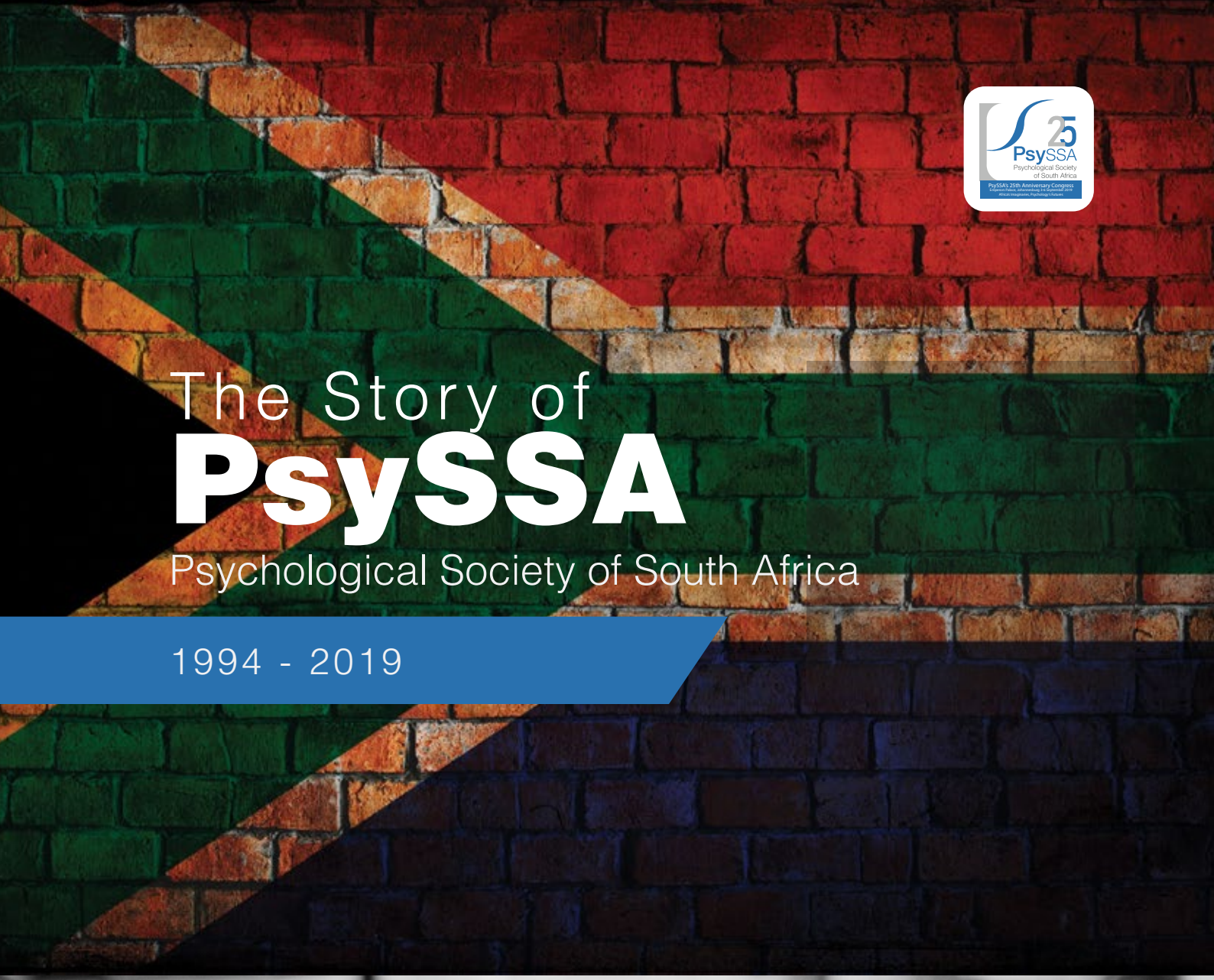

The Story of PsySSA

Psychological Society of South Africa

1994 - 2019

Building a Unified, Relevant & Responsive Psychology

EXCELLENCE
To maintain and encourage the highest standards of professional and scientific competence to ensure national and international best practice.

DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE
To conduct activities in a democratic, accountable and transparent manner; we strive for efficiency and effectiveness in the management of PsySSA.

SOCIAL RELEVANCE
To encourage a multiplicity of opinions and seek ways to incorporate the voices and experiences of all communities and avenues of Psychology.

PEOPLE-CENTREDNESS
To care about the interests and needs of our members, strive to empower and build the capacity of our members to realize their full potential, and we support lifelong learning.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORIENTED
To commit to a human rights culture informed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights aligned to the Bill of Rights. To strive to ensure that our members, Council, the Executive and staff are treated with dignity, equity and fairness.

INTEGRITY
To act with integrity, communicate respectfully and accept responsibility for our words and actions and we require ethical, professional behaviour by all persons associated with PsySSA.

PsySSA
Psychological Society of South Africa

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PsySSA
Psychological Society of South Africa

PsySSA's History

"Organised psychology's historical role and evolution has often mimicked and mirrored socio-historical developments within the South African social formation at different historical junctures, thus acting as a microcosm of South African society at different periods." (Suffla, Stevens & Seedat, 2001, p. 28)

Organized Psychology Pre 1994

Our history

When Nelson Mandela was released from jail on 11 February 1990 (President De Klerk announced this on 2 February), the Psychological Association of South Africa (PASA), Psychologists Against Apartheid (PAA), the Organisation of Alternative Social Services of South Africa (OASSA), and the Black Psychologists Forum (BPF) were in existence. Despite the sordid history of organised psychology's nefarious kinship with apartheid, PASA and PAA engaged in talks in 1991 about uniting the profession under one national body – moving beyond the socio-political baggage of the existing largely racialised bodies – to represent all of psychology.

A negotiated political settlement – CODESA, Convention for a Democratic South Africa - to address our apartheid past formally began on 21 December 1991, with many nerve-wracking stops and precipitous turns. On 17 March 1992 white voters were *asked "Do you support the continuation of the reform process that the state president started on 2 February 1990 and which is aimed at a new constitution through negotiation?"* (Traydon, 2017). In a voter turnout of 86%, 68.7% (1,924,186) voted *Yes*. "Today we have closed the book on apartheid", said de Klerk. (Ibid.)

