

Cosmopolitan Karoo Research Forum (CKRF)

The Cosmopolitan Karoo Research Forum normally takes place every Thursday from 3-5 pm at the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. The forum is open to all interested staff, postdocs, and postgraduate students, as well as to the broader public.

The CKRF is a space of discussion in which reflecting on research projects and themes as they unfold within the broader SARChI programme, as well as to engage with relevant readings and theories. The CKRF host a range of speakers from research institutions and organisations in South Africa as well as from other parts of the world to discuss topics related to the broad themes of the SARChI Chair.

2021 PROGRAMME		
RECESS JULY 24 – AUG 10		
July 21-22	Writers' Workshop, Devon Valley, draft papers for edited book on social-ecological change in the Karoo	
July 15	Presentation	On the work of the Support Centre for Land Change led by Chriszanne Janse van Vuuren (SCLC)
July 8	Presentation	On the Karoo astro-tourism route led by Catherine Cress (UWC)
July 1	Presentation	On environmental justice & the just transition led by Jacklyn Cock (Wits)
June 24	Presentation	Loftus, Political ecology II: Whither the state?
June 17	<i>No Forum</i>	
June 10	Presentation	Fracking in the Karoo led by Mzi Xaba
June 3	Presentation	Renewable energy & the just transition in the Karoo led by Tumi Malope
May 27	Reading group	JPS article on extractivism
May 20	Reading group	Revisiting Holden et al on 'sustainable development'
THEMATIC FOCUS: JUST TRANSITION		
May 13	No Forum scheduled	
RECESS MAY 1 - 9		
April 29	Writing workshop	On Organisation, flow and signposting led by Cherryl Walker
April 22	Presentation	Mobility and its challenges for the colonial authorities in the Karoo led by Robert Ross (Leiden)
April 15	Presentation	The unquiet people: The !Xam presence in the Upper Karoo from the 1850s to the present led by Jose de Prada Samper
April 8	Reading Group	Legassick, Hidden Histories of Gordononia (2016), chapter 1 led by Cherryl Walker
THEMATIC FOCUS: HISTORY		
April 1	REC AGENDA CLOSSES	
April 1	Start of Easter weekend	
March 25	Research methodology	On case studies & "zoom" research led by Cherryl Walker
March 18	Professional development	Time management, workplans, proofreading, library resources led by Cherryl Walker
March 11	Reading group	Bridge et al, <i>Energy & Society</i> (2018), Introduction and chapter 5 led by Stef Borchardt
March 4	Reading group	Bank, 'Anthropology and fieldwork photography' (2006) led by Michela Marcатели
Feb 18	Welcome and year review	
2020 PROGRAMME		
Nov 27	Year-end social	A hybrid (cosmopolitan) event

