

# Intergenerational Relations in Africa with a special focus on South Africa

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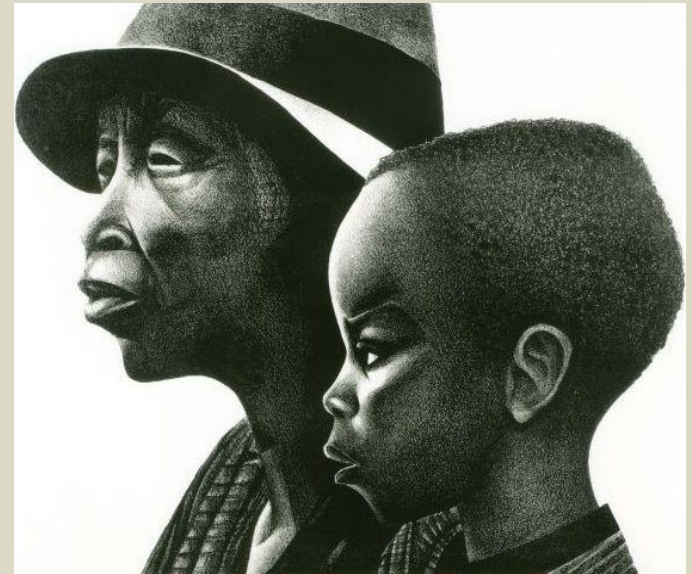
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# AIMS OF THE PRESENTATION

To present an understanding of Intergenerational issues in Africa with a focus on South Africa.

A brief Context:

- Africa not a uniform and homogenous developmental and demographic entity
- SA just emerged from an Apartheid past



# AIMS OF THE PRESENTATION (contd.)

## Main issues discussed:

- Intergenerationality: The Concept
- Wealth flow between generations
- Demographic change
- Information Technology
- Hybridity
- Policy Options



# Flow of wealth among generations in Africa

- Caldwell's Wealth Flow "theory" (1976)
  - Wealth flow in "Primitive" societies
  - Wealth Flow in "Modern" societies
  - Conditions for "fertility change"



# Evidence from South Africa

## **Unidirectional Wealth Model:**

- The wealth flows from parent to children when children are young
- A long period of lull: no transfers
- Then a windfall from parents to children in the form of inheritances

## **Multidirectional Flow Models:**

- Wealth flows from parents when they are young
- Children expected to send remittances to parents
- Parents assist children during economic and social crisis

## **Challenges to wealth flow between generations:**

- High unemployment
- Unstable jobs
- Collapse of rural economy

# Fertility Change and Intergenerational relations

- Fertility decline is underway in most parts of sub-Saharan Africa (Makiwane and Chimere-Dan 2010)
- Fertility decline progressed much further in North and Southern Africa
- Fertility decline is widespread even in the context of poverty
- Continued early childbearing in all of Africa (World Bank 2010)

