



---

# Promoting Women in Physics in South Africa

---

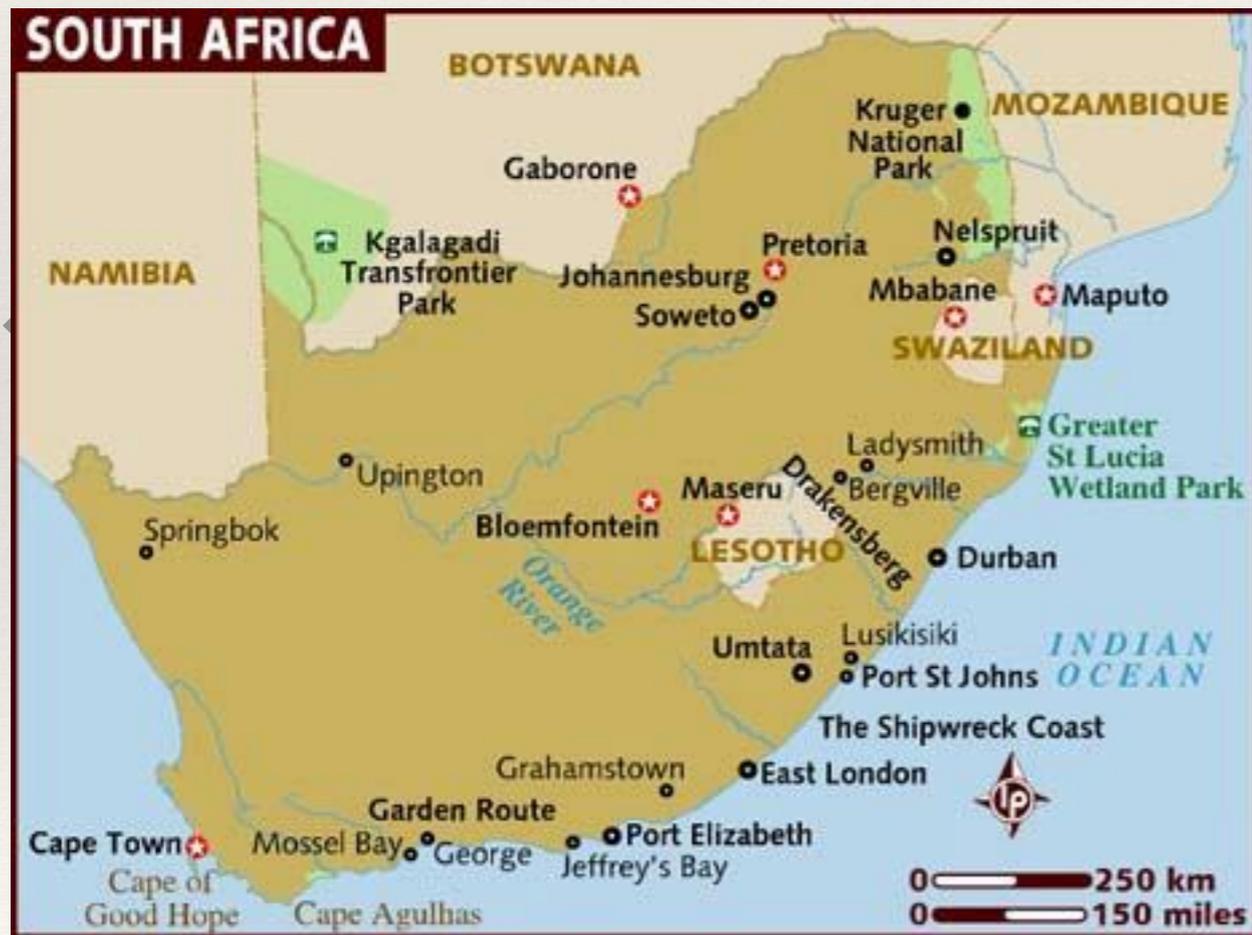
Kate Shaw,  
Sahal Yacoob

Abdus Salam International  
Centre for Theoretical Physics,  
University of Cape Town

*Women in Physics in South Africa  
(WiPiSA)*

# South Africa

- Population: 55.6 Million (2016)
  - 51% female
  - 36.2 % between 15 and 34
  - Access to Water: 85% (households)
  - Access to Electricity 90% (households)
  - First Democratic Election — 1994
  - 8.1 % White
  - 19.9% cannot afford food (households)
  - 25 - 35% unemployment
  - 54% below the poverty line



Images from [LonelyPlanet.com](http://LonelyPlanet.com)

# Women in Education in South Africa

---

- South Africa is still predominantly patriarchal
  - preference generally given to males
  - Many official policies in place encourage previously disadvantaged groups
- In 2011:
- 17% of University leadership were women (SET)
- 21% of Full Professors (SET)
- 40-44% of Natural and Agricultural Science Doctoral graduates are female
- 15-17 % Engineering Science, Materials and Technologies doctoral graduates

# Diversity in Physics Academia

- ❖ Completely Anecdotal: I have been employed at two South African Universities:

