

ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL DETAILS

- (a) Name: Prof. Sitas, Ari
- (b) Born: 5th Dec 1952, Limassol Cyprus
- (c) Nationality: South African

1. PRESENT AND RECENT POSITIONS

- Professor, Head and Chair Sociology, University of Cape Town (2009 ff)
- Member of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Council of Academic Think Tanks and Head/Chair of the South African BRICS Think Tank (2013ff)
- Chair of the Board of the National Institute for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (2014ff)
- Bhagat Singh Chair in the School of Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2016
- Executive Board Member of the National Research Foundation (2014-2016)
- Director of Task Team for the Future of Humanities and Social Science in South Africa (Ministry of Higher Education 2010-13)
- Convenor for Historical Sociology of the Immanuel Wallerstein programme on World Polarizations, Gubelkian Foundation: Lisbon (2009-13).
- Director of the Department of Science and Technology Grand Challenge Research programme on *African Diasporas and Migrations* (2012-14)
- Board member of the Chris Hani Institute (2009-2015)- the Alliance (ANC, SACP and COSATU) Think Tank
- Chair and lead author of the Department of Economic Development's (KwaZulu-Natal Province) *Roadmap to Recovery- Economic Policy Response to the Economic Crisis*
- Chair of the Panel that produced the African Union's *Accelerated Industrial Development Programme* (2008)- adopted by African Union Heads of State in December 2008.

- Head of School of Sociology and Social Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, (2005-7)
- Chair of Sociology and Industrial, Organizational and Labour Studies, UKZN (1989ff)
- Executive member of the African Sociological Association (2007-2011)
- Member of the Executive Council of the South African Sociological Association
- President of the South African Sociological Association 1996-8
- Vice-President (Programmes) of the International Sociological Association (2002-2006). Executive Member of the ISA (1998-2002), Ex Officio Committee member on Programme Committee (2006-10)
- Guest Professor (Global Studies) Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2008-2009)
- Co-convenor and provincial trustee of the African Renaissance Development Trust, KwaZulu Natal (1999-present)
- Cyprus Co-ordinator- Research on Reconciliation, Republic of Cyprus, Peace Research Institute, Oslo and Reconciliation (Synphiliosis) Committee, Cyprus. (2005-7)
- Senior Fulbright Research Fellow, University of California at Berkeley 1993-4 and Guest Senior Fellow in 1999-2000. Fellow at Ruskin College and Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University, 1987.
- Dean of Social Science, University of Natal, Durban. 1995-8
- Executive Member of Programme Committee, International Sociological Association (2006-2010)
- Advisory Council Member- Vega School of Communication, 2007-10
- Ministerial Appointee on the Council of the Natal Technikon until its merger to become Durban University of Technology

Consultant/Advisor to (inter alia):

Institute for Democratic Alternatives (1992-7), Trade Unions (Federation of South African Trade Unions, 1980-3, Congress of South African Trade Unions 1988 ff), Workers' College 1989 to 2009, Natal Regional Economic Forum (1994-6) KwaZulu Natal Economic Council (1997-2006), Diakonia Council of Churches, Church and Work Commission of the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference, Culture Policy (Natal, Culture Congress 1990-94, Department of Arts and Culture, African National Congress Culture Desk, 1990-94, KwaZulu Natal Arts and Culture Fund (1994-7), Durban Metropolitan Council Poverty Alleviation Programme (1998-2002) Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism KZN (2001 -2005) Department of Social Development, Department of Trade and Industry, The Premier's Office, KwaZulu-Natal., UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation), the African Union.), Dept of Higher Education, South Africa.

2. CURRENT PROGRAMMES

2.1 Research Programmes:

2.1.1 Convener of Catalytic Projects for the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (11 programmes involving 115 Researchers: Transformation of Heritage Sites into Historical Knowledge Hubs; Pre-Colonial Histories of Southern Africa; Hidden Voices: Recovery of suppressed documents in the Social Sciences during the Segregation and Apartheid periods); Traditions of Popular Education in South Africa; Sources of Social Creativity in Black Communities; Concept Formation for the Humanities in African Languages; Strengthening Professional Associations in the Region; Processes and Prospects of Reconciliation and Forgiveness; Alternative Socio-economic systems; Ecological Alternatives.

