



KJB

Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
Leadership
Programme

Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme *2020 Newsletter – The pandemic issue.*

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Figure 1 Prof. Alphose Zingoni

Dear KJB Scholars & Alumni (cc. KJB Friends & Supporters)

We are approaching the end of an exceptionally unusual year. I hope you are all well. As aspiring young leaders, you must have had some reflections on what good leadership is all about. It is often in crisis situations when the need for good leadership is felt the most, and no situation could have provided better lessons than the current circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, and its crippling effects on all our lives.

Amidst all this, the high-profile killing of George Floyd in the US (and subsequent protests across the world) was a grim reminder that race-related inequalities do exist in society, and need to be addressed at leadership level, while the theatrics of the recent US Presidential elections must have left you asking very good questions about the real meaning of democracy, and what lessons young democracies like South Africa can learn from all this.

Like pandemics, effects of climate change know no political boundaries. Such challenges require a new type of leadership that recognises the need for international cooperation. As humanity, we all share the same destiny. Although we will no longer be alive, it is important for us to care about what the earth will look like in 3020!

Tough challenges also present unique opportunities. Necessity is often the mother of invention, and the pandemic has forced us to be more creative in many ways. With a number of Covid-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, etc) now on the way, there is every reason to be optimistic, but it is not time yet to drop our guard. Have a safe festive season!

All the best,

Alphose Zingoni

25 November 2020



Figure 2 Jacques Stander. Gallo Image

INTRODUCTION

Belisa Rodrigues

KJB Programme Manager

What a year it has been! Who would have thought that in our lifetime the world would be experiencing a pandemic unparalleled since 1918! Our lives and our behaviours have changed, our ways of seeing and engaging with those around us have changed. This pandemic has put into sharp focus the meaning of collaborative leadership – how to lead in an interconnected world to protect and serve the most vulnerable. It ultimately focuses our attention on the very essence of being human.

With masks on (as required by the law), we take our hats off to all those who contributed to the important leadership fora created under the KJB Leadership Programme this year.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter update earlier this year ([Read our March 2020 edition here](#)).

Follow our 2020 activities below!



JUNE NEWS 2020

13 June 2020

By Alphose Zingoni

OPINION ARTICLE | George Floyd protests can propel world towards the goal of 'true equality'

Alphose Zingoni, Professor of Structural Engineering and Mechanics at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and director of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme at UCT, writes about lessons for South Africa, particularly our youth, following recent events in the United States (US) precipitated by George Floyd's killing.

The responsibility of changing the world rests on the shoulders of all of us, but more so on the shoulders of young people, who are the future of the world.

As if the Covid-19 pandemic was not enough, the world recently witnessed the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed black man, at the hands of white police officers in the city of Minneapolis in the USA. The event, which happened on 25 May, 2020, precipitated widespread protests across major cities in the US and across the world, as people from all walks of life united and marched in condemnation of this act of racism and outright violation of human rights.

Published on News 24, read the full article [here](#).

Published on UCT News, read the full article [here](#).



JUNE NEWS 2020

24 June 2020

WEBINAR SERIES | Unlocking Covid-19: Current Realities, Future Opportunities

The KJB programme was invited to be part of the UCT-led “Unlocking Covid-19: Current Realities, Future Opportunities” webinar series. We decided to explore the issue of “*Community Leadership in times of Crisis*” inviting a Pan-African panel of young leaders into the conversation. Conversations with Mr Tauriq Jenkins (South Africa), Ms Selam Kebede (Ethiopia) and Mr Nkosana Mazibiza (Zimbabwe) explored various perspectives on the topic:

For full webinar recording click below or read more in the following article:



ARTICLE | Communities must use COVID-19 'chaos' for change

"This is a necessary chaos. This is one of the most important chaotic periods we have as a species. It is the biggest opportunity for true decoloniality to occur."

This is the view of Tauriq Jenkins on the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the crisis on communities, and the potential for change. Jenkins is an accredited South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) monitor, high commissioner of the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Indigenous Traditional Council, and the chair of the A/Xarra Restorative Justice Forum, which is based at the University of Cape Town's (UCT) **Centre for African Studies**.

Jenkins was one of three panellists speaking about "community leadership in times of crisis", the focus of the fourth conversation in the [UCT Summer School's](#) "Unlocking COVID-19: Current realities, future opportunities?" series. The webinar series features conversations with leading authorities, UCT academics and alumni. This conversation, which took place on Wednesday, 24 June, was hosted by the [UCT Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme](#), a scholarship programme that supports young future leaders at the university.

Published on UCT News, read the full article [here](#).

AUGUST NEWS 2020

29&30 August 2020

KJB LEADERSHIP BOOTCAMP | Passport to the Future

This year, the *KJB Annual Leadership Bootcamp* took place online and was facilitated by Mutsa Samuel, Personal Development expert and Founder of UbuntuLAB, Zimbabwe. With travel being restricted due to Covid, we time-travelled into the future to co-create a shared vision!