Nov 26	Review workshop	Reflections on 2020 and the first phase of the Chair's research programme (2016-2020)
Nov 19	Presentations	MA theses: Shu-aat Davids & Melissa Coetzee
Nov 12-13	Workshop	<i>Cosmopolitan Karoo Research Group Writers' Workshop, Devon Valley (draft papers)</i>
November 5	Presentation	Imtiaz Sooliman (Gift of the Givers) on his NPO's humanitarian work
October 29	Presentations	On initiating field work under lockdown: Basheer Arries, Abi Gildenhuys and Lesego Shibambu
October 22	Discussion	'Covid Karoo': discussion on impact of covid pandemic, led by Michela Marcatelli
October 15	Presentation	Bram Buscher (Wageningen), on conservation and uneven wildlife geographies in Africa
October 8	Discussion	Reflections on POLLEN & AZEF conferences, plus input on Endangered Wildlife Trust course
Oct 5-8	Conference	<i>Arid Zones Ecology Forum (AZEF) (virtual)</i>
October 1	Presentation	Davide Chinigò, on 'Centring the margins: Astronomy and the SKA' project
Sept 24	Public holiday	<i>No forum</i>
Sept 22-25	Conference	<i>Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) biennial conference (virtual)</i>
Sept 17	Presentation	Michela Marcatelli, Stef Borchardt and Tumi Malope, on their POLLEN panel & papers
14 SEPT - 18 SEPT RECESS		
Sept 10	Presentation	Cobus Theron (Endangered Wildlife Trust), on their Sustainable Land Management Project.
Sept 3	Discussion	Eric Miller and Laurine Platzky on their documentary, <i>Hutchinson: Shunted</i>
August 27	Reading group	Discussion of articles on social science perspectives on Covid19 in <i>SA Journal of Science</i>
Aug 20 - 30	Film Festival	<i>Screening of Miller & Platzky, Hutchinson: Shunted, during Encounters Documentary Film Festival</i>
August 20	Reading group	Special compilation: COVID-19: More eyes on the problem: Perspectives from the social sciences and humanities, <i>South African Journal of Science</i> , 116(7&8), 2020
August 13	Presentation	Sonwabile Mnwana (Fort Hare) on Land, inequality & rural struggles in the Eastern Cape
August 6	Presentations	'Research proposals: Basheer Arries, Abigail Gildenhuys, Lesego Sibambu
July 30	Writing workshop	Professional communication (CVs, covering letters, etc), led by Cheryl Walker
SEMESTER TWO		
(ADJUSTED) RECESS 13 - 24 JULY 2020		
16 July	Discussion	On research struggles and coping strategies in a time of COVID
9 July	Review workshop	Reflections on the semester and 'Christmas in July'
July 2	Reading group	On Horkheimer and Critical Theory, led by Stef Borchardt
June 25	Reading group	On 'sacrifice zones', led by Cheryl Walker
June 18	Writing workshop	On abstracts for a Karoo Studies publication
June 11	<i>No forum</i>	<i>[WISER webinar on the basic income Grant]</i>
June 4	Presentation	Steven Cramer, on Karoo futures: Thoughts on a post-covid Karoo
May 28	Discussion group	Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the Karoo, led by Renelle Terblanche
May 21	Reading group	On 'degrowth', led by Michela Marcatelli
May 7	Presentations	Draft research proposals: Basheer Arries, Abigail Gildenhuys, Lesego Shibambu
April 30	Discussion	Reflections on impact of COVID-19 on research projects
April 23	Writing workshop	Discussion of drafts from Renelle Terblanche, Mzi Xaba, Michela Marcatelli
May 14	Reading group	On 'critical cosmopolitanism', led by Cheryl Walker
April 16	Writing Workshop	Academic writing; self-editing; professional communication; formatting requirements

April 9	Discussion	General discussion of selected readings on COVID-19, its impacts and significance
March 29	University	Final date for registrations
WEEKLY FORUM RESUMED AS AN ONLINE EVENT		
March 26	START OF NATIONAL LOCKDOWN	
	Inception event	Field trip to Planetarium & Iziko Museum, Cape Town
March 19	Discussion	Follow-up discussion of <i>Shunted</i> with Eric Miller and Laurine Platzky
March 19	Joint Dept seminar	Screening of Eric Miller & Laurine Platzky's <i>Shunted</i> (documentary) (13:00 – 14:30)
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC		
March 12	Discussion	On the Chair's draft 5-year review report
March 5	Discussion	On the draft Climate Justice Charter, led by Steven Robins
Feb 27	Reading group	On sustainable development (Holden et al) & a 'just transition'
Feb 20	Presentation	Boo Smuts & David Daitz (Landmark Foundation) on shepherding without borders project
Feb 13	Presentation	Thelma Oppelt (HSRC), on Carnarvon, heritage, tourism and the SKA
Feb 6	Research team	Welcome, report-backs, planning
Feb 4	Department	Postgraduate welcome
2019 PROGRAMME		
SEMESTER TWO		
Dec 12	HONS DEADLINE	FINAL DATE FOR RESEARCH PROJECT REPORTS
Nov 29	Review & social	Review workshop and evening social
Nov 21 tbc	Tbc JSAS issue launch	Tbc dialogue with Office of Astronomy for Development
Nov 14-15	Postgrad conference	Karoo Futures: with T Hoffman & students (UCT)
Nov 7	Research group tbc	Preliminary report on Loeriesfontein survey
Nov 1	M DEADLINE	M THESES FOR MARCH GRAD
Oct 31	Research Group tbc	Hons presentations
Oct 25	Launch	JSAS Astronomy & development special issue launch, Cambridge
Oct 24		
Oct 17		
Oct 16-18	Conference	PLAAS farm worker conference
Oct 10	Presentation	Adrian Nel (UKZN) on the Political ecological enquiry into the uMfolozi Biodiversity economy node
Oct 9	D DEADLINE	D DISS FOR MARCH GRAD
Oct 8 -10	Conference	AZEF, Kimberley
Oct 3	Presentation	Sonwabile Mnwana (Fort Hare) on 'Custom', 'property' and distributive claims on South Africa's rural mining frontier
Sept 26-28	Conference	ASnA, NMU
Sept 26	Presentation	Fieldwork report backs
Sept 19	Presentation	Tawanda Chingozha (OAD) on Sustainable Local Socio-Economic Development Through Astronomy
SEPT 7-15 RECESS		
Sept 5	Presentation	Rob Morrell (UCT), on Southern Theory
Sept 2	M DEADLINE	M THESES FOR DEC GRADUATION
Aug 29	Presentation	Timm Hoffman (UCT), on land degradation in Riemvasmaak
Aug 22	Dept seminar, 1 -2:30	Vish Satgar (with Indexing Transformation), also CST symposium
Aug 15	Presentation	Wendy Annecke (former SANParks) on social science research and SANParks
Aug 8	Screening	<i>You have struck a Rock</i> (in honour of Women's Day)
Aug 2	Department	Dept Postgraduate Conference
Aug 1	Research Group	Report-backs, planning
July 30	D DEADLINE	D DISS FOR DEC GRADUATION
July 29 – Aug 1	Survey, Loeriesfontein	Fieldwork
July 22 - 26	Survey, Loeriesfontein	Training of enumerators
21 JUNE – 22 JULY RECESS		
SEMESTER ONE		
July 15- 17	SASA Conference	Conference, UNISA (Pretoria)
June 20	Research Group	Presentations of SASA conference papers

