

NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

IVOR CHIPKIN

South Africa is on the cusp of significant change, and the New South Institute (NSI) is at the forefront of this transformation. We have not only integrated ourselves into major think tank networks within South Africa through our work in institution-building but have also established ourselves as a global institute with strong links to leading universities.

I would also like to share that we have launched a new partnership with the Anti-Corruption Coalition (ACC), which has led to us working as co-author of the *BribeVital of the Promise: How South Africa is being stolen* report on state capture in South Africa and *Shadow State: The Politics of State Capture* (WUP: 2018) with Mark Swilling. The ACC is unit within the Centre for Business Ethics (CBE), that aims to develop a comprehensive private database on corruption in South Africa to gain a thorough understanding of its various forms, support anti-corruption efforts through targeted research and analysis, and contribute to the global anti-corruption movement by sharing insights and learning from other countries facing similar challenges.

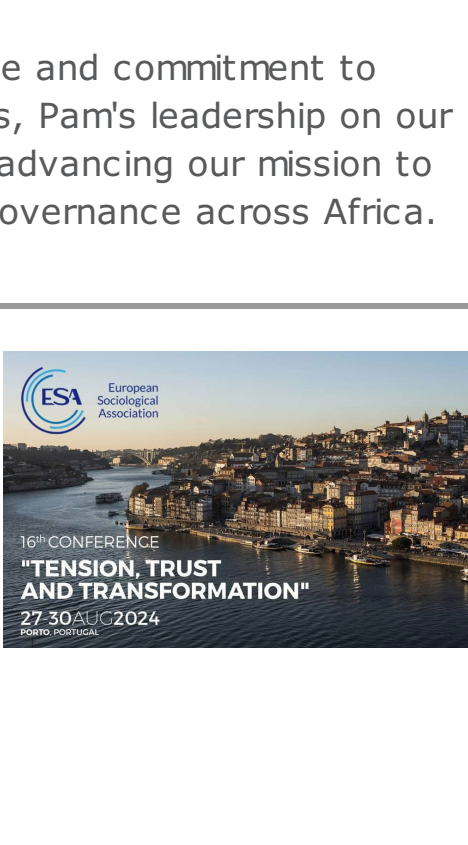
At the NSI, my colleagues and I have been focusing on innovative methodologies to measure state capture at organisations, using data modelling to enhance our understanding of this complex issue.

I am also honoured to announce that Dr Jelena Vidojević, co-founder of the New South Institute and project head for our South-South Dialogues and Rethinking the South African Welfare State programmes, has been appointed as a Research Associate at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) for the next three years. At GIBS, she will continue her research work in these key areas.

TOP NEWS

AFRICAN GLOBAL DIALOGUES 2024

The NSI has launched its signature annual event, the African Global Dialogues, aimed at addressing major political and policy challenges relevant to South Africa and the Global South. The initiative aspires to mark the beginning of the new phase of positive engagement on the most pressing global issues. This year, the conference will address the *Narrative Conditions Towards Peace in the Middle East*.



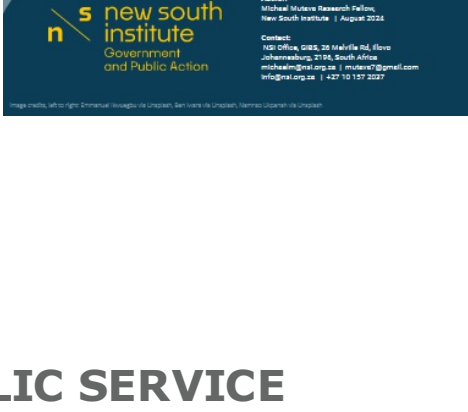
Featuring a stellar lineup of experts from various fields and from around the world, including our own NSI researchers, the conference aims to critically engage current political framings, with a view to opening discursive space about Israel/Palestine and the region that is conducive to more positive engagement. Please click [here](#) to visit the [conference website](#).

EXCITING ADDITION TO THE NEW SOUTH INSTITUTE BOARD

The NSI welcomes Pam Yako to our Board of Directors. With her extensive experience and commitment to building inclusive communities, Pam's leadership on our Board will be instrumental in advancing our mission to strengthen democracy and governance across Africa. You can read more [here](#).

NSI'S DR. ROMMY MORALES-OLIVARES PRESENTS AT THE 16TH ESA CONFERENCE IN PORTO

NSI researcher Dr. Rommy Morales-Olivares recently participated in the 16th Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA) held in Porto, Portugal, from August 27 to 30, 2024. The conference, themed Tension, Trust, and Transformation brought together sociologists from around the world to explore critical global issues. During the conference, Dr. Morales-Olivares presented in two sessions. On August 28th, she delivered a presentation titled, "Economic Progress: Reconstructing collective self-understanding in Chile and Spain".