The white Professional Board for Psychology (then an auxiliary/allied profession in the former Medical and Dental Council, now Health Professions Council) quickly joined the process, provided resources, called meetings, trying to shape the inevitable outcome of a national non-racial non-partisan professional body in psychology. In the third week of January 1994 a historic Psychology Unity Conference was convened at the University of the Western Cape. PASA, PAA and the BPF were each disbanded and PsySSA was inaugurated on 21 January. PsySSA was a trailblazer, the first national non-racial, non-sexist, non-sectarian professional body created some four months before Mandela took office as President of a democratic South Africa (SA).

An almost fatal crisis was averted when PASA members, contrary to the agreement reached, presented proxy votes during voting for the inaugural Executive Committee (Cooper, 2019). Proxy votes have been viewed sceptically since that formative backdrop when certain sectors were perceived to foist their choices of acceptable black leaders (Ibid). The PsySSA Constitution requires voting by members "present in person." With subsequent breakaways by those opposed to the progressive and inclusive direction followed by PsySSA, we may well ask if we have indeed "closed the book on apartheid" and if we are open to the change that is upon us and which the southern tip of Africa should enjoy for psychology's flag to be flown high.

Before PsySSA

While Jan Smuts 1895 study of personality may be SA's first psychological publication, R. W. Wilcocks was appointed the first Professor of Logic and Psychology at the University of Stellenbosch during WW1. Smuts appointed E. G. Malherbe and Simon Biesheuvel to the military during WW11, which boosted psychology's applications and growth in SA and other jurisdictions. The South African Psychological Association (SAPA) was formed in Bloemfontein within weeks of DF Malan's National Party coming to power on 26 May 1948 (Cooper, 2014).

SAPA adhered to apartheid prescripts, only granting select black membership in 1962 after heated discussions on black membership ensued from 1957 (Ibid). During this lengthy period Josephine Naidoo, whose membership was in contention, had withdrawn her application and left the country, but the seeds for implosion in SAPA were sown. HF Verwoerd resigned his honorary membership, and a breakaway Psychological Institute was formed with Paul Robbertze and Dreyer Kruger amongst its leaders (Ibid). In 1983, these two entities united under the Psychological Association of SA, but the leadership remained white and largely male Afrikaner (Ibid). The consequences, in the second decade of the twentieth century, of the legacy of privileging a minority, is reflected in the racially skewed pattern of the black majority remaining underrepresented and underserved. An untenable position for the scarce and priority resource that psychology is.

PsySSA from its inception has sought to unify psychology in SA, replacing all previous, often segregated, narrowly focussed formations. PsySSA's voluntary membership – an independent, non-racist and non-sexist national professional body – seeks to reflect a positive trajectory that shows bold leadership, which SA cries out for during this tumultuous period of our collective history.

"PsySSA ended the ignominious period of psychology being spurned at home and abroad as a convenient and often willing alter ego of an oppressive and exclusionary system, where the very science and its applications were suborned to serve narrow political interests at the expense of the greater majority in South African society." (Cooper, 2014)

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The Establishment of PsySSA

The Launch of PsySSA: Reflections of a Black Psychologist

January 21, 1994

A row of psychologists sits poker-faced, focussed, determined, in the tiered benches of the lecture theatre at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). A4 sheets of paper marked with the number 4, are held aloft for the chief the electoral officer, a member of a once banned Trade Union, to count during the process of election for the first non-racial, democratic Psychology Association in South Africa. A voting that takes place 3 months before the first democratic election for a free democratic South Africa, which saw President Nelson Mandela become the President of a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

This Number 4 sign is significant, in that it represented a negotiated proxy vote for 4 other psychologists mandating their representative to cast their ballot. A clever concession gained by PASA. A monumental tactical error in hindsight. This four-fold vote in the hands of the white PASA aligned psychologists' jars, especially given the impending one-person one vote first democratic election in South Africa.

It felt strange voting for the first time. Voting for a non-racial psychology association in a structurally sanctioned racist time in a discipline that had in its history, foregrounded racial superiority and deemed black people to have diminished intelligence based on their blackness. This continued overtly through PIRSA to deny Black psychologists from contributing professionally in organised psychology. A trend that continued with the Psychology Association of South Africa (PASA), when the conservative voices held sway in that organisation. And 25 years later, this veering to the right, still regularly distracts and derails PsySSA from focussing on its progressive mandate of psychology serving humanity.

"It felt strange voting for the first time. Voting for a non-racial psychology association in a structurally sanctioned racist time in a discipline that had in its history, foregrounded racial superiority and deemed black people to have diminished intelligence based on their blackness"

Preparations, contestations and solidarity

The preparations for the establishing of the first, single unified, non-racial, democratic organised Psychology Association was filled with excitement, hard work and contestation for advantage. The Black Psychologist group, called 'Psychology against Apartheid' committee, had under the leadership of Lionel Nicholas, Saths Cooper, Mohamed Seedat, Sandy Lazarus, Kedibone - Letlaka Rennert and Thandi Mgoduso brought sharp focus on the racist underpinnings of South African Psychology, and historically complicitous nature of the Apartheid Psychology associations. It shone on the light on a lack of attention both theoretically and practically on the psychological needs of the majority in the Black world. The feeble attempts at justifying the impact of apartheid as being embedded in the congenital intellectual deficits of the black person were challenged with reason and thoughtful scholarly engagement. The contributions of psychologists working internationally in developing a contextualised, appropriate resistance to the discourse of the eugenics movement, the psychological terror campaigns in a US invaded Nicaragua, in occupied Palestine; brought their

considerable knowledge and experience to support the emergent progressive psychology in South Africa. The 'Psychology and Apartheid' and the 'Psychology and Oppression' conferences brought these international colleagues to South Africa, where they inspired psychology staff and students to think of psychology not only as a tool of oppression, but one of liberation. The tremendous debt that is owed to Hussein Bulhan (Somaliland), Joanne Tortorici (Nicaragua), Ahmad Baker (Palestine), Leo Kamin (USA), Nadera Kevorkian-Shalhoub (Palestine), James Statman (USA), among others is has over these 25 years been paid in the work of South African, African and psychologists globally in the development of insightful knowledge production, contextually embedded psychological intervention work, and a global solidarity in supporting the oppressed through a psychological and political lens.

