

Keynote: The Era of the idiot and what should be done about it

Dr Pali Lehohla

Umhlaba Uyalingana University (U³)- Center for idiots and gerontology

EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (EASA)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

14 - 17 JANUARY 2024 Mount Grace Hotel & Spa, Magaliesburg SOUTH AFRICA

Proverbs 3:27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act



Outline

The era of the idiot

Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society

Systems Design and Design thinking

Knowledge Systems from an official Statistician's perspective

Unifying knowledge systems for common good

The era of the idiot is nigh

What went wrong in Athens?

In classical Athens, the birthplace of democracy, the democratic assembly was an arena filled with rhetoric unconstrained by any commitment to facts or truth. So far, so familiar.

Why tyranny could be the inevitable outcome of democracy

Published: November 11, 2019 4:11pm SAST

At the dawn of democracy, Plato foresaw an unfortunate end. [vangelis aragiannis/Shutterstock.com](#)

Email

X (Twitter)

331

Facebook

16.2k

Plato, one of the earliest thinkers and writers about democracy, predicted that letting people govern themselves would eventually lead the masses to support the rule of tyrants.

Author



Lawrence Torcello

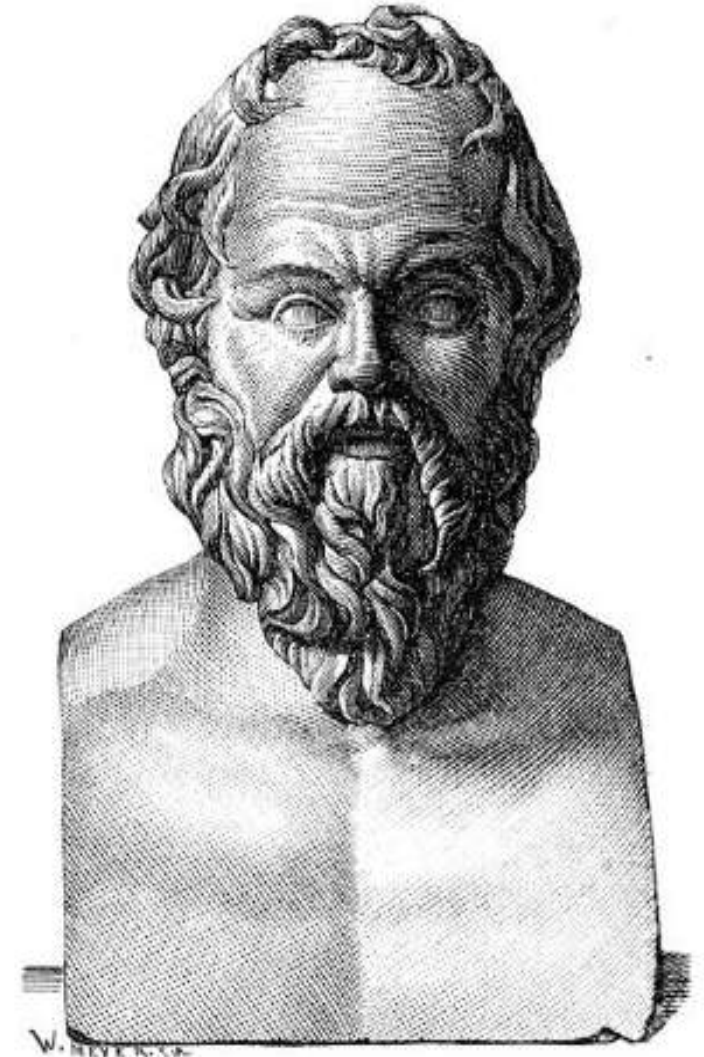
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Rochester Institute of Technology

The era of the idiot is nigh

vi. Ruling is An Expertise

Socrates is committed to the theme that ruling is a kind of craft or art (*technē*). As such, it requires knowledge. Just as a doctor brings about a desired result for his patient—health, for instance—so the ruler should bring about some desired result in his subject (*Republic* 341c-d, 342c). Medicine, insofar as it has the best interest of its patient in mind, never seeks to benefit the practitioner. Similarly, the ruler's job is to act not for his own benefit but for the benefit of the citizens of the political community. This is not to say that there might not be some contingent benefit that accrues to the practitioner; the doctor, for instance, might earn a fine salary. But this benefit is not intrinsic to the expertise of medicine as such. One could easily conceive of a doctor that makes very little money. One cannot, however, conceive of a doctor that does not act on behalf of his patient. Analogously, ruling is always for the sake of the ruled citizen, and justice, contra the famous claim from Thrasymachus, is not whatever is in the interest of the ruling power (*Republic* 338c-339a).

Socrates (469–399 B.C.E.)

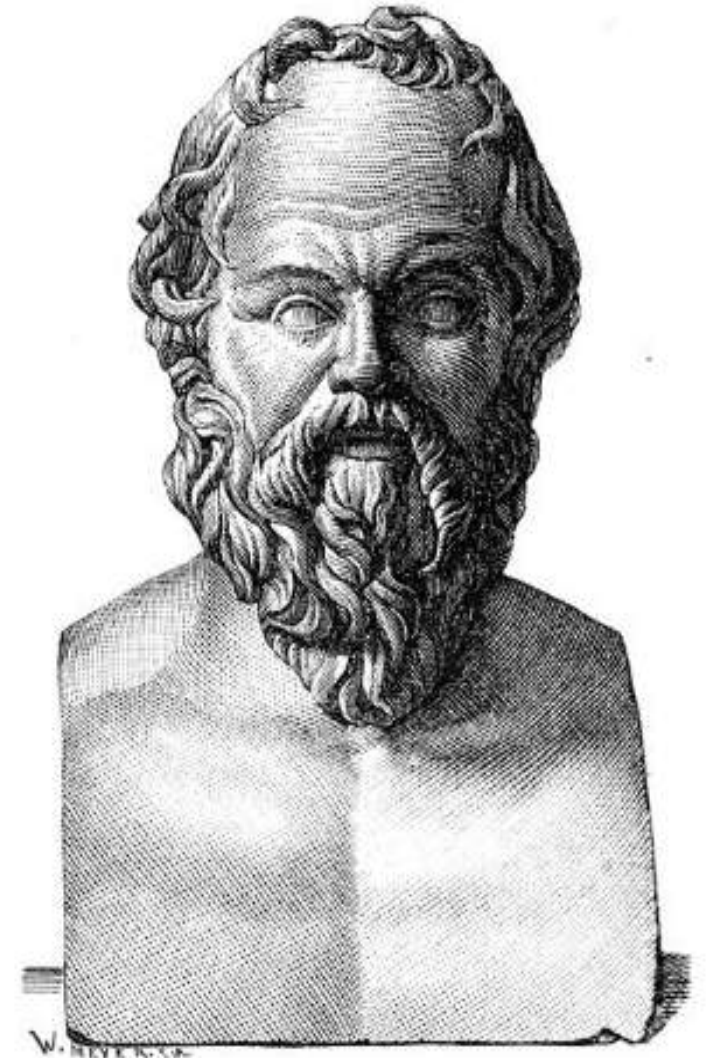


The era of the idiot is nigh

Socrates: Philosophy applied to Education - Search for Virtue

*By Gustavo Araújo Batista**

This text shows itself as one of the results of a theoretical or bibliographical research, whose purpose is to explain this finality of the Socratic thinking, that is: the applying of philosophy into education, as the most efficient way of breeding the individual for a personal and collective existence which be. overall. reflexive. The present article goes

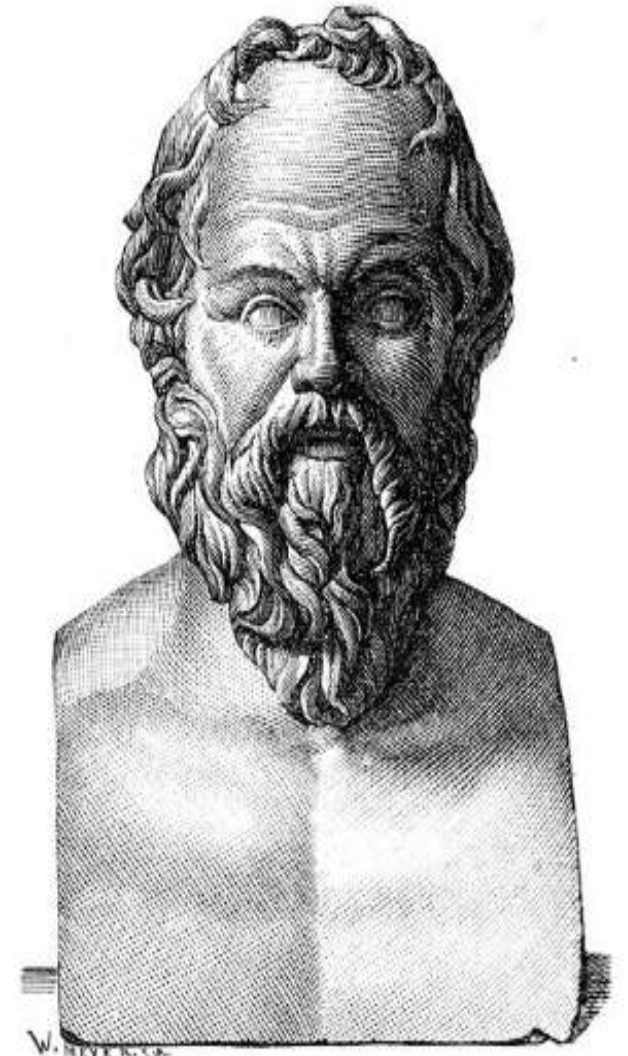


Socrates' thoughts on the Merchant of Venice...

The era of the idiot is nigh

POSTED ON OCTOBER 17, 2012

In *The Merchant of Venice*, I'm sure Socrates would note the fact that one thousand years hasn't changed much as far as justice goes. People who are unique are still looked down upon; self-interest is still superior to true virtue; and, those in power continue to manipulate the law to serve their personal agendas.



Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society

Wits Centre for hearing impairment - Claudine Storbeck

UP Centre for Visual Impairment Studies – Ronel Ferreira

Centre for Neurodiversity @ UJ – Tumi Diale UCT

Division of Disability Studies – Theresa Lorenzo/Maximus M. Sefotho

Umhlaba Uyalingana University (U³)- Center for idiots and gerontology

Measuring the number of idiots in Cape of Good Hope Census of 1891

474 Males idiots

492 Female idiots


RESULTS OF A CENSUS
OF THE
COLONY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,
AS ON THE
NIGHT OF SUNDAY, THE 5TH APRIL, 1891.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER											PAGES	
I.	GENERAL	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
II.	POPULATION AND INCREASE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79
III.	POPULATION OF THE PEOPLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
IV.	AGE OF THE PEOPLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	143
V.	RELIGION OF THE PEOPLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	165
VI.	CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	211
VII.	MARRIAGES OF THE PEOPLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	243
VIII.	DEATHS AND DECEASES OF THE PEOPLE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	252
IX.	DEAF AND MUTE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	217
X.	LIVE STOCK AND AGRICULTURE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225
XI.	SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	237

Harebatho Moletsane

From the archives... Results of a Census - Colony of The Cape of Good Hope; conducted on the night of Sunday the 5th April 1891. Among the findings: 813 classified as "Idiots" (474 males and 339 females); 1,108 "Lunatics" (616 males and 492 females). I wonder how many these are today...