June 13	Research Group	Working session on coding transcripts.
June 11-14	ECAS, Edinburgh	[CW, MiM]
June 6	Research Group	Debrief on field work
May 30	Presentation	Emile Smidt, on conservation labour and the cost of militarised responses to rhino poaching
May 23	Presentation	Andries du Toit (PLAAS), on agrarian change and biopolitics in post-apartheid South Africa
May 9	Department	MA proposal presentations
May 16	Writing Workshop	On thematic analysis
May 7	Department	MA proposal presentations
May 2	Presentation	Hein Gerwel (SU), on cannabis and pro-poor agricultural growth in Eastern Cape Province
April 25	Department	Honours proposal presentations
April 18	No Forum	[Easter long weekend 19-22]
April 11	Women's Land Summit	
April 11	Reading Group	On environmental justice (led by Michela Marcatelli)
April 4	Presentation	Desta Mebratu (SU, STIAS), on Transformative Infrastructure for Wellbeing Economy in Africa
March 29	University	Final date for registrations
March 28	Field trip	!Khwa ttu San Culture and Education Centre & West Coast Fossil Park
21 – 31 MARCH RECESS		
March 14	Writing workshop	Research team
March 7	Presentation	Steven Robins, on 'Day zero' and the politics of water in Cape Town
March 5	Woordfees	Cherryl Walker, panel discussion on Women, land, nature
Feb 28	Reading group	On social reproduction
Feb 21	Presentation	Bram Buscher (WU) on Saving nature in the era of post-truth politics & platform capitalism
Feb 14	Presentation	Michela Marcatelli (SU) on the land-water nexus
Feb 7	Research team	Welcome, report-backs, planning
Feb 4-5	PLAAS workshop	"Resolving the land question"
Feb 5	Department	Postgraduate welcome
2018 PROGRAMME		
SEMESTER TWO		
Nov 30	Review & social	Review workshop and social
Nov 26-27	Colloquium	Karoo Futures workshop: Envisioning land reform in South Africa's drylands
Nov 22	Presentation	Ebenaazer Appies (Stellenbosch), on renewable energy
Nov 19-21	Workshop	SU/Leipzig workshop on Knowledge Societies in Africa
Nov 15	Screening	Jarita Holbrook on her movie, <i>Karoo Radio Telescope</i> (2016)
Nov 13	Workshop	Workshop with municipality stakeholders on Sutherland survey
Nov 8	Presentation	Discussion of draft SARChI Sutherland Survey Report
Nov 1	Presentation	Presentations by Josh Musson, Adara Nicolls, Hermy Steenkamp on their Honours research projects
Nov 1		Last day for submitting Ms for March graduation
Oct 25	Report-backs	On AZEF, the Karoo Special Issue, and current fieldwork
Oct 18	Presentation	Presentations by Honours students on work in progress
Oct 16-18	AZEF	ARID ZONE ECOLOGY FORUM in Robertson
Oct 12	Screening	Dan Yon (Toronto), on his movie <i>Mining Memory: Legacies of St Helena in the Northern Cape</i>
Oct 11	Presentation	Sarah Buchner, commissioning scientist, SKA
Oct 10		Last day for submitting PhDs for March graduation
Oct 4	No forum	
Sept 28	SKA workshop	
Sept 27	Report back	General report-back on conferences, field work and papers
Sept 20	Presentation	Nigel Amschwand on his book, 1847.
SEPT 3 - 14 RECESS		

