

Katherine Kendall Award

Bio

*Leila Patel is Professor of Social Development Studies and holds the South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa. She is also the Founding Director of the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA where she is based and conducts leading edge research in social welfare and social work in development contexts. Much of this research grapples with documenting and understanding the progression of social welfare and social development in the Global South in a rapidly changing world. Her research interests include social protection, gender, care and social work and social services for children and families and youth with a particular focus on youth employment issues. Currently she is also conducting research on the impact of national minimum wage policies on excluded populations and the role of socio-economic rights in electoral politics in South Africa. Her work experience spans academia, government, non-profit organisations and private sector social involvement initiatives. She was the former Director General of Social Welfare in the Mandela government and played a leading role in the development of South Africa's welfare policy after apartheid. Since leaving government in 1998, Leila returned to academia first as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and later, as head of the Department of Social Work at the University of Johannesburg where she spearheaded the transformation of the social work curriculum from a treatment oriented approach to a social developmental one in a new and emerging democracy. Her recent books are *Development, Social Policy and Community Action: Lessons from below* edited with Marianne Ulriksen, HSRC Press, 2017; *Social Welfare and Social Development*, Oxford University Press, 2015 and *Social Protection in Southern Africa*, Routledge, 2014 (edited with James Midgley and Marianne Ulriksen). She has produced 125 single authored and co-authored/edited publications and contributes regularly to local and international conferences where she has delivered among others the Dan Sanders Peace and Justice Lecture (ICSD, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia 2019); a lecture on comparative community based developmental social work models in South Africa and China, Yunnan University, China (2019); the Walter Friedlander Memorial Lecture, School of Social Welfare (2016), University of California, Berkeley; and the Michael Davis lecture, School of Social Administration, University of Chicago (2013). She was the Helen Harris Pearlman Visiting Professor for International Social Welfare, University of Chicago (2013) where she lectured on developmental social work. In 2014, Leila received the Distinguished Woman*

Scientist Award in the Humanities and the Social Sciences from the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation, South Africa; an Achievement Award in Social Development from the International Consortium for Social Development in 2019 and the Katherine Kendall Award for advancing social work education internationally from the International Association of Schools of Social Work (2020). Leila has a post graduate diploma in social work, University of the Western Cape (SA), an MSW from West Michigan University (USA), and a PhD, from University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (SA).