2.1.2 Convener of International Collaboration: *Scripts of Defiance* 1500-2000s, involving CRNS, France, UNAM Mexico, University of Nicosia, Cyprus, Humboldt University, Berlin, Ambedkar University, Delhi; National University of Colombia, Bogota.

2.1.3 Co-Convener with Profs Ahmed Bawa (Vice-Chancellor, Durban University of Technology) and Prof Crain Soudien (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town), *The Post-Apartheid Knowledge Project- Comparative uses and abuses of Knowledge: Norway, Germany, Soviet Union, India and South Africa.*

2.1.4 Co-Convener with Profs Lungisile Ntsebeza and Associate Prof Sumangala Damodaran of the *AfroAsian movement of slaves, material and symbolic goods* 1000-1700, involving Arabic, Persian, East African, Indian and Southern African scholars. Recipient of Mellon Foundation funds from 2016-2022.

2.1.5 Co-Convener of Labour Studies Research Forum: University of Pretoria, Witwatersrand University, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the University of Cape Town.

2.1.6 Director of the Third African Diaspora Project with inter alia, University Legon, Ghana,

Makerere University, Uganda, University of Zimbabwe and United Nations Refugee Programme, Ethiopia.

2.1.7 Coordinator of BRICS research for the Department of Higher Education and for the Humanities and the Social Sciences

2.2 Teaching Programmes

2.2.1 Founder and co-convener: Global Studies Programme (Masters) with Albert Ludvigs University, Freiburg and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

2.2.1 Co-convener of Strategic University of Cape Town Poverty and Inequality Curriculum Initiative,

2.2.2 Convener of the Industrial and Labour Studies Programme, University of Cape Town

2.2.3 Convener of the Sociology of the Arts and Popular Culture Courses

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Qualifications

PhD University of the Witwatersrand, 1984 (Supervisors: Edward and David Webster).

3.2 Awards

Co-recipient with Junction Avenue of the Olive Schreiner Award for the play “Randlords and Rotgut”, 1979.

Red Ribbon Award International Video/Film Festival New York, 1982. (Script-writer of “Howl at the Moon”)

Norwegian Literature award (Foreign Section) for the edited volume “Black Mamba Rising” 1987

Durban Arts Award (of the city of Durban) for contribution to people’s and workers’ literature, 2003

Programme Award: 2005 BMW Award for Inter-Cultural Education, the MA in Global Studies

Programme Award: 2007 Academy of Sciences Germany, Design of the MA in Global Studies

4. RECENT BOOKS AND ARTICLES: 2008-14

4.1 Manuscripts

Author (2016): *The Flight of the Gwala-Gwala Bird- Essays in Labour and Culture in KwaZulu-Natal*, Cape Town: SAHO Publications.

Principal Author (2013), *Gauging and Engaging Deviance, 1600-2000s*, (Delhi: Tulika Academic Press; forthcoming, Pretoria: University of SA Press)

Principal Author (2011), *The Charter for the Future of the Humanities and the Social Sciences*, Pretoria: the Department of Higher Education.

Author: (2010, 2012 second print run) *The Mandela Decade 1990-2000* (University of SA Press/, Pretoria/Brill Academic Publishers)

Author (2008) *The Ethic of Reconciliation* Madiba Press, Durban/New Delhi

Editor and author (2008- Reissue), *Managing Change in KwaZulu-Natal's Industries*, Pretoria: HSRC, 1995, now Critical Studies Series, University of KwaZulu-Natal).

Author: (2004) *Theoretical Parables: Voices that Reason* (University of South Africa and Brill Academic Publishers: Pretoria and Leiden)

Co-Author, *William Kentridge* (2001), Chicago Museum of the Arts: Harvey N. Abrams.

