

The Democracy in Africa Research Unit strengthens empirical social science capacity in Africa by supporting and conducting research on citizens, political institutions and the survival and quality of democracy, as well as how each of these may be affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

DARU supports and conducts empirical research on citizens, political institutions and the survival and quality of democracy in Africa.

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

With financial support from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, DARU has moved a long way since its inception in 2001. In its initial years, our strategy focussed on supporting research on existing but under-explored data in the areas of public opinion, voting and elections in Africa by bringing top international scholars to the University of Cape Town as well as attracting talented graduate students from our own ranks and across the region.

During 2004 DARU researchers have authored or co-authored over a dozen working papers (many subsequently accepted by leading international journals) as well as an edited volume on the 2004 South African elections and a major new book on public opinion and democracy in Africa.

We have also forged a greater synergy of research and teaching with the Department of Political Studies and the Faculty of Humanities where research methods courses now regularly use data sets provided by the Centre for Social Science Research and teaching methods used by CSSR researchers. Perhaps most importantly, various aspects of DARU research have attracted

a dozen talented and serious MA and Ph.D. students to UCT and all of them are receiving some form of financial support from us.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Our efforts in our first three years have created a reputation as a place of serious and important research. This has subsequently created a number of new and exciting opportunities to expand our research efforts and add a range of new projects in the area of democratic legislatures, HIV/AIDS and municipal government. Each one will not only collect new data and enable us to feed new knowledge back into the classroom, but also open doors for us to inject our findings directly into the public policy process. All of this promises to make DARU the leading democracy research unit in Africa.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Jessica Piombo of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and Lia Nijzink of the University of Stellenbosch spent two months at DARU preparing an edited volume on South Africa's 2004 elections, which included convening three CSSR Election Seminars where authors presented their papers to UCT audiences for discussion and debate. Piombo's opening chapter and her co-authored piece with Nijzink on South Africa's parliament were also published as Working Papers



Robert Mattes at the CNEP conference held in July

“DARU has moved a long way since its inception in 2002. In its initial years, our strategy focussed on supporting research on existing but under-explored data in the areas of public opinion, voting and elections in Africa by bringing top international scholars to the University of Cape Town as well as attracting talented graduate students from our own ranks and across the region”



Tianjian Shi of Duke University (USA) and Mpho Molomo of the University of Botswana

“Most importantly, various aspects of DARU research has attracted a dozen talented and serious MA and Ph.D. students to UCT and all of them are receiving some form of financial support from us.”



(no's 85 and 86).

DARU Director Robert Mattes wrote a Working Paper (no 89) that reviewed ten years of survey data on trends in South African voters' partisan identification, sources and extent of information, and evaluations of government performance, which will also appear in the Piombo-Nijzink volume.

Gavin Davis organised South Africa's first university-based empirical content analysis of the print and electronic news media coverage of South Africa's 2004 election campaign. He also wrote an important ground clearing Working Paper (no 69) on some of this data that challenges many common wisdoms about the consequences of media ownership in South Africa which will also be published in the Piombo-Nijzink volume.

Ph.D. Scholar João Pereira completed a draft of his dissertation which tested a range of competing theories of voter preferences with data from the 2002 Mozambican version of the Afrobarometer.

Ph.D. scholar Cherrel Africa completed her research proposal for a dissertation using data from the 2004 South African National Post Election survey to examine the impact of South Africa's 2004 election campaign on the quality of democracy in South Africa.

Ph.D. scholar Collette Hertenberg worked toward the completion of her research proposal for a dissertation using a range of survey data to analyse the dynamics of South African voters' partisan identification between 1994 and 2004.

In July, DARU, in conjunction with the Mershon Center of

Ohio State University held a major international conference for the Comparative National Elections Project (CNEP) on “Electoral Mobilisation, Political Participation and Attitudes Toward Democracy in Thirteen Countries.” In the first half of the conference, internationally renowned scholars of democratisation presented papers on elections, news media and political intermediation. The second half focused on integrating DARU and seven other African research teams into the CNEP, which examines the sources of voter behavior and the quality of elections in over two dozen new and old democracies across the world.

DARU was chosen as the prospective international secretariat to coordinate CNEP Round 3 research (between 2004 and 2007). Subsequently, DARU personnel developed a draft of the new Round 3 questionnaire. And with funds from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, DARU designed and commissioned AC Nielsen to carry out the 2004 South African National Post Election survey as part of the larger CNEP project. Data analysis will begin in earnest in 2005.

PUBLIC OPINION IN AFRICA

Mattes's co-authored book (with Michael Bratton and E. Gyimah-Boadi) on public opinion about democratic and market reform in Africa has been published by Cambridge University Press.

Prof Etannibi Alemika of the University of Jos, Nigeria, spent six months at DARU and used Afrobarometer data to complete two working papers (no's 70 and 77). The first examined linkages between perceptions of legitimacy, rule of law, and violent conflict. The second examined the impact

of perceptions of government corruption on political trust in Nigeria.

Prof Mpho Molomo of the University of Botswana spent two months at DARU working with Afrobarometer data and developing a working paper on social capital, civil society and political participation in Botswana.

Prof Thomas Koelble of UCT's Graduate School of Business spent six months at DARU developing two papers on alternative research methods in the study of traditional leadership and conceptions of democracy in South Africa.