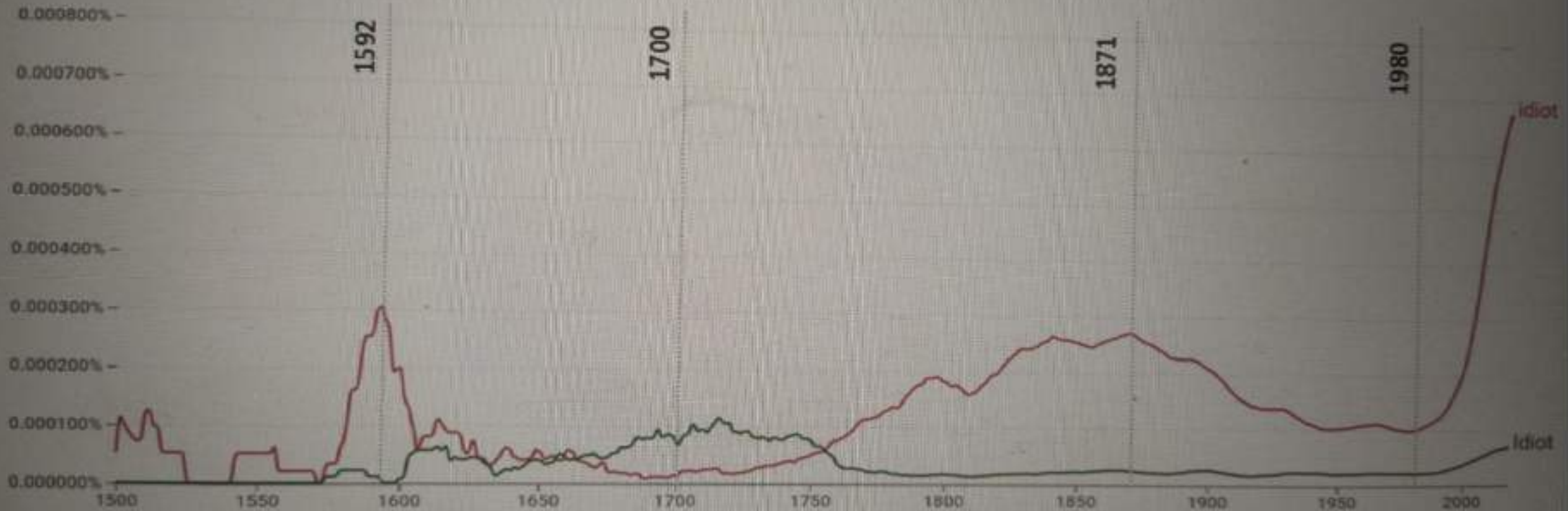
2 JAN AT 07:53

   13

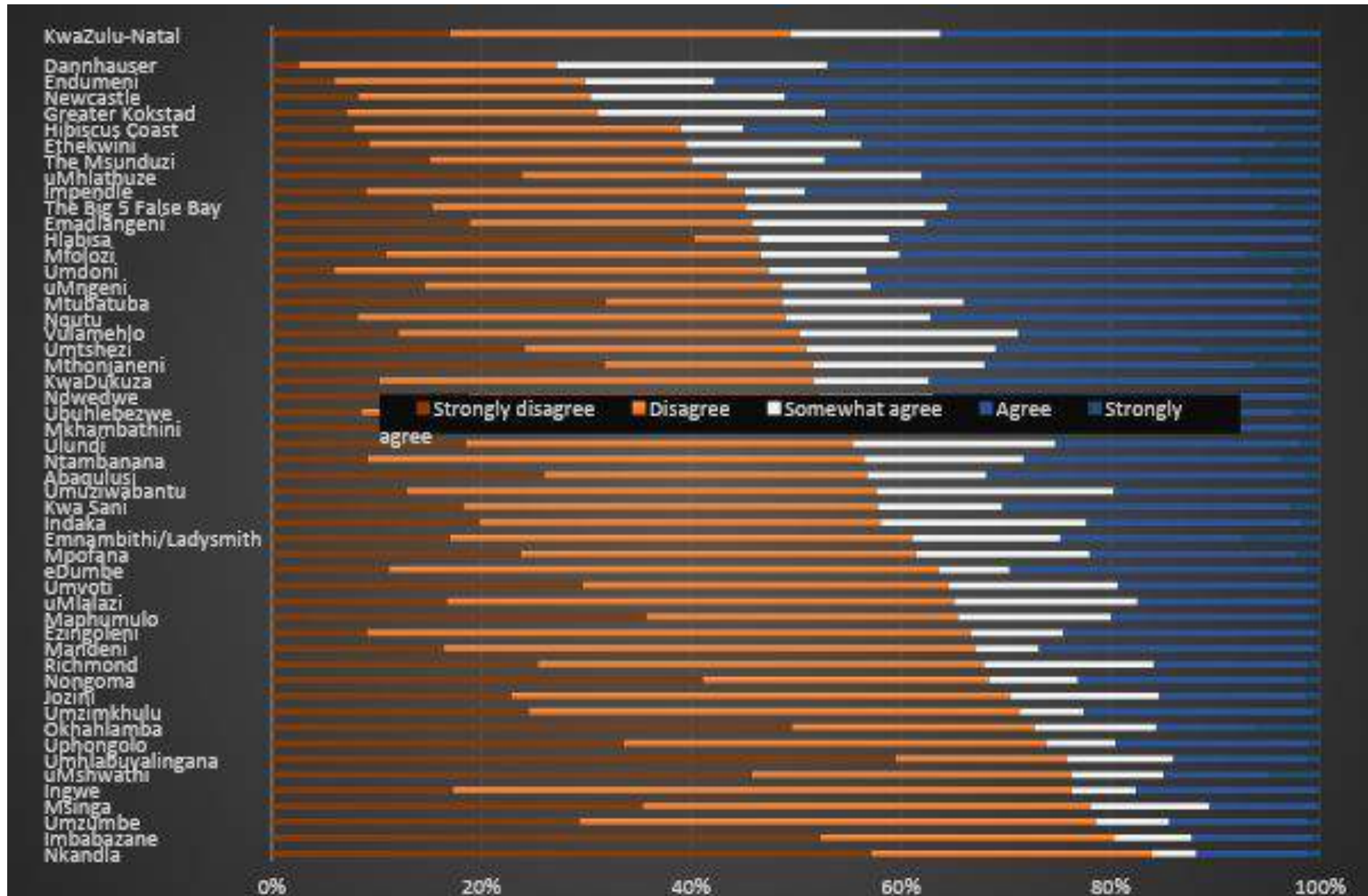
4 comments

Google Trends in the mention of idiots since Cape of Good Hope Census of 1891

The era of idiots



Percent distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by local municipality and whether they are satisfied with the quality of the main dwelling they live in



Lessons from the Silly Season

	Electricity services complaint	Housing services complaint	Refuse removal services complaint	Sanitation services complaint	Water services complaint
Impendle	3%	5%	1%	2%	1%
uMngeni	14%	8%	4%	6%	23%
Dannhauser	6%	12%	1%	8%	26%
Umdoni	11%	16%	2%	7%	22%
Mkhonjaneni	10%	23%	7%	10%	24%
uMhlathuze	11%	20%	3%	14%	24%
Emadlangeni	11%	17%	11%	10%	23%
Mkhambathini	18%	23%	8%	12%	25%
Ulundi	17%	23%	4%	7%	26%
eThekweni	25%	23%	17%	15%	26%
Endumeni	14%	21%	1%	16%	20%
Nkandla	15%	25%	14%	14%	17%
Newcastle	17%	25%	11%	11%	16%
Umyoti	27%	13%	6%	22%	21%
Greater Kokstad	25%	14%	14%	21%	17%
Ray Nkonyeni	14%	10%	11%	11%	14%
Ndwedwe	11%	13%	17%	12%	14%
uMshwathi	20%	14%	26%	19%	17%
Umzumbi	18%	18%	7%	22%	41%
KwaDukuza	45%	14%	11%	14%	11%
Mkukotuba	14%	11%	14%	11%	11%
Alfred Duma	14%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Nongoma	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
The Msunduzi	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Msinga	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Mpofana	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Mandeni	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
MFolosi	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Umzimkhulu	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
uMlalazi	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Abaqulusi	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
uPhongolo	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Richmond	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Big Five Hlabisa	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
uMuziwabantu	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Ubuhlabazwe	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Nqutu	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Umhlabuyalingana	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Maphumulo	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Okhahlamba	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
eDumbe	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Jozini	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Inkosi Langalibalele	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%

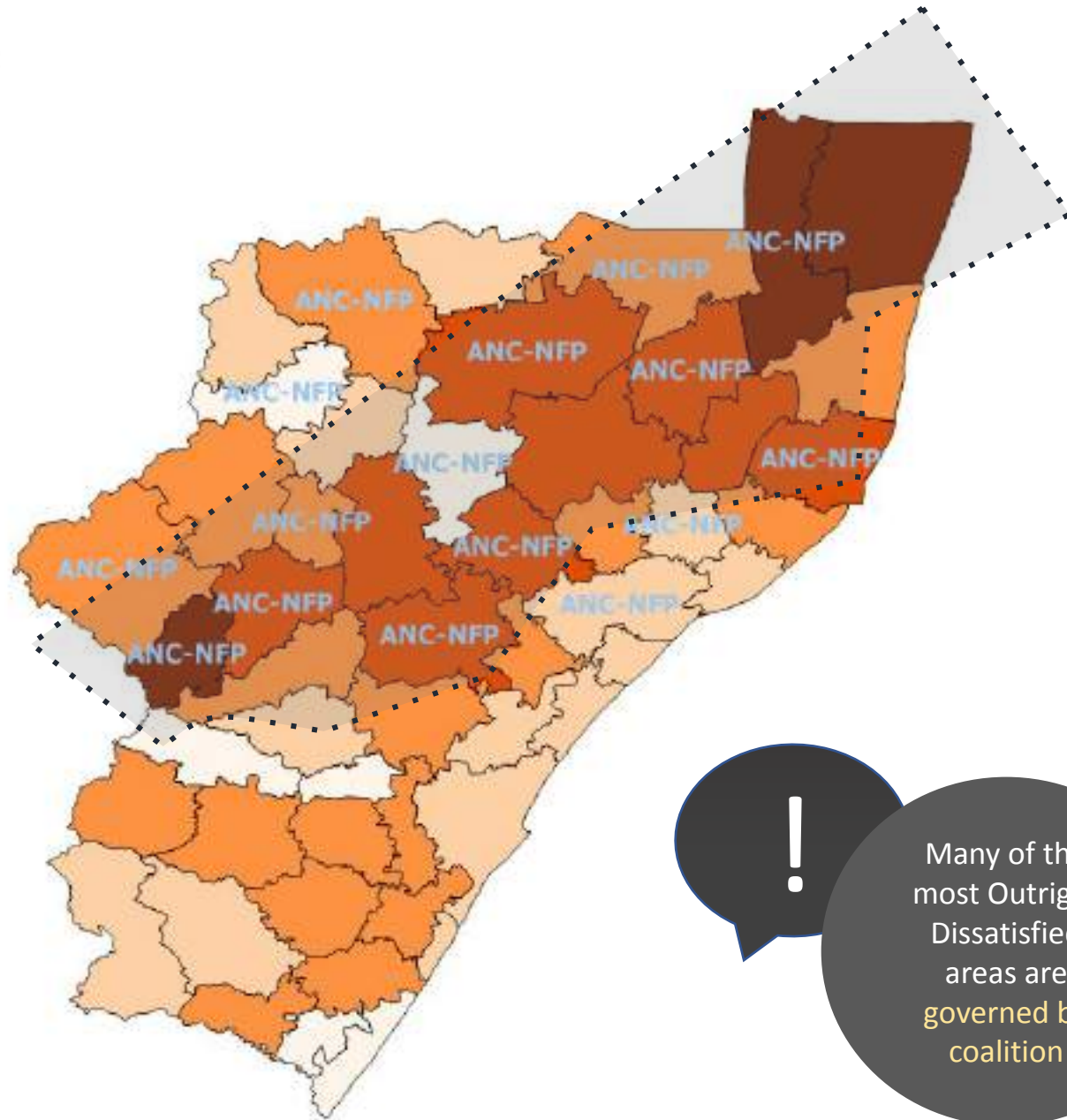
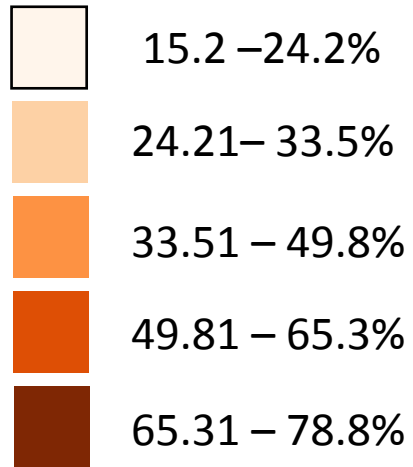
Service delivery complaints based on the proportion of persons from households that made service delivery complaints in the 12 months prior to the survey by local municipality and type of service complain

WATER SERVICES WAS THE MOST COMMON SERVICE DELIVERY COMPLAINT BY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Outright dissatisfaction with



Outright Dissatisfaction



!

Many of the most Outright Dissatisfied areas are governed by coalition

**Joining concerned luminaries why education matters for society in
bringing the desired result**

The precipice we face in Education

The Education challenge in South Africa by Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela, Madiba's CENSUS 1996 His speech from the Heart

Joining concerned luminaries why education matters in bringing the desired results for society



Exploring a different future

- Human lives are battered and diminished in all kinds of different ways, and the first task... is to acknowledge that deprivations of very different kinds have to be accommodated within a general overarching framework"

- **Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen (2000)**

Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society to declare war
against idiots

The precipice we face in Education



Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society to declare war against idiots

The precipice we face in general lawlessness



Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society to declare war against idiots

