

The Research Team

Centre for the Analysis of South African Social Policy

CASASP has extensive experience through its sister research team, the Social Disadvantage Research Centre, of constructing national indices of deprivation at small area level. SDRC has recently undertaken a number of pioneering pieces of research into the conceptualisation and measurement of multiple deprivation in the United Kingdom, producing national indices for England (Noble *et al.*, 2000a; Noble *et al.*, 2004), Wales (Noble *et al.*, 2000b), Northern Ireland (Noble *et al.*, 2001; Noble *et al.*, 2005) and Scotland (Noble *et al.*, 2003).

CASASP is currently involved in a large collaborative research programme with the South African National Department for Social Development (DSD), funded by the UK Government Department for International Development Southern Africa (DFID-SA). This collaboration, termed the 'Programme for the development of the research infrastructure and the evidence base for pro-poor social policy in South Africa' is part of the wider DFID-SA sponsored programme 'Strengthening Analytical Capacity for Evidence-Based Decision-Making in South Africa'. Through its existing research activity and commitments in South Africa, CASASP is gaining an invaluable insight into the complexities of defining and measuring multiple deprivation in the South African context.

The members of the research team from CASASP are: Michael Noble, Helen Barnes, Chris Dibben, Wiseman Magasela, Stefan Noble, Phakama Ntshongwana, Gemma Wright and David Avenell (GIS consultant).

The Human Sciences Research Council

The HSRC of South Africa is a statutory research institution that supports development nationally, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and in Africa. The research portfolio of the HSRC focuses primarily on the conducting of large-scale, policy-relevant, social-scientific projects for public-sector users, non-governmental organisations and international development agencies. This research is shaped and managed in terms of flexible, interdisciplinary and problem-oriented research programmes that are aligned to national development challenges. It also maintains, updates, maps and disseminates vital national and topical databases.

The organisation was recently restructured to ensure that its research activities and programmes are more closely aligned to South Africa's national development priorities: notably poverty reduction through economic development, skills enhancement, job creation, the elimination of discrimination and inequalities, and effective service delivery. As such, poverty reduction is, directly or indirectly, addressed by much of the research and networking undertaken by the HSRC's six research programmes. Particular examples include: assessing social security provision for the Department of Social Development;

evaluating the impact of government programmes using administrative datasets for the Office of the President's Ten Year Review (2003); examining the social wage concept for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry; the Science and Technology for Poverty Reduction project for the Department of Science and Technology; developing a food security and vulnerability information and mapping system for the Department of Agriculture; and evaluating the poverty relief programme for the Public Service Commission. The HSRC also seeks to contribute to the research and development strategy of its parent Department of Science and Technology, especially in its mission to 'improve poverty reduction impact through focused innovation and social learning, based on research and monitoring'.

Recognising this mandate and research focus, the HSRC therefore has an express interest in engaging in the development of an index of multiple deprivation for the country. Moreover, there is a strong commitment in relation to building up national capacity to conduct such research on an ongoing basis and facilitating the strengthening and coordination of administrative data systems to be able to inform such processes.