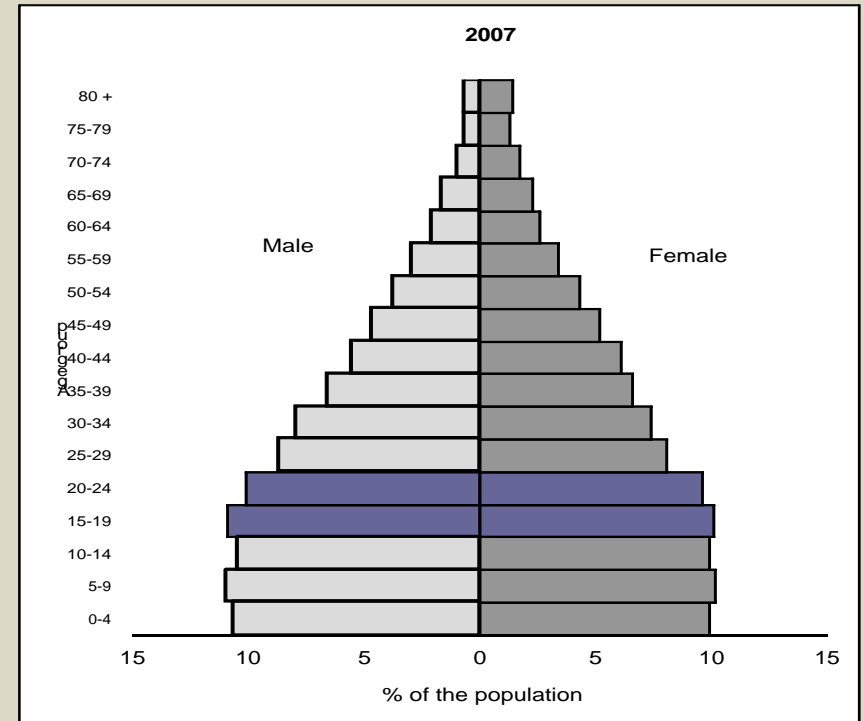
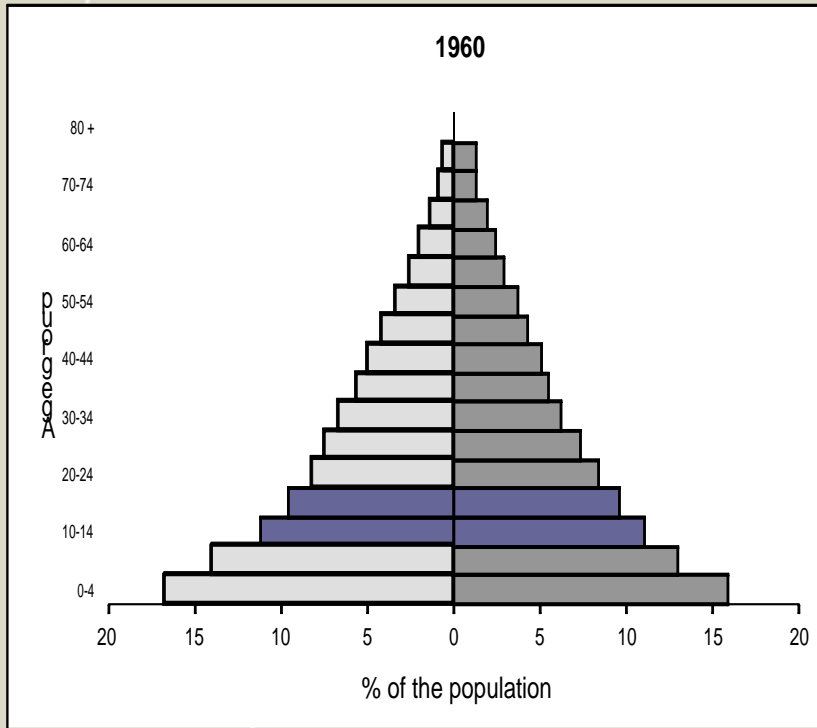


# Mortality and Intergenerational Relations

- High adult mortality in Africa thus increase in the number of orphans (Jamison et al. 2006)
- Adult mortality is highest in regions which have been most affected by HIV/AIDS
- Grandparents play a leading role in the care of orphans



# Evidence of youth bulge in SA





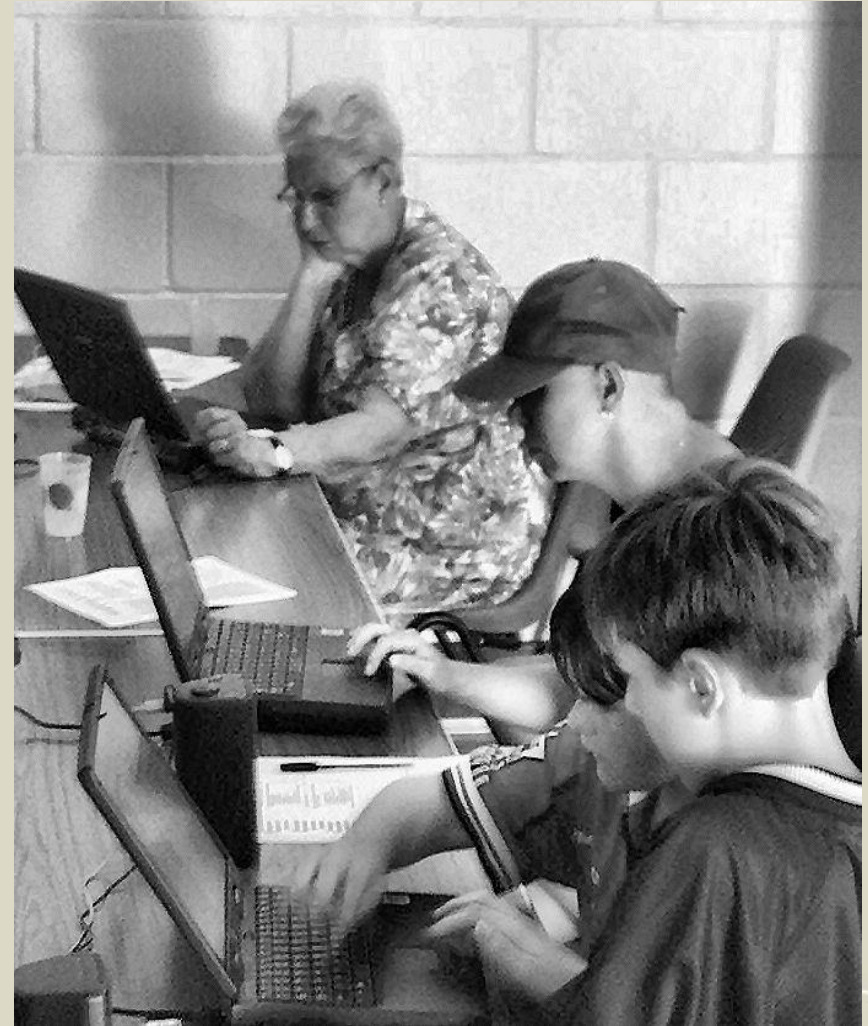
# Youth Bulge and Intergenerational Relations

