queries and is the key point of liaison for students and visitors to the CSSR.

The Directorate is also responsible for the production of the CSSR Working Papers, as well as for the running of the CSSR seminar series. The CSSR Directorate is located in the central administrative 'hub' of the CSSR, and hence is also responsible for ensuring that the facilities (including the meeting/seminar room) are tidy and well managed.