

# Michael Smith CV

**Research Areas:** Political Economy of Development, Development Economics, Economic and Political Thought

**Current Research Topics:** Critical mineral mining and regional industrialisation in Southern Africa

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

**D. Phil candidate** *York University, Sociology, Canada*

**M.Phil PPE** (Politics, Philosophy & Economics) at *University of Cape Town*: Degree awarded with Distinction

- Master's Exchange in Philosophy of Science and Political Economy, *Simon Fraser University, Canada*

**B.Soc.Sci. (Hons) PPE** at the *University of Cape Town*: Thesis awarded with Distinction

**B.com PPE** (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) at the *University of Cape Town (UCT)*

## OTHER

**New Academic Practitioners Program (NAPP) Graduate** at *University of Cape Town* 2021

**Summer School Certificate:** Global Politics of Protest and Change at the *London School of Economics* 2012

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

- York University Graduate Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship 2023
- New Generation of Academics Program (NGAP) Fellowship 2021
- UCT New Academic Practitioners Program (NAPP) Teaching Grant 2021
- University of Johannesburg Global Excellence Scholarship for PhD in Economic (UJ) 2018<sup>1</sup>
- South African National Institute for Humanities (NIHSS) Scholarship for PhD in Economics (UJ) 2018<sup>2</sup>
- UCT International Academic Programmes Office Exchange Scholarship 2014
- University of Cape Town Commerce Undergraduate Scholarship 2009
- University of Cape Town Humanities Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship 2008

## OTHER AWARDS

- 2019 Mail and Guardian "200 Young South Africans" list under "Politics, Government and Law" category  
<https://200youngsouthafricans.co.za/michaelnassen-politics-2019/>

## EMPLOYMENT

**Lecturer in Economic Development, University of Cape Town, School of Economics** 2022-present

Convenor, Masters Program in Economic Development 2023-present

Lecturer, Masters course in Globalisation, Industrialisation and Development 2021-present

Lecturer, Masters course in Governance and Growth 2023-present

Convenor, Honours course in Development Economics 2021-present

Convenor, 2<sup>nd</sup> year course in Development Economics 2022-present

**Deputy Director of the Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA)** 2015-2019<sup>3</sup>

Director of research activities. Focus areas: Mining and industrialisation in Africa, Curriculum Change and in Higher Education, Inequality

Lead funding proposals and reporting

Oversee office management

---

<sup>1</sup> This scholarship was declined to pursue PhD studies abroad.

<sup>2</sup> This scholarship was declined to pursue PhD studies abroad.

<sup>3</sup> Previously worked as a Researcher. Promoted to Deputy Director in 2017.

<b>Assistant Lecturer, University of Cape Town, School of Economics</b>	2020-present
<b>Research Associate, Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ) South Africa</b>	2020
<b>Adjunct Lecturer in Political Economy, University of Cape Town, Political Studies</b>	2015
<b>Teaching Assistant in Social Theory, York University, Canada, Sociology</b>	2019-2020
<b>Tutor, University of Cape Town, Political Studies Department</b>	2013-2014

## ***PUBLICATIONS***

### ***BOOKS***

Smith, MN (Ed). 2019. *Confronting Inequality: The South African Crisis*. Johannesburg: Fanele

### ***WORKING PAPERS***

Smith, MN., Osborne, C. Turok, B. and Moola, Z. 2019. "Gold Mining, Local Procurement and South Africa in Tanzania and Ghana," *SA-TIED Working Paper 79, United Nations University UNU-WIDER*

### ***RESEARCH PAPERS AND REPORTS***

Turok B., Smith, MN and Moola Z. 2018. "Infrastructure, Industrialisation and Community Development in Africa's Resource Rich Economies." Paper prepared for TIPS Annual Forum 2018 by the Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA) [http://forum.tips.org.za/images/Infrastructure\\_industrialisation\\_and\\_community\\_development\\_in\\_Africas\\_resource\\_rich\\_economies.pdf](http://forum.tips.org.za/images/Infrastructure_industrialisation_and_community_development_in_Africas_resource_rich_economies.pdf)

Turok, B., Smith, MN and Moola, Z. 2017. "South Africa's Industrial Outreach in Africa: Infrastructure, industrialisation and Community Development." Report commissioned by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and submitted by The Institute for African Alternatives (IFAA) <https://www.dbsa.org/EN/About-Us/Publications/Documents/South%20Africa%E2%80%99s%20Industrial%20Outreach%20in%20Africa%20-%202017.pdf>

### ***POLICY BRIEFS***

Smith, MN., Isaacs, G. and Coleman, N. 2020. "Towards a safer, more equitable opening of the economy." *Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ) Policy Brief*. [https://iej.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/IEJ-COVID-19-policy-brief-series-2-compact\\_2.pdf](https://iej.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/IEJ-COVID-19-policy-brief-series-2-compact_2.pdf)

### ***JOURNAL ARTICLES***

Smith, MN and Lester, CA. 2023. "From Dependency to Decoloniality: The enduring relevance of materialist political economy and the problems of a 'decolonial' alternative." *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African Studies*. Vol 49 (1) Special Issue on "Intellectual Decolonisation"

Smith, MN and Lester, CA. 2022. 'The contradictions of Black Consciousness: From Biko to RhodesMustFall.' *Social Dynamics: A Journal of African Studies*. Vol 48 (1) 141-169.

Reddy, N and Smith, MN. 2019. "Response to the University of Cape Town Curriculum Change Document". *New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*, 73.

