



www.mistra.org.za

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward Newsletter](#)



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#13** we have great pleasure in announcing an upcoming strategic reflection: A lecture by **Dr Francis Fukuyama** entitled: *"The end of the end of history: the lessons of the global economic crisis"* to be convened in Johannesburg in partnership with the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) at the University of Cape Town, on **10th May 2013**.

We report on **Y Abba Omar**, MISTRA's Director Operations' appointment to the board of the Institute of International Management Practice (IIMP) in Cambridge, UK. And we report on a recent roundtable *"Do the opportunities offered by space exploration justify the investment?"* convened in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, at which we hosted **Dr Greg Olsen**, the third person to privately embark on a journey to outer space.

We share the full text of the second Annual Lecture presented by **Prof Mahmood Mamdani**, the Director and Professor at the Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, Kampala, entitled: *"Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-Apartheid Transition in South Africa"*.

This issue also includes media articles written by MISTRA staff including *"Lest we forget our struggle Heroes"* by **Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana**, Head of the Faculty of Political Economy. There are also two articles on MISTRA's second Annual Lecture, by **Dr Leonard Martin**, Head of the Faculty of Humanity and by Janet Smith of The Independent. In *"After the big count, are we really wiser?"*, **Dr Velaphi Msimang**, **Greame Bloch** and **Rachel Brown** reflect on a roundtable with StatisticsSA and experts on the debate around Census 2011 fertility statistics. **Tebogo Matsimela**, an intern in the Faculty of Humanity, reflects on the recent roundtable with cosmonaut Greg Olsen in an article entitled *"Space Science to Develop SA"*.

And we're happy to announce the appointment of two new interns: **Sedireng Lerakong** who has joined the Faculty of Political Economy and **Linda Zwane** who has joined our Communications and Outreach section.

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.

To subscribe to MISTRA's Monthly Briefing, please complete the [subscribe](#) form. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click on [unsubscribe](#) at the top of the newsletter.

MISTRA STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

Lecture by Dr Francis Fukuyama: The end of the end of history: the lessons of the global economic crisis

Francis Fukuyama is the Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), resident in FSI's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford University.

Dr. Fukuyama has written widely on issues relating to democratisation and the international political economy. His books include: *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992), *The Origins of Political Order* (2011), *America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy* (2006), and *Falling Behind: Explaining the Development Gap between Latin America and the United States* (2008).

Dr Fukuyama's 1989 essay "*The End of History*" achieved global renown and sparked international debate on the historical ramifications of the end of the Cold War, and his thesis that it marked "the end of history as such: that is, the endpoint of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government." (Michael Lind, New York Times)

Dr Fukuyama's lecture in **Johannesburg**, hosted by **MISTRA** in partnership with the **Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP)** at the University of Cape Town, will cover the main themes in his book: *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992) and will incorporate lessons learnt from the global economic crisis.

Date: 10 May 2013

Time: 6.30 for 7pm

Venue: Linder Auditorium, Wits University

RSVP is essential, please call **Tumi Mofokeng** on **011 656 3641** or via email at tumi@masake.co.za



Y Abba Omar, Director Operations, to serve on the board of the Institute of International Management Practice (IIMP) in Cambridge, UK.



Y Abba Omar at a lecture by Mr Charles Leadbetter at the Centre for Development Studies, Cambridge University.

MISTRA's Director Operations, Y Abba Omar, has been invited to serve on the board of the Institute of International Management Practice (IIMP), which is within the business school of Anglia Ruskin University, in Cambridge, UK. The IIMP had its inaugurating event on 5/6 March and Abba Omar used the occasion to meet other people based in Cambridge.

IIMP is dedicated to researching in the fields of Enterprise, Innovation and Internationalisation. It aims to develop reflective knowledge that bridges the gap between professional practitioners and academia. The Institute was established in 2011. Funded by the businessman Lord Ashcroft, it is focused on three activities: generating high quality research outputs; generating research income; and accelerating the quality of the research effort in the Business School. The IIMP currently consists of 5 professors, a reader, a professor of management practice and three post-doctoral research fellows, the majority of whom were recruited in August/September 2012.