Sept 6	Presentation	Led by Monene Mogashoa, on her research on the meanings of land [DC and CW at the IAS Conference]
Sept 3		<i>Last day for submitting M theses for Dec graduation</i>
Aug 30	Writing workshop	On writing an abstract
Aug 23	Reading group	On labour and/or related themes
Aug 16	Reading group	On 'Human-nature Interactions through a multispecies lens' (Aisher & Damodaran, <i>Conservation & Society</i> 2016)
Aug 9	HOLIDAY	
Aug 3		<i>Dept Postgraduate Conference</i>
Aug 2	Dialogue	Discussion among astronomers and social scientists on what we do and how, with Roy Maartens (SARChI SKA), Vanessa McBride (IAU Office of Astronomy for Development), Cherryl Walker and Davide Chinigò
July 26	Research team	Catch-up and semester review (3-4 p.m.)
22 JUNE – 23 JULY RECESS		
SEMESTER ONE		
June 22	Review workshop	Report-backs and semester review, followed by social
June 14	Student presentations	Presentations on new (2018) research proposals and draft SASA conference papers
June 7	Presentation	Emma Archer (CSIR) on climate change and the Karoo
May 31	Writing workshop	Student writing workshop
May 24	Presentation	Marianne Grzondziel (Freiburg) on farm worker issues in the Central Karoo
May 17	Presentation	Olaf Zenker (Bern) on land restitution
May 10	Department	Departmental MA proposal presentations (also on 9 th)
May 8	PLAAS Seminar	Cherryl Walker on current research, PLAAS, UWC
May 7	UCT Seminar	Davide Chinigò on current research, UCT Sociology Department
May 3	Presentation	Simon Hall (UCT) on living heritage in the Karoo
April 26	Presentation	Ilse Eigelaar-Meets on migration in Northern Cape Province
April 19	Presentation	Led by Monene Mogashoa (PhD student) on land, memory and identity
April 12	Reading group	Led by Renelle Terblanche (PhD student) on social capital
March 22	Presentations and report back	Presentation of draft papers by Cherryl Walker and Davide Chinigò on the astronomy and land-use change in the Karoo, and report-back from fieldwork
March 15	Reading Group	Led by Tumi Malope (PhD student) on the minerals-energy complex and precarious work in relation to renewable energy
March 14	Workshop	HSRC community engagement workshop in Carnarvon
March 8	Reading Group	Led by Charmaine Manyani (PhD student) on game farming and land use changes
March 7-8	Conference	History of Astronomy Conference
March 1	Presentation	Jose de Prada-Samper (Barcelona) on Heritage and Karoo Cosmos
Feb 22-23	JSAS workshop	Writers workshop: Karoo futures part-special issue (forthcoming)
Feb 12-18	Field trip	Beginning of the year fieldtrip to the Eastern Karoo
Feb 8	Reading group	Led by Davide Chinigò (post-doc) on issues of scale
2017 PROGRAMME		
SEMESTER TWO		
Dec 1	Team workshop	Review workshop & social
Nov 22-23	Conference	Postgraduate research conference, co-hosted with PLAAS (UWC)
Nov 16	Presentation	Students reviewed their presentations for the upcoming conference.
Nov 2, 9	<i>No forum: socio-economic survey in Sutherland scheduled in this time</i>	
Oct 26	Team presentations	Presentations by SARChI PhD students on work in progress
Oct 19	Team Presentation	Presentations by SARChI Honours students on work in progress