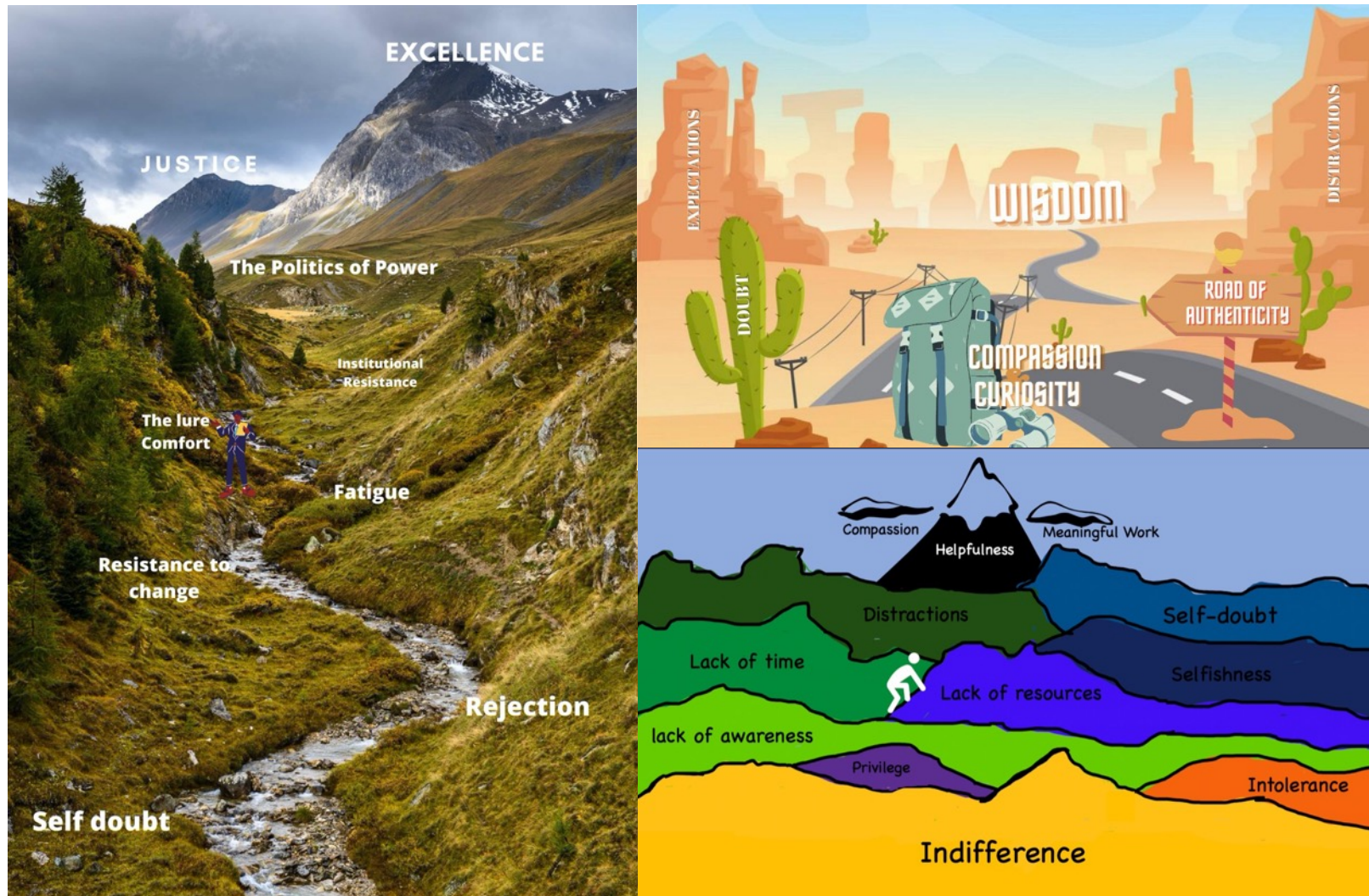


KJB LEADERSHIP BOOTCAMP
"Passport to the future"
29 & 30 August 2020
RSVP by 20th July 2020



Figure 3 Bootcamp screenshots

INTEGRITY MAPS | KJB Scholars mapped out their aspirational personal values and the obstacles they need to overcome on their journey. Below are some select examples of visual integrity maps created during the Bootcamp weekend:



Birth of altruism

Elephant of
Wisdom

Fort of Principles

Vanity

Self-reflections

"Pride Battle"

Struggle of the ego



AUGUST NEWS 2020

29 August 2020 | via Zoom

GUEST SPEAKER | Naledi Masilo (KJB Alumnus)

As part of the *Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Bootcamp*, we invited Boston-based alumnus, Naledi Masilo, to speak to us about her leadership journey. She chronicled how she followed her musical dream to pursue jazz studies in the USA and how the KJB Leadership Programme influenced her confidence and abilities to do so!



Naledi Masilo

**Johannesburg, South Africa to
Boston, USA**

*Vocalist, Founding-Director of Dreaming Girls
Foundation*

Passionately pursuing her drive to explore the jazz tradition and her African heritage, Naledi Masilo -Vocalist, Composer, Teaching Artist and Arts Administrator- packed her suitcase and moved half-way across the world in search of a music career bubbling with opportunities.

Naledi grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, a bustling country with beautiful people. She graduated with a Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Relations and Sociology from the University of Cape Town and is currently studying Jazz Performance at The New England Conservatory.

In 2019, Naledi was a resident at the Kennedy Center through Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead

Program, where she was mentored by the likes of Dee Dee Bridgewater and Jason Moran. She has also been invited to participate in the Banff International Jazz and Creative Music workshop in Calgary, Canada.

Naledi is the Founding Director of The Dreaming Girls Foundation, a South African based non-profit organization that cultivates women and girls in the arts to be leaders and critically conscious members of society. She is an alumnus of the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Leadership Programme based at the University of Cape Town.

SEPTEMBER NEWS 2020

**KJB** Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
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For more information
www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

Webinar 1 30 September 2020

FUTURE LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES | After a very fruitful *KJB Leadership Bootcamp*, there came an idea to create a *Future Leadership Series* featuring perspectives of the youth on pertinent topics. What better opportunity than to engage with the KJB Scholars in our re-branded “KJB Future Leadership Series”. All episodes were recorded and can be accessed in the hyperlinks on the images below.

