

EXECUTIVE DEAN'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE 18TH SSRSS 4/5/2017

It gives me pleasure to deliver this opening keynote address at the 18th Social Sciences Research Seminar Series – a tradition that we began in 2004. Some of us who were around, then, can proudly bear witness that the seminar series have changed our lives by introducing a culture of academic rigour, constructive criticism and critical thinking. Some have become Professors, Senior Lecturers and confident academics through this engagement of public displays of oral and presentation skills where we showcase our research endeavours. We are proud to have been the first Faculty to introduce such a platform as the Seminar Series as an outlet for the dissemination of our research findings...and today in 2017 we are still going strong. This demonstrates our zeal and passion for knowledge creation.

We thank the organisers of this event (Prof Matsa and your team); we also give heartfelt thanks to the University for the Unwavering Support of the Faculty's research efforts through the Office of Research and Postgraduate Studies and also the Research Board. We implore the university to continue and even increase its support because it is through research that the university will get known as a problem solving institution for the present generations and those to come. It is also through research that we are able to generate the much needed third stream income as we attract funding from institutions far and wide.

The theme for today's seminar- social transformation through multidisciplinary research captures the essence of today's business very well as the presentations show the broadness of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Today, we will move from cultural intelligence among Entrepreneurs to women leadership in the Catholic Church, gender and education to music (as we appreciate Ngoma yebvoripfori) to creativity and innovation in the public sector and then Zimbabwean migrant experiences of crossing the border to South Africa.

As the Faculty of Social Sciences we are cognisant of the university and indeed the nation's aspirations through ZIMASSET and the STEM initiative. I can assure

you that all these presentations attempt to address some or other aspect of STEM especially if we understand the aim of STEM as producing problem solvers, innovators, inventors, self-reliant, logical and critical thinkers as well as a technologically literate citizenry. As a Faculty and indeed a University we are alive to the fact that if we are to compete globally and be taken seriously and even make an impact within our own context and beyond, then we should start by proffering solutions to problems that affect us here and now. Such problem solving must eventually create an impetus for national development.

Therefore as we seriously grapple with STEM, we are mindful of the vision enunciated by His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe, Cde Robert G. Mugabe when he said, "There is need to equip learners with knowledge and values that guarantee economic growth and increased opportunities for employment creation; well-rounded citizens who are relevant nationally and competitive globally". From Tsupros, Kohler and Hallinen (2009)'s perspective, STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise.

As Social Sciences we firmly locate ourselves within the University's culture of problem solving through quality research, gender equality, honesty, integrity and the generation, dissemination and application of new knowledge. Today's presentations are testimony to this commitment of ours. I hope you will enjoy the presentations and deliberations lined up in today's programme.

I thank you!!!

A large, faint watermark of a university crest is centered on the page. The crest features a shield with a gear, a book, and a sun, with a banner below it containing the motto "Our Hands Our Minds Our Destiny".

Our Hands Our Minds Our Destiny