



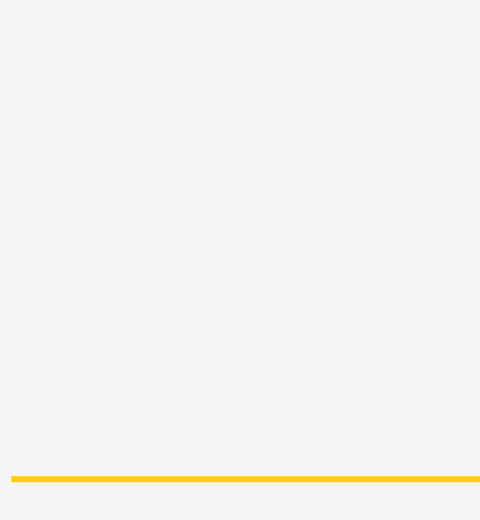
NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

IVOR CHIPKIN

Welcome to the latest edition of the New South Institute newsletter!

This issue captures not just the impact but also the energy of the NSI. From our staff discussing industry-relevant matters to recent, well-deserved appointments, NSI is increasingly becoming a place where the kind of people who should be thriving are thriving—and contributing meaningfully to institution-building. This is not an exclusive space; we are building it for others. Through journalistic programmes and new appointments, we aim to deliver in-depth, evidence-based storytelling of citizens' lived experiences. We're also strengthening public service reform—our core focus—by equipping public servants through targeted initiatives. We're not just developing policies; we're ensuring they are implemented and transformed into meaningful action. In even more exciting news, NSI is going to be the host of this year's global conference as we partner with On Think Tanks and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). For the first time ever, this event will be held on the African continent! And it coincides with South Africa's presidency of the G20.

TOP NEWS

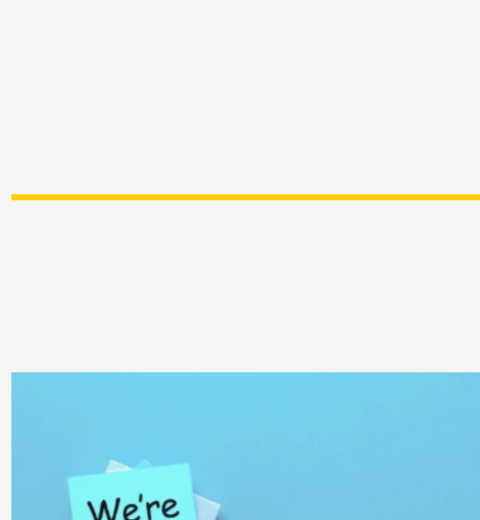


SALZBURG FORUM UNITES GLOBAL VOICES FOR PEACE

I participated in the Pathways to Peace Africa Forum held in Salzburg this April. The global conference brought together diverse voices to engage in open and critical dialogue on pressing geopolitical challenges.

We also joined the call led by leading global academics, demanding a transparent investigation into the disturbing events that took place during the March 15 protest in Belgrade. Alongside fellow signatories from across the academic and literary world, we raised serious concerns about reports of a sonic attack deployed against peaceful demonstrators – including students, professors, and civilians alike – which resulted in mass panic and injuries. You can read the summarised statement, which unequivocally condemns the use of non-lethal weapons to instil fear and suppress peaceful assembly, through the link below.

[Read more here](#)



UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

On Wednesday, 19 March, the New South Institute hosted a workshop on public service reform at GIBS. This event is part of a broader series aimed at equipping citizens with the information they need to meaningfully engage with ongoing reform initiatives. Public service reform directly affects many aspects of daily life—from the issuing of driver's licenses to access to clean water, infrastructure, and electricity. Through these engagements, NSI seeks to spotlight public policy and its tangible impact on the lives of ordinary South Africans.

[View event highlights](#)



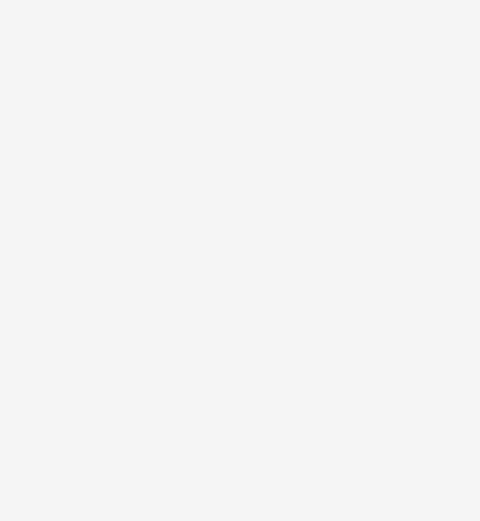
EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NSI

We're looking for a **Project Officer** and an **Advocacy Officer** to join our public service reform team.

