

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

The 2024 year in review reflects on the IEJ's impactful work towards the realisation of our vision of a just society where an equitable distribution of resources, the democratisation of economic decision-making, and systemic change are secured and entrenched for the realisation of rights and planetary wellbeing.



In 2024 the IEJ continued on its growth trajectory with a staff complement of 27, and three highly experienced research associates. This planned growth aligns with the ambitious objectives we have set for ourselves and will enhance our ability to make a meaningful impact towards achieving economic justice.

We strengthened the organisation's governance and strategic leadership by welcoming <u>Associate Professor Lyn Ossome</u> and <u>Itumeleng Mahabane</u> to the IEJ Board.

During the year, IEJ team members also actively contributed to advancing social justice and economic policy through various national and international platforms. For example, Dr Gilad Isaacs, IEJ's Executive Director,

was appointed to South Africa's Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2024–2030 Reference Group, a body tasked with advancing the National Development Plan's (NDP) seven priorities through targeted programmes and interventions. Gilad also joined the advisory council of the T20 Brazil, a critical engagement group for the 2024 G20 Summit that brought together global think tanks and research institutions to shape G20 policy. Similarly, Dr Basani Baloyi, Programme Co-Director at the IEJ, was appointed to the advisory council of the C20 Brazil, another G20 engagement platform facilitating civil society and social movement engagement with global leaders. Additionally, the IEJ contributed to the C20 Brazil Working Group on Fair, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Economies, with IEJ Researcher Adrian Chikowore serving as a co-facilitator.

Members of the IEJ team also achieved significant individual accolades in 2024. Dr James Musonda, Senior

Researcher, was honoured with the Ruth First Prize for the best article by an African author in the *Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE)* for his work, *He who laughs last laughs the loudest: the 2021 donchi-kubeba (don't tell) elections in Zambia.* In recognition of excellence in green finance, Junior Researcher Yasirah Madhi and Dr Baloyi were awarded the 2024 Mail & Guardian Greening The Future award in the Green Finance Category for the IEJ's toolkit, *Advocating for Rights-Based Climate Investment Plans in Developing Nations to Realise a Just Transition.*

These examples of national leadership roles, international advisory positions, prestigious awards, and impactful contributions demonstrate some of the IEJ's farreaching influence and commitment to advancing just economic policies.



Our activities in 2024 were a combination of organisational development and programme work.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The IEJ continued to invest in ensuring that the organisation is fit for purpose through various interventions including managing staff workload and building a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system.

- Strengthened internal processes and organisational health through initiatives focused on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL), workload management, and overall team wellbeing, laying a foundation for sustainable growth and effectiveness.
- Published and adopted the IEJ's <u>Strategy Summary</u> <u>and Implementation Plan</u> which builds on the ambitious objectives the organisation has set for itself for the next five years.
- Developed and released the <u>IEJ's new</u> <u>Remuneration Policy.</u>
- Developed, published, and started with the implementation of the <u>IEJ's Advocacy and</u> Communications Plan.

RESOURCING FOR RIGHTS REALISATION

This three-pronged project advanced the adoption by African governments of policies that re-integrate African countries, jointly and separately, into the global financial system on just terms.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

- Coordinated an International Financial Institutions (IFI) Steering Committee to inform civil society's advocacy on debt and global finance.
- Co-signed an <u>open letter</u>, alongside 71 civil society organisations from across the globe, to the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and IMF calling on them to change their social protection policies and practices.
- Attended the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington DC, <u>participating in</u> the International Development Association Forum's annual meeting.
- Attended the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Financing for Development Forum in New York.
- Co-authored an <u>opinion piece</u> on the need for a new Special Drawing Rights issuance and the role South Africa could play in championing the way.
- Co-authored a statement and moderated a webinar on <u>Bretton Woods Revisited: Creating a Monetary and</u> <u>Economic Order Fit for the 21st Century</u>, ahead of the 80th Anniversary of the Bretton Woods Conference.
- Submitted an abstract and published a T20 policy brief, <u>Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)</u>: A <u>Lifeline for</u> the Global South and a Boost to the Global Economy.
- Participated in the Preparatory Committee for UNCTAD's Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Co-signed an <u>opinion piece</u> on what a monetary and economic order fit for the twenty-first century requires.
- Attended the New Development Bank's (NDB) ninth annual meeting in Cape Town.
- Presented and participated in a Civil Society Forum on the NDB workshop.