- Result of decline in fertility, a bulge in the working population emerges.
- Demographic change driven by fertility decline *not mortality*
- Will Africa be able to make use of the youth bulge?
- Future of youth bulge in Africa: *Much longer than anywhere else?*



# The Youth and communication technology

- Could the *youth dividend* manifest differently in Africa?
- E.g, through unprecedented penetration of mobile phones.
- Diverse usage, e.g. monitoring elections, delivering health messages, money transfers, banking and distance education



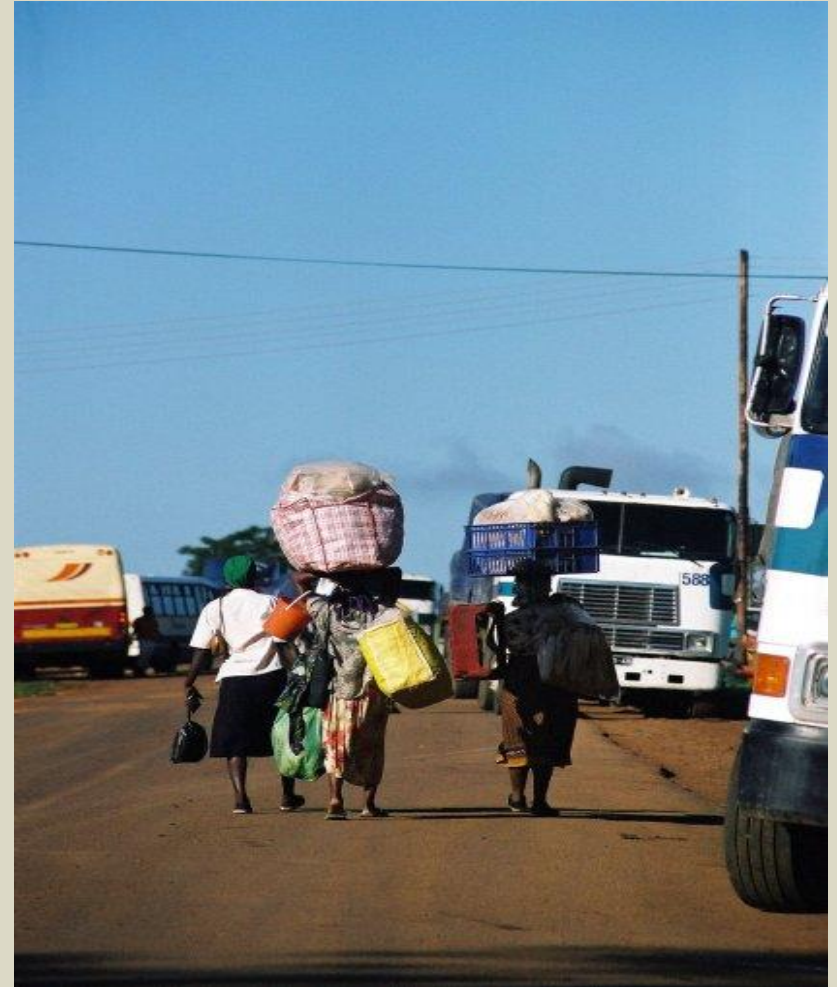
# The Second Demographic Dividend

- The elderly are few (about 5%) *but a growing* population in Africa
- The elderly play a key role in caring for orphans and vulnerable children
- Where there is Social Security, it provides a social net for older persons to support entire households



# Migration and intergenerational relations

- High out migration of skilled young people from Africa
- Destination becoming diverse and growing feminization of migration.
- Low rate of remittances into sub-Saharan Africa.



# Hybridity and intergenerational relations

- “Creation of new trans-cultural forms within the contact zone” (Litvack 2006).
- Assumptions of new forms of expression, including linguistic, cultural and political expressions
- *Positive*: Mutuality of the process
- *Negative*: Multiple demands; Migrants erasing the memory of their background



# Policy options

- Programmes to reduce early childbearing
- Support for voluntary and flexible economic and social participation among youth
- Technology and media that encourages better intergenerational relations
- Better facilitation of Money Flows between migrants and the sending community

# REFERENCES

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**Thank you!  
Ke a leboga!  
Ngiyabonga!**



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