Please visit our website for details and application instructions.

We have also introduced a new initiative for journalists or reporters to apply and become part of our Journalist-in-Residence programme. The initiative, which has received numerous applications from across the continent and abroad, is currently in the process of evaluating submissions. The programme aims to empower journalists to tell impactful stories that challenge power structures and amplify underrepresented voices. Participants will receive full support throughout the residency to help them carry out their work effectively.

[Read more](#)



NSI WELCOMES YOLISWA MAKHASI AS HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

In March, the New South Institute welcomed Yoliswa Makhasi as the new head of the Public Service Reform programme. Yoliswa previously served as Director-General at the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). She has held several high-level government positions, including Head of Department for Community Safety in the Gauteng Provincial Government. A great fit for the NSI, Yoliswa also brings with her extensive experience in policy development, strategic leadership, governance and stakeholder relations.

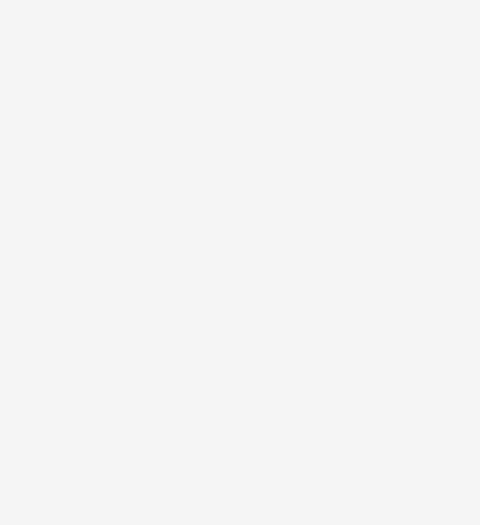


YOLISWA MAKHASI ON PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM AND HEARINGS ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL

Head of programme at the NSI, Yoliswa Makhasi, gave an interview on public service reform, which aired on Moneyweb at Middy. She emphasised the importance of these reforms, particularly in driving legislation such as the Public Service Amendment Bill, which was passed by Parliament last year and is currently before the National Council of Provinces.

On behalf of the NSI, Yoliswa has actively participated in some of the public hearings, where she has expanded on our position, supported by evidence-based research. NSI presentations were delivered at public hearings in Gauteng, the Free State, Northern Cape, and the Eastern Cape.

[Listen to the interview](#)



REFORMING PUBLIC SERVICE: A CONVERSATION ON CHAI FM

On Chai FM, I had the opportunity to discuss public service reform and the performance of government institutions. Responding to a range of questions, I outlined the NSI's vision for the kind of reform that should be undertaken and why it is essential. The conversation offered perspective into the challenges facing South Africa's public service, which often vary across departments. Despite these issues, thousands of capable professionals within government continue to serve with integrity and commitment. I highlighted the importance of professionalising public administrations and advocated for transferring certain operational powers away from politicians to senior officials—such as Directors-General—who are better positioned to manage processes effectively.

[Listen to the interview](#)



THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY DOCUMENTED BY THE NSI

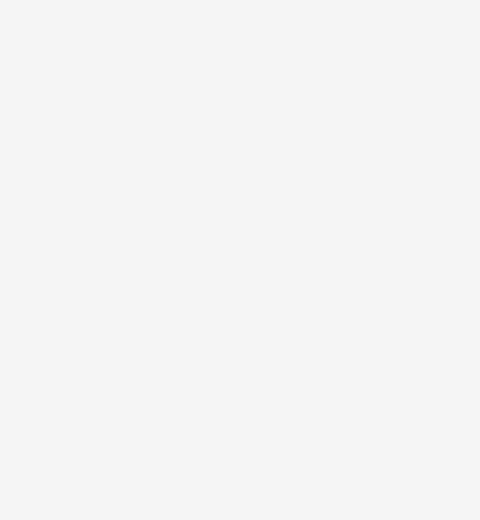
We also held a workshop on South Africa's political economy in relation to the history of the National Treasury on 26 February. Last year, we announced that the NSI would lead a historic project to document the story of the National Treasury. This workshop outlined key themes that will inform the framing document currently under development. The NSI has been granted full access to the Treasury's available archives. This first-of-its-kind project will offer a unique perspective on the institution's history. The NSI was entrusted with this work based on its proven track record, and we hope the initiative will shed light on how government architecture has evolved from the apartheid era to the present. The National Treasury's story is closely tied to the broader processes of institution building in South Africa.



