

**ATTITUDES TOWARDS FOREIGNERS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A LONGITUDINAL  
STUDY**

by  
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## **DECLARATION**

By submitting this thesis electronically, I declare that the entirety of the work contained therein is my own, original work, that I am the authorship owner thereof (unless to the extent explicitly otherwise stated) and that I have not previously in its entirety or in part submitted it for obtaining any qualification.

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## ABSTRACT

Topics surrounding migration and the presence of foreigners in South Africa are rapidly gaining importance in light of the occurrences and developments in the country, such as the increasing number of foreigners coming to South Africa, the recent amendments to the immigration policy and more importantly, the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments witnessed across the country, as seen in 2008.

While studies have been conducted with the aim of assessing attitudes toward immigrants and migration, longitudinal studies of this nature are rare. This study addresses the identified gap by assessing attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa between 1996 and 2013. This descriptive longitudinal study uses four waves of World Value Survey data in order to measure the trends in four dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners: (1) social tolerance; (2) interpersonal trust; (3) employment preference; and (4) attitudes toward migration. Adding to the descriptive nature of the study, seven independent variables are included to further understand the trends in the four dimensions. These variables include gender, race, employment status, education, perceived social class, generalised trust and financial satisfaction.

Five conclusions are drawn from the study, four regarding the four dimensions measured and the other pertaining to the general trends in the data: (1) South Africans are becoming more intolerant of foreigners. (2) There are growing levels of distrust, not only of foreign workers/immigrants but also of people of another nationality. (3) South Africans are moving away from the idea that employment priority or preference is to be awarded to South African citizens over foreigners as more individuals are becoming either neutral or dismissive about the awarding of preference. (4) More South Africans are fostering positive attitudes towards migration although the greatest portion of respondents agree that foreigners are to be allowed into South Africa on the condition that certain criteria are met. (5) The biggest changes in the data are seen between 2006 and 2013. These changes can be linked to the outcomes of the global economic downturn in 2008 and the rise of xenophobic sentiments and violence towards foreigners in the same period.

## OPSOMMING

Onderwerpe wat oor migrasie en die aanwesigheid van buitelanders in Suid-Afrika handel, is besig om in belangrikheid toe te neem. Veral as dit gesien word teen ontwikkelinge soos byvoorbeeld die groeiende aantal buitelanders wat na Suid-Afrika kom, die onlangse aanpassings in die immigrasiebeleid, en nog meer belangrik, die groei in anti-immigrante sentimente wat dwarsoor die land in 2008 te sien was.

Terwyl daar heelwat studies is wat ten doel het om houdings teenoor immigrante en migrasie te ontleed, is tydsduurstudies oor hierdie onderwerp baie skaars. Hierdie studie beoog dus om hierdie gaping te vul deur die houdings teenoor buitelanders in Suid-Afrika gedurende die periode 1996 tot 2013 te bespreek. Die tydsduur studie is beskrywende van aard. Dit gebruik data afkomstig van die World Values Survey om die neigings in vier dimensies van houdings teenoor buitelanders te meet, te wete: (1) sosiale toleransie; (2) interpersoonlike vertroue; (3) werk voorkeur; en, laastens (4) houdings tov migrasie. Bydraend tot die beskrywende aard van die studie, word sewe onafhanklike veranderlikes gebruik om 'n beter begrip van die neigings in die vier dimensies te kry. Hierdie veranderlikes sluit in: geslag, ras, werkstatus, onderwysvlak, waargenome sosiale klas, algemene vertroue; en, finansiële tevredenheid.

Vyf belangrike gevolgtrekkings word in die studie gemaak – vier met betrekking tot die vier dimensies wat gemeet is en die ander met betrekking tot die algemene neigings in die data. Dit is naamlik: (1) Suid-Afrikaners word toenemend meer intolerant teenoor buitelanders; (2) Daar is 'n groeiende vlak van wantroue, nie net tov buitelandse werkers/immigrante nie, maar ook teenoor mense van ander nasionaliteite; (3) Suid-Afrikaners beweeg weg van die idee dat werkseleenthede alleen aan hulle toegeken moet word, want hulle word meer neutraal of verwerp selfs die gedagte dat voorkeur aan Suid-Afrikaners gegee moet word; (4) Meer Suid-Afrikaners het 'n positiewe houding tov migrasie alhoewel die meerderheid respondente verwag dat hulle binnegelat moet word op streng voorwaardes; en, (5) Die belangrikste veranderinge in die data kom in die periode 2006 tot 2013 voor. Dit kan waarskynlik toegeskryf word aan die omvang van die wêreldwye ekonomiese resessie in 2008 en die groei van xenofobiese sentimente en geweld teenoor vreemdelinge in dieselfde periode.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	African National Congress
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
EU	European Union
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NP	National Party
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development S
PI	Principal Investigator
PRPs	Permanent residence permits
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAIRR	South African Institute of Race Relations
SANDEF	South African National Defence Force
SAPS	South African Police Service
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TRPs	Temporary residence permits
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WAP	Working age population
WVS	World Values Survey

# ATTITUDES TOWARDS FOREIGNERS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A LONGITUDINAL STUDY

## Chapter 1: Introduction and outline

### 1.1 Introduction

In the twenty-first century, with the current global order which promotes globalization and the relaxation of state boundaries, migration has emerged as a controversial yet critical issue not only within the political domain but within the social and economic spheres of society. This is due to the progressive movement of people across state boundaries (Kahanec & Zimmerman, 2008: 2).

In October 2013 it was reported that approximately 232 million international immigrants were living across the world (UNDESA, 2013). Between 2000 and 2010, the growth in the number of migrants across the globe doubled in comparison to the growth reported in the previous decade. However, following the global financial crisis, the increase in the global migrant stock<sup>1</sup> began to slow down (UNDESA 2013). In Africa, however, the international migrant stock increased from 15.6 million in 2000 to 18.6 million in 2013. The increase in the migrant stock between 2000 to 2010 and 2010 to 2013 was 1.5 million respectively which indicated that although the increase in the global migrant stock was slowing down, the growth on the African continent was not following the same trajectory (UNDESA, 2013).

It has been South Africa's history of receiving migrants from across the globe, such as the French<sup>2</sup>, Dutch<sup>3</sup>, British<sup>4</sup>, that has resulted in the country being recognised as "a country of immigration" (Rasool, Botha & Bisschoff, 2012: 399). By the late twentieth century, European migrants were replaced by migrants from Africa. In 2012 it was reported that South Africa had become the host nation of approximately three million foreigners, both documented (legal) and

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<sup>1</sup> Migrant stock is defined as "the population who was born abroad" (UNDESA, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> The first group of French refugees to arrive in South Africa, specifically the Cape of Good Hope, was in 1688 (Coertzen, 2011).

<sup>3</sup> Dutch settlers arrived in South Africa over the course of the 1600s and 1700s and developed a small Dutch colony on the tip of South Africa (the Cape of Good Hope) (Parker, 2010:126).

<sup>4</sup> Migration from Britain to South Africa began in the early nineteenth century. It is in 1806, according to Van Vugt (2000: 22) that Britain assumed control of the Cape and soon after British settlers began arriving in the country.

undocumented (illegal) (Jost, Popp, Schuster & Ziebarth, 2012). Of the estimated three million foreigners, it was thought that approximately 58 000 of those individuals were refugees and 172 000 were asylum seekers (Jost, Popp, Schuster & Ziebarth, 2012). Attempts to record the official number of foreigners (both legal and illegal) in South Africa have been challenged by the fact that illegal foreigners in the country- as undocumented individuals- make the ascertaining of reliable data difficult (Vigneswaran, 2008: 139).

Kahanec and Zimmerman (2008: 2) state that the process of migration affects two specific groups- the native and the migrant populations - as numerous effects are felt by both groups. One such effect is seen in the views and attitudes, which may be either negatively or positively orientated, formed by the native population towards the migrants (Kahanec & Zimmerman, 2008: 2). Over and above recognising that positive and negative attitudes are formed against migrants, Kleemans and Klugman (2009: 1) assert that attitudes toward migrants and the process of immigration are more complicated and complex than perceived and thus are “not as monochrome” as we assume them to be (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 1). The complexity of these attitudes is embedded in the inability to state that one’s attitudes are simply positive or negative. Despite this, migration, also referred to as “human capital movement”, has ignited and perpetuated a widespread and increasingly recognised culture of “anti-immigrant sentiments” (Jewell, Melgar, Molina & Rossi, 2009: 1).

Negative attitudes toward foreigners have been fostered across the globe where one of the more explicit manifestations thereof has been the rise in xenophobia directed toward migrants. Increasing anti-foreigner sentiments have been reported in both Europe and America, each with their own history of migration. The United States of America is considered to have one of the highest number of immigrants entering the country annually. Coupled with the increase in immigrants in the country has been the worsening of the discrimination these individuals face. This is one such example of the existence of negative orientations towards these groups (Yakushko, 2009: 58).

Across Europe, a noticeable increase in anti-immigrant sentiment was most evident between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s where some countries continue to foster high and increasingly negative attitudes towards foreigners (Meuleman, Davidov & Billiet, 2009: 361). In 2010 it was reported that the level of negative attitudes toward foreigners residing in Germany had increased to the point where a third of Germans said that they want foreigners to

be repatriated, while the same portion of citizens believed that “foreigners who settled in Germany did so to exploit the generous welfare system or take jobs” (Dempsey, 2010).

It is believed that the 2008 xenophobic attacks which spread across South Africa, has once again raised the world’s awareness to “the growing inner-African sentiments against so-called foreigners” (Kersting, 2009: 7). Furthermore, perceptions of foreigners from African countries differ between the African elites, middle class and the low income population. While the former view people from other African countries as comrades, it is those on the lower income areas who hold more negative perceptions of foreigners- they are “often not accepted or even tolerated in most of the low-income areas” (Kersting, 2009: 16).

The rise of negative sentiments towards foreigners and immigrants requires a study of these complex issues, specifically how such attitudes manifest. The undertaking of such a study in a country such as South Africa is motivated by aspects such as a history of violence towards foreigners, changes in the founding principles of its immigration policy over time and the government’s efforts to foster social cohesion and nation building.

## **1.2 Background to the study**

The presence of foreigners in South Africa is not a new phenomenon given the country’s history of migration which has in part been shaped by its readiness to receive migrant labour from African countries and specifically those from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region (Jost *et al.*, 2012).

The topic of migration to South Africa within the domestic, international and Southern African context, has become a prominent fixture on the country’s agenda following the transition to a democracy (Hill & Kotzé, 1998: 1) (Hill, 1998: 115). The themes and issues surrounding the occurrence of migration in South Africa have included the lack of cohesion and differences in the policies of the southern African states which has resulted in an aborted free movement regime<sup>5</sup>. While domestically, South Africa has had to deal with debates surrounding the rights of foreigners in relation to those of South African citizens (Hill & Kotzé, 1998: 1). In addition to this, four other broader issues relating to migration have emerged: emigration, refugees, illegal immigration and contract migration (Hill & Kotzé, 1998: 1). These issues are seen to

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<sup>5</sup> The free movement regime can be understood as a response to the challenge of trying to monitor and control cross-border activities for those countries focused on economic growth and development. This regime is defined by the free movement of people and therefore the free movement of labour (Bigo, 2009: 579).

have manifested and become more apparent in the strivings to overcome the country's brain drain, the challenges that illegal immigrants have posed to the asylum system and the increasing perception of South Africa as a safe haven by refugees and asylum seekers (Illegal immigrants a challenge: Pandor, 2014) (Hill, 1998: 1).

However, the reflection on issues relating to migration following the 1994 transition to a democracy is to be understood in the context of the nature of migration in South Africa under apartheid. The essence of migration and South Africa's immigration policy under the National Party (NP) following its rise to power in 1948 was the consolidation of "Afrikaner power" through discouraging white immigration (Anderson, 2006: 99). However in 1960, the NP's stance on white immigration changed as the national government became wary of the obvious decline in the proportion of the white population in relation to the entire South African population. White immigration was encouraged and facilitated through forms of recruitment and subsidies as the national government sought to perfect the number of white immigrants in South Africa (Anderson, 2006: 99). Anderson's (2006) discussion of the changes in immigration policy over the span of the NP rule make apparent the intention of the government: to use the policy as a mechanism of strengthening political power.

Rasool *et al.*, (2012: 399) argue that South Africa's immigration policy was structured on the principle of migration control<sup>6</sup> where residency was awarded to white skilled and professional workers. This meant that there was an increase in the white population while filling the gaps of skilled workers, gaps which were proving to be detrimental to the country's economy. Despite the focus on migration control, migrants who were accepting of low wages were allowed into the country as they were granted permission to work in areas such as the mines which also proved to benefit the country's economy as there were more individuals prepared to do the manual labour which the country demanded (Rasool *et al.*, 2012: 399). This is an example of how the immigration policy was used as a means of securing white dominance while increasing economic development.

According to Crush and McDonald (2001: 2), during the apartheid years, South Africa's immigration policy rested on four pillars: (1) racist legislation and policy, (2) exploiting the migrant labour from South Africa's neighbouring countries, (3) rigid enforcement of

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<sup>6</sup> See also Louw (2004: 45-46).

established legislation and, (4) the rejection of the standards set at international refugee conventions.

First, racist policy and legislation were entrenched in the criteria set out by the then white-led government which used race as a determinant of who would be allowed into South Africa and the conditions of their entrance (Crush & McDonald, 2001: 2). Between 1960 and 1991, Japanese who found themselves residing in or travelling to South Africa were granted “‘honorary white’ treatment” (Osada, 2002: 141). The awarding of the ‘honorary white’ status to the Japanese was motivated by the goal of the then South African government to strengthen trade relations with the Asian country (Osada, 2002:141). By the 1980s, this pillar resulted in having almost all foreigners who were white being welcomed into the country while people of colour, more specifically people from the rest of the African continent, were not welcome (Crush & McDonald, 2001: 2).

Second, it was only closer to the end of apartheid that the stringent race based immigration criteria was abandoned as certain skilled black immigrants and Asians were allowed into the country (Crush & McDonald, 2001: 2). The migrant labour system<sup>7</sup>, as reiterated by Rasool *et al.* (2012, 399)<sup>8</sup> and as quoted above, allowed for migrant workers from South Africa’s neighbouring countries to enter the country to work in South Africa’s mines and on farms. However, these individuals never qualified for permanent residency in South Africa and had to return to the countries once their contracts had expired (Crush & McDonald, 2001: 3).

Third, the rigid enforcement of legislation as seen with the pass laws and influx control during apartheid, saw the state attempt to police and patrol the external boundaries of the country. The Aliens Control Act of 1991 awarded “new powers of entry, search, and arrest to immigration officers and the police” (Crush & McDonald, 2001: 3).

Lastly, the refusal to accept the conditions of the refugee conventions and thus the failure to develop a refugee policy meant that many of those who entered South Africa as asylum-seekers, were considered and treated as “illegal aliens”<sup>9</sup> (Crush & McDonald, 2001:

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<sup>7</sup> Today, foreign workers employed to work on South Africa’s mines (gold, platinum and coal mines) are predominantly from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland where the greatest number of workers come from Lesotho and Mozambique. Between 1996 and 2011, we saw a 27.2% decrease in the number of foreigners employed on South African mines (SAIRR, 2013: 91).

<sup>8</sup> Also mentioned in Anderson (2006: 100).

<sup>9</sup> An illegal alien may also be referred to as an ‘undocumented alien’ (Internal Revenue Service, 2014). This is someone who has entered a country illegally and can be deported if apprehended. Furthermore, someone is classified as an illegal alien if they have legally entered the country but have fallen ‘out of status’ and therefore face deportation (Internal Revenue Service, 2014).

3). Fundamentally the essence of the country's migration policy was to inhibit contact between South African citizens and those citizens from other African countries (Carter, 2010: 1).

Following the collapse of South Africa's apartheid regime and the shift to a democratic regime in 1994 under the African National Congress (ANC), considerable efforts have been made to amend the immigration policy of the NP government. The Immigration Act of 1991<sup>10</sup>, nicknamed "Apartheid's last act", was rejected by the ANC-led government given the lack of emphasis it placed on skills immigration. It was believed that the policy of 1991 did not do enough to remedy the lack of required skills in key sectors of the economy (Rasool *et al.*, 2012: 403). Furthermore the act was deemed unconstitutional under the 1996 constitution and was ordered to be redrafted following a period of consultation. In 2002, South Africa's immigration policy was redrafted to attract skilled labour to South Africa in order to meet the demand for these skills in key sectors of the economy. The Immigration Act No. 13 of 2002 has been recognised as being instrumental in attracting skilled foreigners to South Africa and is considered to be the cornerstone of South Africa's immigration policy, (Rasool *et al.*, 2012: 403)(SAIRR, 2012:91)<sup>11</sup>.

Despite the efforts made by the democratic government to revise the immigration policies of its predecessor, Carter (2010: 1) argues that the apartheid immigration policies have left behind a legacy of isolation. It was the crux of the NP government's strategy - the separation of South African citizens from other citizens- which is the root cause of the "isolationist tendencies" we see in South Africa today (Carter, 2010: 1). The desire to keep South African citizens separate from other citizens is clearly evident in the history of violence inflicted on foreigners in South Africa.

Coupled with the influx of migrants<sup>12</sup> into South Africa is the documented occurrence of attacks against foreigners. While not arguing that violence against foreigners was not prevalent prior to the transition to a democracy, it is evident that the occurrence of violence against

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<sup>10</sup> The Immigration Act of 1991 is also known as the 1991 Aliens Control Act. The essence of this policy is that it sets out the "rights and obligations of non-citizens (aliens)" who are entering the country (Kotzé & Hill, 1997: 14).

<sup>11</sup> A further discussion of South Africa's immigration policy and the detailing of the 2014 revisions to the policy will be undertaken in Chapter 2

<sup>12</sup> Chapter 2 will elaborate on the influx of foreigners into South Africa by discussing the reported number of foreigners in the country including refugees and migrants who have been awarded permanent and temporary residence permits.



foreigners has become more common since the change in government in 1994<sup>13</sup> (Jost *et al.*, 2012). While violence against foreigners, which is believed to be driven by xenophobic sentiments, differs in nature, it was the sheer brutality of the 2008 attacks on foreigners which resulted in publicized cases of violence against foreigners.

In May of 2008, a total of 62 individuals were killed by agitated mob groupings around South Africa; 41 of which were migrants from African countries while the remainder were South African nationals who had been mistaken for foreigners (Adam & Moodley, 2013: 23). In May 2008 alone, 670 people were wounded due to the heightened anti-immigrant violence (Mail & Guardian, 2008). News sources reported that the attacks began in Johannesburg on the May, 11 and shortly thereafter, violent outbreaks were reported across the country as anti-immigrant sentiments spread. Foreigners such as Zimbabweans and Mozambicans were attacked and, in some instances, had their homes and informal shops looted (Mail & Guardian, 2008). Over and above the death of individuals around the 2008 period of heightened violence towards foreigners, du Toit and Kotzé (2011: 159) reported that a total of 35,000 individuals were driven out of their homes resulting in many of these individuals leaving South Africa and returning to their country of origin.

Violence against foreigners continues to plague South Africa as was seen with the 2013 incident in the Zandela township<sup>14</sup> close to Sasolburg where protests directed at the dissatisfaction surrounding a proposed merger of two municipalities resulted in the looting of shops belonging to foreigners (Adam & Moodley, 2013: 23). This incident yields four important questions: (1) Why were foreigners the recipients of a manifestation of dissatisfaction for which they were not responsible? (2) What was the mind-set of the local<sup>15</sup> citizens? (3) What were the propagating factors for attacking foreigners and lastly, (4) what links can be created between the merger and the presence of foreigners in their area?

A local media source, the *Mail & Guardian* (2008) argued that the violence inflicted on foreigners in South Africa is a response to the perception that foreigners are taking job opportunities away from South Africans. This increase in competition for jobs translates and

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<sup>13</sup> Chapter 2 will elaborate on the history of violence against foreigners in South Africa

<sup>14</sup> A township refers to “densely populated areas that were reserved for non-white populations during Apartheid” while an informal settlements are “unplanned residential areas, usually filled with self-built housing or shacks” (Misago, Landau & Monson, 2009: 7).

<sup>15</sup> Local or native in this context refers to South African citizens

is understood as being an impediment to the access of economic and other resources which shape an individual's socio-economic position. A report compiled by the IOM on the 2008 xenophobic attacks stated that the use of violence against foreigners was a means used by South African citizens to decrease their competition for resources (such as jobs) and violence was used as a tool to drive foreigners out of the country (Carter, 2010: 1). Adding to the reasons behind the xenophobic attacks, the South African Police Service (SAPS) stated that, "popular reasons for xenophobia can be found in a plethora of explanations which are mainly based on economical grounds such as housing, education, health care and employment" (SAPS, 2004). Furthermore, Bekker adds that, "[T]he underlying reasons for the violence include high unemployment, inequality, a lax border control policy, and a nonexistent immigration policy"<sup>16</sup> (Bekker, 2010: 125).

The idea that the presence of foreigners in South Africa leads to an increase in competition for jobs and access to other economic goods is relative to the context of South Africa's economic and employment outlook<sup>17</sup>. Trends indicate that the rate of labour absorption and unemployment are indicative of declining access to employment opportunities. South Africa's labour absorption rate, the proportion of the working-age population that are employed, has declined from 45.8% in 2001 to 41.1% in 2013 (SAIRR, 2013: 228). These results, which indicate that fewer of the working age population (WAP) are being employed, are supported by the country's increasing official, or strict, unemployment rate<sup>18</sup> which increased from 24.6% in 2001 to 25.6% in 2013 (SAIRR, 2013: 228).

