

## NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

**IVOR CHIPKIN**

The NSI would like to take this moment to reconnect with you regarding recent developments in our work and impact both in South Africa and globally.

We are delighted to share the release of a significant number of NSI reports, the publication of academic papers in various journals, our participation in speaking engagements, and our contribution to intellectual events. Our impact has indeed gained remarkable traction in recent months.

Additionally, we recently convened a successful Board meeting, during which we presented and discussed our strategic direction and introduced exciting new programmes to be spearheaded by the NSI. This newsletter serves as a platform to keep you updated on these initiatives and more.

## TOP NEWS



### NSI SHARES INSIGHTS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY'S GLOBAL SOUTH CONFERENCE

The New South Institute (NSI) had the honour of participating in the Global South and the Future of World Order 4th Annual Conference, hosted by the Reimagining World Order project of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIRS). This esteemed gathering, organised by leading global scholars, provided a platform for meaningful academic contributions.

Ivor Chipkin, Director at NSI, delivered a presentation on anti-imperialism, the national democratic revolution in South Africa, and the global South. His paper on the emergence of the Global South was well-received, contributing to discussions that firmly placed the concept on the research agenda within international relations and political studies.

Distinguished international scholars, including organiser and NSI Board member Prapat Mehta (Princeton University), John Ikenberry also from Princeton, Daniel Deudney from Johns Hopkins, and Ayse Zarakol from Cambridge, also shared their insights.

### NSI RESEARCHERS DISCUSS GLOBAL PEACE IN SERBIAN TELEVISION INTERVIEW

In Serbia, NSI researchers Radmila Nakarada and Miloš Hrnjuz participated in an interview with editor and political talk show host Ljubica Gojčić. The interview, focusing on the significance of global peace, was featured on the award-winning weekly programme broadcasted on the Serbian 24-hour news channel, RTV Vojvodine (Radio Television of Vojvodina). The episode unpacked the question, "How much does the world care about world peace?" You can watch the interview by clicking [here](#).



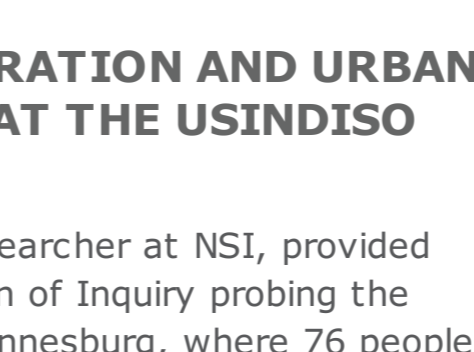
### ALAN HIRSCH ANALYSES MIGRATION DYNAMICS IN SOUTH AFRICA ON BBC TV

Alan Hirsch, senior researcher at NSI, recently discussed migration in South Africa on the BBC's *Focus on Africa*. He highlighted why immigration becomes a contentious issue before elections and the challenges of managing cross-border movement. Hirsch noted that most migrants to South Africa come from SADC countries like Zimbabwe, raising questions about limiting movement from SADC nations. He also discussed the porous nature of African borders and the sustainability of efforts to control migration. Hirsch explored whether immigration influences voting behaviour and its impact on elections. He also discussed the lengths people go to in order to reach South Africa and the dynamics of intercontinental migration in Africa. Hirsch sheds light on the complexities of immigration and its implications for South Africa and the continent. Click on [this link](#) to watch the interview.



### ALAN HIRSCH EXPLAINS MIGRATION GOVERNANCE IN BROOKINGS INSTITUTE'S 'FORESIGHT AFRICA 2024' REPORT

Alan Hirsch contributed to the Brookings Institute's flagship report, "Foresight Africa 2024." This comprehensive report discusses various critical issues, including development financing, climate change, the digital economy, entrepreneurship, trade and regional integration, gender, and governance. Hirsch's contribution focuses on migration governance in Africa, examining this complex and evolving topic. You can download and read the full report [here](#).



### INSIGHTS INTO MIGRATION AND URBAN HOUSING POLICIES AT THE USINDISO BUILDING FIRE

In March, Alan Hirsch, a researcher at NSI, provided testimony at the Commission of Inquiry probing the Usindiso building fire in Johannesburg, where 76 people lost their lives in August 2023. Centred around his research on migration, Hirsch unpacked the incident's ramifications for urban housing policies. His latest publication on South Africa's migration trends highlights his expertise in migration governance. Watch his testimony [here](#). Justice Khampepe, chairperson of the commission of inquiry into the deadly fire, has handed over the first part of her report to Gauteng premier Panyaza Lesufi, saying the building had been abandoned by the City of Johannesburg and the Johannesburg Property Company at least since 2019.



