



Image: Liam Cornell

BURN VICTIM - Sibongile Zenzile is educating communities about the hazards of fires.

## Jacques de Satgé

A paraffin burn victim, Sibongile Zenzile, is fighting to educate “the poorest of the poor” about fire safety.

As in the case of Zenzile, an estimated 1.6 million people are burned every year. It costs, on average, R300,000 to treat each victim, according to the Trauma Society of South Africa.

Zenzile, a member of the Paraffin Safety Association of South Africa (PASASA), expressed her concern at the frequency of fires in South Africa and a “lack of information” in fire-vulnerable communities.

The associated costs to society of fires were R104 billion in 2003, said Dehran Swart of PASASA. He expressed his concern that this was the same amount being spent on social grants this year.

“At the moment we are spending valuable resources on putting out fires, instead of preventing fires,” said Swart.

Financial constraints push safety to the limit in poor communities.

A survey by PASASA of more than 12,000 low-income households has indicated that 57% of households use paraffin for cooking, and that 25% of households do not have access to

electricity. Swart explained that using electricity to cook is expensive, and illegal paraffin stoves are a far cheaper option.

It was this situation that left Zenzile with permanent burns. Sixteen years ago her paraffin stove fell off a counter as she was warming milk for her 8-month old daughter. It exploded as it hit the ground.

**“At the moment we are spending valuable resources on putting out fires, instead of preventing fires”**

Zenzile explained that paraffin was her only option for cooking as her shack in Mthatha had no access to electricity.

Swart outlined Zenzile’s history with PASASA; “Sibongile came to one of our public health education events in Khayelitsha... She was so relieved that finally someone was talking about her cause, someone that will help prevent others from walking the same path as her.”

“She [Zenzile] suffered social exclusion, and when she came to us she didn’t know basic first aid that could have helped her... She is a fantastic person who has grown tremendously, she’s found a purpose in life and she is very

passionate about the work that we do. She is an ambassador for our organisation.”

“When I was burnt, I didn’t know anything [about fire safety]. If I had known about ‘Stop, Drop, and Roll’ I wouldn’t be burnt like this,” said Zenzile.

Zenzile stressed the importance of spreading the safety message. “There is a lack of information... there are lots of fires in Cape Town, and across South Africa. In each province we [PASASA] have someone who can go door-to-door and educate people about how to use paraffin properly... we cannot use illegal stoves, they are too dangerous.” Illegal stoves do not have safety valves that shut off when they fall.

Zenzile described the dangers children faced in fire-reliant households: “Children are left in the shacks with candles... they also drink paraffin by mistake.”

Swart said paraffin comprises 25% of all ingested chemicals, according to PASASA’s 2012 surveillance report.

The research undertaken by PASASA has led to educational programmes and training throughout South Africa. The organisation works with regulatory bodies to set safety standards to ensure the safe use of paraffin.

See p2: Sibongile’s story

# Safety champion

Jacques de Satgé

In the summer of 1996, 19 year-old Sibongile Zenzile was warming milk for her baby daughter in her shack in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape. She accidentally knocked her illegal paraffin stove to the floor and it exploded. Holding her daughter in burning arms, she cried for help. She splashed water from a bucket over her daughter and herself, as she tried to douse the flames. Help arrived - from the neighbours - but the damage was done.

Today, 16 years later, Sibongile is a burn victim on a mission. By telling her own story, Sibongile teaches key risk-management skills to communities most affected by life-threatening fires.

Yesterday, she told her story to *Carnegie 3 News*.

After being rescued from her shack, Sibongile was admitted to Mthatha General Hospital with fourth degree burns. Her daughter was in a less serious condition and recovered fairly quickly. Sibongile's ordeal, however, was far from over.