4.2 Recent Peer Reviewed Publications (Articles)

Populism and Politics in KwaZulu-Natal, *Transformation*, (no.66, forthcoming, 2008)

Race, Tribe and Class in South Africa's Institutions, *International Sociology*, vol. 23 no.2, 2008

Introduction: Tribute to Eddie Webster, in Sara Mosoetsa (ed), *Public Classrooms: Essays in Honour of Professor Edward Webster*, Johannesburg: Sociology of Work Project, Witwatersrand University. (2009)

Jihad- A War Journal in Boike Rehbein (ed), *Globale Rekonfigurationen von Arbeit und Kommunikation*, Konstanz: UVK Verlagsgesellschaft, 2009

Unassimilable Otherness- the Reworking of Traumas by Refugees in Contemporary South Africa, in Jeffrey Alexander, Ron Eyerman and Elisabeth Breese (ed) *Narrating Trauma*, New York: Paradigm Books, 2010

Beyond the Mandela Decade? The Ethic of Reconciliation or Fragmentation in *Current Sociology*, 59(5), 2011 (Special Issue on Ari Sitas's book on the *Ethic of Reconciliation*, see above (2007))

Response to My Critics in *Current Sociology*, 59(5), 2011

The Moving Black Forest of Africa- The Mpondo Rebellion, Migrancy and Black Worker Consciousness in KwaZulu-Natal, in Kepe, T and Ntsebeza, L (ed), *Rural Resistance in South Africa. Meanings and Significance of the Mpondo Revolts after Fifty Years* , Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2011

“COSATU, the ‘2010 Class Project’ and the Contest for the ‘Soul’ of the ANC”, in Sakhela Buhlungu (eds) *COSATU’s Contested Legacy*, Pretoria: Human and Social Research Council. p .132-147

Co-authored with Dilek Latif, “The Potential for Reconciliation, Forgiveness and Social Transformation,” in Nicos Trimikliniotis and Umuzt Bozkurt, (eds) *Beyond a Divided Cyprus- a State and Society in Transformation*, New York: Palgrave MacMillan. P.210-217, 2012

The Human, Humanism and the Human Condition, in *Social Dynamics*, Vol.38 n.1 p. 40-48, 2012

A Dialogue Produced or a Dialogue Deferred? , review Article in *Global Labour Journal*, Volume 3, Issue 2 (September 2012) p. 271-7

Rethinking Africa’s Sociological Project, *Current Sociology*, Special Issue: on Knowledge Production in a Global Context: Power, Race and Coloniality (November, 2013)

Narrative, Allegory and Sociological Dialogue in a Globalising World in Keim, W., Çelik, E., Ersche, C., Wöhrer, V. (Eds.) (2014). *Circulating Scientific Knowledge: Social Science and International Knowledge Production*. Surrey: Ashgate.

Deviance and Alterity, in Wallerstein, I ed (2014) *The World is Out of Joint-World Historical Interpretations of Continuing Polarizations*, New York: Paradigm Books

(with Sumangala Damodaran), *The Musical Journey: Recentring AfroAsia Through an Arc of Musical Sorrow*, in *Critical Arts*,30(2) 2016.

The University in Question- *Café Dissensus*, no 36, 2016.

5. RECENT CREATIVE WORK (2000-2014)

4.1 POETRY

Editor (2016): *Alfred Temba Qabula: Collected Poems*, Cape Town: SAHO Publications

Co-Editor (2016, with Mandla Langa): *Mafika Gwala: Collected Poems*, Cape Town: SAHO

Publications

Author (2014) *Around the World in 80 Days-the India Section*, Pretoria: University of South Africa Press.

Author (2013) *Rough Music*, Grahamstown: Deep South Publishers

Author (2008) *Book of Accounting*, Durban: Madiba Press, Limited Edition

Author (2004) *The RDP Poems*, Durban: Madiba Press

Author (2000): *Slave Trades*, Grahamstown: Deep South Publishers

4.2 DRAMATURGY

Author (2005): Wonderwoman VS the World Bank in R. Pattman and S. Khan (ed): *Undressing Durban*, Durban: Madiba Press

4.3 MUSIC

Co-Curator and Lyricist for the *Insurrections* (2013) and *Mayihlome- The Gathering* Oratoria and CDs produced by South African History on Line and the Centre for Critical Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape. Curator and lyricist of the *Storming* Oratorio, performed at the Homecoming Centre of District Six in Cape Town.