The intense resistance of South African psychologists to making psychology serve the interests of humanity began in earnest on that day at UWC. I can see the faces of psychologists inspired by those engagements as I was on that day. I feel so clearly the joy of Shahnaaz Suffla, Norman Duncan, Garth Stevens, Mohamed Adam, Melvyn Freeman, Rashid Ahmed, Victor Nel and other OASSAA colleagues whose efforts helped birth PsySSA.

"The intense resistance of South African psychologists to making psychology serve the interests of humanity began in earnest on that day at UWC. I can see the faces of psychologists inspired by those engagements as I was on that day."

PsySSA, entrusted with task of contributing to the rehabilitation and reclaiming of psyches fractured by apartheid, and offering hope and succour for understanding and healing an oppressed society. A continuing work in progress on this 25th Anniversary.

The early YEARS

1994 to 2004

"The coming of democracy to South Africa in 1994 was also reflected in major transformations in the discipline and profession of psychology" (Painter and Terre Blanche (2004, p. 532)

Transformation and Development

Following the inauguration of PsySSA on 21 January 1994 during the historic Psychology Unity Conference at the University of the Western Cape, the Society embarked on a programme of transformation and development of the science and practice of psychology in South Africa to position the discipline to meet the post-Apartheid needs of the country. Strategic priorities underpinning this programme were formalise in PsySSA's first Strategic Plan in 2001. They included supporting the growth of PsySSA and its goals through engagement and advocacy with government, civil society and private entities regarding key policy imperatives and issues in psychology relevant to the challenges facing the country. This included *inter alia* raising the profile and impact of the discipline through involvement in

the revisioning of mental health legislation, changing the demographic profile of the discipline, the involvement of leading psychologists in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and engagement and negotiations with relevant Government Departments (e.g. Correctional Services, Education, Health, Justice, and Labour), Trade Unions, as well as entities such as the Road Accident Fund, SAQA's Psychology Standards Generating Body, the Board of Healthcare Funders, and medical aids. PsySSA also forged a strategic working relationship with the more inclusive and reconstituted Professional Board for Psychology of the HPCSA, with engagement at the time primarily centred around a revision of the dispensation for training and tariffs, changing the demographic profile of the discipline, the development and implementation of continuing professional development, and the development of a Code of Ethical Conduct for Psychologists, which incorporated the PsySSA Ethical Code. The Board additionally approved limited prescriptive rights for psychologists in 2004 following lobbying by PsySSA, although the HPCSA voted against this after being petitioned by Psychiatrists.

"Strong advocacy and intervention by PsySSA leadership resulted in several landmark legislative changes regarding the role and status of psychologists."

Strong advocacy and intervention by PsySSA leadership resulted in several landmark legislative changes regarding the role and status of psychologists. This included preventing the banning of psychological testing with the enactment of the Employment Equity Act of 1998, following the negative health sector findings by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as amendment of the Criminal Procedure Act (Act 51, 1977) to allow qualified psychologists to make mental status determinations of accused persons. PsySSA was also instrumental in psychology being declared a "scarce and priority" resource in South Africa in the late 1990s in recognition of the need for psychological services in the country. In addition, salary packages for psychologists in the public sector were improved so that they are now largely on a par with those in the private sector.

The transformation process needed to ensure that psychology was able to meet the needs of a democratic South Africa has not found support amongst all psychologists, and resulted in periods of divisiveness and conflict within our discipline, which remain evident within psychology during times of change.

Key PsySSA activities during the first 10 years included hosting the flagship Annual National Psychology Congress, continuing education and training workshops, publication of the *South African Journal of Psychology* (SAJP), and implementation of the newsletter, PsyTalk. SAJP was revisioned following the formation of the Society and actively promoted scholarship and publication amongst previously excluded black psychologists. A special issue of the journal dealing with the TRC was published in March 2000. Since its inception PsySSA's Annual National Psychology Congress has provided a platform for psychologists to keep abreast of current scientific, professional and ethical developments, and to network with national, regional and international psychologists.

PsySSA projects and initiatives included the PsySSA Community Development and Scholarship Fund, which sadly no longer exists, and the PsySSA Counselling Clinic on Transnet's Phelophepa Healthcare Train, which provides mental health services to communities in rural areas, as well as training for psychology students in community-based work. In 2002 PsySSA implemented a Fellowship programme and appointed its first two Fellows, Saths Cooper and Cheryl del a Rey.

International Relations

From the outset PsySSA embarked on a vigorous programme of reconnecting with the international psychology community to end years of Apartheid era isolation. An International Relations Committee was tasked with enhancing the standing of South African psychology internationally and building conducive relationships with other national psychology associations. Further to these initiatives South Africa was readmitted as Member of the International Union

of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) in 1996 and PsySSA hosted the IUPsyS Regional Congress of Psychology in Durban in 1999, the first time that such a meeting had been held on the African continent. Of note is that the Professional Board for Psychology decided that this Regional Congress would also be the first official continuing education accredited event in history of psychology in South Africa! In 2000 Saths Cooper became the first South African to be elected to the IUPsyS Executive Committee, receiving the highest number of votes in the election. In 2001 PsySSA became affiliated to the International Test Commission. PsySSA's first decade culminated in 2004 with South Africa being awarded the bid to host IUPsyS' 30th International Congress of Psychology in Cape Town in 2012, the first time that this Congress had been held on African soil in its then 123 year history, as well as Saths Cooper being elected a Vice President of the Union.

PsySSA also forged working collaborative relationships with national psychology organizations globally by initiating a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) Partner programme in 1996, the overarching aim of which is to advance the science and application of psychology. The first MoU was signed with the American Psychological Society in 1996. The MoU Partner programme is ongoing and to date PsySSA has signed MoUs and established relationships with 30 organizations worldwide.

"The first MoU was signed with the American Psychological Society in 1996. The MoU Partner programme is ongoing and to date PsySSA has signed MoUs and established relationships with 30 organizations worldwide."