**“He took me to the mirror so I could learn to accept what I was seeing... I learnt to accept myself.”**

“After two days in hospital, the nurses and doctors of the hospital went on strike,” Sibongile recalls. She received dressings only three times a week during this time. Due to poor hospital conditions she was given sleeping drops, but no painkillers. “My husband and my mother were the ones who were buying medicine for me.”

Sibongile was eventually transferred to Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town. Her husband had told the hospital – untruthfully – that his job had moved to Cape Town, so the Mthatha hospital would agree to a transfer.

Sibongile described how “the rotting smell” of her skin faded as soon as she received proper treatment.



SIBONGILE ZENZILE - her ordeal went on for years, but it hasn't quashed her resolve to spread the word.

But there was damage that went beyond her skin. For the first five months in hospital, Sibongile refused to look into a mirror. She recalls her first glance. “When I saw the side of my face I was worried... I thought it is ugly.”

She recognised that counselling would play an important role in her recovery.

“It [counselling] gave me confidence, and the psychologist wanted to build my self-esteem... He took me to the mirror so I could learn to accept what I was seeing... I learnt to accept myself.” After seven months of intensive treatment, Sibongile was discharged from hospital.

However, a burn victim's challenges do not end once treatment has finished.

“One day I was on the train to Athlone in Cape Town. These five ladies were laughing at me, saying ‘I got what I deserved’. They thought

I had cheated on my husband and someone had burnt me.”

Sibongile recalls how angry and misunderstood she felt, “They don't know me, they don't know who I am.”

She says her husband was with her every step of the way. “When people were laughing at me, he would say ‘No, this is my wife, so if you want to fight with me I'll fight you.’”

After a lengthy recovery process, Sibongile went to a talk in Khayelitsha hosted by the Paraffin Safety Association of South Africa (PASASA). Here she decided to volunteer and speak out. “I wanted to open people's eyes so people can be treated right. Nobody knows what's going to happen tomorrow.”

Today, Sibongile is attending Towards Carnegie III, as she continues her mission to reach out to poor communities threatened by fire.



## C3 Media Team

This newsletter has been produced by a team of student interns under the guidance of Professor Pippa Green and Sue Segar, and with the assistance of Palesa Morudu.

**TEAM (L-R):** Emmanuel Vuma, Sue Segar, Jacques de Satgé, Pippa Green, Sajjad Karamsi, Mapaseka Setlhodi, Nic Botha, Berndt Hannweg, Håvard Oveson and Liam Cornell.

# “African agriculture must go organic” - Auerbach

Jacques de Satgé

If Africa wants to solve its agricultural woes, it must move from the “failed” American agricultural model to an organic agricultural strategy of “low external input”.

Such a strategy would create much-needed national sustainability, said Raymond Auerbach, Professor of Soil Science and Plant Production at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

“Organic agriculture works right across the agricultural scale, from the smallest to the largest [farms],” Auerbach said.

In an interview with *Carnegie3 News*, Auerbach defined the organic agricultural model as one which “builds on indigenous technical knowledge but uses science to minimise risk and external input”.

He said South Africa’s current agricultural practices were having a negative impact on climate change, as well as contributing to water scarcity and decreased food quality.

These conditions highlighted the need for “alternative systems”, Auerbach said.

Making the case for organic agriculture as the answer to Africa’s problems, Auerbach said there were three major advantages to organic agriculture.

Firstly it was not dependent on fossil fuels as it created natural fertiliser by using micro-organisms which create aerobic soil conditions. Secondly, organic farming resulted in a drastic reduction in environmental pollution and acid rain.

Thirdly, Auerbach explained: “Two major studies have shown that the quality of organically produced food across the board is much better than that of conventional agricultural produce.”



ORGANIC FUTURE - Prof. Raymond Auerbach (above) emphasised organic processes in agriculture.

He cited Uganda as a leading African country in the organic agriculture market. “Two hundred thousand farmers are certified as organic and they exported \$35 million of coffee, cotton, banana, pineapple, vanilla and shea butter last year.”