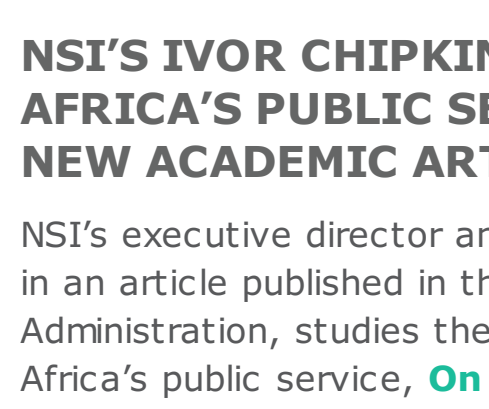
The following day, on August 29th, she shared a collaborative research paper co-authored with Jelena Vidojević, Co-Founder and Research Fellow at the NSI, titled "In the Pursuit of a Transformative Welfare State: The Curious Cases of Chile and South Africa".

KENYA'S MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The NSI has launched its latest research paper: *An Analysis of Migration Governance Frameworks in Kenya*. The report, by NSI research fellow Michael Mutana, highlights the evolution of migration governance in Kenya, analysing how past and present dynamics influence current policies. It aligns with the NSI's focus on democracy and institution building by identifying policy gaps and offering recommendations to strengthen legal frameworks and inter-agency coordination. This publication plays an important role in fostering informed governance that supports national and regional development within the broader African context, highlighting the crucial role of institutions such as the Judiciary and Kenya's new constitution in establishing and improving migration governance. Please see the full report by clicking [here](#).



BEYOND POLITICAL DISCRETION:



NSI REPORT ON PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM AIMS TO HELP STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In June, we launched two policy papers focused on public service reform with an emphasis on the need for a merit-based civil service and the implementation of the Professionalisation Framework. These report papers address the contradictions and challenges within the South African public service, including issues of competence, confusion, and corruption.

The Institute's focus on strengthening public institutions is important for ensuring that democracy and good governance go hand in hand, leading to sustainable development in South Africa and beyond. We welcome you to [download the two papers here](#).

NSI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL RELEASE NEW WORKING PAPER

Adding to our growing series of seminal academic papers and intellectual discussions is an NSI working paper by Ivor Chipkin, co-authored with the University of Bristol. The paper, *Democracy, power and evidence-informed policy-making: The Case of public service reform in South Africa*, is part of a larger project examining the use of scientific evidence in policymaking. This paper calls for a balance between political control and administrative autonomy in South Africa's public service a key area for democratic and institutional reform.



CHALLENGING MIGRATION MYTHS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE NSI



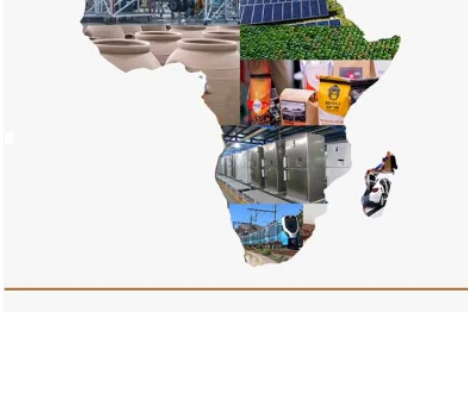
Alan Hirsch, leader of the Migration Governance Reform in Africa research programme at the NSI, reviewed Henk de Haas's book, *How Migration Really Works: A factual guide to the most divisive issue in politics*. De Haas, a leading migration scholar, debunks common myths about migration, arguing that it is intrinsically linked to economic development and driven by disparities in wealth and opportunity.

Hirsch's review, published in the *South African Journal of International Affairs*, aligns with the NSI's mission to promote evidence-based migration policies. Please click [here](#) to read the [essay](#) which provides an understanding of migration, challenging conventional narratives and advocating for informed policymaking.

