



THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

This was another busy and productive year for the IEJ. The IEJ, despite its relatively young age, has now firmly established its reputation as an organisation with real, and important, contributions to make towards realising economic justice in South Africa and the region.



THE TEAM

- The IEJ has grown to a [team](#) of 19 staff members, with three additional research associates.



THE WORK

- Summarised below and on the following pages are the 2022 highlights from all IEJ programmes.



CLIMATE, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Just energy transitions

- [Advocated](#) for Eskom to ensure a just transition for both workers and the community during the decommissioning of the coal-powered Komati Power Station. This included three workshops with affected workers.
- Produced proposals around – [Negotiating a South African Renewable Energy Masterplan](#)
- [\(SAREM\)](#) – in collaboration with, and in support of, the IEJ’s trade union partners.
- Convened two webinars focused on [wind](#) and [solar](#) value chains and the obstacles and opportunities these present.
- Made two submissions to the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) opposing Eskom’s applications to increase electricity tariffs by [20%](#) and [32%](#).



Just transitions

- Made a [submission](#) on the draft South African Climate Change Bill.
- Put forward proposals, in partnership with the Climate Ambition to Accountability Project (CAAP), of which the IEJ is a lead partner, on how [climate adaptation](#) and [climate mitigation](#) can be met through a detailed and robust Climate Change Bill.
- Wrote [Transformative Resilience as the Centrepiece of a Just Transition](#), which is one of 11 essays written by leading experts in their fields commissioned by the Presidential Climate Commission.
- Developed and published the IEJ Position Paper – [Towards a Just Transition for Workers and Affected Communities](#) – which outlines the IEJ’s understanding of what a just transition must look like and that sets the agenda for the IEJ’s ongoing climate justice work.
- Through CAAP [co-launched the Youth Climate Champions](#) (YCC) programme. The launch included an intergenerational dialogue with the topic ‘Beyond Youth Tokenism’.
- As part of the Rethinking Economics for Africa Festival 2022 a Climate Justice Symposium on [Advancing a human-rights and gender-equity lens in climate policy and the Just Transition in South Africa](#) was convened.
- Provided a youth voice and critical perspective during a Presidential Climate

Commission COP27 [side event](#) on financing the just transition.

- Participated in a [Twitter Space](#) with climate experts, talking from COP27, about where the climate negotiations were headed.
- Initiated the co-production of robust, critical research that demonstrates the opportunities and obstacles to achieving a climate-just food system. The aim is that this research builds up to provide alternative pathways for a transformative and just transition in South Africa’s food system.

Infrastructure and finance for development and just transitions

- Published the first Policy Brief in our Climate Finance Series – [A Framework for Understanding the Just Energy Transition Partnership on South Africa’s Just Transition](#) which was launched during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.
- Co-hosted the side event – [Towards a just climate-financing regime for the just energy transition partnership](#) – during COP27, alongside COSATU and CAAP.
- Released a factsheet – [IEJ Climate Finance At COP27: A First Take On South Africa’s JET-IP](#) – unpacking what was at stake in the climate finance negotiations at COP27.
- Provided briefings to an array of labour and civil society partners on the climate finance deal.



FEMINIST ECONOMICS

- Hosted the second Feminist Economics Summer School. This year’s theme – [Care and Economic Crises: History, Theory and Methodology of Feminist Economics](#) – sought to unpack the ways in which feminist economics in Africa have responded to economic

transitions over the course of the past four decades of structural adjustment.

- Launched our “Economies of Care” project, focused on integrating an analysis of systems of care provisioning into IEJ’s work on budgets, basic income, and food systems.





MACROECONOMIC POLICY

Budget policy

- Issued a [statement](#) in anticipation of the President's State of the Nation address.
- Issued statements [in anticipation](#) of, and [in response](#) to Budget 2022/2023.
- Made a [submission](#) to the Standing Finance Committee and the Select Finance Committee in Parliament on the 2022/2023 Budget Review and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- Made a [submission](#) to National Treasury on the 2023 MTEF.
- Published a Policy Statement – [Ten Priorities for the 2022 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement](#) – in anticipation of the 2022 MTPBS.
- Issued a statement on the 2022 MTBPS – [Godongwana doubles down on austerity despite additional fiscal room and the rising cost of living](#).
- Took part in a Youth Capital [Twitter Space](#) focusing on the MTBPS.
- Co-hosted a Feminist Budgeting Workshop with SECTION27 and Womxn in Democracy ahead of the MTBPS.
- Made a [presentation](#), alongside the Budget Justice Coalition (BJC), to the Finance Standing Committee in Parliament on the 2022 Revised Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals.
- Further developed an Intersectional Budget Assessment and Analysis (IBAA) tool.



NEW ECONOMIC FUTURES

Rethinking economics

- Hosted the fifth annual [Rethinking Economics for Africa Festival](#) at Wits University from 16 to 17 September 2022. This year's Festival covered the following themes:
 - » Inequality: Theories, hidden problems and solutions.
 - » New economic futures.
 - » Economics, power holders and society.
 - » Africa, globalisation and international economic issues.
 - » Climate justice.
- Participated in Rethinking Economics International projects.
- Supported student REFA chapters across the country with ten student-run public events engaging various aspects of the South African political economy.
- Supported student REFA chapters to trial an "extra-curricular" economics curriculum

based on reading group discussions that serves as an intro to heterodox economics and South African economic policy.