## Organic agriculture is finally being taken seriously in Africa

Auerbach said this statistic was significant because it meant that farmers could now “build new houses and send their kids to school”, while using less water and producing good food.

He added that the foundations for organic agriculture were already in place: an agro-

ecological coalition had been formed between large-scale farmers and researchers.

“Increasingly, large-scale farmers are looking at their soil microbiology, and [with our help] are looking to use the whole of their soil rather than just the top six inches.”

Auerbach said he believed agriculture had a “bad name” in Africa because it has lacked success and wasted billions of dollars through inappropriate spending. However, he said, this could change.

“The rest of Africa are saying ‘This is great, this is the first university researching a system that actually works and promotes independent farmers.’”

Organic agriculture is “finally being taken seriously,” said Auerbach, adding that government engagement would give the sustainable model a national platform.

# Rural poor don’t grow - they buy

Emmanuel Vuma

South Africa’s Land and Agrarian Reform programme had done little to solve the problem of food security, UWC public health professor David Sanders said yesterday.

In an interview with *Carnegie3 News*, Sanders said even rural dwellers tended to buy food rather than grow it, as this was cheaper.

The failure of many South Africans to sustain crops was not a result, as sometimes thought, of the land redistribution issue, but because of the costs of growing food in the present climate.

“Most South Africans lack the means for food security (access to sufficient food and quality of food) because it is much more expensive to grow crops than to buy

food that is already processed or cooked,” Sanders said.

“People end up relying on processed food purchased from retailers ... leading to many kinds of health problems and illnesses,” said Sanders.

The consumption of such foods not only leads to health issues but also influenced the productive capacity of individuals, he added.

“That is why South Africa is considered the third fattest country in the world” he said.

One of the key aims of the land reform programme was to reduce poverty by developing productive smallholder agriculture, but this was not happening, Sanders added.

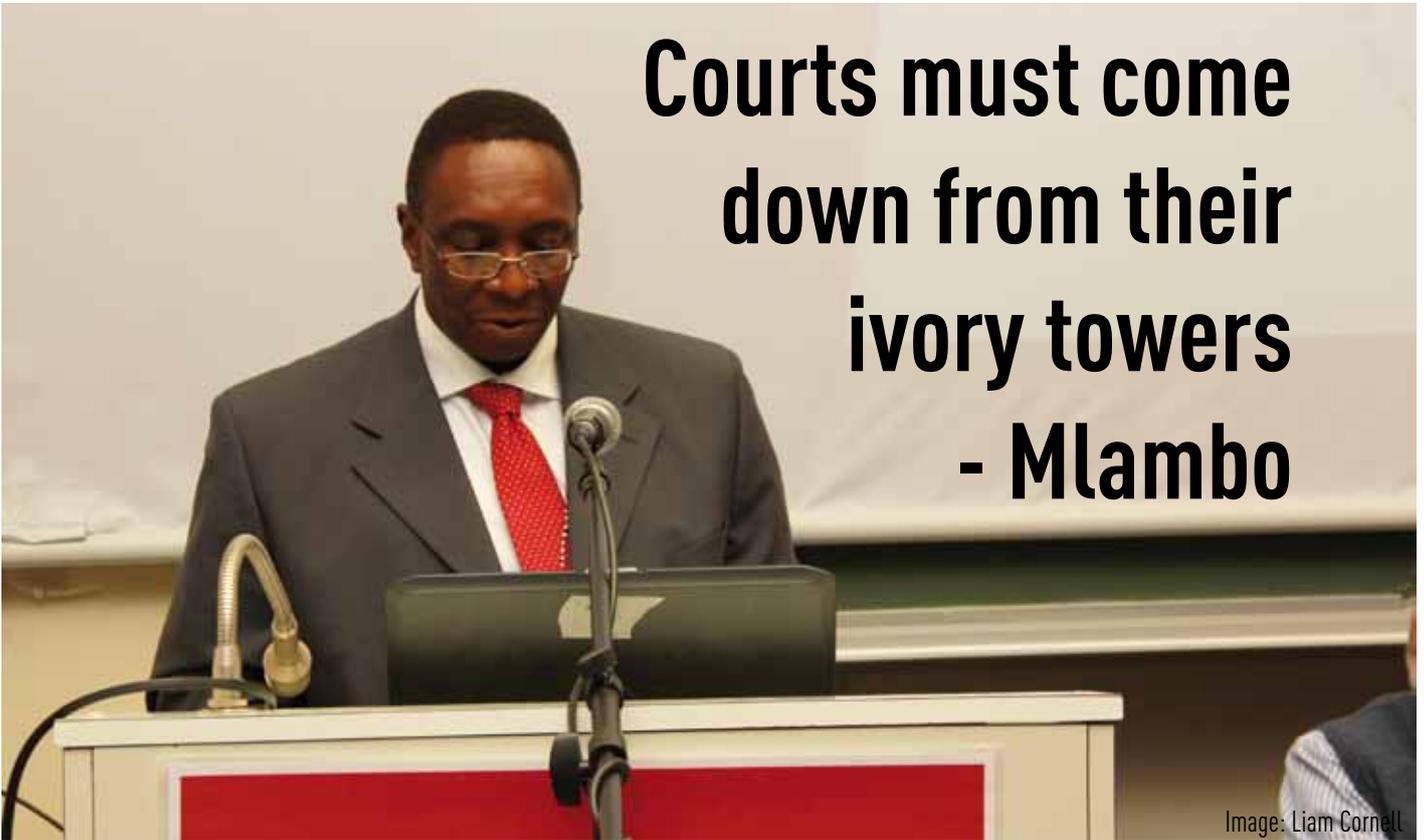
Delegates who took part in land debates agreed that the main reason that South Africans end up consuming rather than producing was