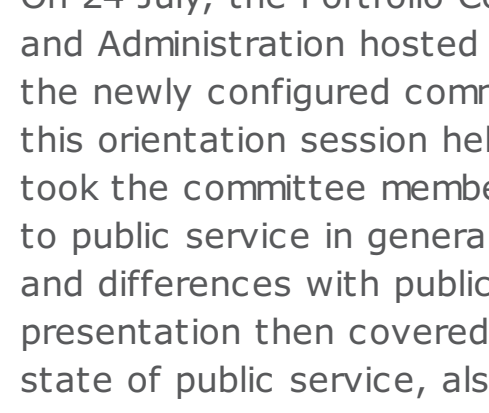
NSI'S IVOR CHIPKIN ADDRESSES SOUTH AFRICA'S PUBLIC SERVICE CRISIS IN NEW ACADEMIC ARTICLE

NSI's executive director and co-founder, Ivor Chipkin, in an article published in the *Journal of Public Administration*, studies the contradictions within South Africa's public service, *On Contradiction et al.: Overcoming the crisis of government in South Africa*.

In the academic article, Chipkin traces the roots of these issues to early post-apartheid legislation and presents a case for reforms that call for professionalism and accountability in public administration. This analysis is in line with the NSI's commitment to strengthening institutional frameworks to support democratic governance and effective public service delivery in South Africa. Read more [here](#).



NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF AFRICAN MIGRATION AND THE AfCFTA



In an article for the Brookings Institution, NSI researcher Alan Hirsch studied the role of personal mobility within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Hirsch's analysis explored Africa's shifting economic landscape, the challenges of implementing continental mobility protocols, and the valuable lessons that can be drawn from other regions.

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit organisation based in Washington, D.C. The report looks at top priorities for Africa in 2023, examining the pressing policy issues on the continent in a time of heightened global turbulence.

In his essay, Hirsch notes that the successful implementation of AfCFTA has the potential to transform economic integration and development across the continent. Read the [article here](#).

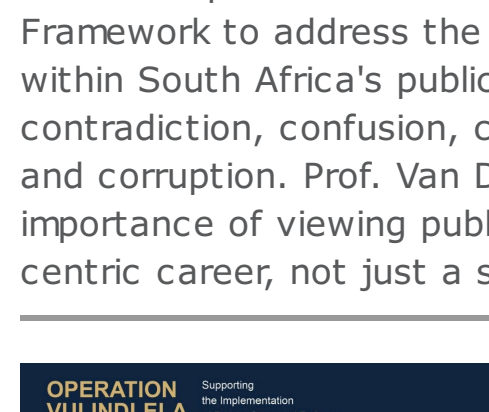
CONSOLIDATING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (EBOOK)

In August 2024, an essay by our senior researcher Alan Hirsch on pathways towards the freer mobility of people in Africa was published in the book *Consolidating the African Continental Free Trade Area*.

The book highlights the AfCFTA's progress and potential to boost intra-African trade while addressing challenges in policy harmonisation and implementation. Read Hirsch's chapter by downloading the [eBook here](#).



THE END OF WAR: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE



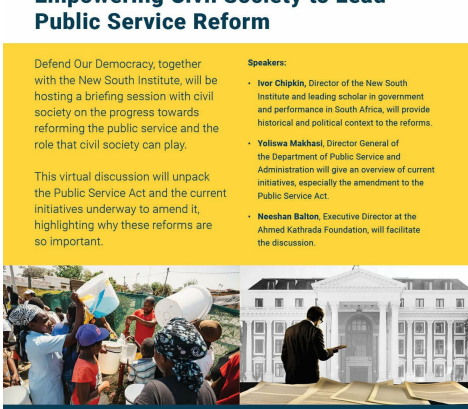
Sociologist, peace studies scholar and NSI researcher Isabella Nakarada participated at the Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe workshop *Ending War: History, Theory, and Lessons*, held from May 6 and 7, 2024, in Bologna, Italy. The workshop brought together scholars and policymakers to explore the complex process of war termination, with a focus on historical and ongoing conflicts.

Nakarada's contributions, particularly on the Yugoslav wars, provided perspectives on societal transitions and reconciliation processes. The event, co-hosted by leading academic institutions, aimed to merge historical analysis with strategic thinking, reflecting NSI's commitment to addressing global challenges through informed dialogue.

Nakarada will also be participating in the international conference Cooperative Multipolar System: In Quest for a New World Order, set to take place in October, in Skopje, North Macedonia.