Episode 1: KJB “Who Cares” Sept 2020 (Local Youth Perspectives on the Future of Institutions)

Click on the below image to listen to full recording:

**KJB** Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
Leadership
Programme

For more information
www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

Leago Sebesho Callum Tillbury Fezeka Nzama

In partnership with:

Centre for Extra-Mural Studies**WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020 | 15h30 -16h30 (CAT/ SAST)**
PLATFORM: MICROSOFT TEAMS | RSVP: ems@uct.ac.za

Figure 4: Youtube Recording of Episode 1



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FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

WHO CARES?

What does an institution of care look like for the future of work, study and play?
Join this youth-led intersectional discussion to gain deeper insights into lived experience at UCT.

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020 | 15h30 -16h30 (CAT/ SAST)

PLATFORM: MICROSOFT TEAMS | RSVP: ems@uct.ac.za



Leago Sebesho is a 5th year medical student who is passionate about youth development and equity in healthcare. She is an Abe Bailey Scholar and Global Surgery Research Student. She has led in various university structures including being the Deputy Chairperson of the Health Sciences Students' Council and Convenor of Student Parliament



Callum Tillbury is a final-year engineering student at UCT, who firmly believes that engineering is as much of a social science as it is a physical science. He is passionate about embracing a multi-disciplinary approach to 21st-century problems, understanding both the highly technical and tricky social aspects of emerging technologies.



Fezeka Nzama, born in KZN, is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Business Science specialising in Computer Science at UCT. With a passion for people, stories, and tech. The project closest to her heart at present is the 2100 Stories Project that aims to collect 2100 stories from women across the country to end gender-based violence. She has a particular interest in EduTech.

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In partnership with:



Centre for Extra-Mural Studies

OCTOBER NEWS 2020



Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
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For more information
www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

Webinar 2
28 October 2020

Episode 2: KJB “Past Stories, Future Endings” Oct 2020

(Local Youth Perspectives on Africa’s Leadership future)

With graphic harvesting

Click on the below image to listen to full recording:



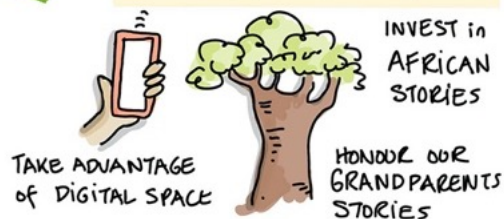
Figure 5 Youtube Recording of Episode 2

***This webinar included graphic harvesting. Below is what was created during the session:*

PAST STORIES : FUTURE ENDINGS

FUTURE
LEADERSHIP
SERIES

Future of STORY TELLING:



BUILDING on PAST LESSONS

- STUDY AFRICAN HISTORY as LUKRATIVE CAREER
- INFORMAL WAYS of STUDYING HISTORY
- EDUCATE OURSELVES

Q&A



Belisa
RODRIGUES

- HAVING YOUR STORY HEARD brings POWERFULL HEALING



CREATE
SPACE!!

- AFRICAN STORIES by AFRICANS



NEXT CHAPTER in AFRICA'S STORY





KJB Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
Leadership
Programme

For more information
www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

Past Stories: Future Endings



Wednesday 28 October 2020, 15:00–16:00 SAST

(Special edition: storytelling with graphic harvesting)

Via MS Teams

RSVP: ems@uct.ac.za

Stories have been an important way in which to convey history and meaning across the African continent – from proverbs to folklore, our stories have lived on. The storyteller takes us on a journey and leaves us reflecting on a future where the lessons we have learnt can be embedded. As we continue on the path towards future leadership, what better place to start than sharing the stories of African leaders of old, their visions and ideals.

But what happens next?

In this webinar we will imagine a future where these ideals and visions are the foundation from which our continent is built. The end of the story is the beginning of the future – join us around iziko, at the feet of the storytellers.

Sessions will be moderated by Belisa Rodrigues, KJB Programme Manager

Storytellers



Peace Francis is a final year medical student passionate about equipping Africans to find African solutions for African problems. Her accomplishments include chairing the Health Sciences Student Council and serving the SHAWCO Health Vice President. She is the Chair of the UCT Student Governance Court and is a UCT Global Surgery Student Fellow.



Karabo Makole is studying towards a BSc degree in civil engineering. He is an advocate of driving change towards circular and sustainable resource economies in emerging markets through engineering and entrepreneurship. He believes skills he has picked up leading the UCT Consulting Club and Engineers Without Borders will make such change possible.



Liz Mubari is a 3rd year mechanical and mechatronics engineering student who is passionate about sustainability, research and the technological advancement of Africa. She is currently the president of the largest youth-run organisation, AIESEC, at UCT and has served in the EBE student council and various other leadership structures in the university.

Each storyteller is a KJB scholar.

The Klaus-Jürgen Bathe (KJB) Leadership Programme is a two-year UCT scholarship programme for nurturing future leaders.

The KJB Future Leadership Series aims to amplify the voices of young future leaders on important issues at home and across the globe.

More information about the KJB Programme: www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za
This series is brought to you in partnership with the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies and UCT's Futures Think Tank.