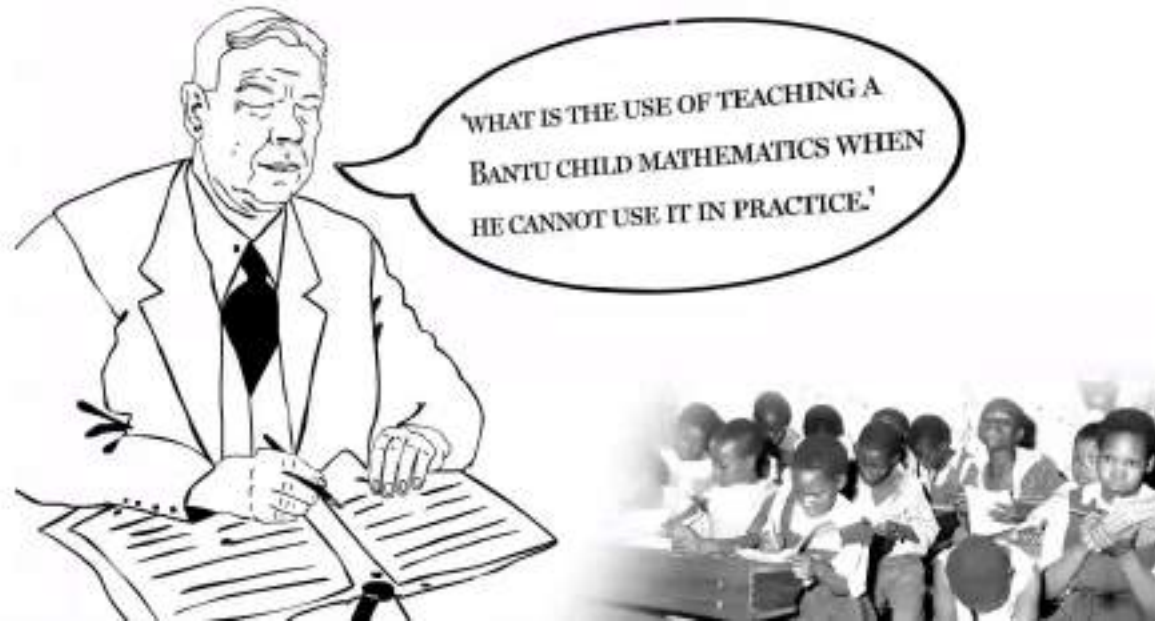
Eskom announces stage 4 load shedding

Stage 4 load shedding will kick in from 5pm until 10pm



Addressing the Stereotypes

The making of a crises September 1953



Culmination of Contestation: Soweto Uprising

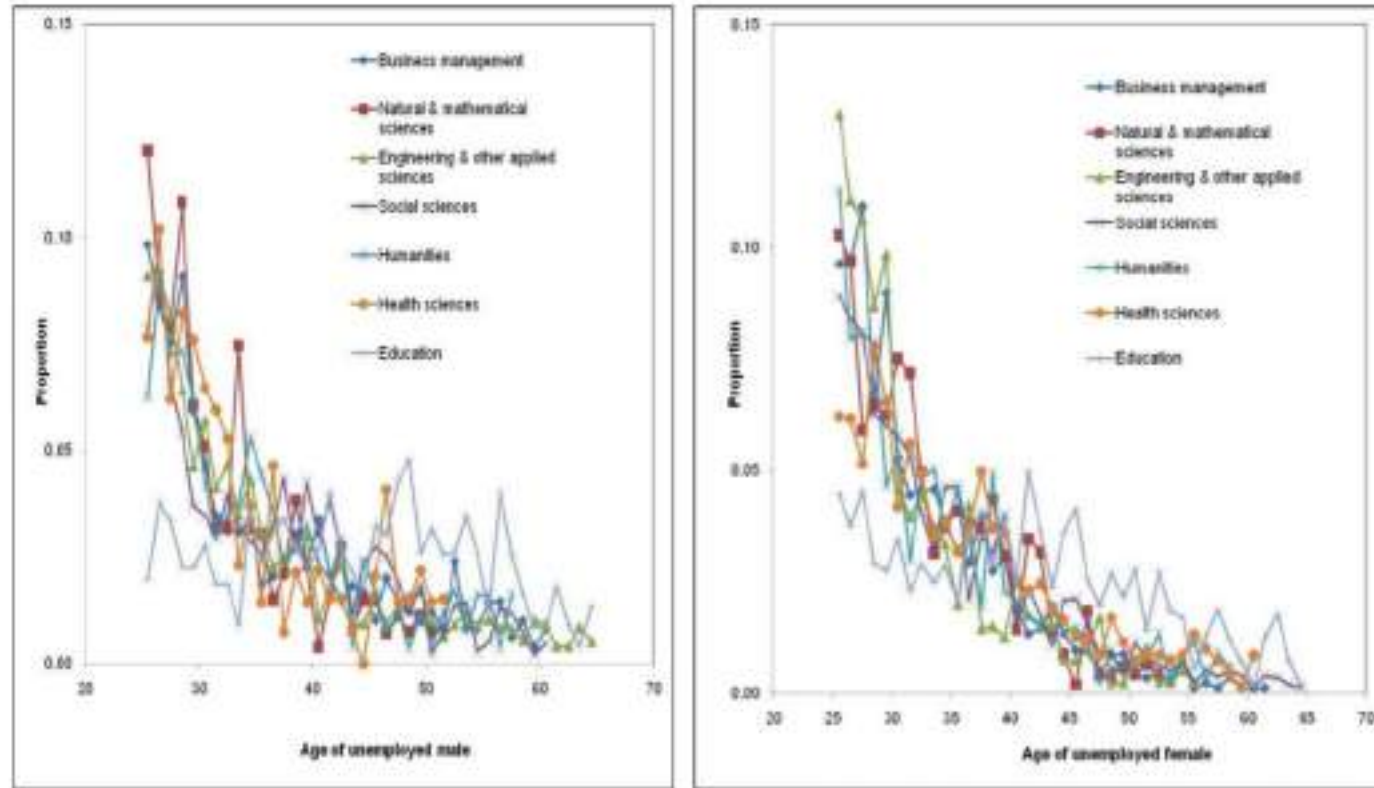
Soweto uprising



Culmination of Contestation, 40 Years Later: Fees Must Fall

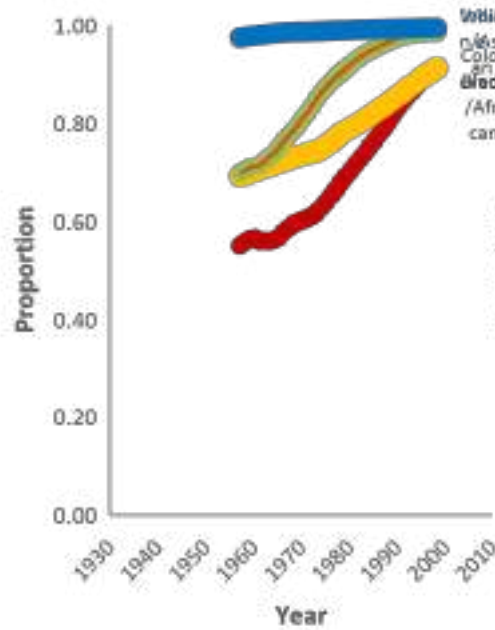


Figure 5.5: Age proportions of unemployed persons by field of education and sex

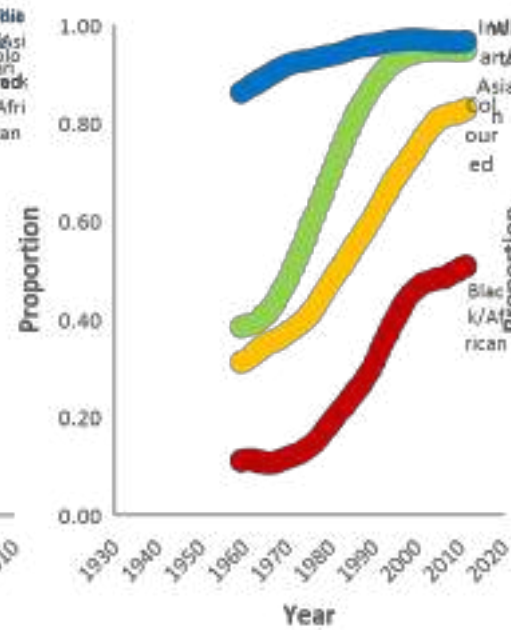


Source: CENSUS 2011: A profile of education enrolment, attainment and progression in South Africa (pg 95)

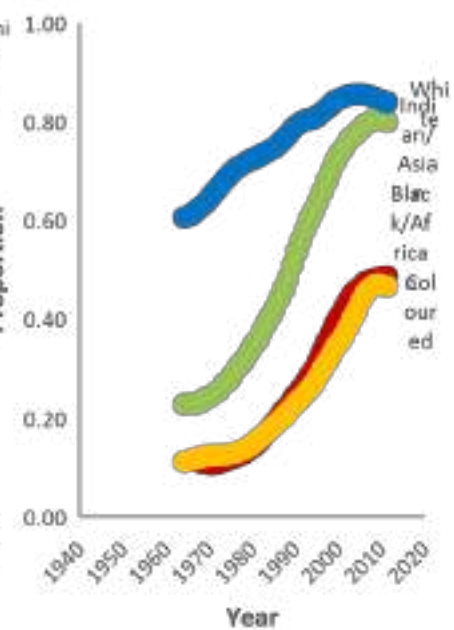
Progression ratios



Progression ratios of persons who **completed grade 7** after they completed grade 3 by population group, Census 2011



Progression ratios of persons who **completed grade 9** after they completed grade 3 by population group, Census 2011



Progression ratios of persons who **completed grade 12** after completing Grade 3 by population group, Census 2011

Symptoms and consequences

Year	No. of learners that wrote matric	No. of learners that passed	% that passed matric	10 yrs earlier Grade 2 learners (2000 - 2006)	Cohort matric pass rate (%)
2016	610,178	442,672	72,5	1 054 582	42
2015	644,536	455,825	70,7	1 094 373	41,65
2014	532,860	403,874	75,8	1,085,570	37.2
2013	562,112	439,779	78,2	1 087 933	40.4
2012	511,152	377,829	73,9	992,571	38
2011	496,090	348,117	70,2	925,761	37.6
2010	537,543	364,147	67,8	1,090,765	33.4

Source: <https://equaleducation.org.za/2017/01/09/matric-results-and-south-africas-youth-unemployment-crisis/>

(Output from Matric seems to be plateauing)

Symptoms and consequences

Year	No. of learners that wrote matric	No. of learners that passed	% that passed matric	10 yrs earlier Grade 2 learners (2000 – 2006)	Cohort matric pass rate (%)	Births in Year
2016	610178	442672	72,5	1 054 582	42	2016 1200207
2015	644536	455825	70,7	1 094 373	41,65	2015 1206155
2014	532860	403874	75,8	1 085 570	37,2	2014 1214277
2013	562112	439779	78,2	1 087 933	40,4	2013 1211713
2012	511152	377829	73,9	992571	38	2012 1207253
2011	496090	348117	70,2	925761	37,6	2011 1197028
2010	537543	364147	67,8	1090765	33,4	2010 1197553
						2009 1201801
						2008 1204465
						2007 1185508
						2006 1139823
						2005 1092198
						2004 1048309
						2003 989447
						2002 984061

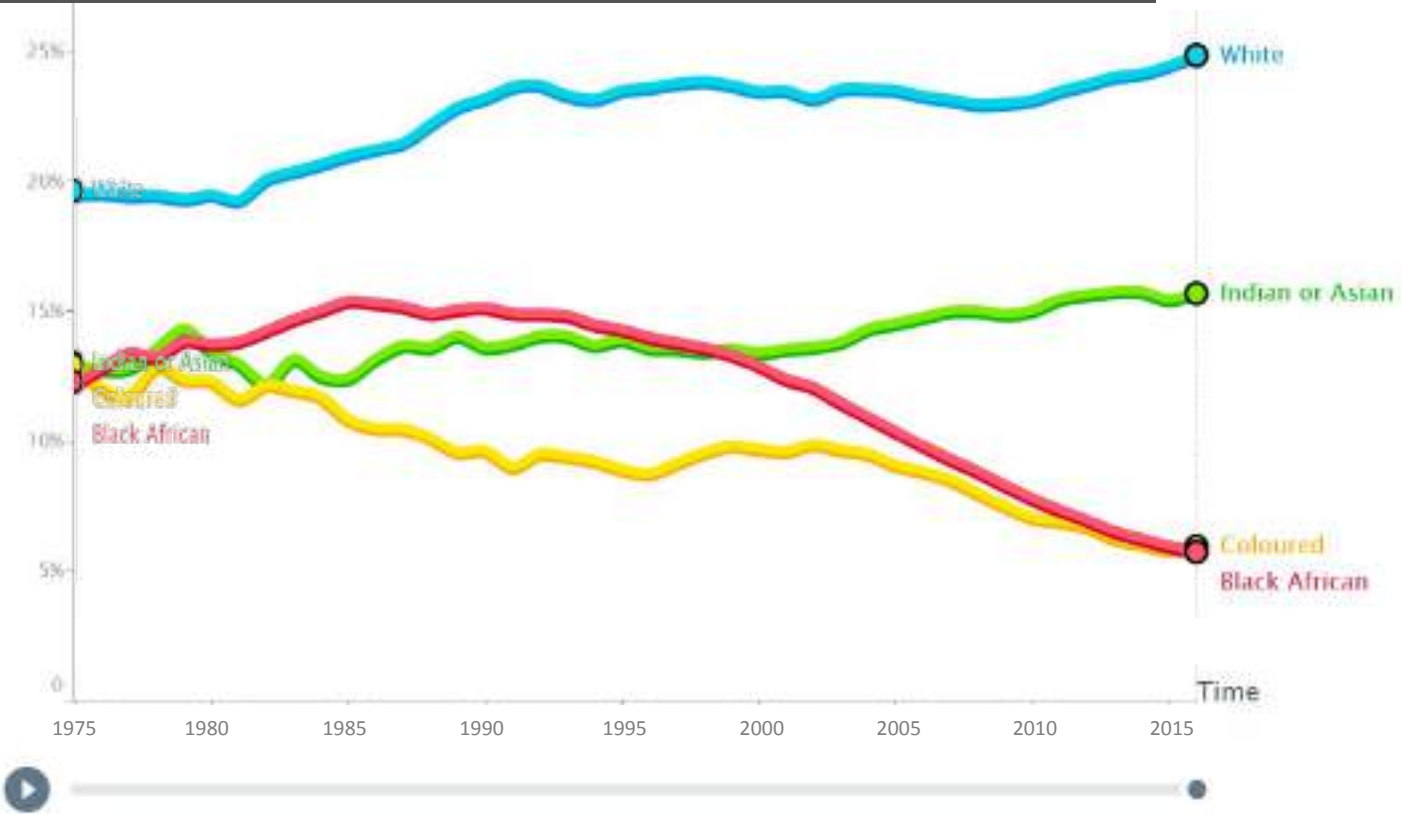
(Output from Matric seems to be plateauing)

Source: <https://equaleducation.org.za/2017/01/09/matric-results-and-south-africas-youth-unemployment-crisis/>

Source: Mid year Estimates 2017

Symptoms and consequences

2016: Proportion of Matric Graduates who attain a bachelor degree

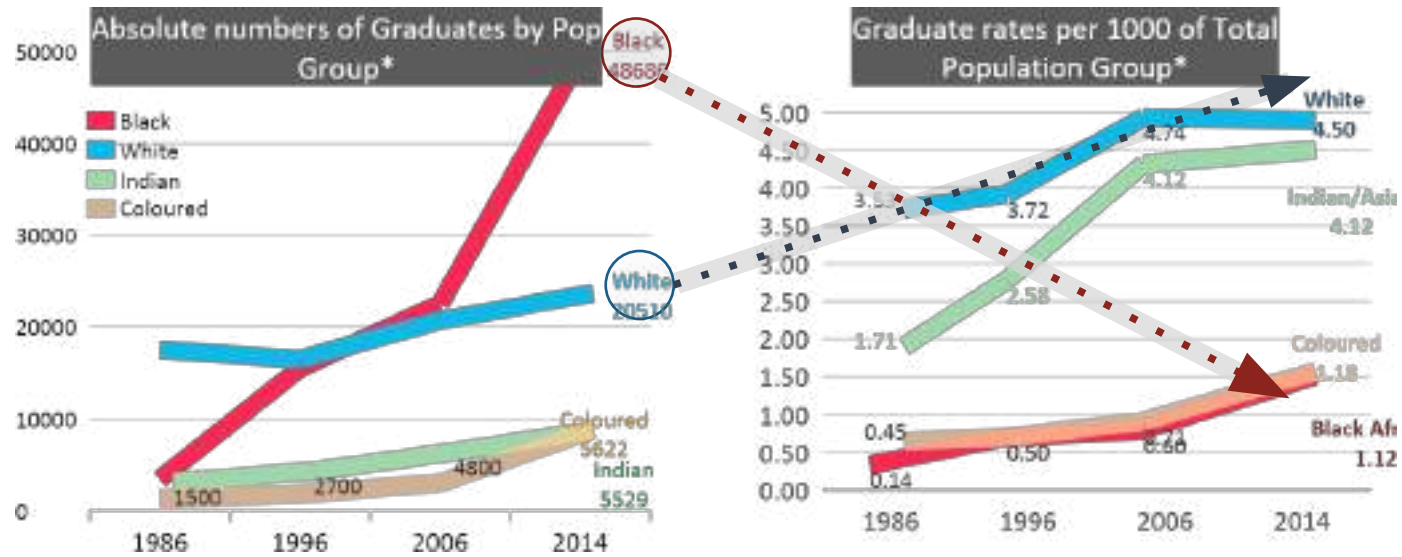


Source: Community Survey 2016

Symptoms and

consequences

Absolute vs Proportions

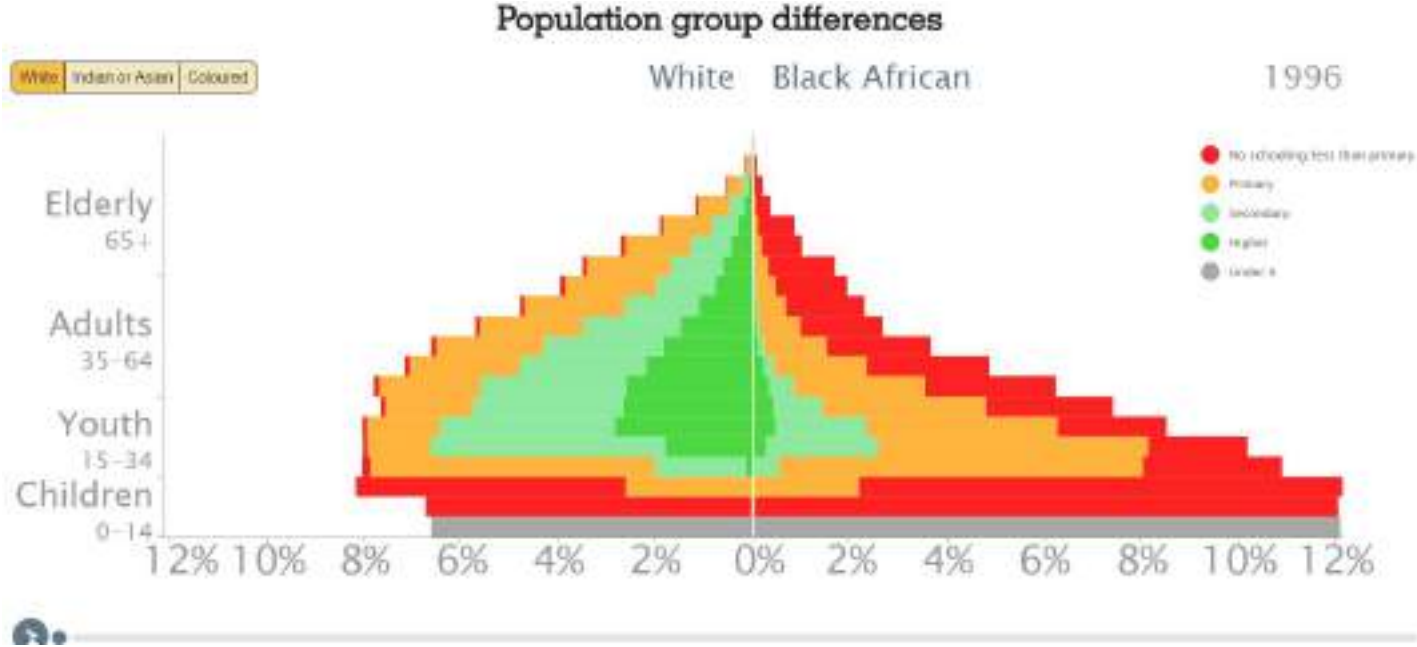


Source: Adapted from HE Broekhuizen (Hemis Aggregate Figures)
Excludes undergraduate diplomas and certificates

