

Manuel Castells

Visit to Cape Town, South Africa
August 2009

The engagement with Prof. Castells and the development of an approach to strengthening social theory and PhD training, particularly in the social sciences and humanities, is a joint venture between the Cape Higher Education Consortium (particularly the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Western Cape), the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) and the Centre for Higher Education Transformation (CHET).

Prof. Castells is one of the five most cited social scientists in the world; he has published 23 books, co-authored 21 and published over 100 articles in academic journals. The trilogy *The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture* (Blackwell), has been translated into 22 languages, and *The Internet Galaxy* (Oxford) translated into 15 languages. His latest book, *Communication Power* – an empirically grounded theory of power in the network society – is being published by Oxford University Press. Eleven books have been published about the work of Castells, including *The Challenge of Globalisation: South African Debates with Manuel Castells* (Johan Muller, Nico Cloete & Shireen Badat [eds], MaskewMiller Longman, 2001).

Prof. Castells has been the main supervisor of 60 doctoral graduates at Universities such as Paris, California, MIT, Southern California, and Catalonia. In addition, he started as a student activist who had to go into exile from Franco's Spain, and was a leader in the '68 Paris student movement where he was deported from France. In later life he has been the pro-bono advisor to the presidents of eleven countries, including South Africa, a founding member of the Scientific Council of European Research (European Commission), and is currently a member of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) created in 2008 by the European Commission.

In Cape Town, Prof. Castells will be a resident visiting fellow at STIAS and will, amongst others, give lectures and participate in seminars on:

- The Crisis of Capitalism (STIAS)
- Strengthening the Social Sciences and PhD Education (STIAS)
- Higher Education and Development (UWC)
- The Intellectual Journey of Manuel Castells (UWC)
- Connectivity and Media (UCT)
- Cities and Development (CHEC)
- The Capitalist Crisis and Regional Development (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University)
- Launch of his new book: *Communication Power* (Centre of the Book)



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