

Spreading the culture of
futures thinking



Brief Overview & Status Report

Presentation by South Africa Node
MP-PC Meeting, July 2008

Social science that makes a difference



SA Node Directors



Expanded leadership team:

- **Makhosini Mashele**, Department of Science & Technology
- **Alioune Sall**, African Futures Institute
- **Bongani Memela**, Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- **Andre Roux**, University of Stellenbosch Institute for Futures Research
- **Koffi Kouakou**, University of Witwatersrand Public & Development Management School

Mission

- Spread the culture of futures thinking in the region
- Deepen the futures expertise of institutions and individuals
- Galvanise and mobilize African experts and networks to participate in the activities of the Millennium Project

2007-8

National

- **Scenario Learning Project**
- SA-SOFI
- Universities programme (curriculum + prize)
- Administrative arrangements

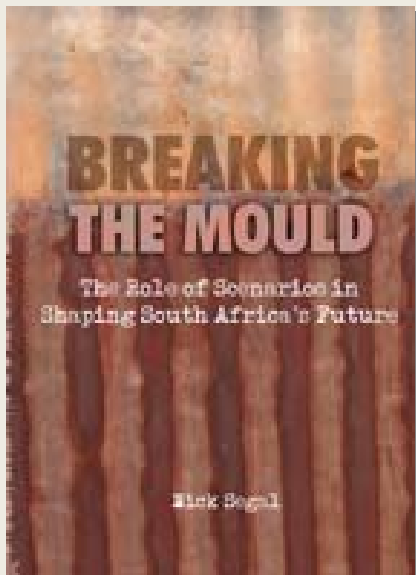
Regional

- **Futures Conference 2007**
- Scenario Practitioners Review (Oxford & WEF)

International

- Delphi studies
- State of the Future reports
- Support Global Challenges initiative

Scenario Learning Project



- Anglo-American *The World and South Africa in the 1990s / "High Road / Low Road"* scenarios (1987)
- Nedcor/Old Mutual *South Africa: Prospects for a Successful Transition* (1991-92)
- *Mont Fleur* scenarios (1991-92)

SUN PReSS | ISBN 978-1-920109-92-9 | 2007

The story of South Africa's transition in 1994 to a non-racial democracy has been told many times, principally from the perspective of the political forces for change. But many other factors were at work, over many years, which influenced not only the political outcome but also the economic philosophy of the new ANC government.

This pioneering study explores one such set of factors, viz the ideas generated by three quite different privately initiated but publicly disseminated scenario exercises undertaken in the period 1985-1992. In doing so, and in locating the scenarios within the turbulent context of the times, it offers fresh and compelling insights into the transition as well as into the fierce contestation over political and economic ideas, which continues to the present day.









HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

Seminar
Series

Futures Research and the State of the Future

You are cordially invited to attend this seminar in the 2007 HSRC Seminar Series

Human Sciences Research Council

Date: **Friday**
9 November

Time: 13:00 to 14:30

Venue: Video Conference Centres
HSRC Buildings
Pretoria,
Cape Town,
Durban

Jerome C. Glenn

Director, Global Millennium Project

José Cordeiro

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The following seminar will be presented from Cape Town, but may be attended via video conference in Pretoria and Durban

The lecture will provide an overview of *Futures Research and the State of the Future*. We frequently hear about "Scenarios" "Foresight" "Roadmapping" "Futures research", but what do they mean, what methods are they employed, what results are produced, and are these results credible and useful, and what are the implications for social and policy research? This seminar will take advantage of the first International Futures Conference in South Africa (www.samnode.co.za) to begin discussing these questions with a panel of practitioners and researchers in the field.



What's next: 2008-9

National

- SA-SOFI
continue & expand
- Scenario Learning Project
Part 2
- Universities Masters' programme
structure

Regional

- SnA-SOFI
- Africa outreach

International

- Delphi studies:
> efficiency & participation
- State of the Future reports
> input
- Global Challenges
participate
- SOFI future dev

Challenges:

- Grow implementation capacity (members, network, partners)
- Funding support (projects, activities, operational costs, MP-PC)



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SA Node Activities 2007-8

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- June 2008:** On behalf of the HSRC and the Millennium Project, we have the honour of inviting you to participate in a real-time Delphi study to choose variables that should compose a first **South Africa State of the Future Index (SA-SOFI)**. An invitation and details are attached here. You will be going to www.realtimedelphi.org to complete the online questionnaire. The final submission deadline **has been extended to 06 June 2008!**
- May 2008:** The **SA Node AGM** was held as planned on 12 May 2008. Thanks to all who were able to attend, as well as those who tendered apologies. [Click here for the minutes of the AGM.](#)
- April 2008:** The SA Node was formally registered as a not-for-profit organisation in 2007. In April 2008, the first full audit of the Node's records has been completed. The first **SA Node Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is being convened at **14h30 on 12 May 2008 at the Institute for Economic Research Innovation (IERI) boardroom in Pretoria.** All interested

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