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A Society in Transition

2005 to 2015

Bidding for and, subsequently, organising and hosting, the premier event in international Psychology, are defining aspects of the second decade in the life of this young Society. Emanating from PsySSA's membership of, and leadership in, the International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS), the International Congress of Psychology (ICP, 2012), held every four years, was hosted by South Africa, and PsySSA, in particular, in Cape Town from 22-27 July 2012 (See elsewhere in this report for a related overview). Importantly, hosting ICP2012 not only put African psychology on the map, internationally, heralding newfound possibility for the discipline, but also strengthened the Society's networks and infrastructure, tenfold, thus forever changing the manner in which it functions.

During this period, PsySSA, accordingly, begun taking the lead in addressing transformation and redressing silences in psychology, internationally, on the continent and closer to home. This is, among others, evidenced in the creation of the Pan-African Psychology Union, first announced at ICP 2012, officially launched at the 20th Annual Congress

of South African Psychology in 2014. PsySSA in its quest to develop the discipline of psychology nationally and internationally as a means of enhancing human well-being of all, including the sexually and gender-diverse, has since 2007 been a member of the International Psychology Network for LGBT Issues (IPsyNET), housed at the American Psychological Association. This network facilitates and supports the contributions of psychological organisations to the improved health, well-being, and enjoyment of human rights by people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The Arcus-funded PsySSA African LGBTI Human Rights Project (2012, and ongoing), originates from involvement in IPsyNET and ICP2012, and culminated in the adoption of the PsySSA sexual and gender diversity position statement in 2013 and an amicus brief, also in 2013, on the negative effects of homophobic hate speech in the South African Human Rights Commission v. Jon Qwelane case, that first served before the court in 2014.

"PsySSA in its quest to develop the discipline of psychology nationally and internationally as a means of enhancing human well-being of all, including the sexually and gender-diverse, has since 2007 been a member of the International Psychology Network for LGBT Issues (IPsyNET)"

During 2013-2015, the Society benefitted not only from the mentioned heightened interest in the region, but also and unequivocal recommitment to six key strategic drivers, namely: Membership; Growth and Sustainability; Effectiveness and Efficiency; Good Governance; Stakeholder Engagement and Relationship Management; and Global Footprint. PsySSA has long been guided by numerous strategic plans, the first being a three-year plan in 2001. The Strategic Plan (2009-2013) was reviewed in 2011 and the Society's core vision, mission and values were further refined. Despite the activities, performance indicators and time frames outlined, this strategic plan was never operationalised. At an internal workshop for PsySSA leadership in 2013, the PsySSA Strategic Plan (2014-2018) was conceptualised. It, in essence, was a reiteration of the previous strategic- and operational plans, but incorporating a more realistic assessment of what was feasible, together with the priorities for the Society. The operationalisation of that plan commenced in earnest in 2014 with an emphasis on 'working towards a discipline and Society that is much more relevant and responsive to the concerns and priorities of South Africa, Africa and the world'. In addition, and to better inform operationalisation, strategic objectives were identified for each key strategic driver. Related activities (programmes and projects) were vast and it soon became necessary to articulate annual priorities to enable a phased approach to the plan's implementation. It was deemed important to report against the operationalisation plan at meetings of the Executive and Council, and a tracking tool was developed to support this. Progress was also reported on at Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of the Society, with inclusion of a related section in all Annual Reports from 2014 onwards.

Given the celebration of PsySSA's 20th anniversary in 2014, informed by the PsySSA 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, and in the spirit of better serving the discipline of Psychology, the focus of the Society in 2014/5 was on strengthening ties with both the Health Professions Council of South Africa Board for Psychology, as well as tertiary institutions throughout South Africa. Towards this end, and following the launch of a PsySSA HoD (Heads of Department) Forum, a PsySSA Presidential Road Show was initiated to share information regarding the Society, engage students, academics and tertiary institution-based psychology professionals on the future of organised psychology in South Africa, and to emphasise the importance of participating in the PsySSA-hosted Annual South African Psychology Congress.

In particular, PsySSA's aim with this considerable investment to visit the majority of tertiary institutions in South Africa that offer Psychology was to ensure the next generation of psychology professionals (thus, 3rd year and postgraduate students of Psychology) were encouraged at an early stage to become members of PsySSA, as the representative

body of psychology professionals in the country, operating as a trade union for the discipline. With the professional Society, but also South African society in transition, leadership similarly deemed it necessary to critically engage with non-members as to how PsySSA can and ought to advance South African Psychology as a science and profession of global stature that promotes psychological praxis as relevant, proactive and responsive to societal needs and well-being.

Stepping into the Unknown

2016 to 2019

PsySSA 2016-2018 – the Wonder Years

The 2016-2018 period can be described as the coming of age for PsySSA. Post the ICP 2012, PsySSA had grown tremendously in terms of staff, processes and recognition. The Society was by 2016 well recognized nationally and internationally as the voice of Psychology in South Africa. As such, the society played host to the Pan African Psychology Union and hosted the inaugural PAPU Congress in 2017 under the astute chairmanship of PsySSA Past President, Prof Anthony Pillay. The Society supported the International Neuropsychological Society in hosting their World Congress in Cape Town in 2017.

"The Society released a number of media statements on core issues affecting the nations psyche and was amongst the organisations to highlight the injustices and human rights violations at Life Esidemeni. "

The Society's own congresses focused on issues relevant to the discipline with themes focusing on Psychology's Response(ability) and Mamela Psychology – the need to listen. The Congresses were well attended with each year in the 2016-2018 period attracting more and more delegates. PsySSA membership also grew tremendously in this year mirroring the growth last seen during the early years of the Society.

The Wonder years are described as such as a lot seemed to favour the Society's growth. The Society had obtained its own premises in Parktown. It boasted a newly revamped and contemporary website that matched the chic and professional look of the offices. PsyTalk went digital and two new publications joined the Society – the African Journal of Psychological Assessment (AJOPA) and the Online Readings in Research Methods (ORIM). In keeping with digitization initiatives, the Congress continued to use an online submission system inherited from the ICP2012 and enhanced annually to suit the Society's needs. Membership registrations and renewals also went paperless to a seamless online system that offered the membership benefit of a listing in the virtual PsySSA Directory.

The Society released a number of media statements on core issues affecting the nations psyche and was amongst the organisations to highlight the injustices and human rights violations at Life Esidemeni. The Society contributed to requests for amendments to the Criminal Procedures and Child Justice Acts as well as the NHI amongst others during this period.

