

# TIMSS SA Newsletter



**Inclusive Economic  
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Programme**

**Human Sciences Research  
Council**

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## Publics' Relationship with Science

During this time of the Covid 19 pandemic, we have all been eager for scientific information relating to the nature of the virus, how it is spread, possible vaccinations to prevent infection, and possible treatments if we contract this disease. Scientific information has informed decision-making of governments and the public. Covid-19 has sharply highlighted the publics' relationship with science.

This newsletter focuses on research undertaken around the publics' relationship with science, in particular on the public understanding of Covid-19 in South Africa and around the world.

### Infographics: Public and Covid-19, in South Africa, and around the world



[Public Understanding and Experiences of Covid-19 in South Africa](#)



[Public Understanding and Experiences of Covid-19 in South Africa and around the World](#)

### Public understanding of and attitudes towards, Covid-19 from around the world

Many countries, including South Africa, have conducted surveys with the public to elicit their views on different dimensions of Covid-19 in order to plan responses more appropriately. Please click on the country for information regarding their survey on the publics' views about Covid -19. The HSRC has conducted a number of surveys, some in collaboration with other institutions, exploring the health and well-being of South Africans.



[South Africa](#)



[Germany](#)



[Italy](#)



[Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa](#)



[Malaysia](#)



[Sweden](#)



[USA](#)



[IPSOS](#)



[IPSOS: Africa](#)

## Mapping Public Relationship with Science Surveys

In 2020, Reddy, Parker and Hannan updated a 2009 HSRC report titled *Science and the publics: A review of public understanding of science studies*. The updated report aimed to capture the current status of the [public's relationship with science](#), and thereby provide a better understanding of this relationship, both in South Africa and around the world. The report highlights the South African policy context, and presents theoretical shifts in the debate, as well as survey findings from various countries.

## The urgency of ensuring that research gets into the public domain

A Conversation piece by Pillay, Damonse and Ellis highlights that [knowledge is a product of a social collaboration](#), and should thus be owned by and placed in service of the community. They argue that not enough is being done to simplify the important messages in research so that this knowledge can be clearly communicated to citizens and policy-makers.

## HSRC Review

### Covid-19: Views from social science

The latest HSRC Review collated a number of articles relating to the [impact of the Covid-19 pandemic](#) in the country. The review included an article highlighting some of the results of the HSRC's study on the public understanding of Covid-19, titled *Views of South Africans during lockdown: An HSRC pilot study*.

## Interested in using TIMSS data for research?

If you are interested in working with us on publications based on the TIMSS data, please [contact us](#).

[www.timss-sa.org.za](http://www.timss-sa.org.za)