Budget and tax justice

 Secured, after considerable public pressure led by the IEJ, the drawing down of R150 billion in funds from the Gold and Foreign Exchange Contingency Reserve Account (GFECRA) in the 2024 National Budget.

- Published an open letter to President Ramaphosa, ahead of the 2024 State of the Nation Address, to align policy across government.
- Proposed <u>ten questions for Members of Parliament</u> to ask the <u>President</u> in the 2024 SONA debate.
- Released a <u>2024 post-budget statement</u> critiquing National Treasury's commitment to sacrificing public services and long-term economic growth in pursuit of a primary budget surplus and debt stabilisation.
- Published a policy brief titled <u>Alternatives to Austerity:</u> <u>Revenue options to raise the maximum available</u> <u>resources.</u>
- Made <u>written</u> and <u>oral</u> submissions to a joint sitting of Parliament's Standing Committee and Select Committee on Finance on the 2024 National Budget.
- Submitted comments, alongside our partners at the Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC), on <u>South Africa's Draft Global Minimum</u> <u>Tax Bill</u> to the South African Revenue Service and National Treasury.
- Made a <u>comprehensive submission</u> on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, alongside the Civil Society Financing for Development Mechanism and 176 signatories, to the relevant UN Ad Hoc Committee.
- Co-signed a <u>joint submission</u> to the UN Framework Convention TORs with the Africa Working Group on the UN Tax Convention.
- Authored an opinion piece, <u>The new GNU shows no</u> <u>sign it will reduce Treasury's 'outsized influence' over</u> <u>policymaking</u>, on the GNU's adoption of Treasury's MTEF guidelines.
- Published the discussion paper, <u>Are Binding Fiscal</u> <u>Rules the Right Solution for Debt Sustainability in</u> <u>South Africa?</u>
- Submitted an abstract and published a T20 policy brief, <u>The Taxation of Wealth for Eradication of</u> <u>Poverty and Inequality.</u>
- Shared our detailed <u>statement</u> and <u>submission</u> in response to the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) highlighting its impact on social grants and why proposed cuts threaten constitutional obligations and social welfare.
- Presented and participated in key workshops, including those hosted by COSATU, AIDC, FEDUSA, and SCIS (in collaboration with the UK's Women's Budget Group), covering fiscal rules, storytelling, and budget policy advocacy.

- Co-hosted and facilitated Budget Justice Coalition (BJC) engagements, including a gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) workshop and a Post-MTBPS Twitter space, while engaging National Treasury, DWYPD, and Stats SA on GRB as a member of the BJC working group.
- Participated in significant events such as National Treasury's workshop on global minimum tax and the Tax Justice Network Africa AGM in Uganda, where a new executive board was elected.

Climate finance

- Attended the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington DC, participating in a <u>session on</u> navigating the intertwined debt and climate crises.
- Contributed to a <u>briefing</u>, co-signed by 35 global civil society organisations and collectives, on debt demands and distractions for climate action.
- Submitted an abstract and published a T20 policy brief, Financing Just Energy Transitions: Unlocking Multilateral Climate Funds and Private Capital for Sustainable Transitions.
- Won the Green Finance category in the Mail & Guardian's Greening the Future Awards, for our work on the <u>Climate Finance Toolkit</u>: <u>Advocating</u> <u>for Rights-Based Climate Investment Plans in</u> <u>Developing Nations</u>, under the Climate Ambition to Accountability Project (CAAP).

Through this work, the IEJ contributed to countering the dominant neoliberal ideology that is embedded in policymaking across the domestic and international financial architecture. Our work brought an alternative perspective that centres transparency, accountability, democracy and socio-economic rights while addressing gaps in the climate finance conversation.

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

A just energy transition that reduces energy poverty, provides decent work through localisation, and achieves structural transformation of the energy system underpinned this project's work.

- Recruited and onboarded research partners from Ghana and Kenya.
- Finalised the project identity, and established a fivemember reference group to review key outputs.
- Developed and reviewed the conceptual framework on gender, the draft overall conceptual framework,

- the Policy Scan framework, and the Stage 1 data management plan. Obtained ethical clearance for research in Ghana and Kenya.
- Completed key research outputs, including the Kenya Policy Scan, Ghana Policy Scan, and the Continental Analysis, all undergoing final copy editing.
- Designed and facilitated stakeholder engagement through workshops in South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana, while supporting COSATU's Stakeholder Workshop.
- Participated in capacity-building and knowledgesharing initiatives, including an IDRC communications workshop, GPN training, and a workshop on GPN mapping and research questions.
- Authored a blog post, as part of the Clean Energy for Development research initiative, on <u>Advancing</u> <u>a Just Energy Transition: Empowering Localisation</u>, <u>Decent Work, SMMES</u>, and <u>Sustainable Livelihoods</u>.