highly debatable.

But Professor Ben Cousins of UWC’s Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies recommended in his paper that: “What is now required is a radical restructuring of agrarian economic space, property regimes and socio-political relations, in order to realise the potential for ‘accumulation from below’ in both agricultural and non-agricultural forms of petty commodity production, and through expanded opportunities for ‘multiple livelihood strategies’.

Cousins said it was important to “abandon negative stereotypes of smallholder production, and embrace a positive view of the possibilities for land-based rural livelihoods, as well as participatory approaches that bring rural people into the centre of decision-making processes.”

# Courts must come down from their ivory towers - Mlambo



Judge President Dunstan Mlambo calls for transformative constitutionalism to allow the poor to enforce their rights.

## Mapaseka Setlhodi

The Constitution has, to date, failed to level the playing field between the “two-nations” described by former president Thabo Mbeki, says Judge President of the North and South Gauteng High Court, Dunstan Mlambo.

“Instead, we have the most unequal society in the world and have overtaken Brazil as the country with the highest disparity in income between the rich and the poor,” Mlambo told the conference.

Speaking during the session on the Constitution, Law and Justice, Mlambo said 18 years after apartheid, South Africa was still confronted by poverty and inequality “sometimes rated to be worse than under apartheid”.

This was because “class differentiation has stepped into the reach previously occupied by apartheid.”

The two-nation society, Mlambo said, comprised of one white “relatively prosperous” nation and a second, larger grouping who were “black and poor”.

Although the new government had embarked on commendable initiatives to

alleviate the gap between these two groups, its efforts had had little effect.

For example, the idea of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), aimed at empowering black entrepreneurs, had been crippled by corruption and greed. As a result only a handful of black entrepreneurs were making it to the top and there had been no trickle-down effect to the masses.

**“Class differentiation has stepped into the reach previously occupied by apartheid.”**

The public housing programme that has become known as RDP houses, designed to provide houses for the previously disadvantaged, had also been mired in corruption or inefficiency, often resulting in houses of poor quality or not being built at all.

