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A plan of the Mapungubwe summit by GA Gardner who was contracted to undertake the 1936 to 1940 excavations at K2 and Mapungubwe (32)

MISTRA's Monthly Briefing is a newsletter from the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. It aims to inform MISTRA's partners about the Institute's research, strategic reflections, published papers, and other news relating to the network of people and organisations committed to MISTRA's strategic engagement with the issues facing South Africa. The briefing is issued monthly.

In issue Number#11 we take immense pleasure in reporting on the conference and release of the final research report of the first of our inaugural eight priority research projects, namely the research project on The Art, Science and Philosophy of South African Football.

We also provide a brief report on a Colloquium to present the preliminary research findings of the MISTRA priority research project entitled: The Concept and Application of Transdisciplinarity., as well as two skaftien sessions on The History of South African Innovations and on Beyond the Imagination, a brown-bag session on bio- and nano-technologies as a part of South Africa's development plan.

We share a range of media articles on our conference on *The Art, Science and Philosophy of South African Football*, and an article on daunting challenges faced by this year's graduating class of matriculants.

We also pay tribute to the late **Prof Jakes Gerwel**, who served as Vice-Chairperson of MISTRA's Council of Advisors since its establishment in mid-2010.

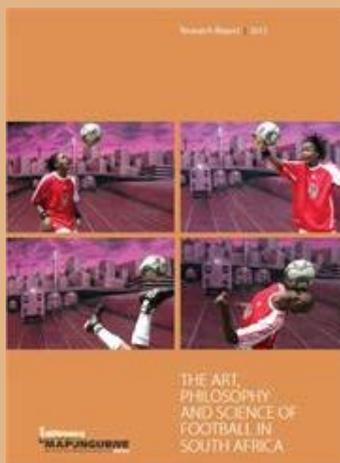
And we announce, with regret, that MISTRA's Directorate Operations, **Barry Gilder** will be relocating abroad and thus leaving the full-time employ of the Institute at the end of January 2013. He will continue to work with the Institute on a contractual part-time basis.

We hope you find our Monthly Briefings informative and invite you to visit our website, where you will find more information on our research, key papers, media on MISTRA, as well as an Expression of Interest Form if you are interested in participating in any of the Institute's research projects.

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MISTRA STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

The Art, Science and Philosophy of South African Football



On 29 November 2012 MISTRA held a conference to release the research report on the first of its 8 priority projects. Entitled "*Beyond AFCON 2013: What future for SA Football?*", the conference engaged with the findings of the report into research, entitled "*The Art, Science and Philosophy of South African Football*".

The research team for the research project on the "The Art, Science and Philosophy of South African Football" comprised **Prof Yoga Coopoo** of the Department of Sport and Movement Studies, at the University of Johannesburg, **Prof Hanlie Moss**, Director: Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation (PhASRec) at North-West University in Potchefstroom, **Chris Fortuin** of the Department of Sport and Movement Studies at the University of Johannesburg, and **Dr Howard Freese** a former Kaiser Chiefs player and independent researcher.

Below: David Maimela (researcher), Dr Thandi Ndlovu, member of the MISTRA Board of Governors & Kirsten Nematandani – President of the South African Football Association



Members of the Football Project Research Team and Members of the MISTRA Board of Governors

Produced after two years of research, *The Art, Science and Philosophy of Football* was dedicated to the late Thomas Madigage, assistant coach to the South African national football team, was edited by Adjunct Prof Melainie Cameron of the School of Health and Sport Sciences at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Brisbane, Australia.

The conference was opened by MISTRA's Executive Director, Joel Netshitenzhe, who explained that MISTRA undertook the project because football "is about the philosophy of human relations; it's an economic sector in its own right; it is about physiology, kinetics and other natural sciences; and it's about modern management sciences". He also called for a moment's silence dedicated to Prof Jakes Gerwel. Paying tribute to Prof Gerwel, Netshitenzhe described him as "an accomplished public servant, a great intellectual and a wise counsellor". Prof Gerwel served as Vice-Chairperson of MISTRA's Council of Advisors.



Top: Chris Fortuin.

