



Director's Report

2005 was an exciting year for the CSSR. Work progressed on conducting a series of new surveys, such as the Cape Area Survey, the Khayelitsha Panel Study and the Cape Area Panel Study. CSSR scholars also worked on an impressive number of projects based on data from previous CSSR surveys as well as from the growing number of data sets now housed at the Data First Resource Unit.

CSSR researchers made significant contributions to our knowledge about the challenges and consequences of introducing antiretroviral therapy to people living with HIV/AIDS, the social, economic and political impacts of AIDS, the economic dimensions of families and kinship, the links between diversity and equality, the dynamics of public opinion, and the bases of sustainable political institutions. During the year, CSSR researchers contributed 45 pieces of research to our increasingly popular Working Papers series. They also produced 3 books published by leading academic presses, 13 chapters in edited volumes and 12 articles in refereed journals.

Data First made its considerable holdings far more accessible to researchers around the world, especially those in developing countries with limited technological resources. This was done by introducing an online data analysis and dissemination service. Its impressive collection of survey data and publications also increased.

A wide range of post-graduate students received extensive training through 'learning by doing' as interns at Data First, by working on survey projects, and by conducting data-based research across the units. In addition, CSSR maintained close links with formal teaching in research methods in both the Humanities and Commerce Faculties.

Our post-graduate students are now submitting excellent dissertations, writing working papers and publishing

refereed articles, all of which reflect the impact of the CSSR on social science at UCT. Joanne Wreford achieved her doctorate and both Celeste Coetzee and Tracy Jooste were awarded Masters degrees with distinction.

2005 was also a reflective year for the CSSR.

First, 2005 was the culmination of a rapid period of growth. Across a wide range of indicators -- from infrastructure, to funding, to the number of researchers, and to the scope of our research -- the CSSR of 2005 bore little resemblance to the modest institution to which a core grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation had given birth in 2001.

Second, the CSSR underwent an external review the preceding year which was very positive, but which had recommended some important changes in the way the Centre was configured in the larger university environment.

Third, 2005 was the final year of its founding grant from the Mellon Foundation.

Thus, it was as an ideal time to reflect on the significant achievements of the past four years, but also to determine how best to position the Centre within the larger university environment for the future, including any necessary "right-sizing."

A formal University consultative process regarding the future of the CSSR has resulted in several significant changes.

Perhaps the most important change to the CSSR is that the University has recognised the vital importance of the Data First Resource Unit and has agreed to relocate Data First to its new Core Equipment Facility (which will house all valued university equipment). From this location, it will continue to work closely with the CSSR and other core users, and will provide services to a broader range of users

across campus, it will thus occupy a more central role in the university's external face.

A second change is that the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) will revert from the CSSR (which it joined in 2002) to the School of Economics, but will retain close links with the Centre. This enables SALDRU to continue its research under its own established brand, yet allow close cooperation on projects of mutual interest, such as the Cape Area Panel Study.

These changes have been supported by the wide consultative body. From this new vantage point, the CSSR will work to create a broader range of linkages with other social scientists and ongoing social science projects at UCT.

*Professor Robert Matttes
Director of the CSSR*

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