Additionally, child care and foster care grants had been open to abuse, while old age pensioners had been targeted by syndicates.

On top of this, the country’s labour laws, which were designed to regulate the workplace in a harmonious manner between employers

and employees, had been described as “rigid and an obstacle to creating jobs.”

“It is therefore not surprising that the poor and the jobless are increasingly finding themselves in conflict with the law because of their helpless situation. Where they have taken some initiative to create jobs for themselves, through trading in the cities, they find themselves in conflict with the law. The police harass them because they do not have permits to trade in the city. As a result, the activities of the poor are being criminalized.”

Mlambo said he believed the promise of the Constitution of a better life for all remained “a pipe dream”.

“In our expensive court system, without legal aid, it is impossible for lower income groups and the poor to enforce their rights.”

Mlambo highlighted the need for what he termed “transformative constitutionalism”.

“Transformative jurisprudence must be founded in a court’s understanding of the actual conditions in which people live. In such a deteriorating situation as we have ... the courts must, as custodians of the Constitution, come down from their ivory towers to defuse the situation on the ground by making justice accessible to all.”

# Heading a dream for the youth



JOHN PERLMAN - founder of Dreamfields

## Berndt Hannweg

Veteran radio host, John Perlman, says he was hopeless at football and good at school, but hated school and loved football. In October 2007, he launched Dreamfields, an innovative project that aims to make school enjoyable for underprivileged boys through the love of soccer.

Is there really a link between soccer and improved class performance? Perlman believes that “children must have activities other than school in order to love school”. He says when he was much younger, soccer and school provided a sense of anticipation and enjoyment.

The central tenet of Dreamfields is that it is easy to inspire joy and excitement in young boys. In a soccer-mad country, perhaps second only to Brazil, a game of soccer instantly connects and draws young people together. And all it takes is a soccer ball and some space to play.

Inspired by South Africa’s hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, Perlman identified primary school boys as ideal targets for his programme. In particular, because young boys in rural South Africa didn’t stand

to benefit a great deal from the World Cup. Furthermore, many teenage boys were already benefitting from more formalised leagues and club training.

“The World Cup was very much orientated around marketing and events, an opportunity for corporates to do something in the community based around soccer,” said Perlman.

He says there was a big gap in the primary school age group. “The quality of the under-12 league in South Africa is appalling. There is a massive opportunity for underage soccer to improve”. Before the programme began, a major supplier of underage soccer uniforms was out of business due to lack of demand. Today, the same supplier is doing a roaring trade with the Dreamfields Project.

Dreamfields offers three alternatives to getting children interested in the programme. The first is the DreamBags, a kit-bag containing uniforms and boots for fifteen children. In effect, it’s a soccer-team in-a-bag. Just Add Ball!

Over 2,100 schools have received DreamBags, which remain with the schools, rather than the players, thus ensuring lasting continuity. Then a maximum number of children benefit from the programme.

DreamEvents concentrates on organising leagues amongst schools and also members of the programme. The games are not held in the standard knock-out format, but every team plays at least three games and everyone leaves with a prize.

“I think children need special moments in their lives. The more they have special days in front of their peers, the more special they feel,”

said Perlman.

Referencing the memorable Mastercard ad campaign, Perlman said that, the cost of a small trophy may only be R150, but it has a completely different value to the team lifting it high: Priceless.

Finally, the DreamFields initiative aims to improve the spaces on which children can play. Even the most basic field can be sufficient to a fledgling team. Perlman believes that emulating the British model, in which the government aims for every school to have a playing field available, is unworkable for South Africa.

“It’s unaffordable, undoable and undesirable. Developing football among rural children is a marathon and not a sprint,” Perlman argues. It’s important to succeed at a small task, rather than fail at a big one.