Junior research fellow Namhla Mniki and Mattes completed a report for the Southern African Migration Project on the dynamics of skilled emigration in South Africa (working paper 91).

MA scholar Chris Claasens completed his mini-thesis which made an important contribution to the literature on the linkages between public opinion and regime change. Using data from the World Values Survey for 48 countries, Claasens constructed his own macro level data bases and demonstrated strong linkages between public demand for democracy in 1995 and changes in the level of democracy in the subsequent five years.

Ph.D. scholar Wole Olaleye moved toward completion of his research proposal for a doctoral dissertation using data from the Afrobarometer to test theories of political participation in Southern Africa.

Ph.D. scholar Keene Boikhutso neared completion of his research proposal for a dissertation using Afrobarometer data to test theories about the homogeneity of social identity

in Botswana and its political consequences.

MA scholar Tracy Jooste developed a research proposal to use data from the Cape Area Study to examine the extent and nature of social capital in Cape Town.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURES IN AFRICA

Prof Joel Barkan of the World Bank and University of Iowa spent six weeks at DARU to conduct field research for a study of the South African National Assembly, which will serve as the basis for a 2005 CSSR Working Paper and form part of a larger ground breaking study on "Emerging Legislatures in Emerging Democracies".

Prof Shaheen Mozaffar of Bridgewater State College and Boston University spent two months at DARU. While he presented seminars and published a working paper (no 72) on his recent work on ethnicity and political competition in Africa, most of his activities were focused on planning (with Mattes and Barkan) a new systematic empirical study of Legislatures in Africa.

We have already received start up funding for the Legislatures In Africa project from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to begin initial data collection in 2005. Ultimately the project aims to collect systematic data on the powers, functions and behaviors of 18 African legislatures and their legislators.

AIDS AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

Mattes wrote an Afrobarometer Briefing Paper reporting recent trends in public awareness of and attitudes about the HIV/AIDS pandemic in 15 African countries.



Kimberley Smiddy of the GTZ, Richard Gunther of Ohio University - CNEP Conference held in July.

CONTINUED DARU - RESEARCH UNITS

"Our efforts in our first three years have created a reputation as a place of serious and important research. This has subsequently created a number of new and exciting opportunities to expand our research efforts and add a range of new projects in the area of democratic legislatures, HIV/AIDS and municipal government. This promises to make DARU the leading democracy research unit in Africa."

Mattes and DARU research assistant Janis Kennedy created a provincial level data set to test competing structural, cultural, institutional and informational theories of the diffusion of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Kennedy is now completing her MA mini-dissertation on this data set.

Per Strand of the University of Uppsala spent the year at DARU teaching courses in the Department of Political Studies and conducting a range of work about the linkages of AIDS and democracy. He used a range of different data to examine the impact of AIDS illness and death on voter participation in the 2004 election. He also designed a funding proposal which would help support continued DARU research examining a range of linkages between HIV/AIDS, political institutions and public opinion.

Ph.D. scholar Ariane de Lannoy began work on a research proposal which will use the Cape Area Panel Survey to test theories about the impact of HIV status on students' and parents' decisions about school attendance.

DEMOCRATIC CITIES IN AFRICA

Prof Rob Cameron of UCT's Department of Political Studies and DARU research assistant Alicia Alvarez created a data set of 22 South African municipalities as part of the International Metropolitan Observatory Project. This data set will serve as the basis for at least one CSSR Working Paper in 2005.

AFRICAN MACRO INDICATORS

Mattes and Justin Sylvester began to design a sustainable data base of social, economic and political indicators for all 42 African countries.

TRAINING

As a continuation of an innovative arrangement negotiated with Mellon in 2002, DARU supported Justin Sylvester as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Politics. This year, Alexander assisted Mattes and managed two other junior tutors in the Department's 2nd year course on Comparative Politics, which introduces students to the empirical study of democracy.

Mattes also trained students in empirical research by teaching a sequence on social statistics in the Department of Political Studies 3rd year course on research methods, as well as two modules in the Graduate School of Humanities Research Methodology sequence. One short course at the Honours level entitled Public Opinion Analysis, introduced students to the types of questions scholars use in surveys to answer, and another introduced students to issues of reliability and validity in questionnaire design. In a full semester MA level course, students were introduced to key readings in a range of important literatures in the study of political behavior, and in the second half of the course chose a data set with which they wrote a research paper of publishable quality that addressed the topic of their choice, and used computers and SPSS (an analytical software package) to test propositions from the literature reviewed in the first half of the course.

To facilitate fuller use of the Afrobarometer data set by African scholars and UCT students, DARU worked with the Afrobarometer to run a weeklong workshop on "Designing and Assessing African Attitude Surveys: Concepts, Validity and Reliability".■

People @ DARU

Director
Robert Mattes

Research Fellows
Shaheen Mozaffar
Etannibi Alemika
Joel Barkan
Mpho Molomo
Thomas Koeble
Lia Nizjink
Jessica Piombo
Per Strand

Scientific Officer
Gavin Davis

Teaching & Research Assistants
Justin Sylvester
Janis Kennedy
Alicia Alvarez

Ph.D. Scholars
João Pereira
Wole Olaleye
Collette Herzenberg
Cherrel Africa
Keene Boikhutso

MA Scholars
Chris Claasens
Phil Mahlangu
Tracy Jooste
Carlos Shenga

Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Downes