



CLIMATE, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

Climate Justice



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:

- Collaborating with the 350Africa.org and Climate Justice Coalition to produce the [Just Recovery Report](#). The people-centred approach asserts the importance of not returning to the status quo, following the end of the pandemic and advocates for the following key principles:
 - Putting people's health first.
 - Providing economic relief directly to people.
 - Helping workers and communities.
 - Creating resilience for future crises.
 - Building solidarity and community across borders.



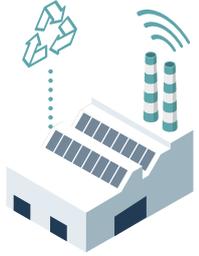
Energy and Infrastructure

- Publishing a working paper on Eskom and the history of the electricity crisis in South Africa.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021:

This is a fast-growing area of work and the Institute will focus on embedding environmental and social sustainability into economic recovery plans, transforming South Africa's energy mix and advancing a Just Transition. In addition, close collaborations with labour and civil society will continue and a research paper on infrastructure-led recovery in South Africa will be published.



FEMINIST ECONOMICS



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:

- Launching the inaugural 10-day [Feminist Economics Summer School](#).
- Hosting the [Feminist Economics webinar series](#) which foregrounded the ideas of emerging feminist economists and the gendered effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.
- Facilitating the Gender in Economics stream at the REFA Festival on the basics of feminist economics and pedagogy.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021:

Deepening the use and practice of feminist economic analysis in South Africa remains a priority for the IEJ. The importance of feminist economics has been catapulted into the mainstream by the COVID crisis, including through the recognition of the centrality of the care economy.



The Institute is thrilled to have leading African feminist political economist, Lyn Ossome, join the team to lead and expand the programme's work. In addition, a feminist economics blog, edited by Fatimah Kelleher, will be launched to feature insights on feminist economics practice and teaching.



MACROECONOMIC POLICY



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:

- Publishing a [working paper on fiscal stimulus in South Africa](#), following our [paper on austerity](#).
- Participating and analysing three budgets: [2020 National Budget](#), [2020 Supplementary Budget](#) and the [2020 Medium Term Policy Statement](#).
- Submitting to the [Select and Standing committees on Finance on the 2020 Supplementary Budget](#).
- Submitting a tax proposal submission for the [2021 National Budget](#).
- Participating in various webinars with stakeholders such as the APORDE, National School of Government and the [United Nations](#), including the [Series of Renowned Economists](#) convened by the United Nations Secretary-General.



Budget Justice Coalition (BJC)

Contributing to the BJC as a Steering Committee member and through leading the [Public Spending for the people: pre and post COVID-19 workshop](#) and developing the [alternative Human Rights Budget](#) – Imali Yesizwe.



NEDLAC

Supporting the labour movement on macroeconomic policy alternatives and facilitating workshops.



Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA)

Conducting a study on the influence of civil society research on government tax policies in Africa. This provides lessons on how civil society, researchers and funders can leverage research evidence in tax policy reform.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021:

The IEJ will continue its advocacy on anti-austerity and tax policy reform in 2021, beginning with the 2021 National Budget. The TJNA research report will be published. Priority areas of research and advocacy include debt, optimising South Africa's tax structure in an equitable way and progressive monetary policies.





NEW ECONOMIC FUTURES



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:

Economics and Human Rights

- Developing a [video](#) on the relevance of the UN recommendations to South Africa during COVID-19. Together with partners CESR and SECTION27, publishing two factsheets on [Unemployment and Precarity during COVID-19](#) and [Budgeting for Human Rights During Covid-19](#).
- Contributing to the Center for Economic and Social Rights goes here (CESR) blog series on “[Confronting COVID: How Civil Society is Responding Across Countries](#),” co-publishing a factsheet with CESR entitled [Monetary Policy to Realise Rights](#), and contributing to the “[Spotlight on Sustainable Development](#)” [report](#).
- Co-authoring a peer-reviewed journal article on “[Human Rights Impact Assessments and the Politics of Evidence in Policymaking](#)”.
- Developing a community of practice, in partnership with SECTION27 and CESR, on the intersection of economics and human rights by hosting a [webinar](#) and a [two-day workshop](#) on the theme “[Defining a New Economics: What Role for Rights?](#)”



OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021:



Creating a new economics discourse and practice that centres human and environmental sustainability and equity is central to the work of the IEJ. The IEJ will be publishing additional factsheets focusing on social security and debt sustainability, as well as releasing a report and podcast series on key insights from the “[Defining a New Economics](#)” convening.

