HSRC-UJ Covid-19 Democracy survey in context

- The Covid-19 response timetable to first Covid case, 5 March:
  - 26 March: Stage 5 national lockdown
  - 1 May: reduction from Stage 5 to 4
  - 1 June: reduction from Stage 4 to 3

- The HSRC-UJ Covid-19 Democracy Survey aimed to inform government, civil society and media about the psycho-social and economic experience of lockdown, before the move to Stage 4
  - The 8-person team has been led by Prof. Kate Alexander of CSC at UJ and Dr Narnia Bohler-Muller of DCES at HSRC
  - They had to go from design to initial published reports in a fortnight

- Lacking time and money for face-to-face or telephone interviews:
  - Data gathering instead used #datafree Moya Messenger App on the #datafree biNu platform. This resource was critical to success.
  - The questionnaire could be completed, free of charge, once, by any of ~4m cellphone users in SA, 18+ years old, with access internet.

Weighting to Stats SA data

- The results for each phase were weighted broadly by race, age and education, to match the latest Stats SA Community Survey data.

- The gender distribution was close to even without weighting.

- The 5,841 completed cases in Phase 1 (demographics were at the end of the survey) did not allow *also* weighting by province.

- US telephone polling hopes that cell weights should not exceed 5.

- Only 2 in 60 cells > 5: i.e. elder Black Africans with less than Matric. Only 4 other weights >2. Quite a sound national sample!

Matrix of multiplicative weights for Phase 1

AGE	BLACK			COLOURED			INDIAN			WHITE			
	<Mat.	Mat.	>Mat.	<Mat.	Mat.	>Mat.	<Mat.	Mat.	>Mat.	<Mat.	Mat.	>Mat.	
18-24	2.6	1.0	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.4	Multiplicative wts to match Stats SA
25-34	1.5	1.0	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.4	2.0	0.4	
35-44	1.7	1.2	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.2	
45-54	6.3	1.3	0.3	1.5	0.9	0.3	1.2	1.5	0.1	1.0	1.3	0.2	
55+	8.6	3.7	0.4	2.0	1.5	0.2	2.2	1.2	0.1	1.7	1.6	0.2	

Questionnaire content

- The questionnaire had to cover various themes that could be responded to on a cellphone in some 20 data-free minutes.

- So no space for academic scales – colloquial expression of everyday understandings amenable to translation, including:
    - knowledge of Covid, how serious, information sources
    - use of protective measures, experience of distancing
    - police-army encounters
    - hunger, access to other services
    - current and expected future financial situation
    - "mood": fear, stress, depression, irritation, loneliness etc.
    - socio-political attitudes , e.g. human rights, trust of government
    - views on harshness of lockdown, future developments
    - demographics