The Dreamfields Programme model encourages small donations. While sponsoring a new soccer centre may be impressive for a large corporation, it is far more profitable and successful for small companies and societies to sponsor a single kit-bag for a local school. Perlman points out that, using the Dreamfields model, one could outfit all the schools in the Potchefstroom area for less than R150,000.

The programme’s latest initiative is the Dream Seed Kit. Nothing more than four sets of differently coloured bibs, the kit instantly allows for a more organised team setting in a variety of sports, not just soccer.

“Playing sport is a fundamental and inalienable right for children,” said Perlman. “We decided to do one thing, and do it well.”

And when you see the joy on the faces of the children who play on a Dreamfields field, or participate in an eye-opening tour of Soccer City Johannesburg, you can’t help but agree that they’ve done it very well indeed.



**“Children must have activities other than school in order to love school”**

# Break this vicious cycle

Poverty and mental illness can exacerbate each other.

**Emmanuel Vuma  
& Pippa Green**

Poverty is strongly associated with mental illness yet mental health has often been neglected in international development policy.

This is according to Professor Crick Lund of UCT's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health.

Lund was talking on a panel yesterday that focused on poverty and inequality dynamics.

In a paper presented to the Towards Carnegie III conference, Lund argues that mental health and its relationship with poverty has tended to be ignored.

"This is despite compelling arguments that mental illness contributes significantly to the global burden of disease," he writes. People who live in poverty and who suffer from mental illness constitute a particularly vulnerable group.

He said some international findings suggested that there is a strong link between mental illness and poverty. It was a growing public problem, he told the conference audience. People with mental illnesses often drifted into poverty because of reduced

productivity and the costs of health care.

"People living with mental illness are more likely to drift into or remain in poverty as a result of their disability and associated stigma," says Lund in his conference paper.

Likewise, the stresses of poverty mean that many poor people are exposed to increased stresses that put their mental health at risk.

He told the panel it was important to break this "vicious cycle" of poverty and mental illness.

**People living with mental illness are more likely to drift into or remain in poverty as a result of their disability and associated stigma**

In his paper, he writes that there are compelling human rights, health and economic development arguments for intervening in this "vicious cycle" by improving mental health.

From a human rights point of view, "people living with mental illness in circumstances of poverty are a vulnerable group, who are subject to stigma and discrimination, violence and abuse, restrictions in the exercising of their

civil and political rights, (including rights to participate fully in society), and lack access to health and social services. They frequently lack educational opportunities, are denied employment and other income-generating activities and experience substantial disability and premature death."

From a health point of view, he writes that there is "ample evidence that mental health intersects with a range of other communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"The rallying cry "no health without mental health" captures the high level of comorbidity between mental illness and 'physical' illness," For example, maternal depression had been shown to increase the risk of poor infant nutrition, stunting, early cessation of breastfeeding and diarrheal disease.

Likewise, if people infected with HIV/AIDS are treated for depression, they show better adherence to anti-retroviral treatment.

From an economic development point of view, the economic benefits of treating mental health, far outweigh the costs to society and the economy of ignoring illnesses, he argues.

"Investing in mental healthcare...therefore provides an opportunity to improve well-being and a broad range of social and economic outcomes."

## Lesbian women are not exempt from HIV/AIDS

**Jacques de Satgé**

Lesbians living with HIV were "invisible" as their experiences had been overlooked by prevention programmes, a qualitative study has found. "Misconceptions" and "gaps in HIV research" had left HIV-positive lesbians isolated from health care systems, said researcher Dr Zethu Matebeni.

Matebeni, a Research Officer at the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA) at UCT, was speaking in a session at the conference. Her study surveyed 24 women who self-identified as HIV-positive lesbians.

The study group, described by Matebeni, was predominantly underemployed and poorly educated. "A third of participants had not finished high school and half of them had a primary school education... Only seven

participants had full time employment."

Matebeni emphasised the dangers of assuming lesbian women are exempt from HIV-AIDS.