Above: Safa chief executive Robin Petersen

Speakers at the conference included: **Prof Sibusiso Vil-Nkomo** – Chairperson of MISTRA Board and Executive Director at the University of Pretoria, **Kirsten Nematandani** – President of the South African Football Association, **Chris Fortuin** (project team), **Moss Mashishi**, (project team), **Prof Hanlie Moss** (project team), **Dr Howard Freese** (project team), and **Dr Thandi Ndlovu**, member of the MISTRA Board of Governors

[To read the overview of *The Art, Science and Philosophy of Football* click here.](#)

To hear a podcast Howard Freese and Chris Fortuin talking about *The Art, Science and Philosophy of Football* on the Forum@8 with Xolani Gwala, [click here.](#)

Colloquium on Transdisciplinarity

The Mapungubwe Institute hosted a Colloquium at the end of October 2012 to present the preliminary research findings of the MISTRA priority research project entitled: The Concept and Application of Transdisciplinarity.

The colloquium, hosted by the Human Science Research Council (HSRC), provided an opportunity for interested researchers, academics, and others to engage on the objective of the project, which was to interrogate the frameworks for the application of transdisciplinarity in higher education by reference to case studies at the Centre for Transdisciplinarity Studies (CTS) at Fort Hare University, the Sustainable Energy Technology and Research (SeTAR) Centre at the University of Johannesburg and the Centre for Human Rights (CHR) at the University of Pretoria.

The relevance of transdisciplinarity is highlighted by the fact that developing societies like South Africa still have to manage contradictions from their past with present demands such as building an inclusive society within the context of challenges presented by inherited rigid approaches to knowledge production and dissemination.

For more on MISTRA's research project on transdisciplinarity:

[Whose Knowledge is it anyway](#)

And

[Progressive system must connect education with real life.](#)

Skaftien on The History of South African Innovation



The Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) convened a skaftien session on the History of South African Innovations as a first step in developing its new research project on this theme to commence during the course of 2013. MISTRA skaftiens are informal brown-bag discussions meant to encourage a free flow of ideas.

Convened by MISTRA Assistant Researcher in the Faculty of KESA, Ayender Makhuela, the discussion focussed on what constitutes innovation, the forces behind innovation and the impact of those forces on the process of innovation.



It also addressed the issues and challenges that have been side-lined by National Systems Innovations (NSI) studies scholars in South Africa, the contribution of traditional knowledge practices, such as indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), and informal systems of innovation based on 'township' models of livelihood to the NSI.

The history of innovation provides a narration of the development of humanity from innovations of ancient civilisations to technologies and innovation of modern societies. Pre-colonial societies, such as the Mapungubwe civilisation in Southern Africa and other settlements, had employed the services of artisans and skilled workers for discoveries and innovations.

[To read more click here](#)

Beyond the Imagination: A skafftin on bio- and nano technologies



David Maimela and Tebogo Matsimela

The Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) held a skafftin on bio- and Nano technologies as a part of South Africa's development plan. The skafftien was convened by MISTRA Faculty of KESA intern Tebogo Matsimela on 17 October 2012 and constitutes an early step in developing MISTRA's new research project on this topic which will commence during 2013

Nanotechnology refers to the study and application of extremely small things at a molecular scale, while biotechnology is concerned with the medical application of living organisms by humans. The study and discussion thus looked at these two terms in parallel to reflect on how best the country can utilise these technologies for development.

The transformative potential of nanotechnology recognises that technological innovations are occurring across a multitude of sectors, many of which are based on microprocessors, telecommunications, biotechnology and nanotechnology. The discussion on the notion of transformative potential also suggests that the interaction and convergence of technologies across sectors could bring about the greatest breakthroughs in technologies of the 21st century.

[To read more click here](#)

MISTRA IN THE NEWS

Marshall Plan to save SA football

By **Timothy Molobi**

Safa is expected to make a major announcement on a Marshall Plan to save South African football. But the key questions are whether it will be implemented and how, and if so, where the funding will come from. Details of the plan on how to map the way forward will be revealed this week by Safa with the launch of the development agency.

Marshall Plan to save SA football

Research will be pointless if recommendations are not implemented

TIMOTHY MOLOBI
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Safa is expected to make a major announcement on a Marshall Plan to save South African football.

But the key questions are whether it will be implemented and how, and if so, where the funding will come from.

