

April - June 2020

SPECIAL REPORT

April 2020 Report on SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus

SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented global challenge. In their own personal capacities, various SAYAS members also wrote informative articles on the impact of the virus and engage in various other ways. Do see below:

Prof Alex Broadbent, Director of the Institute for the Future of Knowledge and Professor of Philosophy, University of Johannesburg, explores why a one-size-fits-all approach to COVID-19 could have lethal consequences - <https://bit.ly/39imJig>

Prof Alex Broadbent was also part of a group of researchers who ask the pertinent question: What does #CoronaVirus lockdown mean for the world's poor? Watch the video 'COVID on the breadline' here: <https://bit.ly/2xlWrPy>

A/Prof Willie Chinyamurindi, Associate Professor within the Department of Business Management at the University of Fort Hare writes on Five ways academics can manage COVID-19 shutdowns - <https://bit.ly/3bnH0EB>

A/Prof John Ataguba, Associate Professor and Director of the Health Economics Unit, University of Cape Town, writes on understanding the economic impacts of COVID-19 on African countries - <https://rdcu.be/b3p2W>

Dr Lungiswa Nkonki, Senior Lecturer, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University, explored the need for strong leadership and an intersectoral response to COVID-19 - <https://bit.ly/2UQJ4iY>

A/Prof Tolullah Oni, urban epidemiologist at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge, writes on the need for re-thinking emergency urban health foresight in the midst of crises and the role of investors, developers and philanthropists - <https://bit.ly/34UHGPL> and <https://bit.ly/3atSDcm>

A/Prof Tolullah Oni in her capacity as Future Earth, Advisory Committee member participated as one of the speakers in a Webinar on 22 April on exploring the links between the current COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing environmental crises around the globe.

A/Prof Jo Vearey, Associate Professor with the African Centre for Migration & Society, University of the Witwatersrand, was part of a collective which initiated a COVID-19, migration and mobility in Africa media monitoring project as migration and mobility were missing from the DoH response.

See article: <https://www.mahpsa.org/why-xenophobia-is-bad-for-the-health-of-all-in-south-africa/>

Listen to a TV interview on SABC: <https://www.mahpsa.org/video-unfiltered-coronavirus/>

Listen to a Podcast: <https://www.mahpsa.org/podcast-winter-is-coming/>

In a bid to engage with local communities and address the 'Science for Society' objective, **Dr Nosiphiwe Ngqwala** Senior Lecturer, Pharmacy Department at Rhodes University, also initiated a series of discussions and online workshops on COVID-19 on community radio stations in the Eastern cape. Platforms used were Rhodes Music Radio (RMR) and Umhlobo Wenene FM. The aim was to share information as widely as possible using a local language" Isixhosa" in this case. It is hoped that these discussions, tips,

interviews, tools and resources will help with community activation and possibly develop strategic partnership and better coping mechanisms.

Nosiphiwe Mahlaba Ngqwala 13 Apr at 13:32

Sibambe kwinkqubo "Impilo ngexesha leCOVID19" kuRMR (lono.fm/s/70) ngo 14h00 ngomso (14 April) kunye nodwendwe lethu:

1. Prof Fanelwa Ajayi, SAYAS Co-Chairs and is a senior lecturer at the Chemistry Department and a research leader at the Enzyme Sensor Laboratory, SensorLab at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).
2. Prof Mzukisi Njotini is an Associate Professor in the Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, University of Johannesburg



Nosiphiwe Mahlaba Ngqwala 15 Apr at 09:17

Sibambe kwinkqubo "Impilo ngexesha leCOVID19" kuRMR (lono.fm/s/70) ngo 14h00 namhlanje kunye nodwendwe lethu:

Ncedo Mngqibisa is an ethnographic researcher and community development facilitator practicing at University of Cape Town kunye nabahlali; Nonkazimulo Mdidimba, Zukolwethu Ntlakaza kunye noLwando Maqwelane.

Isihloko sithi: Intlalo kwind... See More

See Translation



Nosiphiwe Mahlaba Ngqwala 17 Apr at 13:39

Sibambe kwinkqubo "Impilo ngexesha leCOVID19" kuRMR (lono.fm/s/70) ngo 14h30 namhlanje kunye nodwendwe lethu:

Prof Tshidi Mohapelo : Prof in business school and entrepreneurship, coordinator for the Post Graduate Diploma in Enterprise Management (PDEM) and community engagement for the RBS.