The Society adopted the nearby Roseneath School as its social responsibility project. The Society sourced sponsorship and member support to assist the school in setting up a library.

2016-2018 can also be described as amongst the more challenging times for the profession. The Scope of Practice for psychologists was at the core of a courtcase against the Professional Board for Psychology. In an attempt to assist both parties in the case to move forward, PsySSA initiated a mediation process with the parties. Whether the Society assisted either party is a tale that only the parties can tell. Post the mediation, the matter continued in Court leading to a historic judgement on the 14 November 2016, in the High Court of South Africa, Western Cape Division, Cape Town (Case No: 12420/13) which ruled, inter alia:

> 3. The Regulations Defining the Scope of the Profession of Psychology (published GNR 704 in GG 34581 of 2 September 2011) ("the Regulations") are declared invalid.

PsySSA initiated a countrywide process of consultation and engagement to reimagine a more relevant psychology. This process canvassed opinion on several informed models for the Profession of Psychology such that the Professional Board for Psychology may consider these in deliberations on the changes needed for the Scope of Practice in Psychology. This process culminated in a PsySSA submission to the Professional Board for Psychology that incorporated the views of various stakeholders within and outside of PsySSA including academics, practitioners and students. To date, the Scope of Practice remains unresolved despite the two year period provided in the judgement. Only time will tell the efficacy (or not) of the PsySSA efforts in this regard.

"2016-2018 can also be described as amongst the most volatile and possibly even divisive periods for the profession. The contested nature of the existing Scope of Practice provided a leverage point for medical aids with some medical aids choosing not to reimburse educational and counseling psychologists for their services. "

2016-2018 can also be described as amongst the most volatile and possibly even divisive periods for the profession. The contested nature of the existing Scope of Practice provided a leverage point for medical aids with some medical aids choosing not to reimburse educational and counseling psychologists for their services. Despite the core focus of PsySSA as primarily a learned Society, the Society consulted with various medical aids in an attempt to reverse this position. Consistently the companies chose to leave the status quo until the Scope was finalized. To date, the status quo remains.

A second court case influenced the discipline greatly during this time period. The introduction and subsequent removal of Clause (d) from the Employment Equity Act gave impetus to the need to examine the criteria used to evaluate psychological assessments. The High Court Judgement of 2 May 2017 made it clear that the mandate of the HPCSA is to classify tests as psychological tests or not. Until the minister has published new regulations with clear and objective criteria for the professional evaluation of tests, the responsibility for quality assurance reverts to registered psychologists and psychometrists. A working group consisting of representatives from SIOPSA, PsySSA and ATP-SA collaborated to form Assessment Standards South Africa (ASSA). This non-profit organisation aims to promote the use of psychometrically sound and ethical assessments in South Africa. As such the first project this group focussed on was developing clear assessment review guidelines.

Amidst these challenges, the Society ensured that it actively worked on the activities outlined in the 2015 Strategic Plan achieving the goals set for membership, infrastructure, human resources, (need to insert the other2 or 3 areas here) were met.

2016-2018 can certainly be described as active and eventful. Like any coming of age teenager this period saw the Society traverse through the identity versus identity confusion stage. The debates with the Scope and the medical aids saw the society traverse the Intimacy versus isolation stage to reach generativity versus stagnation. The new strategic plan will ensure that PsySSA continues to grow beyond the Wonder Years.

Conferences

ICP2012

International Congress of Psychology (ICP) 2012

South African Psychology has a dubious history, mainly due to apartheid policies that were adopted by the leadership of the erstwhile Psychology associations that sought to keep organized Psychology in line with all other national racist practices. This effectively saw South African Psychology excluded from recognised international organisations until PsySSA's formation in 1994. Under the stewardship of some of the founding leadership, PsySSA was awarded the right to host the International Congress of Psychology in 2012 (ICP 2012) in collaboration with the National Research Foundation. The event, which is a quadrennial scientific meeting, was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre and drew in excess of 6000 delegates. The ICP 2012 represented the first-ever such meeting on African soil, with the inaugural event having taken place in 1889 in Paris.

"...the awarding of this prestige event to South Africa was significant for many reasons, not least of which was the recognition of South African Psychology and its place in the international scholarly arena"

Clearly the awarding of this prestige event to South Africa was significant for many reasons, not least of which was the recognition of South African Psychology and its place in the international scholarly arena. The event was planned and in the making for a period of over six years, culminating in an historic Psychology extravaganza, the likes of which had never before been witnessed on the African continent. Understandably then, organising the ICP 2012 was a colossal task, involving PsySSA members, its leadership and numerous others. The event was held under the theme Psychology Serving Humanity that was considered very fitting globally.

The Scientific Committee (SC), Chaired by PsySSA Past President Norman Duncan, had the onerous task of developing the programme, which involved a range of responsibilities, including calling for abstract submissions as well as inviting presentations from distinguished psychologists and mental health specialists internationally. Leading the quest to support and further local development and enterprise, the SC worked with local software development experts to create a customised online abstract submission, review and management system that was able to handle the intense flow of abstracts. Approximately 10 000 abstracts had been received and the eventual rejection rate was about 30%.

Professor Duncan and his team are lauded for their tireless work in delivering a scientific programme of international standard despite the volume of activity and the multiple pressures of organising such a mammoth event.

The ICP 2012 included an Emerging Psychologists Programme (EPP) aimed at recent PhD graduates from around the world. The EPP was excellently chaired by Professor Sumaya Laher, who had the task of developing a comprehensive programme to meet the differing needs of emerging scholars from various countries. The programme featured a host of workshops, presentations and other activities geared towards helping the early career psychologists contemplate and carve out a path for future development in research and academia.

The glittering opening ceremony filled the CTICC with the sounds of Africa that heralded the bringing together of Psychologists on the continent that gave birth to the human race. Dr Navi Pillay, the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivered the Opening Address, while the renowned cleric, anti-apartheid activist and Nobel Peace laureate, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu received the Steve Biko Award for Psychological Liberation. In the course of the ICP 2012 a number of special awards were presented, including the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) Achievement Against the Odds Award to Professor Saths Cooper.