Source: Adapted from HE Broekhuizen (Hemis Aggregate Figures) with addition of
population estimates for time points Excludes undergraduate diplomas and certificates

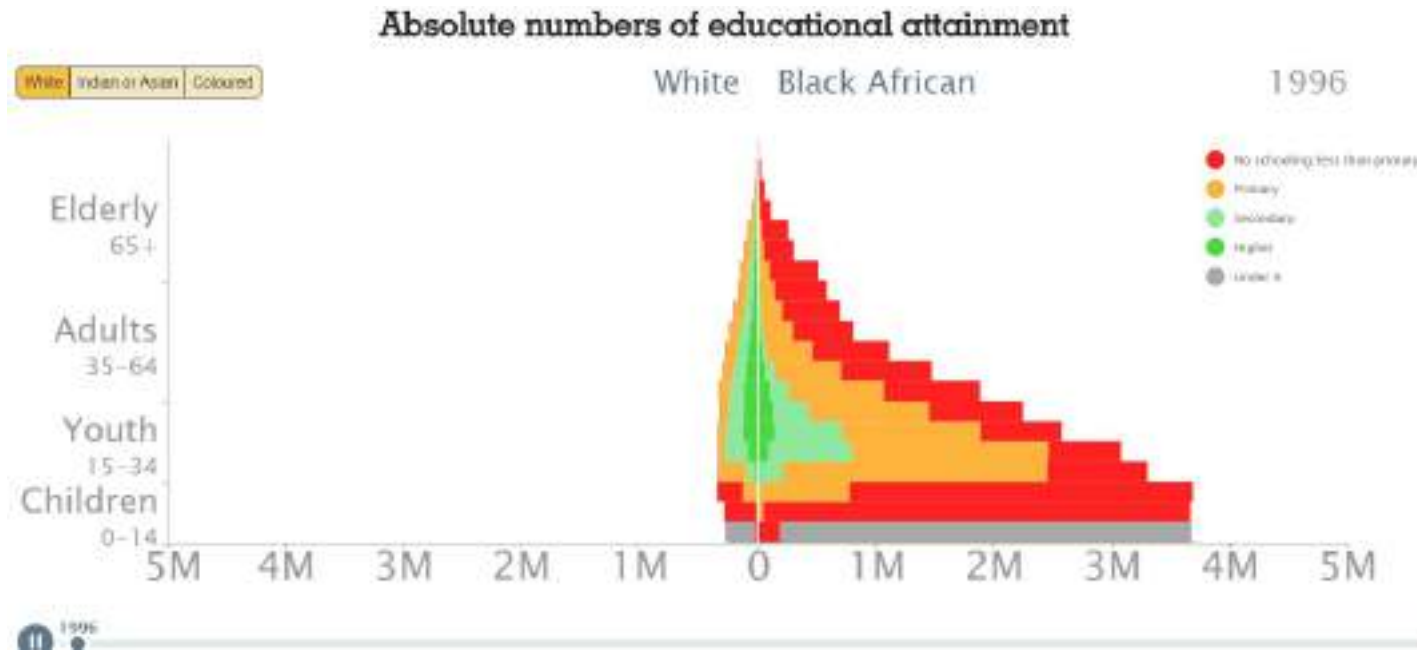
Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society

Educational Attainment (Proportions)



Source: Community Survey 2016

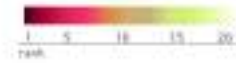
Educational Attainment (Absolute Numbers)



Source: Community Survey
2016

Joining concerned luminaries why it matters for society to declare war against idiots

Perceived municipal challenges



Rank #1



Access to reliable and safe water

Rank #2



Lack of/ Inadequate employment opportunities

Rank #3 #15



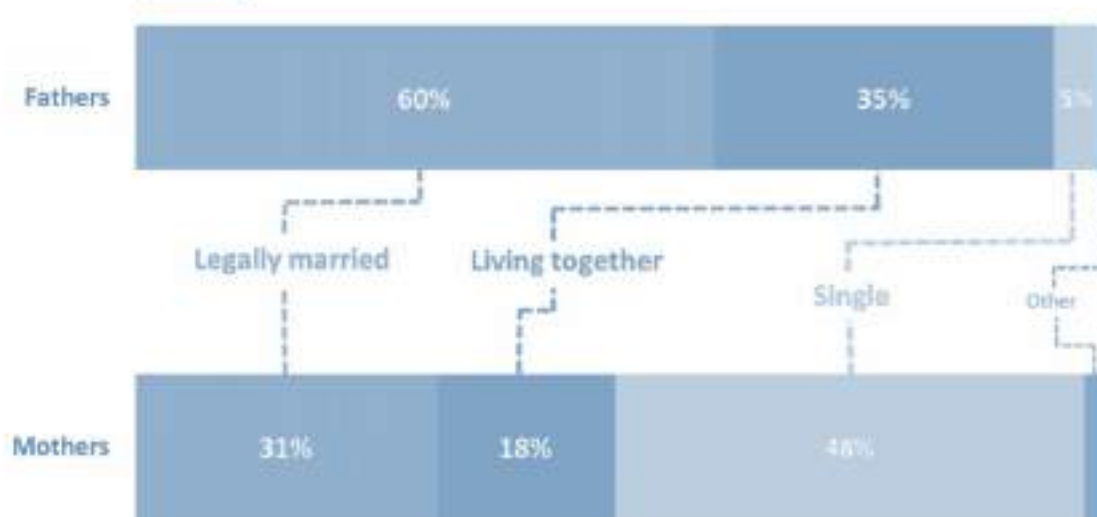
Cost of transport
Lack of/ Inadequate educational facilities

Source: Community Survey 2016

Marital Status of Fathers and Mothers

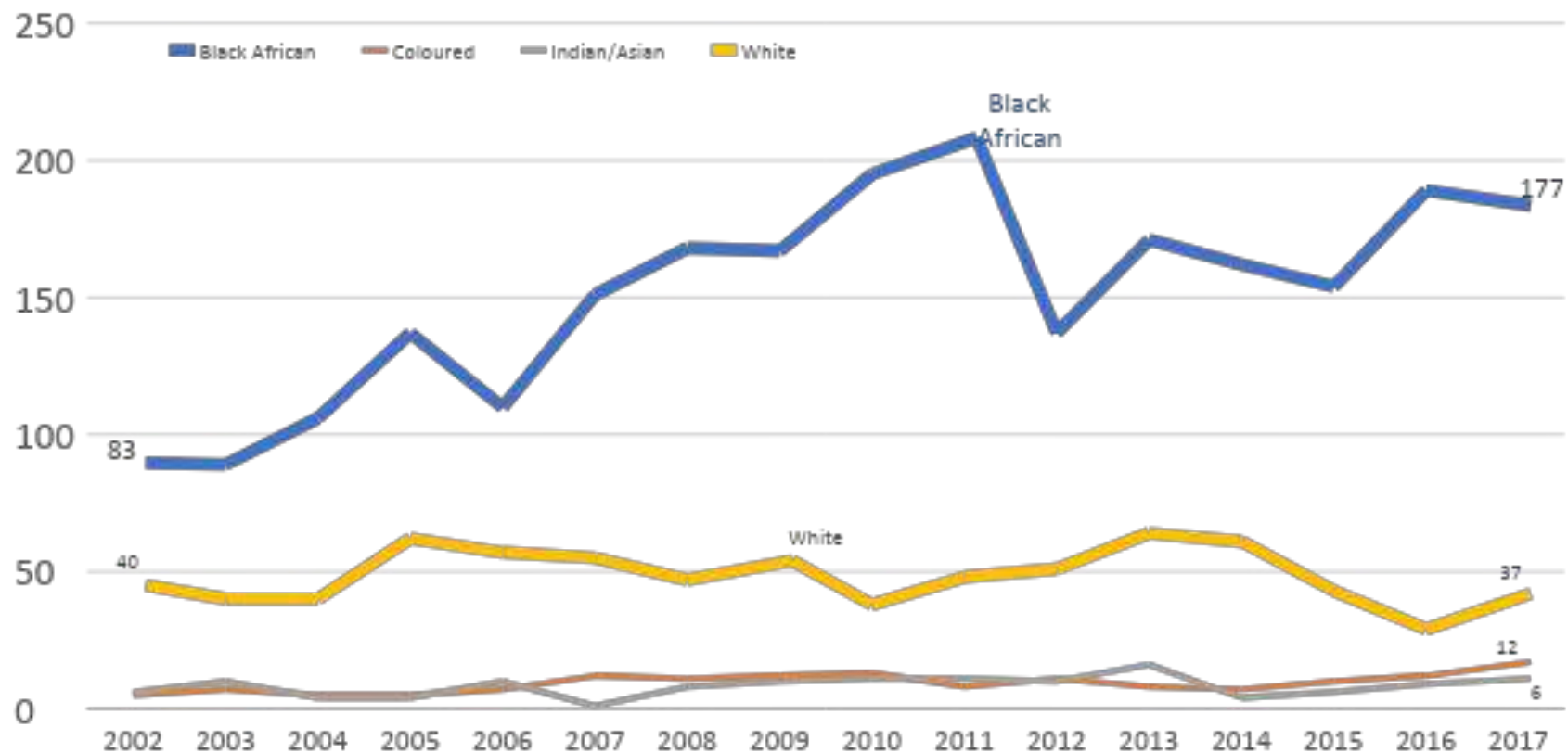


What do we understand in this inconsistency for coupling? Perhaps it suggests what is at the heart of family dysfunction in child bearing and rearing?



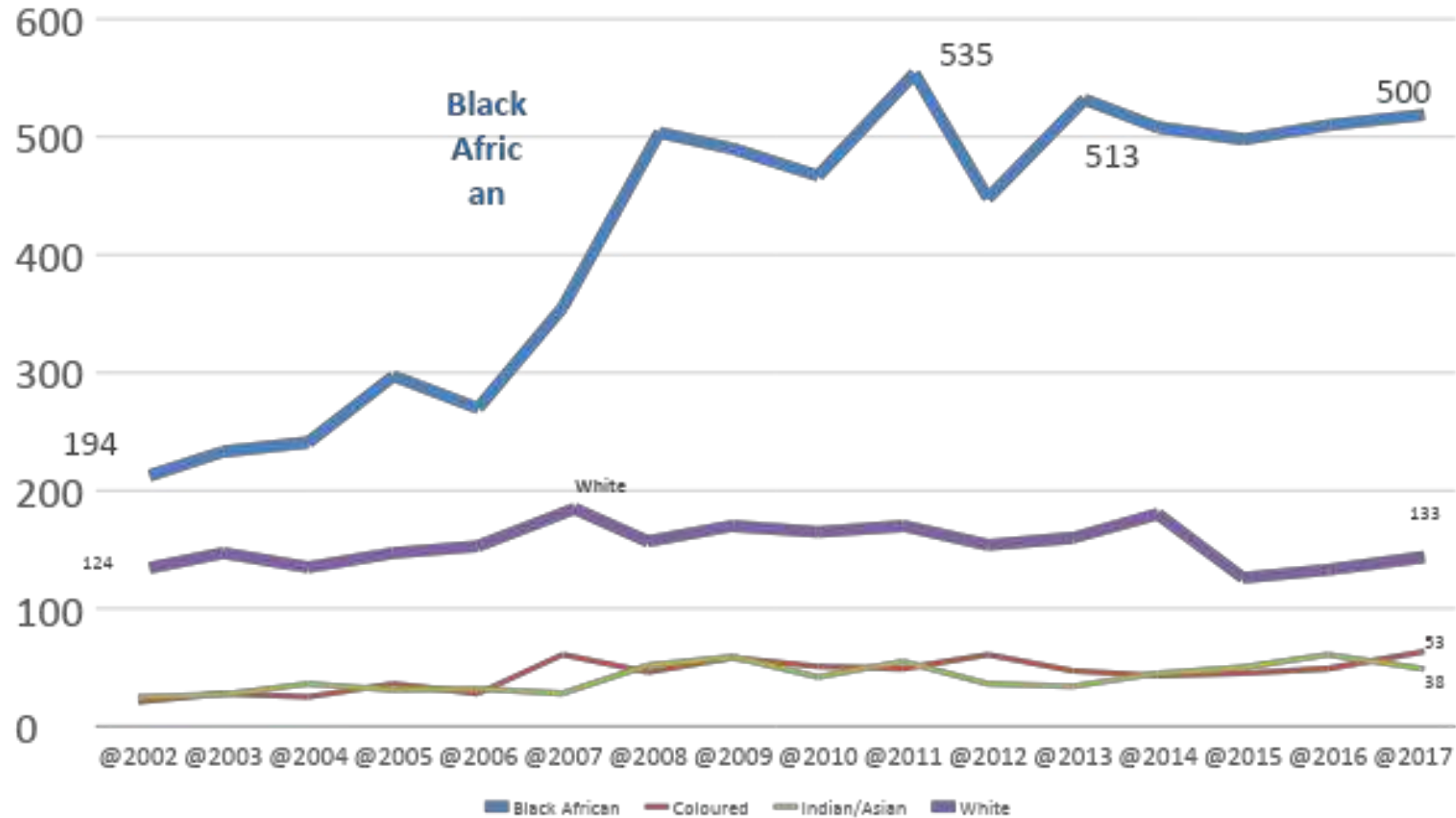
Almost half of all mothers in South Africa are single

