

## SPECIAL REPORT

### May 2020 Report on SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus

#### **SAYAS (members) response to the corona virus**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented global challenge. In their own personal capacities, various SAYAS members also wrote informative articles on the impact of the virus:

**Prof David Bilchitz** Professor of Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Law at the University of Johannesburg and Director of the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law, writes on the need for balances and checks of freedom and governments' accountability in the [#CoronaVirus](#) Era - <https://bit.ly/3bPu1fC>

The [#CoronaVirus](#) has laid bare some of the invisibilised everyday realities of what it means to live in a divided country. **Prof Puleng Segalo**, Head of Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa explores this aspect of life in SA - <https://bit.ly/2WhWnlR>

Poetry's strength lies in its ability to shed a "sideways" light on the world, so the truth sneaks up on you and yet it can be a healing balm. **Prof Puleng Segalo**, Head of Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Human Sciences at the University of South Africa pens her thoughts of the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/2yZ2FFo>

What can mathematicians, or more precisely applied mathematicians, possibly contribute to the [#CoronaVirus](#) calculus? In a word: Modelling. SAYAS alumni **Prof Amanda Weltman** theoretical physicist and **Prof Jeff Murugan** both at University of Cape Town explore this further <https://www.sajs.co.za/idm314> as mathematical models have predictive and explanatory power

'Science diplomacy', meaning international cooperation with science at its core, is the key to overcoming COVID-19. SAYAS alumnus **A/Prof Tolullah Oni**, urban epidemiologist at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit at the University of Cambridge co-authors an article on how 'science diplomacy' can help us contain the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/35ysl2u>

**A/Prof Tolullah Oni** also discusses what has been revealed by the [#CoronaVirus](#) crisis: Our need for 'Emergency Health Foresight', how preparedness is not enough, and what the world is at risk of un-learning in the wake of the crisis - <https://bit.ly/2yJ0tly>

Commenting on the many changes wrought on by the [#CoronaVirus](#) SAYAS member **Prof Mzukisi Njotini** Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning & Associate Professor: Department of Private Law, University of Johannesburg notes that as technology continues to alter the way society and businesses operate, there is also a need to augment health services - <https://bit.ly/3dsJ9A1>

SAYAS Member, **Prof Pradeep Kumar** Associate Professor: Pharmaceuticals, University of the Witwatersrand, writes on easing the [#CoronaVirus](#) lockdown and identifying the "at risk" regions in an analysis of SA and India - <https://bit.ly/3dLmxuX>

**Prof Pradeep Kumar** also calls for a pause for: Food for thought & Sustaining nutritional resources throughout the [#CoronaVirus](#) crisis - <https://bit.ly/2M7ZTkz>

Archaeologists have long studied diseases in past populations. In relating to the current [#CoronaVirus](#) SAYAS alumnus **Prof Shadreck Chirikure**, Head of the Department of Archaeology, University of Cape Town, writes about how Archaeology shows how ancient African societies managed pandemics - <https://bit.ly/3btEfkR>

The pre-pandemic conditions that were already challenging have worsened during the global Covid-19 crisis for women who struggle to juggle all their different roles. SAYAS Co-Chair **Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz** (Department of Economics at University of Pretoria) who is part of the Global Young Academy's Women in Science working group shares some collective ideas on: How to make Covid-19 lockdown work for [#WomeninScience](#) - <https://bit.ly/3g6fDCh>

SAYAS alumnus **Prof Marietjie Venter** Head: Zoonotic Arbo and Respiratory virus program, Center for Viral Zoonosis, Department Medical Virology, University of Pretoria @UPTuks provides a review towards effective diagnostic assays for COVID-19 - <https://doi.org/10.1136/jclinpath-2020-206685> [#CoronaVirus](#)

In tackling the [#CoronaVirus](#), freedom of speech and public interest, not allegiance, should underpin science advisement to government argue SAYAS alumnus **Prof Jerome Singh**, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa; ASSAf President Prof Jonathan Jansen, Stellenbosch University, and ASSAf member Prof Adam Habib, VC, University of the Witwatersrand - <https://bit.ly/2M1NH4N> [#sciencepolicy](#)

In making a case for public trust in science, SAYAS alumnus **Prof Jerome Singh**, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa notes how South Africa's Ministerial Advisory Committee on the [#CoronaVirus](#) can be optimised - <https://bit.ly/2zvTOeX> [#sciencepolicy](#)

SAYAS alumna **A/Prof John Ataguba**, Associate Professor and Director of the Health Economics Unit, University of Cape Town, writes on Concerns For Primary Health Care And Spending on African countries following the [#CoronaVirus](#) - <https://bit.ly/3dcR2tH>



Prof Philani Moyo, University of Fort Hare in The Daily Dispatch

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Excellent innovation by UCT Biomedical Engineering in collaboration with Orthopaedic Surgery and Global Surgery, who have created the UCT Vizar to protect clinicians from Covid-19. [#PPE](#) [#GlobalSurgery](#) [#Covid\\_19](#) [@SudeshSivasarasu](#) [@UCT\\_news](#) [@FabAcademic](#) [@MrsMaswime](#)



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