The reason why South Africans foster xenophobic and negative sentiments towards foreigners have garnered much attention in the wake of the 2008 attacks. However, very little research has been conducted on the attitudinal orientations of South Africans towards foreigners<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> These points are discussed and elaborated on in Chapter 2

<sup>17</sup> To be detailed further in Chapter 2

<sup>18</sup> This is according to the strict definition of unemployment used by Statistics South Africa. Here someone (a part of the economically active population) is unemployed if they have not worked during the week prior to being interviewed, they want to work and are available to work in the week of the survey and have actively searched for work or tried to start a business in the four weeks prior to the survey (SAIRR, 2002: 198).

<sup>19</sup> Chapter 2 will discuss those studies which are orientated around attitudes towards immigration and migrants including those studies which have been conducted in South Africa.

### **1.3 Problem statement and research questions**

The point of departure of this study is the notion that the violence inflicted on foreign nationals by native South Africans is a behavioural manifestation of underlying attitudes towards foreigners, such attitudes relating to their individual values and beliefs. This study aims to assess South Africans attitudes toward foreigners from 1996 to 2013 in order to determine whether attitudes, as embedded in dimensions of social tolerance, interpersonal trust, employment preference and attitudes towards migration, have changed or remained constant.

More specifically, this study seeks to explore the following questions:

- Has tolerance towards foreigners increased since the country's transition to a democracy?
- To what extent do South Africans trust foreigners post 1996?
- What are South African citizens' views on migration to South Africa?
- What do South Africans believe to be fair in terms of job opportunities presented to both foreigners and South Africans?

In adhering to the prescription of longitudinal studies, this study draws on the data from the last four waves of the WVS which were conducted in South Africa in 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2013. The selection of the waves of survey data, between 1996 and 2013, is motivated by the purpose of the study: to assess the changes in attitudes towards foreigners subsequent to South Africa's transition to a democracy which took place in 1994.

### **1.4 Key concepts in the study of attitudes towards foreigners**

The following are the definitions of four key concepts used in this study:

#### **1.4.1 Attitudes**

This study departs from the premise that attitudes shape an individual's behaviour and response to certain circumstances. Allport (1935: 810) defines an attitude as "a mental and neutral state of readiness, organized through experience, exerting a directive and dynamic influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related". Terre Blanche and Stevens (2011: 349) further emphasise that there is a relationship between attitudes and behaviour by defining an attitude as "a belief that is essentially learnt, is evaluative, can be deduced from both verbal and non-verbal behaviour, has an affective component and forms a relatively stable part of the individual's character".

Krech and Crutchfield (1948: 152) define an attitude as “an enduring organization of motivational, emotional, perceptual, and cognitive processes with respect to some aspect of the individuals’ world”. Schwarz and Bohner (2001: 436) state that when speaking about an attitude one needs to consider it being multifaceted thus encompassing different components such as the cognitive, affective, motivational, and behavioural. Breckler and Wiggins (1989: 409) define an attitude as “mental and neural representations, organized through experience, exerting a directive or dynamic influence on behavior”. These definitions in conjunction with those provided by Allport (1935) and Terre Blanche and Stevens (2011) indicate the need to acknowledge the relationship between attitudes and an individual’s behaviour (Schwarz & Bohner, 2001: 436). This is fundamental to the study as it contextualises the importance of assessing South Africans attitudes towards foreigners given the impact that these attitudes have on individual behaviour.

#### **1.4.2 Xenophobia<sup>20</sup>**

According to the *World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, xenophobia is defined as the “attitudes, prejudices and behaviour that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity” (Adjai & Lazaridis, 2013: 192). Following from Adjai & Lazaridis (2013) who equate xenophobia to an attitudinal orientation, UNESCO (2014b) defines xenophobia as “an attitudinal orientation of hostility against non-natives in a given population”. Xenophobia can, more simply, be defined as “the hatred or fear of foreigners or strangers” or “the deep dislike of non-nationals by nationals of a recipient state” (Bekker, 2010: 127). The overlap found in the aforementioned definitions indicates that the fundamental element of xenophobia is the strong sense of dislike and poor treatment of those thought to be ‘the other’.

##### *1.4.2.1 Othering*

According to Brons (2015: 70), othering involves setting up two groups- the superior, in-group (self) and the inferior, out-group (other). The construction of the two groups is based either on identifying characteristics that the in-group has, and the out-group lacks, which are deemed desirable or identifying undesirable characteristics that the other displays which the self does

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<sup>20</sup> See also Laher (2009) and UNESCO (2014b) for further definitions of xenophobia.

not (Brons, 2015: 70). Adding to the notion of othering involving two distinct groups in unequal relation to one another, Jensen (2011: 65) defines othering as the processes whereby powerful groups “define sub-ordinate groups into existence in a reductionist way” in ascribing “problematic and/or inferior characteristics” to the sub-ordinate grouping.

### **1.4.3 Migration**

Migration is defined as “[T]he movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a state” (IOM, 2011). According to the IOM (2011), it is possible to view migration as encompassing “any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes”. Migration is therefore inclusive of the movement of individuals seeking refuge in a host country, displaced individuals, those who have moved for economic reasons and other reasons (UNESCO, n.d.).

Statistics South Africa (2013:8) recognises the role that spatial and time dimensions play in the conceptualisation and measurement of migration as seen with the differentiation of internal and international migration. Internal migration is defined as the movement of the population “within the borders of a country”, while international migration is recognised as the “movement across the borders of a country” (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 8).

### **1.4.4 Immigrant**

Similarly, immigrants are defined as, “persons who have moved from elsewhere across the borders of South Africa with the intention of changing their country of residence” (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 8). More generally, an immigrant is “a person who has moved to another country to settle there” (Western Cape Government, 2014).

#### *1.4.4.1 Illegal immigrants or illegal foreigners<sup>21</sup>*

The rise of migration on the political agenda in the democratic South Africa was largely due to rising concerns about the status of refugees and the issue of illegal immigrants in the country (Hill, 1998: 1). The Immigration Act no.13 of 2002 defines an illegal immigrant or foreigner as “any individual who is neither a citizen of nor a resident in the Republic, and who is in

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<sup>21</sup> This study focuses solely on measuring attitudes towards foreign workers and immigrants, i.e. those individuals who are legally allowed to be in the country. By definition this study does not measure attitudes towards illegal foreigners or immigrants in the country although one is not sure what the respondent perceives to be a foreign worker or immigrant.

contravention of the Act” (Vigneswaran, 2008: 137). A more general definition of an illegal immigrant is someone who “has moved to another country without getting permission from the government of that country” (Western Cape Government, 2014).

#### *1.4.4.2 Asylum seekers and refugees<sup>22</sup>*

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) defines an asylum seeker as a person who has “fled his or her country of origin and is seeking recognition and protection as a refugee in the Republic of South Africa, and whose application is still under consideration” (Department of Home Affairs, 2014d). In the case of an asylum seeker’s application being rejected, they must leave South Africa voluntarily or face being deported. In the event of a positive outcome to an application, a person is given refugee status as outlined in section 24 of Refugee Act No 130 of 1998” (Department of Home Affairs, 2014d). These individuals are “entitled to seek employment” in addition to being entitled to the same basic health services and primary education as other South African citizens (Republic of South Africa, 1998: 20). These stipulations are set out in Chapter 5 of the 1998 Refugee Act, which sets out the rights and obligations of refugees.

### **1.5 Research methodology<sup>23</sup>**

The purpose of this study is to assess attitudes towards foreigners. More specifically, the trends in four dimensions which gauge these attitudes between 1996 and 2013. The dimensions selected to measure attitudes towards foreigners are: (1) social tolerance, (2) interpersonal trust, (3) employment preference and, (4) attitudes toward migration. In order to make descriptive observations about the changes in each dimension, this study utilises the data from the last four waves of the WVS which were conducted in South Africa. This study thus is a descriptive-longitudinal study which is dependent on secondary data analysis of the WVS data.

Longitudinal studies stem from wanting to distinguish time dimensions within a study. These studies are conducted in such a way that they allow for observations and conclusions to be drawn over an extended period of time (Babbie & Mouton, 2001: 93)<sup>24</sup>. According to Bryman

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<sup>22</sup> Categories of refugees include economic refugees (fleeing poverty), political refugees (fleeing persecution) and the more debatable environmental or climate refugee (people who have been forced to leave their communities and countries due to environmental disruption that has adverse effects on either existence or quality of life) (Ghoshal & Crowley, 1983: 124) (El-Hinnawi, 1985:4).

<sup>23</sup> To be further detailed and expanded as the third chapter of this thesis

<sup>24</sup> See also Menard (1991) and Menard (2008)

(2012: 63), these studies involve initially surveying a sample and then doing it again on at least one further occasion. There are both benefits and drawbacks attached to undertaking a longitudinal study. While its usefulness is embedded in being able to track trends, the time and cost involved is one of the reasons why it is seldomly undertaken. The selection of the period of study - 1996 to 2013 - has been motivated by the recognition of the rise of the topic of migration following the country's first democratic election in 1994 and availability of WVS data. This point is brought forward by the ANC (2011), Hill (1998) and Carter (2010). When discussing illegal immigration at their 50<sup>th</sup> National Congress, the ANC stated that illegal immigration from the rest of the continent and world increased and competition for scarce resources became more apparent as South Africa emerged as a democracy. Hill (1998:1) observes that topics relating to migration “emerged from relative obscurity to become one of the most hotly contested policy terrains”, while Carter (2010: 1) argues that violence against foreigners in South Africa has become more prevalent since the transition to a multi-party, democratic regime in 1994.

One way to overcome the challenges posed by longitudinal studies is to conduct secondary data analysis. Secondary data analysis refers to “the analysis of data by researchers who will probably not have been involved in the collection of those data for purposes that may not have been envisaged by those responsible for the data collection” (Bryman, 2012: 715). The access to and use of reputable data sets, where strict sampling and data collection procedures have been followed, is an example of the advantages of doing secondary data analysis. Limited access to data sets, complexities around the data sets and the lack of control of the quality of the data are all problems faced when making use of secondary data analysis<sup>25</sup>.

One of the motivating factors for the use of the WVS data in this study is the lack of surveys and data sources which are solely dedicated to measuring the dimensions and overall attitude to be covered in this study. The WVS is an internationally recognised study in which social scientists from across the globe study changes in social, political and economic values and how these changes impact on the various domains of the individual's life (WVS, n.d.). Thus, the survey poses questions relating to feelings and orientations towards foreigners, in addition to a plethora of other topics. Due to the survey covering an array of dimensions in addition to it having prescribed questions in every wave, the selection of the dimensions of attitudes to be studied is

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<sup>25</sup> Further advantages and disadvantages are discussed in Chapter 3



dependent on the questions posed in the WVS and its relation to the purpose of the study<sup>26</sup>. The longitudinal analysis of WVS data will be based on four waves of data for the years 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2013.

## **1.6 Rationale and significance**

The specific focus on attitudes towards foreigners, which arguably plays a crucial role in the widely reported outbreaks of violence against foreigners and heightened xenophobic sentiments in South Africa in recent years, also plays an overarching role in the strivings in the political, social and economic arena. These include the generation of social cohesion, the progressive movement towards regional integration and, on an international level, globalization. Therefore, the motivation for studying attitudes towards foreigners is present in the far-reaching impact that these attitudes have on matters which have high priority within various spheres.

The results of this study may prove valuable to government and other key stakeholders who are involved in the drafting of public policy. The essence of public policy is that it reflects the values, attitudes and beliefs of society. This study outlines the attitudes and values that South Africans foster towards foreigners and may provide government and policy makers with insight into how the citizens feel about foreigners which may in turn influence the drafting of future policies. Furthermore, if such steps are taken by government to align the policies with the perspective and values of the people, we may arguably, see a decline in the anti-immigrant sentiments and violent attacks of foreigners.

Furthermore, this study addresses a gap in the literature by focusing solely on attitudes towards foreigners. While studies have made use of the World Values Survey data in South Africa and have focused on measuring certain attitudes, these studies have focused on the study of attitudes towards immigration and less so on perceptions of immigrants and foreign workers. Of those studies that have focused on attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa, different questions have been asked to measure certain attitudinal dimensions. The use of the WVS is beneficial to this study as it provides multiple dimensions which can be used to measure attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa. Lastly, the longitudinal assessment of attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa has not been fully explored and this study thus pioneers such an investigation.

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<sup>26</sup> Further discussions of the WVS are undertaken in Chapter 3



## **1.7 Chapter outline**

This study will be presented in five chapters, each of which contributes to addressing the research questions and overall purpose of the study, which is to assess the attitudes South African citizens foster toward foreigners since the transition to a democracy.

The first chapter, as has been set out above, serves as an introduction to the study, details the significance of studying individual attitudes, introducing the methodology to be applied in the study as well as motivating why this study is to be undertaken.

Chapter two provides a comprehensive assessment of the literature surrounding migration and migration policy, immigrants and foreigners within the South African context as well as xenophobia as a manifestation of negative attitudes towards foreigners and migration. Furthermore, this chapter will detail existing studies which are focused on measuring attitudes and orientations towards not only immigrants and foreign workers but towards the process of immigration.

Chapter three will expand on the methodology and elements of the research design presented in chapter one in addition to the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the four dimensions of attitudes to be measured in this study. A description of the source of the data as well as detailing the method employed in the measurement and analysis of the World Value Survey data such as the use of a statistical analysis programme follows.

Chapter four will both present the data and interpret the results of the data analysis, directed by the goal of seeking to address the research questions posed in this chapter. In providing a richer and deeper study of attitudes, this chapter will also present findings on the demographic and socio-economic pockets noted within the study. The interpretation of findings will include a summation of the overarching findings of this study while also placing the findings, specifically social tolerance, in the context of governments striving toward social cohesion.

Chapter five, the final chapter, will provide a summary of the key findings of the study and provide some concluding remarks, including recommendations for future research.

## Chapter 2: Literature Review

### 2.1 Introduction

An assessment of the attitudes that South Africans foster towards foreigners is to be contextualised by the policies, events and national conditions which may play a part in the development and change in those orientations. Thus, a look at the developments relating to migration, such as policy changes, might prove useful in understanding changes in attitudes towards foreigners and migration, while an assessment of South Africa's economic and employment outlook may provide insight into the trends seen in employment preference.

It therefore follows that the purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the literature on migration within the international and the South African context and the developments in South Africa's immigration policy, including those enacted under the apartheid government. Occurrences of xenophobia in South Africa as well as previous studies which focused on attitudes towards immigrants and immigration will also be addressed. The developments, occurrences and findings outlined in this chapter are crucial to understanding the trends uncovered in attitudes towards foreigners, as presented in Chapter 4.

### 2.2 International migration: Globalisation and its increasing trajectory

Migration has come to be recognised as one of the “defining global issues” of the twenty-first century (IOM, 2003). The ongoing process of globalisation, which is characterised by the “increasing internationalisation of markets for goods and services” and the increasing interconnectedness of the world has been put forward as the overarching explanatory factor<sup>27</sup> responsible for the continued process of international migration (OECD, 2013)(IOM, 2003). Kahanec and Zimmerman (2008: 2) argue that improving economic prospects, securing living environments and reunification with family members are the primary motivating factors which propel individuals to migrate.

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<sup>27</sup> According to the IOM, globalization as a factor explaining migration includes the development of transnational transportation systems, the existence of electronic communications, and income and economic discrepancies between the developed and the developing world (IOM, 2003).

The recognition of the significance of migration as an issue on the international agenda is to be understood within the context of the constant growth in global migration or the growth in the global migrant stock, despite a deceleration since 2007 (UNDESA, 2013). According to the IOM (2003), in 1993 there were an estimated 175 million migrants (defined as people who do not live in their home countries) and 10.4 million refugees across the globe. A study by the UNDESA found that in 2005, 3% of the global population was on an “international migration trajectory”, while the share of international migrants in developed countries totalled approximately 9.5% (Kahanec & Zimmerman, 2008: 2).

By 2013, there were 232 million international migrations, which translates into 3.2% of the world’s population (United Nations, 2013). Of the 232 million migrants across the world, 136 million are located in developed countries while the remaining 96 million migrants are in developing countries (United Nations, 2013). Although efforts have been made to monitor and track trends and changes in global migration, Kahanec and Zimmerman (2008: 4) argue that there is an apparent scarcity of migration data (including data which is useful in studying and understanding migration issues) which hinders our understanding of the processes causing and caused by migration.

International migration patterns have come to be influenced by the growing willingness to work abroad. According to Strack, von der Linden, Booker and Strohmayer (2014: 6), the willingness to work abroad has come to be seen as “the new normal”. In their study, Strack *et al.*, (2014: 3) surveyed more than 200 000 people in more than 189 countries<sup>28</sup> in order to gauge their job expectations, the motivating factors for individuals moving to another country for work, and which countries would be favoured as places of employment. Four areas of agreement were found among respondents: (1) agreement on the overwhelming willingness to work abroad, (2) the importance of broadening one’s personal experience, (3) the interest in receiving “softer workplace rewards” and (4) certain work destinations have a greater appeal than others (Strack *et al.*, 2014: 4).

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<sup>28</sup> South Africa was one of the countries included in the study where 2047 individuals were interviewed.

A total of 64% of the participants indicated they “would be willing to go to another country for work”<sup>29</sup> (Strack *et al.*, 2014: 6), while participants from developing countries or countries which are experiencing political instability were more willing to work abroad. However, there was a high willingness to work abroad from participants in some countries that were not facing major political upheaval (Strack *et al.*, 2014: 6). The results of the study indicated that English speaking countries were the most attractive to move to: the United States of America was the most popular country, while London in the United Kingdom was the most popular city to move to (Strack *et al.*, 2014: 3).

### **2.3 The rise of migration in a democratic South Africa**

The persistent conflicts in Africa, such as those in Chad, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, coupled with the rise in political violence and “unconstitutional changes of power” have been the cause of great instability for the continent (SANDF, 2014). Further factors identified as exacerbating the vulnerability of communities include climate change, disease and poverty (SANDF, 2014). These factors have led to a rise in the number of displaced populations as seen with the growth in numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the continent and specifically in South Africa.

South Africa’s history of receiving migrants not only from the continent but from other parts of the world has led to it being considered a “country of immigration” (Rasool, Botha & Bisschoff, 2012: 399). According to Anderson (2006:97), countries which are thought to be prosperous and have flourishing economies are the destinations of choice for many migrants. In some instances, the number of individuals wishing to immigrate to these countries far exceeds the capacity of these countries to accommodate the individuals (Anderson, 2006: 97). The SANDF (2014) acknowledges that South Africa remains a haven for foreigners and migrant workers due to the perception that the country is able to provide them with conditions contrary to the adversity, such as instability and deprivation, they experience in their home countries<sup>30</sup>.

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<sup>29</sup> In South Africa, between 60 and 70% of participants were willing to move to a foreign country for work (Strack *et al.*, 2014: 7). Furthermore, in assessing the mobility of job seekers between the ages 21 and 30, between 60 and 70% of respondents in this age group were willing to move for a job (Strack *et al.*, 2014: 7).

<sup>30</sup> Also see Majavu (2014: 19)

Efforts have been made to address issues relating to migration in the democratic South Africa<sup>31</sup>. One such mechanism to address these issues has been the establishment of a governmental department, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), which has been charged with the responsibility of “managing the cross border movements of South Africans and non-South Africans” (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 8). Further responsibilities of the department include the issuing of identity documents, visas and permits, collecting data on all travellers who are either arriving in or exiting South Africa as well as determining and granting citizenship<sup>32</sup> (Department of Home Affairs, 2014a) (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 9).

The recognition of South Africa as a migration destination has resulted in an increase in the number of foreigners in the country. In 1940, 3 526 immigrants entered South Africa, this figure increased to 13 663 in 1950 and, despite fluctuations in the number of foreigners in the country, there were 5064 immigrants who entered South Africa in 1995 (SAIRR, 1997: 37-38). Between 1940 and 1995, it was estimated that around 1.2 million people immigrated to South Africa (SAIRR, 1997: 37-38).

**Table 2.1: Immigrants entering South Africa, 1940-1995**

Year	Number of Immigrants
1940	3 526
1945	2 949
1950	13 663
1955	16 684
1960	9 805
1965	38 337
1970	41 523
1975	50 464
1980	29 365
1985	17 284
1990	14 499
1995	5064

Note: This table is derived from the table presented by the SAIRR, 1997.  
Source: (SAIRR, 1997: 37-38). Compiled by author.

In 1996, 5 407 people immigrated to South Africa of which almost 2000 were economically driven (SAIRR, 1997:41). Most of the immigrants were from Europe (2 315) while 1 601 of

<sup>31</sup> A number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been established in South Africa, orientated around providing support to refugees and foreigners in the country. These organisations include, amongst others: the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS), the Cape Town Refugee Centre, and the Displaced and Migrant Persons Support Program. For a complete list see- <http://onesocietyinitiative.org/Refugee-NGO-s/> (The One Society Initiative, 2014).

<sup>32</sup> The core functions, mandate, vision, mission and values of the Department of Home Affairs is detailed on their official website- <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/about-us>

the immigrants were from Africa and 1 137 were Asian (SAIRR, 1997: 41). In addition, 10 545 applications for asylum refugee status were received with the biggest share being from Africa (2 875 from Angola and 2 449 from Zaire<sup>33</sup>), followed by Asia (1 504), Europe (277) and the Middle East (27) (SAIRR, 1997: 49). Over and above the 10 545 applications which were received from individuals seeking refugee status, a total of 17 807<sup>34</sup> applications for asylum were received (SAIRR, 1997: 50). Between 1996 and 2000, the number of emigrations exceeded immigrations (SAIRR, 2002: 141). In 2000, the number of immigrants entering the country stood at 3 053, which was fewer than the number recorded in 1999 (3 669). A similar decline was noted in the number of deportations of illegal immigrants. In 1999, 183 861 illegal immigrants were removed from South Africa while in 2000, 145 575 illegal immigrants were removed (SAIRR, 2002: 141). In both these years, Mozambicans accounted for the largest number of deportations followed by Zimbabweans (see Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2: Number of Immigrants and Deportations**

Year/ Period	Number of immigrants	Number of deportations
1999	3669	183 861
2000	3053	145 575
2001	4832	-
2002-2004	10 714	-
2005	-	200 000

Note: This table is derived from the table presented by the SAIRR.