Households with university attendees (number in '000) by Population Group



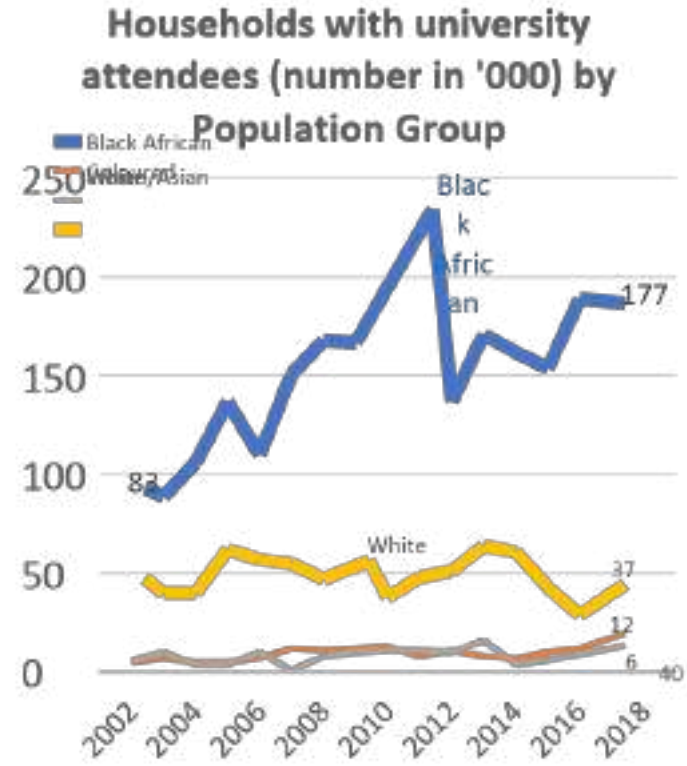
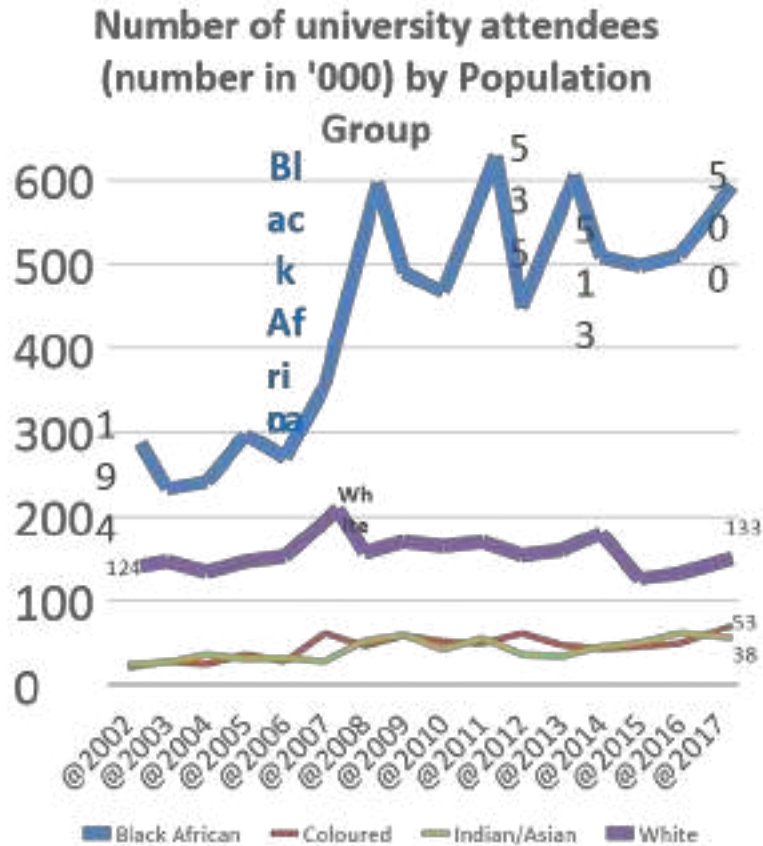
Source: GHS

Number of university attendees (number in '000) by Population Group



Source: GHS

The Incurrible Missing Middle Phenomena



Source: GHS

ECONOMY

OWNERSHIP
BLACK
WOMEN
YOUTH



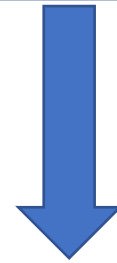
EMPLOYMENT

JOBS
BLACK
WOMEN
YOUTH



COMPETITIVENESS

INDUSTRIALIZATION
LOCALISATION
SMMEs



CHANNEL



- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- ACCESS TO FINANCE
- MARKETS
- ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

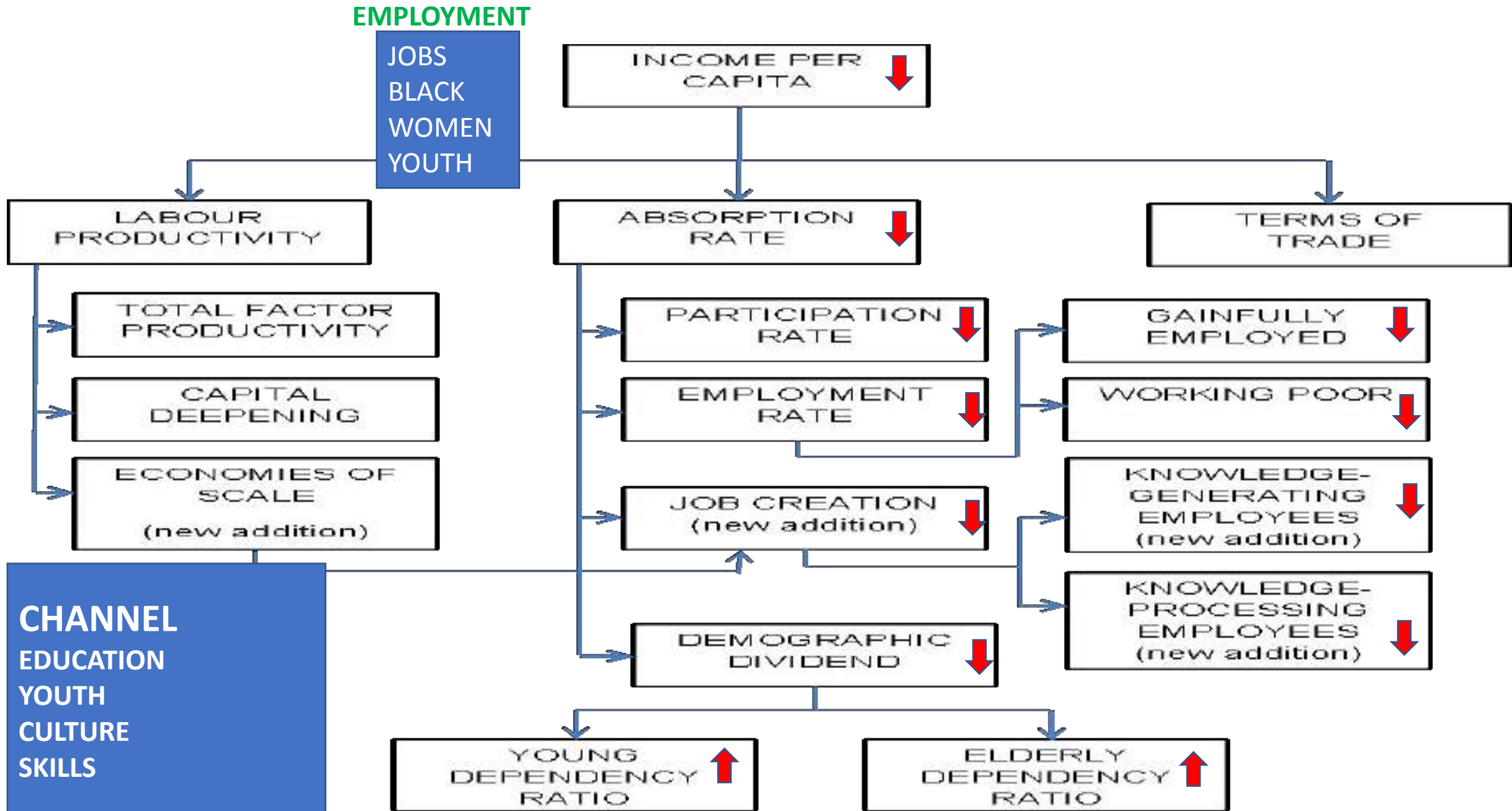
EDUCATION
YOUTH
CULTURE
SKILLS

- ENERGY
- NETWORKS
- FINANCE
- MARKETS
- TRADE POLICY

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND RACE POLITICS



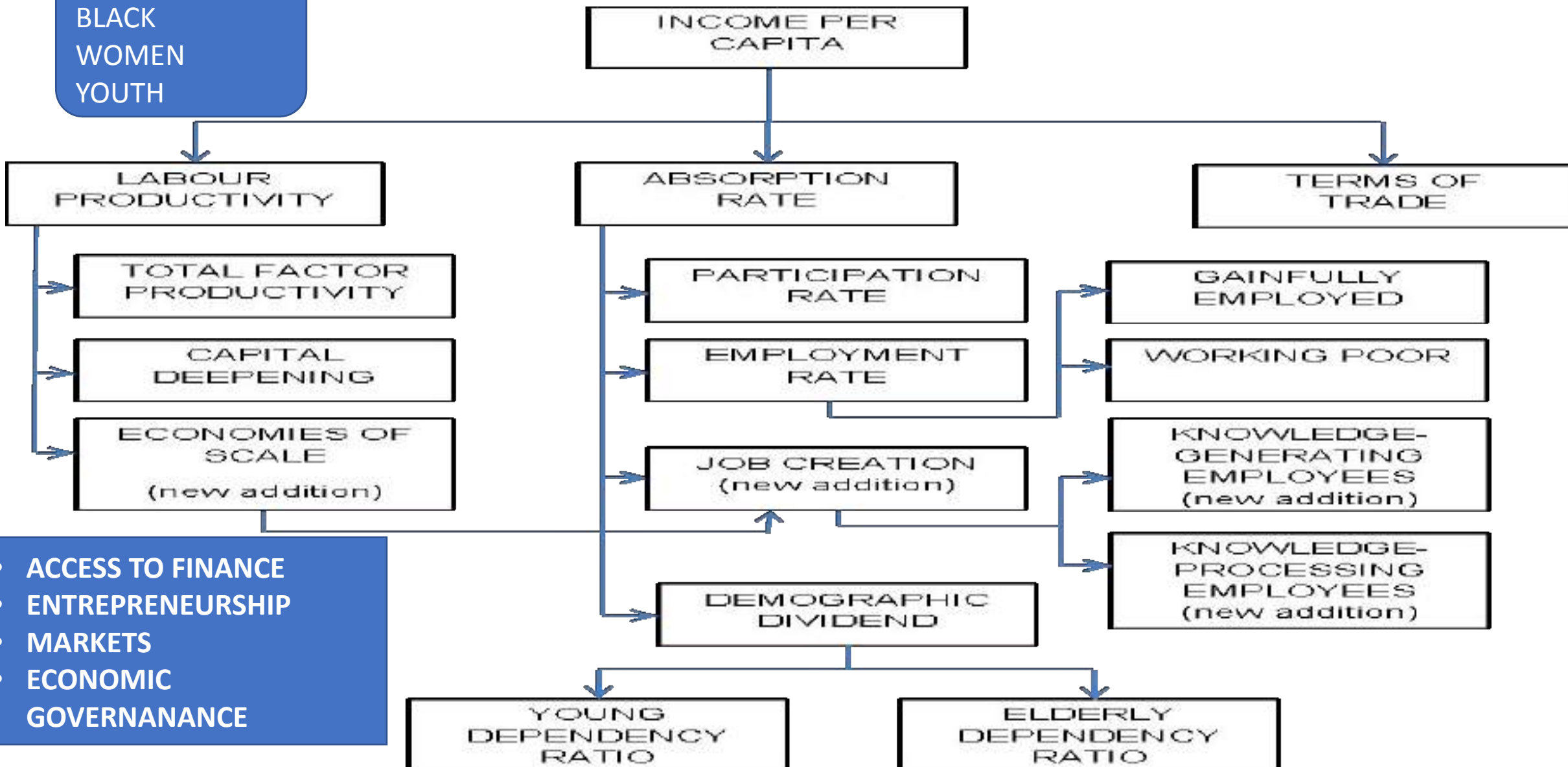
Portrait of the Growth Accounting Framework