The value of this work is that we successfully engaged stakeholders from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and beyond, fostering dialogue on localisation, structural transformation, decent work, gender equity, and sustainable livelihoods within the context of the Just Energy Transition.

G20 WORK

Building on its extensive contributions to Brazil's G20 Presidency in 2024, the IEJ was instrumental in shaping South Africa's vision for its 2025 G20 Presidency. By actively participating in all processes, co-hosting key workshops, and contributing to global discussions on debt justice and wealth taxation, the IEJ continued to ensure that South Africa's G20 agenda reflects the priorities of the Global South.

- Participated in, and <u>contributed to</u>, the C20 Brazil Inception Meeting.
- Contributed to a T20 Brazil side event on strengthening the global south climate agenda.
- Authored an <u>opinion piece</u> examining SA's readiness to host the G20 in 2025 and tackle Africa's debt crisis.
- Attended the C20 Brazil Midterm Meeting and moderated a panel on Fair, Inclusive, and Anti-Racist Economies.
- Presented the Joint C20 and T20 Policy Communiques to the Brazilian Government.
- Attended the T20 Brazil Midterm Meeting.

- Partnered with DIRCO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, and the South Center, to co-host the two-day G20 Vision Workshop with a wide array of South African government departments.
- Attended and participated in the G20 Policy Seminar, South Africa's Presidency of the G20 in 2025, cohosted by DIRCO and the University of Pretoria's Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS).
- Hosted a Brazilian delegation for an unofficial handover meeting.
- Co-hosted and participated in two G20 Brazil Social Summit side events, one on solutions to the Global South debt crisis and the other on pathways for taxing the super-rich.
- Convened a G20 2025 civil society kick-off workshop with a broad and representative cross-section of organisations.
- Authored an <u>opinion piece reflecting on the G20's</u> <u>proposal to tax the super-rich</u>.
- Contributed to key panel discussions, including a G20 social side event on taxing the rich with the <u>Young Scholars Initiative</u> (YSI) and co-organised a side event with the <u>Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation</u> (ICRICT).

The value of this work is in agenda setting, policy formulation and effective advocacy. Through co-hosting key workshops and engaging in C20 and T20 events in Brazil, the IEJ advanced equitable economic policies and debt solutions. These efforts reinforced South Africa's leadership in advocating for a fairer global economic order. Additionally, we played a pivotal role in shaping the 2025 G20 agenda by strengthening the Global South's climate and economic justice priorities. Our contributions to South Africa's G20 Concept Note and Task Force Issue Notes helped ensure the country's strategic positioning in global policy discussions.

CLIMATE AMBITION TO ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT - AN IEJ LEGACY PROJECT

Through this project, the IEJ, alongside WWF South Africa and the Climate Action Network - South Africa, advanced civil society participation in climate governance. The Climate Ambition to Accountability Project (CAAP) strengthened cross-sector collaboration to drive climate ambition, implementation, and accountability. It fostered a cohort of youth climate champions through training

and internships while integrating gender, climate equity, and rights-based approaches into national policy.

- Attended and contributed to National Treasury's 2024 Climate Resilience Symposium.
- Published, <u>publicised</u>, and <u>launched</u> the toolkit, <u>Advocating for Rights-Based Climate Investment</u> <u>Plans in Developing Nations to Realise a Just</u> <u>Transition</u>, alongside our partners in the Climate Ambition to Accountability Project.
- Used the toolkit in training workshops for civil society partners in Johannesburg and Cape Town.
- Presented a rights-based approach at the National Treasury's Climate Resilience Symposium, Adaptation Network Climate Justice Round Table and Climate Action Network International's "Financing Justice in the Just Transition" Webinar
- Hosted a boot camp, to capacitate and engage young people, to build a supportive cohort of wellcapacitated youth climate activists.
- Hosted an intergenerational dialogue with a focused theme: Fostering Future-Ready Youth for the Just Transition.
- Won the 2024 Mail and Guardian Greening The Future award in the Green Finance Category for our <u>Advocating for Rights-Based Climate Investment</u> <u>Plans in Developing Nations to Realise a Just</u> <u>Transition</u> toolkit.

