



## **AFRICAN CENTRE FOR EPISTEMOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (ACEPS)**

University of Johannesburg • Faculty of Humanities

### **Annual Report — 2025**

#### **ACEPS by the numbers**

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**Visiting researchers:** 9 Professors, 3 Postdocs, 2 PhDs

**Awards and recognitions:** 11

**Collaborations:** 18

**4IR initiatives:** 3

**Community engagement initiatives:** 2

**External funding:** R 1 mil + R 10 mil applied for

**Invited talks and keynotes delivered:** 19

**Conferences/Workshops organised:** 25

**Publication units:** 71

**Postgrads:** 6

**Postdocs:** 2

## Recognitions and awards

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One of the highlights of ACEPS's recognition was its promotion to an Institute in 2025, becoming the **only Philosophy Institute in Africa**. Other recognitions and awards, numbering in total 11, include a **CODESRIA AFRIAK Fellowship** and **Globalink Research Award**, for the project 'Theorizing Indigenous Group Silencing: Canadian and South African Perspectives'.

## Research and innovation – footprint and impact

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In 2025, ACEPS was the **top research entity at UJ** second year running in terms of research output units—with **71 units**. This included 13 publications by the ACEPS team in **high impact journals**. In addition, the ACEPS team put together **two landmark Special Issues** of top journals:

- Epistemic Reparations and the Right to Be Known — SI of Philosophical Studies, the second highest ranking Philosophy journal on Google Scholar
- AI and Indigenous Knowledge Systems—SI of AI & Society

ACEPS had **two PDRFs**, who boosted our footprint in the areas of epistemic justice and the politics of AI.

ACEPS is particularly proud of sending its **PhDs and PDRFs to international conferences** funded by their hosts! True gratification is giving ACEPS Postgrads the invaluable experience that they can only gain from **international exposure**, both from international visitors to ACEPS and their own international invites, allowing them to start **levelling the academic playing field!**



## External funding

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In 2025, ACEPS managed **two large externally funded projects**: *Epistemic Reparations*, funded by Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, and Philosophy

through Indigenous Knowledge from the NIHSS. We also **applied for four large grants**, amongst which

- from the **Wellcome Trust** for the project *Decolonising Trust in Public Health Risk Communication: The Case for South Africa* (ca R 9 million)
- from **NRF/ FAPESP** for the project *Agency in the Age of AI: Philosophy-based Policy for Protecting the Political and Epistemic Agency of the Global South* (R 1,5 million).

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## Partnerships

ACEPS has a large network of **100 international research associates** and Visiting Professors. Amongst these, we have **well established collaborative projects** with Northwestern, Brandon, McGill, Vienna, Waterloo, Tilburg, and Zurich.

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## Community engagement

In 2026 ACEPS partnered with the **Seth Mazibuko foundation**, to collaborate on ‘**Completing the March**’—the 50-year celebration of the Soweto Uprising. Apart from being directly **involved in the march**, ACEPS will be donating administrative time, as well as **organising and funding a public workshop** on Soweto Campus.

A second important community initiative that ACEPS started in 2025 is **the African Elders Welcome**—the formal constitution of our events by Elders from the Struggle, allowing academia to **honour the roots of our democracy** as well as **co-create knowledge** more equitably.



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## Alumni

ACEPS has a **remarkable track record of graduate placements**. Its 2024 graduates are **all full-time employees**—Dr Maponya is a **senior lecturer** at UJ, Dr Rybko is a **lecturer** at Wits, Dr Akpan is a **senior consultant** at Reos Partners, Dr Tobi is a **Postdoc** at