Source: (SAIRR, 2007). Compiled by author.

Also noted in 2000 was the large number of immigrants entering South Africa who were not economically active<sup>35</sup>. In 2000, of the 3053 immigrants entering the country, 662 were economically active while 2391 were not economically active (SAIRR, 2007: 212). Between 2001 and 2004, South Africa's status as a desirable destination for immigration increased as noted by the consistent increase in the number of immigrants entering the country annually. In 2001, 4832 immigrants entered the country. Between 2002 and 2004, a total of 10 714 immigrants had entered the country (SAIRR, 2007: 44). However, coupled with the increase in immigrants entering the country, was the deportation of illegal immigrants. In 2005 alone, approximately 200 000 illegal immigrants were sent back to their home countries. Of the 200 000 illegal immigrants, 77 868 were sent back to Mozambique while other countries

<sup>33</sup> In 1997, Zaire was renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

<sup>34</sup> The countries which had the highest number of asylum applications include: Angola (3477 applications), other (2945), Zaire (2383), Nigeria (1 849), Somalia (1667), Pakistan (1513) and India (1141).

<sup>35</sup> Categories for immigrants who are considered not to be economically active include: those involved in housekeeping, a child, a pupil/student, someone who is labour disabled, a pensioner, a spouse and other.

included Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, China and Peru (SAIRR, 2007: 48). Apart from the large number of illegal Mozambicans in the country, South Africa has struggled with the number of illegal Zimbabweans crossing the border. In 2004, South Africa deported 72 112 illegal Zimbabwean immigrants. This number increased in 2005 when 97 433 Zimbabweans were deported and by June 2006 a further 51 000 illegal immigrants had been sent back to Zimbabwe (SAIRR, 2007: 48).

By 2013, Statistics South Africa estimated that there were more than 1.6 million people living in South Africa who were not South Africans; i.e. 3.2% of the country's population. However, there are various data sources which argue that there are up to 6 million immigrants in the country (SAIRR, 2013: 90).

Various institutions apply different methods and make use of different sets of data to derive their figures on the number of foreigners in the country. Over and above the data presented by the SAIRR, Statistics South Africa has tracked the number of documented foreigners in South Africa using the data from the DHA<sup>36</sup>.

In 2011 a total of 106 173 temporary residence permits (TRPs) were awarded to foreigners, while 10 011 permanent residence permits (PRPs) were awarded (Statistics South Africa, 2014: 16 & 36). TRPs are granted to those coming to South Africa to visit, for business and work, for medical reasons, to study and those on exchange (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 14)<sup>37</sup>. The categories for the issuing of a PRP include: relatives, work, business and finance, retired persons and refugees<sup>38</sup>. In 2012 a total of 141 550 TRPs were processed (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 14). Of those who qualified for TRPs, the largest number came from four African countries: Zimbabwe, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Lesotho<sup>39</sup> (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 14). In contrast to the high number of TRPs that were issued, only 1 283 PRPs were issued to foreigners in 2012 (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 29). In 2013, a total of 101 910 TRPs were processed. Here the top ten countries in terms of permits issued included

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<sup>36</sup> DHA figures are based on the issuing of permits for both temporary and permanent residency in South Africa for the year of focus.

<sup>37</sup> The Department of Home Affairs (2014e) website provides a detailed description of the various TRPs available- <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/types-of-temp-res-permits>

<sup>38</sup> Refer to the Department of Home Affairs (2014c) website to see the various categories of PRPs: <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/permanent-res>

<sup>39</sup> African countries: Zimbabwe (17.2%), Nigeria (10.0%), the Democratic Republic of Congo (2.8%) and Lesotho (2.7%).



Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, India, China and Bangladesh<sup>40</sup> (Statistics South Africa, 2014: 16). In terms of the PRPs, 6801 were issued to individuals from countries such as Cameroon, the United Kingdom, Lesotho and Germany which all formed part of the top ten countries in terms of permits issued (Statistics South Africa, 2014: 36).

The number of foreigners entering a country, South Africa included, has come to be greatly influenced by the existence of regional economic communities (RECs) as can be seen in the European Union (EU) and the support for the free movement regime. For South Africa, it is the long standing tradition of economic migration from member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which has impacted on the number of foreigners in the country (Truen & Chisadza, 2012: i). The data from the SAIRR and Statistics South Africa show that SADC member states, such as Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Mozambique, are responsible for a significant number of foreigners, legal and illegal, in the country. This can be linked with the idea that South Africa provides opportunities which exceed those in the home nations. These sentiments are reflected in the findings of Truen and Chisadza (2012: ii) who found that approximately 3.3 million people of SADC origin are in South Africa, two-thirds of whom are from Zimbabwe<sup>41</sup>.

In 2013, discussions about the possibility of the creation of a SADC work seeker's visa were undertaken as part of a mechanism to improve the management of asylum seekers and also to deal with "the problem of worker migration within the region", but more specifically to South Africa (Ensor, 2013)(Immigration South Africa, 2013). The SADC work seeker's visa is a means by which "a common approach to migration", can be facilitated resulting in a more harmonised set of laws and immigration practices (Ensor, 2013).

Due to increased media coverage, the SADC work visa and other topics and issues related to migration have received a great deal of attention in South Africa (African National Congress, 2011). In linking migration issues with the rise of a democracy and democratic politics, Hill states

Democracy requires a minimum of consensus on the constitution of the *demos*, or "people", and transnational migration affects the composition of the *demos*. In South Africa, transnational

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<sup>40</sup> Top ten countries in the issuing of TRPs: Zimbabwe, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Angola, India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the United Kingdom (Statistics South Africa, 2014: 17).

<sup>41</sup> The same data is reported in the *South Africa Survey 2013* (SAIRR, 2013: 91).



migration relates directly to national identity and the vexing issue of “nation building” (Hill, 1998: 1).

One of the issues to arise and to be given a substantial amount of attention with regard to migration is the state of illegal immigration to South Africa (Kotzé & Hill, 1997:5). Vigneswaran (2008: 135) argues that illegal immigrants pose a threat to the country, specifically its “agendas of political transformation, economic development and broadly speaking, modernisation attempts”. This claim is supported by the argument that illegal immigrants are a source of competition for South Africans in terms of employment opportunities while they are also considered to be “frustrating state efforts to regulate health, education and housing sectors” (Vigneswaran, 2008: 135). The basic assumption expressed regarding illegal immigration in South Africa is that the poorer citizens of the country’s neighbours flocked to South Africa once the country became a democracy and once economic, and thus employment, opportunities increased (Vigneswaran, 2008: 142).

As with the number of legal migrants in South Africa, there is great contestation around the approximate number of illegal and undocumented foreigners in the country (Vigneswaran, 2008: 143). In 2009, an article in the *Mail & Guardian* (2009) reported the controversy surrounding the DHA not knowing how many illegal immigrants were in the country. According to former DHA Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, obtaining this figure was “difficult” and she was quoted saying, “If somebody’s here illegally, how do I know they are here?” (Mail & Guardian, 2009).

## **2.4 Policy development**

This study seeks to investigate the attitudes that South African citizens foster towards foreigners in the democratic South Africa, therefore detailing the immigration policies which were enforced prior to the 1994 transition is vital as it can be argued that South Africa’s more recent immigration policies are a continuation of the apartheid-era policy (Carter, 2010: 3). Soon after the country’s transition to a democracy, critics had concluded that the DHA and the democratic government failed to make a visible distinction and break from the policy of the previous regime (Hill, 1998: 2). Furthermore, the policies and the outcomes thereof under the apartheid regime have in some instances come to shape individual’s attitudes and orientations towards South Africa’s immigration policy after 1994.

For Anderson (2006: 99), attracting low-skilled foreign workers to South Africa through temporary migration programmes, changing the country's ethnic balance by recruiting "ethnically desirable immigrants", and the hesitation and ambivalence of bringing skilled workers to South Africa have been instrumental in shaping the country's immigration policy. In briefly discussing South Africa's immigration policy, Anderson (2006: 99) is able to succinctly detail the crux of the country's immigration policy under the National Party (NP) government<sup>42</sup>. The biggest shift in the purpose of the policy was seen between 1948 and 1960 where the party moved from discouraging white immigration to supporting and promoting it with the goal of increasing the portion of the South African population that was white (Anderson, 2006: 99). Anderson (2006: 100) adds that since 1990 South Africa has moved away from a "racially differentiated" policy on immigration, and has seen increased action against illegal migrants and an increase in difficulty of legal migration.

Kabwe-Segatti (2008: 60-61), identifies three periods relating to South Africa's immigration legislation. The first period, between 1913 and 1937, is characterised by creating and regulating a legal criterion which defines what a foreigner is and sets out how these foreigners are able to access the country. The second period, from 1937 to 1986, sees the realignment of the pre-existing immigration legislation in order to incorporate racist criteria as seen with the support for separate economic development. Furthermore, the country's immigration policy reflected the idea of a 'two-gate policy': the front gate reflected the willingness to welcome those populations who were seen as desirable by the minority in power, while the back gate of the policy served two purposes, namely "preventing unwanted migrants from entering" the country and ensuring that, even though only on a temporary basis, that cheap and low-skilled labourers were let into the country (Kabwe-Segatti, 2008: 60). Lastly, from 1986 to 1994, immigration policy displayed a dichotomy between seeking to normalise the immigration legislation within the political transformations which were taking place during the period and "the reality of deeply entrenched practices" (Kabwe-Segatti, 2008: 61).

The Aliens Control Act of 1991 has been instrumental in governing South Africa's transnational migration, specifically through the 1990s (Hill, 1998: 2) (Kabwe-Segatti, 2008: 69). According to Kabwe-Segatti (2008: 69), the act was drafted as a means to "unify and simplify all previous immigration laws since 1937 as well as to mark a break-away from the

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<sup>42</sup> Refer to Chapter 1 for a more detailed discussion

past”. The basis of the act was to determine “the rights and obligations of non-citizens (aliens) entering the country” (Kotzé & Hill, 1997: 14). Under this act, three categories of aliens were presented: documented (legal) aliens, undocumented (illegal) aliens and refugees. Motivated by the weaknesses in the country’s visa system being more apparent, which perpetuated the challenge of addressing the issue of illegal aliens in the country, amendments were made to the Aliens Control Act in 1995 (Kotzé & Hill, 1997: 14).

Despite the amendments to the Act, it challenged the principles of the 1993 Interim Constitution and the 1996 Constitution on numerous principles, and was declared to be unconstitutional (Kabwe-Segatti, 2008: 34). After a period of consultation and drafting, the new Immigration Act (Act No. 13 of 2002) was introduced in 2002 (Statistics South Africa, 2013: 8)<sup>43</sup>. The purpose of the Immigration Act of 2002 is “[T]o provide for the regulation of admission of persons to, their residence in, and their departure from the Republic; and for matters connected therewith” (Republic of South Africa, 2002: 2). Subsequently, the Act sets out a new system of immigration control, taking numerous considerations into account. One of the objectives set out in the Act and to be enforced by the DHA is the regulation of the influx of foreigners and residents into South Africa (Republic of South Africa, 2002: 14). This objective is driven by three goals: (1) promoting economic growth, (2) encouraging skills transfers from foreigners to nationals and therefore reducing the dependency that employers have on foreigners and (3) facilitating and encouraging family reunification (Republic of South Africa, 2002: 14).

The Act placed considerable emphasis on the expansion of South Africa’s economic base. According to the South African High Commission (2014), this expansion is made possible by attracting those immigrants who are able to contribute positively towards the economy. Furthermore, economic growth within the framework of the Act is achieved through promoting tourism, supporting the movement of students and academic staff within the SADC, developing areas within South Africa which are dependent on the “international exchanges of people and personnel”, ensuring that businesses employ foreigners who are in demand, increasing the

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<sup>43</sup> Statistics South Africa (2013: 8) also asserts that the Citizenship Act No.88 of 1995 has been instrumental in influencing the movement of people to South Africa. The Citizenship Act No.88 of 1995 was instrumental in establishing categories of citizenship within South Africa. Under the Act, three categories were determined: naturalization, birth and descent (Kotzé & Hill, 1997: 14).

number of skilled human resources, and lastly by encouraging and enabling skilled and qualified people to enter the country (Republic of South Africa, 2002: 14).

In addition to the Act being instrumental in promoting skills immigration, it also sets out the categories for those eligible for permanent residence. These categories include: individuals who have been holders of a work permit for 5 years, the spouse of a South African citizen or resident and children of a South African citizen or resident who are under the age of twenty-one (Republic of South Africa, 2002: 40). Permanent residency that is issued “on other grounds” includes: receiving an offer for permanent employment, where a person has extraordinary skills or qualifications, intends to establish a business (a prescribed contribution must be made to the business), is a refugee or a retired person, individuals with a predetermined net worth who have paid a prescribed amount to the DHA and lastly, the relative of a citizen or resident (this is restricted to parents and siblings) (Republic of South Africa, 2002: 42).

The Immigration Act of 2002 faced major criticism due to the lack of consultation during the drafting stages, and as a result, the Immigration Amendment Act No. 19 of 2004 and the Immigration Regulations of June 2005 were drafted following dialogue and discussions between both government and non-government entities (Rasool *et al.*, 2012: 400). According to Rasool *et al.*, (2012: 400), the immigration policy influenced the growing shortage of skills in the country by being too restrictive and negatively impacting the growth and expansion of the economy. Further amendments were evident in the drafting of the Immigration Amendment Acts of 2007 and 2011 (Paton, 2014c:4). According to the SAIRR (2012: 91), the 2011 amendments to the immigration policy did not have any positive effects on the restrictions faced by skilled foreigners seeking to enter the country. Section 10 of the Act stated that the changing of permit conditions and/or status while in South Africa could only happen under “exceptional circumstances” (SAIRR, 2012: 91). This meant that immigrants would, in most instances, need to return to their home countries to change the conditions or status of their permits (SAIRR, 2012: 91).

In 2014, former Home Affairs Minister Naledi Pandor<sup>44</sup> announced that “[I]mmigration needs a complete ‘rethink’” (Paton, 2014c: 4). The 2014 amendments sought to address issues

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<sup>44</sup> Mr Malusi Gigaba took over as Minister of Home Affairs as of the 26 May 2014 (Department of Home Affairs, 2014b).

relating to lagging efficiency; filling the gaps found in previous policies; and attempting to deal with and improve on the abuses to the immigration system, making it “riskier to break visa conditions”, and facilitating the inflow of skilled people into South Africa (Paton, 2014c: 4). Economic migrants entering the country under the asylum seeking provisions were identified as being one of the biggest abuses to the immigration system (Paton, 2014c: 4)<sup>45</sup>. This was made possible given that South Africa grants temporary asylum status to all applicants because it is unlawful to “deny anyone the claim and temporary status of asylum-seeker” (Illegal immigrants a challenge: Pandor, 2014). The economic migrants therefore use the asylum seeking provisions to gain access to South Africa, where they remain illegally (Illegal immigrants a challenge: Pandor, 2014)<sup>46</sup>.

Measures which were put in place to address these loopholes include: those who wish to apply for life partner or spousal visa need to provide proof that their partnership has been for more than five years, those who overstay a visa are at risk of being “declared ‘undesirable’”<sup>47</sup> for anything between 2 to 10 years, and holders of a visitor’s or medical treatment visa are not eligible to apply for a longer-term visa while in the country (Paton, 2014c: 4).

Further amendments to the policy are seen in the change in processes which allow skilled individuals into the country. According to Pandor, the aim of the Act is not to prohibit or deter these individuals from entering the country but instead that they “should be able to get visas more easily” (Paton, 2014c: 4). This is visible in the introduction of four visa types applicable to skilled people wishing to work in South Africa: the intra-company visa, corporate visa, a critical skills visa and the general work visa (Republic of South Africa, 2014: 26). According to Paton (2014c: 4), the most difficult visa to qualify for will remain the general work visa given that those individuals who meet the requirements for this visa are less skilled than those who qualify for the other visas. Furthermore, it is those who qualify for the general work visa who increase the competition for jobs between South African citizens and foreigners.

Despite the progressive steps outlined in the 2014 Amendment Act to address the inefficiencies in South Africa’s immigration system, the Act was not met with open arms and has faced a

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<sup>45</sup> See also Cronje (2014)

<sup>46</sup> Refer to Sello (2013) and SA News (2013) for more on the management of asylum seekers and policy changes.

<sup>47</sup> See the Times Live (2014) article which further elaborates on the penalties attached to overstaying the length of the visa- [www.timeslive.co.za/local/2014/06/10/penalties-in-sas-new-visa-laws-requirements-for-landlords](http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2014/06/10/penalties-in-sas-new-visa-laws-requirements-for-landlords)

number of criticisms. One of the criticisms is that the Act is a part of “an ‘Afrophobic’ agenda” driven by the goal of seeking to keep Africans out of the country (Cronje, 2014). However, members of the DHA responded to and denied these claims (Cronje, 2014). The Act has also come under fire for having a negative impact on the current and potential future investments into South Africa because the Act “made it much more complicated for professionals to conduct business in the country” (Oosthuizen, 2014). Furthermore, the Act was believed to challenge family reunification as it makes it harder for “partners of South African citizens to remain together” (Oosthuizen, 2014).

Running parallel with the development and amendment of South Africa’s immigration policy following the transition to a democracy, we see the worsening of the nature and prevalence of violence against foreigners – although not asserting that there is any causal link between the two events. The following section provides an overview of a few of the instances of violence against foreigners reported in South Africa.

## **2.5 Violence against foreigners in a democratic South Africa**

One of the first publicised instances of violence against foreigners in the democratic South Africa took place in 1998 where two Senegalese and one Mozambican national were confronted and attacked by a mob on a train (Zvomuya, 2013). The outcome of the attack was the death of all three individuals. While one of the victims, it has been speculated, was pushed out of a train, the other two were electrocuted by the power lines as they sought refuge on the roof of the train (Zvomuya, 2013). In addition, there was a case in 1998, involving four Mozambicans and four police officers in which the police officers recorded the Mozambicans being attacked by the police dogs, during a training exercise (Zvomuya, 2013). In this period, it was believed that occurrences of xenophobia were on a “small scale” as the targets were mainly individual foreign nationals who owned shops in the rural areas (Jost, Popp, Schuster & Ziebarth, 2012). However, ten years after the 1998 incidents, South Africa witnessed its most widely publicised xenophobic attacks against foreigners residing in the country.

Although there has been less attention given to attacks against foreigners since the 2008 incidents<sup>48 49</sup> where more than 60 people were killed and thousands were displaced, the violence

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<sup>48</sup> Discussed in Chapter 1

<sup>49</sup> Refer to Bekker, Eigelaar-Meets and Eva (2012: 348-374) for more on the 2008 xenophobic attacks in South Africa

against these individuals has not stopped. In June 2014 it was reported that since the 2008 attacks on foreigners, more than 900 foreign nationals had been killed in violent attacks driven by their origin (Fabricius, 2014). In 2009 further incidents were reported across the country. In Durban at the beginning of 2009, two Zimbabwean nationals died following an attack on foreigners at a refugee hostel (Holborn, 2010). Around mid-2009, Somali and Ethiopian foreigners who owned shops in communities in Cape Town and Mpumalanga were attacked and, in October, there were reports of xenophobic sentiments “brewing” in Gauteng (Holborn, 2010). In 2011, close to 120 foreigners were killed although not all of them were killings driven by xenophobia but rather the result of general crime (Landau, 2013). Included in the 120 deaths of foreign nationals are the five foreigners who were burnt alive; an example of overt violence against foreigners and a manifestation of extreme anti-immigrant sentiments. In 2012, it was reported that approximately 140 foreigners were killed, “many of them grotesquely and intimately”, while around 250 foreigners sustained serious injuries (Landau, 2013). In addition, Indian South African shopkeepers were the victims of threats of violence and taunts as rioters in Rustenburg referred to the group as ‘makwerekwere’<sup>50</sup> (Landau, 2013). These sentiments spread across the country as people of Asian and Indian descent became the victims of similar sentiments (Landau, 2013)<sup>51</sup>.

In 2013, it was reported that at least three major instances of violence against foreigners were being reported weekly (Landau, 2013). In May and June, hundreds of foreign nationals were displaced following attacks on their homes and businesses around Gauteng. In the Diepsloot and Orange Farm areas, the closure of more than 60 foreign-owned shops was forced following the looting and destruction of the properties (Human Rights Watch, 2014). In June and September, violence was reported in KwaZakhele and New Brighton in the Eastern Cape where Somali nationals were the victims of similar attacks as many shops were left looted and burnt (Human Rights Watch, 2014). In both instances, no individuals were arrested and charged with xenophobic violence but instead were charged with public violence (Human Rights Watch, 2014). The violence against foreigners continued in 2014. On such incident was the June 2014 attacks of Somali shopkeepers by South African youth in Mamelodi East, Pretoria. In these incidences, two Somali nationals were killed while approximately 100 other individuals were

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<sup>50</sup> This term was initially used to refer to foreigners from Africa (Landau, 2013).

