

Social Surveys Unit

SSU

In our 2004 Annual Report, we wrote that the major strands of our work 'continued'. This remained true during 2005. We have continued to conduct surveys and related qualitative research, to promote intellectual debate, to publish research, and generally to build research and analytic capacity in the social sciences. But in reporting that our work 'continues', it is easy to overlook or take for granted the immense changes in our work over the four years since the Centre for Social Science Research was established.

This is true in every major area of our activity in the Social Surveys Unit: the Cape Area Panel Study, related qualitative research on childhood and adolescence, new research on economic dimensions of families and kinship, and research on diversity and inequality (through, primarily, our Cape Area Study).

The Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS)

During 2005 we went into the field with the third 'wave' of CAPS, our panel study of adolescents in Cape Town. When CAPS began in 2002, there were just two people at UCT working on it, together with colleagues at the University of Michigan. Now, in 2005, the UCT end of CAPS comprises a massive operation, employing not only fieldworkers but also a large team in the office working on questionnaire preparation, training, quality control and back-checking, data cleaning, and a host of other activities.

For wave 3, for the first time, we produced unique, individually structured questionnaires for every member of our panel, including in each questionnaire information provided by the respondent in previous waves, and either including or omitting questions according to what we have already learnt. Our questionnaires have changed greatly

since 2002. The wave 3 'young adult' questionnaire included innovative modules on residential and schooling histories, higher education, marriage and children, and relationships involving and not involving sex. We collected separate data on households (including new modules on expenditure and transfers) and interviewed co-resident parents. During 2005 we distributed our first CAPS Newsletter and ran a lottery (with a television set as the first prize) to encourage the members of our panel.

In March, we released the wave 1 data, together with technical documentation and a 'user's guide'. The wave 1 data and related documentation are readily available online, from the CSSR's website.

Growing Up in Cape Town: Qualitative Research

A full understanding of childhood and adolescence requires insights from qualitative research as well as from quantitative data. During the year researchers completed the fieldwork for various projects on 'growing up in the new South Africa', mostly conducted in the South Peninsula area of Cape Town. Rachel Bray, Susan Moses and Imke Gooskens have been examining a range of aspects of the lives of young people in Masiphumelele, Ocean View and Fishhoek respectively. Lauren Kahn has been examining the sexual relationships of adolescent girls, and Sarah Shelmerdine has been analysing the relationships between adolescents and their parents or other older adults. Ariane De Lannoy and René Brandt have respectively, been examining educational decision-making by, and the mental health of, HIV+ mothers.

The research was discussed at a workshop (funded by the Potter Charitable Trust as part of a masters



Launch of the CAPS Wave 1 Data.

fellowship awarded to Susan Moses) as well as at workshops and seminars in the CSSR. Ariane De Lannoy and Susan Moses presented papers at an international conference in Oslo. Rachel Bray, Sue Moses and Imke Gooskens held 'feedback' meetings with parents, social workers, and teachers, as well as with the children who participated in their study.

Families and Kinship

Many South Africans are embedded in complex kinship networks that affect their economic as well as social and psychological welfare in very many ways. Understanding kinship networks is especially important in the context of poor health and deaths due to AIDS. Funding from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (as well as the US National Institutes of Health) is allowing us to examine how South Africans respond to poor health and death, not only by transferring resources in the form of financial transfers but also by assuming direct responsibility for kin through moving kin from one household to another. During 2005 our efforts were concentrated on preparing for fieldwork to be conducted in 2006.

Diversity and Inequality

Cape Town, being both highly unequal and multi-cultural, is an unusually exciting place to study issues of inequality and diversity. In the first half of the year, we conducted the 2005 round of the Cape Area Study. The survey probed racial, class and cultural identities, inter-racial or inter-cultural interaction and perceptions, as well as some issues covered in previous surveys (such as political participation, social capital and so on). For further information, see *CSSR Working Paper* no. 124.

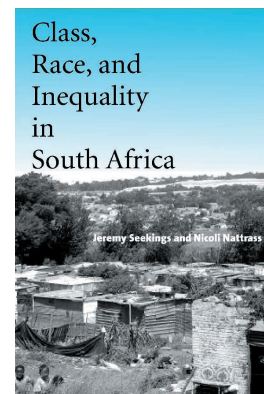
The 2005 Cape Area Study (CAS) was designed in collaboration with researchers involved in the Belo Horizonte Area Study, in Brazil. In May, Jeremy Seekings was invited to Brazil to participate in a round-table

discussion on the comparative study of inequality at the annual conference of the Brazilian Sociology Association. In July, Jeremy Seekings, Anita Berk, Tracy Jooste and Mirah Langer went to Brazil for a workshop with our Brazilian and American colleagues on inequality in South Africa and Brazil.

Right: Visual mapping exercises from the 'Growing up in Cape Town' research project (Sue Moses)



A New Book



The changing relationship between race, class and inequality is examined in a new book by Jeremy Seekings and Nicoli Nattrass. *Class, Race and Inequality in South Africa*, published by Yale University Press, pays particular attention to the diverse ways in which state policies have shaped inequality both under and after apartheid.