Oct 12	Presentation	Sharron Marco-Thyse (CRLS), on farm workers in the Central Karoo and the work of the Centre For Rural Legal Studies
Oct 5	Presentation	Khumisho Moguerane (UJ), on Northern Cape history
Sept 28	Presentation	Wendy Annecke (SANParks), on social-ecological research and protected areas
Sept 27	Public lecture	Bernie Fanaroff (SKA), on 'Science, the SKA and Big Data: Can Africa lead?', co-hosted with STIAS
Sept 21	Team presentation	Presentations by postgrad students on work in progress
Sept 14	Team presentation	Presentations by SARChI MA students on work in progress
SEPT 2 – 10 RECESS		
Aug 31	Writing workshop	Research team workshop: On writing a conceptual framework
Aug 24	Reading group	Research team reading group
Aug 17	Presentation	James Chibueze (SKA), on the SKA & AVN and astronomy for development
Aug 10	Presentation	Caroline Poole (research team): Vanwyksvlei survey findings; Cherryl Walker, Davide Chinigó : paper presented to MEARIM
Aug 4	<i>Departmental Postgraduate Conference (Ds & MAs to present work in progress; open to all)</i>	
Aug 3	Presentation	Leana Olivier (FARR) on the work of the Foundation for Alcohol Related Research (FARR) in the Karoo
July 27	Presentation	David Davidson (SU) & students, on engineering, radio astronomy & the SKA
July 20	Presentation	Hedley Twidle (UCT), on 'The Pitfalls of Geological Consciousness: The Politics of Deep Time in South Africa.'
July 17	<i>Classes start; Hons research proposals due</i>	
JUNE 23 – JULY 16 RECESS		
SEMESTER ONE		
June 21	Team workshop	Semester review; followed by social
June 15	Presentation	Johann Kirsten (SU) on agriculture and land reform in the N Cape
June 8	Presentation	Timm Hoffman (UCT), with Francois van der Merwe (LHSK Trust), on conservation challenges & the work of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust
June 1	Presentation	Bram Buscher (WU) on his current research programme
May 25	Team workshop	Writing workshop
May 18	Report-backs	Reflections on fieldwork
May 11	Reading group	Articles on sustainable development and assemblage theory
May 4	Planning meeting	Review of programme for 2 nd quarter
May 3, 4	<i>MA proposals</i>	<i>Presentation of draft proposals to the Department</i>
April 20	<i>Honours projects</i>	<i>Presentation of research ideas to the Department</i>
April 6	Presentation	Anton Binneman (SKA), on the SKA and community engagement
March 30	Reading group	Articles on political ecology and the capitalocene
March 23	Presentation	Pam Christie (UCT) on the history of education in Carnarvon
March 16	Project proposals	Discussion of individual research questions (new projects)
Feb 23	Report-backs	Reflections on the inception field trip; semester planning
2016 Programme		
SEMESTER TWO		
Nov 31	Team workshop	Review of year, followed by social event
Nov 22	Team workshop	Writing workshop
Nov 17	Team workshop	Reflections on the Colloquium
Nov 7/8		Karoo Futures? Trajectories of Change
Oct 27	Report-backs	Reports from conferences and the field
Oct 20	Report-backs	Reports from conferences and the field
Oct 13	Presentation	Sharmila Goedhart (SKA), on astronomy and the SKA
Sept 29	Presentation	Bram Buscher (Wageningen), on crisis conservation
Sept 28	Presentation	Stasja Koot (Wageningen), on Khoisan identity
Sept 15	Presentation	Clement Cupido (ARC), on smallholder pastoralism
Sept 1	Presentation	John Parkington (UCT), on Khoisan cosmologies
Aug 25	Presentation	David Fig (Wits and UCT), on fracking
Aug 18	Presentation	Oonsie Biggs (SU) on social-ecological systems and resilience

Aug 11	Presentation	Ben Cousins (PLAAS, UWC), on land & agrarian reform
Aug 4	Presentation	Lesley Green (UCT), on contested ecologies
July 28	Honours elective	Readings on theoretical perspectives
July 21	Honours elective	Readings on the history of land in South Africa
SEMESTER ONE		
June 9	Team workshop	Review of activities in the first semester, followed by social event
June 2	Report-backs	Reflections on field trips
May 26	Presentation	Nigel Penn (UCT) on the history of the Nieuweveld
May 19	Presentation	Michael Gastrow (HSRC) on SKA, science communication & media
May 12	Presentation	Sara Berry (Johns Hopkins) on research practice
May 6	Reading group	Articles by Latour, Thomas Cousins (SU) to provide lead-in.
April 20	Presentation	Doreen Atkinson (UoFS), on Karoo development issues.
April 14	Presentation	Nicoli Natrass (UCT) and Beatrice Conradie (UCT): 'Predator control & contested ecologies in the Karoo'
April 7	Presentation	Steven Robins (SU) on the history of the Williston Basters
March 31	Project proposals	Discussion of individual research problems/questions
March 17	Reading Group	Articles on political ecology
March 10	Presentation	Marja Spierenburg (VU) & Shirley Brooks (UWC): 'Game farming, conservation and land rights in South/southern Africa'
March 3	Presentation	Dan Yon (York University, Toronto): 'The Island, the Ocean and the Desert: Memory and the St Helena presence in the Northern Cape'
Feb 25	Reading Group	Articles on critical cosmopolitanism
Feb 18	Presentation	Lorenzo Raynard (SKA), on the SKA