<sup>51</sup> Refer to Christensen (2013) for a further discussion on the rise of xenophobic violence against minorities in South Africa- <http://www.afronline.org/?p=30550>



forced to leave their homes and shops as they sought refuge in a house in Pretoria West (Fabricius, 2014).

More recently, the results of the Satisfaction Survey which was conducted in Gauteng, where 27 493 respondents were interviewed, found that xenophobia was on the increase in the province and more specifically in Tshwane (Ispas, 2014). The results of the survey found that 35% of respondents believed that all foreigners should be sent home and levels of trust and racial attitudes were worsening as 73% of Africans agreed that they would never trust whites (Ispas, 2014). When tracking the same respondents' levels of satisfaction with the government, it was found that there were generally low levels of satisfaction with governance and the government (Ispas, 2014).

Landau (2013) argues that the 2008 xenophobic attacks revealed “two demons” which continue to pose a threat to South African society. The first ‘demon’ is said to be embodied in migrants as this group remains “an object of suspicion” in light of years of negative discourse regarding the migrants and migration (Landau, 2013). Often migrants are perceived as threats to transformation, safety and employment as they are identified as thieves and criminals who are “set to rob the country and its citizens of their most valuable assets” (Landau, 2013). The second ‘demon’ identified is society, or at least the parts of society that are willing to resort to violent attacks on people who live peacefully within society. This was noticeable in the overt celebrations by the perpetrators of violence who “boasted openly to the global media about their actions” (Landau, 2013). The continuance of violence after the 2008 attacks indicates that these demons have yet to be tamed and South Africans remain susceptible to negative sentiments towards immigrants.

### *2.5.1 Reasoning violence and xenophobia*

Economic-based reasons have been used to help understand the heightening of negative and xenophobic sentiments toward foreigners. The more widely argued position is that foreigners are thought of as competition for scarce resources. These sentiments are evident in the statement made by the African National Congress (2011), “competition for scarce resources since the opening up of democratic space has fostered in our people xenophobic hostility to illegal immigrants”. Linked to the worsening of access to scarce resources are the already present feelings of resentment, desperation and frustration which are due to the poorer members of society facing high levels of economic deprivation.



The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) General Secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi cites poverty and inequality as being variables supporting xenophobia. According to Vavi, xenophobia is to be taken as a symptom of “deeper levels of resentment among the poor” who are looking to put the blame on someone for lagging economic growth and job shortages (Radebe, 2013). Holborn (2010) states that it is the desperation and frustration that people feel about their situation, which is marked by joblessness, poor service delivery and high crime rates, that encourages xenophobia. Thus, these individuals turn to “blaming the most obvious scapegoats in their communities” (Holborn, 2010).

Majavu (2014: 19) puts forward both economic and non-economic motivations for xenophobia. The economic perspective is premised on two opposing conceptions by immigrants and South Africans. From the perspective of immigrants in South Africa, the country, within the African context, is viewed as “an island of prosperity and privilege” (Majavu, 2014: 19). It is this perception of South Africa which has motivated immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees from across the continent to flock to South Africa. However, perceptions on the part of many South African citizens are that these immigrants are more of a threat to the privileges of locals (Majavu, 2014). It is this perception of immigrants as depriving them of privileges, benefits and resources which launched the 2008 xenophobic attacks and the sequent attacks on Somali and other black immigrants. The non-economic factor Majavu (2014: 19) refers to is the belief that the increasing number of black immigrants in the country threaten and will undermine the “black South Africanness”.

Laher (2009), like Majavu (2014), comments on both the economic and non-economic causes of xenophobia. According to Laher (2009), possible causes of xenophobia include negative beliefs and stereotypes, the perception of a threat to both national and cultural identity, religious doctrine and lastly competition for scarce resources such as housing and employment. The aforementioned lead to the conclusion that both economic and non-economic factors drive xenophobia in the country.

The legacy of apartheid has also been identified as a factor which has driven xenophobic sentiments in the country. Adam and Moodley (2013: 37) acknowledge the role deprivation has played in reasoning xenophobia but also recognize the role that apartheid has played. They state that, “Two guiding ideas inform most South African analyses: that the country’s apartheid

past is one root cause of xenophobia, and, more controversially, that the many deficits of the post-apartheid state are the other key causes of the problem”. Holborn (2010) argues that racial oppression and the legacy thereof has played a role not only in fostering xenophobic sentiments but also in encouraging violence against foreigners. She asserts,

[P]erhaps apartheid has instilled a mindset in people about the way in which the lowliest in society can be treated that is proving hard to shake off. Maybe the struggle against apartheid has created a particularly fiery brand of protest, one that involves violence at times, and so protesting against foreigners in a violent way does not seem unusual or unacceptable to some (Holborn, 2010).

As seen above, a plethora of explanations have been provided as to why xenophobia exists. Harris (2002:170) groups these explanations together to form three hypotheses - 1) “the scapegoating hypothesis”, “the isolation hypothesis” and “the biocultural hypothesis”. Harris (2002: 174) argues that each of these hypotheses provide insight into xenophobia but do not sufficiently account for why foreigners, predominately black foreigners, evoke violence and hostility in South Africans.

The first hypothesis, the scapegoating hypothesis, explains xenophobia and hostility towards foreigners in terms of limited resources, including education, health care, employment and housing (Harris, 2002: 171). The underlying belief is that people “create a target to blame for ongoing deprivation and poverty” (Harris, 2002: 171). In the case of South Africans, foreigners become the scapegoat as they are identified as a threat to the aforementioned limited resources. It is the anger caused by deprivation and the perceived threats from foreigners which frustrate South Africans and when that frustration is released, foreigners tend to be the scapegoat (Harris, 2002: 171).

The second hypothesis, the isolation hypothesis, departs from the assertion that the scapegoating hypothesis “does not explain why nationality is the determining feature of such scapegoating” (Harris, 2002: 172). Instead, this hypothesis characterises xenophobia as being a consequence of the seclusion that South Africans experienced during apartheid. Due to the seclusion experienced, “foreigners represent the unknown to South Africans” (Harris, 2002: 172). Therefore, hostility towards foreigners is the result of South Africans being isolated from the international community as well as being isolated from one another,

internal isolation, during apartheid. It is this isolation which has made it challenging for South Africans to tolerate and accommodate difference (Harris, 2002: 173).

The third hypothesis, the biocultural hypothesis, makes provision for the actuality that xenophobia in South Africa is not directed towards all foreigners equally as some groups are more likely to be victims of hostility than others (Harris, 2002: 173). In providing an explanation “for the asymmetrical targeting of African foreigners by South Africans”, xenophobia is explored as being founded in the visible differences or “otherness” that African foreigners display (Harris, 2002: 173). Therefore, it is the physical otherness of foreigners which makes them distinguishable from locals – the biological-cultural features such as accents, hair, dress and physical appearance. The otherness of these individuals aids the identification of whom to target (Harris, 2002: 174).

#### *2.5.2 Competition for economic resources in South Africa*

Since competition for scarce resources has been noted as a cause of xenophobia and negative orientations towards foreigners, it is essential that a contextualization of the country’s economic conditions, specifically its employment conditions, is provided.

One of the biggest threats that foreigners are posing to South Africans is the access to employment and other opportunities to earn a salary. Within the home-based sector of the economy, shops that are run by foreigners are “out-competing locals” which translates into a loss of business and future opportunities to commence operating within the home-based sector (Paton, 2014a: 1-2). This loss of opportunities is evident given that 33% of the South African labour force is employed within the informal sector which, when coupled with the number of unskilled or semi-skilled individuals in South Africa, heightens the pressure to find employment within this sector (SANDF, 2014). Furthermore, in South Africa we find that foreign migrants have a higher rate of employment (81%), compared to South Africans whose rate of employment is 65% (Paton, 2014b). According to the outcomes of a study by the African Centre for Migration and Society, “Foreign migrants in South Africa have a greater chance of employment than locals, although they work mainly in the low-paid, informal jobs” (Paton, 2014b).

In 1996, a number of immigrants were affected by the loss of jobs in the mining, construction and manufacturing sector given the migrant labour system which mainly operated on the mines

(SAIRR, 1997: 662). Despite the loss of jobs in these three sectors, job opportunities increased from 4.95 million in 1994 to 5.4 million by September 1996 (SAIRR, 1997: 663). Between 1997 and 2001, a decline in the labour force absorption rate<sup>52</sup> occurred as the rate went from 79.0% of the WAP being employed in 1997 to 73.6% in 2001. However this change can be explained by the increase in the size of the labour force which was greater than the number of people employed (see Table 2.3)

**Table 2.3: South Africa's employment capacity, 1997-2001**

	<b>Labour force<sup>53</sup></b>	<b>Total employed<sup>54</sup></b>	<b>Labour force absorption rate</b>
1997	11 698 000	9 247 000	79.0%
1998	12 553 000	9 390 000	74.8%
1999	13 527 000	10 369 000	76.7%
2000	15 794 000	11 715 000	74.2%
2001	16 077 000	11 837 000	73.6%

Note: This table is derived from the table presented by the SAIRR, 2002.

Source: (SAIRR, 2002: 210). Compiled by author.

Between 1994 and 2006, according to the strict definition of unemployment, there was a 28.0% increase in the unemployment rate (SAIRR, 2007: 149). Between 2006 and 2013, the country's unemployment increased from 23.1% in 2006 to 25.6% in 2013 (SAIRR, 2013: 265).

In addition to the increase in unemployment, we see a growth in the levels of poverty as measured by those living under \$1 a day. Between 1996 and 2005 there was a 122.6% increase in the portion of South Africans living on less than \$1 (SAIRR, 2007: 149).

## **2.6 Attitudes towards immigration and immigrants: Previous study outcomes**

Marking the rise of migration as an issue on the international agenda has been the increase in literature and studies covering the topic. Based on various motivations, studies have been undertaken with the purpose of uncovering perceptions and attitudes toward not only immigrants but also to the process of migration.

Kleemans and Klugman (2009) undertook one such study which seeks to provide an understanding of attitudes towards migrants. Their findings are derived from the data of the 2005/2006 wave of the World Values Survey completed in 52 countries including South Africa (countries included are inclusive of the different levels of human development, income

<sup>52</sup> This measures the portion of the labour force that is employed.

<sup>53</sup> This comprises only of those South Africans who are economically active

<sup>54</sup> Number of individuals employed in both the informal and formal sectors of the economy

groupings and are from all continents) (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 3). The study identifies three dependent variables: (1) orientations towards immigration policy as seen through what respondents believe government should enforce regarding migration, (2) employment priority and the questioning of whether priority is to be given to nationals over foreigners when jobs are scarce and lastly, (3) immigrants as neighbours where respondents are asked whether they would mind having immigrants as neighbours (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009:4).

The overall finding of the study is that “people are generally tolerant of minorities and have a positive view of ethnic diversity” while also finding that when jobs are limited, people tend to favour nationals receiving the employment opportunities over the foreigners (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 9, 12). When testing the relationship between tolerance and employment priority, they found that those who value tolerance are more positive about migration in terms of employment preference and allowing foreigners to compete for jobs (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 17).

Further findings relating to individual characteristics such as level of education, age, gender and employment are also presented. They found that higher levels of education are linked to more positive attitudes towards foreigners while societies where there is high inequality and high levels of unemployment have more negative attitudes within the lower educated end of society (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 17). In addition, all the variables relating to self-reported income and social class have a positive association with migration. Younger people are more likely to have positive opinions about migration and immigrants and males are more inclined to favour allowing migrants into the country while women support equality within the job market (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 17-18).

Jewell, Melgar, Molina and Rossi (2009: ii) undertook a similar study by seeking to analyse attitudes towards foreigners from a cross-country perspective by examining not only individual characteristics of respondents but also “country-specific effects”. Unlike Kleemans and Klugman (2009) who use the World Values Survey, Jewell *et al.* (2009: 6) derive their findings from the International Social Survey Program which was conducted in 2003. Although more than 44 000 individuals were surveyed across 33 countries, the final conclusions were based on the responses of 30 343 respondents in 31 countries. South Africa was one of the countries where data existed but was excluded due to a lack of responses for all the questions posed. Jewell *et al.*, (2009: 8) conclude that respondents with higher levels of education are more

likely to be positive about immigration. In addition, unemployment can be linked to more negative attitudes. Jewel *et al.*, (2009: 8) find that positive attitudes are more likely in those who are single than those as respondents who are married or separated and positive attitudes towards immigrants are also linked to people with higher income levels, people who are not citizens of the country where the study was completed and urban dwellers (Jewel *et al.*, 2009: 8). Finally, Jewell *et al.* (2009: 9) found that education, specifically a university education, has the largest impact on attitudes towards immigrants.

The study by Facchini, Mayda and Mendola (2013: 326) questions the drivers of individual attitudes towards immigration in South Africa: economic or non-economic factors. The non-economic factors include age, gender, race, social class, political and political party affiliation and religion; while the economic determinants are derived from measures of the respondents' skills based on data of the level of education and occupation (Facchini *et al.*, 2013: 330). Based on the data of the World Values Survey for the years 1996, 2001 and 2006 they found that "immigration is very widely opposed" and that this opposition has increased between 1996 and 2006 (Facchini *et al.*, 2013: 339). With regard to the economic and non-economic determinants of attitudes towards immigration, they found that the non-economic factors are more likely to explain the change in attitudes than the economic factors. These include race, social class, gender and age which were most important in shaping attitudes towards immigration (Facchini *et al.*, 2013: 339).

Interestingly, the findings of Facchini *et al.*(2013) and Jewell *et al.*(2009) contradict each another. While Jewell *et al.* (2009) finds education (an economic factor) to have the biggest impact on attitudes towards immigrants, Facchini *et al.* (2013) highlights the dominance of non-economic factors.

Carter (2010), on the other hand, seeks to examine the nature of tolerance in South Africa by examining and exploring the attitudes toward foreigners within South Africa. The findings of this study are drawn from the results of the fourth Afrobarometer survey<sup>55</sup> which was

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<sup>55</sup> The Afrobarometer is a project which seeks to measure "attitudes towards democracy, governance, civil society, and markets" through the conducting of public opinion surveys across the African continent (Carter, 2010: 2).

Given the sample size selected (2400 respondents), the survey is based on a nationally representative selection of all South African citizens over the age of 18 (Carter, 2010: 2).

conducted in South Africa between October and November of 2008 (Carter, 2010: 2). From the data, three key findings are presented.

First, the majority of South African citizens do not trust foreigners: 60% of respondents said that they do not trust foreigners at all while 23% said that they only trust foreigners in South Africa a little bit (Carter, 2010: 1). In treating *not at all* and *just a little* as response categories indicative of a lack of trust in foreigners, it was found that 83% of South Africans did not trust foreigners (Carter, 2010: 2).

Second, close to two-thirds (64%) of respondents would choose to restrict the entry of foreigners (Carter, 2010: 2). This percentage consists of respondents who would prohibit all foreigners from entering the country (24%) and the 40% who would choose to place restrictions on the number of foreigners allowed to enter the country (Carter, 2010: 3). Tolerance is measured using the abovementioned opinions on immigration and the respondents' opinions on what the policy should be for deportation. It was found that South Africans "overwhelming support strict immigration protocols" (Carter, 2010: 3). With regard to tolerance of foreigners from a provincial overview, it was found that people in Mpumalanga are the most tolerant of foreigners, while people in Gauteng and the Northern Cape are the least tolerant (Carter, 2010: 5). Findings on tolerance and race show that close to one-third of white South Africans (32%) support the view that foreigners should be prohibited from entering the country compared to 23% of coloured and blacks and 13% of Asians (Carter, 2010: 6).

Third, South Africans are "dissatisfied with the way government handles immigration" as 63% of respondents answered "very" or "fairly badly" when questioned on how well or badly the former Mbeki government was managing immigration (Carter, 2010: 7).

In 2013, a further study was undertaken by Mataure (2013) using the Afrobarometer data<sup>56</sup> in order to gauge citizens' perceptions on migration in South Africa through assessing attitudes towards asylum seekers, attitudes towards foreigners and employment opportunities, tolerance towards African foreigners<sup>57</sup>, trust in foreigners, migration and citizenship and evaluations of government's management of immigration. Two points are similar to the findings presented by Carter (2010). Firstly, it was found that trust in foreigners has decreased. In 2008, 60% of respondents said they do not trust foreigners and in 2011 this increased to 67%. Similarly was

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<sup>56</sup> Data from Round 5 of the surveys conducted in South Africa in October and November of 2011. As with the 2008 data, it is based on a nationally representative random sample of 2400 South Africans from all nine provinces (Mataure, 2013: 1).

<sup>57</sup> Measured through asking respondents what the likelihood is of them taking part in action to prevent African migrants who are in the country from moving in and operating a business in their neighbourhoods



the poor evaluation of government's management of migration as Mataure (2013: 6) found that almost two-thirds (63%) of respondents give government a bad evaluation.

Furthermore Mataure (2013: 3-7) found that more respondents believe that protection should not be given to asylum seekers (44%) as opposed to those who are in support of South Africa being a place of refuge when foreigners are being persecuted in their home countries (38%). In addition, more respondents hold the belief that foreigners should not be allowed to live in South Africa because they take away jobs and benefits from the native population: 45% say foreigners should not be allowed into South Africa, while 39% of foreigners say they should be allowed into the country. Mataure (2013: 4) concludes that there was an increase (between 2008 and 2011) in the tolerance for living and working in close proximity to foreigners. In 2008, 59% of respondents would not prevent foreigners from moving into their neighbourhood but by 2011, 66% shared these sentiments.

du Toit and Kotzé (2011), who dedicate their book to the theme of peace and democracy in South Africa, devote a chapter to studying the rise of violence against foreigners where specific reference is made to the attacks of 2008. According to du Toit and Kotzé (2011: 159), the outbreak of violence in 2008 was a low point in South Africa's journey toward a liberal and peaceful society. Using the data from the 2006 wave of the WVS as well as the elite study, the chapter focuses on the extent of public and elite tolerance, thus the level of dislike of foreigners in addition to their degree of support for a number of policy options relating to foreigners seeking work in South Africa (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 159).

An initial, and interesting observation made by du Toit and Kotzé (2011: 162) is that the 2006 data of the WVS was unable to predict the violent outbreaks that occurred in 2008 as the data indicated high levels of tolerance amongst respondents. According to the data, South Africans were "generally tolerant of 'immigrants/foreigners'" as represented by the 75.1% of South Africans who were open to accepting foreigners as their neighbours (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 162). When assessing the level of tolerance by social class, along the spectrum from lower to upper class, the levels of tolerance were still reasonably high despite those in the upper class reporting higher levels of tolerance as opposed to those in the lower class (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 163).



Further findings include South Africans generally being unsupportive of the presence of foreigners in the country. This is indicated by the extensive support for policies which advocate for rigid limitations on entry to the country and policies which stipulate that entry to South Africa is to be prohibited while considerably less support was given to policy options which promote open entry into South Africa (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 164). Relating to policy options, it is found that there is no significant differences on the basis of social class and race, with the exception of the support for the option of complete prohibition of foreigners into the country (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 165). Here the data shows that approximately one in ten Indians (10.9%) support prohibition of foreigners while about one in three Black South Africans (32.0%) advocate for the stringent policy option (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 165). There is very little variation in the results of men and women as well as the results of religious and non-religious people (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 167).

When drawing conclusions on elite attitudes towards foreign workers and immigrants, it is found that the results of the elites mirror those of the upper class South African as they report “almost identical” levels of tolerance towards foreigners (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 167). Media elites are the most tolerant group of elites while business elites are an entire 20 percent lower than the media elite (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 167).

Ultimately, du Toit and Kotzé (2011: 170) conclude that there was a disjuncture between orientations and sentiments towards foreigners and the xenophobic outbursts, that the dislike of foreigners (measured by views on policy) is evenly dispersed across the South African population while tolerance is not as evenly spread across society as lower class South Africans are least likely to accept foreigners as their neighbours (du Toit and Kotzé, 2011: 170).

## **2.7 Conclusion**

Migration has arisen as an important topic within the international domain. South Africa is one such country that has had a long history of receiving migrants and thus migration remains an important topic on the political agenda of the country. Coupled with the increase in the number of foreigners entering the country and the changes in South Africa’s economic and political climate, the immigration policy has been developed and amended in accordance with goals in each of these contexts.

Despite the development and amendment of the country's policy, South African citizens have fostered a deeply entrenched dislike of foreigners, specifically those residing in the country. This is most obvious in the number of instances of violence against foreigners. Competition for scarce resources and the legacies of apartheid have been identified as common explanatory factors for why nationals have developed such negative orientations towards foreigners.

Following the rise of migration, studies have been conducted to uncover the attitudinal orientations of native citizens towards immigrants. The findings of these studies show that attitudes are complex and are affected by a multitude of dimensions relating to both economic and non-economic factors. The studies conducted in South Africa indicate that South Africans hold seemingly negative attitudes towards foreigners as measured by dimensions such as tolerance, trust and perceptions of the country's immigration policy.

Chapter Three will discuss the methodology and research design employed in this study as well as discussing the four dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners by introducing the conceptualisation and operationalisation of each dimension.

## Chapter 3: Research Design and Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction

The rising number of foreigners in the country has been met with the obvious and prolific spread of xenophobic sentiments which has resulted in concerns related to migration. Most studies conducted in South Africa have been focussed on the violence inflicted on foreigners (Carter, 2010: 1). More specifically, the 2008 xenophobic attacks raised serious questions about the flow of people across transnational borders and issues around identity and citizenship (Carter, 2010: 1). This study asserts that underlying behavioural manifestations, such as xenophobic violence are certain attitudes which shape an individual's orientations, perceptions and responses to issues relating to migration and migrants. This study seeks to assess the attitudes of South Africans towards foreigners by investigating four dimensions of such attitudes: social tolerance, interpersonal trust, employment preference and attitudes towards migration.