Mnu Siyabonga Bashe : Entrepreneur

Isihloko sithi: impembelelo zeKoronavayirasi kwezoqoqosho nezamashishini



Prof Puleng Segalo, Head of Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa, shared some advice about mental health during the lockdown because of COVID-19. She noted that since South Africa is a complex society, the lockdown is not going to affect people in similar ways. Therefore, it was important to look at it from a multidimensional perspective, and reflect on how possible solutions could filter into different experiences that people are having with the lockdown. Access link: <https://bit.ly/2XV6pSG>

Prof Marietjie Venter, Head: Zoonotic Arbo and Respiratory virus program, Center for Viral Zoonosis, Department Medical Virology, University of Pretoria, was interviewed on Kyk Net on 14 April and on SABC3 on 20 April on unpacking COVID-19 science questions and the importance of getting the Influenza vaccine during the COVID19 pandemic - <https://bit.ly/3aQeXNE>

It was good to note that the initial work done by SAYAS members in translating COVID-19 health messaging into local languages in SA was picked up by the **Uganda National Young Academy** who did similar work.

Connie Nshemereirwe retweeted



Uganda National Young Acad... · 26m

Thanks to initiative by @SAYAS_SA the members of the

@UgandaNYA have translated some infographics on #COVID19UG - BIG thanks to members @writerbligue for the #Rutooro, @patricemawa for the Lugbarati, to @FrancMwesigye for the Runyankore, & to James Egonyu for the Ateso versions!



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SPECIAL REPORT

May 2020 Report on SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus

SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented global challenge. In their own personal capacities, various SAYAS members also wrote informative articles on the impact of the virus:

Prof David Bilchitz Professor of Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Johannesburg and Director of the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law, writes on the need for balances and checks of freedom and governments' accountability in the [#CoronaVirus](#) Era - <https://bit.ly/3bPu1fC>

The [#CoronaVirus](#) has laid bare some of the invisibilised everyday realities of what it means to live in a divided country. **Prof Puleng Segalo**, Head of Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa explores this aspect of life in SA - <https://bit.ly/2WhWnIR>

Poetry's strength lies in its ability to shed a "sideways" light on the world, so the truth sneaks up on you and yet it can be a healing balm. **Prof Puleng Segalo**, Head of Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa pens her thoughts of the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/2yZ2FFo>

What can mathematicians, or more precisely applied mathematicians, possibly contribute to the [#CoronaVirus](#) calculus? In a word: Modelling. SAYAS alumni **Prof Amanda Weltman** theoretical physicist and **Prof Jeff Murugan** both at University of Cape Town explore this further <https://www.sajs.co.za/idm314> as mathematical models have predictive and explanatory power

'Science diplomacy', meaning international cooperation with science at its core, is the key to overcoming COVID-19. SAYAS alumnus **A/Prof Tolullah Oni**, urban epidemiologist at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge co-authors an article on how 'science diplomacy' can help us contain the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/35ysl2u>

A/Prof Tolullah Oni also discusses what has been revealed by the [#CoronaVirus](#) crisis: Our need for 'Emergency Health Foresight', how preparedness is not enough, and what the world is at risk of un-learning in the wake of the crisis - <https://bit.ly/2yJ0tly>

Commenting on the many changes wrought on by the [#CoronaVirus](#) SAYAS member **Prof Mzukisi Njotini** Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning & Associate Professor: Department of Private Law, University of Johannesburg notes that as technology continues to alter the way society and businesses operate, there is also a need to augment health services - <https://bit.ly/3dsJ9A1>

SAYAS Member, **Prof Pradeep Kumar** Associate Professor: Pharmaceuticals, University of the Witwatersrand, writes on easing the [#CoronaVirus](#) lockdown and identifying the "at risk" regions in an analysis of SA and India - <https://bit.ly/3dLmxuX>

Prof Pradeep Kumar also calls for a pause for: Food for thought & Sustaining nutritional resources throughout the [#CoronaVirus](#) crisis - <https://bit.ly/2M7ZTkz>

Archaeologists have long studied diseases in past populations. In relating to the current [#CoronaVirus](#) SAYAS alumnus **Prof Shadreck Chirikure**, Head of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town, writes about how Archaeology shows how ancient African societies managed pandemics - <https://bit.ly/3btEfkR>

The pre-pandemic conditions that were already challenging have worsened during the global Covid-19 crisis for women who struggle to juggle all their different roles. SAYAS Co-Chair **Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz** (Department of Economics at University of Pretoria) who is part of the Global Young Academy's Women in Science working group shares some collective ideas on: How to make Covid-19 lockdown work for [#WomeninScience](#) - <https://bit.ly/3g6fDCh>