**"I couldn't understand how it happened because I was fine and I thought we [lesbians] are safe..."**

"Nine women reported they had been infected through their former male partners. Eight reported they had been raped," said Matebeni, as she alluded to the fact that rapists target women regardless of their sexual orientation.

Five participants reported they had been infected through female partners, with no

previous sexual contact with male partners or drug use in their lifetime. One participant claimed, "I couldn't understand how it happened because I was fine and I thought we [lesbians] are safe..."

Matebeni said the assertion that lesbians were at no risk or 'low risk' [of contracting HIV] could no longer hold weight.

These women were marginalised, said Matebeni, by a lack of research and understanding in South Africa. "HIV information targeting lesbians as a group is very difficult to access... This suggests huge gaps in information and knowledge."

Problems for HIV-positive lesbians were further compounded by "barriers" within healthcare, she explained. Health-care workers' attitudes and the "stigma and prejudice" surrounding lesbianism could deter HIV-positive lesbians from seeking medical help.

# Research goes to waste

Håvard Ovesen

South Africa produces excellent quality research, often with public money, with little impact on policy. This is due to serious systemic failure of poor knowledge management that renders information invisible. “We need publicly funded research to be widely and easily available,” urges development consultant Rick de Satgé.

His message resonated strongly with the experiences of researchers and stakeholders gathered together for the “Synergies II” session on Wednesday afternoon. In the discussion many told their own stories of unobtainable data and research disappearing into the dark hole of knowledge mismanagement.

De Satgé recounted his experiences of being commissioned by the Presidency to research whether there is a need for a poverty information service. The answer was a resounding yes.

But much knowledge is restricted either by subscription fees or pay-per-view deals that are out of reach for many NGOs and other institutions including government departments. Another recurring issue is that the information might exist somewhere, but is not available on the internet. Comparatively little is available through open access licensing.

De Satgé told *Carnegie3 News* that “there is an enormous amount of research and knowledge and information and evaluation that relates to poverty [and] policy that has disappeared down a dark hole. It’s gotten lost, and it was extremely expensive to produce.”

It doesn’t always come down to incompetence or lack of resources. In some cases, researchers and research institutions use intellectual property rights to build

“information *laagers*” around data paid for by public funds. Keeping such knowledge out of the public domain for reasons of territorial jealousy is an act Conference Director Francis Wilson refers to as “theft.”

Several of the participants at the session recounted incidents in which funders insisted on controlling the intellectual property rights to the research output, only to bury the product once the research produced inconvenient findings.

“Knowledge is power,” de Satgé reminded the audience, and later told *Carnegie3 News* that “one of the reasons why you may have information *laagers* is around contestations of power (...) within the political system.” The fear is that people may use or retain research outcomes “to advance narrow sectional agendas,” rather than for the public good.

In de Satgé’s area, land reform, there is certainly no shortage of research, ideas, or evaluations. However, “there is a refusal to

engage with [it], to change practice. That’s what’s so scary. You can get program evaluations that just remain somewhere, locked away in a government archive or in a filing system. They don’t appear to impact on practice”.

In 2011, South Africa was one of the eight founding governments of the Open Government Partnership, thereby “[committing] to openness and making data and information available.” De Satgé stressed that unless openness becomes part of governmental management performance assessments, this commitment might come to naught.

Access to information is important “so that people can hold government to account, so that people can co-create as well; they can participate in policy. They can become part of the conversation. That’s ideally what research should be doing. It should be enabling a more nuanced national conversation about key issues like poverty.”



Image: Liam Cornell

SHARE - De Satgé emphasises opening up research and making it easily available.

## Grants don’t do enough - Woolard

Mapaseka Setlhodi

South Africa spends about 3.2% of its total GDP on the social grant system – but this is not enough to alleviate poverty, says UCT professor Ingrid Woolard.

“If South Africa was to wake up one morning to find all the South African Social Security Agency’s (SASSA) doors closed, our head count poverty would rise from 54% to 60% if grants disappeared overnight,” said Woolard, during the session on Children and Inequality.