This work built cross-sectoral capacity and collaboration on key issues of climate governance in South Africa, such as climate finance for the just transition. It has also had a notable impact on climate finance policy and advocacy. The Climate Finance Toolkit: Advocating for Rights-Based Climate Investment Plans in Developing Nations to Realise a Just Transition informed the Presidential Climate Commission's climate finance position, demonstrating its influence at the highest levels of policymaking.

CHALLENGING ECONOMIC ORTHODOXIES

In this project, the IEJ contributed to ensuring that heterodox economic paradigms are utilised as the basis for progressive African economics education and policy making.

 Supported active <u>Rethinking Economics for Africa</u> (REFA) student chapters at the University of the Witwatersrand, North West University, Rhodes University, University of Cape Town, University of

- Johannesburg, University of the Free State, and Nelson Mandela University, enhancing their activities and engagement.
- Conducted induction workshops for chapter members, focusing on administration and logistical skills.
- Organised regional curriculum workshops in Gauteng and the Western Cape, launching a comprehensive curriculum reform programme aimed at advancing heterodox and relevant economic perspectives.
- With the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), piloted an "Introduction to the South African Economy" crash course series of 8-10 workshops. The course covers foundational topics, including the structure and defining features of the South African economy, alongside critical policy issues in areas like households, labour markets, the state, and the environment.
- Trained 90 students and youth activists from across South Africa (Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, North West, and Free State) in delivering this workshop series to their communities, enabling broader engagement with economic issues beyond university campuses.
- Conducted a curriculum health assessment of undergraduate economics courses at universities with REFA chapters, evaluating theoretical diversity, real-world relevance, interdisciplinary approaches, and skills development in course materials and examinations.
- Hosted a national REFA Students' Convening, where 60 chapter executives were trained on heterodox economic concepts, schools of thought, and strategies for mobilising curriculum reform and fostering campus events that address topical policy issues.
- Supported REFA chapters in hosting events showcasing heterodox economic perspectives on South African policy topics, including fiscal justice and monetary policy.
- Co-organised a teach-in on "The Political Economy of Palestine" in collaboration with Rethinking Economics International, RE India, and RE SOAS.
- Collated the REFA alumni database, strengthening the broader REFA network.

Through this work, the IEJ deepened and strengthened REFA student chapters and their campus initiatives. The design and development of the "Introduction to South African Economy" workshop series made economic debates and heterodox approaches more accessible to participants, empowering non-economists to confidently

engage with and apply alternative economic insights. These efforts are laying the groundwork for a vibrant, inclusive, and transformative economic discourse in South Africa.

BUILDING RESILIENCE: FOOD SYSTEMS

Through this project the IEJ aims for public policy and discourse to give greater prominence to a just transition in the food system, reflecting an awareness of the need to ensure mitigation and adaptation in the food system to build transformative resilience.

- Published a working paper, <u>Opportunities and Challenges for a Just Transition in the South African Food System: Insights from the Beef Industry</u>, in collaboration with <u>Eastern Cape Agricultural Research Project</u> and Dr Andrew Bowman (University of /////// Edinburgh).
- Co-authored an <u>opinion piece</u> on lessons for South Africa's food system from the European Union farmer revolts
- Engaged in media outreach, including an <u>interview</u> with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung on the struggle for food sovereignty in South Africa.
- Published <u>A Just Transition Agenda for Food System</u>
 Policy Making in South Africa: Learning from the <u>Beef Sector</u> policy brief.
- Published and <u>launched</u> the guidance memo <u>The</u>
 <u>Beef with Climate Change: Growth, Equity, and a</u>
 <u>Just Transition in the Beef Sector in South Africa.</u>
- Presented research on the beef industry at prominent conferences and workshops, including the Critical Research on Industrial Livestock Systems (CRILS) workshop in London, the University of Johannesburg's Power and Inequality in Production Chains and Networks conference, and the Food as Commons conference in Cape Town, where the paper Beef, Climate, and Livelihoods in South Africa: Expanding the Rangeland Commons for a Just Transition? was presented and will be included in an edited volume.
- Co-organised a food justice session at the South African Sociological Association Congress and presented a paper co-authored with Dr Andrew Bowman on just transitions in the beef industry.
- Initiated a toolkit on gender justice, food systems, and climate change in Southern Africa, collaborating with the Climate Ambition to Accountability Project

