

Division for Social Impact



Initiative by Faculty

Date: 2 November 2018

Number of Initiatives: 7

Initiative Title	Initiative Description	Initiative Owner
Financial oversight and strategic governance for a National Lotteries funded public benefit organisation aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities	The knowledge and skills of staff of the School of Accountancy is utilised to support a local public benefit organisation, ChangeAbility, to adhere to the governance requirements of donors. Internal controls and codes of best practice are implemented. Budgets are reviewed and financial performance monitored to enhance the sustainability of the organisation. The organisation serves the communities of Cloetesville, Kayamandi, Macassar and Groendal. Programmes focus on Health and Awareness Promotion and Community Development. The organisation manages a peer supporter network within these communities.	Basson, R, Mev <remerta@sun.ac.za>
Improving Traffic Law Enforcement in South Africa – An Experimental Approach	It is well known that effective enforcement of traffic laws is critical for improving road safety outcomes. The enforcement mechanisms used by traffic authorities include the imposition of fines on transgressors; such sanctions are supposed to promote road safety by encouraging law abidance among road-users. In many developing countries, however, the imposition of fines has not an effective method for changing road users' behaviour. South Africa counts among these countries: in earlier research, we used an administrative dataset of traffic law violations in the City of Cape Town from July 2014 to July 2016 to show that fewer than 40% of the fines issued for speeding- and licensing-related offences were paid within 24 months. Such high non-payment rates severely blunt the ability of the fine system to incentivise prudent behaviour by road-users. Given that research conducted in high-income Western countries is the basis of much of what we know about the utilisation of traffic fines to influence the behaviour of road users behaviour, study of the factors that influence the payment of fines in South Africa could contribute to better use of such disincentives to law violations. Hence, the primary objective of the envisaged research project is to attempt to contribute to road safety in South Africa by generating knowledge aimed at strengthening law enforcement.	Du Plessis, Sophia [sophia@sun.ac.za]
The Cape Town Carnival	The Cape Town Carnival is a glamorous celebration of African identity, diverse communities and culture and the transformative power of creativity. The end goal is the social cohesion of diverse communities.	Jafta, Rachel <rccj@sun.ac.za>
Subject editor of European Journal of Forest Research	The European Journal of Forest Research publishes Research Articles and Reviews addressing the following subjects worldwide: - biological, ecological and socio-economic knowledge relevant to wood and forests - systems analysis and modelling of forests and landscape - forest ecology, conservation and management - forestry-to-wood production chain The European Journal of Forest Research is aimed at researchers, managers and policy makers. The published manuscripts deal with sustainable forestry, and describe new	Meincken, Martina, Prof [mmein@sun.ac.za]

	<p>research findings to address ecological and economical problems. The subject editor receives publication manuscripts from his/her subject area and distributed to potential reviewers. If conflicts arise the editor has to resolve them.</p>	
<p>Young Entrepreneurs programme</p>	<p>Providing training in collaboration with Hogeschool Utrecht (Netherlands) to learners in the Stellenbosch area on entrepreneurship - including idea generation, writing a business plan. The training concluded with a presentation of the business plan by all participating teams.</p>	<p>Neethling, Adolph [acn@sun.ac.za]</p>
<p>Financial Literacy Teachers Program 2018</p>	<p>Short course presented to grade 8 and 9 Financial Literacy teachers in the Western Cape. A course will be presented on basic financial literacy (accounting equation and accounting cycles) on 25 and 26 June 2018. The course will be presented at Stellenbosch University (lecture venues to be confirmed) to an Afrikaans and an English group of teachers. All teachers from the Western Cape Schools will be invited. It is uncertain how many teachers and from which specific schools will attend. The WCED has indicated that subject advisors will encourage those teachers who need development to attend. The objective is to improve the teaching of Financial Literacy, to provide a solid foundation going forward into the field of accountancy.</p>	<p>Van Wyk, Ellane [erau@sun.ac.za]</p>
<p>Roots and wings: Improving quality of life for beneficiaries of government-initiated affordable housing projects</p>	<p>It is well established that safe and secure homes can significantly improve the quality of life for communities and also more broadly, the life of the community. This works through promoting dignity and quality of life, but also via economic channels that ensure that household members have a secure asset and thus a deeper and more long-term stake in the specific community. While the government's affordable housing initiative has envisioned this, such benefits have often not materialised due to deficient beneficiary participation in the planning and construction process and poor and variable construction quality of houses. The quality of houses have often been so inadequate that the municipality could not confer title deeds, thus meaning that the houses are not legally recognised as transferable assets. Also, due to the lack of participation and the poor construction quality, the government has missed the opportunity to create a strong sense of ownership and to realise the full quality of life improvement associated with the transfer of a high quality brick house to a new beneficiary. The aim of the initiative is to introduce an accountability intervention in the construction of subsidised government housing so as to improve the quality of the houses being constructed. The houses are constructed for beneficiaries which currently reside in the poorest areas within South Africa. As a starting point, we commenced with the first phase of the study during mid-October 2017 as a randomized control trial (RCT) at the Rooidakke housing project just outside Grabouw, in the Western Cape Province. Rooidakke is an impoverished and vulnerable community where most of the households reside in informal housing. The Rooidakke housing project involves the construction of approximately 1300 single and double storey brick houses with running water, electricity and an in-house bathroom (including a flush toilet). Of these, only approximately 60 houses form part of the first phase of the study. The beneficiaries of these brick houses are local residents who previously lived in the area in informal structures as well as farm workers on farms in the district. The first phase of the study is currently being undertaken as a randomized control trial (RCT). For the first phase of the study, 60 plots from the Rooidakke building site have been randomly assigned to a treatment group and approximately 60 plots to a control group. Two postgraduate engineering students (who</p>	<p>Von Fintel, Marisa, Dr [marisavonfintel@sun.ac.za]</p>

have completed their engineering degrees, but are currently completing their masters' dissertations) were appointed as research assistance and visited and inspected the plots in the treatment group on a weekly basis during construction. The students have sent their feedback on to the contractor as well as the foreman on site. No such inspections took place at the building sites on the plots in the control group (which is a group of houses which were completed just prior to the commencement of the intervention, i.e. around June-October 2017). The visits are announced and arranged with the building contractor, who has full knowledge of which plots are in the treatment group. The theory of change of the RCT is that, with the inspections, the building contractor will be more diligent in the building process of the houses on the plots in the treatment group compared to the plots in the control group, leading to better quality houses. Quality will be assessed in two ways: first using an instrument which captures the technical quality of the houses, and secondly more subjectively by asking home owners about their experience living in the house. The partners in the initiative include the Department of Economics and Civil Engineering at Stellenbosch University, the Department of Economics at Bath University, UK, the Theewaterskloof Municipality, the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, and various community leaders from the Rooidakke community.