Institute	A	B
Women	0/10	1/15
non-white South Africans	2/10 1/10	2/15 0/15

# Encouraging a change

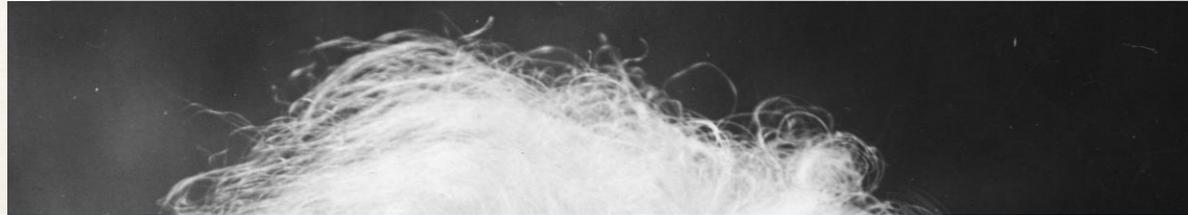


Photo credit: Gregor Leigh

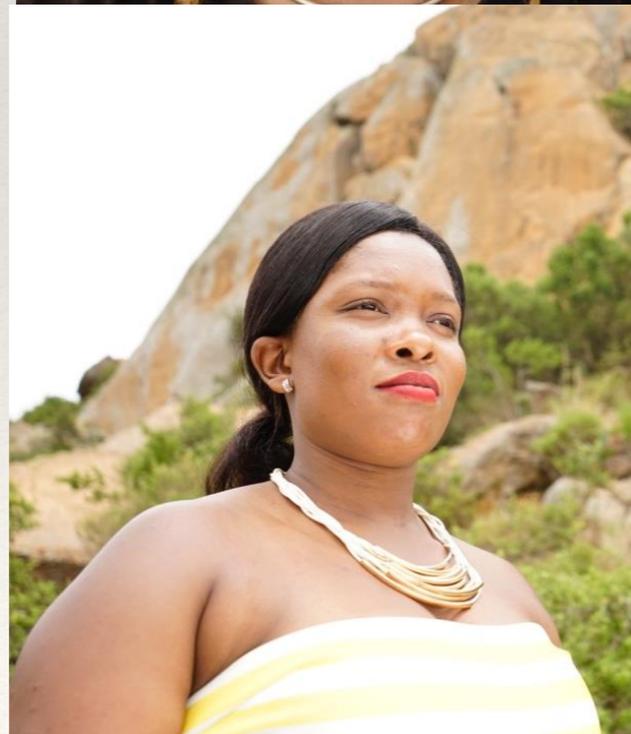
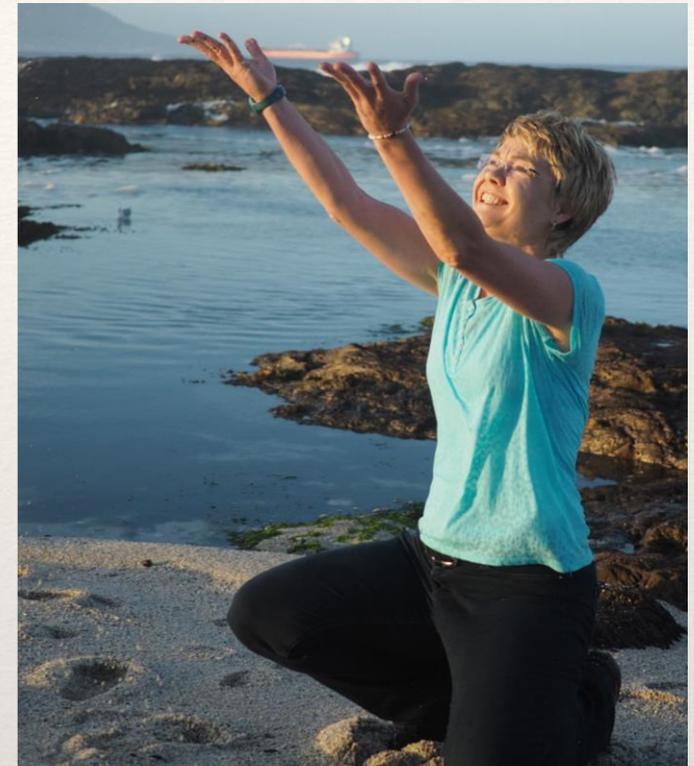


Photo credit:wikipedia

---

# Our 7 Stars

---



# Some Quotes

*“Traditionally a woman's role is to stay home and take care of the house and kids. So you want to go to university, and do, what, with that degree?”*

*“I think they are intimidated by a woman, they cannot accept a woman doing better than them”*

*“When my mother wanted to go to school her dad said no. A woman who goes to school becomes undesirable. So women don't go to school, they must listen to their husbands. So that's how village people are raised. “*

*“If we have a boy and a girl and we have a bicycle then you'll find the boy always will have the first go, until he has had enough, then it's the girls turn. A girl can't be better than you, you know. It starts with the small things.”*