- (CAAP) and African Feminist Economic Policy and Research Networks.
- Participated in key consultations and workshops, providing input on the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's Food System Transformation Pathways process, participated in the process's committee for the pathway on policy governance of the food system, participated in shaping the content and process for the new National Food Security and Nutrition Plan (NFSNP), presenting at the IDRC Just Transition Workshop, a Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE) webinar on corporate power in food systems and smallholder integration, contributing to a British Academy workshop on just transitions and AMR mitigation at the University of Pretoria, and contributed to a TCOE workshop with smallholder livestock farmers on the beef industry in South Africa to help facilitate a discussion about their options.
- Drafted an issue brief for the African Food Systems
 Transformation Collective (African Climate Foundation) on philanthropic support for just transition research and advocacy, and presented it to representatives at a gathering in Rwanda.
- Continued coordinating the National Policy Dialogue on Just Transition and Adaptation in the South African Food System:
- Convened a strategic planning meeting with partners to strengthen collaboration for 2025.
- Fostered significant collaborations and discourse around a just transition in the food system, notably in the beef sector.
- Engaged with journalists and civil society to shift public discourse towards sustainable food systems, providing robust research to inform their work.

This work was valuable in positioning research on the beef industry and the just transition as a pioneering focus area, sparking new collaborations and public conversations on the intersection of cattle, beef, and sustainable food systems. This shifted public discourse towards sustainable interventions, with media and partner organisations increasingly adopting just transition frameworks in their food system narratives. Through the National Policy Dialogue process, the IEJ has strengthened trust and collaboration between civil society and policymakers, fostering critical connections and enhancing the potential for impactful policy change.

BASIC INCOME

Through the Basic Income project, the IEJ worked towards the realisation of a universal basic income for all in South Africa aged 18-59, indexed to the upper-bound poverty line and financed through progressive taxation.

- Filed our <u>replying affidavit</u> and <u>heads of argument</u> in the SRD grant court case; published updates on the <u>hearing date and summarised the heads of</u> <u>argument</u>; and <u>live-streamed</u> the court case.
- Published a policy brief, <u>Litigating the Right to Social Assistance: The Social Relief of Distress court case</u>, detailing the reasons why our court action was required.
- Published a <u>policy brief</u> and accompanying <u>factsheet</u> that unpacked the fiscal pathways to a Universal Basic Income Guarantee (UBIG) based on the joint IEJ and Applied Development Research Solutions (ADRS) <u>working paper</u>.
- Produced and publicised an <u>animated video</u> (with <u>Xhosa</u> and <u>Zulu</u> subtitles) showing what South Africa would look like after the introduction of a basic income grant.
- Led work within the <u>Universal Basic Income Coalition</u>
 (UBIC) on a <u>BIG election scorecard</u> and <u>accompanying report</u>, ranking the BIG position of each major political party and engaging with parties to improve their BIG policy positions. The scorecard prompted positive responses and policy commitments from a <u>few political parties</u>.
- Translated seven factsheets from our UBIG series into <u>Zulu</u>, <u>Xhosa</u>, <u>Sepedi</u>, and <u>Afrikaans</u>.
- Submitted comments to government, alongside our partners #PayTheGrants, on the new <u>SRD grant regulations</u>.
- Presented to the <u>Eurasia Group</u> on the future of a basic income grant in South Africa.
- Presented to the <u>2024 Basic Income Earth Network</u> (<u>BIEN</u>) <u>Congress</u> in Bath, UK UBI proposals from South Africa.
- Penned an <u>open letter</u> to the President on the need for Treasury to align fiscal policy with its institutional and constitutional obligations, focusing on the issue of basic income.
- Published an <u>article</u> in the Journal of International Union Rights making the case for a Basic Income in South Africa, highlighting why unions support it.
- Published 3 UBIG factsheets, on why adding workseeking conditionalities to the grant would be bad

- policy; on how a <u>UBIG can support a just energy</u> transition and how it can help defeat hunger.
- Completed qualitative research on SRD grant exclusions and published a factsheet The pitfalls of targeting: <u>The drivers and impacts of widespread</u> exclusion from the SRD grant.
- Co-authored a country case study, <u>Rights vs.</u>
 <u>Austerity: The Battle for Decent Universal Basic Income in South Africa</u>, for the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors.
- Hosted the third Basic Income Researcher's Forum, a convening of scholars on basic income to present new research. We presented our findings on SRD exclusions.
- Presented on potential pathways to basic income to various ANC structures.
- Attended the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) conference in Johannesburg, and presented on the struggle for basic income in South Africa.
- Made inputs into the <u>South African hunger summit</u> on hunger and basic income.
- Presented two inputs to the National Planning Commission's social protection workshop, on fiscal pathways, and exclusions from targeted SRD programme.
- Tracked developments in the SRD grant regulations and administration by issuing various statements through the UBIC on: the <u>draft amendments</u> to the SRD grant; the R20 increase; a historic pledge from church leaders to back UBI; SASSA's misrepresentation of the drivers behind increases in SRD grant applications; and condemning fraudulent SRD grant applications.
- Published an <u>opinion piece</u> co-authored with members of UBIC on the risks of digitisation of the SRD grant, for the Daily Maverick and GroundUp.

