

Human Sciences Research Council

2021/22 NOMINATIONS

Medal for Social Sciences and Humanities Recognising Engaged Scholarship Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) & Universities South Africa (USAf)

Pretoria, Monday 13 December 2021 - The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), in partnership with Universities South Africa (USAf), invite nominees for the HSRC - USAf Medal for the Social Sciences and Humanities. The Medal is awarded annually to scholars who have made outstanding contributions to scholarship in the social sciences and humanities through their research.

The COVID-19 pandemic has required us to re-imagine the role of all branches of scientific activity in addressing pressing societal challenges. During this time, the need for credible science to inform decision-making has been crucial.

Emphasis has been placed on collaborative research in partnership with key constituencies and the value of engaged scholarship in democratising knowledge, closing the gap between knowledge production and societal impact and allowing the public to shape the discourse around public policy. In 2021 several Academics and Researchers have demonstrated these key characteristics of engaged scholarship in their work, namely: participatory, engaged, action research, co-production of knowledge and inclusive public engagement with science. The 2021/2022 HSRC/USAf awards aim to recognise this research excellence under the “Engaged Scholarship” theme.

Nominations are invited for the following categories:

- Established Researcher
- Emerging Researcher
- Team Awards (2)

Criteria for Established Researcher

For consideration, a nominee must demonstrate:

- a record of sustained academic excellence in the social sciences and/or Humanities;
- an international reputation for their engaged scholarship;
- a strong record of contribution to the public’s understanding of social sciences and/or humanities;
- evidence of meaningful, impactful work over an extended period, e.g., impact on public policy, social change, community interventions etc., and
- contribution to the social sciences in humanities in terms of Engaged Scholarship.

- Nominees must live and work in South Africa.

Criteria for Emerging Researcher

For consideration, a nominee must demonstrate:

- a Doctoral degree and evidence of a growing track record of academic excellence in the social sciences and humanities;
- demonstrated potential to become international leaders in their field based on the quality of their doctoral research and post-doctoral career;
- a strong record of public engagement over a sustained period in the field of their research;
- evidence of impact; e.g. impact on public policy, community interventions, institution-building, citation in court decisions.
- Nominees must live and work in South Africa and be under the age of 35.

Criteria for Team Awards (2)

For consideration, a nominee must demonstrate:

- teams should be able to demonstrate their contribution to South Africa's understanding of Engaged Scholarship;
- teams should display their contributions to diversity and inclusion in their science;
- teams must have a record of sustained academic excellence in the Social Sciences and Humanities;
- teams must demonstrate an international reputation for their scholarship;
- a strong record of contribution to the public's understanding of social sciences and/or humanities;
- evidence of meaningful, impactful work over a period of time, e.g., impact on public policy, community interventions etc., and
- teams demonstrate significant contributions to the Social sciences in Humanities in terms of Engaged Scholarship.

Nomination Process

Nominations must be submitted electronically (as per the attached specified format) and be e-mailed to **Ms Mahlatse Mpya** mmpya@hsrc.ac.za , cc **Ms Lumka Luzipho** lluzipho@hsrc.ac.za

Closing Date for Nominations:

Electronic submissions must be received by **CoB on 20 January 2022**.

Selection and Awarding:

The HSRC and USAf will appoint an adjudication panel that will consider the nominations and select awardees in the respective categories outlined above.

Award Ceremony

The hybrid awards ceremony will be hosted on **17 March 2022**.

Form of Award

- Established Researcher: Medal and a monetary award of R50 000.00
- Emerging Researcher: Medal and a monetary award of R30 000.00
- Team 1: Certificates for each member and a total monetary award for the team of R30 000.00
- Team 2: Certificates for each team member and a total monetary award for the team of R30 000.00

The work of identified nominees and the awardees in the categories outlined above will be published in an appropriate special edition journal.

Enquiries can be directed to **Dr Palesa Sekhejane** psekhejane@hsrc.ac.za or to **Dr Linda Meyer** linda.meyer@usaf.ac.za.