SAYAS alumnus **Prof Marietjie Venter** Head: Zoonotic Arbo and Respiratory virus program, Center for Viral Zoonosis, Department Medical Virology, University of Pretoria @UPTuks provides a review towards effective diagnostic assays for COVID-19 - <https://doi.org/10.1136/jclinpath-2020-206685> [#CoronaVirus](#)

In tackling the [#CoronaVirus](#), freedom of speech and public interest, not allegiance, should underpin science advisement to government argue SAYAS alumnus **Prof Jerome Singh**, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa; ASSAf President Prof Jonathan Jansen, Stellenbosch University, and ASSAf member Prof Adam Habib, VC, University of the Witwatersrand - <https://bit.ly/2M1NH4N> [#sciencepolicy](#)

In making a case for public trust in science, SAYAS alumnus **Prof Jerome Singh**, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa notes how South Africa's Ministerial Advisory Committee on the [#CoronaVirus](#) can be optimised - <https://bit.ly/2zvTOeX> [#sciencepolicy](#)

SAYAS alumna **A/Prof John Ataguba**, Associate Professor and Director of the Health Economics Unit, University of Cape Town, writes on Concerns For Primary Health Care And Spending on African countries following the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/3dcR2tH>



Prof Philani Moyo, University of Fort Hare in The Daily Dispatch

11 Sudesh Sivasarasu retweeted

UCT Global Surgery
@GlobalUct

Excellent innovation by UCT Biomedical Engineering in collaboration with Orthopaedic Surgery and Global Surgery, who have created the UCT Vizar to protect clinicians from Covid-19. [#PPE](#) [#GlobalSurgery](#) [#Covid_19](#) [@SudeshSivasarasu](#) [@UCT_news](#) [@FabAcademic](#) [@MrsMaswime](#)



9:04 · 08 May 20 · Twitter for iPhone

Dr Sudesh Sivasarasu, University of Cape Town

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June 2020 Report on SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus

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The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented global challenge. In their own personal capacities, various SAYAS members also wrote informative articles on the impact of the virus:

Knowing what the science says is important towards adequately dealing with the [#CoronaVirus](#) pandemic. SAYAS alumna **Prof Lisa du Toit**, Associate Professor: Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of the Witwatersrand, explores this in: Debunking 9 popular myths doing the rounds in Africa about the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/2ZV69US>

What could zoologists contribute to seeking solutions to the [#CoronaVirus](#)? Firstly, multidisciplinary research can be the cornerstone in forging links that haven't existed before. SAYAS Alumna **Prof Aliza le Roux**, Assistant Dean: Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Associate Professor: Zoology and Entomology, University of the Free State explores this further - <https://bit.ly/379Cc4X>

An interesting take on religion and suffering in reference to the [#CoronaVirus](#) pandemic as SAYAS member **A/Prof Chris De Wet** Department: Biblical and Ancient Studies at University of South Africa, addresses: 'Is Disease God's Punishment? Theological Perspectives from the Bible and Apocrypha' - <https://bit.ly/2XMre2p>

-A/Prof Chris De Wet also participated in a podcast with two historians from Princeton University on COVID-19 and historical disease studies, on the theme: 'Fact, Fiction, or Both? A Discourse Approach to Historical Disease'. Invited podcast interview (by Lee Mordechai and Merle Eisenberg) for the Infectious Historians Podcasts, hosted by the Department of History, Princeton University, 20 May 2020. Listen at: <https://bit.ly/2Yag4Ds>

-A/Prof Chris De Wet also participated in a video lecture on historical pandemics and COVID-19, the details under the title: "The Care of the Soul in a Time of Plague: John of Ephesus's Reaction to the Justinian Plague (ca. 543/44 CE)." Invited video lecture for the AIEP-IAPS peer-reviewed YouTube Channel, premiered 9 May 2020. Listen at: <https://bit.ly/2Ulf95>

One way of viewing a crisis is as an opportunity to pursue and contribute to a better future. SAYAS member **A/Prof Sudesh Sivarasu**, Associate Professor - Biomedical Engineering, Head of Medical Devices, Division of Biomedical Engineering, University of Cape Town notes that their philosophy has been to collaborate closely with other innovators in an effort to create technologies that are appropriate to our African context - <https://bit.ly/30yTIOO> [#CoronaVirus](#)

Despite its best efforts, the government's social protection system has largely fallen short of meeting its primary objectives in the ongoing [#CoronaVirus](#) emergency response to ensure urban food security, says SAYAS member **Prof Philani Moyo**, Director of the Fort Hare Institute of Social & Economic Research, University of Fort Hare- <https://bit.ly/2N8tD0W>