You are invited to a virtual seminar hosted by ICCSSA on 15 September 2021

14:00 – 14:30
Presenter: Diego Iturralde (Statistics South Africa)
Title: Application of the Alkire-Foster method to produce Covid-19 vulnerability and vaccination indices.

Using the Alkire-Foster method, which has been used more frequently for poverty indices mapping, Statistics SA has created two related indices to inform a geo-spatial reaction towards combating the Covid-19 pandemic. The method involves identifying 8 domains which are responsible for exposing an individual to Covid-19 and which are measureable from Census 2011 at EA level. These indicators are then fed into the A-F model whereby EA are classified on a scale of 0 to 1 in five equally sized groups. For the vaccination index the more important of the 8 domains were identified and given a stronger weighting. The results show the importance of making use of small area statistics of disaster planning at small area level as well as the importance of a resource such as a Census.

Diego Iturralde is Chief Director: Demography and Population Statistics at Statistics South Africa where his role includes the production of population estimates, demographic research outputs as well as production of migration indicators. He holds a MA in Sociology (Pretoria), M.Phil. Regional Science (Stellenbosch) and Post Grad Diploma in Demography and Population Studies (Wits). His interests lie in population dynamics, public health as well as migration and development. Mr Iturralde sits on a variety of structures related to international migration measurement at global and regional level which attracts most of his time but he is also vested in the intersection between demography and Covid-19 and communicating the impact of these. The unit the Mr Iturralde leads at Stats SA is responsible for the publication of the Mid-Year Population Estimates which annually estimates and projects population size and dynamics.

14:30 – 15:30
Presenters: Dr Jabu Mtsweni & Dr Ridhwaan Suliman (CSIR)
Title: Data-driven decision making for government socio-economic interventions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated without doubt that data has a big role to play in supporting government decision-making on various socio-economic interventions. Through the Department of Science Innovation, the CSIR established a Data Decision Support Centre under the National Policy Data Observatory in April 2020 at the start of the pandemic in South Africa. The Data Decision Support Centre is now supporting a number of government departments to monitor and track their interventions using data. This presentation will share some of the impact that data-driven decision making has had in government decision making and programmes including how the Observatory has provided deeper insights into the various stakeholders. The presentation will also share a sample of open products that have been created and are available under the Decision Support Centre at the CSIR.

Dr Jabu Mtsweni is a Head of Information and Cyber Security Centre at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Research Fellow at University of South Africa, and Technical Leader of the National Policy Data Observatory. Dr Mtsweni has been involved in leading, supporting, and implementing large and complex ICT and ICT4D projects, in large state owned enterprises (in South Africa and Africa), Government Departments and Private Sector. His research interests and technical expertise are in digital security, digital transformation, data science, cybersecurity, and cybercrimes. He regularly speaks at various local and international conferences on various technology issues. He has over 18 years academic and industry experience working with different local, regional and international industries and partners. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed conference and journal articles with a number of collaborators.

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Dr Ridhwaan Suliman is a senior researcher in the Operational Intelligence Impact Area within the NextGen Enterprises and Institutions cluster of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). He holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Cambridge. He also has a background in engineering, with Bachelors, Honours and Master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering, as well as experience working in the Aeronautics and Defence Industry. His research involves the modelling and design of physical systems within the computational mechanics domain, using computational tools and physics to better understand and design these systems. More recently, he has been involved with the analysis of Covid-19 data and trends in South Africa, using this analysis and data to drive and inform decision-making and policy.
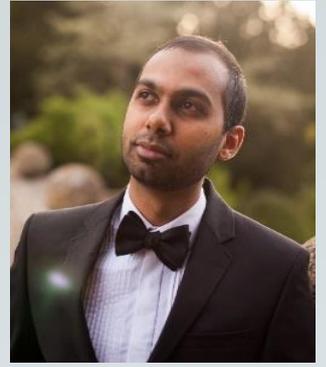
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