ALAN HIRSCH REFLECTS ON GLOBAL MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Alan Hirsch, leader of the Migration Governance Reform in Africa (MIGRA) research programme at the NSI, published an essay with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In this essay, he analyses the narrative surrounding global migration, particularly the migration from Africa to the Global North. Alan highlights common misconceptions about migration, its actual scale, and the often overlooked economic factors driving restrictive policies. The solution? A shift in discourse and a new approach to migration governance. Evidence-based strategies are more crucial than ever—especially in an era of misinformation and disinformation—ensuring that complex issues like migration are addressed.

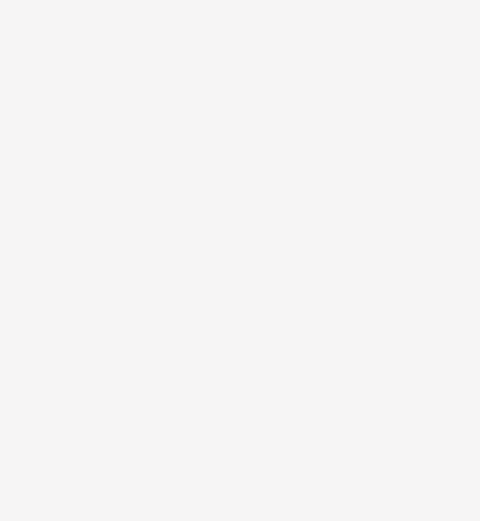
[Read the publication](#)



NSI REPORT ON ECOWAS FREE MOVEMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION CHALLENGES

In February, the NSI's Victor Amadi compiled a report on migration governance in West Africa. The report explores free movement within ECOWAS and its challenges - an issue that is both timely and critical to regional integration and development. While highlighting several policy issues that remain unimplemented, the NSI report goes a step further by translating these policies into actionable and sustainable outcomes. We encourage you to engage with the report, which is available through the link below.

[Read the report](#)

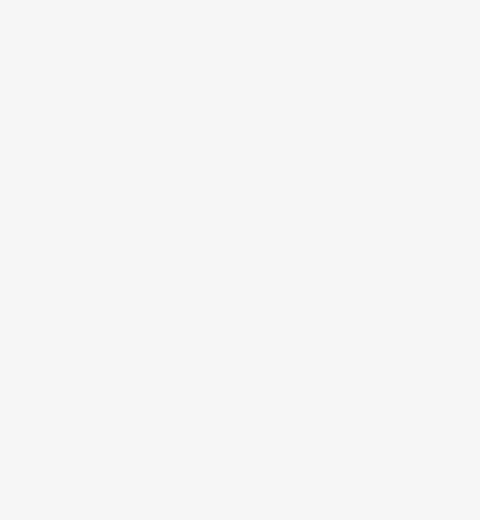


OUR TAKE ON ANTI-MIGRATION POLICIES

Alan Hirsch also published an article on the anti-immigration policies introduced by US President Donald Trump. In the piece, published by The Conversation, an academic and research community news platform, Alan argues that these anti-immigration policies, implemented by Trump and other wealthy nations, are unlikely to last. The article is available in both English and French.

[English](#)

[French](#)



DISCUSSING MIGRATION POLICY

In April, Alan Hirsch moderated a panel discussion on South African migration policy, 30 years after democracy at the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) conference, as the organisation marks its 50th anniversary. Alan also delivered a lecture at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Summer School, alongside a stellar lineup of speakers. His presentation was titled Fantasy and Fact in Immigration Politics and Policy.

Some of Alan's engagements included:

- Speaking at a book launch on Zambia at UCT.
- An interview with [Jeremy Meggs on Moneyweb](#).
- A guest lecture at Stellenbosch University on Why Should We Be Studying Migration Governance in Africa? The seminar featured researchers, academics and practitioners.



JOIN US AT THE OTT CONFERENCE THIS JUNE

In partnership with On Think Tanks and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), we are hosting a global conference in Johannesburg and South Africa. The conference, themed Think Tanks and Impact, will take place from 16-18 June 2025. This event will bring together leaders, policymakers, and think tanks to explore the influence of think tanks on policies, institutions, and global dialogue. The gathering will cover several themes, ranging from public service reform to the effect of artificial intelligence on industrial policy. The NSI will also host a session on preventing state capture and corruption. The conference aims to deepen understanding of how think tanks can effectively shape policy and promote global dialogue. To join the conference virtually, we invite you to express your interest by clicking the button below.

[I'm interested](#)



EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AT THE NSI – STAY CONNECTED

The New South Institute is thrilled to announce its official recognition as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) by the South African Revenue Service (SARS). This significant milestone grants NSI income tax exemption and, importantly, allows donations made to us to be tax-deductible for our generous supporters under Section 18A.

We will also be delivering new, high-impact papers and will soon host informative conversations with key speakers who'll share perspectives on shifting global power.

[Stay connected](#)

We thank you again for your interest in and support of our work



[Visit our website](#)