"The glittering opening ceremony filled the CTICC with the sounds of Africa that heralded the bringing together of Psychologists on the continent that gave birth to the human race."

The scientific programme was filled with something for everyone, and virtually all specialties in Psychology and mental health were covered. The format included Keynote Addresses, State of the Science lectures, controversial debates, symposia, free paper sessions, posters, as well as 14 pre-congress workshops. There were approximately 20 parallel sessions featuring over 4500 presentations. Paper and posters in the areas of organisational, clinical and educational psychology accounted for about one-quarter of the presentations. Approximately 110 countries were represented at the congress and almost 1000 presentations were from South African delegates. Among the numerous internationally renowned presenters were Michael Rutter and Elizabeth Loftus, and their presentations saw full houses, despite being scheduled in the CTICC's larger venues. A more detailed analysis and report of the scientific programme and the various national representations may be found at https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0081246314535684

Although the ICP may not return to South African shores in the near future, given its necessary journey around the world, PsySSA is immensely proud to have been awarded the hosting rights for the 2012 event and even more delighted to have created an event of such splendor and scholarly accomplishment.

PAPU

PsySSA and psychology on the African continent

During the bid for and the run-up to the 30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP2012) that was held in Cape Town 22-27 July 2012, PsySSA had support from across the African continent. National psychology associations also refrained from holding any psychology conference from the end of 2010 to enable complete focus on our hosting of ICP2012.

It became apparent that the leadership of psychology in Africa was willing to engage cooperatively for the benefit of psychology in Africa. ICP2012 provided the opportunity for African psychology leadership to pursue closer collaboration. To this end, PsySSA requested the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) to facilitate a workshop of leaders of continental psychology to discuss issues of mutual concern. Then PsySSA President, Siphiwe Ngcobo,

facilitated the workshop together with Pam Maras (IUPsyS Executive Committee Member, current IUPsyS President, from the UK) and Ava Thompson (IUPsyS Executive Committee Member, then President of the Caribbean Alliance of Psychological Associations, from The Bahamas). The workshop, which brought together psychology leadership from eleven African countries, adopted the Cape Town Declaration to form the Pan-African Psychology Union (PAPU). The Declaration recognizes psychology's "potential to serve as a key driver in human development in our communities, countries, Africa and the World" and its strength "as an agent for change, development and empowerment of individuals and communities" (PAPU, 2014). At the ICP2012 Opening Ceremony on the evening of 22 July 2012, delegates from around the world acclaimed the Declaration to form PAPU enthusiastically.

The PsySSA leadership - which included Siphiwe Ngcobo, Ann Watts, Shahnaaz Suffla, Fatima Seedat, Kopano Ratele and Saths Cooper - held regional meetings in Accra, Ghana in April 2013, Johannesburg in September 2013 and Kampala, Uganda in November 2013. The PAPU Vision which emerged in the Ghana meeting was refined in the Johannesburg and Kampala meetings where draft statutes were also reviewed.

The PAPU Inaugural Assembly was held on 15 September 2014 during the PsySSA Congress in Durban. Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe were represented. In the wake of Siphiwe Ngcobo's untimely demise, delegates from Nigeria, supported by other countries, proposed that Saths Cooper be elected President. IUPsyS Executive Committee Member, Pam Maras (current IUPsyS President), and the South African delegation conferred on this unexpected turn and agreed to support the proposal. Former PsySSA President Ann Watts was elected Treasurer.

PsySSA continues to provide direct and other support for PAPU, which it believes to be central to continental African collaboration and mutual understanding of the legacies that have limited the greater development of African psychology so that it may play more enabling roles in society. PsySSA hosted the 1st PAPU Congress, which subsumed the PsySSA Congress in September 2017. The PAPU Assembly decided to retain Cooper as President, Bame Nsamenang (Cameroon) as President-Elect, Ann Watts as Treasurer and elected Monde Kote (Botswana) as Treasurer, and Andrew Zamane (Nigeria), Asefach Haileselasie (Ethiopia), Debra Machando (Zimbabwe), Charles Mate-Kole (Ghana) and James Kagaari (Uganda) as Additional Executive Members. The next East and Central African Conference will be held in Kinshasa, DRC from 7 to 9 November this year, and the 2nd PAPU Congress will be held in 2021.

"PsySSA continues to provide direct and other support for PAPU, which it believes to be central to continental African collaboration and mutual understanding of the legacies that have limited the greater development of African psychology so that it may play more enabling roles in society."

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INS

The International Neuropsychological Society's 50th Anniversary Mid-Year Congress

The historic International Neuropsychological Society's (INS) 50th Anniversary Mid-Year Congress was held in Cape Town 05-08 July 2017. The Congress was co-hosted by the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) and the South African Clinical Neuropsychological Association (SACNA). INS is committed to the development of neuropsychology globally and it was thus fitting that the mid-year celebrations for its 50th Anniversary were held on African soil in a multilingual and multi-cultural environment, the second time that this important Congress has been held in South Africa, the first being in Durban in 1999. Close to 400 delegates from 30 countries attended the Congress which started with a vibrant Opening and Awards Ceremony. A highlight of this was the awarding of the prestigious Paul Satz INS Career Mentoring Award to PsySSA Member, Shirley Tollman, a doyen of the field who has played a key role in the development of the discipline in South Africa.

The scientific programme was organized around the Congress theme Celebrating 50 Years and attracted key global leaders in this rapidly evolving field to South Africa to discuss cutting-edge scientific advances. Topics covered the breadth of neuropsychology, including assessment, rehabilitation and cognitive neuroscience, and their impact for future research, training and clinical practice. Issues of particular relevance to the majority world and global South were also addressed. The Congress additionally provided an opportunity to showcase South African and African neuropsychological research, notably in the cross-cultural and HIV/AIDS domains where African scholars are making important advances in the knowledge base. South Africa and Africa are increasingly being acknowledged as important producers of neuropsychological knowledge relevant to contemporary global demographic shifts eventuated by burgeoning global migration, globalisation and the growth of refugee populations. The meeting thus provided a unique opportunity for South African and African researchers, teachers, clinicians and students to interrogate neuropsychological scientific advances and their application for improving the human condition nationally, regionally and internationally. As such the Congress came at a pivotal time in the development of neuropsychology in South Africa and provided much needed impetus to the development of the field at a critical juncture in its evolution.