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In partnership with:



Centre for Extra-Mural Studies

NOVEMBER NEWS 2020



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For more information

www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

Episode 3: KJB “Future Scenario 5” Nov 2020:

(Local Youth Perspectives on our collective Global Futures)

With graphic harvesting

Click on the below image to listen to full recording:



KJB

Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
Leadership
Programme

For more information

www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

“Future Scenario 5”

**Thursday 26 November 2020,
15:30–16:30 SAST**



**With
Graphic
Harvesting**

Figure 6 Youtube Recording of Episode 3

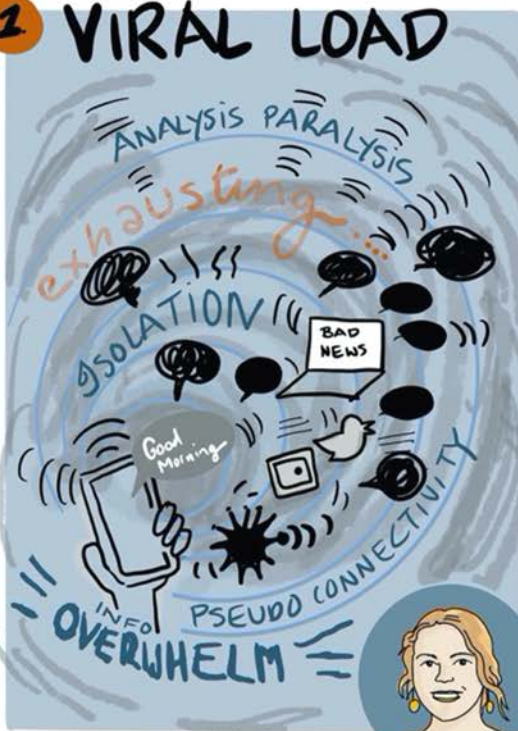

***This webinar included graphic harvesting. Below is what was created during the session:*

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES

FUTURE SCENARIO 5






1 VIRAL LOAD



Angela
EUSTON-BROWN

2. FIRST-AID HAMMER & a SPADE

Micaella
ROGERS


3 The UPSIDE DOWN CLASSROOM

Patrick
MWAKA

The YOUTH are our PRESENT

Let's create our FUTURE!!



KJB
Kisumu Region Youth Leadership Programme



KJB

Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
Leadership
Programme

For more information

www.kjbatheleadership.uct.ac.za

FUTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES PRESENTS:

"FUTURE SCENARIO 5"

Thursday, 26th November 2020
15:30-16:30 SAST

RSVP: ems@uct.ac.za for the link.

Platform: MS Teams

With
Graphic
Harvesting

*Moderated by Abbas Jamie,
Futurist (UCT Futures Think Tank)*

In this serving of the **KJB Future Leadership Series** we take you on a journey using, as inspiration, the Four UNESCO Future Scenarios* of a post-pandemic world, ranging from the "Zombie Apocalypse" to the "Global Health Awakening".

During this webinar, three KJB Students will take on this challenge and present their own versions of a global post-pandemic "Future Scenario 5".

Welcome to co-creating the future!



KJB Scholar speakers (L-R): Patrick Mwaka, Micaella Rogers, Angela Euston-Brown

**UNESCO Chair in Future Studies, Professor Inayatullah, created four post-pandemic global future scenarios which will be used as inspiration for this re-imagining session.*

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In partnership with UCT's Futures Think Tank and UCT's Summer School.



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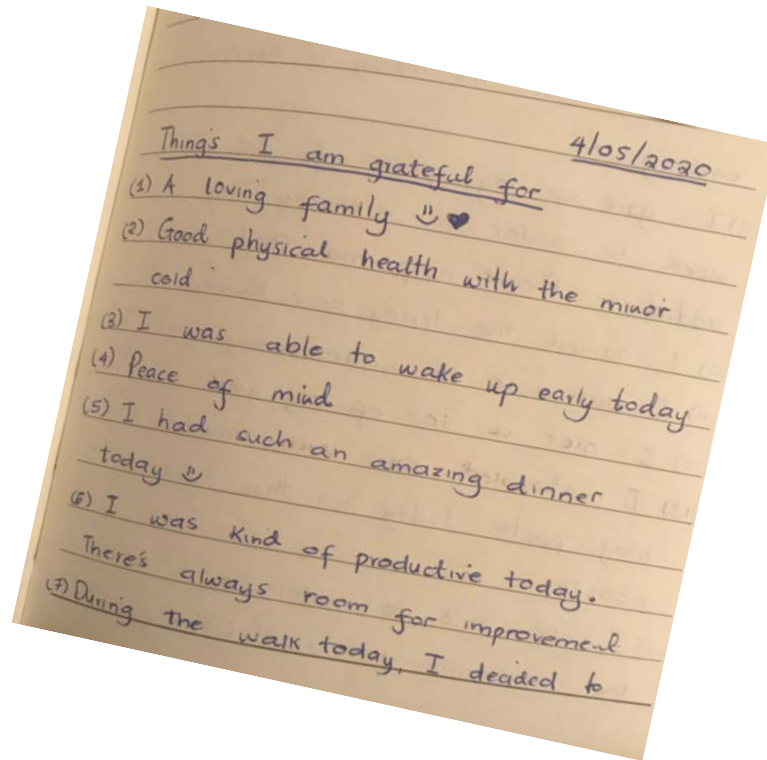
Summer School
Open learning for all

UCT **Think Tank**
Futures

"HINDSIGHT IS 2020" - REFLECTIONS

LOCKDOWN REFLECTIONS | After a year of tumult, what did we learn?

KJB Scholars share their lockdown reflections for 2020:



My Gratitude Journal

Liz Mbari

When the lockdown was announced in South Africa, I ended up getting stranded with no means to get back to my family in Kenya. It was extremely overwhelming and so to make the days more bearable before we were reunited, I started writing. What started as a gratitude journal where I would write 5 things that had made me happy during the day before bed each day, evolved to be so much more. It became life-changing.

