

HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS

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Is this output project related?	Yes	X	No	If yes, provide the project number	SKACAA
Title	Status of youth report 2004-2010: Social cohesion				
Authors	Bhana, A., Swartz, S., Taylor, S., Scott, D., Vawda, M., & Dlamini, N.				
Type of output	Select the appropriate output type from the list below				
Monograph/book*					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peer reviewed				
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conference or Seminar Papers				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name, date and place of conference/seminar				
March 2012. Social Cohesion in South Africa based on the Status of Youth client report, Pretoria, South Africa.					
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Submitted by:	Mohammed Vawda				
Submission date:	23/03/2012				

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Social cohesion amongst South African youth

Arvin Bhana, Sharlene Swartz, Duncan Scott, Nothile Dlamini, Stephen Taylor, and Mohamed Vawda

01 September 2017



Human and Social
Development



Social science that makes a difference

Overview

1. The policy context
2. Civic & political participation
3. Participation in community networks
4. Social integration & national identity
5. Youth leadership & development
6. Vulnerable youth & youth with disabilities
7. Youth & crime
8. Youth participation in sport
9. Summary & policy implications



The policy context

What is social cohesion? – NYP 2009-2014

1. Civic and political participation
2. Inclusion of youth in society
3. Development of identity and potential
4. Constitutional connectedness – shared national identity



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Civic & political participation

1. Reciprocal reinforcement of social cohesion
2. 'Active' citizenship and political participation
3. Youth voter registration as measure
4. The 'barometer of the public's trust'
(Flanagan & Faison, 2001)
5. Differentiate voting from political interest



Voter registration within age groups

Age group	2005	2008
	%	
18-24	48.8	22
25-34	86.2	74
35-44	93.8	87
45-54	94.7	89
55-64	95.4	91
65+	96.6	92
Total	81.9	73



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Source: Kivulu et al. (2005); Davids et al. (2009)

Civic & political participation (2)

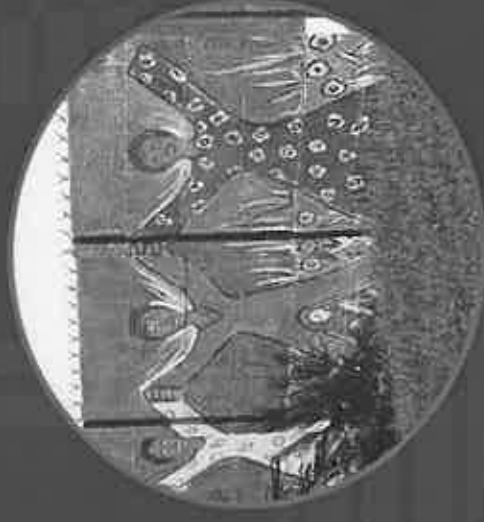
1. Low interest in elections
2. Political participation still important
3. Consider alternative public groups, e.g.:
 - Dance and theatre in Brazil
4. Citizenship education in schools





Community networks

1. Prominent gap in the literature
2. For example, religious groups:
 - Expand 'social & organisational ties'
(Smith & Denton, 2005)
 - Build community & leadership skills
 - Develop cultural capital



social science

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Community networks (2)

1. Fewer people attending religious meetings
2. Pitfalls of traditional community practices
3. New forms of community networks
4. Higher mobile phone usage in SA
5. New method of social organisation



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Mobile phone subscriptions

Nation/region	Computer internet access per 100 inhabitants	Landline telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	Mobile phone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants
Sub-Saharan Africa	6.47	3.17	26.77
Kenya	7.99	0.71	30.48
South Africa	8.16	9.56	87.08



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Source: Napolitano (2010, p. 107)