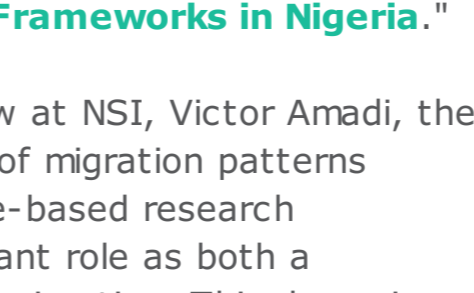
### NSI SPEAKS AT MULTI-PARTY CHARTER DISCUSSION AND URGES ACTION ON PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

The Multi-Party Charter, comprising eleven political parties, hosted a press conference to unveil what they call a Charter Government's plan aimed at ending cadre deployment and professionalising the public service. The plan focuses on enhancing skills and accountability, as well as improving public service efficiency and value for money. The press conference took place outside the Thembeisa Municipal Customer Care Centre in Ekurhuleni, a site tragically destroyed by fire and never rebuilt or restored. Ivor Chipkin, invited as a non-partisan subject-matter expert, addressed the theme "Building a professional public service that delivers to all, and ending cadre deployment." Chipkin raised critical questions regarding the practical steps political parties are willing to take to enact meaningful public service reform, emphasizing the importance of action over mere rhetoric. The New South Institute's expertise has been frequently sought after by various political parties in need of policy advice.



### OUR PARTICIPATION AT THE GLOBAL GOVERNMENT FORUM WEBINAR

On March 29th, we participated in a panel discussion titled "How to Boost State Capacity," hosted by the Global Government Forum. The Global Government Forum platform serves as a resource for civil servants worldwide, aiding them in meeting global challenges by fostering expertise, knowledge, and connections. The webinar focused on strategies for governments to enhance their capacity in planning, directing action, ensuring property rights, developing fiscal capacity, and delivering essential services effectively.



Distinguished speakers at the webinar included Ivor Chipkin, Director of the New South Institute; Zukiswa Mqolomba, National Commissioner (Deputy Chairperson) of the Public Service Commission, South Africa; Prof. Mashupye Masemule, Commissioner of the National Planning Commission (NPC) within the Department of the Presidency, South Africa; and Elizabeth Obeng-Yeboah, Director of the Reforms Coordinating Unit, Recruitment, Training, and Development at the Office of the Head of the Civil Service, Ghana.

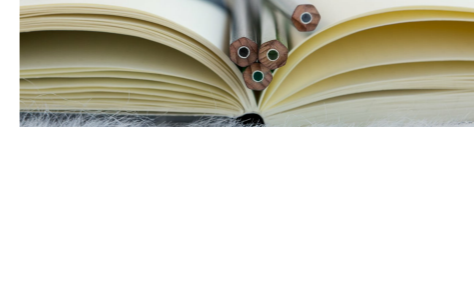
### NSI REPORT RAISES FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF MIGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA

The Migration Governance Reform in Africa program at the New South Institute has recently unveiled its latest publication: a working paper titled "An Analysis of Migration Governance Frameworks in Nigeria." Authored by Research Fellow at NSI, Victor Amadi, the paper explores the impacts of migration patterns across Africa, with evidence-based research highlighting Nigeria's significant role as both a destination and a source of migration. This dynamic has far-reaching effects on migration patterns throughout the continent. The paper on Nigeria follows a structure outlined in our introductory document, [Framing a Study of African Migration Governance Reform](#).



### NSI RESEARCH PAPER FEATURED IN THE NEW AGENDA: SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

NSI senior researcher Alan Hirsch recently published a paper in the *New Agenda: South African Journal of Social and Economic Policy*, offering a comprehensive critique of South Africa's migration policy. Titled "South Africa's Migration Policy Mess: Where Did It Come From, and Can It Be Fixed?", his article explores the economics and labour aspects of migration governance in the Global South.



Hirsch examines the inefficiencies of the current migration policy in South Africa, starting with a critique of the draft White Paper on Citizenship, Immigration, and Refugee Protection. This article serves as an essential resource for policymakers, scholars, and the public interested in understanding and potentially reforming migration policies in South Africa.

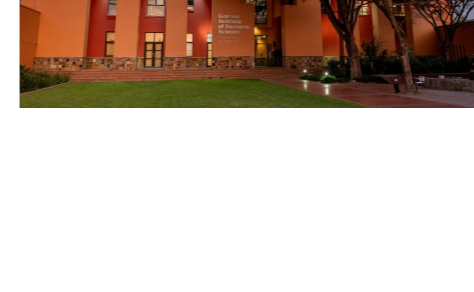
### A NEW NSI REPORT EXPLAINS MIGRATION POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA

In February, we launched a report as part of the MIGRA series, investigating migration policy in South Africa. Titled "South Africa Case Study: Migration Trends, Policy, Implementation, and Outcomes," the report, authored by Alan Hirsch, head of the MIGRA program, sheds light on both the historical context and present challenges surrounding migration in the country. It emphasizes the necessity of effective governance and institutional trust in tackling migration issues.



