



The Academy of Science in South Africa (ASSAf)  
cordially invites you to the webinar on

## **Mechanisms, funding and state capability for poverty and inequality reduction (post-Covid) in South Africa**

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**Date:** Friday 6 August  
**Time:** 11:00 – 12:00  
**Venue:** Zoom  
**Registration:** [Click here](#)

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The Standing Committee on the Science for the Reduction of Poverty and Inequality (SCSfRPI) is a committee of the acclaimed Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). In July 2020, the ASSAf Council mandated the committee to focus on poverty and inequality concerning the pandemic and consult interdisciplinary science on reducing poverty and inequality.

In response, the SCSfRPI conceptualised a webinar series that delved into the following themes:

- 1. What to do to reduce poverty and inequality?**
- 2. How to fund interventions to reduce poverty?**
- 3. What must be done if the state is to be capable of poverty and inequality reduction?**

This webinar is to provide a concise recount and summary of the highlights and outcomes of the series, and provide for a candid conversation between experts: did anything new or surprising come out of the discussions; what now and how should the country proceed?

The speakers include co-hosts of the individual webinars:

- 1. Ms Isobel Frye**, Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute
- 2. Prof Johann Kirsten**, Bureau for Economic Research, Stellenbosch University
- 3. Prof Jimi Adesina**, SARChI in Social Policy, University of South Africa

The moderator will be the Chair of the SCSfRPI **Prof Julian May**, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Food Security, university of the Western Cape.

### **ABOUT THE SERIES**

The first webinar on what to do to reduce poverty and inequality explored the findings from the first three waves of the NIDS/CRAM survey to address the question of the role of social grants in reducing poverty. Furthermore, the impact of public works programmes on reducing or eradicating poverty in South Africa was examined. The Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) co-hosted the webinar with the Director, Ms Isobel Frye, as the moderator of the webinar. The webinar recording can be accessed [here](#).

The second webinar focused on mechanisms to generate funding for interventions to reduce poverty. The webinar set as its backdrop the challenges of prevailing poverty levels in South Africa, deepened by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the fiscal constraints that the state faces. Speakers of the webinar explored the feasibility of a wealth tax, consumption taxes on luxury consumer goods, increases in sin taxes, increase in the deficit, and cooperation with the civil society and the private sector. The webinar was co-hosted by Prof Johann Kirsten of the Bureau of Economic Research at Stellenbosch University and moderated by Judge Dennis Davis. The webinar recording can be accessed [here](#).

This third webinar was concerned with addressing the state's capacity to reduce poverty and inequality in South Africa. Historically, evidence suggests that left to its own devices, the process of economic development and growth generates increased inequality: the "trickle up" effect. The moderation of income inequality involved significant public interventions in a progressive system of taxation and economic and social policy instruments that engender fairer redistribution of the proceeds of economic activities. The webinar recording will be made available shortly.



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