

Preface

Sponsored by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the South African BRICS Think Tank, organised the multidisciplinary *2018 Peace and Security Symposium*, and the *2024 International Conference on the Nexus between Security and Economy*. For this volume, of the *Alternation African Scholars Book Series*, Nirmala Devi Gopal and Gert Kruger, together with Sandhya Maharaj, the conference organisers, brought together some seminal papers from these events, titled, *The BRICS Peace, Security and Economy Intersections*.

The BRICS nations – (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) – represent a significant geopolitical and economic force on the global stage. As a collective, BRICS represent the interests of these nations themselves as well as the developing world more broadly speaking. BRICS also aims to promote and mobilise for peace and security as well as for security and viable and constructive economic engagements and development in and for the BRICS nations, as well as worldwide.

Beyond their geopolitical initiatives for peace and justice internationally, the BRICS nations' additional main focus is on their economic prominence and competitiveness, and especially their emerging leading roles in economic development globally. In their developing framework, BRICS also share complex security challenges and risks that intersect with their economic objectives, with regard to their cybersecurity over a broad front, citizens' financial and medical security, good governance and human rights, the global drug trade, unemployment in especially Africa, trade and institutional investment, energy, intelligence, and psychological security, amongst others. As such, the evolving dynamics within the BRICS framework demand a nuanced understanding of the interplay between security studies and economic imperatives, that provides a framework for secure economic development and the fostering of economic resilience.

So, in response to these realities, the *2018 Peace and Security Symposium* deliberated seminal research focuses on the role of BRICS at the global and United Nations levels; on matters related to African continental, and Indian ocean maritime security; and on BRICS leadership concerning the post-Western era, the promotion of peace operations, and especially in the de-escalation of armed conflict and cybercrime internationally.

Subsequently, the *2024 International Conference on the Nexus between Security and Economy* addressed the intersection of security studies

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and economic objectives within the BRICS Framework. The conference delved into the intricate interplay between security challenges and economic imperatives within the framework of the BRICS nations. It provided a platform for scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders to engage in critical discussions, share insights, and explore innovative approaches toward understanding and addressing the complex dynamics at the intersection and articulation of security and economic priorities and challenges, within the BRICS context.

Some of the seminal papers addressed the security problematics and interventions related to regional and domestic cybersecurity that include,

- social media;
- governance, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and social dialogue, as essential foundations for peace and security in an expanded BRICS, including the countering of transnational cybercrime;
- financial matters related to economic integration in the BRICS nations; and
- BRICS investment, and economic aspects related to on-, and off-shore energy generation security, and environmental security;
- challenges related to reliable intelligence gathering;
- psycho-social security at local and communal levels; and
- plans toward the global improvement and preparation for future health pandemics.

Since its founding on 16 June 2009, in Yekaterinburg, Russia, with South Africa joining on 24 December 2010, BRICS's influence worldwide has grown systematically. We are grateful that this volume makes a helpful contribution to the developing BRICS discourse and impacts, in key areas of cybersecurity and economics.

Prof. Johannes A. Smit
Professor of Religion and Social
Transformation
Chair: College of Humanities Institute
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Pietermaritzburg & Durban
smitj@ukzn.ac.za

Prof. Nirmala Devi Gopal
Criminology & Security Studies
Department of Criminology &
Forensic Studies
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Durban
Gopal@ukzn.ac.za