



Biographies:

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is the chief executive of the South African Institute of International Affairs, which she has led since 2005. She has over two decades of experience in the field of politics and international relations, and her expertise lies in South Africa's foreign policy, South-South Cooperation and the role of emerging powers in Africa. She is a regular commentator in South African and foreign media. She has published on various aspects of South Africa's foreign policy. Most recently, she has co-edited a volume on *Values, Interests and Power: South African Foreign Policy in Uncertain Times* (2020), that explores the priorities that the country's foreign policy should focus on in the 2020s. She has also co-edited two books exploring the rise of the new development cooperation providers: *Development cooperation and emerging powers: New Partners or Old Patterns* (Zed Books, 2012) and *Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers* (Jacana, 2015). She is the editor-in-chief of the *South African Journal of International Affairs*. She has also recently completed a collaboration with scholars across five continents on the *Handbook on Development Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda*, published by Palgrave in 2021. Elizabeth is the co-chair of the Think 20 Africa Standing Group, established in 2017 during the German presidency of the G20. In December 2020 she was appointed to serve a two-year term on the Second High-Level Advisory Board of the UN Economic and Social Affairs department.

Alex Benkenstein is the Programme Head of the Governance of Africa's Resources Programme of the South African Institute of International Affairs, which he joined in November 2010. His work in SAIIA has focused on a number of resource governance-related issues, particularly in the fields of fisheries, ocean governance and mining. Through his work with SAIIA he has collaborated with a number of partners in the public and private sector, for example, the World Gold Council (Standards for Conflict-Free Gold), the Southern African Development Community (SADC Think Tank Forum on Climate Change), the New Partnership For Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, and the Benguela Current Commission. Alex graduated from the University of Stellenbosch with a Masters Degree in International Studies (cum laude). As a researcher for the South African consultancy Managing for Excellence he completed projects for various clients, including the Parliament of South Africa. He was subsequently appointed as Head of Research for the NGO Regency Foundation Network, where his work focused on climate change, particularly private sector corporate social responsibility (CSR) responses to emerging issues surrounding climate change.

Deon Cloete is the Head of the Futures Programme at SAIIA, where he leads the institute's work on strategic foresight, systemic innovation and anticipatory governance. His research interests span complexity-informed approaches to strategic foresight, systemic change, systems innovation and transformative futures by re-imagining complex systems change and the roles of cross-scale change agents. He is a transdisciplinary action researcher and an experienced facilitator of systemic change, innovation and strategic foresight interventions with a focus on 'systems change co-creation for sustainability transitions and regenerative cultures. He researches and consults national, regional, continental, and global stakeholders in the education, health, energy, mining, and automobile sectors, but also a wide range of development agencies, organisations and national and local governments interested in anticipatory policy, planning decision support for leaders, decision-makers, policymakers,



and multilateral institutions. Deon graduated from Stellenbosch Business School with a PhD in Complex Systems Change and Innovation and serves as a research fellow at the Centre for Sustainability Transitions at Stellenbosch University. Deon is an Accredited Member of the Association for Professional Futurists (APF), a Fellow at the RSA (FRSA), and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Sustainability Transitions at Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

Melanie Müller is a Senior Associate with a focus on Southern Africa at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin and head of two research projects with a focus on mineral supply chains. She has been working on political and social developments in South Africa since 2011. Melanie Müller has also conducted research in other countries of the SADC region and in Niger and Ghana and has published extensively on the political and socioeconomic developments in Southern Africa, on resource governance and migration, as well as on European-African relations.

Faizel Ismail is the Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance. He has served as the Ambassador of South Africa to the World Trade Organization (2010–2014). He teaches international trade and global governance at the University of Cape Town Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance and in the Graduate School of Business. He has a PhD in Politics from the University of Manchester, an MPhil in Development Studies from Sussex (IDS), and BA and LLB degrees from UKZN (Pietermaritzburg). He is the author of three books on the WTO and a recent book on the African Continental Free Trade Area. He has published over 50 journal articles, book chapters and working papers on trade and economic development.

Jan Ickler is a researcher and PhD candidate at the University of Kassel, where he has been a coordinator at the Centre for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS). His research focuses on the relationship between economic elites and resource-driven development in Latin America, especially Ecuador. After having finished his master's degree in global political economy, he undertook several research visits in Latin America. Ickler's areas of research include social inequalities, resource policy, and development theory. In 2023, *The Political Economy of Extractivism and the Seduction of Rent*, edited by Dr Hannes Warnecke-Berger and Ickler, was published by Routledge.