Suddenly, because I was always on the look out for these 5 things during the day that I would need to write in the evening, I began to notice the many amazing things that would happen during the day. Things that I had often taken for granted before like taking a walk, a warm shower or having a clear mind became major entries in my journal. After a few weeks, I was going out of my way to make sure over 20 great things happened each day.

This self reflection changed my life. I became aware of my own skills and talents from compliments I received because I journaled them. Normally, I would have said thank you and never thought about it again but when my aunt continuously complimented my food and I kept journaling it, it made me aware that I could cook good food. Also, because I was constantly exploring different things to meet the 20 minimum requirement, I pushed myself

out of my comfort zone to explore new areas that I would never have thought of otherwise. I stumbled upon gold.

For someone who had absolutely no interest in business, I attended an entrepreneurship event. I ended up pitching my business idea to one of the largest companies in the world. For someone who has never taught in her life, I took a teaching course. I will be a certified teacher soon. I have since been reunited with my family, yet the impact of the self awareness I gained and the small improvements I made everyday in isolation is still so profound on my life.

I am grateful for my 2020 gratitude journal.



Figure 7 rismedia.com

What I realised during the lockdown

Alistair White

Lockdown gave me the perfect opportunity to look inwards..., to be honest, it just reached a point where there wasn't much else to do. As I was alone for a lot of it, I had to find what drives me and gets me ticking in the morning and then focus on that.

I am generally a reserved person (or at least I think so); I thoroughly enjoy fiddling away at a problem or role-playing possibilities in my head for hours at an end. However, being away from everyone made me realise what drives me to solve problems and what really gets me excited for life is a sense of community. Having people around me who I care for, and who care for others in return. Being detached from it during lockdown put me in the classic situation of "you don't know what you have till you don't have it anymore."

If anything, lockdown was like handing me a bucketful of perspective and then drenching me in it. It realigned my priority list – family and community getting pushed up to the top where they should belong. It then gave me a friendly nudge to remind me that there was more to

life than my degree and the reason why I chose my degree was more important than the degree. I chose after 4 years be in a better position to help my community, not just to walk away with decent marks. Getting the space to realise that before my degree is complete is something I am very grateful for.



Figure 8: katonahlibrary.org

Health Scare

Peace Francis

As a medical student, health has always been something I have been passionate about. Over the past six years, both health and disease have been my primary foci – studying it, treating it, living it. I often take the knowledge I have amassed over my medical career for granted. Health pervades every aspect of our lives – it feels more accessible than other fields like engineering or architecture, thus easier to understand and stay informed about. However, as the lockdown was announced and a pandemic declared, I slowly began to see that this passion of mine - my life and career - was not as accessible as I had hoped.

The first part of my lockdown was filled with conversations with my parents, me dispelling myths about the virus and providing information I thought was basic and universal. It made me pause and reflect...this knowledge is not obvious – it was in my senior years of high school life science or my early years of medical school that I was educated about the difference between a virus and a bacteria and the varying treatment modalities. It was in university that I learned how to appraise scientific literature and analyse the quality and rigor of medical

information. It is impossible to be a specialist in all fields and it is understandable that my parents, who work in the governance and NGO spheres, needed someone to help frame the medical issue on hand. As the pandemic advanced and I returned to the clinical platform, I realised that more needs to be done to ensure our society is given access to the basic information about health and disease. Health, disease, are very personal but also societal. Navigating the final months of my medical school career during a Global pandemic was tough but reinforced the importance of using every patient encounter as a way of empowering patients with information about health.

My hope is that we leave this pandemic a healthier population and a population more educated about and attuned to our health.

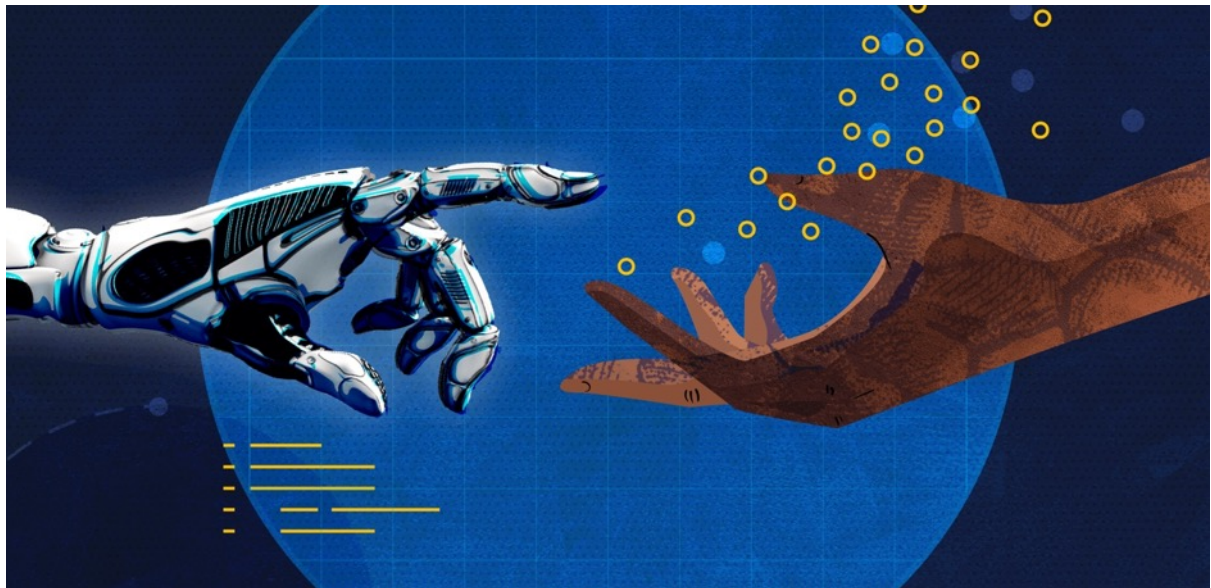


Figure 9: www.atlassian.com

“Alexa, play Destiny’s Child’s *I’m a Survivor*”

Khanya Mamba

I took the Jung personality type assessment a few months ago as part of an academic course I am completing, and the test indicated that I am a Judging, Sensing and Thinking personality type. This means that I like to be structured in my approach to work, think objectively about the problems I face, and that I focus on the facts and details of a learning experience. There are ways in which these traits enhanced my ability to cope with lockdown, but there are also other ways in which they made the adjustment to this period all the more challenging.