5. Selection of Prior Publications

Books

Editor, *Black Mamba Rising, South African Worker Poets in Struggle*, Durban: Culture and Working Life Publications, 1986 (Re-printed 1990)

Co-Author with Siphos Pityana et al, *Beyond the Factory Floor*, Johannesburg: Ravan Press, 1992

Co-Author with Gerhard Mare, *Sociology: an Introduction*, Johannesburg: Juta Publishers/University of Natal. 1992

Articles

Formation and Struggles amongst Migrant Workers on the East Rand, *Capital, Labor and Society*, 1 (2), 1985

The Childhood of Industrial Experience, in *Psychology and Society*, no.4, 1985

From Grassroots Control to Democracy- a Case Study of the Impact of Trade Unions on Migrant Workers' Cultural Formations, *Social Dynamics*, 11 (1). 1985

“The Sarmcol Stayaway” (with Bill Freund et al), *South African Labour Buletin*, 11(2), 1985

“Where Wealth and Power and Blood Reign Worshipped Gods- A Sociological Analysis of the “Durban Troubles”, *South African Labour Buletin*, 11 (4), p. 85-121, 1986

Culture and Production: the Contradictions of Working-Class Theatre in South Africa, *Africa Perspective*, New Series no 1-2, 1986.

Black Mamba Rising- An Introduction to Mi Hlatshwayo's Poetry, *Transformation*, no.2, 1986.

The Worker Poets of Natal, *TriQuarterly*, no.69, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1987

The Strike at Dunlop's- the Causes and Consequences of a Trial of Strength in Durban's Industries, in J. Maree (ed) *Ten Years of the South African Labour Movement*, Johannesburg, Ravan Press. 1987

The Sweat was Black- Black Workers and Shop Floor Culture in a Large Manufacturing Plant, in I. Edwards and P. Maylam (ed), *The People's City*, Pietermaritzburg: the University of Natal Press, 1987.

The BTR Sarmcol Dispute (with Debby Bonnin), in Robin Cohen and Willam Cobbett (eds) *Popular Struggles in Apartheid South Africa*, London: James Curry, 1988.

Le Vol du Gwala-Gwala... The Flight of the Gwala-Gwala Bird- Culture and the Labour Movement in Natal, in *Nouvelle du Sud: Arts, Literatures, Societes*, vol 12, 1989

Culture and Politics in South Africa, in *Literature, Writing in South Africa*, Northwestern University, Evanston: Illinois, 1989

The Popular and Poetry in Natal, *Writers' Notebook*, COSAW: Natal, 1989.
Republished as Traditions of Poetry in Natal, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, vol 16 (2), 1990.

Modernizing the University and the Social Scientific Project, in N. Hartmann and I. Scott (eds), *Restructuring South Africa's Tertiary Education*. Johannesburg 1991.

Culture and Politics in South Africa, *Radical History Review*, no 46/7, 1989

Ethnicity, Nationalism and Culture in Natal's Labour Movement in Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London (ed), *The Societies of Southern Africa*, vol 15 no. 38, 1990

The Albie Sachs Debate- A Philistine's Response, in *Ingrid de Kok and Karen Press (ed), Spring is Rebellious*, Cape Town: Buchu Books, 1990

Consumption of Media and Culture among Black Workers in Natal (with Debby Bonnin), *IOLS/COSATU Discussion Paper- Summary with same title in South African Labour Bulletin*, vol 16 (5), 1990

A Tribute: Samuel Beckett, in *Theoria*, no. 77, 1991

“Democracy and the Trade Unions in the 1990s” in Klaus Numberger (ed) *A Democratic Vision for South Africa*, University of Natal Press: Pietermaritzburg, 1991

“The Debate on Cultural Freedom” in Duncan Brown (et al, ed) *South African Writing in Transition*, Pietermaritzburg: Natal University Press.1991

“Gale Street- Anti-Apartheid Culture” in *Icarus*, no.24, p.101-114, 1991

“The Making of the Comrades’ Movement in Natal”, *Journal of Southern African Studies*,1992