The data from the last four waves of WVS conducted in democratic South Africa will be utilised in order to assess whether the dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners have changed over time. This chapter therefore seeks to outline the research design and methodology.

### 3.2 Longitudinal research

Longitudinal research is best understood as allowing for the comparison of data from different periods in time in order to ascertain the extent to which change, if any, has taken place (Burnham, Lutz, Grant & Layton-Henry, 2008: 61)(Bryman, 2012: 712). Menard (1991: 4) defines longitudinal research as,

[R]esearch in which (a) data are collected for each item or variable for two or more distinct time periods; (b) the subjects or cases analyzed are the same or at least comparable for one period to the next; and (c) the analysis involves some comparison of data between or amongst periods (Menard, 1991: 4).

Derived from the definition of longitudinal research, two purposes of this form of research are identified. Firstly, longitudinal studies are to “describe patterns of change” which have been noticed and secondly, they establish the direction and magnitude of causal relationships (Menard, 1991: 5). According to Menard (1991: 5), these patterns of changes

can be measured according to either chronological time or age. The descriptive nature of this study is embedded in its longitudinal assessment. This rests on the position that the first phase in any longitudinal assessment of data involves the describing of the data and the results of the diachronic study (Menard, 2008: 8).

Within longitudinal studies, branches and different permutations of the study are found. One such example is trend studies. Trend studies involve studying the changes within a population group over time (Babbie & Mouton, 2001: 93). This study prescribes to this by focusing on the changes in attitudes of the South African population over the age of 16.

Despite the usefulness of longitudinal studies in tracking changes over time, this form of research is not without fault. The cost of longitudinal research (time, money and energy) and collection of data are factors which act as a deterrent. In seeking to analyse the data collected, some of the statistical procedures required may be considered “complex and unfamiliar”, which results in another challenge (Rajulton, 2001: 172). Lastly, the lack of or restricted access to longitudinal information is a further challenge (Rajulton, 2001: 172).

Despite the problems outlined above, longitudinal studies remain valuable given their ability to “show the nature of growth, trace patterns of change, and possibly give a true picture of cause and effect over time” (Rajulton, 2001: 171). Thus, these studies are useful in highlighting and studying periods of transition within the sphere of study. In addition, the data derived from longitudinal studies has become instrumental in grappling with the complexities linked to social processes given that such data is useful in establishing temporal order, creating and strengthening casual interpretations and measuring the nature of change within variables (Rajulton, 2001: 171).

This study seeks to overcome some of the challenges posed by longitudinal studies by making use of secondary data analysis. This form of data analysis is useful in mitigating the issues such as the time and money involved in data collection as well as the problem of panel and respondent attrition.

### **3.3 Secondary data analysis**

Secondary data analysis is a method which has been employed in the field of research in order to avoid and reduce the tedious and costly processes related to deriving data, such as survey work (Babbie & Mouton, 2001: 264). While primary data analysis sees those who collected the

data analyse it, secondary data analysis allows for researchers who were not involved in the process of data collection to analyse the collected data (Church, 2001: 32). Secondary data analysis is suited to analysing both qualitative and quantitative data and for the purpose of this study, secondary data analysis will be used to analyse the latter.

Vartanian (2011: 13-14) outlines the benefits of applying secondary data analysis to a research study. These include being cost-effective and taking less time to organize, having complete access to relative primary data, the available data covering an array of topics, being able to make use of reputable data sets such as the WVS and being able to make use of data sets which have a representative sample size thus allowing for richer observations (Vartanian, 2011: 13-14). Bryman (2012) elaborates on some of the points introduced by Vartanian (2011) and proposes further benefits of secondary data analysis. Like Vartanian (2011), Bryman (2012: 312) argues that secondary analysis allows for the accessing of good quality data for a fraction of the resources (time and money) involved in data collection. Furthermore, he concurs that one of the benefits of secondary analysis is the use of high-quality data sets which are both reputable and have also followed rigorous procedures relating to sampling (Bryman, 2012: 313).

In addition, and the most advantageous to this study, Bryman (2012: 313) states that secondary data analysis allows for longitudinal analysis where similar data is collected over time. Furthermore, secondary data analysis allows for the analysis and study of sizeable sub-groups which might have been harder if attempted independently, it allows for cross cultural analysis and research, the lack of data collection results in more time for data analysis, it allows for an array of interpretations of the data, and secondary data analysis widens the obligations for social researchers (Bryman, 2012: 314-315).

Despite the advantages, there are also limitations associated with using secondary data.

First, one of the more serious problems faced by researchers who use secondary data is that the data only approximates the kinds of data preferably employed to test hypotheses (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2007: 279)<sup>58</sup>.

Second, is the problem of access which relates to the challenge of either finding data archives which contain the variables necessary for the study or not having access to the relevant

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<sup>58</sup> Bryman (2012: 316) identifies this as the “absence of key variables”.

data in the hands of an investigator not wanting to release the data (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2007: 279).

Third, secondary data analysis may prove challenging to a researcher if there is insufficient information available on how the data was collected as such information is needed to determine whether there are any biases, errors or problems (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2007: 279).

Fourth, the lack of immediate familiarity with the data lengthens the process of data analysis as “a period of familiarization” with the data is necessitated (Bryman, 2012: 315).

Lastly, the complexity of the data (relating to the number of respondents and variables) and the lack of control of the data quality may pose further challenges to secondary data analysis (Bryman, 2012: 315-316).

These challenges have been overcome by: (1) having open access to the WVS data. All WVS is available online and while the 2013 wave is still under embargo, access to the data was possible by working in close proximity with the principal investigator; (2) the technical reports, which detail the processes followed in the data collection process, were easily accessible, which helps to overcome the issue of a lack of information on how the data has been collected, and (3) familiarity of the data was ensured by working with the WVS data prior to this study which has been useful in overcoming the complexity of the data.

In order to complete secondary data analysis, one needs to make use of tools and programmes which are designed to analyse the data. One such programme is the statistical and analytical programme, *The Statistical Package for Social Sciences* (SPSS). SPSS is a “comprehensive and flexible statistical analysis and data management solution” (Statistical Package for Social Sciences, 2014). SPSS is a tool which assists in providing a summary of the data, compiling tables and graphs, examining relationships between variables, testing for statistical significance given the research hypotheses and lastly, it is useful in developing “sophisticated” models (Babbie & Mouton, 2001: 583).

### **3.4 Description of datasets**

The WVS is an internationally renowned research project which examines not only the values and beliefs of the individual but also the stability or volatility of such values and beliefs. Furthermore, the project seeks to explore the impact that such values and beliefs have on the advances and occurrences in the social, cultural, political and economic sphere of societies

across the world (WVS, 2014). The broad topics covered by the WVS include support for democracy, electoral integrity, tolerance and trust, the role of religion, the impact of globalization and perceived individual well-being (WVS, 2014). From the topics covered, values such as those relating to religion, gender, family, work, leisure time, politics and economics can be derived (Kotzé & Harris, 2007).

The study depends on a conglomerate of social scientists from around the globe who are responsible for administering surveys in their country<sup>59</sup>. In order to monitor long-term changes in values and beliefs, six waves of surveys were administered between 1981 and 2014<sup>60</sup> in almost 100 societies globally. The societies involved in the WVS account for approximately 90% of the world's population (WVS, 2014). For each wave, the survey is based on a standardised questionnaire and is completed by a representative sample based on the national population (WVS, 2014).

The value of the WVS far exceeds its usefulness in the research domain as the findings of the data collected have been used, not only by researchers, but by policy makers, government, scholars and students, international organisations and journalists (World Value Survey, 2014).

In adhering to the prescription of longitudinal studies, this study draws on the data from the last four waves of the WVS which were conducted in South Africa in 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2013. The selection of the waves of survey data, between 1996 and 2013, is motivated by the purpose of the study: to assess the changes in attitudes towards foreigners subsequent to South Africa's transition to a democracy which took place in 1994. Due to the WVS being structured along the use of standardised questions in each wave, the longitudinal study of attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa is optimised as questions are likely to appear in the succeeding wave.

### **3.5 Number of respondents and sampling methods<sup>61</sup>**

In the four waves of the surveys under investigation, face-to-face interviews were conducted in the place of residence of the respondents. Interviews were conducted in English, Afrikaans,

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<sup>59</sup> The Principal Investigators (PI) for South Africa who were responsible for the four waves to be covered in this study are: 1996 –Hennie Kotzé and Mari Harris, 2001- Hennie Kotzé and Mari Harris, 2006- Hennie Kotzé and Mari Harris, and 2013- Hennie Kotzé.

<sup>60</sup> Wave 1:1981-1984, Wave 2: 1990-1994, Wave 3: 1995-1998, Wave 4:1999-2004, Wave 5: 2005-2009, Wave 6:2010-2014.

<sup>61</sup> All details on the sampling procedures and sample size are made available in the World Values Technical Reports which are released with the data sets online. See: <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSContents.jsp>.

Xhosa, Zulu, Tswana and Sotho by Ipsos South Africa in order to accommodate respondents through allowing better understanding of the questions (Kotzé & Steenekamp, 2009: 15).

Probability/random sampling was utilised. This is a sampling procedure where each member of the population being studied has “an equal and independent” chance of being selected in the sample (Kumar, 2011: 199). Thus, the selection of one of the elements of a sample is not dependent on another element (Kumar, 2011: 199). In ensuring that the sample selected is nationally representative, the study draws respondents from the South African population who are 16 years and older where everyone in this category has an equal chance of being selected (Kotzé & Steenekamp, 2009: 13). Given that the sample is weighted according to the full size of the population and that within a statistical margin of error of less than 2% with a 95% confidence level, it can be stated that the sample selected was representative of the adult population of South Africa (Kotzé & Steenekamp, 2009: 13).

In 1996, the total number of respondents surveyed was 2 899, where the sample was organised along racial lines and was spread across all nine of South Africa’s provinces. Three thousand individuals were surveyed in 2001 where the sample began to reflect a nationally representative sample of all racial groups. Furthermore, the sample was representative of the urban and rural populations, i.e. 60 percent of respondents were from metropolitan centres and 40 percent were from towns, villages and urban areas (Steenekamp, 2011: 83). In 2006, the sample selected was stratified<sup>62</sup> into sub-groupings based on province, gender, race and community size (Kotzé & Steenekamp, 2009: 13). The total number of respondents (N) in 2006 was 3 000 respondents. In 2013, 3 531 respondents formed the nationally representative sample selected using probability sampling.

### **3.6 Dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners**

Supported by the selection of variables in the studies by Carter (2010), Mataure (2013), Facchini *et al.* (2013), and Kleemans and Klugman (2009), this study identifies four dimensions of attitudes<sup>63</sup> towards foreigners within the WVS across the four waves. The dimensions identified include: (1) social tolerance towards foreigners; (2) interpersonal trust

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<sup>62</sup> Stratification refers to the subdividing of a population into subpopulations which are “mutually exclusive and exhaustive” (Frankel, 2010: 98). Thus, the population being sampled, in this case all South Africans over the age of 16, is divided into distinctive and divergent subpopulations (Frankel, 2010: 98).

<sup>63</sup> The question relating to interpersonal trust does not appear in the survey until 2006 therefore only 3 dimensions are studied in 1996 and 2001.



(trust in foreigners<sup>64</sup> and those of another nationality<sup>65</sup>); (3) employment preference and (4) attitudes towards migration. It is these four dimensions that will structure the discussion on South African's attitudinal orientations towards foreigners.

### 3.6.1 Dimension one: Social tolerance

#### 3.6.1.1 Conceptualisation of tolerance<sup>66</sup>

Tolerance is defined as being able to “put up with the objectionable” or more simply to be “putting up with” (Weisberg, 1998:16). Sullivan, Piereson and Marcus (1993:2) define tolerance as “a willingness to ‘put up with’ those things one rejects or opposes”. According to *Accept Pluralism*<sup>67</sup> (2013: 17), tolerance is to be defined as the “non- interference with practices or forms of life of others even if one disapproves of them”. Overall tolerance requires two aspects: non-interference and non-discrimination (*Accept Pluralism*, 2013: 17)<sup>68</sup>.

Given that tolerance can be understood in various contexts, distinctions can be drawn between the different permutations of tolerance. For example, political tolerance which has emerged in the context of political science, is distinguishable from social tolerance. Thus while tolerance is indeed individualistic and psychological in nature, its counterpart, political tolerance, is rather indicative of society's inclinations and orientations (Weisberg, 1998: 39).

The importance of not only social tolerance but tolerance in general is embedded in it being “a necessary precondition, although not a sufficient one, for democracy by itself, regardless of context” (*Accept Pluralism*, 2013: 13). This will be further discussed in chapter 4 as it relates to social cohesion.

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<sup>64</sup> This variable only appears in the 6<sup>th</sup> wave of the WVS (2013)

<sup>65</sup> This variable appears in both the 5<sup>th</sup> (2006) and the 6<sup>th</sup> wave (2013) of WVS

<sup>66</sup> Conceptualization is a definition which is able to describe a specific concept through the use of other concepts (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2007: 29)

<sup>67</sup> *Accept Pluralism* is a project funded by the European Commission under their Seventh Framework Programme. The aim of the project is to determine whether European societies have become more tolerant or intolerant over the past twenty years (European University Institute, 2013).

<sup>68</sup> Refer also to UNESCO's *Declaration of Principles on Tolerance* where Article 1 elaborates on the meaning of tolerance. See: [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=13175&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13175&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html) (UNESCO, 1995).

### 3.6.1.2 Operationalisation of tolerance<sup>69</sup>

The level of tolerance that respondents have for foreigners is measured by asking: *On this list are various groups of people. Could you please mention any that you would not like to have as neighbours?* Here the group presented to respondents is *Immigrants/Foreign Workers*. The question has two response categories: *mentioned* and *not mentioned*. Those respondents who *mentioned* that they would not like immigrants or foreign workers as neighbours are defined and measured as being intolerant while those respondents who did *not mention* it are tolerant.

## 3.6.2 Dimension two: Interpersonal trust

### 3.6.2.1 Conceptualisation of interpersonal trust

The value of trust rests in it being “necessary for people to live together, cooperate with each other, and coordinate efforts and behaviour” (Righetti & Finkenauer, 2011: 874). Despite a lack of consensus about how to define trust, agreement has been reached on the perception that trust implies a positive outcome or “expectation towards another person’s behavior” (Righetti & Finkenauer, 2011: 874). A proposed definition of trust is “a person’s ‘expectations, assumption, or belief about the likelihood that another’s future actions will be beneficial, favorable, or at least not detrimental to one’s interests’” (Righetti & Finkenauer, 2011: 874). In order for trust to exist, three elements need to be present: interdependence, risk and free choice. Interdependence refers to the need for there to be a reliance on another person in order for a specific outcome to be met while risk alludes to a person realising that the potential exists for something to be lost if the other party involved does not “act favourably” (Righetti & Finkenauer, 2011: 874). Lastly, free choice implies that people choose to make themselves vulnerable through their reliance on another party in order to achieve the best possible outcome or to withdraw (Righetti & Finkenauer, 2011: 875).

More specific to this study, interpersonal trust is instrumental in shaping human relationships across all spectrums. Interpersonal trust can be defined as “a generalized expectancy held by an individual that the word, promise, oral or written statement of another individual or group can be relied on” (Rotter, 1980: 1).

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<sup>69</sup> Operationalization is the description of the procedures which will be followed “in order to establish the existence of the phenomenon described” by the conceptual definition (Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2007: 29).

### 3.6.2.2 Operationalisation of interpersonal trust

Interpersonal trust is measured by asking respondents of the WVS the following question: *Could you tell me for each whether you trust people from this group completely, somewhat, not very much or not at all?* Of the groups presented to respondents, this study focuses on what respondents had to say about *people of another nationality* and *immigrants/foreign workers*. Respondents were able to choose from four of the ordinal categories: *trust completely*, *trust somewhat*, *do not trust very much* and *do not trust at all*. The first two response categories are indicative of more positive levels of interpersonal trust while the latter two categories represent negative levels of trust. The ‘don’t know/refused’ answers were excluded from the analysis and treated as discrete missing values<sup>70</sup>.

### 3.6.3 Dimension three: Employment preference

#### 3.6.3.1 Conceptualisation of employment preference

The dimension of employment preference is underpinned by the belief that South Africans are more deserving or entitled to employment opportunities. The inclusion of this measure is beneficial to this study as a great deal of the contestation and outcry around the influx and presence of foreigners in South Africa is orientated around the idea that foreigners are a threat to access to economic resources as they are competition for employment opportunities (Paton, 2014b) (African National Congress, 2011).

#### 3.6.3.2 Operationalisation of employment preference

Employment preference is measured by asking respondents if they agree or disagree with the statement: *When jobs are scarce, employers should give priority to South African people over immigrants*. Three response categories are presented to the respondents of the WVS- (1) *Agree*, (2) *Neither agree nor disagree*, (3) *Disagree*. For the purpose of this study, “don’t know” is excluded and treated as a missing value.

### 3.6.4 Dimension four: Attitudes towards migration

#### 3.6.4.1 Conceptualisation of attitudes towards migration

The core element embedded in attitudes towards migration is the belief that the government should place restrictions on foreigners wishing to enter the country (Mataure, 2013:1). Such

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<sup>70</sup> Trust in people of another nationality: 2006, 2.1% of respondents answered refused/ don’t know and in 2013 it was 5.5%. 5.4% of respondents answered refused/don’t know when questioned on trust of foreign workers/immigrants.

orientations often range from welcoming all foreigners to prohibiting all foreigners from entering the country (Carter, 2010: 3).

While it is possible that measuring attitudes towards migration is driven by the inclination to measure the respondent's views on foreigners gaining entrance to the country, Carter (2010: 3) argues that studying attitudes towards migration is a useful measure of the level of tolerance which respondents have towards foreigners. This is done through categorising respondents as either tolerants<sup>71</sup> (those who say that foreigners are welcome) and restrictionists<sup>72</sup> (limit or prohibit foreigners) (Carter, 2010: 4).

#### **3.6.4.2 Operationalisation of attitudes towards migration**

Attitudes towards migration are gauged by asking respondents: *How about people from other countries coming here to work? Which one of the following do you think the government should do?* Four response categories are presented to respondents: (1) *Let anyone come who wants to*, (2) *Let people come as long as there are jobs available* (3) *Place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here*, (4) *Prohibit people coming here from other countries*. As with the other dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners, the 'don't know/ refused' responses are treated as missing values and are excluded from the analysis<sup>73</sup>.

### **3.7 Conclusion**

The research design and methodology employed in measuring the longitudinal changes in attitudes are not without limitations. However, these limitations can be overcome. Four dimensions: social tolerance, interpersonal trust, employment preference and attitudes toward migration will be used to analyse the overall trends in attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa from 1996 until 2013. These findings are based on the secondary data analysis of four waves of WVS survey data for the years 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2013.

Chapter Four will present the findings of the longitudinal changes in attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa by assessing the changes in the four abovementioned dimensions.

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<sup>71</sup> Respondents who believe that government should let anyone in and that government should let people in as long as there are jobs available (Carter, 2010: 4).

<sup>72</sup> Respondents who assert that the government should "prohibit people from entering from other countries" and those who believe that strict restrictions should be placed on the number of foreigners allowed to enter the country (Carter, 2010: 4).

<sup>73</sup> Percentage of don't know/refused excluded- 1996: 3.0%, 2001: 4.1%, 2006: 4.1%, 2013: 3.9%.

These findings will be elaborated on by the discussion of the post-apartheid landscape in South Africa.

## Chapter 4: Dimensions of Attitudes towards Foreigners in South Africa

### 4.1 Introduction

The value of studying attitudes towards foreigners, as I propose to do through assessing trends in four dimensions of such attitudes, far exceeds its intrinsic value as such findings are useful in evaluating a broad spectrum of national efforts such as nation building, social cohesion and even policy reformulation. Combining the investigation of dimensions of attitudes toward foreigners with cross-tabulations of individual characteristics or attributes, strengthens the understanding of which sub-groups within South Africa carry certain attitudinal orientations towards foreigners and how these have changed over time.

The purpose of this chapter is twofold. Firstly, the chapter will present the longitudinal findings of the four dimensions. Seven independent variables will be introduced in order to analyse the influence that individual characteristics have on the four dimensions of attitudes. Secondly, this chapter will take a deeper look at the findings presented and provide possible explanations for any trends reported.

### 4.2 Understanding variations in attitudes towards foreigners

The findings from the studies by Jewell *et al.* (2009) and Facchini *et al.* (2013)<sup>74</sup> regarding the impact of economic and non-economic factors on attitudes towards immigrants motivates the selection of a combination of economic and non-economic factors to gauge their impact on the trends in the four dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners. This study selects both economic factors (employment status, education and financial satisfaction) and non-economic factors (race, gender, social class and generalized trust) as independent variables<sup>75</sup> against which the trends between 1996 and 2013 will be analysed.

The economic and non-economic independent variables were operationalised as follows:

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<sup>74</sup> Discussed in Chapter 2 under Section 2.6- Attitudes towards Immigration and Immigrants- Previous Study Outcomes

<sup>75</sup> Dependent variables are those variables that depend on or are caused by another or other variables (these variables are the independent variables of a study) (Babbie & Mouton, 2001: 641).

*Race*<sup>7677</sup>: The racial grouping of the respondents was recorded based on the observation of the interviewer. Respondents were categorised as 1=*Black*, 2=*White*, 3=*Coloured*, or 4=*Indian*.