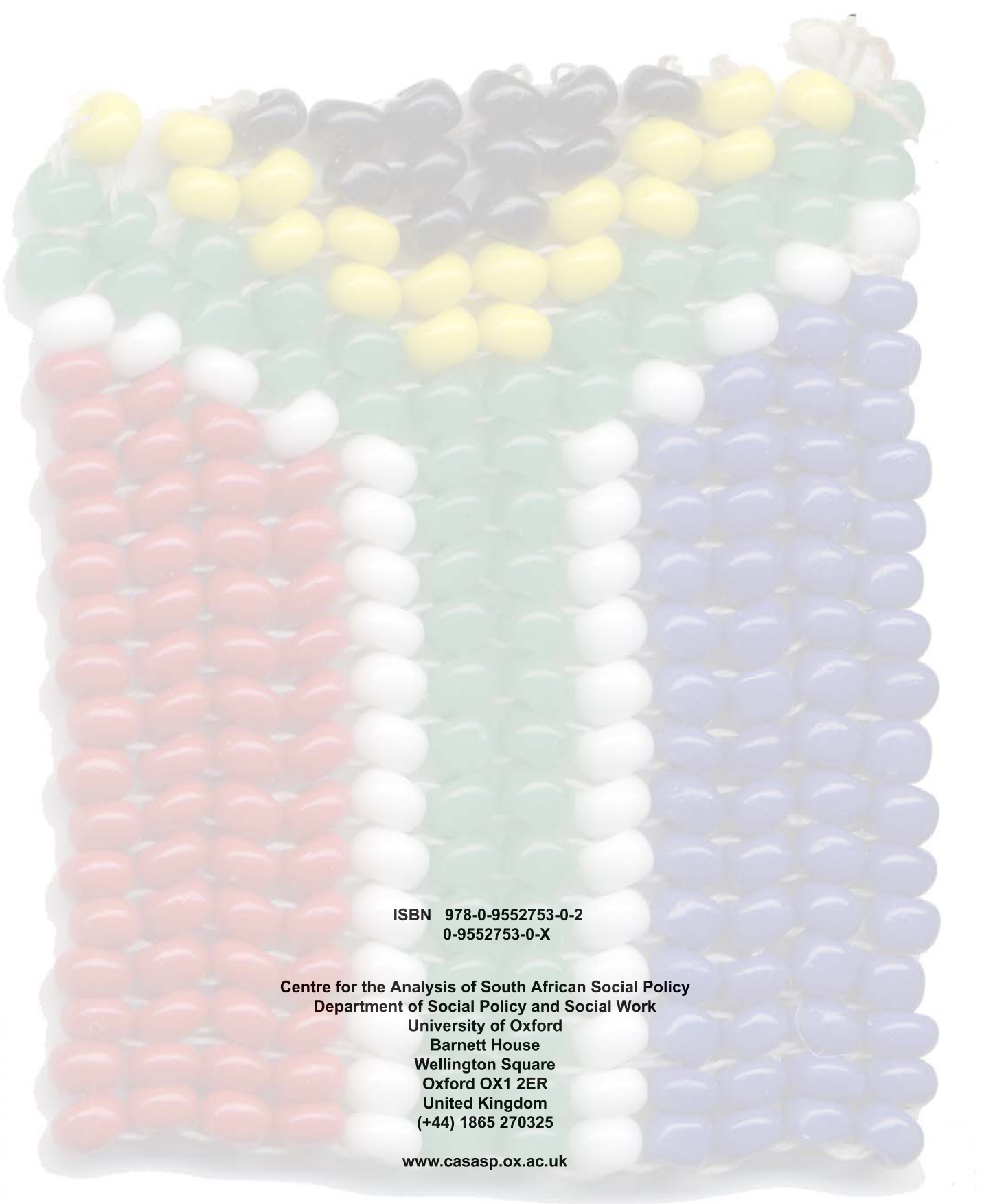
The members of the research team from the HSRC are: Benjamin Roberts and Sharmla Rama.

Statistics South Africa

As the national statistics agency in South Africa, Stats SA is mandated to collect data and produce official statistics. Stats SA's mission is to provide a relevant and accurate body of statistics to inform users on the dynamics in the economy and society through the application of internationally acclaimed practices. A full account of the organisation can be found at www.statssa.gov.za.

The Demography and Social Analysis Division generates information products on poverty and social trends at national and sub-national level. Since 2000, Stats SA has been working with various partners (e.g. the World Bank) to provide small area statistics on poverty. The development of a PIMD represents further progress in expanding the information base for development planning and evaluation. Members of the Demography and Social Analysis Division are partners in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation project.

The members of the research team from Stats SA are: Miriam Babita, Heston Phillips and Sibongile Zungu.



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