The surprise and uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as waiting for structure to emerge with respect to both how the country was going to handle the pandemic and what my own academic and personal year was going to look like was extremely stressful for me (and I’m sure many others). Online learning brought its own challenges and having to do learn the details of a whole new way of doing work that I already had a successful, thorough approach to was a stress-point. For the first few weeks of online learning, I felt like a fish out of water. Home has always been a place for me to relax and socialize, so making that mental shift to actually be productive in that space was a challenge. That being said, my ultimate response to all these emotions was surprisingly constructive - I thought objectively

about how to structure my time. I drew up realistic 'To Do' lists at the start of each morning and ticked items off as I completed them. I made sure to schedule both work and relaxation time to establish a healthy balance in my daily activities. When I realised I was in a sink or swim situation, 'survival' instincts kicked in and I was able to summon the will to combat things that overwhelmed me, and I'm really proud of myself for that. If there is anything lockdown has taught me, it's that I can handle a lot more than I think – and that feels amazing.

Despite the difficulties of lockdown (and there have been many), I have changed and learned so much about myself in this time that the challenges do feel worth it. I hope I continue to grow for as long as it is here.



Figure 10: Artist, Norman O'Flynn

Masks On

Kate Davies

The start of the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa – with the closing of schools, universities, and most businesses – brought about a time to slow down and reflect for many. Personally, this experience took me through a journey of apprehension, relief, gratefulness, and acceptance. The initial shock of a country-wide lockdown and my constant need to check the news for the latest updates built up anxious feelings within me – as I'm sure many others were feeling. Number of COVID cases in South Africa, Lockdown regulations in SA, and How long will the lockdown last, were some of my top Google searches. However, I finally realised that during this chaotic and unprecedented time, for once Google wouldn't be able to answer my numerous questions. This realisation brought me a sense of relief. During the COVID pandemic, the number of decisions and options within my control were limited and had to let go of concerns beyond my reach.

The initial lockdown level 5 regulations enforced strict rules to prevent people from leaving their homes, except for essential items or services. This created a time in which many of the

‘unnecessary’ activities in my life were stripped away and my typically busy schedule slowed down. In reflecting on this period, it became clearly evident that the thing I missed the most was daily interactions with friends and classmates. All other restricted activities seemed insignificant in comparison to the challenge of being physically isolated from the people in my community. During the current eased lockdown regulations, I am most grateful for being able to see friends and family again. The final stage I experienced in my journey was acceptance. The COVID pandemic has brought about a ‘new-normal’. It became important for me to accept that many things in our country – and around the world – will not go back to the way they used to be. Instead of clinging to the past we should work towards a new, transformed future.

For now, this involves keeping our masks on, caring for those in need, and working together to develop solutions and plans for the way forward.



Figure 11 Photograph by Tomekbudujedomek

Lockdown Chronicles

Patrick Mwaka

2020 has been a tough year for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic took us by surprise and had severe implications on physical health, mental health, economic sustenance, and many other sectors. The challenges posed to each of us this year have been massive, and it is no small achievement to all who have made it to the end of this year. Regardless of the number of unfortunate events this year has been filled with, it has not come to an end without teaching me a few valuable lessons. The most valuable one being that of resilience. Coping with lockdown, isolation, and uncertainty of the global situation was not easy. However, coming up with new ways to cope with the anxiety and keep busy was an interesting part of this year.

The occasional leadership series with my KJB colleagues also offered a great opportunity to share ideas on how to change the world and to also learn from a diverse group of people. In hindsight, 2020 has not been all doom and gloom because I believe I have made more strides

this year, towards becoming a more well-rounded person. The online events within my faculty and the KJB community have offered me the unique opportunity to learn from different people, hone my presentation skills and become more confident in myself, albeit in unconventional circumstances and I am grateful for that.

All in all, I am grateful to all who were and continue to be involved in their various capacities to fight the pandemic because we all would not be safe without them. Thank you for leading from the frontlines, a truly inspirational group of heroes. Going forward, I am ready to stand up and make a lasting and meaningful impact on my society in any way I can.



Shifting perspective

Mustapha Singlee

I remembering entering this year with an overflowing eagerness to improve in all facets of my life. I was determined to carry-on the momentum I had accrued in the previous years into this year. I made a priority to consolidate my relations with the people close to me, to focus on my physical/mental health and to finally embrace the discomfort of trying and learning new things.

A spanner was thrown into the works and I was forced to re-evaluate what this year would mean to me. With the isolation that came with lockdown I was unable to build-on the relations I made previously. I noticed a decline in my physical health as I could no longer

partake in sports or attend gym and the comfort-zone became my default residence. I found myself caught in a highly viscous element unable to progress to my desired destination.

I was permitted a perspective that I would not have otherwise gained if not in this state of stasis. This state gave me the time to pause and reflect on the condition of others around me. So many others in my community were caught in worse predicaments than myself brought about by the overwhelming job loss and the subsequent loss of income. Entering this year I was so focused on myself, my goals and my aspirations - all my energy directed to the individual that I forgot my duty to the collective. We live in a world plagued by something perhaps worse than this virus and that is the individualistic culture that is so pervasive. Our survival as a species is predicated on group and social cooperation and our downfall could very well be the belief that we are indeed self-reliant and independent of others.