Portrait of the Growth Accounting Framework

ECONOMY

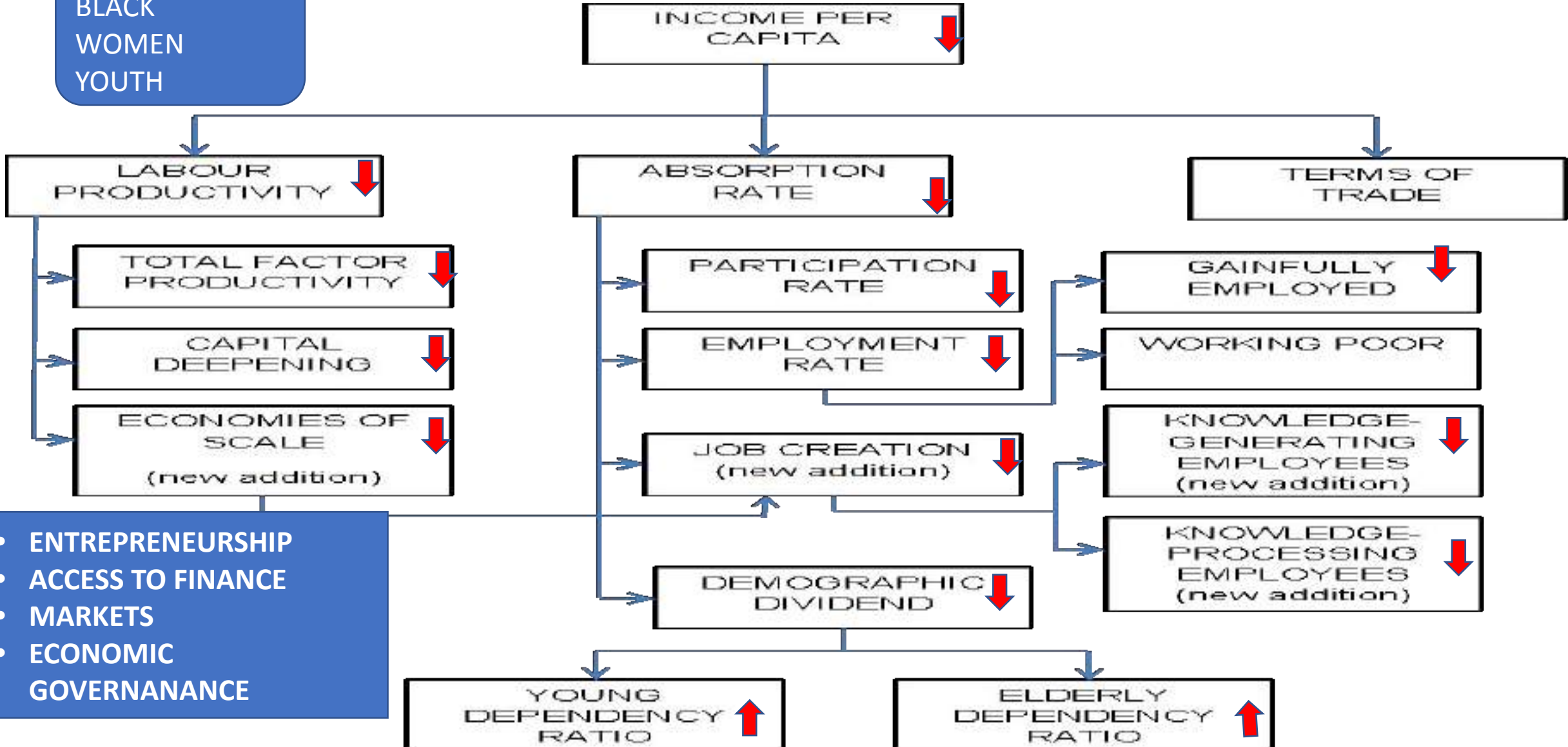
OWNERSHIP
BLACK
WOMEN
YOUTH



Portrait of the Growth Accounting Framework

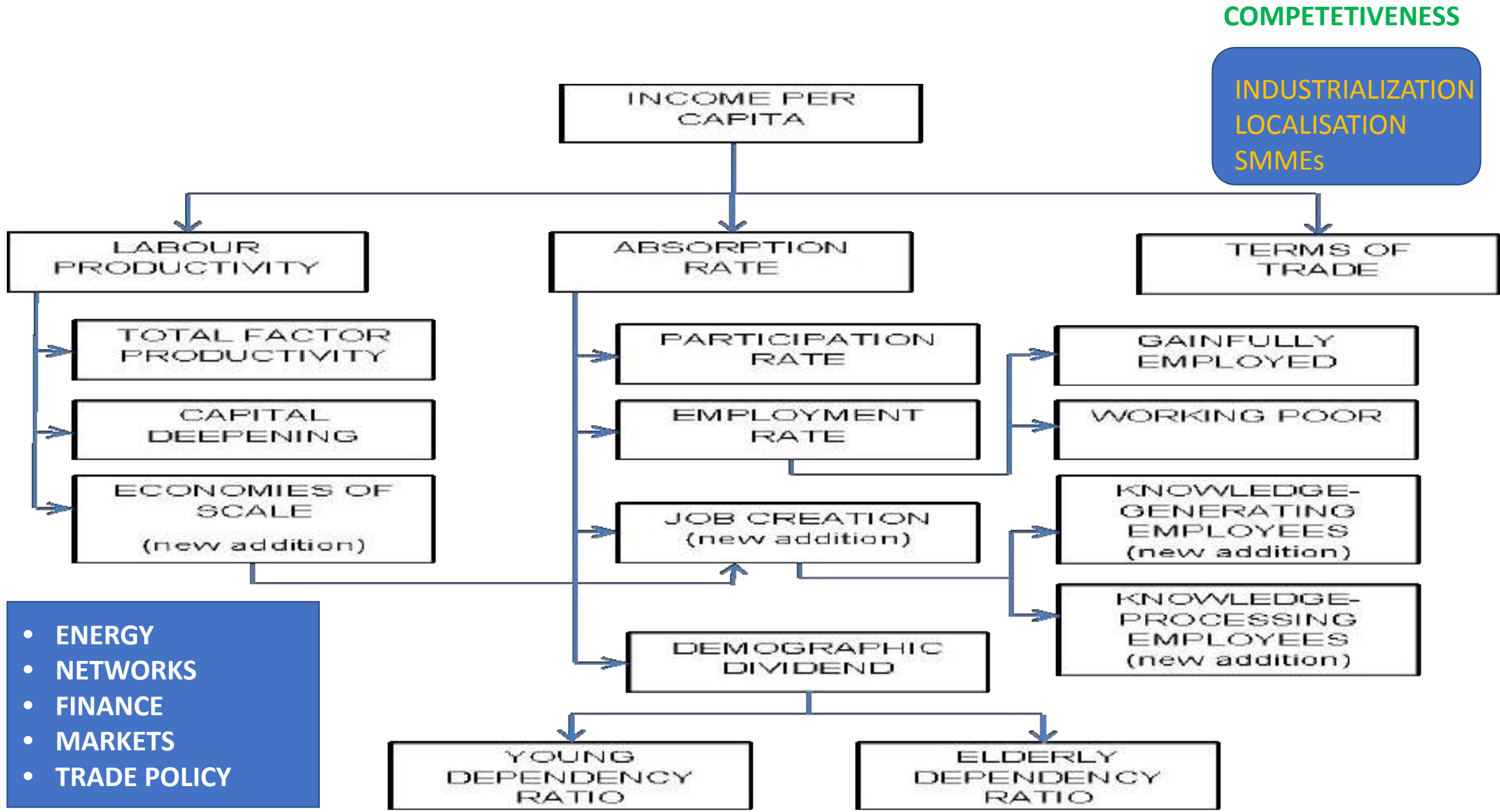
ECONOMY

OWNERSHIP
BLACK
WOMEN
YOUTH

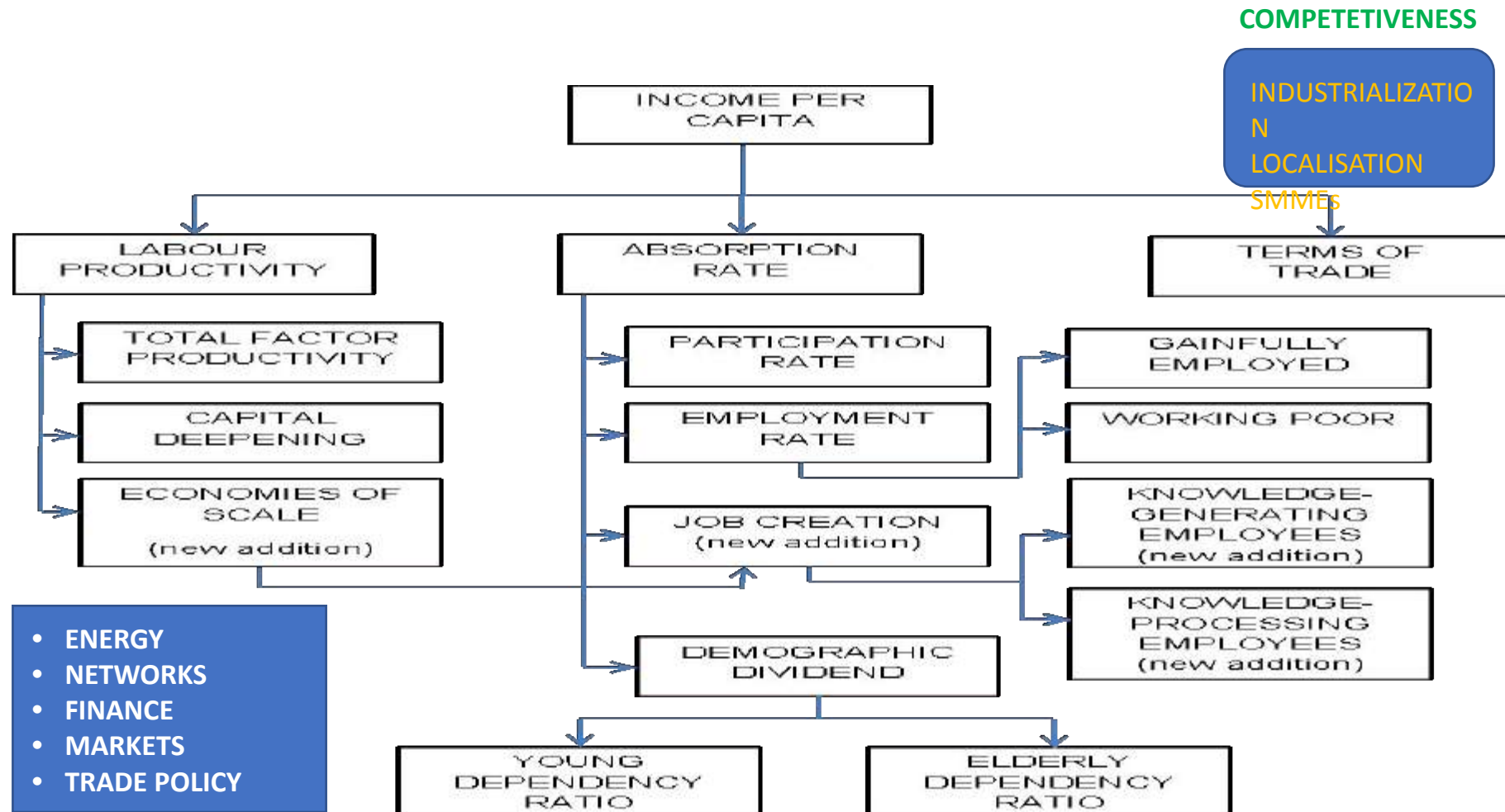


- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- ACCESS TO FINANCE
- MARKETS
- ECONOMIC GOVERNANANCE

Portrait of the Growth Accounting Framework



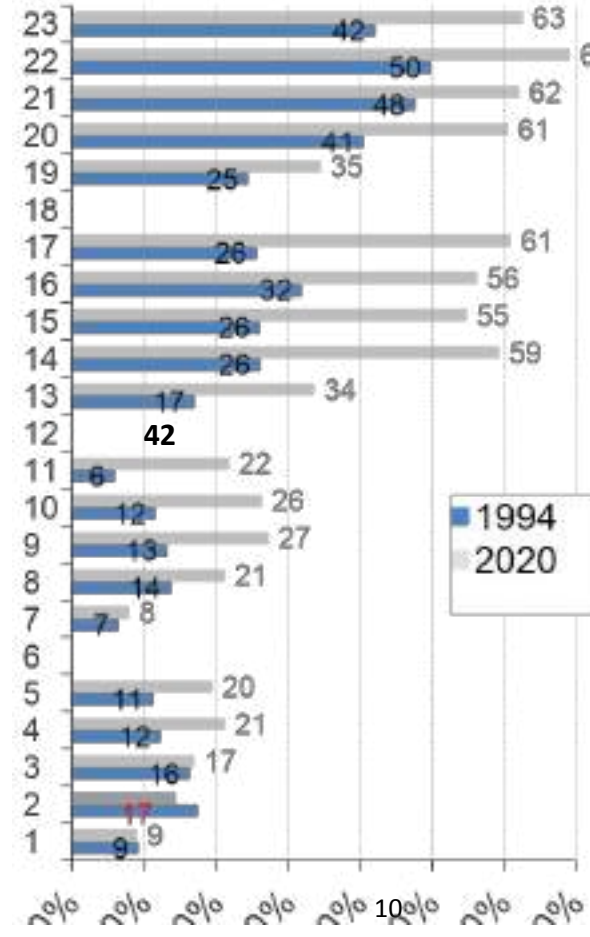
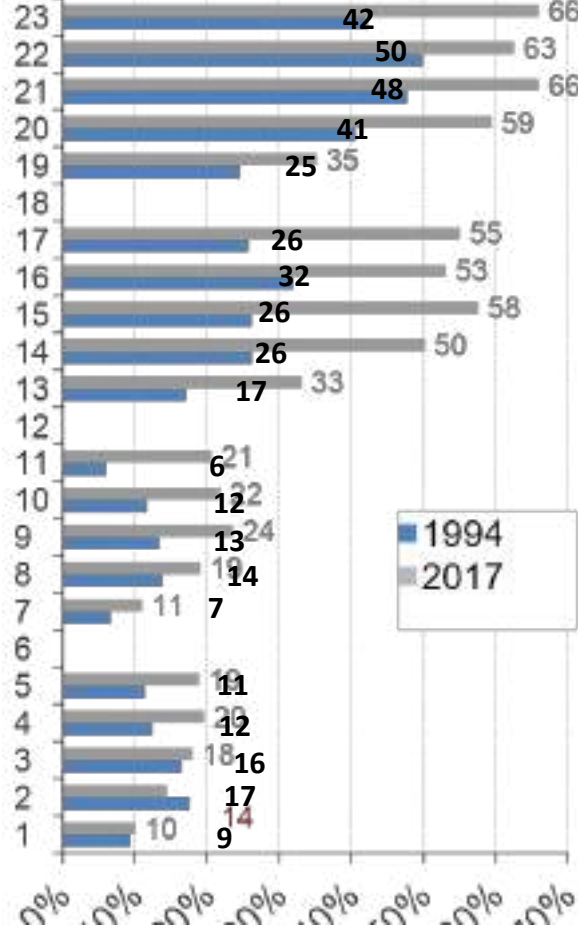
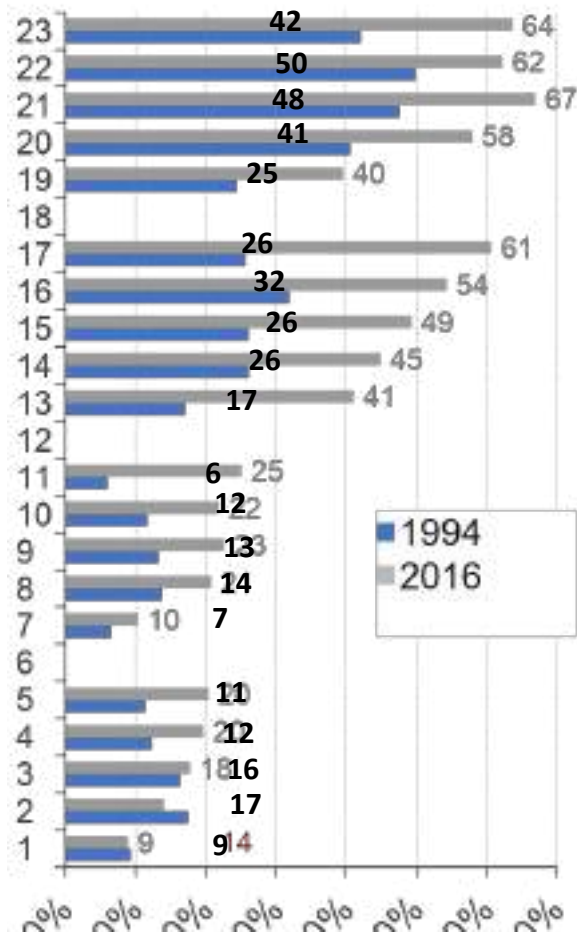
Portrait of the Growth Accounting Framework