[To read more click here](#)

The 2013 MISTRA Annual Lecture by Prof Mahmood Mamdani

The 2013 MISTRA Annual Lecture, presented by Prof. Mahmood Mamdani, was held on 18th March 2013. Prof. Mamdani is the Director and Professor at the Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, Kampala and the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government at Columbia University, New York.

MISTRA's Annual lecture seeks to address national and global challenges, which straddle issues of nation-formation, economic growth, social equity, science and technology and positioning in globalised world.



Ms Barbara Masekela (Programme Director) and Prof Mahmood Mamdani

The topic of the 2013 MISTRA Annual Lecture was "***Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-Apartheid Transition in South Africa***".

The 2013 Annual Lecture attracted a full house of almost 500 thought leaders, drawn from a diverse spectrum of business, academia, media, government, and the youth. It generated robust debate among participants on the evening, as well as on social media platforms. The lecture has continued to spark discussion and debate and continues to draw interest from a varied array of South Africans.

The full text PDF of "***Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-Apartheid Transition in South Africa***" by Prof Mamdani is available on the [MISTRA website](#).

MISTRA Roundtable: Do the opportunities offered by space exploration justify the investment? with Dr Greg Olsen

The Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, MISTRA, in partnership with University of Johannesburg (UJ) hosted Dr Greg Olsen at a Roundtable held at UJ on the 15th March 2013.

Dr Olsen is an American entrepreneur, engineer and scientist who, in October 2005, became the third private citizen to make a self-funded trip to the International Space Station. Dr Olsen was the co-founder and chairman of Sensors Unlimited Inc., a company developing optoelectronic devices such as sensitive near-infrared (NIR) and shortwave-infrared (SWIR) cameras. One of Sensors Unlimited's major customers is NASA. Currently, Olsen is President of GHO Ventures, LLC, and is also a physics professor at Rider University in New Jersey, United States.



Prof Ihron Rensburg, Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg makes his welcoming remarks.



Cecilia Haak, Infrastructure Engineer at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).

The roundtable was opened with [welcoming remarks](#) by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, Prof Ihron Rensburg.

Dr Olsen spoke about his trip to outer space and also addressed the theme of the roundtable: "***Do the opportunities offered by space exploration justify the investment?***" Respondents to Dr Olsen included **Professor Tshilidzi Marwala**, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation, Postgraduate Studies at UJ and a Fellow of the Mapungubwe Institute, and **Cecilia Haak**, Infrastructure Engineer at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).



Above: Dr Greg Olsen, Ms Cecilia Haak, Prof Tshilidzi Marwala

The Roundtable also marked the launch of **MISTRA's youth network (MISTRAY)**. MISTRAY, to be constituted by young South Africans in youth development, research, public service, the academia, entrepreneurship, students and those in the private/corporate sector, is intended to be a platform facilitating engagement on issues confronting and of concern to youth between and amongst themselves and MISTRA. To enable this, MISTRAY will host a series of Roundtables such as this one and other events and activities.

MISTRA IN THE NEWS

Whatever the case may be, the reality is that, going forward, Africa and the rest of the world will have to negotiate a difficult minefield in interstate relations. At the centre of all this is the question about the management of post-conflict political processes, and the balance that should be struck between justice and reconciliation.

[To read more, please click here](#)

Originally published City Press 17th March 2013 in the City Press

Encouraging Debate to find solutions

Mahmood Mamdani – man on a mission to find answers to worldwide political and social challenges, writes Janet Smith

IMMEDIATELY, there's a calmness. Everyone is going about their business at the Park Hyatt. It's a rush of suits doing breakfasts and there are loud conversations over laptops between men in ties. Waiters hurry past. Cutlery clinks. Then Mahmood Mamdani appears, as if out of nowhere, and instantly, there's a quietness.

"Usually, I would be reading," he says as we walk to a garden space. "I'm not used to all of this."

Perhaps it's the surprise. Mamdani is, after all, one of the world's foremost minds. His is a name known to thinkers everywhere, and to many academics and politicians. He was once voted in the top 10 of the world's public intellectuals by Britain's Prospect magazine and the US's Foreign Policy.