### EMPOWERING THE MARGINALIZED: INSIGHTS FROM NSI RESEARCHERS ON SOUTH AFRICA AND SERBIA

In January, the New South Institute (NSI) published a seminal research article in the scholarly journal *Politikwechsel* titled "Basic Analytical Assumptions of Empowering the Periphery: The Telling Experiences of South Africa and THE Republic of Serbia." This formative work, authored by our researchers Radmila Nakarada and Jelena Vidojević, sheds light on crucial assumptions necessary for empowering marginalized groups. The article emphasizes the importance of revisiting historical narratives, accurately assessing local conditions, understanding global neoliberal capitalism dynamics, incorporating new scientific insights, revitalizing core values, nurturing internal agents of change, and creating transformative alliances among marginalized communities. By addressing urgent global crises, the research advocates for immediate measures to empower marginalized communities on a global scale.



### NEW SOUTH INSTITUTE SPEARHEADS PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSIONALISATION EFFORTS

The New South Institute is dedicated to tackling major policy challenges faced by delicate democracies, with a particular focus on public administration reform and the establishment of effective public administrations. Our approach involves collaborative efforts with institutions responsible for implementing change.

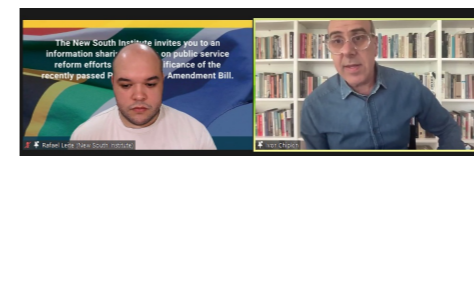
Recently, we played a significant role in contributing our expertise to the report of the Public Service Commission (PSC) on public service reforms. The aim of the PSC is to uphold constitutional values and principles of public administration, coordinate efforts to combat corruption and maladministration, and improve policies on ethics for the public service.

In putting their report together, titled 'Public Service Reforms Towards Professionalisation: A PSC Perspective', the New South Institute was able to provide valuable insights and make important contributions in this process.

### CELEBRATING A NEW CHAPTER: NEW SOUTH INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH GORDON INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS SCIENCE (GIBS)

We are pleased to announce that we will be relocating to a new office location starting in June 2024. Our new address will be 26 Melville Road, Illovo, at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS).

This move aligns with our ambitious goals and marks an exciting new collaboration. GIBS is a globally accredited institution dedicated to advancing world-class business practices across the continent and beyond. Initially founded as a 'business school' of the University of Pretoria, it has distinguished itself as a renowned African institution and research centre. With impeccable international credentials, GIBS is recognized as a leading business school in Africa.



### NSI APPLAUDS THE PASSAGE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM BILL

In South Africa, the National Assembly has taken a significant step towards reforming the country's public service with the passage of the Public Service Amendment Bill. In February 2024, during its hybrid plenary sitting, the National Assembly passed not only the Public Service Amendment Bill but also the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill and the Statistics Amendment Bill. The New South Institute issued a statement expressing our view that the Public Service Amendment Bill represents a historic move towards monumental reform. Our statement garnered media attention, leading to engagements on various platforms, including radio, television, and print, to highlight the significance of this bill. You can read the full text of our statement [here](#).



### NSI HOSTS AN INFORMATION SHARING SESSION ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL

The New South Institute convened an online discussion on March 19th, focusing on the Public Service Amendment Bill. The Public Service Amendment Bill was passed during a joint sitting in Parliament in February. This reform will go a long way toward ending the right of the President and of Ministers at both national and provincial levels to appoint public servants and to meddle in operational decisions in government departments and state-owned companies. This milestone represents a historic step towards the realization of a more responsive and effective government.

This was the broad objective in mind when we organized a virtual engagement with various organisations and individuals. The purpose was to unpack the key role entities and individuals can play in reshaping public service reform. Throughout this interactive session, our researchers, Ivor Chipkin and Rafael Leite, explained core concepts to our interactive participants. We explored actionable steps that can be collectively undertaken to sustain and enhance our democracy. This exchange of ideas and collaboration highlights NSI's commitment to driving meaningful change in public administration and fostering a more accountable and effective governance framework. Click [here](#) to watch the video of the webinar.



### OP-ED ON PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

Ivor Chipkin authored an opinion piece for the Global Government Forum, in which he unpacked the significance of the Public Service Amendment Bill. Chipkin hailed it as a landmark reform, addressing long-standing issues of politicization within the government and poised to be one of the most significant reforms since 1994. Read the full article [here](#).