Details of the plan on how to map the way forward will be revealed this week by Safa with the launch of the development agency.

This comes against the backdrop of this week's release of the findings of the Art, Philosophy and Science of Football in South Africa research by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (Mistra).

The organisation concluded that South Africa needed systematic youth football development.

Chris Fortuin, leader of the

How to fix soccer

Findings

- Lack of sufficient talent identification, development and management
- Youth football development programmes focus on winning, affecting long-term player development

- Only 30% of interviewed players had seen a doctor
- Only one youth coach interviewed was qualified
- Coaches did not have a monitoring mechanism in place

Way forward

- A large pool of highly skilled players should be available, with youth football development systems acting as feeder
- Management structures should be effective and widely implemented

Recommendations

- Development or improvement of strategic leadership across the board
- Greater accountability at all levels
- Reviving school sports
- Inclusion of life skills in player development



- Special focus on improving the relationship between leagues and the PSL, with emphasis on technical and leadership cooperation
- Facilities for football and support structures for football players should be available, and maintained for optimal use



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done.

Fortuin said Safa needed to start delivering on its mandate to develop football in the country.

"I am aware a lot has been suggested in the past as I was sitting with Carlos Queiroz's plan when we were doing the research, but nothing has been done. If we are serious about taking the sport forward, we need to start implementing the recommendations," said Fortuin.

Safa chief executive Robin Petersen said the findings of the research fitted with their technical master plan developed earlier this year.

Petersen said had they not done this before, the research would have exposed the lack of a development plan.

"We have already made strides in addressing some of the issues raised in the research as we worked together. We are happy that everyone is now coming on board to help towards the development of our football," said Petersen.

first round of the World Cup, we realised there was a need to do scientific research to address our shortcomings, and our findings were shocking, to say the least," he said.

Safa president Kirsten Nematandani hailed the findings and commended the researchers for a job well done.

Nematandani said there had been little material to talk about in libraries.

"This is ground-breaking scientific research and it augurs well for our technical master plan. There are similarities to what has been discovered as we have only been focusing on strategies rather than research. Now we can use different youth development models," said Nematandani.

He said what was good about the research were the comparisons made with other countries.

"This has been an eye-opener to a great extent and we believe if we work well together we will be able to change the scene of South

This comes against the backdrop of this week's release of the findings of the Art, Philosophy and Science of Football in South Africa research by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTR). The organisation concluded that South Africa needed systematic youth football development.

Chris Fortuin, leader of the Mapungubwe football research project, said the ball was now firmly in Safa's court to implement the findings, which would have far-reaching implications. Fortuin, who holds a master's degree in sports management, said it would be an injustice, and he would be highly disappointed, if their recommendations were not implemented, as has happened with previous plans.

To read article, [click here](#)

* Originally published in City Press on 2 December 2012

Young players hold the key

For South Africa to become a footballing powerhouse it needs to adopt a new strategic approach to football, writes **Howard Freese**

Today, football is an international phenomenon transcending national borders and is a young footballer's dream. It has grown to such an extent that it makes up three percent of the world's trade. In Europe alone, it is estimated that that football is valued at 16.3 billion Euros. In addition to these huge figures, more than 265 million people regularly play football around the world. In Africa this growth has led to an exodus of football players in search of fame and fortune. For the rich football playing nations, Africa serves as a reservoir of skilled talent to be tapped. Adolescent African players see football migration as a way out of poverty.

Young players hold key

For South Africa to have any chance of becoming a footballing powerhouse, it needs to adopt a new strategic approach, writes *Howard Freese*

TODAY, football is an international phenomenon. It has grown to such an extent that it makes up 3% of the world's trade. In Europe alone, it is estimated that football is valued at €16.3-billion.

More than 285 million people regularly play football. In Africa, this growth has led to an exodus of players in search of fame and fortune.

For the rich football-playing nations, Africa serves as a reservoir of skilled talent. Adolescent African players see football migration as a way out of poverty.

The sport's explosive growth over the past few decades has had a significant influence on economic, cultural and structural development. It has led to the development of a football economy driven by the commercialisation of the sport on a large scale.