Encouraging debate to find solutions

Mahmood Mamdani – man on a mission to find answers to worldwide political and social challenges, writes Janet Smith

IMMEDIATELY, there's a calmness. Everyone is going about their business at the Park Hyatt. It's a rush of suits doing breakfasts and there are loud conversations over laptops between men in ties. Waiters hurry past. Cutlery clinks. Then Mahmood Mamdani appears, as if out of nowhere, and instantly, there's a quietness.

"Usually, I would be reading," he says as we walk to a garden space. "I'm not used to all of this."

Perhaps it's the surprise. Mamdani is, after all, one of the world's foremost minds. His is a name known to thinkers everywhere, and to many academics and politicians. He was once voted in the top 10 of the world's public intellectuals by Britain's Prospect magazine and the US's Foreign Policy. You would almost expect him to be overly self-confident.

But in conversation, Mamdani is so reserved he steals your anticipation. He speaks softly. Once the sprinkler comes on in the flowerbed

behind him, he becomes all the more interesting.

The Ugandan scholar, who is the director of the Makerere Institute of Social Research in Kampala and the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government at Columbia University in the US, was in South Africa this week to give a lecture. And it wasn't a straightforward topic.

As Mamdani explains, "Beyond Nuremberg: the historical significance of the post-apartheid transition in South Africa" is the result of 20 years of careful thought. He was here at the invitation of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflections (MISTRA), to do its annual lecture, but Mamdani has already spent considerable time in South Africa.

[To read more click here](#)



THINKER: Academic, author, political commentator Mahmood Mamdani during an interview. He was on a visit to the country this week. PICTURE: TRO RAMATHATSE

"I came here to research and realised that this beast was no different. It rather than being exceptional, apartheid had taken the logic of indirect rule to the extreme. As such, it illuminated the nature of late colonialism. So when I went back, I had to throw the manuscript out and rewrite it completely."

Then he wrote several articles framed around the TRC, in which, Mamdani found, there was "no social justice".

"I believe if (the TRC) had traded justice for truth,"

Mamdani later went on to South Sudan, where his experience of the far deteriorated his convictions.

"I outlined the achievement of Kempton Park in dismantling political apartheid. The political reform should have opened the gate to a widespread discussion on the need for social justice. Several groups tried to introduce this in the TRC, but the TRC took the question of social justice off the agenda, instead focusing on identifying individual perpetrators and victims."

"Now I'm not sure the victims have the political representation that has given them the means to force new items on to the agenda."

Meanwhile, Mamdani worries about the lack of intellectual facilitation by our universities. "The South African academy is enamoured with the West. Cape Town, Wit, the affluent universities want that approval. They'll stand

You would almost expect him to be overtly self-confident. But in conversation, Mamdani is so reserved he steals your anticipation. He speaks softly. Once the sprinkler comes on in the flowerbed behind him, it's difficult to hear him. And so, he becomes all the more interesting.

The Ugandan scholar, who is the director of the Makerere Institute of Social Research in Kampala and the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government at Columbia University in the US, was in South Africa this week to give a lecture. And it wasn't a straightforward topic.

As Mamdani explains, "Beyond Nuremberg: the historical significance of the post-apartheid transition in South Africa" is the result of 20 years of careful thought. He was here at the invitation of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflections (MISTRA), to do its annual lecture, but Mamdani has already spent considerable time in South Africa.

[To read more click here](#)

Originally published in the Sunday Independent 24th March 2013

Space Science to Develop SA

By Tebogo Matsimela

Urban growth planning, environmental management, weather and health and security all depend on space science. Given its utility since the 1950s, space science has assumed prominence in the everyday life of ordinary people.

Through its pursuit of innovative applications in telecommunication and transportation millions of lives have been impacted positively. Space science has revolutionised the way ordinary people communicate through easy access to broadband. It has also helped enhance our ability to predict weather patterns and changes.

South Africa's role in space science has not been adequately celebrated given the limited attention allocated to science and technology as one of the indispensable means for better and improved service delivery.

In fact, as a country we are still far from the recommended 1% of GDP spend on science and technology. While the government struggles to hold up its end, investment into research and development (R&D) by business has actually dropped over the past decade.

