

Research Findings & Potential Policy Implications:

Examining rural development through
livelihoods analysis in the Eastern
Cape

PSPPD II Research Conference for CfP1 Grantees

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Research team

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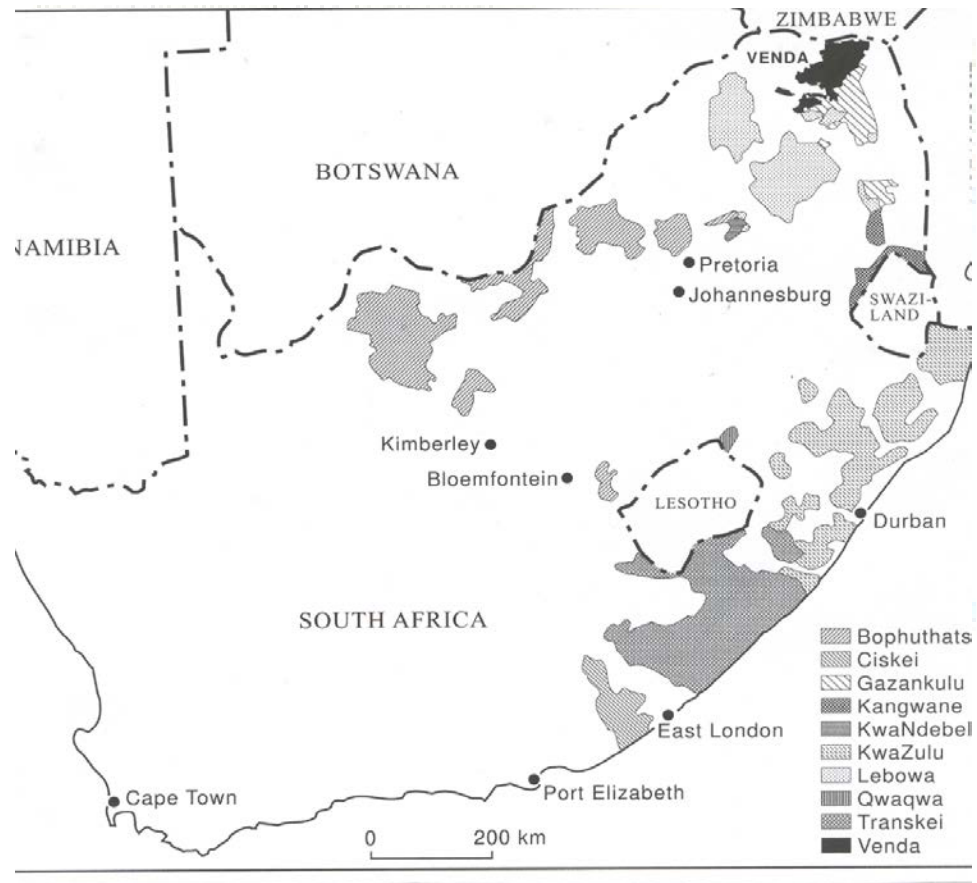


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Overview of the research

- Rural 'underdevelopment' & poverty
- ex 'homelands' (E.Cape)
- 'Rural development' policy
- RDP ('94) → RDF ('97) → ISRDP (2001) → CRDP (2013)
- Assessments/:
 - unfocused,
 - 'project-based',
 - top-down,
 - un-scalable,
 - short-term,
 - 'disconnected'



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Overview of the research cont.

Research objective

Examine reality of impoverished rural livelihoods, and compare these with the dominant rural development paradigm, policy and practice(s).

Research question/s

- How do we understand rural development policy and practice in SA?
- How are impoverished, communal-area rural livelihoods constituted?
- What are the actual & potential livelihood trajectories (viz. 'pathways' out of poverty)
- What is the impact (or not) of policy?

Methodology



- In-depth household case studies (update from 2006-2009)
- Participatory wealth ranking exercise
- Quantitative spatial analysis (2011 census)
- Analysis of NIDS data