*Gender/Sex of respondent*: The gender or sex of the respondent was measured on a two point scale: 1=*Male* and 2= *Female*

*Employment status*: In order to gauge employment status, respondents were asked, *Are you currently employed or not?* Response categories were 1=*Yes* (employed) and 2=*No* (unemployed). The 1996 response categories were recoded according to the response categories presented in 2001, 2006 and 2013. 1=*Yes* (employed) included full-time, part time and self-employed response categories and 2=*No* (unemployed) included the unemployed, student, housewife and retired/pensioner response categories. All other response categories were treated as missing as with the ‘other’ response category in the 2013 survey.

*Education*: Measured by asking respondents, *What is the highest educational level that you have attained?* The response categories were recoded into 1=*No School*, 2= *Primary School* (primary school incomplete and completed), 3=*High School* (High School incomplete and completed) and 4=*University* (some university and completed). All other response categories were treated as missing values.

*Perceived social class*: Measured by asking respondents, *People sometimes describe themselves as belonging to the working class, the middle class, or the upper or lower class. Would you describe yourself as belonging to the ...?* The response categories were recoded and collapsed- 1=*Lower Class* included the lower class + working class, 2=*Middle Class* included lower middle + upper middle class and 3=*Upper class* remained the same.

*Generalised trust*: Measured by asking respondents, *Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?*

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<sup>76</sup>In the waves, where *Other* response category is included, it is treated as a missing value.

<sup>77</sup> The WVS makes use of the widely used fourfold categorisation of race. Such categories are social constructions and do not necessarily reflect my beliefs on the categorisation of people on the basis of race.

The data in the 2006 and 2013 wave were recoded into a two point nominal variable where respondents either believe 1= *Most people can be trusted* or 2=*Need to be very careful*

*Financial satisfaction:* Respondents were asked, *How satisfied are you with the financial situation of your household?* The responses were captured on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1= *Completely dissatisfied* and 10 = *Completely satisfied*.

### **4.3 Attitudes towards foreigners**

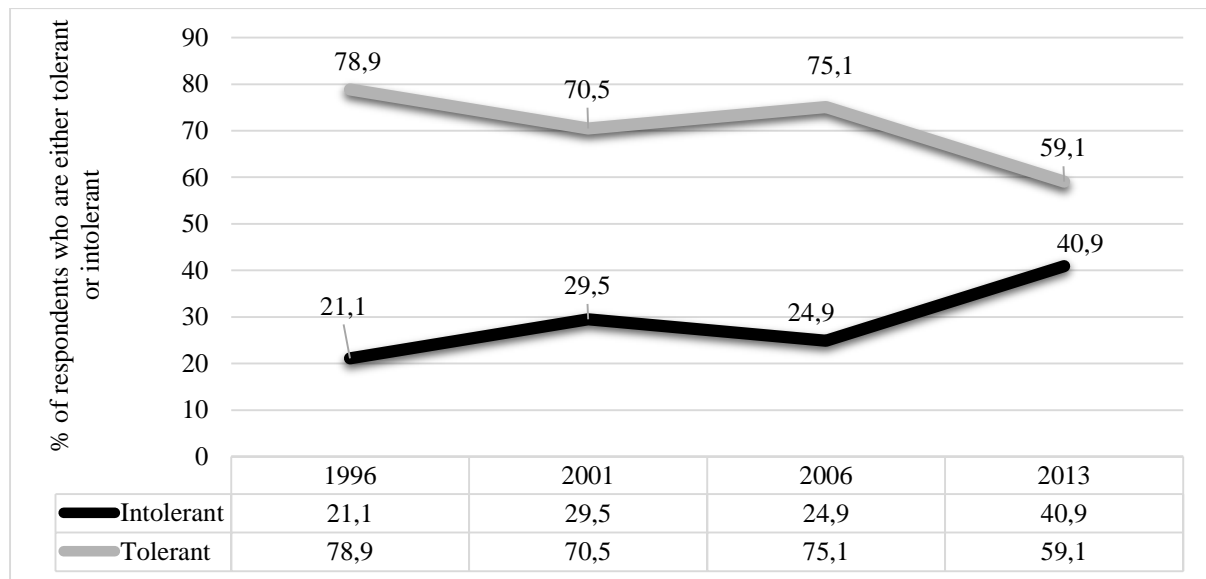
This study rests on the conceptual understanding that attitudes are linked to an individual's behaviour. This understanding of attitudes in the context of the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments in South Africa has motivated the investigation of attitudes towards foreigners in the country. Furthermore, the rise of issues relating to migration becoming more prominent in the democratic South Africa has served as a motivator for the selection of the period of inquisition for the longitudinal study. Measuring attitudes towards foreigners is undertaken by investigating the changes in four dimensions: social tolerance, interpersonal trust, employment preference and attitudes toward migration, which have been identified as being instrumental in shaping attitudinal orientations.

#### **4.3.1 Trends in social tolerance**

In order to measure the change in levels of social tolerance in South Africa between 1996 and 2013, respondents in all four waves of WVS were asked, "On this list are various groups of people. Could you please mention any that you would *not* like to have as neighbours?" This study focuses specifically on how respondents perceived *immigrants/foreign workers*. The responses were coded on a two-point scale: (1) mentioned, *intolerant*; and (2) not mentioned, *tolerant*.

Figure 4.1 illustrates the change in the levels of tolerance towards immigrants/foreign workers between 1996 and 2013. The figure shows the growth of intolerance towards foreign workers and immigrants following the country's transition to a democracy. In 1996, the lowest level of intolerance towards foreign workers/ immigrants was documented, as less than a quarter of respondents (21.1%) mentioned that they would not want foreign workers/ immigrants as their neighbours. By 2013, the level of intolerance had almost doubled to 40.9%.



**Figure 4.1: Tolerance towards immigrants/ foreign workers, 1996-2013**

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

According to UNESCO (2014a), the shift from tolerance to intolerance is evident in the movement away from respect and appreciation to endorsing and relying on violence and, marginalizing and discriminating against individuals and groups.

The level of intolerant respondents increased by 8.4% while the percentage of intolerant respondents shifted from 21.1% in 1996 to 29.5% in 2001. The upward trajectory in intolerance was not, however, continued between 2001 and 2006 as the percentage of intolerant respondents declined from 29.5% to 24.9%. The period between 2006 and 2013 was characterised by a significant increase in the percentage of intolerant respondents, the highest level of intolerant respondents (40.9%) across all four waves of the WVS. This finding is contrary to the findings presented by Mataure (2013: 4), who found that between 2008 and 2011 there was an increase in the level of tolerance for living and working in close proximity to foreigners.

#### **4.3.1.1 The impact of the independent variables on social tolerance**

Tables 4.1 to 4.7 add to the descriptive nature of this study by assessing the trends in social tolerance according to various groups and factors within South African society. Table 4.1 allows us to make a number of descriptive observations about the trends in social tolerance amongst males and females in South Africa between 1996 and 2013.

**Table 4.1: Tolerance by gender, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Intolerant	20.6	21.6	32.0	26.7	25.5	24.3	41.8	40.1
Tolerant	79.4	78.4	68.0	73.3	74.5	75.7	58.2	59.9

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Table 4.1 shows that while the greatest portion of respondents (both male and female) are tolerant of foreigners across the four waves, there is a significant increase in the level of intolerance amongst males and females. For both, the levels of intolerance doubles between 1996 and 2013, which is expected given the overall trend in social tolerance.

The data indicates that there is little variance between males and females, therefore gender does not have a significant impact on social tolerance.

**Table 4.2: Tolerance by race, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996				2001			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Intolerant	23.9	8.9	23.3	8.5	32.4	22.5	19.8	25.4
Tolerant	76.1	91.1	76.7	91.5	67.6	77.5	80.2	74.6
RACE	2006				2013			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Intolerant	26.3	14.8	23.9	23.5	40.1	45.5	37.6	56.7
Tolerant	73.7	85.2	76.1	76.5	59.9	54.5	62.4	43.3

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Table 4.2 provides a breakdown of social tolerance according to the four racial groups in South Africa. Overall, Blacks remain the most intolerant of foreign workers and immigrants up until 2006 whereas from 2013 Indians become the most intolerant group. Furthermore, we see that the percentage of tolerant respondents declines across all racial groups.

In 1996, Black South Africans (23.9%) were the most intolerant towards foreign workers and immigrants followed by Coloureds (23.3%). Although the percentage of intolerant Indian and White respondents increased significantly from 1996, Blacks remained the most intolerant group in 2001. By 2006, the data showed little variation amongst Black, Coloured and Indian respondents while the White population were the most tolerant. 2013, however, was marked by a general decline in the levels of tolerance toward foreign workers/immigrants.

Interestingly, when looking at the split in the percentage of respondents in each category across the four racial groups, more than half of the respondents indicated they are tolerant of foreign workers/ immigrants. The only exception is seen in 2013, amongst the Indian respondents, where 56.7% mentioned the group ‘foreign workers/immigrants’. Furthermore, when assessing the longitudinal trends in levels of tolerance amongst Indians, it is noticeable that this group shifted from being the most tolerant group in 1996 (91.5% tolerant) to the least tolerant group in 2013.

**Table 4.3: Tolerance by employment status of respondent<sup>78</sup>, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

EMPLOYMENT	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Intolerant	19.3	22.6	30.6	28.6	23.8	25.5	38.1	42.5
Tolerant	80.7	77.4	69.4	71.4	76.2	74.5	61.9	57.5

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

The data in Table 4.3 shows that in 1996, 2006 and 2013, those respondents who were employed were most tolerant of foreign workers and immigrants. Despite this finding, there is very little difference in the levels of tolerance or intolerance between those respondents who were employed and those who were unemployed.

Table 4.4 introduces tolerance from the perspective of respondents with varying levels of education. The data shows that there is only a marginal difference in the level of tolerance amongst the respondents who had *no schooling* and either *primary* or *high school* education within each wave. Thus, the biggest outlier are those respondents who had a *university* education as they recorded the highest percentage of tolerance towards foreign workers and immigrants across all four waves.

Despite those respondents with a *university* education having the highest levels of tolerance towards foreign workers and immigrants, looking at the longitudinal changes from 1996 to 2013, it is evident that the number of intolerant respondents close to quadrupled from 9.7% to 34.2%. Therefore, while those with some *university* qualification remained more tolerant when compared to respondents with lower levels of education, the percentage of intolerant respondents with a *university* qualification has increased over time.

<sup>78</sup> *Yes* denotes that the respondent was employed while *No* denotes that the respondent was unemployed

**Table 4.4: Tolerance by education, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

EDUCATION	1996				2001			
	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Intolerant	21.1	24.3	21.8	9.7	36.2	31.5	31.6	22.0
Tolerant	78.9	75.7	78.2	90.3	63.8	68.5	68.4	78.0
EDUCATION	2006				2013			
	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Intolerant	26.3	26.0	25.8	15.4	44.8	38.9	42.2	34.2
Tolerant	73.7	74.0	74.2	84.6	55.3	61.1	57.8	65.8

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Table 4.5 allows us to make a number of descriptive observations about the trends in tolerance amongst respondents who perceive themselves as belonging to either the lower, middle or upper class. The assumption is that respondents who identify as *upper class* are more likely to be tolerant than the *middle* and *lower class* respondents. Contrary to this assumption, the data shows a shift from the *upper class* being the most tolerant group of respondents in 1996, where 93.7% of respondents were tolerant of foreign workers/ immigrants, to 2013 where *upper class* respondents were the most intolerant respondents across the classes.

**Table 4.5: Tolerance by social class, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996			2001		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Intolerant	23.1	17.7	6.3	30.6	25.1	57.5
Tolerant	76.9	82.3	93.7	69.4	74.9	42.5
	2006			2013		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Intolerant	26.3	24.4	25.3	39.4	44.6	47.8
Tolerant	73.7	75.6	74.7	60.6	55.4	52.2

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

From the data presented in Table 4.6, two important points can be drawn. Firstly, there is an insignificant difference in the level of tolerance and intolerance between those respondents who believe that people *can be trusted* and those who believe that one *needs to be careful*. Secondly, the data shows that respondents who were more trusting of people recorded higher levels of intolerance than those respondents who were generally more wary of trusting people. This finding challenges the assumption that one is more likely to tolerate those one trusts.

**Table 4.6: Tolerance by generalized trust, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

TRUST	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful
Intolerant	24.0	20.0	30.6	29.7	29.2	24.1	44.0	40.0
Tolerant	76.0	80.0	69.4	70.3	70.8	75.9	56.0	60.0

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

In terms of financial satisfaction, where 1 means *completely dissatisfied* and 10 means *completely satisfied*, the mean scores of both intolerant and tolerant respondents have moved away from being more dissatisfied in 1996 (4.11 for intolerant respondents and 4.26 for tolerant respondents) to more satisfied by 2013 (5.97 for intolerant respondents and 6.24 for tolerant respondents) (see Table 4.7).

**Table 4.7: Tolerance by financial satisfaction of respondent, 1996-2013**

Response Category	Mean financial satisfaction			
	1996	2001	2006	2013
Intolerant	4.11	4.59	5.58	5.97
Tolerant <sup>79</sup>	4.26	4.69	5.68	6.24
Total	4.23	4.66	5.66	6.13

Note: The mean is to be read as being the average financial satisfaction of respondents. Financial satisfaction is read on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is completely dissatisfied and 10 is completely satisfied

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Despite this, the data shows that in each wave it was respondents who tolerated foreign workers and immigrants who were more satisfied with their financial situation than intolerant respondents. Therefore tolerance can be linked to higher financial satisfaction.

### 4.3.2 Trends in interpersonal trust

In accordance with Righetti and Finkenauer's (2011: 874) conceptualisation of trust, the presence of trust indicates that one party views the "future actions" of another party as not negatively impacting on their interests and pursuits. Following from this, interpersonal trust embodies the ability of one party to rely on another individual or group's actions and words (Rotter, 1980: 1). The lack thereof is associated with the weakening of social dynamics and interaction in addition to breaking down the social fabric (Rotter, 1980: 1).

<sup>79</sup> Intolerant here refers to all respondents who mentioned, while tolerant respondents were those who did not mention foreign workers/ immigrants

In order to gauge the levels of interpersonal trust, respondents were asked: “Could you tell me for each whether you trust people from this group?” Of the groups presented to respondents, this study focuses on responses to *people of another nationality* and *immigrants/ foreign workers*. Four response categories were presented to the respondent: (1) *trust completely*, (2) *trust somewhat*, (3) *do not trust very much* (4) *do not trust at all*. Table 4.8 illustrates the longitudinal trends in trust in people of another nationality and immigrants/foreign workers in 2006 and 2013.

**Table 4.8: Interpersonal trust for 2006 and 2013**

	Another Nationality	Another Nationality	Immigrants/ Foreign Workers
	2006	2013	2013
Trust completely	6.8	11.2	6.3
Trust somewhat	42.2	38.2	26.3
Do not trust very much	37.6	31.6	30.7
Do not trust at all	13.4	19.0	36.7

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

When assessing the overall levels of trust<sup>80</sup> and distrust<sup>81</sup> in 2006 and 2013, there was little difference between those who were trusting and those who were distrusting of people of another nationality. In 2006, 49.0% of respondents were trusting while 51% of respondents did not trust people of another nationality compared to the 49.4% of respondents who were trusting and the 50.6% of respondents who were not trusting in 2013. Therefore, the change in overall trust and distrust of people of another nationality between 2006 and 2013 was insignificant.

Respondents were, however, less trusting of ‘foreigners/ immigrants’. It must be noted that ‘foreign workers/immigrants’ are those who have moved to South Africa with the purpose of working and/or living here, while ‘people of another nationality’ refers in general to people who are not from South Africa. The higher level of distrust of foreign workers/ immigrants is apparent in the 6.3% of respondents who completely trust this group as opposed to the 11.2% of respondents who trust people of another nationality. Furthermore, the findings of the overall levels of trust and distrust show that of these two groups, half the respondents (50.6%) do not trust people of another nationality, while more than two-thirds of respondents (67.4%) do not trust foreign workers/ immigrants.

<sup>80</sup> Overall trust is measured by combining the totals of the ‘*Trust completely*’ and ‘*Trust somewhat*’ response categories.

<sup>81</sup> Overall levels of distrust are measured by combining the totals of the ‘*Do not trust very much*’ and ‘*Do not trust at all*’ response categories.

#### 4.3.2.1 The impact of the independent variables on interpersonal trust

Tables 4.9 to 4.15 strengthens the descriptive nature of this study by assessing the trends in interpersonal trust according to both economic and non-economic factors. Table 4.9 allows us to make a number of descriptive observations about the trends in interpersonal trust among males and females in South Africa between 1996 and 2013.

**Table 4.9: Interpersonal trust by gender, 2006-2013 (column percentages)**

	People of another nationality				Foreign worker/Immigrant	
	2006		2013		2013	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Trust completely	7.6	6.0	10.9	11.4	6.0	6.6
Trust somewhat	40.1	44.3	37.7	38.7	24.9	27.6
Do not trust very much	39.2	35.9	32.2	30.9	31.1	30.4
Do not trust at all	13.1	13.7	19.2	18.9	38.1	35.5

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Looking at the trends in trust of people of another nationality between 2006 and 2013 we see that in both waves the largest percentage of respondents (both male and female) stated that they *somewhat trust* people of another nationality followed by *do not trust very much*. In 2006, more males were *completely trusting* of people of another nationality than females but in 2013, this is inverted as females became more trusting. The data indicates that in both waves there is very little variation in interpersonal trust across the gender groups indicating that gender does not have a significant impact on interpersonal trust.

Furthermore, assessing the levels of interpersonal trust in 2013 between people of another nationality, and foreign workers and immigrants we see that both male and female respondents were less trusting of the latter group.

Table 4.10 summarises interpersonal trust amongst South Africa's four racial groups. The data shows that Blacks were the most trusting of people of another nationality in the 2006 and 2013 waves of the WVS. However, despite Black respondents being the most trusting of people of another nationality in 2006 we see that they were also the most distrusting of people of another nationality.

**Table 4.10: Interpersonal trust by race, 2006-2013 (column percentages)**

	People of another nationality							
	2006				2013			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Trust completely	7.2	5.7	4.7	6.3	12.7	7.3	3.7	5.2
Trust somewhat	38.8	60.4	49.1	54.1	38.6	37.3	34.7	41.8
Do not trust very much	39.8	25.1	32.2	35.5	30.3	40.0	31.7	31.0
Do not trust at all	14.2	8.8	13.9	4.2	18.4	15.4	29.8	22.0

	Foreign worker/ Immigrant			
	2013			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Trust completely	7.1	3.5	2.0	7.7
Trust somewhat	26.9	27.5	23.2	12.0
Do not trust very much	30.2	33.1	32.6	29.8
Do not trust at all	35.8	35.9	42.2	50.5

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Assessing the trends in the 2013 data, it is interesting to note that Indians had the highest levels of *trust completely* and *do not trust at all* when compared to the other four race groups.

Table 4.11 summarises the results of interpersonal trust by employment status. By comparing the 2006 and 2013 data, we see that there were higher levels of *complete trust* of people of another nationality in 2013 amongst both employed and unemployed respondents than in 2006. Between 2006 and 2013, the percentage of unemployed respondents who *completely trust* people of another nationality more than doubled from 5.4% to 11.4%. Furthermore, in both waves the unemployed respondents had higher levels of distrust of people of another nationality than those respondents who were employed.

**Table 4.11: Interpersonal trust by employment status of respondent, 2006-2013 (column percentage)**

	People of another nationality				Foreign worker/ Immigrant	
	2006		2013		2013	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Trust completely	9.0	5.4	10.6	11.4	6.1	6.4
Trust somewhat	45.5	40.1	42.2	36.0	29.4	24.6
Do not trust very much	35.8	38.7	30.3	32.3	29.1	31.5
Do not trust at all	9.7	15.7	16.9	20.3	35.4	37.5

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.



Comparing the levels of trust of people of another nationality (2013) and foreign workers/immigrants, the data shows that both employed and unemployed respondents were less trusting of foreign workers/immigrants than people of another nationality.

Table 4.12 illustrates that in both waves respondents who had either begun or completed their university education were more trusting<sup>82</sup> of both groups (people of another nationality and foreign workers/ immigrants). Interestingly, none of the respondents with *no schooling completely trust* foreign workers or immigrants while 53.8% did not trust this group at all.

**Table 4.12: Interpersonal trust by level of education, 2006-2013 (column percentages)**

	People of another nationality							
	2006				2013			
	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Trust completely	12.7	5.7	6.7	7.7	2.6	9.3	11.5	12.5
Trust somewhat	38.1	40.8	41.1	57.5	39.3	32.7	38.6	40.5
Do not trust very much	37.6	38.3	38.0	23.6	33.7	32.2	32.3	24.5
Do not trust at all	11.5	15.2	14.1	11.2	24.5	25.8	17.6	22.5
	Foreign worker/Immigrant							
	2013							
	No School	Primary School	High School	University				
Trust completely	-	6.4	6.5	5.6				
Trust somewhat	21.6	19.7	25.4	30.7				
Do not trust very much	24.6	32.0	31.2	28.0				
Do not trust at all	53.8	41.9	36.9	35.8				

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Table 4.13 allows us to make descriptive observations about interpersonal trust amongst three self-perceived social classes. Assessing interpersonal trust of people of another nationality, the largest percentage of respondents over all three social classes were found in the response category *Trust somewhat* in 2006. In 2013, the largest percentage of respondents in the lower and middle class *somewhat trusted* people of another nationality while the upper class respondents *Do not trust at all* people of another nationality. The 2013 results for trust of foreign workers/ immigrants indicated that across all three social classes, the greatest percentage of respondents *do not at all trust* foreign workers/ immigrants.