[To read more click here](#)

Originally published in the New Age 15 March 2013

After the big count, are we really wiser?

By Velaphi Msimang, Greame Bloch and Rachel Brown

A RECENT gathering convened by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) looked critically at Census 2011. The debate among the 30 or so participants was robust and open.

Statistician-general Pali Lehohla argued that the discussion helped normalise a situation that had become fraught when the census results were released in October last year. Lehohla argued that critics of elements of the census data were not using the version of information that was part of the Census 2011 release.

Statistics SA agreed that more time is necessary for researchers to understand the underlying causes of what appeared to be surprising or unexpected results in the census data, primarily on fertility trends. It is common cause for academia and researchers to delve into data to acquire a better understanding of the trends, critique the data where necessary, and draw the necessary conclusions. This, Stats SA argued, needs to happen on a level playing field once the data are released to the broadest possible audience of competent analysts. Stats SA, as part of its work, will bring the expert community into its data holdings to articulate how they apply the data and what the weaknesses are.

[To read more, please click here](#)

Originally published in [Business Day](#) 22 March 2013

These Brics will build up SA

By Yacoob Abba Omar

When you are outside of government, it is very tempting make jokes about the various acronyms that fly around and the institutions they supposedly represent. Okay, we all know what the UN or the G20 is, but we scratch our heads at P5 or G3. Then we get more exotic ones, like the IOR-ARC or Ibsa.

Into this alphabet soup, the name Brics has been dropped. And this is one acronym we all better learn a lot more about, because it is potentially the greatest game in the global political economy.

South Africans will have this learning opportunity when the fifth Brics summit is held in Durban on March 26 and 27.



These Brics will build up SA

With all the acronyms around, this exclusive economic club is one to take note of



Analysis

YACOOB ABBA OMAR

a few I wish would die a quiet death. But because some international diplomats' livelihoods depend on these bodies, it is impossible to get rid of

ran Africa, the fastest-growing region in the world, is reason enough to be part of the Brics. Also, if the Brics countries had felt

tant since the summits began in 2009. It consolidated many of the strategic perspectives that had been percolating among the member states. Some of the

The finance ministers of the member states were directed to conduct feasibility studies on the initiative and to submit their reports at the Durban

South Africa had done. There is no doubt that the centre of gravity of the global economy is shifting to the east. And as South Africans, we

From my 10 years as a diplomat, I can safely say that many of these bodies do add value to our lives as human beings on this planet, though there are quite a few I wish would die a quiet death.

But because some international diplomats' livelihoods depend on these bodies, it is impossible to get rid of them.

[To read more, please download here](#)