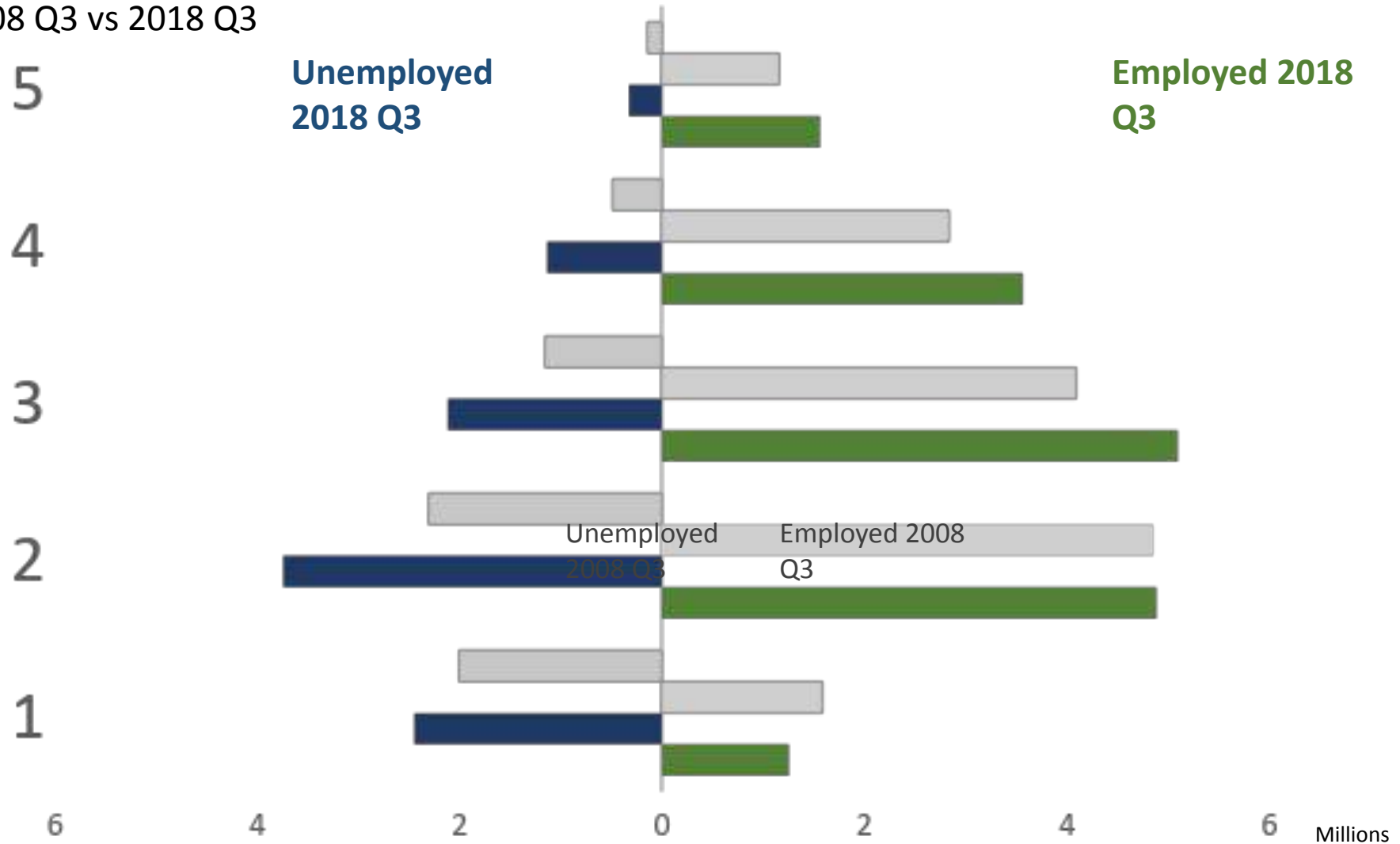
Economic and Demographic Tipping points

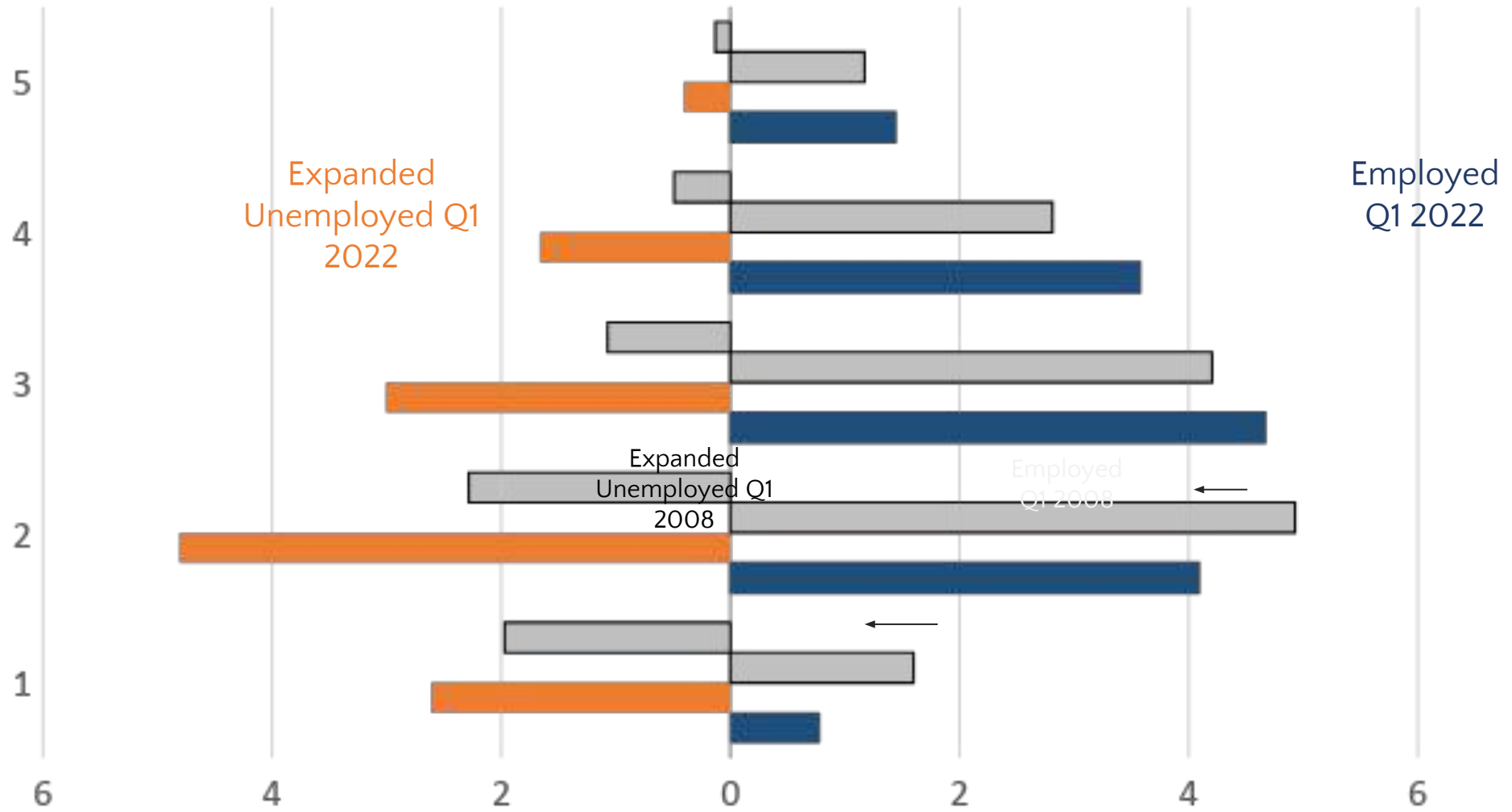
Where were you when the mother cat long devoured its kittens?

Skilled employment as a percentage of total employment within each population group, by age group (South Africa)



Labour force characteristics
by age group - Expanded
definition of unemployment
2008 Q3 vs 2018 Q3





Expanded
Unemployed Q1
2022

Employed
Q1 2022

Expanded
Unemployed Q1
2008

Employed
Q1 2008



Comparison of the Employed and the unemployed between 2008 and 2023

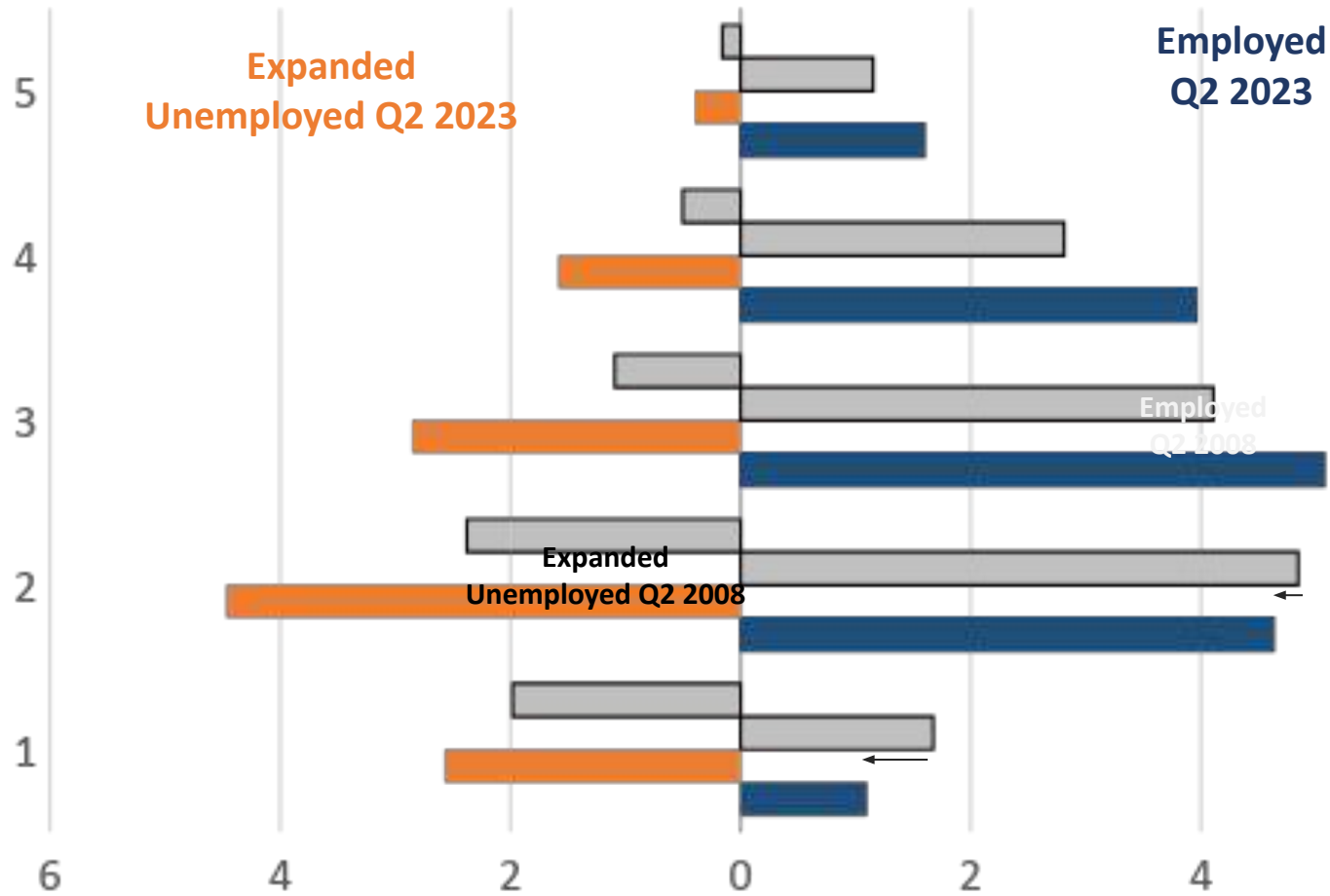
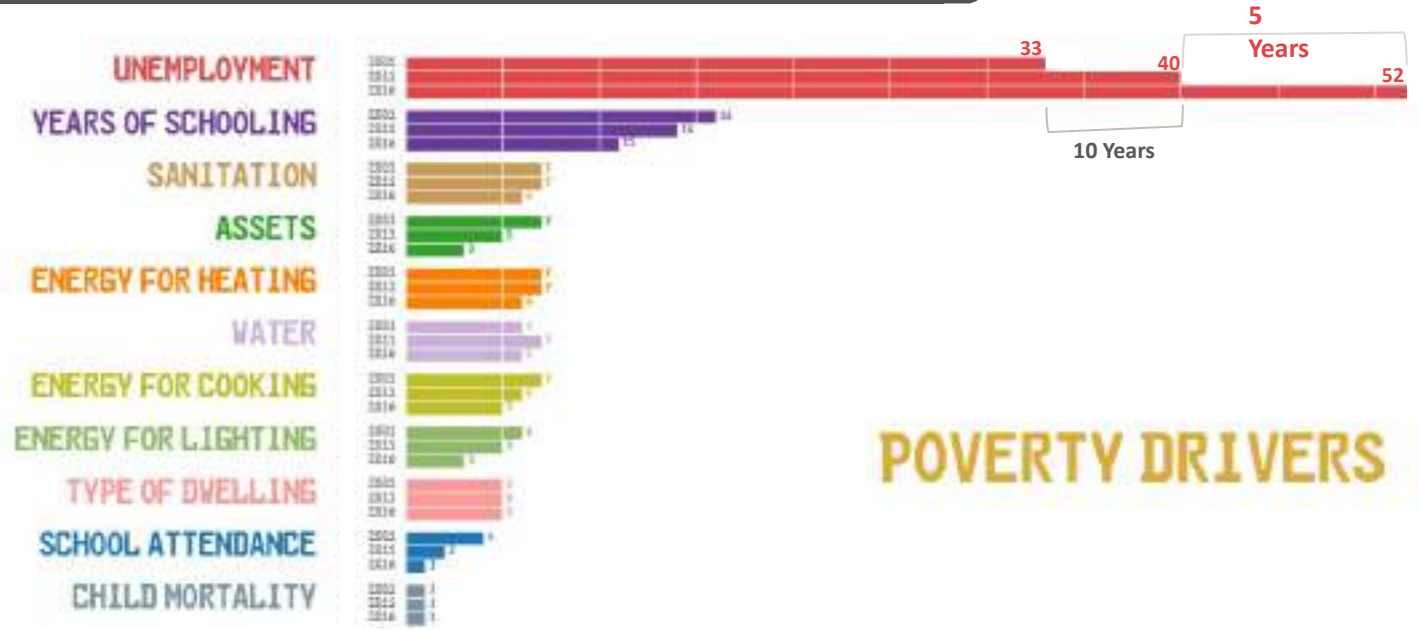


Table 2.6: Labour force characteristics by age group - Expanded definition of unemployment

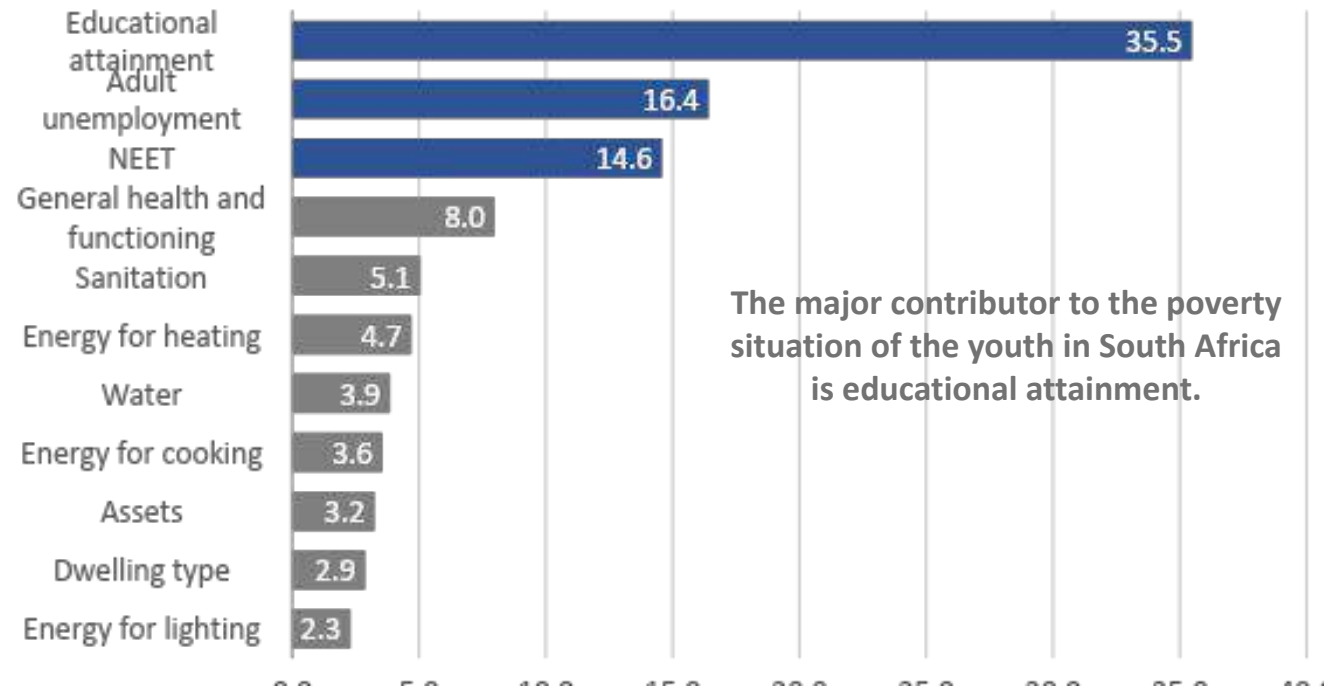
	Apr-Jun 2008	Apr-Jun 2023
	Thousand	Thousand
15-24 years		
Employed	1 673	1 095
Unemployed	1 980	2 571
25-34 years		
Employed	4 844	4 629
Unemployed	2 378	4 469
35-44 years		
Employed	4 106	5 069
Unemployed	1 092	2 852
45-54 years		
Employed	2 810	3 958
Unemployed	501	1 583
55-64 years		
Employed	1 151	1 595
Unemployed	158	397