“The Voice and Gesture in South Africa’s Revolution” in *The International Annual of Oral History*, Richard Grele (editor), New York: the Greenwood Press. 1992

“The New Tribalism- Migrancy and Violence” in Fatima Meer (ed), *The CODESA File*, Madiba Press: Durban, 1993

Managing the Democratic Revolution, in *South African Labour Bulletin*, nol.18 (5), 1993

Strike-Waves in Durban, (with Thembeke Gwagwa et al) in *South African Labour Bulletin*, vol. 19 (3)

A Managerial Ethnography (with Vanessa Kruger) in A.Sitas (ed) *Managing Change in KwaZulu Natal Industries*, Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council: Pretoria 1995

The Invisible Labour Process: A Study of Daydreams at Work, in A. Sitas (ed) *Managing Change in KwaZulu-Natal Industries*, Pretoria: Human Sciences Research Council. 1995

Exploiting Phumelele Nene- Postmodernism, Intellectual Work and Ordinary Lives, *Transformation*, no. 25, 1995.

The Workers’ Theatre in Natal, in Geoffrey V. Davies and Ann Fuchs (eds) *Theatre and Change in South Africa*, Nice: Universite de Nice, 1996

The New Tribalism: Hostels and Violence in, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 22 (2), 1996.

Description of a Struggle: South African Theatre since the 1970s, in *World Literature Today*, no.70, 1996.

Reconstruction or Transformation, in *Theoria* no. 87, 1996

The Struggle for Natal and KwaZulu: Workers, Townships and Inkathat 1972-1985, (with Debby Bonnin et al) in R. Morrell (ed) *Political Economy and Identities in KwaZulu Natal*, Durban: Indicator Press.

The Waning of Sociology in South Africa , in *Societies in Transition*, 28 (1-4), 1997.

Neither gold nor bile: Industrial and Labour Studies of Socio-Economic Transformation and Cultural Formation in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, in *African Sociological Review*, vol.1 no.1, 1998

South Africa in the 1990s: the Logic of Fragmentation and Reconstruction, *Transformation*, 36, 1998.

The New Poor- Organizational Challenges, *South African Labour Bulletin*, 22 (5) and 22(6), 1998.

The Autobiography of a Movement: Trade Unions in KwaZulu-Natal, 1970s-1990s, in *Culture Link*, Special Issue on Cultural Change and Development in South Africa, p. 183-207, 1998/9
(Re published in Robert Kriger and Abebe Zegeye (ed) *After Apartheid- Culture in the New South Africa*, Cape Town: Kwela Books.2001.

Beyond Afropessimism- Identities and Development in a Globalizing World in T. e Cruz Silva et al (eds), *Gathering Voices- Perspectives on the Social Sciences in Southern Africa*, Montreal: International Sociological Association. 1998

On Social Codetermination (with David Jarvis) in Glenn Adler (ed) *Engaging the State and Business in South Africa*, Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press, 2000

Inqol' emasondosondo: For a Sociology of Civic Virtue, in *Journal of World Systems Research*, vol 6 no. 3, 2000

Madiba Magic?- the Mandela Decade, in *Indicator*, 18 (1), 2001

The Bonds that Shape, the Bonds that Bind, the Bonds that Break: Undigitalised Bodies in a Globalising Economy, *Social Identities*, Volume 8, Number 3,2002. p383-391.

Alfred Temba Qabula (1942-2002): a Tribute, in *Current Writing*, 15(1), 2003

30 Years Since the Durban Strikes: Black Working Class Leadership and the South African Transition. *Current Sociology*, 2004.

Beyond the Urban-rural divide, w.Gillian Hart, *Transformation*, no.56, 2004

Racist Tendencies Among Cypriot Youth in C. Charakis (ed), 2005. *Anti-Social, Racial and Ethnocentric forms of Behaviour Among Cyprus Youth*, Sakkoulas Academic Publishers: Athens.

The African Renaissance and Sociological Reclamations in the South, *Current Sociology*, May 2006.