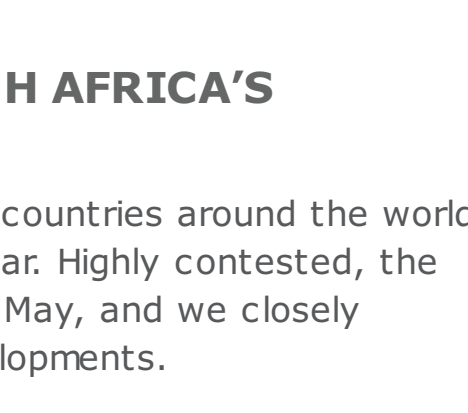
NSI MEETS WITH PARLIAMENT'S NEW PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

On 24 July, the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration hosted an orientation meeting with the newly configured committee secretariat team. At this orientation session held in Parliament, Ivor Chipkin took the committee members through an introduction to public service in general, as well as its similarities and differences with public administration. The presentation then covered an analysis of South Africa's state of public service, also citing other similar cases internationally. He spoke of the five Cs of crisis in the SA context - contradiction (political/administrative), confusion (accountability), corruption/capture, weak capability, and centralisation. Please download the NSI's presentation by clicking [here](#).



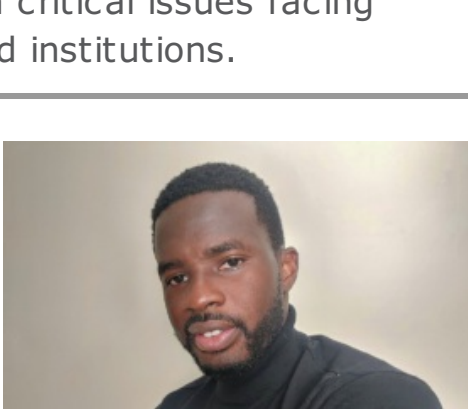
ALAN HIRSCH SPEAKS AT WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT'S STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

In July, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Administration undertook a Strategic Planning process for the new 5-year strategic period (2025/26 – 2029/30). NSI senior researcher Alan Hirsch delivered a presentation at the planning session. His presentation highlighted South Africa's evolving political landscape, providing an understanding of the challenges for the upcoming strategic period.



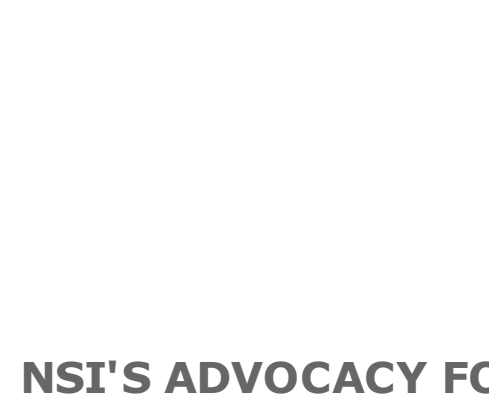
LEADING THE DISCOURSE ON PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY

On 21 June, the NSI hosted a discussion on public service reform at the Donald Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), our new home. The event also saw the launch of two policy papers authored by NSI director Ivor Chipkin together with researcher Rafael Leite, followed by a panel discussion with distinguished experts, including Rudi Dicks head of the Project Management Office in the Office of the President; Prof. Somadoda Fikeni Chairperson of the Public Service Commission; Leon Schreiber the Shadow Minister of Public Service and Administration and now Minister of Home Affairs; as well as Prof. Genda van Dijk Director and Head of School of Public Management and Administration (UP), Maanda Tshifularo Director at the Centre for Leadership and Dialogue (CL&D) at GIBS, facilitated the discussion.



The reports advocate for a merit-based civil service and the implementation of the Professionalisation Framework to address the deep-seated challenges within South Africa's public service, such as contradiction, confusion, competence, centralisation, and corruption. Prof. Van Dijk highlighted the importance of viewing public service as a people-centric career, not just a stepping stone.

NSI'S PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION VULINDLELA

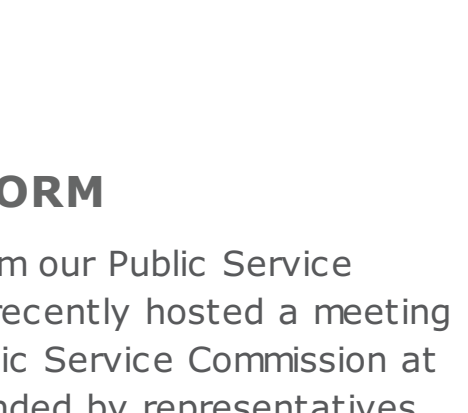


The NSI's Professor Alan Hirsch took part in the *Building Momentum on Reform: Towards the Next Phase of Operation Vulindlela* conference, held from June 25 and 26 in Johannesburg. Organised by the Presidency and National Treasury, the conference brought together policymakers, industry leaders and academics to evaluate the progress of Operation Vulindlela (OV), a joint initiative of the Presidency and National Treasury to accelerate structural reforms to uplift economic growth reforms.