PsySSA Congress

The historic formation of a nationally representative Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) at the University of the Western Cape in 1994 heralded a new if not precarious beginning for organised psychology in South Africa. PsySSA was launched at the *Psychology and Societal Transformation Conference* during January 1994, with Rachel Prinsloo serving as the first president of the Society. The fledgling Society faced many tensions during its formation as it attempted to create a negotiated professional identity that comprised vastly different ideological underpinnings from the political right to the political left. From psychology's invidious past in South Africa – with many colluding and furthering institutionalised and racist policies and practices under apartheid, during the years that followed its formation, PsySSA forged a new trajectory for organised psychology with its focus firmly on a social justice agenda.

In line with this agenda, PsySSA hosted its first historic congress in 1995 – entrenching a culture of academic and practice excellence and fostering critical reflection and advocacy. The congress themes in the middle and late 1990s reflect the developmental challenges of a country reeling from the violence and injustices of apartheid. PsySSA's social justice agenda is reflected in the themes of the congress in 1997, titled "*Psychological well-being, in co-operation with the government"* and 1998 *"Healing the South African Psyche, Moving beyond Transition"*.

The tenth anniversary congress in 2004 with the theme "*Democratising the Psyche*" reflected the ongoing tensions and

unresolved issues as the legacy of apartheid continued to cast its shadows on the psyche of the young democracy. The tenth congress drew 450 delegates. The thirteenth congress in 2007 reflecting critically on "The State of the Discipline" drew 500 delegates.

In 2012, PsySSA and the National Research Foundation co-hosted the *30th International Congress of Psychology (ICP)* under the auspices of the *International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)*, the first time on the African continent. Professor Saths Cooper (President: ICP 2012) opened this momentous congress to a packed auditorium in the beautiful city of Cape Town. The Congress drew over 6000 delegates from all around the world. Organised around the theme Psychology Serving Humanity, this flagship congress featured speakers from the global North and South, including such luminaries as Elizabeth Loftus and Michael Rutter. The programme also included controversial debates and a programme for emerging psychologists. The scientific committee had their hands full processing over 10 000 abstracts! This world class congress was a resounding success and highlighted the professionalism and organisational skill that we have come to associate with PsySSA. Among the various awards presented by the IUPsyS at the ICP 2012 was the Achievement Against the Odds award presented to Professor Saths Cooper.

"Reflecting on the PsySSA Congresses over the past 24 years, the themes mirror many of the challenges and tensions that characterise our society today. PsySSA remains committed to transform and develop psychology in South Africa"

Congress themes in the mid-2000s – *"A time of Celebration and Critical Reflection"* (2014); *"Strength in Unity"* (2015) and *"Inviting conversations on Psychology's response/ability to individual, professional and societal challenges"* (2016) saw the Society engaging in critical reflection regarding its professional identity, purpose and mandate. The 2015 congress saw the introduction of the Siphiwe Ngcobo Memorial Lecture given by Professor Mohamed Seedat and titled *Psychology and Humanism in the Post-Apartheid Imagination*. This annual lecture is PsySSA's tribute to its Past President Siphiwe Ngcobo who was murdered on the 23rd of March 2014. A dear colleague, champion of psychology and founder member of *Psychology Serving Humanity*, Prof Ngcobo is sorely missed. The second Siphiwe Ngcobo memorial lecture titled Mapping the terrain: Decolonialism in South Africa was delivered by Professor Norman Duncan.

In 2017, the Society in collaboration with the *Pan-African Psychology Union* hosted the *1st Pan-African Psychology Congress (PAPU)* in Durban. This historic inaugural Congress drew over a thousand delegates who were treated to African hospitality (cuisine, song and dance). Delegates had the opportunity to discuss, deliberate and advance the discipline of psychology in Africa and consider its influence globally. Amongst other issues, decolonisation debates and an African Psychology for Africa (and the world) were robustly debated. PAPU was proud to host presenters from across Africa, the African diaspora and the rest of the world.

During 2018, over 700 delegates attended the 24th Annual congress themed *"Mamela Psychology Listen with Humility act with Integrity"*. Mamela is a seSotho word meaning 'listen', and delegates were invited to reflect upon a liberatory psychology with a focus on relatedness among the collective rather than the individual. Renowned Judge Edwin Cameron delivered a moving 3rd Siphiwe Ngcobo Memorial Lecture wherein delegates were urged to bring social justice to unjust societies.

Reflecting on the PsySSA Congresses over the past 24 years, the themes mirror many of the challenges and tensions that characterise our society today. PsySSA remains committed to transform and develop psychology in South Africa to ensure that it serves the needs of its people and advocates for social justice and well-being in praxis, in transforming curricula/training, and in working towards a liberatory psychology. The 25th Anniversary Congress is a time to celebrate our collective achievements, reflect on the gaps and blind spots, catch up with old friends and make new ones. We look forward to celebrating with you and plotting the next 25 years!

Memoranda of Understanding

MoU Timeline

1. American Psychological Association (APA) **1998**
2. British Psychological Society (BPS) **2001**
3. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) **2004**
4. The Norwegian Psychological Association (NPA) **2003**
5. Zimbabwe Psychological Association (ZPA) **2004**
6. Union Psychologists' of Czech Republic (UPA) **2007**
7. Jordanian of Psychological Association (JPA) **2007**
8. National Academy of Psychology- India (NaoP- India) **2007**
9. Psychological Association of Namibia (PAN) **2007**
10. Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) **2008**
11. Swedish Psychological Association (SPA) **2008**
12. Chinese Psychological Society (CPS) **2008**
13. Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) **2009**
14. Bulgarian Psychological Society (BPS) **2009**
15. Russian Psychological Society (RPS) **2009**
16. Psychological Association of Mozambique (PAM) **2011**
17. Ghana Psychological Association (GPA) **2013**
18. Nigerian Psychological Association (NPA) **2013**
19. Botswana Association of Psychologists (BAPsy) **2013**
20. Malaysian Psychological Association (PSIMA) **2013**
21. Indonesian Psychology Association (IPA) **2013**
22. Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) **2013**
23. Kenya Association of Psychologists (KAP) **2014**
24. Psychology Association of Zambia (PAZ) **2014**
25. The Uganda National Association of Psychologists (UNPA) **2014**
26. The Cameroon Association of Psychologists (CAAP) **2014**
27. The Japanese Psychological Association (JPA) **2011**
28. The Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA) **2015**
29. Colombian College of Psychologists (COLPSIC) **2016**
30. Korean Psychological Association (KPA) **2016**
31. Ethiopian Psychologists' Association (EPA) **2017**

Embracing the next 25 years

Predicting the future is always a difficult enterprise, but more so in a period in which there is already a considerable degree of social flux. Much of the ways in which we encounter this flux today is through the discursive repertoire of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and the associated technological advancements that many believe will be instrumental to the shifting nature of future societies. But as with many technological revolutions that have preceded this one, the instrumental nature of this change is never unidirectional and often generates as many psychosocial challenges and questions as responses to the social ills of our times.