This year has taken so much from many of us – our livelihoods, our health, our loved ones .

My hope is that the following year becomes a year where we can focus our energy on giving back and in so doing finally begin to heal. That is my resolution.



Figure 12 wallpaperaccess.com

The Sky is the Limit

Simba Gomwe

With borders closing, business ceasing and people isolating, my year can be summed up in two words: limits and boundaries.

I saw my limits in every way. The amount of work I could set out to do. How much time I could spend alone. How long I could keep my spirits up. This necessitated the formation of boundaries. Where I worked, could not be where I slept. I could not be accessible to everyone all the time. I had to limit what I saw on social media. The recurring theme of limitation and

boundaries was, for the most part, stifling. Trapped in a cycle of needing to be productive and positive and failing at it not so gracefully.

While boundaries and limits have connotations of confinement (which is very true), these themes became all the more liberating as time passed.

Through boundaries and limits, I formulated an understanding of what was important and what mattered. I learnt more about what put a smile on my face and how I enjoyed my time. Importantly, limits taught me how to compartmentalise and deal with one thing at a time.

So, while stifled and 'trapped' - I learnt the most liberating thing- I learnt about myself. Living life within the correct limits and setting healthy boundaries. That is the most liberating way to live and thrive, and I take this lesson with me.



What I realised during this pandemic

Nuvi Pillay

2020 has been a life-changing year for most people. It has pushed us to the boundaries of our resilience and brought out the best and worst within us. COVID-19 has drawn attention to the deep cracks in our society and that has left me questioning ideas of activism and social change. Yet, the pandemic has also brought about several personal realisations that have re-aligned my priorities and spurred personal growth.

This year has made me to re-examine ideas of leadership, social change and activism and how to translate these ideas into the scary new world we find ourselves in. Ultimately, the actions I have witnessed in this period has demonstrated that compassion is the foundation of activism and social change. At their core, social change and activism are about the way we relate to each other. This subtle form of activism starts with little acts of kindness towards the people you love and the compassion you show to those in more vulnerable spaces than you. Despite its simplicity, its impact should not be underestimated.

My first personal realisation was just how much of my energy is drawn from the people around me and my reliance on my support system. While this year has been extremely challenging, I am extremely grateful for the love, empathy and kindness I have experienced during this time. I have realised that while academic excellence and other achievements are noble pursuits, it is over-shadowed by the value of family, friends and your community.

Lastly, this year has taught me that even the best laid plans can go astray. This has led me to place less emphasis on 'planning the next step' and more emphasis on appreciating the ups and downs of 'the current step'. Overall, 2020 has been a year of change that has made me realise what I value and has made me appreciate the changes that have occurred and those that are yet to come.



"Winds of bitter-sweet"

Leago Sebesho

With the world facing a health crisis that had many implications on the livelihoods of many, it was the first time in my adult life that I faced this daunting feeling of everything in my life becoming unpredictable. The call to distance ourselves socially also meant that we would spend more time in our homes and with ourselves - I quickly realised that I would have to find things that would keep me above the water.

Staying afloat meant holding onto the sweet things but never rejecting the bitter - because it is the bitter that internally develops us to become better versions of ourselves. However, the problem with 'bitter-sweet' is that we naturally want to focus on the bitter, sort it out, and move past it. This pandemic showed us that sometimes the nightmare goes on for months with various levels to how bad it can get. This means that we had to learn now more than ever that the bitter and the sweet need to co-exist and that we need to learn how to live in the labyrinth of both those things.

Just like a breeze that hits randomly in the heat of summer, we hold onto its cooling nature but we are also well acquainted with the fact that we do not know when the next breeze will come - that has never stopped us from living in the summer. Therefore, with so much loss and dysfunction, the pandemic has taught me to embrace the unknown and hold onto the sweet things that make me want to actualise my dreams.

If we cannot move past the bitter, we need to master the art of navigating winds of bitter-sweet.