Preparation for REFA 2021 has begun, as well as planning for a full calendar of activities next year. These include workshops on how Rethinkers, globally, have reviewed and reformed their own economics curricula. The development of a resource database, network mapping and collaborations between students and heterodox economists are high on the list for 2021.




SOCIAL SECURITY AND WORKERS' RIGHTS



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020:

- Publishing a [research note](#) urging government to pursue economic interventions which priorities workers and their families.
- Publishing a policy brief which calls for the [safe and equitable reopening of the economy](#).
- Publishing a [fact sheet](#) showing that government has a constitutional obligation to extend social grants at least until the end of the financial year, March 2021.
- Partnering on the [#PayTheGrants](#) campaign calling for an extension of Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant



Rethinking Economics

- Hosting the Rethinking Economics for Africa festival, with five [interactive webinars](#).
- Convening [online student workshops](#).
- Participating in international Rethinking Economics projects, including the inaugural festival and [Economists and Crisis research report](#).
- Producing an economic literacy booklet.



Participant testimonials (REFA 2020)



[I enjoyed] hearing diverse views and having the opportunity to hear what practical steps I can take to include plurality in my courses. I have already shared some of these ideas (via email) with my acting HoD.” -Sharon Tessendorf, Academic, Nelson Mandela University



[I enjoyed] the interactions. I was not being spoken at, I was a participant.”
- Busisiwe Radebe, Student, University of Cape Town



OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2021:

and the Caregivers grant at a [press conference](#) and through a social media campaign.

- Researching a draft universal basic income guarantee (UBIG) policy brief which has fed into various policy forums, and discussions with Labour and civil society.

The IEJ plans to continue its advocacy for worker protection and social security. The Institute is currently finalising research on the much-debated UBIG and will publish this policy brief in early 2021.



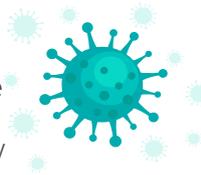


SPECIAL PROJECTS - COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic required the Institute to pivot and play a leading role in economic rescue and recovery policy debates. The pandemic has also highlighted the relevance of all the existing areas of work of the IEJ. The IEJ's defining role is captured in its numerous outputs and partnerships.

Research and publications

- A [research note](#) framing the response needed for the pandemic.
- Leading an [open letter](#) to the President from over 160 economists, and 140 other experts.
- A fully costed COVID-19 rescue package for South Africa ([full report](#) and [summary](#)) and subsequent [analysis](#) of implementation of the government's COVID-19 emergency measures (another [here](#)).
- Op-eds on a [gender-sensitive response](#) to COVID-19 and the [dangers of austerity](#).
- A [scorecard](#) of the rescue package as of the end June.
- An [analysis](#) of the COVID-19 supplementary budget.
- A [policy brief](#) on a safer, more equitable opening of the economy.
- A [fact sheet](#) on extending the Caregiver's Allowance and COVID-19 special grants.
- A research [report](#) with [350.org](#) on a framework for a Just Recovery for South Africa.
- A Rapid Country [Review](#) undertaken for the International Labour Organization on the impact of COVID-19 on the South African labour market.
- A review, also for the International Labour Organization, on the impact of COVID-19 on all SADC countries.



Advocacy and coalition work

- Two presentations to the COVID-19 Presidential Advisory Workshops and engagements with members of the President's Economic Advisory Council.
- Briefings to, and engagements with, labour unions, business leaders, ministers and senior government officials.
- Analysis and support for civil society and trade unions, including, providing resources to trade union negotiators, within and outside of the NEDLAC process. Also, engaging trade union leadership on strategies for reopening the economy that protect workers' rights.
- Participating in the [C-19 People's Coalition](#) economic working group.
- Leadership in the Budget Justice Coalition.
- Coordinating a submission to Parliament and [open letter](#) rejecting the supplementary budget, which failed to give effect to the President's R500 billion rescue package.
- Campaigning for, and securing the extension of the COVID special grant, including a [statement](#), signed by over 100 organisations, a [press conference](#), chaired by Busi Sibeko (see this article in the [Daily Maverick](#)), and extensive media and social media engagements, for example, this [ENCA interview](#).



Webinars

- Economic policies to tackle the negative impact of COVID-19 in South Africa [webinar](#).
- The economy after COVID-19: questions that need answers [webinar](#).
- [Webinar](#) with UNCTAD on international economic policy challenges in the crisis.



The IEJ continues to undertake regional work, including a review of the impact of COVID-19 on SADC countries and evaluating the impact of tax justice advocacy in four African countries.