<sup>82</sup> This is a combination of the percentages of the '*Trust completely*' and '*Trust somewhat*' response category.

**Table 4.13: Interpersonal trust by social class, 2006-2013 (column percentages)**

	People of another nationality						Foreign Worker/ Immigrant		
	2006			2013			2013		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Trust completely	6.9	5.3	17.3	11.6	9.8	24.3	5.5	8.0	12.4
Trust somewhat	39.5	45.2	41.0	37.8	40.2	22.7	25.7	27.9	26.0
Do not trust very much	38.5	38.3	34.2	31.2	32.7	23.0	31.5	28.7	19.4
Do not trust at all	15.1	11.2	7.6	19.5	17.3	30.0	37.3	35.5	42.2

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

The data presented in Table 4.14 challenges the assumption that those who believe that people *can be trusted* would report higher levels of interpersonal trust. In 2006 the data shows that there were more respondents with low levels of generalised trust (believed one *needs to be careful* when dealing with people) who *completely trust* people of another nationality than respondents with higher levels of generalised trust. However, it was also found that respondents with lower levels of generalised trust also had the lowest levels of trust in people of another nationality. Looking at the respondents in the 2006 wave with the highest levels of generalised trust, we see that the majority of them (46.1%) only *somewhat trust* people of another nationality although one would expect them to *completely trust* this group.

**Table 4.14: Interpersonal trust by generalised trust, 2006-2013 (column percentages)**

	People of another nationality				Foreign Worker/ Immigrant	
	2006		2013		2013	
	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful
Trust completely	6.3	6.9	12.1	10.9	7.4	6.0
Trust somewhat	46.1	41.5	36.3	38.9	30.0	25.1
Do not trust very much	36.7	37.8	36.7	29.9	31.8	30.3
Do not trust at all	10.9	13.9	14.9	20.3	30.8	38.5

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Further findings which challenge the assumptions about generalised trust and interpersonal trust is seen in 2013. The data shows that the majority of respondents who believe that people *can be trusted*, for both people of another nationality and foreign workers/immigrants, answered, for these groups, that they *Do not trust very much*. Furthermore, the majority of respondents with low generalised trust said that they *somewhat trust* people of another nationality and *do not trust at all* foreign workers/immigrants.

The final set of data, outlined in Table 4.15, assesses interpersonal trust from the perspective of the financial satisfaction of respondents. The data shows that between 2006 and 2013, looking at trust of people of another nationality, there was an increase in the financial satisfaction of respondents across all response categories except *trust completely*. Therefore the financial satisfaction of those respondents who *completely trust* people of another nationality has declined from 2006 (7.05) to 6.26 in 2013.

**Table 4.15: Interpersonal trust by financial satisfaction of respondent, 2006-2013**

	People of another Nationality		Foreign worker/ Immigrant
	Mean financial satisfaction		Mean financial satisfaction
	2006	2013	2013
Trust completely	7.05	6.26	6.13
Trust somewhat	6.14	6.25	6.30
Do not trust very much	5.27	6.14	6.09
Do not trust at all	4.85	5.89	6.08
Total	5.70	6.15	6.14

*Note: The mean is to be read as being the average financial satisfaction of respondents. Financial satisfaction is read on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is completely dissatisfied and 10 is completely satisfied*

Source: WVS 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Comparing the mean scores for the two groups in 2013 (people of another nationality and foreigners/immigrants), those respondents who *Trust completely* and those who *Do not trust very much* people of another nationality are more satisfied with their financial situation than respondents who *Trust completely* and *Do not trust very much* foreigner workers/immigrants. Within the remaining two response categories (*Trust somewhat* and *Do not trust at all*) higher mean scores are recorded in the trust of foreigner workers/immigrants. Therefore the financial satisfaction of those respondents who *Trust somewhat* and *Do not at all trust* foreign workers/immigrants is higher than the financial satisfaction of respondents who *Somewhat trust* and *Do not at all trust* people of another nationality.

### 4.3.3 Trends in employment preference

In seeking to measure the orientations of respondents toward employment preference, the following question was posed: “When jobs are scarce, employers should give priority to South African people over immigrants?” The list of responses presented to respondents are: (1) *Agree*, (2) *Neither agree nor disagree*, (3) *Disagree*. Table 4.16 illustrates the longitudinal trends in employment preference between 1996 and 2013.

**Table 4.16: Employment preference for South Africans, 1996 -2013**

	1996	2001	2006	2013
Agree	83.3	76.4	78.3	50.6
Neither agree nor disagree	7.0	13.5	10.7	27.7
Disagree	9.7	10.1	11.0	21.6

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

The data shows the movement from a vast majority of respondents (83.3%) believing that preference should be awarded to South Africans over foreigners in 1996 to just about half of the respondents (50.6%) in 2013.

Interestingly, the biggest shift across all response categories was noted between 2006 and 2013 as the number of respondents who believed that priority should be given to South Africans decreased significantly (by 27.7%), while the number of respondents who were neutral and those who believed that no priority should be awarded to native citizens increased by 17% and 10.6% respectively. This finding challenges the assumptions that following the global financial crisis<sup>83</sup>, citizens would want to reserve available employment opportunities for native citizens. According to the 2006 and 2013 WVS data, following the crisis, citizens were more open to equal opportunity of available jobs than before the economic downturn.

#### **4.3.3.1 The impact of the independent variables on employment preference**

Tables 4.17 to 4.23 proves useful in assessing the trends in employment preference according to economic and non-economic factors. Table 4.17 summarises employment preference by gender. The trend in the data matches the general trend in employment preference; thus there is no significant variance by gender. The data shows that from 2001 onwards females are more likely to disagree with the awarding of employment preference to South Africans. This finding supports the one made by Kleemans and Klugman (2009: 17-18) as they found that women are bigger supporters of equality between foreigners and locals in the job market.

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<sup>83</sup> The financial crisis began following the crash of Lehman Brothers in the United States of America in September of 2008 which is believed to be the largest case of bankruptcy in the United States of America ever (van Beek, 2011: 14) (Fox, 2009). Following the crash, a new credit-rating system was introduced as state-owned institutions, which provided support for mortgages on residential property, began carrying the credit risk of potential and current home owners (du Plessis, 2011: 26-27). Following weaknesses in the new credit rating system, sub-prime mortgages were introduced which made credit more accessible to people who would previously not have been eligible (du Plessis, 2011: 28). The low interest rates introduced resulted in many pivotal banks and financial institutions having to close down (du Plessis, 2011: 29). It is believed that the spill-over effect from one institution to another played the most important role in perpetuating the financial crisis. Given that modern financial systems require a dependency on international counterparts, the financial crisis could not be contained in the United States.

**Table 4.17: Employment preference for South Africans by gender, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Agree	82.6	83.9	80.6	71.8	78.1	78.5	52.0	49.3
Neither agree nor disagree	7.2	6.8	10.6	16.7	11.1	10.2	28.4	27.1
Disagree	10.2	9.3	8.8	11.5	10.8	11.3	19.6	23.6

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Assessing employment preference by race, (Table 4.18), we note similar trends as found in Table 4.17. Over all four waves, more than 50% of respondents over all four racial groups reported that they *Agree* that employment priority should be awarded to South Africans. The only instance where this was not found is in 2013, where only 47.1% of black respondents answered in favour of employment preference.

**Table 4.18: Employment preference for South Africans by race, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996				2001			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Agree	82.0	84.6	90.3	89.8	72.1	82.1	92.4	95.5
Neither agree nor disagree	7.9	5.7	2.2	4.7	16.7	6.3	4.4	1.6
Disagree	10.1	9.8	7.4	5.5	11.2	11.6	3.1	2.9
	2006				2013			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Agree	76.5	83.6	87.5	87.9	47.1	60.4	61.9	72.6
Neither agree nor disagree	11.7	5.9	7.7	4.0	29.5	23.0	22.6	14.5
Disagree	11.7	10.5	4.9	8.1	23.4	16.6	15.5	12.9

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Looking at the breakdown by race we see that in 1996, 2001 and 2006 it was the Coloured and Indian respondents who recorded the highest percentage of respondents who *agree* with the employment preference statement. Interestingly, we see that Blacks were most opposed to giving preference to South Africans over foreigners. This finding challenges one of the core assumptions made in this study as some of the biggest contestation and uproar regarding foreigners depriving South Africans of employment opportunities has been from Black South Africans.

Looking at the data presented in Table 4.19, we see that the trends in employment status are almost identical to gender. Therefore, there is no significant variance in employment preference by employment status. However, this finding is surprising as one would assume that employment status would have an impact on the respondents' orientations towards employment preference.

**Table 4.19: Employment preference for South Africans by employment status of respondent, 1996-2013 (column percentage)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Agree	86.1	81.2	79.6	73.9	77.8	78.6	50.6	50.7
Neither agree nor disagree	5.4	8.2	10.3	16.0	10.3	10.9	30.4	26.3
Disagree	8.5	10.6	10.1	10.1	11.9	10.5	19.0	23.1

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

From the data assessing employment preference by level of education (Table 4.20), one can argue that respondents who have either a partial or complete university education or have no schooling are more likely to *agree* that employment priority should be given to South Africans over foreigners.

**Table 4.20: Employment preference for South Africans by level of education, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996				2001			
	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Agree	85.3	84.4	82.8	77.9	85.0	82.5	79.6	85.5
Neither agree nor disagree	5.6	7.4	7.0	8.6	9.8	7.6	9.2	5.5
Disagree	9.1	8.1	10.2	13.5	5.2	9.8	11.2	9.0
	2006				2013			
	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Agree	72.6	75.8	79.2	80.9	64.1	51.4	51.0	53.1
Neither agree nor disagree	16.0	12.1	10.3	4.4	18.2	28.4	27.1	25.9
Disagree	11.4	12.2	10.4	14.7	17.7	20.2	21.8	21.0

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

This conclusion is derived from the findings that, in 1996, the highest percentage of respondents who *agree* were those with no formal schooling and those with some level of primary schooling. Furthermore, in 2001 and 2013 it was those groups with *No formal schooling* and either a partial or complete *University* qualification that had the highest

percentage of respondents who *agree*. In 2006, respondents who had some schooling or have completed *High school* and those with some degree of a *University* qualification had the highest percentage of respondents who *agree*. Thus, across the four waves, the groups with *No schooling* and a *University* level education appear to have the highest percentage of respondents who are in support of employment preference as compared to the other two levels of education.

Table 4.21 allows us to make a number of descriptive observations about employment preference amongst lower, middle and upper class respondents. The data shows us that the majority of lower, middle and upper class respondents, in all four waves, support preference being awarded to South Africans over foreigners; however this support wanes over time.

**Table 4.21: Employment preference for South Africans by social class, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996			2001		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Agree	84.3	80.6	86.0	75.6	79.1	70.0
Neither agree nor disagree	6.8	7.5	4.9	15.9	9.6	18.7
Disagree	8.9	11.8	9.1	8.5	11.3	11.3
	2006			2013		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Agree	81.2	72.2	88.6	51.0	51.1	43.7
Neither agree nor disagree	9.4	12.9	6.0	27.1	27.5	37.1
Disagree	9.5	14.9	5.4	21.9	21.4	19.1

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Looking at the trends in employment preference amongst respondents with low and high levels of generalised trust, the majority of respondents, regardless of level of generalised trust, *Agree* with giving preference to South Africans over foreigners.

**Table 4.22: Employment preference for South Africans by generalized trust, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful
Agree	79.4	84.4	84.0	76.3	78.4	78.5	49.0	51.3
Neither agree nor disagree	9.8	6.2	9.7	13.5	8.4	11.0	29.8	26.9
Disagree	10.8	9.4	6.4	10.2	13.1	10.6	21.2	21.8

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

In 1996, 2006 and 2013, those who believed that you *Need to be careful* when dealing with people *Agree* that preference should be given to South African citizens when jobs are scarce. Between 1996 and 2013, the percentage of respondents who were neutral on the topic of employment preference tripled. In addition, between 1996 and 2013, the percentage of respondents who *Disagree* with employment priority being given to South Africans over foreigners doubled.

**Table 4.23: Employment preference for South Africans by financial satisfaction of respondent, 1996-2013**

	Mean financial satisfaction			
	1996	2001	2006	2013
Agree	4.18	4.69	5.65	5.98
Neither agree nor disagree	4.53	4.65	5.79	6.42
Disagree	4.29	4.20	5.74	6.14
Total	4.21	4.63	5.68	6.13

*Note: The mean is to be read as being the average financial satisfaction of respondents. Financial satisfaction is read on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is completely dissatisfied and 10 is completely satisfied.*

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Looking at the data relating to employment preference by level of financial satisfaction, as summarised by Table 4.23, we see that the financial satisfaction of those respondents who were in favour of employment preference (*Agree*) and who were more neutral (*Neither agree nor disagree*) increased over the four waves. The increase in the mean scores of these respondents moved from being more dissatisfied with their financial situation to being more satisfied. The mean score for respondents who *Agree* increased from 4.18 in 1996 to 5.98 in 2013. However, for those respondents who *Disagree*, their financial satisfaction dropped in 2001 and increased from 2006 onwards.

#### 4.3.4 Trends in attitudes toward migration

“[W]ho to let in and how, and who to keep out so that citizens are protected and yet the economy flourishes” remains a core concern for many governments (Paton, 2014c: 4). It is this concern which has been instrumental in shaping many of South Africa’s policy outcomes. The answers to the concerns relating to who should be let in and who kept out, are also evident in attitudinal orientations towards migration.

In assessing attitudes towards migration, respondents in the 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2013 waves of the WVS were asked the following: “How about people from other countries coming here



to work? Which one of the following do you think the government should do?" Four response categories were presented to respondents to choose from: (1) *Let anyone come who wants to*, (2) *Let people come who wants to*, (3) *Place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here*, and (4) *Prohibit people coming here from other countries*.

**Table 4.24: Attitudes toward migration to South Africa, 1996-2013**

	1996	2001	2006	2013
Let anyone come who wants to	6.1	6.2	6.0	13.3
Let people come as long as there are jobs available	26.4	25.5	16.3	25.5
Place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here	48.6	42.2	47.6	39.7
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	18.9	26.1	30.1	21.5

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Table 4.24 summaries the longitudinal trends in attitudes towards migration from 1996 to 2013. Looking at the trends in the data of the two extreme response categories (*Let anyone come who wants to*, and *Prohibit people coming here from other countries*), we see that there is an increase in the number of respondents who hold extremely positive or extremely negative attitudes towards migration. While those who believe that we should *Prohibit people coming here from other countries* has increased by 2.6%, the biggest increase is seen in the number of respondents who completely welcome foreigners into the country, which has more than doubled from 6.1% to 13.3%. In addition, we see that the number of respondents in the *Let people come as long as there are jobs available* and *Place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here* response categories has declined over the years.

Interestingly, the 2006 results show a decline in the number of respondents who had a more positive attitude towards migration, as seen with the data for the *Let anyone come who wants to* and *Let people come as long as there are jobs available* response categories. These results translate into the 2006 wave of the WVS recording the highest percentage of respondents who believe foreigners should be *prohibited from entering the country*. This may be understood as being a precursor to the 2008 xenophobic attacks.

Table 4.25 introduces the recoded attitudes towards migration dimension which divides the response categories into more positive attitudes about migration (*let anyone come*), more

negative attitudes (*prohibit people*) and the belief that migration can be allowed only if certain criteria are met<sup>84</sup>.

**Table 4.25: Attitudes toward migration, 1996-2013 (recode)**

	1996	2001	2006	2013
Let anyone come who wants	6.1	6.2	6.0	13.3
Enter with the condition that certain criteria are met	75.0	67.7	63.9	65.2
Prohibit people from coming	18.9	26.1	30.1	21.5

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Although the highest percentage of South Africans remain supportive of the idea that foreigners should be allowed into the country with the condition that certain criteria are met, we see the support of this idea waning (from 75.0% in 1996 to 65.2% in 2013). This is marked with the increase in the percentage of respondents who support more negative and positive attitudes towards migration.

#### 4.3.4.1 The impact of the independent variables on attitudes toward migration

The data captured in Tables 4.26 to 4.32 allows for the study to comment on attitudes towards migration according to economic and non-economic factors. Table 4.26 allows us to make a number of descriptive observations about the trends in attitudes towards migration among males and females. Overall, we see that the number of male and female respondents who believe that *anyone should be allowed* into South Africa has doubled between 1996 and 2013. Despite this, the largest number of male and female respondents believe that foreigners can enter South Africa under conditions where certain criteria are met.

**Table 4.26: Attitudes toward migration by gender, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Let anyone come who wants to	5.3	6.9	7.4	4.9	7.0	5.1	13.2	13.4
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	78.3	72.0	69.6	65.7	62.9	64.9	64.2	66.2
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	16.5	21.1	23.0	29.5	30.2	30.0	22.6	20.4

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

<sup>84</sup> The *let people come as long as there are jobs available* and *place strict limits on the number of foreigners who can come here* response categories have been recoded into “enter with the condition that certain criteria are met”

Between 1996 and 2013 we see that there is an insignificant difference between male and female respondents. This does not correlate with the findings of the study by Kleemans and Klugman (2009: 17-18) who find that males are more inclined to let people into the country. Assessing attitudes toward migration by race (Table 4.27), we see that most of the respondents within the racial groups remain centred on the belief that people should be allowed to *enter the country with the condition that certain criteria are met*.

**Table 4.27: Attitudes toward migration by race, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996				2001			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Let anyone come who wants to	7.0	3.5	4.0	5.2	7.4	4.2	1.1	4.5
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	71.1	89.7	78.8	79.5	60.6	87.4	87.1	80.8
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	21.9	6.8	17.1	15.3	32.1	8.4	11.8	14.7
	2006				2013			
	Black	White	Coloured	Indian	Black	White	Coloured	Indian
Let anyone come who wants to	6.9	2.2	2.5	3.6	14.8	8.7	5.3	14.4
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	61.0	70.1	80.2	85.6	66.4	52.6	73.9	61.0
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	32.0	27.7	17.4	10.9	18.8	38.7	20.8	24.6

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Between 1996 and 2013, the percentage of Black South Africans who believe that we should *Let anyone come who wants to* doubled. Despite the increase in the positive attitudes towards migration, the percentage of Black respondents who believe that foreigners can *enter the country with the condition that certain criteria are met* and that we need to *Prohibit people coming here from other countries* has decreased.

While Black South Africans foster more positive attitudes toward migration over time, the most noticeable change in the trends of White respondents is their growing support for prohibiting foreigners from entering the country. From 6.8% in 1996 to 38.7% in 2013. There is an insignificant change in the spread of Coloured respondents across the three responses. The data for Indians, indicates an increase in the percentage of respondents who have more positive and

negative attitudes towards migration and a decline in the percentage of respondents who support foreigners entering South Africa on condition that certain criteria are met.

Assessing attitudes towards migration by the employment status of respondents, Table 4.28, the highest percentage of respondents (both employed and unemployed) believe that foreigners should be allowed into the country on condition that certain criteria are met. Overall the data shows very little variance across the respondents' employment status.

**Table 4.28: Attitudes toward migration by employment status of respondent, 1996-2013 (column percentage)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Let anyone come who wants to	4.5	7.3	3.9	7.8	7.9	4.8	12.8	13.6
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	77.6	73.0	76.1	61.6	62.3	64.9	66.4	64.6
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	17.9	19.7	20.0	30.6	29.8	30.3	20.8	21.8

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

According to the data presented in Table 4.29 on attitudes towards migration by level of education, the greatest portion of respondents across all levels of education support foreigners entering the country under certain conditions.

In 1996, people with a primary school level education were most in favour of letting *anyone comes who wants to enter the country* (7.9%). Furthermore, respondents with a university education were most in favour of migration under the *condition that certain criteria are met* (85.8%) while respondents with no education were more in favour of prohibiting *people coming here from other countries* (28.3%). In 2001, as in 1996, respondents with a university education were most in favour of migration under the *condition that certain criteria are met* (91.4%) and respondents with no education were most in favour of prohibiting *people coming here from other countries* (43.0%). However, despite people with *No school* being most in favour of prohibiting *people coming here from other countries*, this group also recorded the largest percentage of respondents who believed that we should *Let anyone come who wants to* (10.9%). In 2006, people with *No school* were most in favour of letting *anyone come who wants to* (10.2%). Respondents with some degree of university experience were most in favour of migration under the *condition that certain criteria are met* (83.0%). It was those with a primary school education who were most in favour of prohibiting *people coming here from other*

*countries* (34.6%). Lastly, in 2013, respondents with a primary school level of education were most in favour of letting *anyone come who wants to* enter the country (14.1%). Respondents with no formal education were most in favour of migration under the *condition that certain criteria are met* (74.1%) while respondents with a primary school level education were most supportive of prohibiting *people coming here from other countries* (26.5%).

**Table 4.29: Attitudes toward migration by level of education, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996				2001			
EDUCATION	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Let anyone come who wants to	5.2	7.9	5.4	4.9	10.9	7.1	5.8	2.9
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	66.5	70.2	77.4	85.8	46.0	67.7	71.6	91.4
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	28.3	21.9	17.2	9.3	43.0	25.2	22.6	5.7
	2006				2013			
EDUCATION	No school	Primary School	High School	University	No school	Primary School	High School	University
Let anyone come who wants to	10.2	5.8	6.1	2.8	7.8	14.1	12.5	14.0
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	58.8	59.6	63.6	83.0	74.1	59.4	64.8	66.4
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	31.1	34.6	30.3	14.2	18.1	26.5	22.6	19.5

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

The overarching finding relating to attitudes toward migration by social class (see Table 4.30) is that the majority of respondents over all four waves and all three social classes believe that people should be allowed into the country on *condition that certain criteria are met*.