Originally Published on Brics5.co.za

MISTRA PEOPLE

Sedireng Lerakong - Intern: Political Economy

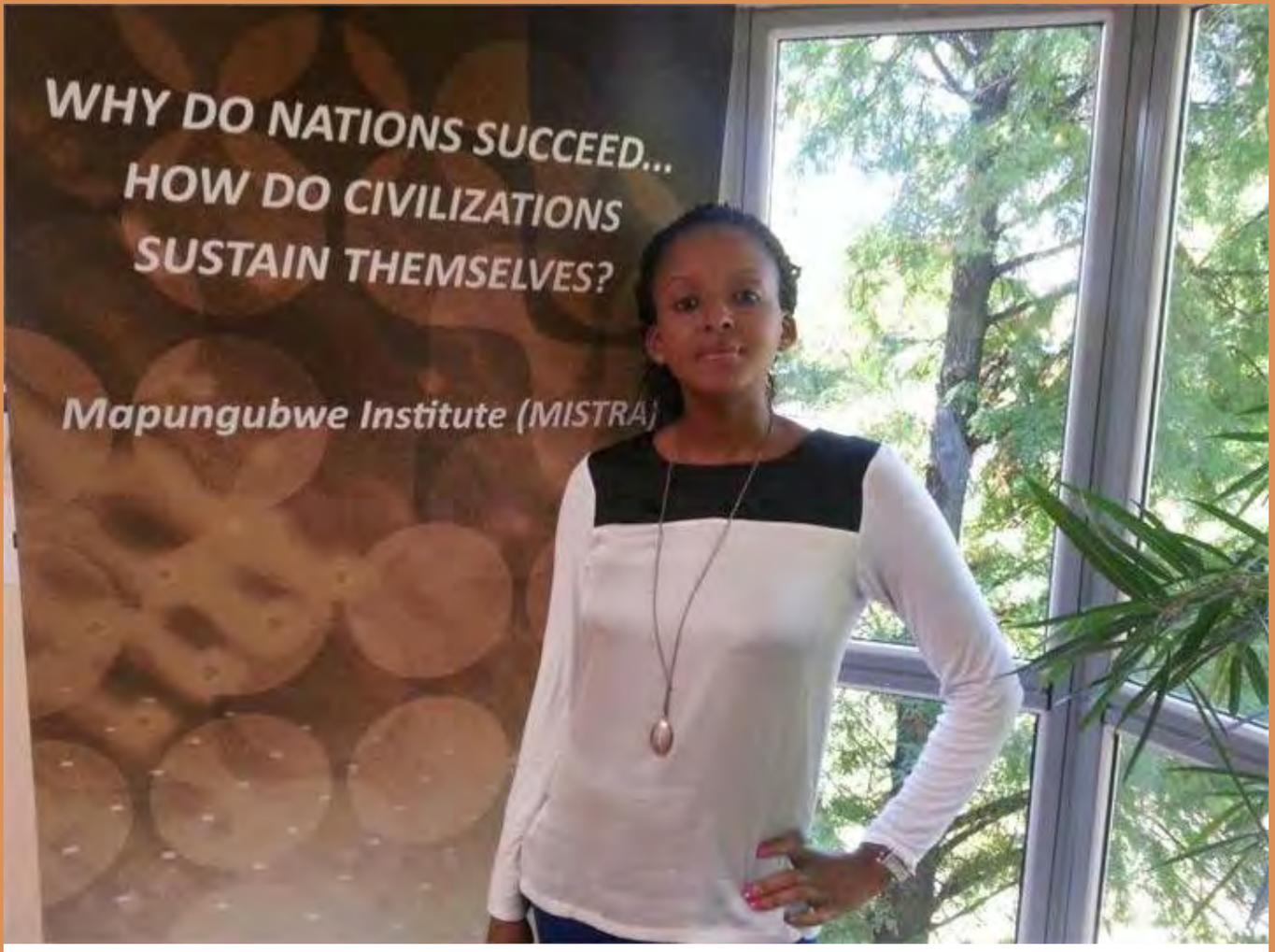
Ms Sedireng Lerakong holds a Bachelor's Degree in Development Studies from the University of Johannesburg (2010), majoring in Economics and Development Studies. She also has an Honours in Economics, majoring in Economic Issues in Developing countries and Advanced Monetary theory and policy.

She also completed a course with the University of Johannesburg in

Cross cultural communication and Basic Numeracy for Humanities.

In 2010, Sedireng was on the Dean's List of Top achievers and was also the Golden Key International Honor Society Member. She was selected as the Group Leader for the Advanced Microeconomics Project 2011. In 2012 she completed modules in Financial Economics and Mathematics 1.

Prior to joining MISTRA Sedireng was a finance project coordinator at Pretoria Portland Cement.



Linda Zwane - Intern: Communications and Outreach.

Linda Zwane graduated from the University of Johannesburg with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in 2010. She holds an Honours in Politics from UJ, majoring in Political Risk Analysis, Key issues in International Relations, Research Methodology, Gender, and Political Philosophy.

Before joining MISTRA Linda interned at the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development under the corporate communication directorate. She is currently pursuing her MA in International Politics at the University of South Africa.

Linda joined MISTRA as a communications and outreach intern in April 2013

MAPUNGUBWE
FOR STRATEGIC REFLECTION MISTRA

Reception

Mapungubwe Institute (MISTRA)



Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection
Tel: 27 - 11 518 0260
1st Floor, Cypress Place North
Woodmead Business Park
Email: info@mistra.org.za
www.mistra.org.za