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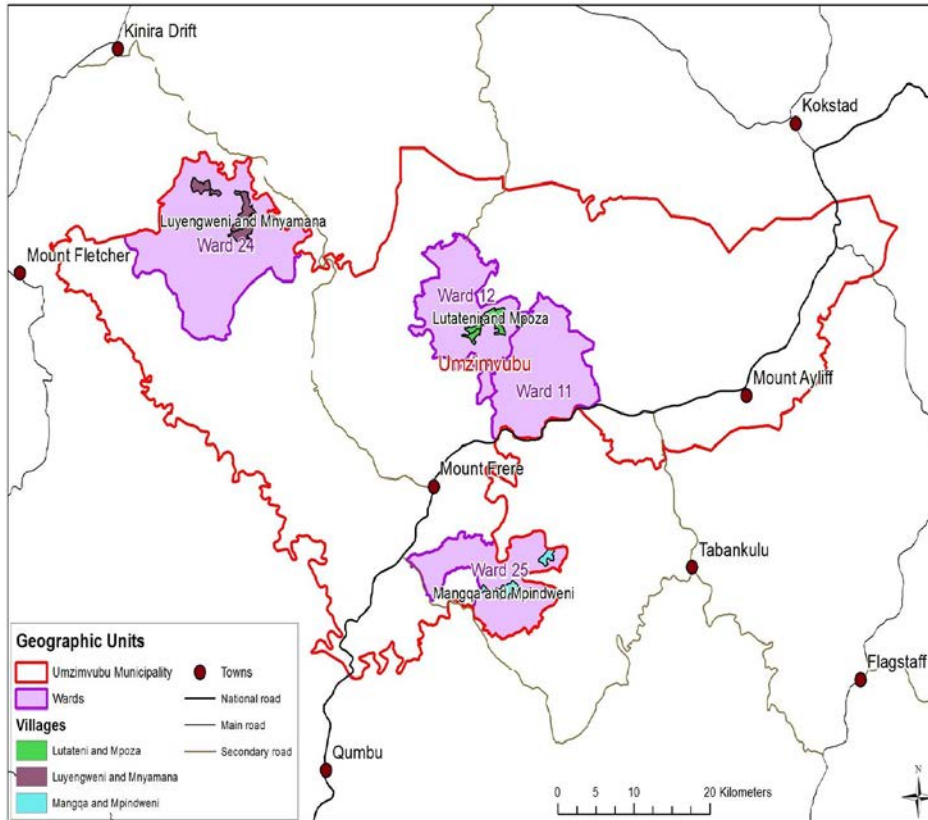
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Methodology cont.



Limitations?

- Paradigm testing
- Geographically limited
- Sample constrained
- Qualitative Quantitative trade off



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Key research findings

Communal area rural households:

- Embedded in migratory networks
- Practices of social reciprocity

Livelihoods sustained by:

1. Links to urban & formal labour markets
2. State welfare transfers
3. Informal sector activities
4. Agrarian activities & endowments

Key research findings cont.

- Plural, multi-sectoral livelihood strategies
- Lots of *diversification*
- High + rising social *differentiation*
- Key place of external / formal / labour market linkages
- Small scale agriculture variable & marginal
- Key place of social welfare

A typology of household spatial 'connectedness':

1. Rural <i>with</i> urban 'pole'	2. Rural <i>without</i> urban 'pole'
3. Urban <i>with</i> rural 'pole'	4. Rural <i>without</i> urban 'pole'



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Rural household typology Neves (2017)	Participatory wealth ranking	<i>Dorward et al.</i> (2009) & <i>Scoones</i> (2010)	
Moving out ↑ Rich, local elite	<i>Izityebe</i> . Wealthy, elite, diversified.	‘Stepping out’ Diversifying out	3-5%
Inching up ↗ Some local diversification & expand reproduction	<i>Abapakathi ka khulu</i> Above average. Diversified	‘Stepping up’ Accumulation & diversify locally	35%
Hanging on → Poor, one pension or similar etc.	<i>Abapakathi</i> Below average / poor.	‘Hanging in’. Surviving. Poor + little diversifying	50%
Dropping down ↘ Precarious. No/small soc grant or similar.	<i>Abasokolayo</i> . Very poor	‘Dropping out’. Destitute. Exiting agri	10%



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Conclusions & Policy implications I

1. Livelihood focus useful for thinking about rural development
 - Plurality & multiplicity
 - Better segmentation/disaggregation
 - Acknowledge social differentiation
2. The importance of external-connectedness to rural livelihoods
 - Need for inclusive growth nationally (beyond rural)
 - Labour market activation/access strategies
 - Also employment intensive industrial & agriculture within E. Cape
3. (Judicious) support for small-scale agriculture,
 - Production support (including livestock)
 - Including food security/subsistence production
 - Markets? Local & informal rather than tight & formal value chains.

Conclusions & Policy implications II

4. The Rural Non-Farm Economy (RNFE).

- Focus on place-based attributes
- Examine local economic demand, e.g. food
- But also construction, carework economy etc.
- Create terrain for more inclusive growth (local multipliers)

5. Welfare & social protection (social grants).

- Prime, working age adults?
- e.g. employment schemes

6. Rural development policy:

- Support by building on existing, capacities & opportunities
- Resolve institutional bottlenecks, mandates, legislation, planning etc.
- Address local rural governance & tenure



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Recommendations

1. **Recognize limits** of rural development policy & interventions:
consider larger context
2. Forge the **connections to complimentary functions**
e.g. Land Reform and agriculture
3. Redefine and **refocus rural development policy**:
Appropriate, participatory, inter-sectoral, sustainable, beyond ward-based...
4. Resolve **institutional/governance bottlenecks**:
including legislation, (clearer) mandates, IDPs etc.
5. Resolve uncertainty around **rural governance**.
Not panacea, but necessary for rural development.

Thanks & acknowledgements

