Petrus Miggels

One officer hit his knuckles with a hammer. A second police officer grabbed Miggels, dragged him toward their vehicle and forced him into the front seat, and drove away.

It is not clear what happened in the vehicle. But a short while later Miggels was dropped off near where he had been picked up. From there he walked to his house on Carnation Road. He died on the stoep within an hour.

Adane Emmanuel

The police accused Emmanuel of selling cigarettes - a claim he denied. This led to the officers brutally assaulting him.

A severely wounded Emmanuel was then arrested and kept in police custody for about two hours before he was released on bail. The police then drove him to a clinic where he died.

Sibusiso Amos

“FATALLY SHOT ON THE VERANDA OF HIS HOME”

Collins Khosa

“SEVERELY ASSAULTED BY SANDF AND IMPD OFFICERS – INCLUDING BEING HIT WITH THE BUTT OF A MACHINE GUN, THROTTLED WHILE HIS ARM WAS HELD BEHIND HIS BACK AND SLAMMED INTO A STEEL GATE.”

Source: Tshegofatsa Putu, 2020
WHERE DO BLACK LIVES GO -
DUST ON THEIR FEET TO GATHER THEIR LIVES AND FLEE
FROM THE SUFFERING UNWINDING ITSELF LIKE VINE
LEAVES
WHERE DO WE BREATHE?
WHAT REPRISE IS THEIRS ACROSS THE SEAS?
WHAT JUSTICE HEAVES IN THE GRAVES OF THE
DECEASED?
STATE, POLICE, BUSINESS – EACH, WITH CONTEMPT
AGAINST ONE’S OWN, BLACK ON BLACK
AND UNDER THE FLAGS OF RED, BLUE AND YELLOW:
AMERICAS, AFRICA, EUROPE, ASIAS – ALL
A SALUTE TO THE BLACK LIVES LOST IN SEARCH OF HOME
MOVING BEYOND MINIMUMS TO MAXIMUMS

MASANA NDINGA-KANGA, AFSEE SENIOR ATLANTIC FELLOW

6 JUNE 2020

WEBSITE: MASANA-NDINGA.XYZ
EMAIL: MASANA.NDINGA@GMAIL.COM
### WHY INEQUALITY STUDIES IS CRITICAL FOR A NEW ECONOMIC AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The current context</th>
<th>Focus of poverty studies has been extensively focused on those forced to live on the margins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The repercussions</td>
<td>Policy interventions and priorities have been centred on interventions that do not address systemic inequalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>What this means in practice</td>
<td>The justification of financialization of public services &amp; goods through cost-benefit analysis &amp; the commodification of livelihoods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foregrounding inequality analysis means</td>
<td>Shifts to systemic interventions – e.g. move from minimum wage to maximum wealth; accountability for excessive accumulation and extraction</td>
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WHY IT’S IMPORTANT TO LOOK AT WEALTH INEQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

LESSONS FOR GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

• South Africa represents the quintessential post-colonial case study of a social democracy integrated into a racist, misogynist, ableist extractive global political economy

• Growth-based economic policy has exacerbated existing fault-lines and walking the tight rope of human rights vs. growth

• Growth based economic modelling requires extraction e.g. South Africa, Rwanda

• E.g. African Continent Free Trade Agreement and the negative effects of economies of scale on just livelihoods, externalizing vulnerabilities. A new type of solidarity required – beyond extractive economies.

• Systems thinking on wealth inequality requires that we look at global value chains, tax havens, illicit financial flows, evasion and pushing the costs of economic uncertainty onto those forced to live on the margins. We cannot adequately call for wealth justice in a growth-based economic framework.
CURRENT INTERVENTIONS IN SA

• Stage 1: R500 Billion relief package, declaration of national disaster, tax relief, disaster relief funds, wage support and small business funds, Temporary Employer Employee Relief Scheme
  • Campaign by CWAO, Women on Farms and Izwi Domestic Workers Alliance – inclusion of workers not contributing to UIF
  • Unpaid care work, social reproduction, migrant workers, sex workers
  • R350 for every citizen

• Stage 2: Economy stabilization – amidst Moody’s downgrade to junk status in March 2020. How and what is stabilization in such a GPE?

• 3. Stage 3: “Recovery of the economy” – is this trickle down economics?
SOUTH AFRICAN WEALTH INEQUALITY CONTEXT

Top 1%

Or 3500 people

Own 15% of all wealth

Bottom 50%

17.7 million people

Net (-)R16000 net wealth

“The bottom 90% (31.8 million people) control 14% of all wealth”

Chaterjee, Czajka, and Gethin, March 2020
“A capital gain arises when you dispose of an asset on or after 1 October 2001 for proceeds that exceed its base cost”

SARS, 2020

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals and Special Trusts</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>13.65%</td>
<td>13.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
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<td>22.4%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>18.65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Trusts</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>27.31%</td>
<td>26.64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## HOW DO WE IMAGINE JUST, EQUITABLE ECONOMIES?

### The Tax Question
- Extensive work on illicit financial flows, tax evasion, tax havens
- Moving towards voluntary disclosure
- State priority, see some repercussions in the COVID-19 response e.g. Canada, Denmark, Poland, Scotland

### The real cost-benefit analysis
- What does maximum wage vs. minimum wage look like?
- Crisis in legitimacy of economics as a field of practice & the commodification of lives, environment.
- Smoke & mirrors of the minimum human rights core.
- Real cost is continued, banal accumulation for its own sake
- Global south economies cannot implement capital controls in isolation – Systems change

### Beyond Growth – Accountability for Capital
- Global solidarity critical to imagining a world beyond current context
- Limit capital flight, exchange rate fluctuations and do away with austerity measures – reinvest in public service infrastructure across most countries
- Given the climate, labour and SRHR crisis, measure the success of economies on how well they are able to deliver just, equitable livelihoods (not minimum HR Core)
- Debt justice, food security and just global value chains
IT ALL SEEMS SO FAR OUT OF OUR REACH

• Arundhati Roy: Pandemic as a portal

• It won’t come by policy briefs and research papers – wealth extraction is not possible without resource and labour subjugation.

• Imagine a global resistance. The effects of the feminist resistance against austerity globally is a testament

• Will your prototype be actual size or a model? Why?
LINKS TO FURTHER READING

• https://developingeconomics.org/2017/04/07/the-financialization-of-africas-development/

• https://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/sweet_nothings.pdf

• http://www.agi.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/429/feminist_africa_journals/archive/20/2Fa20_feature_1.pdf