Economics and human rights

- Completed a five-part [Economics and Human Rights](#) podcast series, along with our partners, that looks at the history of South Africa's human rights legislation and activism, its economic policy post-1994, the limitations of human rights activism with respect to economic policy, the impact of those limitations, and the opportunities that bringing economics and human rights together can have in creating an economy that works for the many, not the few.
- Co-authored a research article for the Nordic Journal of Human Rights – [Pushing Boundaries: Building a Community of Practice at the Intersection of Human Rights and Economics](#).





SOCIAL SECURITY AND WORKERS' RIGHTS: UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

Research and policy advocacy

- Met with the [President](#), together with [civil society partners](#), to discuss the extension and improvement of the Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant and pathways to a UBIG.
- Met with DSD and other government departments to look at ways to address problems with the SRD grant, include more beneficiaries and improve the amount.
- Published the Policy Brief – [‘Jobs versus Grants’: Are Employment and Basic Income a Policy Trade-Off?](#) – that assesses the validity of the narrative presenting social protection and job growth as incompatible (the ‘jobs versus grants’ narrative) while trying to understand why this narrative has enjoyed lasting support in some quarters.
- Published a Working Paper – [Can a Universal Basic Income Contribute to Breaking Structural Poverty in South Africa?](#) – which contains an extensive international review of the evidence on basic income, and demonstrates that a progressively-designed UBIG has the potential to greatly assist in addressing South Africa’s immediate humanitarian crisis of deprivation, whilst also disrupting the structural conditions, including high levels of unemployment, which continue to produce poverty.
- Published a [detailed memo](#) and issued a [statement](#) exposing and highlighting how internal proposals from Treasury and the Presidency on the future of the SRD grant and income support in South Africa were deeply problematic and threatened the livelihoods of millions of people.
- Made a [joint submission](#) on new draft regulations relating to the SRD grant.
- Made a [submission](#) on the draft amendments to the Social Assistance Act regulations aimed at allowing for the extension of the R350 SRD grant.
- Issued a [letter of demand](#) through the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI), on behalf of the IEJ, to the Presidency on the need to expedite SRD payments as a matter of urgency.

Supported the Black Sash case on aspects of the SRD Regulations, resulting in changes to the income threshold.

- Sent [a letter to the Presidency](#) with proposed steps to expedite the payment of the R350 SRD grants.

Campaigns and partnerships

- Continued working alongside partners in the Civil Society Coalition on Basic Income, as well as trade union partners, which played an instrumental role in protecting the SRD grant from being terminated.
- Issued multiple [statements](#) on challenges in the payment of SRD grants and on how Treasury’s interventions caused a collapse in delivery of the grant.
- Hosted a civil society [briefing](#) on Treasury proposals to terminate the SRD grant and on the prospects of a UBIG.
- In a [three-part](#) Basic Income Series for GroundUp News we unpacked the ins and outs of a basic income grant.
- Presented findings to a [webinar](#), co-hosted by the IEJ and Daily Maverick, on recent international research on the impacts of basic income, with a special focus on developing countries and South Africa.
- Made an [input on UBIG](#) to the international IDEAS economic conference on Development Strategies in an Uncertain and Unequal World.
- Took part in a Helen Suzman Foundation [roundtable discussion](#) on a basic income grant.
- Participated in a Mail & Guardian [Twitter Space](#) on how a basic income could be supportive of South Africa’s economic revival.
- Contributed to a podcast episode – [How would providing UBI impact structural poverty?](#) – hosted by Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA).
- Made a [presentation on UBIG](#) to the Just Share 2022 Symposium on the role the corporate sector can play.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Published a Tourism-Sector Masterplan Research Report – [Decent Work and Employment Creation in the Tourism Sector](#) – that makes nine, clear recommendations on how to support and bolster tourism, and the real economy, in South Africa.
- Published a Research Report – [Localisation of Medical Manufacturing in Africa](#) – that makes relevant policy recommendations that the state, regulators, researchers, development-

finance institutions, and medical and pharmaceutical stakeholders should adopt to bolster development around medical manufacturing.

- [Launched](#) the *Localisation of Medical Manufacturing in Africa* Research Report in partnership with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnerships for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD).

IN THE MEDIA

Over the past year the team has continued to make valuable contributions to policy debates in South Africa through [media engagements, interviews and opinion pieces](#). In 2022:

- IEJ followers on social media platforms increased to over 7 000.
- The team published 18 opinion pieces and

IEJ's work was featured prominently in at least 30 news articles.

- The team did 23 radio and 30 TV interviews.
- Issued multiple [statements](#), some jointly with partners, including the Civil Society Coalition on Basic Income, the BJC and SERI.

FIRST THING IN 2023

- STRATEGY 2023-2027: Between July 2021 and July 2022, through collective work with the IEJ Team and Board, the organisation's strategy for 2023 to 2027 was developed. This document will present the IEJ's organisational and programmatic goals for the next five years. It grounds the organisation's ongoing growth within coherent political objectives developed on the basis of interrogating the shifting local and global environment.
- The third Feminist Economics Summer School will take place from 29 January to 3 February under the theme *Social reproduction and the changing world of work*.
- IEJ will publish a masterplan research report – *Formalisation, Inclusive Growth and Export Competitiveness in the South African Cannabis Industry*.
- IEJ will also publish a "Pathways Research Report" modelling three scenarios for achieving a UBIG in South Africa and their differential economic impacts.

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