The IEJ's interventions influenced the ANC to adopt a policy supporting UBIC's platform. This contributed to the R2O increase in the SRD grant—the first since its inception—resulting in R2.7 billion in unbudgeted income transfers. Through legal pressure, coalition work, and public engagement, the IEJ supported the extension of the SRD grant to 2025 and likely to 2026, enabling cumulative investments of over R7O billion into poor communities. These efforts have strengthened the foundation for securing a comprehensive basic income policy in South Africa.

AFRICAN FEMINIST ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND POLICY NETWORKS

The African Feminist Economic Research and Policy Networks project challenged the exclusion of feminist approaches in economics by addressing power imbalances in knowledge production and policymaking. It strengthened feminist economic analysis, teaching, and advocacy while elevating the role of feminist scholars and policy influencers.

- Continued to challenge the systematic exclusion of feminist-centred approaches to economics and economic policy-making.
- Hosted the 5th Annual Feminist Economics Summer School (FESS) in Kampala, Uganda, in partnership with Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) and Akina Mama wa Africa (AMwA), under the theme: Feminist Analysis and Interventions: Understanding the Social and Economic Crises in East Africa.
- Presented at the <u>International Association for</u>
 <u>Feminist Economics</u> (IAFFE) conference in Rome
 on social policy for care provision, teaching feminist
 economics, gender, conflict and development, and
 the human costs of caring.
- Published our latest Economies of Care Discussion Paper, <u>Mapping South Africa's Care Regime:</u> <u>Pathways to a Care-Focused Social Policy</u>.
- Expanded a vibrant community of feminist economic researchers and advocates by:
 - Forming new partnerships and revitalising existing networks.
 - Strengthening capacity through post-summer school activities, enabling participants to develop advocacy strategies and collaborate on research.
 - Encouraging resource sharing and collaboration through FESS and subsequent activities.
- Conducted internal workshops on care policy in South Africa, covering:
 - · Legacy of apartheid on care regimes;
 - Intergenerational care and childcare practices;
 and
 - Economic vulnerability of caregivers and their contributions, through social grants, to the cost of care
- Published a policy brief on care economies and gender-based violence, in collaboration with Brazilian researchers.

- Presented at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies (SCIS) conference at Wits University to promote intersectional research in public policy.
- Contributed to policy dialogues on gender mainstreaming in Uganda, hosted by Makerere University.
- Advocated for gender-focused priorities in the G20 Brazil process and engaged South Africa's government on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) for its 2025 G20 presidency.
- Published opinion piece on the <u>need for care-centred</u> social policy in South Africa.
- Participated in a policy dialogue with the ANC Women's League on policies to enhance WEE.

The value created by this project in 2024 lies in its dual focus on capacity building and community development, which has strengthened networks across Africa and amplified feminist economic research and advocacy. Through impactful initiatives like the FESS and varied collaborative projects, the IEJ advanced research on critical issues such as care economies, food systems, and climate, while influencing policy at national and international levels. These efforts are paving the way for a more inclusive, feminist approach to economic research and policymaking across the region.



Over the past year, the team continued to make valuable contributions to policy debates in South Africa through media engagements, radio and television interviews and opinion pieces.

- In 2024, IEJ followers on social media platforms increased from 10 200 to over 13 600. The IEJ digital platforms include:
 - o Website: www.iej.org.za
 - Facebook: <u>ainstituteforeconomicjustice</u>
 LinkedIn: <u>ainstituteforeconomicjustice</u>
 Youtube: <u>ainstituteforeconomicjustice</u>
 - Twitter/X: <u>aIEJ_SA</u>Instagram: <u>aIEJ_SA</u>
 - o Tik Tok: ainstitute.for.econ
- 11 <u>statements</u> were issued, some jointly with partners, including the Universal Basic Income Coalition, the BJC, #PayTheGrants, the Bretton Woods Project, and the Tax Justice Network Africa.