

Human Sciences Research Council

HSRC Medal for the Social Sciences and Humanities to celebrate contributions to South Africa's fight against COVID-19

Pretoria, Tuesday 2 February 2021 – The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in partnership with Universities South Africa (USAf) invites nominations for the HSRC Medal for the Social Sciences and Humanities.

The 2020/21 Medal is unique in that it will celebrate the contributions of social scientists, researchers and academics to South Africa's fight against COVID-19. South Africa's efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus through, amongst others, behaviour and attitude change, will have been ineffective without the work of this cohort.

Recognising the pressure under which some of this work would have been done, there is an additional category of awards for 2020/21. Two team awards will therefore be presented during the event. In addition to their scientific contributions, teams will also be required to demonstrate evidence to their commitment to transformation and a development of the next level of social scientists, academics and researchers.

The Medal is awarded on an annual basis to scholars who have made outstanding contributions through their research in the social sciences and humanities.

Nominations are invited for the following categories:

- Established Researcher
- Emerging Researcher
- Team Awards (2)

Criteria for Established Researcher

For consideration, a nominee must have the following:

- a record of sustained academic excellence in the social sciences and humanities;
- an unequivocal international reputation or considerable international recognition for his or her scholarship;
- a strong record of public engagement over a sustained period of time in the field of their research;
- evidence of impact; e.g. academic impact, influence on public policy and society, dissemination, uptake and use of their work on a variety of platforms to a range of audiences
- contribution to the social sciences and humanities in responding to COVID-19

Qualifying criteria

Nominees must live and work in South Africa

Criteria for Emerging Researcher

For consideration, a nominee must have the following:

- a doctoral degree and evidence of a growing track record of academic excellence in the social sciences and humanities;
- demonstrated potential to becoming international leaders in their field based on the quality of their doctoral research and post-doctoral career;
- a strong record of public engagement over a sustained period of time in the field of their research;
- evidence of impact; e.g. academic impact, influence on public policy and society, dissemination, uptake and use of their work on a variety of platforms to a range of audiences
- contribution to the social sciences and humanities in responding to COVID-19

Qualifying criteria

Nominees must live and work in South Africa and be under the age of 35.

Criteria for Team Awards (2)

- Teams should be able to demonstrate their contribution to South Africa's understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Team should show evidence of impact of their work in influencing public policy and society and dissemination, uptake and use of their work on a variety of platforms to a range of audiences
- Teams should be able to demonstrate their contribution to advancing women and young people in their research

Nomination process

Nominations must be submitted in writing, as per the attached format,

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/news/office-of-ceo/hsrc-medal-social-sciences> and can be e-mailed to Ms Manusha Pillai on MPillai@hsrc.ac.za

Nominations will be accepted until **Wednesday 17 February 2021**.

Selection and awarding

The HSRC will appoint an adjudication panel who will consider the nominations and select a winner.

Award Ceremony

The successful nominees will be announced at a virtual awards function on Thursday 18 March 2021 from 16h00-18h00.

Notes to the Editor

About the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

The HSRC was established in 1968 as South Africa's statutory research agency and has grown to become the largest dedicated research institute in the social sciences and humanities on the African continent, doing cutting-edge public research in areas that are crucial to development.

Our mandate is to inform the effective formulation and monitoring of government policy; to

evaluate policy implementation; to stimulate public debate through the effective dissemination of research-based data and fact-based research results; to foster research collaboration; and to help build research capacity and infrastructure for the human sciences.

The Council conducts large-scale, policy-relevant, social-scientific research for public sector users, non-governmental organizations and international development agencies. Research activities and structures are closely aligned with South Africa's national development priorities.

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<https://twitter.com/HSRCza>



<http://www.facebook.com/HumanSciencesResearchCouncil>

About Universities South Africa (USAf)

Universities South Africa is a representative association of South Africa's 26 public universities. Through our 2020-2025 strategic framework, we envisage an engaged higher education system responsive to South African and global challenges through the creation of new cohorts of organic intellectuals and high quality knowledge production. The Medal for the Social Sciences and Humanities aligns with USAf's mission to build the capacity of South Africa's higher education system as an internationally competitive system that effectively engages and responds to society through its knowledge project.

We are a non-profit, non-statutory, voluntary and membership association.

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For more information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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