Poverty Drivers



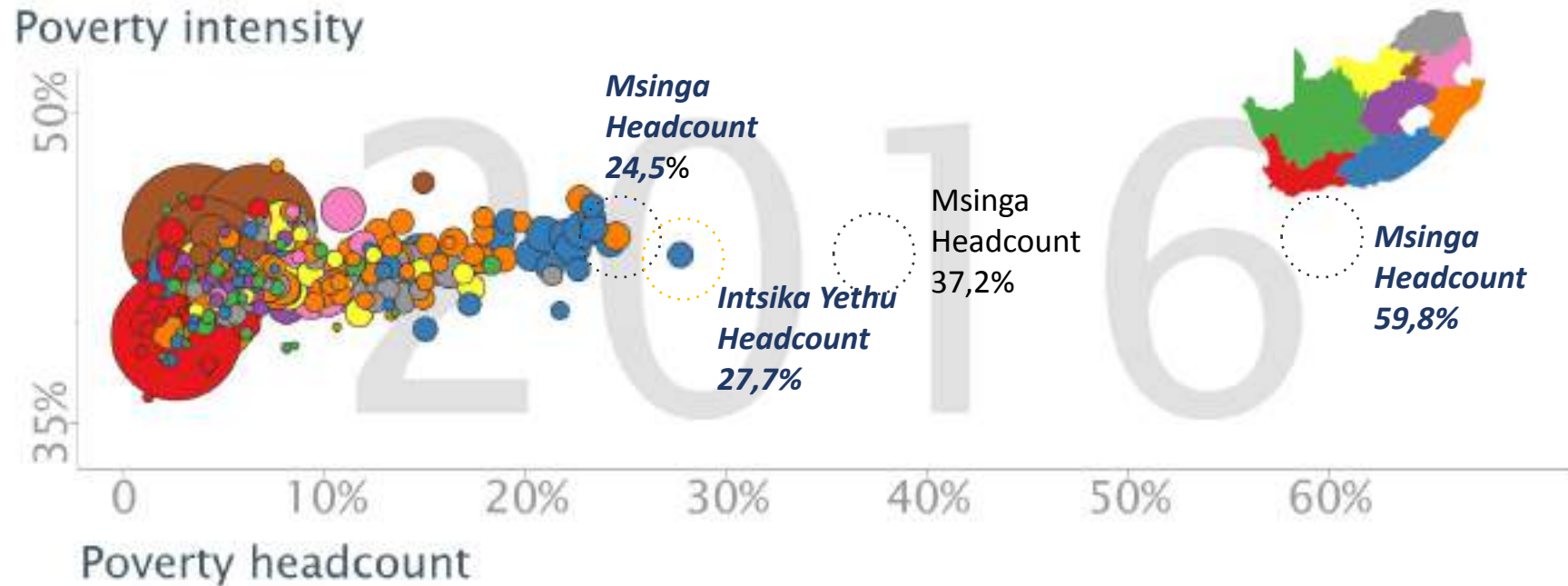
POVERTY DRIVERS

Main contributors to poverty amongst Youth (15-24)



Source CS
2016

Multidimensional Poverty by Municipalities 2001-2016

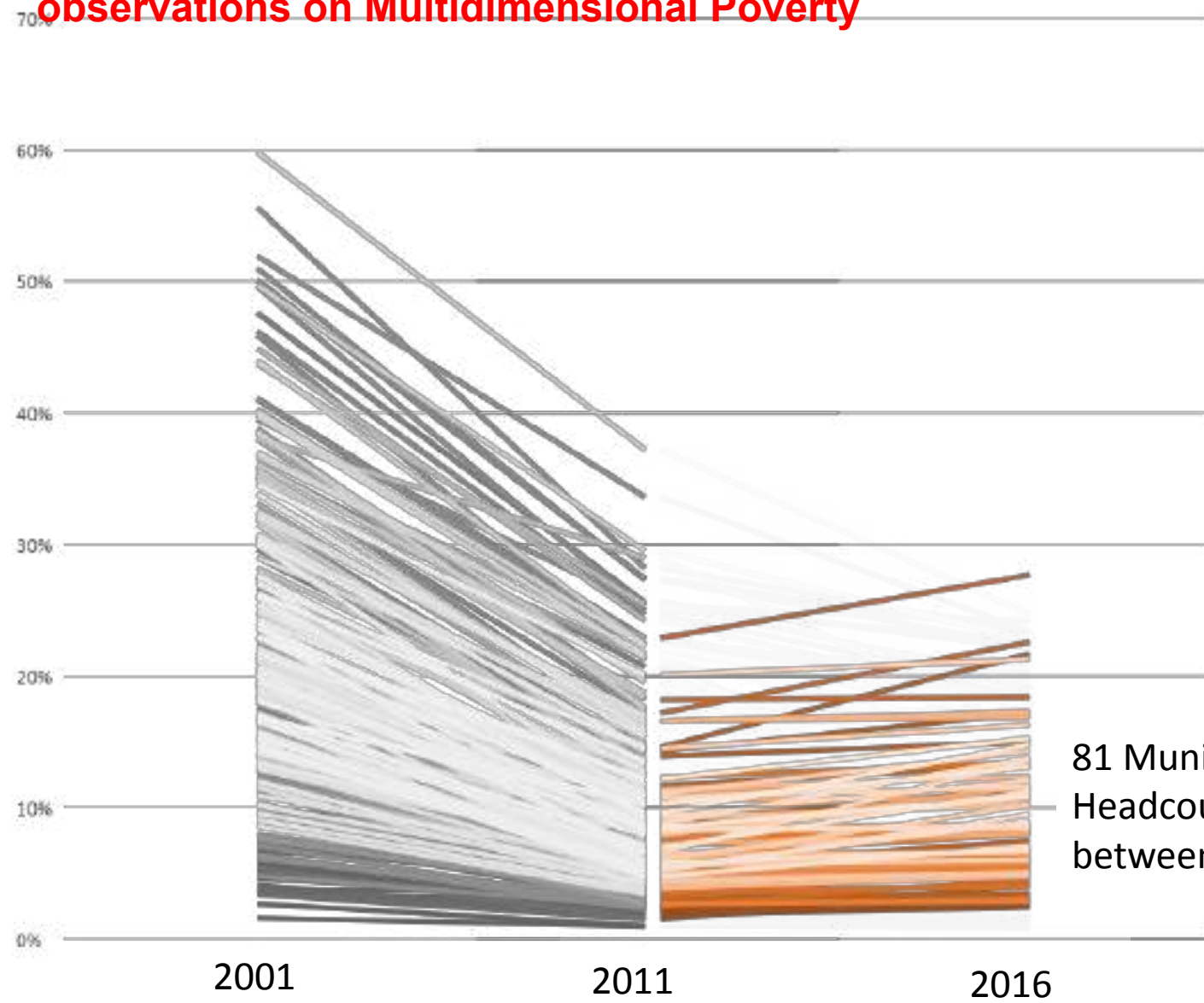


- In 2001 wide dispersion of Poverty **with Msinga having a poverty Headcount of around 60%**
- Between 2001 and 2011 poverty generally declines for all municipalities
- However between 2011 and 2016 poverty trends diverge between municipalities



Where were you when the mother cat long devoured its kittens? Some observations on Multidimensional Poverty

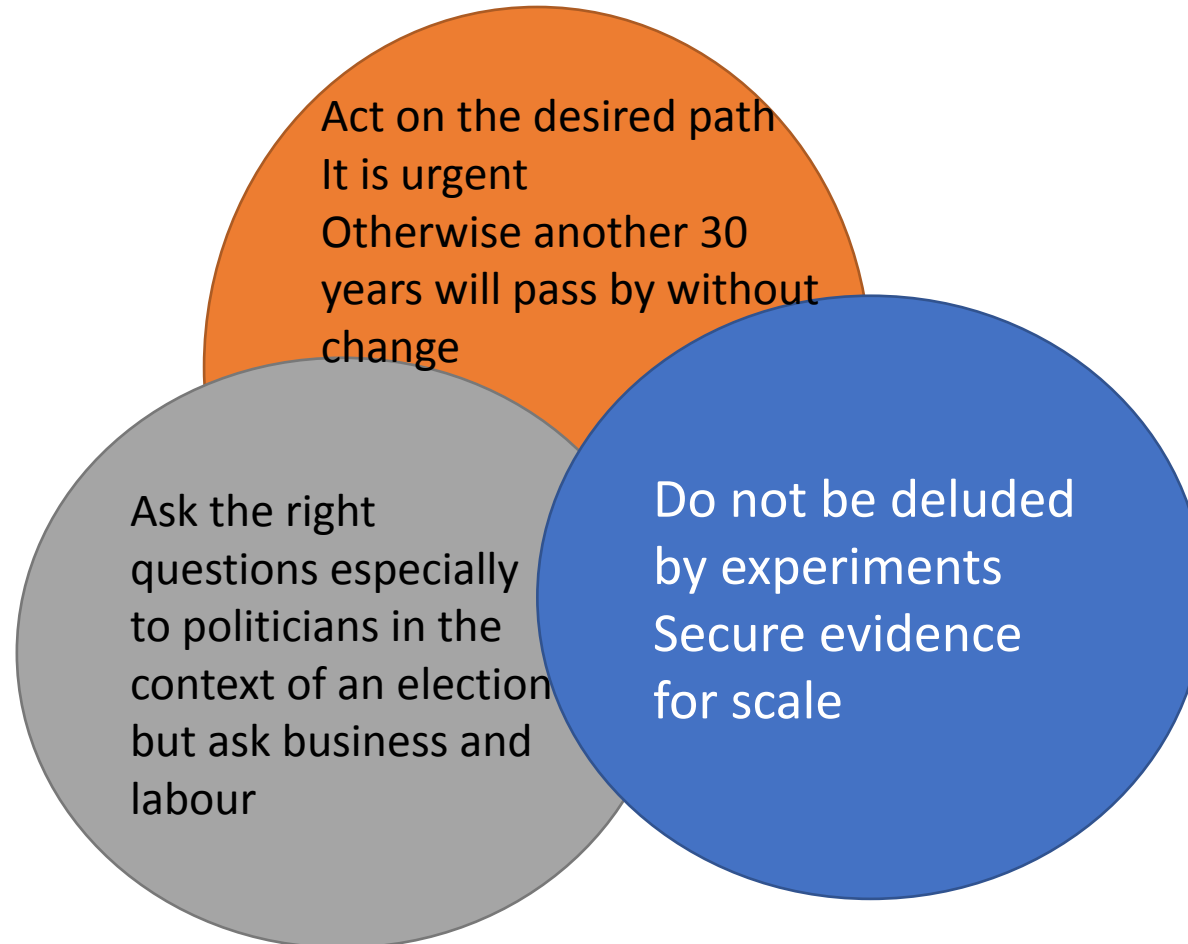
Almost 100% Decline in Headcount Poverty between 2001 and 2011



81 Munics Increase Headcount Poverty between 2011 and 2016

Unifying Knowledge Systems for Common Good

What is to be done?



Unifying Knowledge Systems for Common Good

What is to be done?

**Ali Amazrui says the African
produces what she does not
consume and consumes what
she does not produce**

**The change we need is about
what was impossible becoming
the inevitable**

Unifying Knowledge Systems for Common Good

The Capability Approach

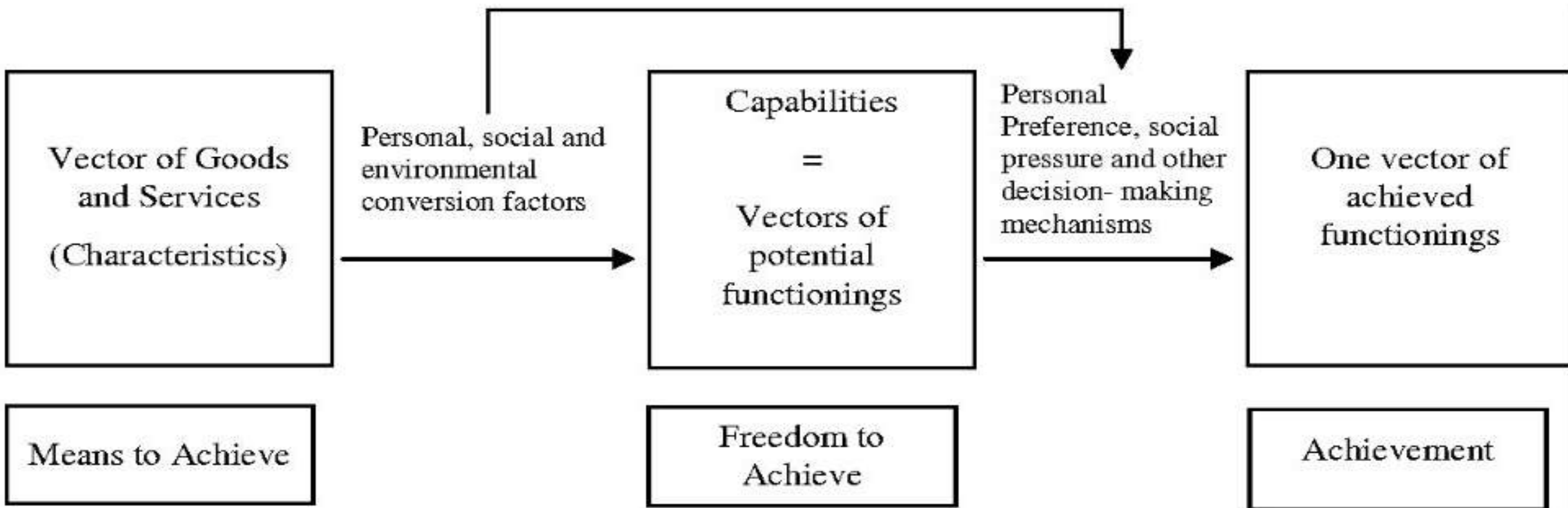


Figure 1 Adapted from a stylized non-dynamic representation of the core aspects of the capability approach (Robeyns, 2005)

Unifying Knowledge Systems for Common Good

DPRSI Model

