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# Resources and approaches in South African studies

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Tendencies, centres, sources, journals



By Hans Erik Stolten ©

# Why is South Africa interesting?

- **Fascinating microcosm in a unique country**
- **May hold solutions for global problems like conflict resolution, racism, and xenophobia**
- **Possible success for western civilization and political human rights in third world region**
- **Growing middle class market**
- **Western competition over trade for aid**
- **Importance for the whole of Southern Africa**

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# More reasons to study South Africa

- **Promising exemplar of South-South co-operation**
- **People have taken their destiny in their own hands through self-mobilising movements**
- **Reveals possibilities and limitations of social revolution and revolutionary socialism**
- **Strings to international solidarity in the North**
- **Competitive academic environment**
- **Classical cases for structural social studies**

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# Tendencies in SA social science

- **Research areas reflect historical problems**
- **From massification to mergers of units**
- **From collective enthusiasm to individualised adaptation**
- **Continuing absence of black researchers**
- **Affirmative action, black empowerment and political correctness**
- **Internationalisation of leading universities**

# Some basic problems of research

- **Academic struggles for intellectual dominance and knowledge-power**
- **Heavy weight on continuities in history**
- **Reductionism in views on class, race, or gender identities**
- **Empiricism placing emphasis on single events**
- **Balances of source critique, neutrality, subjectivity, and objectivity**
- **Political use of research results**

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# Classical areas of research in SA social studies I

- **Correlations between race attitudes, class relations, state power, and culture**
- **Rationalities of growth, economic dysfunctions, and criteria of success**
- **Transition from pre-capitalist to modern agriculture**
- **Processes of industrialisation, urbanisation, and proletarianisation**
- **Statutory, white, political domination. Official racial segregation in institutions, laws, and procedures**

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# Research areas in SA social studies II

- **Everyday experiences, individual living conditions, identity, traditions, and health**
- **Reasons for protest and other forms of popular social and political expression**
- **Processes of transformation and democratisation**
- **Identification of essential, underlying societal features (nation, gender, interests)**
- **Bearings of theory and methodology (historiography, interdisciplinary debate)**

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# Introductions, broader works, history

- **Davenports & Saunders: A Modern History**
- **Saunders: Historical Dictionary**
- **Ross: A Concise History**
- **Maylam: South Africa's racial past**
- **Beinart: Twentieth-Century South Africa**
- **Wilson & Thompson: Oxford History of SA**
- **Thompson: A History of South Africa**



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# Books on the transformation process

- **Habib, Daniel, Southall: State of the Nation**
- **Two Cheers? South African Democracy's First Decade, ROAPE, 31/ 100, 2004**
- **Bond: Elite Transformation**
- **Lodge: South African Politics since 1994**
- **Chapman & Spong: Reconciliation and Religion**
- **Sparks: Beyond the Miracle**
- **Murray: Visions of the New South Africa**

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# Some relevant scholarly journals I

Several of them can be read in full-text online

- **African Affairs**
- **African Journal of Political Economy**
- **African Studies Review**
- **Canadian Journal of African Studies**
- **History in Africa**
- **Journal of African History**
- **Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics**
- **Commonwealth Papers**
- **Facts and Reports**
- **Journal of Southern African Studies**

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# Some relevant scholarly journals II

Also, seek in database LitSA (Publ. type = periodical title)

- **Review of African Political Economy**
- **Social Dynamics**
- **South African Historical Journal**
- **South African Labour Bulletin**
- **Tijdschrift Voor Geschiedenis**
- **International Journal of African Historical Studies**
- **Journal of Asian and African Studies**
- **Journal of Modern African Studies**
- **Mayibuye, journal of the ANC**
- **Review of African Political Economy**

# Some relevant scholarly journals III

- **Kleio**
- **Notes and Documents**
- **Race Relations Survey**
- **Politikon**
- **South African Sociological Review**
- **South African Journal of Economic History**
- **Journal of Democracy**
- **South Africa Survey**
- **Transformation**
- **Journal of Contemporary African Studies**

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# South African research centres I

