

Southern African Rurality in Higher Education

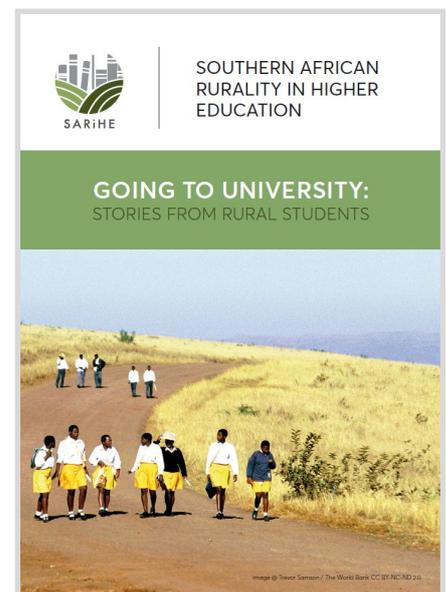


Update from Sue Timmis and Thea De Wet, SARiHE Principal Investigators.

It's been a while since we last updated you on how the project is doing. It's been a busy but also a sad time for us, as we lost a key member of the team last year. See our tribute and other testimonials to Prof. Brenda Liebowitz below.

Because we lost Brenda we were granted an extension by our project funders and Prof. Thea De Wet is now South African Principal Investigator. The photo above was taken in December 2018 in Bristol, UK during a visit by some of the South African team, after a long day collaboratively analysing our rich and detailed data! We also jointly presented at the SRHE conference in Newport, Wales and at the University of Bristol School of Education. In November, we met for meetings in Joburg, including with the project's excellent Advisory Board. We also presented at two more conferences (HECU and HELTASA).

It is always wonderful to be able to get together face to face as a group. Our next opportunity will be the launch in March for the booklet aimed at rural students and their families, put together by our student co-researchers. We have been successful with additional funding to have the booklet translated into all official languages. Several students will attend the launch and tell their own stories. Our final conference takes place on 29th May at University of Johannesburg. We will present findings and implications to policy makers, practitioners and researchers who can hopefully take away some useful and actionable recommendations.





Collaborative Data Analysis Process in Johannesburg

Nathi Madondo (Rhodes University, Grahamstown: South Africa).

For 5 days in August from the 10th to the 14th of August 2018, I attended a data analysis meeting for SARIHE project. The meeting was held at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. It was designed to be a collaborative process where we worked in multinational teams. We had colleagues from the United Kingdom (UK) and South Africa (SA) working on data analysis. This was an incredibly fruitful and fulfilling experience for me. [Read more at http://sarihe.org.za/](http://sarihe.org.za/)



BLOG: Co-Researcher Rocky Ramaube's reflections on the SARIHE experience

'There are more people [in my rural community] who are thinking of going to higher education, because of what they see possible. People have definitely changed their view on the education and what they can achieve through it.'

The SARIHE program has helped me in so many ways that I can see as a better student now. My public speaking confidence has improved, my doubt has decreased and I am more courageous now. [Read more at http://sarihe.org.za/](http://sarihe.org.za/)

SARIHE Working Papers

SARIHE Working Paper 2 - [Practices, transitions and negotiations to new figured worlds: Southern African rural students in higher education](#)

This working paper aims to set out some of the key theoretical concepts that frame the investigations that the SARIHE project is undertaking and to make sense of lived experiences of students at the heart of the study. It is not exhaustive and will develop over time as the project unfolds. At the time of writing (August 2018), this paper is focused on the frameworks that underpinned the research questions and the initial proposal and follows on from Working Paper No 1 (Leibowitz 2017) that expanded on our understanding of rurality. Access the paper at <http://sarihe.org.za/>

SARIHE Presentations

The SARIHE project has been making its mark around the world at conferences and seminars.



Over the last year SARIHE team members have presented at ECER in Italy, HECU and HELTASA in South Africa, SRHE and the University of Bristol, *Conversations in Education* Seminar in the UK. We also had a well-attended and useful Advisory Board meeting in Joburg.

REMEMBERING BRENDA



It is with great sadness that we remember the passing of our dear colleague Brenda Leibowitz, who died unexpectedly on 26 April 2018. Brenda was the beating heart of the SARIHE project and her contribution to this research had been and will always be immense. Read our testimonial to Brenda at <http://sarihe.org.za/>

On 1 July, Sheila, Lisa, Sue and Karen participated in the Race for Life (a fundraiser for Cancer Research UK) in Bristol in memory of Brenda and were able to raise more than £600 (ZAR 10,450) to support cancer research, thanks to sponsorship from friends, colleagues and family.