Disabling Actions and Disabling Social Systems, in *African Identities*, 2007

Harold Wolpe's Legacy, in *Africanus*, 2007

Seasons of Drought Have No Rainbows, in *Alternation*, 2007

Beyond Racism: the Ethic of Reconciliation, in *Cyprus Review: Journal of Politics, Economics and Society*, 2007

Industrial and Labour Studies, Socio-economic Transformation, Conflict and Transformation in KwaZulu-Natal, in *Sociology of Conflict and Cooperation Handbook*, (eds. Ann Denis and Devorah Kalekin-Fishman), Sage: London (2007).

6. PAST CREATIVE OUTPUT

1976-82: co-author of plays with Junction Avenue Theatre Company: *Fantastical History of a Useless Man* (1976; published by Ravan Press, Johannesburg, 1978); *Randlords and Rotgut* (1978; published by AD Donker, 1980; recipient of Olive Schreiner Award, 1985); *Will of a Rebel* (1979) *Dikhitsheneng* (1980); *Marabi* (1982). The Collected Plays *At the Junction* have been published by the Witwatersrand University Press in 1995. Script for film *Howl at the Moon*, Red Ribbon Award, New York International Video Festival, 1982.

I have also facilitated/directed and co-produced a number of worker plays: *Ilanga Lizophumela Abasebenzi* (1980), *The Dunlop Play* (1983), *Why Lord?* (1984), *Koze Kuphe Nini* (1984), *Usuku* (1985), *Long March* (1985), *Once Bitten, Twice Shy* (1986), *Bambatha's Children* (1988), *Mbube* (1991), *RDP Play* (1995).

Thanks to a grant from the Dpt. of Arts and Culture my own plays and performance pieces have been gathered and will be published in an omnibus edition. They involve: *Dancing Shoes* (1979), *Howling at the Moon* (1981), *Trees of Tongue* (1983), *Charred Loving* (1992), *Dead Fish and Dreams of Love Again* (1995), *Wonderwoman Vs the World Bank* (2004), *Pop* (2007), *Rehearsing Love* (2007), *80 Days Around the World in Durban* (2007), *Jazz, bass, Land* (2008)

Published Poetry Collections include: *Tropical Scars* 1989; *Songs, Shoeshine and Piano* 1991, Novellas: *William Zungu-A Xmas Story* 1990, *Etopia* 1992.

7. PAST COORDINATING ACTIVITIES

7.1 Founder and Service as Director of Managing Committees in Anti-Apartheid Projects

7.1.1 Trade Union Research Project 1984-2000

7.1.2 Culture and Working Life Project 1984-1996

7.1.3 Industrial Health Unit 1985-1995

7.1.4 Natal Worker History Project 1985-1993

7.1.5 Youth Unemployment Project 1985-1990

7.2 *Organizational*

1976: Co-Founder Junction Avenue Theatre Company

1980: Community Action Support Group, Johannesburg (precursor of the UDF, founder with David Webster and the Coleman family of the Detainees Parents' Support Committee, of trade union support committees, Anti-Republic demonstrations and so on).

1980: with Luli Callinicos responsible for the History Workshop's Open Days, University of the Witwatersrand

1983: Co-coordinator of the Labour Section of the Carnegie Commission into Poverty, University of Cape Town

1984: Co-Founder of the Durban Workers' Cultural Local, Federation of South African Trade Unions

1985: Founder of the Labour Monitoring Group, Natal (Later the Violence Monitoring Group during the Natal Violence)

1990: Nelson Mandela Reception Committee, Durban.

1992: Negotiator for the Natal Culture Congress (Negotiations with Natal Provincial Administration and Durban Municipality)

1995: Reconstruction and Development Programme Task Team, Natal.

1998: Task Group re- Afro-Indian tensions with Prof Fatima Meer, Archbishop Hurley, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and others.

1999: Founder of the Job Creation Forum, Durban

1999: Co-founder of Sankofa with Prof. Pitika Ntuli and Prof. Yonah Seleti - the African Renaissance NGO

2001: Convenor of the Information Technology Group through the KwaZulu-Natal Economic Council.

2006: Responsible for the World Congress of Sociology, Durban. (3 500 participants, 60 parallel sessions for 53 global research committees from 92 countries and designer of the Plenary/ Semi-Plenary and Africa Focus Sessions).