Technology will increase life expectancy for some, but we will have to then contend with ageing populations and their challenges, alongside the possibilities of increased inequalities. Migration will enable the promises of transnationalism like never before, but regulating human mobility will be a key feature of many societies as they compete for resource accumulation in an ever-shrinking world. Population growth and rapid urbanization will yield megacity complexities and will change the nature of living, with new possibilities for rethinking the future of work, economics, sustainable environments and ecologies, especially for the youth. Access to technology will generate unprecedented forms of connectivity, social relating and learning, but may also be responsible for increased social isolation. In all of this, the world is likely to continue to be plagued by variable economic development, unemployment, socio-political conflict, xenophobia and identity politics.

"Mobilising the science of psychology for the well-being of humanity must be the focus of our attention for the next 25 years, or psychology will run the risk of alienating itself from the very populations that it is expressly designed to assist. This is the explicit social mandate that we will all have to fulfil."

In this context, this is an important moment for psychology as a science, practice and profession to take stock of its gains and its challenges, but more importantly, to engage in a horizon scan of its potential futures. What is psychology's relationship to technology in the cognitive neurosciences, in education, and in the world of work? What new social psychologies will be birthed to understand the complex social and political questions associated with conflict, migrations, intersectional identities, social justice movements, and so on? How will mental health interventions evolve to be attentive to the key psychosocial problems facing Africa's population, and what new modalities are being developed in psychotherapy, community psychology and within mental health systems?

As Africa's population is expected to double over the next three decades, the pressures on young people in particular, will increase with mental health problems contributing most significantly to the burden of disease in Africa. Mental health challenges will include depression, anxiety, suicide and substance use disorders, amongst others, and the aged will require new forms of social support as they become a significant cohort within our populations. New training modalities for an understaffed mental health sector will rely on web-based and distance-learning technologies in part. Interventions will have to be more evidence-based and will include primary prevention, in for example, the case of higher levels of suicide. Community psychology will have to be attentive to matters of human mobility and its challenges of resource access to health, education, welfare, etc. Psychotherapies will no doubt take into account moderated and mediated online groups and fora for support and self-help initiatives. Assessment and psychodiagnostics will be augmented with technology and computer-based systems, and we will continue to train practitioners for diversity to accommodate the variety and specificities of Africa. There will be an on-going need for interventions for trauma, violence and conflict, as these are likely to remain a feature that will characterise many societies. And psychology will have to act centrally in attending to the digital divide to bridge communication gaps between those who have technological access and those who do not.

Organised professional psychology will of necessity have to play a fundamental role in promoting new forms of science, training and practice. It will have to advocate for those who will have less access to voice, and will increasingly have to shape public discourse, social policy, and act in the service of the public good. Mobilising the science of psychology for the well-being of humanity must be the focus of our attention for the next 25 years, or psychology will run the risk of alienating itself from the very populations that it is expressly designed to assist. This is the explicit social mandate that we will all have to fulfil.

Prof Garth Stevens

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PSYCHOLOGY in South Africa

Newsletter of the Psychological Society of South Africa

Going rural
PsySSA has hitched a ride on Transnet's *Phelophepa* train bringing primary health care to rural communities

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Full congress programme inside

Biggest congress ever
It looks like the PsySSA Congress in September will be the biggest ever, with 9 parallel streams, 220 presentations, and hordes of local and overseas delegates

p. 3

Body Politic
Plus another conference earlier in the same week - this one for people with a penchant for bodies, both the flesh and blood kind and bodies of knowledge and power

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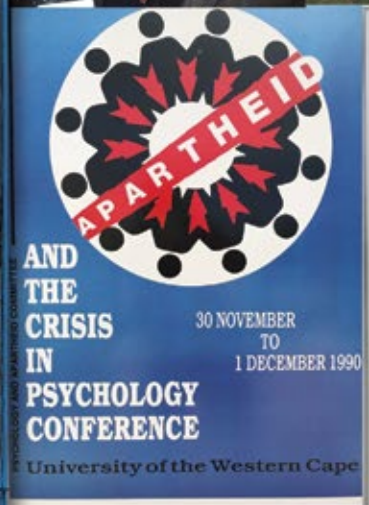
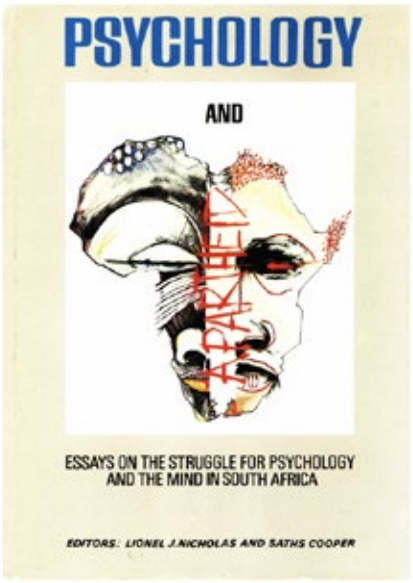


PsySSA
Psychological Society
of South Africa


PSYCHOLOGY
AND
APARTHEID
ESSAYS ON THE STRUGGLE FOR PSYCHOLOGY AND THE MIND IN SOUTH AFRICA
EDITORS: LIONEL J.NICHOLAS AND SATHS COOPER

PsySSA is the representative body for Psychology in South Africa