## **CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **2022-2023**

“Resource Nationalism in Southern Africa”, *Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Partnership Development Grant Workshop*, Lusaka, 2023

Discussant for papers under themes “The Politics of Local Content” and “Political Drivers of Mining Fiscal Regime”

“Green Mineral Mining and the politics of industrialisation in Africa: What hopes for local content in Zambia?” *Seminar: Paris-I Pantheon-Sorbonne Masters in Development Economics*. 2023. Paris

“Green Energy Minerals and the Political Economy of Industrial Policy: The Zambian Case”. *Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Annual Congress 2023*. Toronto and Online.

“Decolonising Higher Education in South Africa: Reflections on Economics”. *Colloquium on Free Decolonised Education in the Aftermath of RhodesMustFall and FeesMustFall in South Africa*. Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Cape Town. South Africa. 2023.

“Decolonising Economics? A view from South Africa” with CA Lester. *Decolonized Narratives in Political Economy: Alternative Perspectives from the Global South*. Institute for Advanced Study. Hamburg and Online, 2023

“Neoclassical economics and its approach to inequality: A Review and Critique”. *Rethinking Economics for Africa Festival 2022*, Johannesburg, 2022.

“The African Mining Vision and the New Pan-Africanism: Critical Reflections” *Beyond Extraction*, Toronto, 2020.

“The contradictions of Black Consciousness: From the Biko generation to RhodesMustFall.” *York Sociology Graduate Association Annual Conference*, Toronto, 2020

“Gold Mining, Local Procurement and South African Mining Investment in Ghana and Tanzania.” *UNU WIDER SA-TIED Regional Researchers Forum*, Johannesburg, 2019

“Minerals based industrialisation in Africa’s Resource-Rich Economies: Infrastructure, industrialisation and Community Development” *Trade and Industrial Policy Solutions (TIPS) Annual Conference*, Johannesburg, 2018

### **GUEST LECTURES**

“Inequality and Curriculum Change in Economics” *Rethinking Economics for Africa (REFA) Student Webinar*, Online, 2020

“Inequality in South Africa and the United States: Comparative Observations” *Washington and Lee Contemporary Politics and Society Undergraduate Exchange Program*, Cape Town, 2019

“Confronting Inequality in South Africa” *University of Cape Town Rethinking Economics for Africa (REFA) Society*, 2019

“Confronting Inequality in South Africa” *University of Western Cape Economics Graduate Class*, 2019

### **PANEL PRESENTATIONS<sup>4</sup>**

“Confronting Inequality: The South African Crisis”, *Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS) Book Launch*, Johannesburg, 2019.

“Can Ramaphosa Deliver?” *Amandla Forum Panel Discussion*, Cape Town, 2018, Available: <http://aidc.org.za/podcast/can-ramaphosa-deliver/>

“South Africa and Regional Industrialisation in Africa” *South African Manufacturing Indaba*, Johannesburg, 2016

### **GRADUATION SPEECHES**

---

<sup>4</sup> All by invitation.

## ***SELECTED OP-ED and OTHER PUBLICATIONS<sup>5</sup>***

I have taglines at the following international and South African publications:

- Daily Maverick
- Business Day
- Mail and Guardian
- Jacobin Magazine
- Africa is a Country
- Amandla magazine

## ***CONFERENCE AND EVENT ORGANISATION***

“New Dawn and Structural Transformation in SA” Co-facilitator of Economic Dialogue Forum representing IFAA with the Royal Netherlands Embassy including participation from academic economists from WITS, UJ, UCT, Stellenbosch, University of Free State and UWC, and policymakers from the DTI and SARB. Lead presenters Nimrod Zalk, (DTI) and Phillipe Burger (University of Free State), 2019.

“Confronting Inequality in South Africa”, Conference Lead Facilitator representing IFAA in partnership with the Royal Netherlands Embassy, 2018

“Prospects for Renewal in South Africa”, Town Hall Co-Facilitator- Speakers included Hon. Kgalema Motlanthe, Prof. Thuli Madonsela (Stellenbosch University), Pallo Jordan and Prof. Ben Turok, 2018

“Rethinking Economics in Africa (REFA) Festival”, Conference Facilitator representing IFAA in partnership with the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), University of Johannesburg SARCHI Chair in Industrial Policy, Frederic-Ebert Stiftung Foundation

## ***ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES***

### ***Editorial Board Membership***

*New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*

### ***Journal Issues***

*New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy* issue 81. The special edition is titled: “Africa’s Quest for Natural Resource Sovereignty”

### ***Journal Articles Peer-Review***

I have served as a peer reviewer for articles in the following journals:

- Journal of Classical Sociology
- Ethnic and Racial Studies
- Africa Spectrum
- Social Dynamics
- South African Review of Sociology
- New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy

### ***Book Chapter***

“Mining Vision 2030.” In Valiani, S. (ed). 2018. *The Future of Mining in South Africa*. MISTRA: Johannesburg [Published]

### ***Curriculum Review***

---

<sup>5</sup> This is a selected abridged list. Full list available on request.

## ***SUPERVISION***

### **Masters students**

Pascal Fuchs. M.Phil Politics, Philosophy and Economics, *Financialisation of housing, social policy and inequality: a case study of South Africa*. Passed with Upper Second. 2023. Co-supervised with Dr. Lauren Paramoer.

Gianni Dell Done. M.com Economics. *The political economy of gender inequality in South Africa*. Passed with Upper Second. 2021

Hlumelo Mtshali. *A comparative analysis of the Malaysian New Economic Program and South African Black Economic Empowerment: A Political Settlements approach*. Submitted 2023

### Under examination

Marguerite Coetzee. *Branded band-aids on broken legs: A relational critique of the RCT approach to poverty*. Submitted 2023

## ***ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS***

**Policy Research in International Services and Manufacturing (PRISM) Researcher**  
**Member of Canadian Sociological Association**

2020-present  
2023-present