Most of these institutions have public online library databases

- **University of Cape Town with B.W. Jagger Library, History Department, and Centre for African Studies**
- **University of Western Cape, with Mayibuye Centre og History Department**
- **South African Library\National Library, Cape Town, with National Register of Manuscripts**
- **IDASA, Institute for a Democratic Alternative**

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# South African research centres II

- **University of Stellenbosch, Bureau for Economic Research**
- **Cory Library for Historical Research at Rhodes University in Grahamstown**
- **ANC Archives and Howard Pim Library Collection of Rare Books at University of Fort Hare**
- **University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban with E. G. Malherbe Library, History Department, and Killie Campbell Africana Library**

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# South African research centres III

- **University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg with William Cullen Library, John G. Gubbins Africana Library, Wiser, African Studies Institute, and History Department**
- **South African Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg with J. H. Hofmeyr Library**
- **State Library and South African State Archives in Pretoria**
- **Africa Institute in Pretoria**
- **Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria**

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# International African Studies centres I

Most of these institutions have public online library databases

- **African Studies Centre, Leiden**
- **British Library, London**
- **Cambridge, African Studies Centre**
- **CAMP Collection, Chicago**
- **Centre of African Studies, Edinburg**
- **Christian Michelsen Institutt, Bergen**
- **Indiana University, African Studies**
- **African Studies, Northwestern University**



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# International African Studies centres II

See also [Stolten's Africa Links](#)

- **Institut für Afrika-Studien IAA (Institut für Afrika-Kunde IAK), Hamburg**
- **School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London**
- **Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London**
- **Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex**
- **Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, Uppsala**
- **Norsk Utenrigspolitisk Institutt, NUPI**
- **PRIO - norske fredsforskningsinstitutt**

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# International African Studies centres III

Also seek ContAcad database

- **UCLA African Studies Center**
- **Yale University, African Collection**
- **University of Pennsylvania, African Studies**
- **Joint UC Berkeley-Stanford Center Afr.Stud.**
- **Africa Centre, London**
- **Rhodes House Library, Oxford**
- **School of African and Asian Studies, Sussex**
- **Institute of Asian and African Studies Moscow**
- **Centre d'Etude d'Afrique Noire, Bordeaux**

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# Relevant Danish research centres

- **Center for Afrikastudier, CAS, KU**
- **Danish Inst. for International Studies DIIS**
- **Det Kongelige Bibliotek**
- **(Mellempfolkeligt Samvirkes bibliotek)**
- **International Development Studies, RUC**
- **Arbejderbevægelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv**
- **Development and Planning, Ålborg Uni.**

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# Associations etc.

- **ASA, African Studies Association (USA)**
- **CODESRIA, Social Research Africa**
- **OSSREA, Organ. Social Science Studies**
- **AEGIS Africa-Europe Group**
- **Vereinigung von Afrikanisten Deutschland**
- **EADI, European Association Develop. Res.**
- **CAAS, Canadian Association African Stud.**
- **DDRN, Danish Development Research Network**
- **FAU, Ass. Dev. Researchers in Denmark**

# International organisations, donors etc.

- **Catholic Institute for International Relations**
- **ILO, International Labour Organisation**
- **International Defence and Aid fund for Southern Africa (Closed down)**
- **International Monetary Fund, IMF**
- **NORAD, Norwegian development aid**
- **Sida, Swedish development aid**
- **Udenrigsministeriet / Danida, Denmark**
- **Unesco**
- **World Bank**
- **World Council of Churches**

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# Some Nordic and international NGOs

- **Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke**
- **Folkekirkenes nødhjælp**
- **Ibis**
- **Afrika Kontakt, Kbh. (Sydafrika Kontakt/LSA)**
- **Projektvejledningen**
- **Afrikagrupperna, Sverige**
- **Fellesrådet for Afrika, Norge**
- **Anti-Apartheid Movement, London**
- **ACTSA, Action for Southern Africa England**

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# South African NGO information

- **Centre for Civil Society, University of Kwazulu-Natal**
- **ANC, COSATU, SACP – tripartite alliance**
- **SANGOCO, South African NGO Coalition**
- **ILRIG, International Labour Research and Information Group**
- **Sangonet A Development Information Portal for NGOs**

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# Resources in South African studies

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