While this football economy has had its ebbs and flows, the final outcome has been the emergence of solid youth-development programmes and policies. The search for the next best talent continues to gain momentum, and a significant number of players now move from one country to another, pushed by the poor economic state of their

to have youth academies based on four areas — player recruitment, decision-making, goal enforcement and the teams' contribution to the environment. These strategies have proved very successful. The country has enjoyed success at youth and senior level and now fields one of the youngest national teams in the world, with an average age of 24.7 years. All of this was achieved in a decade.

For the Japanese, football played a critical role in fostering national identity and promoting national cultural ideals. Football in Japan has grown by leaps and bounds, and it is now the top-ranked football nation in the Far East. One of its strengths is that it is able to tap into a strong sense of regional and local identity and culture. The league is structured on the philosophy of delivering sport to all. The main objective of their youth training programmes is to build community-based sport linked to educational programmes that focus on developing players' emotional and social skills.

On the African continent, Ghanaian football is highly successful at both senior and youth levels. The country has won the African Cup of Nations on four



*Howard Freese is a former Kaiser Chiefs player, an independent researcher, and was a member of the MISTRA research project on *The Art, Science and Philosophy of Football*.

[To read full article click here](#)

*Originally published in The Sunday Times 2 December 2012

Where to after Afcon 2013?

Football is an undeniable force for positive change, writes **David Maimela**

Football is a unique sport that distinguishes itself from the rest simply because it is the most accessible.

A team sport that easily facilitates mass participation, football in South African official policy is defined as a sport of "national priority". Football mirrors our society. It also has the power to inspire people to achieve.

South Africans of all hues support football in one manner or another, from factory workers, to service providers, to children, to neighbours and family members.

Due to its global reach and ability to transcend barriers, football is also increasingly used to communicate messages about important human concerns, such as HIV/Aids, racism, xenophobia, education and other social causes.

This year at the G8 summit at Camp David, deliberations were stopped for more than 90 minutes so that the G8 leadership could watch the Uefa Champions League Final between Bayern Munich and Chelsea. In the end, Prime Minister David Cameron smiled all the way back to London.

* David Maimela is a Researcher on the MISTRA and the project co-ordinator for the research project on **The Art, Science and Philosophy of Football**.

[To read full article click here](#)

*Originally published in City Press on 24th November 2012

MISTRA PEOPLE

Xolelwa Kashe-Katiya joins MISTRA as Head of Consultancy Services

Xolelwa studied towards a BSc degree at the University of Cape Town and majored in Archaeology. After graduating, she went on to complete an Honours degree in Physical Anthropology, at the University of Pretoria. In 2010, she was awarded a fellowship with the Archives and Public Culture Research Initiative, to complete an MPhil in Heritage and Public Culture with the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests entail the use of archival material to engage with knowledge production, specifically with respect to the human remains and artifacts of Mapungubwe, a world heritage site in Limpopo.



She has in the past twelve years worked as a researcher and project manager in donor-funded, public and academic environments. During this time, her duties included overseeing the quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation of training provision in the media, cultural and creative industries. She has also assisted in providing intellectual, political, and professional direction to projects that serve as a platform for art, archive and heritage practitioners. She is passionate about critical engagements with knowledge production and the dissemination thereof, specifically in African contexts. She joins MISTRA as Head of Consultancy Services.

THE DAYS IN THE PRESIDENCY

A tribute to Prof Jakes Gerwel By Joel Netshitenzhe

Professor Gerwel should not have gone – at least not now – and so otherwise impose on us the painful task of speaking about him in the past tense.

I'm quite certain that wherever he may be in the nooks and crannies of the universe he is feeling as awkward as all of us: not so much for the praises that are truly deserved; but because pomp and circumstance seemed to irritate him. To many of us he lived life with such intellectual detachment and objectivity that he should be

smiling wryly at us for the things we are saying about him. But that, and that mainly, is what made him an accomplished intellectual, a dependable teacher, an even-handed mediator, and an effective practitioner in many fields.

Having worked with him from the first to the last days of the Mandela Presidency, I don't quite remember once calling him Director-General. And this is because he was that, and something much bigger.

To read the full tribute by Joel Netshitenzhe at a memorial service in honour of Prof Gerwel held at the University of the Western Cape on 1 December 2012, [click here](#)



Prof Jakes Gerwel

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