Lockdown Reflections

Lucy Wills

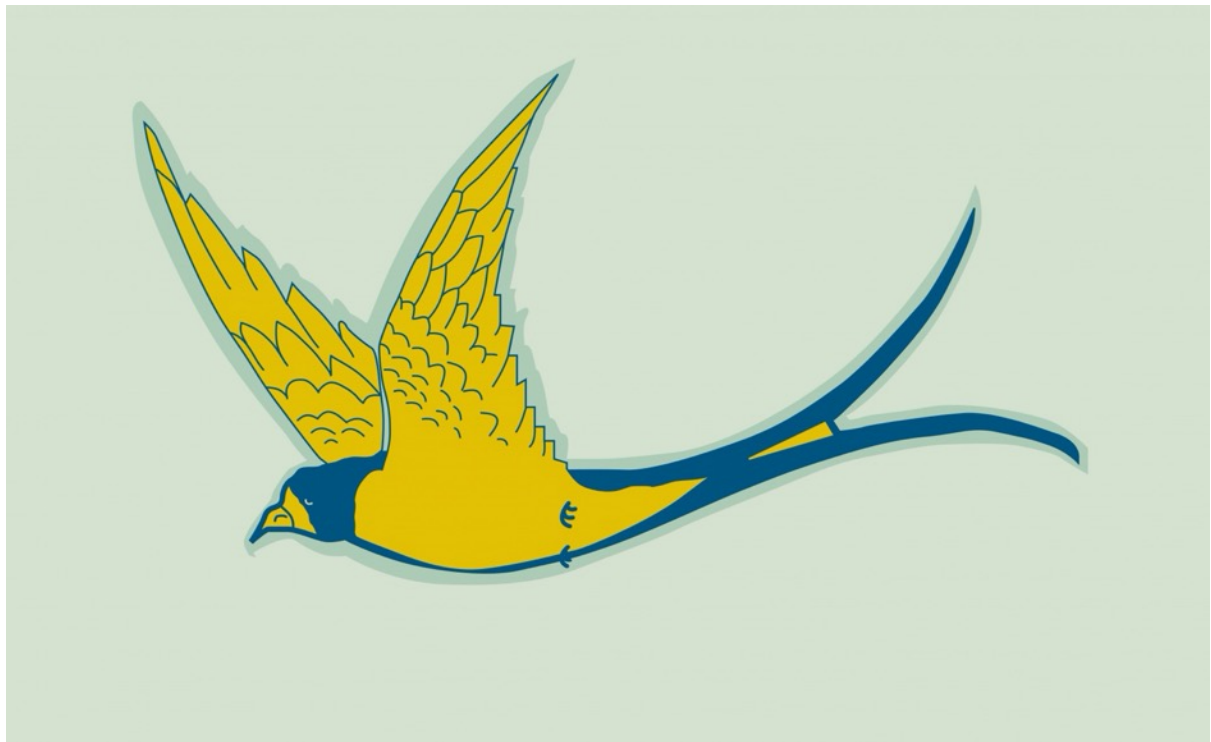
I lost a close friend at the end of 2018 and it has deeply shaken my perspective of the world.

At the start of lockdown, I felt a rising anxiousness at the idea of having to sit with myself and process this loss – something that I have previously allowed the fast-paced nature of my life to distract from. There have been some high highs and some low-lows, but I was surprised when I initially felt a sense of calm as the world around me slowed down. The sentiment from the poem “Funeral Blues” by W.H Auden, a high school classic known for its line “Stop all the clocks” came to mind.

Things haven’t felt right for a while – and this applies not only to my sense of loss but also my increasingly complex perspective of the state of the world. With issues on race, climate change, GBV and the very real dangers of capitalism (and how all of these are connected) being brought into more meaningful mainstream conversation there has been an acknowledgement that we as a society can and must do better – which has reflected my internal state of conflict. There are many issues in South African society that need urgent and

long-lasting solutions (a tough combination) – and there has been devastation brought to many by this pandemic and the economic stagnation resulting from it, but I have also witnessed huge displays of compassion and a renewed commitment to the powerful idea of community.

This year has been an important catalyst for self-growth. Some lockdown thoughts of note: guilt is not a productive emotion, mental health should be as much a priority as physical health (and the two are closely interlinked) and that grief can open your heart to the perspective of other people suffering from different challenges, if you let it. And importantly, this year has reaffirmed my belief that everyone has a role to play in working towards a more equal and compassionate society, especially those in positions of privilege.



2020: the year that flew past

Callum Tilbury

This unprecedented year has truly been a roller-coaster. A lucky few have thrived in the strange circumstances; many have not—facing hardship, hunger, death. I certainly group myself with the privileged, knowing that my needs have always been met, and I could occasionally emulate normalcy in my own small life. It is in this fortunate position I find myself reflecting on my key takeaway from the year: how quickly it flew past. Indeed, I am lucky even to say that... for many, I imagine, the year has been a never-ending period of tumult. But, here I am—at the end of 2020, at the end of my degree—asking, "where did it all go?"

I am now acutely aware of how I wished away some of the hard days irresponsibly—hoping to rush through a challenging project, test, assignment. Now, with it coming to an end, I am reminded of how those moments—though difficult—were nonetheless important, and

should be valued as such. And in this year, too, the tough days—days of boredom, days of longing, days of pain—were still days in which the sun rose and set, and were days in which I could breathe and have hope. For that, I am immensely grateful.

As the Roman stoic, Seneca, brilliantly remarked:

"Life will follow the path it began to take, and will neither reverse nor check its course. It will cause no commotion to remind you of its swiftness, but glide on quietly. It will not lengthen itself for a king's command or a people's favour. As it started out on its first day, so it will run on, nowhere pausing or turning aside. What will be the outcome? You have been preoccupied while life hastens on. Meanwhile death will arrive, and you have no choice in making yourself available for that."



Figure 13 Seneca (4BC -65 AD)

THANK YOU 2020

VOTE OF THANKS | The KJB Leadership Programme thanks all those who contributed meaningfully to the programme during 2020. It has been a difficult year, but the collaborative effort and spirit of togetherness was certainly felt albeit remotely! Thank you to

of course our donor, Prof. Klaus-Jürgen Bathe for his vision and leadership in the creation of this Programme, to Prof. Alphose Zingoni for steering the ship, and to colleagues in the office Belisa and Tammy.

Thank you also goes to the strong partnerships that emerged this year without which the programme would not have so smoothly navigated the online programme development. Thanks goes to UCT's Development and Alumni Department, UCT's Futures Think Tank, UCT Summer School and UCT's ICTS Department.

Also, thank you to the KJB scholars for showing true leadership and resilience this year and engaging in the programme activities despite the complexity of our times! Sharpening your tools of analysis during the KJB bootcamp, webinar and amongst your peers has truly been refreshing and liberating to see, may you navigate 2021 with as much enthusiasm as you showed in 2020.

Lastly, thank you to our supporters and followers who took the time to follow our activities and interact with us online, whether it be through Facebook, MS Teams or via email. Your support means a lot. Please do continue supporting our young future leaders by following our page:

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