

eNewsletter No. 06

June 2014

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Address:
 170 Hoosen Haffejee (Berg)
 Street, Pietermaritzburg 3200,
 South Africa

P O Box 2338 Pietermaritzburg
 3200, South Africa

Tel: +27 - (0)33 - 342 0052

Fax: +27 - (0)33 - 342 0303

Email: admin@pacsa.org.za

www.pacsa.org.za

1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends

Greetings from PACSA

After a very busy month of June the PACSA office is rather quiet with the programme staff collecting data and writing their mid-year reports; the finance team getting ready for the mid-year audit; and the external evaluator has completed his fieldwork and interviews and returned to Cape Town to write the first draft of his report.

At the end of June we bade farewell to two staff members: Thando Gasa, who has been with PACSA for many years, first as a peer educator, thereafter an intern and then a full staff member. She is pursuing other interests. Belinda Henderson, my PA since last year, is emigrating with her family to Scotland. We wish them both well in their new ventures and thank them for their contribution to PACSA.

In this eNewsletter we share news on some of the activities and engagements that PACSA staff have been engaged in during June. We hope that the information is useful and interesting to you. Please feel free to communicate with us on any of the information provided and to 'like' our Facebook page for weekly updates on the 'goings and comings at PACSA'. [Click here to view our Facebook page](#)

Kind regards

MERVYN ABRAHAMS
 PACSA Director

2. PACSA News

● **PACSA's 35th Annual General Meeting**

Sixty-nine people joined us in celebrating the 35th Annual General Meeting of PACSA on Saturday, 14 June 2014, at the Methodist Church in Peter Kerchoff Street. It was fitting that we gathered in a street named after the founder of PACSA. Tim Smith from Breadline Africa, in Cape Town, a friend of PACSA from the 1980's, was our guest speaker. [Read the full article here \(with a gallery of photographs\)](#)



● **Fundisanani: SA and German youth connecting**

Ten young South Africans are currently on a month long exchange visit to Hertzogmeuhle, in Munich, Germany, to connect with young Germans. This exchange, aptly named, Fundisanani, is facilitated by Hertzogmeuhle, PACSA, the National Youth Initiative and Thabiso Skills Institute. While in Germany the young South Africans will be involved in building connections. [Read the full article \(with a gallery of photographs\) here](#)



● **Roundtable discussion: The May 2014 elections and the future of politics in South Africa**

PACSA, in collaboration with the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office and the Hans Seidel Foundation, hosted a round table discussion on 'The May 2014 Elections and the Future of Politics in SA' on the 18th June 2014 which was attended by 67 people. [Read the full article \(with a gallery of photographs\) here](#)



- **Conversation on gender stereotyping and roles**

Sakhisizwe Community Education Programme and Imagine SA, two Pietermaritzburg-based youth organisations, hosted a youth conversation on gender stereotyping and its impact of young women, at Siyahlomula High School in Ashdown, on the 28 June 2014. The conversation was attended by 34 young people.

[Read the full article here \(with a gallery of photographs\)](#)



- **PACSA and ESSET in conversation on our work in the world**

For many years PACSA has collaborated with the Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET) around a number of campaigns and in jointly facilitating the Training for Socio-Economic Transformation course. The programme staff of PACSA and ESSET met for three days to jointly reflect and learn from each other...

[Read the full article \(with a gallery of photographs\) here](#)



- **Community Groups Connecting around agro-ecological gardening**

On the 24th June members from the Electricity Action Group visited with Sizonqoba Women's Group and Hlakaniphani Women's Group in Gezubuso and Trustfeed respectively. The idea to connect with and learn with groups that were engaged around agro-ecological gardening came about through the Electricity Action Group's...

[Read the full article \(with a gallery of photographs\) here](#)



- **PACSA attend the SA Academy of Sciences conference**

Mervyn Abrahams attended a two-day SA Academy of Sciences conference in Pretoria on the role of the Humanities in the university and society. The conference entitled, 'On Being Controversial, The Humanities Reach Out.'

[Read the full article here](#)



- **Visitors to PACSA and PACSA staff movements**

On the 20th June we hosted Geoff Daintree from the Christian Aid's London office who visited PACSA to explore PACSA's work on gender and in particular our work with churches in this regard. Geoff was in South Africa to host a discussion on tax and morality to feed into a Christian Aid publication.

[Read the full article here](#)



3. Upcoming Events

- **Roundtable Discussion: Male Identity, Masculinities and Violence in South Africa**

PACSA and the Goedgedacht Forum for Social Reflection invite you to continue this conversation - to deepen our questions, begin to shift the discourse to a new level, and start imagining fresh ways of working.

DATE: Tuesday, 22 July 2014

VENUE: Imperial Hotel, Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg

TIME: 09H30 to 15H30 (a light lunch will be served)

[Please view the detailed invitation here](#)

4. Feature Articles

Misrepresenting the Causes of Unemployment:

Pervasive distortion of what 'causes' unemployment undermines the possibility of responding effectively.

By John Treat and Enver Motala

In this feature article from the SACSIS website, John Treat and Enver Motala advances the view that the dominant discourse on unemployment is often part of the problem when analysing South Africa's endemic unemployment. They argue that it vital that we recognise the structural nature of unemployment under capitalism, and that we begin to plan more honestly and more ambitiously for work and livelihoods and a society beyond neoliberalism. [Read more on the article here](#)