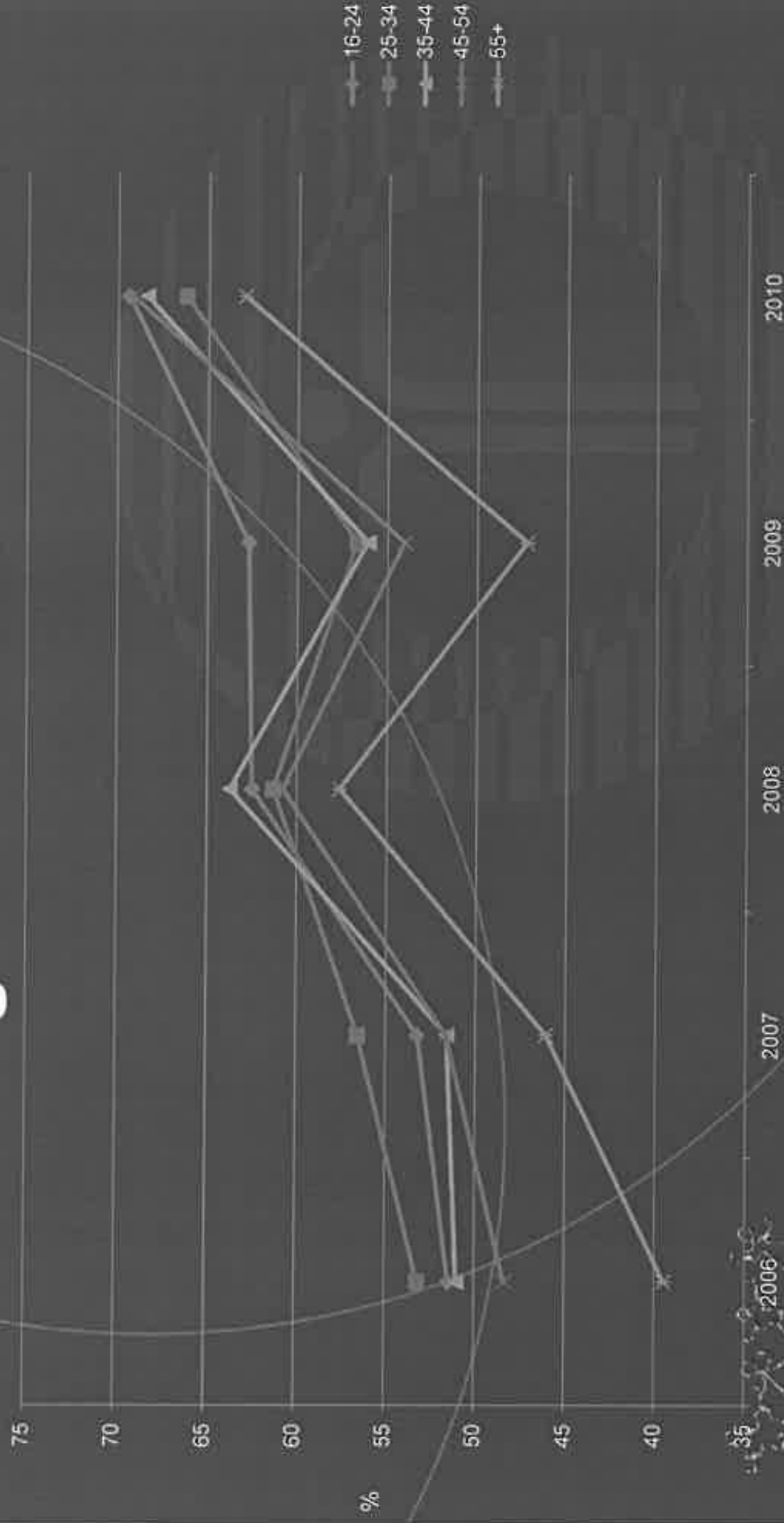
Social integration & national identity

1. Social cohesion as 'order and control'
2. The dangers of an atomised nation
3. Different youth groups perceive:
 - Alternative identities
 - Diverse perceptions of their future



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Approval of racially integrated neighbourhoods



Source: IJR(2006); IJR(2007); IJR(2008); IJR(2009); IJR(2010)

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Always/often socialise with people from other groups



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Youth leadership & development

1. Addressing:
 - Inclusion of youth in societies
 - Development of identity and potential
2. Youth & community development predominant
3. Peer-led initiatives: leadership & development
4. Initiatives under-represented in literature





Vulnerable youth and youth with disabilities

1. Disability and poverty closely linked
2. Educational attainment an indicator
3. Data on street homeless thin
4. But gendered and aged
5. Data on child-headed households unclear



Youth and crime

1. Youth imprisonment:
 - Excludes from mainstream society
 - Impacts on future life prospects
2. Recidivism a problematic measure
3. Little data on success of interventions



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Sentenced offenders by age group

Age category	2006	2007	2008
	%		
18-21	11.6	10.7	9.9
22-25	20.4	20.5	20.0
26-30	23.8	24.1	24.5

Source: Department of Correctional Services (2008)



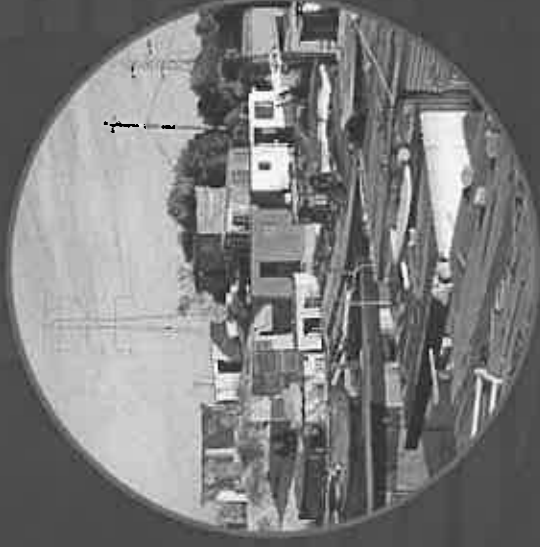
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Youth victimisation

1. Social cohesion as 'order and control'
2. Unsafe environment impedes development
3. Criminal behaviour linked to poverty
4. Weak family ties linked to vulnerability



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Youth and crime (2)

1. Important to understand:
 - What rules govern youth behaviour
 - Moral and material influences
2. Youth and moral capital (Swartz, 2010)
3. 'Social reproduction of morality' (Swartz, 2010)



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Youth participation in sport

1. Sport and cohesion positively linked
2. Problems with physical education in school:
 - Teacher qualification
 - Time allocation
 - Inadequate school facilities



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Motivators of sports participation

	Low LSM	Median LSM	High LSM	Mean
	%			
School	37.5	34.2	30.2	33.8
Friends	17.6	17.7	21.0	18.8
For social reasons	9.7	8.2	5.0	7.6
Media	6.2	1.1	2.7	3.1

Source: Department of Sport and Recreation of South Africa (2005, p. 11)



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Summary

1. General indicators inadequate as measures
2. Social environments raced and aged
3. Traditional and contemporary involvement
4. Inadequate data for both forms in literature



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Policy implications

1. Respond to contemporary diversity
 - Investigate new forms of participation
 - Measure young people's online interaction
 - Harness new media to engage with youth
2. Tailor intervention projects to youth groups
3. Monitor key goals of interventions