Such a “morning after” simulation would push the Gini coefficient to 0.73, instead of 0.70 if grants were discontinued, she said.

“This is an indication that the grant system

as a whole reduces income inequality.”

However, while South Africa’s social assistance system was better developed than those of most middle-income countries these grants were not sufficient to adequately alleviate poverty and inequality.

Woolard, from the South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at UCT, said the country’s spending on social grants was in line with what the Constitution says about promoting equality in society.

It was clear that the social grant system addressed current inequality, but what was less clear was whether grants reduced inequality in the long term.

“A small amount such as the Child Support Grant (CSG) can and does help reduce current

poverty and inequality, and the system needs to be retained and strengthened for this reason. But we cannot and should not expect the social assistance system to improve children’s future economic opportunities,” argued Woolard.

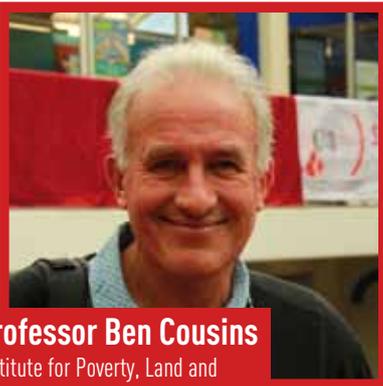
She said numerous steps still needed to be taken to ensure all eligible children access the CSG. It was those who needed the grants most and were most disadvantaged who did not access the grant because of documentation issues i.e. missing IDs and birth certificates.

“Necessary effort and resources need to be put into facilitating access to these children before resources are spent instead on extending the grant to those who are not poor. If this is not done, universalization will increase, rather than reduce inequality.”

# What's your big idea?

Håvard Ovesen, Sue Segar, Liam Cornell and Emmanuel Vuma of the *Carnegie3 News* team rounded up some delegates to ask them what the one big idea is they bring to Towards Carnegie III.

## My big idea is...



**Professor Ben Cousins**  
Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), UWC

### “Think globally, act locally”

“In seeking a solution to the land reform issue, we must revive the 1970s slogan “Think globally, but act locally”. Structural reform must enable systemic change and allow interconnectedness between the macro sector and the micro sector of agriculture.”



**Terry Crawford-Browne**  
Anti-arms deal activist

### “Bring the Constitution to life”

“We have to get judges to be activists. Our judicial system has become dysfunctional because the judges are so enmeshed in simply applying the law, instead of the Constitution.”



**Chance Chagunda**  
UCT doctoral candidate

### “Find the links”

“The importance of linking macro policy with micro implementation on the ground. There has to be a link between the big policies at a national level and what is happening on the ground otherwise the policies will remain in a vacuum.”



**Malibongwe Gwele**  
Early Learning Resource Unit South Africa

### “Use indigenous knowledge”

“I am passionate about finding ways of better integrating early childhood development programs with the indigenous knowledge of caregivers.”



**Professor Ann Skelton**  
Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria

### “Ramp up grants”

“We should take children who are being cared for by caregivers who are related to them out of the care and protection system and link them directly to the social assistance system so that they can access grants more quickly and easily and also alleviate the pressures on the system.”



**Anna Lefatshe Moagi**  
Department of Political Sciences, Unisa

### “Get a theory”

“The government should try to theorise their policies on poverty especially regarding people who live in informal settlements ... The government must have a proper theory that can assist them to receive land. It's all very well to have a policy ... but how can it be implemented if there is no theory for it to actually identify an area where there is a need for people to receive their needs and services?”



**Paul Hoffman**  
Institute for Accountability in Southern Africa

### “Tackle corruption”

“If we had tackled corruption properly in the new South Africa, we would have saved the country an estimated R675 billion and it wouldn't have been necessary to have this conference because that R675 billion could have been used to alleviate poverty and promote the achievement of equality.”