Professor Hirsch participated in a panel discussion on visa reform where he highlighted the importance of improving South Africa's visa system to enhance migration governance and drive economic growth. The conference's discussions focused on key areas like energy, rail and water infrastructure, aiming to unlock further investment and efficiencies critical to South Africa's economic future.

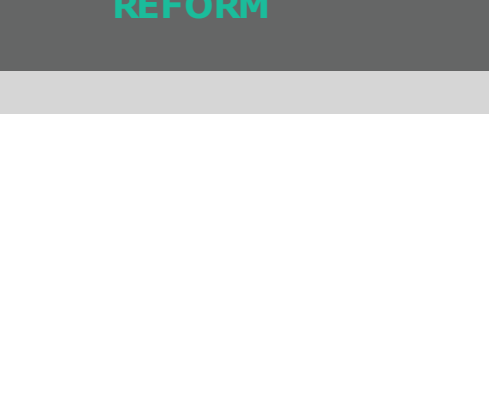
EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY TO TAKE ON PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

On the 29th of July, 2024, the NSI, together with Defend Our Democracy, hosted a virtual briefing session titled Empowering Civil Society to Lead Public Service Reform. This event aimed to engage civil society on the ongoing amendments to the Public Service Act and emphasise their important role in these reforms.



Speakers included Ivor Chipkin, Yoliswa Makhosi Director-General of the Department of Public Service and Administration, and Neeshan Balton Executive Director at the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation. Chipkin provided historical context while outlining current initiatives. He also pointed to the importance of these changes for strengthening democratic governance and improving public service delivery. The event emphasised the need for civil society's active participation in shaping the future of public service in South Africa.

NSI OP-EDS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S ELECTIONS



South Africa was one of the countries around the world that hosted elections this year. Highly contested, the elections in SA took place in May, and we closely monitored the electoral developments.

In recent op-eds published on South Africa's leading media company, News24, both Alan Hirsch and Ivor Chipkin provide deepened understanding of the country's political and economic challenges.

Hirsch's article, *Catch the mice: The ANC-DA's challenges on BEE, NHI, SDEs has one chance*, explores the potential for pragmatic coalition governance in South Africa, while Chipkin's piece, *If Ramaphosa is gone in the dawn*, published in June outlines the political landscape following the May elections. These articles reflect the NSI's commitment to driving public discourse on critical issues facing South Africa's democracy and institutions.

NSI OP-ED ON MIGRATION POLICY IN NIGERIA CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Victor Amadi, an NSI researcher, published an article in *The Conversation Africa*, a leading publisher of research-based news and analysis platform. The article is his report on Nigeria's migration policies. In his article, Victor notes that despite being extensive on paper, the policies suffer from poor implementation. His analysis points to the need for a more coordinated approach to migration governance, highlighting the interplay between regional and national policies. Please see the article by clicking [here](#).



REFLECTING ON SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMIC JOURNEY



During an interview with South African talk radio station, POWER 98.7, Professor Alan Hirsch provided an analysis of South Africa's economic reforms over the past three decades. Drawing from his book, *Season of Hope: Economic Reform under Mandela and Mbeki*, Hirsch explored the optimistic beginnings of the Mandela presidency, and the subsequent challenges faced in governance and economic development.

Hirsch discussed the impact of various reforms on sectors such as education, infrastructure and public health, highlighting both achievements and areas where progress has stalled. His reflections offered critical understandings into the complex journey of South Africa's economy and the ongoing need for strategic policymaking to address inequality and drive growth.

NSI'S ADVOCACY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

On the 21st of June, 2024, Ivor Chipkin, Executive Director of the NSI was on *News24* Africa, a premier South African 24-hour news and information service, to discuss public service reform. The interview highlighted the recent amendment to the Public Service Act, which the NSI strongly advocated for, aiming to shift power from politicians to senior officials in public service recruitment and operations.

Chipkin presented the NSI's latest reports, developed in collaboration with researcher Rafael Leite, which provide a concrete action plan for public service reform. These legislative developments and NSI's ongoing efforts are important in rebalancing power within South Africa's public service, ensuring a more accountable and effective governance structure.

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

With more work emerging from our Public Service Reform programme, the NSI recently hosted a meeting in collaboration with the Public Service Commission at GIBS. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Presidency, the Public Service Commission, the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), as well as leaders from civic organisations like the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and Defend Our Democracy. The aim was to begin outlining a high-level, consolidated reform programme: ACRON, capturing the mood and discussions from the meeting will be developed.

We thank you again for your interest in and support of our work