Assessing the trends within each class, we see that there is very little change in the data of the lower class respondents until 2006. In 2013, the data shows an increase in the number of respondents in the *Let anyone come who wants to* response category and a decrease in the *Enter with condition that certain criteria are met* response category. The number of lower class respondents in favour of prohibiting foreigners is the same in 1996 and 2013.

**Table 4.30: Attitudes toward migration by social class, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996			2001		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Let anyone come who wants to	6.6	5.7	2.2	5.3	6.3	17.6
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	72.0	80.3	92.8	64.9	72.5	59.0
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	21.3	14.1	5.0	29.8	21.2	23.3
	2006			2013		
	Lower	Middle	Upper	Lower	Middle	Upper
Let anyone come who wants to	5.8	5.9	.7	12.5	14.3	27.6
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	62.6	67.2	63.9	66.2	63.7	55.1
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	31.6	26.8	35.4	21.3	22.0	17.3

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

For middle class respondents, the biggest change in the data between 1996 and 2013 is seen in the increased support for letting *anyone into the country* and prohibiting *people coming here from other countries*, while the support for *Enter with condition that certain criteria are met* wanes over time. Upper class respondents show interesting fluctuations over time. This can be seen by solely looking at the changes in the *Let anyone come who wants to* response category. There is a 15.4% increase in the percentage of respondents who believe that we should *Let anyone come who wants to* between 1996 and 2001, however by 2006 there is a 16.9% decrease in the support thereof. By 2013, we see a 26.9% increase in the number of respondents who support the idea of anyone entering the country.

From the data presented in Table 4.31, pertaining to attitudes toward migration by generalized trust, it is evident that the majority of respondents for both those with high levels of generalized trust (*Can be trusted*) and low levels of generalized trust (*Need to be careful*) favour the option to *Enter with condition that certain criteria are met*. This finding holds across all four waves of data.

**Table 4.31: Attitudes toward migration by generalized trust, 1996-2013 (column percentages)**

	1996		2001		2006		2013	
	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful	Can be trusted	Need to be careful
Let anyone come who wants to	12.6	4.4	11.6	5.4	3.9	6.4	13.1	13.4
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	67.3	77.1	61.6	68.7	59.6	64.8	64.5	65.5
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	20.1	18.5	26.8	26.0	36.6	28.8	22.4	21.2

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

Furthermore, and interesting to note, is that over all four waves of WVS, the respondents who have the most negative attitudes toward migration (*Prohibit people coming here from other countries*) are those who have the high levels of generalized trust.

Lastly, Table 4.32 allows for a number of observations to be made about attitudes toward migration according by financial satisfaction. Looking at the trends in the two extreme response categories we see that under the *Let anyone come who wants to* response category, the financial satisfaction of respondents increases from 1996 (4.40) to 2006 (6.64) yet drops in 2013 (6.60). Thus, the financial satisfaction of those who advocate letting anyone enter the country has increased between 1996 and 2013.

**Table 4.32: Attitudes toward migration by financial satisfaction of respondent, 1996-2013.**

Response Category	Mean financial satisfaction			
	1996	2001	2006	2013
Let anyone come who wants to	4.40	4.66	6.64	6.60
Enter with condition that certain criteria are met	4.39	4.80	5.66	6.17
Prohibit people coming here from other countries	3.67	4.37	5.62	5.75
Total	4.25	4.68	5.71	6.14

Note: The mean is to be read as being the average financial satisfaction of respondents. Financial satisfaction is read on a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 is completely dissatisfied and 10 is completely satisfied.

Source: WVS 1996; 2001; 2006; 2013. Compiled by author.

The financial satisfaction of those respondents who believe that we need to *Prohibit people coming here from other countries* increases over the four waves from 3.67 in 1996 to 5.62 in 2013. Despite the increase in financial satisfaction of these respondents, the data shows that the overall level of financial satisfaction of these respondents remains the lowest compared to the other response categories. This finding is seen across the four waves of WVS and thus we

can state that respondents who wish to prohibit people from coming to South Africa are the least satisfied with their financial situations.

#### **4.4 Analysis and interpretation of the data**

The longitudinal data presented in this chapter provides an overview of the changes in the dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners between 1996 and 2013. In seeking to strengthen the descriptive nature of this study, independent variables were introduced into the study in order to assess the impact of both economic and non-economic variables on the four dimensions. The findings and trends outlined in the previous section, in some instances, challenge the assumptions made regarding the trends to be noted in the data while other findings can be discussed within the context of developments within South Africa, such as the implications of the trends seen in social tolerance and a more cohesive society. It is these points which will shape the analysis of the data presented above.

From the data presented on the trends in the tolerance, trust, employment preference and attitudes towards migration; five overarching conclusions can be drawn.

First, South Africans are becoming increasingly intolerant of foreigners where 2013 marked the highest level of intolerance towards this group.

Second, coupled with the increase in intolerance towards foreigners are the growing levels of distrust of not only foreign workers/immigrants but also of people of another nationality. When assessing which group respondents trusted the least in 2013, it became apparent that respondents were less trusting of foreign workers/ immigrants than people of another nationality. This finding corresponds with the findings of the studies by Carter (2010: 1-2) and Mataure (2013: 3-7) who, using the 2008 and 2011 Afrobarometer data respectively, find that South Africans are becoming less trusting of foreigners.

Third, South Africans are moving away from the idea that employment priority or preference is to be given to South African citizens over foreigners as more respondents remain either neutral or unsupportive about the awarding of preference.

Fourth, while more South Africans are fostering positive attitudes towards migration, the greatest percentage of respondents agree that foreigners are to be allowed into South Africa on the condition that certain criteria are met.

Lastly, the biggest changes in the data are seen between 2006 and 2013. These changes can be linked to the outcomes of the global economic downturn in 2008 and the rise of xenophobic sentiments and violence towards foreigners in the same period.



The conclusions outlined above illustrate the complex nature of attitudes towards foreigners and the influence of social dimensions (interpersonal trust and social tolerance) compared to the more economic dimensions (employment preference) and psychological dimensions (attitudes towards migration). At the outset of this study it was assumed that the trends in each of the dimensions would follow a similar pattern, however, this was not the case. It was assumed that a general decline in levels of social tolerance and interpersonal trust would be seen, as well as a worsening of attitudes towards migration and more support for keeping foreigners out of the country. However, the data showed that, coupled with the increase in the level of intolerance and distrust of foreigners among South Africans, was a growing positive orientation towards migration and a movement by South Africans to be less supportive of employment priority being awarded to South Africans. Therefore, while assumptions regarding the increase in intolerance and distrust were met, those made about attitudes toward migration and employment preference were not met. These findings match the assertion made by Kleemans and Klugman (2009:1), that attitudes are more complex than one perceives, therefore rejecting the idea that attitudes will in fact be ‘monochrome’.

The xenophobic attacks of 2008 and the subsequent events<sup>85</sup>, can be taken as explanatory factors for some of the findings presented above. Looking at the attitudes towards migration, the 2006 data shows the shift towards more negative orientations and attitudes towards migrants entering the country, a finding also reported by du Toit and Kotzé (2011). The results show a sizeable decline in the percentage of respondents who have a more positive attitude towards migration (according to the data for the *Let anyone come who wants to* and *Let people come as long as there are jobs available* response categories) as this year records the highest percentage of respondents who believe that we should *Prohibit people coming here from other countries*. Looking at this result in light of the heightened xenophobia as seen in 2008, the 2006 results may arguably be seen as reflecting the growing dissatisfaction with the manner in which foreigners have been allowed to enter the country over the years, which may have motivated the xenophobic violence in 2008<sup>86</sup>. However what is not apparent is why in 2013, the highest number of positive attitudes toward migration was recorded (see Table 4.25). Logically one would not expect to see the highest number of positive responses following the 2008 incidents but at least roughly the same proportion of negative responses. A possible explanation for this

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<sup>85</sup> Refer to Chapter 2 page 13-15.

<sup>86</sup> Bekker (2010: 125) identifies South Africa’s “lax border control policy, and a nonexistent immigration policy” as being one of the contributing factors in the rise of the xenophobia seen in 2008.

finding is respondent bias as at the time of the 2013 survey being conducted; respondents may have believed that it was not politically correct to answer negatively about foreigners following the 2008 attacks.

One of the more overt instances where we see the impact of the xenophobic attacks and negative sentiments towards foreigners is in the data relating to Indians. The data shows that between 2006 and 2013 there was a significant increase in the level of intolerance toward foreign workers and immigrants. In addition, 2013 was the year where Indians recorded the highest levels of distrust of people of another nationality as well as foreign workers and immigrants. This is unsurprising given that Indians were the victims of threats of violence during the same period as negative sentiments towards the group were heightened. It therefore follows that one may argue that the significant change in the attitudes and orientations of Indian respondents towards foreigners was influenced by the negative sentiments which they were subjected to in 2012.

The data also presented some interesting and at times perplexing findings. One such example relates to employment preference. The 1996 data showed a strong support for the idea that priority should be given to South Africans over foreigners. From 2001 onwards the data reflected a neutralising of the sense of entitlement to jobs that South Africans felt in 1996. In 2006, the sense that employment priority should be awarded to South Africa's increased slightly but not to the same degree as in 1996. In 2013, more respondents were neutral and unsupportive of priority given to South African citizens over foreigners. While the data reflects the movement away from the support of priority to South Africans over foreigners, we find that many South Africans are still of the belief that immigrants are a threat to the privileges of nationals as they hinder access to economic resources (Majavu, 2014: 19).

Additional interesting findings emerged from the assessment of the four dimensions by the independent variables. The value of these findings rests on certain assumptions that are made about, not only attitudes towards foreigners, but also about the four dimensions studied.

One of the first findings relates to tolerance by race. The data shows that Blacks remain the most intolerant racial group in 1996, 2001 and 2006. However, in 2013 this changes as Indians are recorded as being more intolerant of foreign workers/ immigrants. One assumption would be that black South Africans remain more intolerant of foreign workers/immigrants over all

four waves and especially following the xenophobic attacks in 2008 where most of the perpetrators of violence were Black South Africans. However, for Indians to move from 8.5% of respondents being intolerant to 56.7% in 2013 – we can speculate that the group is just not as overt about their dislike of foreign workers/immigrants as are black South Africans. This then brings into question the strength of the link between attitudes and behavioural manifestations.

Looking at the level of trust of foreigners/immigrants (as measured in 2013) and generalized trust, as argued in the presentation of findings, one would assume that individuals with high generalized trust (believe that most people can be trusted) would also display more positive levels of interpersonal trust (trust group completely). However the data showed that there were fewer respondents who had high levels of generalized trust that completely trusted foreign workers/immigrants and people of another nationality, than those who only trusted them somewhat. This finding once again challenges the assumptions made regarding the dynamics and patterns of attitudes.

As stated above, the trends in social tolerance and less so interpersonal trust between 1996 and 2013 can be used to assess the country's efforts towards achieving social cohesion, as a goal of the democratic government. In seeking to understand the prerequisites and processes leading to social cohesion, numerous definitions of social cohesion have been put forward. Social cohesion may be understood as “the capacity of a society to ensure the well-being of all its members, minimising disparities and avoiding marginalisation” (Accept Pluralism, 2013: 10). Beck, van der Maesen and Walker (1997: 284) define social cohesion as being concerned with the countless processes that can either establish, support, weaken or overturn social networks and the infrastructure which underpin these networks. For Beck *et al.* (1997: 284), a society can be defined as cohesive or having sufficient levels of social cohesion when it is able to allow its citizens “to exist as real human subjects, as social beings”.

Importantly, Berman and Philips (2004: 2) link social cohesion to tolerance as they relate social cohesion to the existence of legislative frameworks for legal, political and social protection, of cultural norms and mores relating to citizenship, cultural pluralism, tolerance and respect. In this case, the level of tolerance of groups, specifically minority and marginalised groups within society, becomes a dimension of social tolerance which is easily measurable (Accept Pluralism, 2013: 11). Social cohesion is also to be understood in the context of the increase in migration

and thus the number of foreigners in a host country given that migration brings along with it the rise of diversity with societies given the increase in “intercultural encounters” (UNESCO, 2012: 1). Therefore within the context of migration, social cohesion becomes increasingly vulnerable due to changing national identities. Further factors influencing the vulnerability of social cohesion include international tensions and economic decline (UNESCO, 2012: 1).

Developing social cohesion has become a core principle for the South African democratic government. Specific to the country, social cohesion is considered to be “the degree of social integration and inclusion in communities and society at large, and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression among individuals and communities” (Department of Arts and Culture, 2013). Thus, a cohesive society is dependent on the extent to which all inequalities, exclusions and disparities have either been reduced or completely done away with in a manner that is planned and can be sustained and thus the movement towards a cohesive South African society is embedded in overcoming these issues (Department of Arts and Culture, 2013).

Firstly, if social cohesion is weakened due to changes in national identity then we may say that South Africa’s efforts towards achieving social cohesion are challenged given that the increasing number of migrants entering the country has, even if insignificantly, impacted on the national identity of citizens. As Majavu argues (2014:19), immigrants entering the country are thought to undermine “black South Africanness”. Furthermore, the ever increasing levels of intolerance (as concluded in this study) towards foreigners further, weakens attempts at social cohesion and therewith overcoming the divides which characterise the country. It is these findings which make it apparent that achieving a cohesive society, one without disparities and inequalities, will not be possible until South Africans are able to accept those members of society who they may not necessarily like, such as foreigners. In order to make progressive steps to address this, we need to include ethnicity and immigration in national discussions about social cohesion (Landau, 2013).

Speculation about possible explanations for the change in trends in attitudes towards migration is challenged by the idea that attitudes towards migration and immigrants are more complex than one would assume (Kleemans & Klugman, 2009: 1). However, one can speculate on the possible impact of the findings on attitudes towards migration. The trends in the data and the split amongst of respondents within the response categories may lead one to believe that the likelihood of an overall satisfaction with country’s immigration policy is slim. This is

supported by the belief that due to the respondents' views on migration ranging from *Let people into the country* to *Prohibit them from entering*, it is impossible that all these orientations be captured in the country's immigration policy.

Endorsing a strong social welfare system within South Africa has been driven by the goal of seeking to provide stability and security to those who had been adversely affected by apartheid (Department of Social Development, 2009). Establishing a solid social welfare system has led to South Africa reportedly being the world's biggest welfare state (Mail & Guardian, 2010). In addition to reporting South Africa's status as the world's largest welfare state, economist Mike Schussler, reported that the economic dependency ratio was "three people to one taxpayer" (Mail & Guardian, 2010).

**Table 4.33: Beneficiaries of social grants in South Africa, 1996-2016**

Period	Number of social grant beneficiaries <sup>87</sup>
1996/1997	2 408 742
1997/1998	2 420 470
1998/1999	2 540 998
1999/2000	2 687 169
2000/2001	3 773 998
2009/2010	14 057 365
2011/2012	15 595 705
2013/2014 <sup>88</sup>	16 577 017
2014/2015	16 920 755
2015/2016	17 259 271

Note: This table is derived from those presented by the SAIRR, 2013.  
Source: (SAIRR, 2013: 645-646). Compiled by author.

The growing dependency on social grants is most noticeable in the increase in the number of beneficiaries thereof. According to the SAIRR (2013: 646), between 1998/1999 and 2015-2016, there will be an estimated 579% increase in the number of beneficiaries of social grants. The estimates show that over a twenty year period, between 1996 and 2016, the number of recipients of social grants would have increased by close to 15 million (see Table 4.33). These figures show the increasing number of South Africans who are dependent on the state for a source of income.

<sup>87</sup> Type of grants include: old-age pension, war-veterans grants, disability grants, foster care grants, care dependency grants, child support grants and grant-in-aid (SAIRR, 2013: 645).

<sup>88</sup> 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 are projections

Furthermore, an increasing dependency on crime as a means of obtaining economic resources may be put forward as a further explanation for the trends noticed in employment preference. According to the national crime figures provided by the SAPS, there has been a 5% increase in the number of crimes committed between the periods 1994/1995 and 2012/2013 (SAIRR, 2013: 752). According to reports, despite the relatively small increase in the number of crimes over the years, certain crimes involving the obtaining of money and objects which can be traded for money have increased (SAIRR, 2013: 752). This is seen in the 25% increase in the number of incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances; these include: bank robberies, car and truck hijackings, robberies of residential and business premises, and the robbery of cash-in-transit (SAIRR, 2013: 752). In addition, there has been an 8% increase in shoplifting and a 13% increase in the number of residential burglaries while theft of and out of motor vehicles has declined (SAIRR, 2013: 752).

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

The purpose of this chapter was to present the findings and trends seen in the four dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners between 1996 and 2013 while also introducing seven independent variables to further understand the dynamics of these dimensions. From the longitudinal investigation, the following was found: South Africans are becoming more intolerant, less trusting, more open to foreigners entering the country and less supportive of employment priority being awarded to South Africans over foreign workers/ immigrants. These findings prove to be a contradiction to say the least.

The implications of these findings were discussed and linked to themes such as satisfaction with the country's immigration policy, the South African government's striving towards a cohesive society, the dependency on social grants and the rise in crime.

Chapter five will provide an overview of the findings of the study and the literature covered while also making reference to the methodology employed in addition to making recommendations for future studies.

## Chapter 5: Conclusion

### 5.1 Introduction

The aim of this study was to assess South Africans' attitudes toward foreigners following the country's transition to a democracy. This study set out to assess the trends in four dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners, which were derived from the data of the WVS between 1996 and 2013. In strengthening the descriptive nature of this study, the four dimensions were analysed according to economic and non-economic characteristics of respondents in order to contextualise the trends within different groups of society.

Incorporating the four dimensions to be measured (social tolerance, interpersonal trust, employment preference and attitudes toward migration), the following questions were asked:

- Has tolerance towards foreigners increased since the country's transition to a democracy?
- To what extent do South Africans trust foreigners post 1996?
- What are South African citizens' views on migration to South Africa?
- What do South Africans believe to be fair in terms of job opportunities presented to both foreigners and South Africans?

This chapter provides an overview of the literature covering themes related to attitudes towards foreigners in addition to discussing the methodology and findings of the study. Lastly, recommendations for future studies are put forward.

### 5.2 Studying attitudes towards foreigners

Globalisation has facilitated the rapid movement of individuals which in turn, in conjunction with supplementary factors such as seeking economic opportunities, has allowed individuals to move to and settle in areas from which they do not originate. With the increased mobility of individuals, and the subsequent rise in the global migrant stock, there has been an increase in anti-immigrant sentiments witnessed all over the world in the form of increasing levels of xenophobia, discrimination and violence against foreigners. The rise of negative orientations towards foreigners has resulted in research focused on different dimensions and elements of these attitudes.

One of the motivations for this study was the lack of longitudinal assessments of attitudes towards foreigners. A further motivation was the persistent violent attacks on foreigners since the country's transition to a democracy in 1994. As noted by Carter (2010: 1), "...violence against foreigners has become common since the transition to multi-party rule in 1994". More specifically, the 2008 xenophobic attacks on foreigners, which spread across the country and left more than 60 people dead and thousands displaced, causes one to question what attitudinal manifestation has come to influence the behaviour of the perpetrators of the violence. It is from this standpoint that the aim and significance of this study was developed: seeking to longitudinally assess the attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa. This study relied on a definition of an attitude which emphasised the impact that attitudes have on an individual's behaviour.

### **5.3 Methodological aspects**

Drawing on the data of the WVS, four dimensions were selected in order to assess attitudes towards foreigners. The data on social tolerance towards foreign workers/immigrants, trust towards people of another nationality and foreign workers/immigrants, positions on employment preference, and attitudes towards migration between 1996 and 2013 were assessed in order to describe the trends in these dimensions. The use of four waves of WVS data (1996, 2001, 2006 and 2013) helps categorise this study as a descriptive, longitudinal study where the findings and trends reported are dependent on the secondary analysis of the WVS data.

Adding to the descriptive nature of this study, seven economic and non-economic independent variables were introduced. The dimensions were cross-tabulated with these variables, in order to discuss the trends in the dimensions amongst male and female respondents, respondents across South Africa's four racial groups, individuals who are either employed or unemployed, respondents with differing levels of education, those who perceive themselves as either low, middle or upper class, those with different levels of generalized trust and according to respondents satisfaction with their financial situation.

The undertaking of a longitudinal study dependent on secondary data analysis is not without limitations but the use of the WVS was one such way to mitigate the limitations faced.



## **5.4 Trends in dimensions of attitudes towards foreigners and recommendations for future research**

In answering the research questions which guided this study, four conclusions were drawn from each of the dimensions covered. Furthermore, the study assumed and fundamentally found that the biggest change in attitudes and the dimensions thereof was to be seen between the waves preceding and succeeding the 2008 xenophobic attacks, thus between the 2006 and 2013 waves.

### **5.4.1 Social tolerance**

In assessing whether tolerance towards foreigners increased following the country's transition to a democracy, the WVS data showed that tolerance had in fact declined as South Africans became increasingly intolerant of foreigners. Assessing tolerance according to the economic and non-economic factors yielded interesting findings. One in particular was the rise of Indians as the most intolerant racial group in South Africa in 2013. This finding brings forward, I argue, the need to acknowledge that attitudinal orientations cannot easily be assumed based on behaviour, given that Black South Africans have, especially between 2006 and 2013, been more overt about their expressions of dislike for foreigners. From this, it is possible that further studies may be undertaken to measure the extent to which attitudes towards foreigners and behaviour towards these individuals correlate with one another.

### **5.4.2 Interpersonal trust**

As with social tolerance, the data showed a decline in the levels of trust towards people of another nationality while in 2013, South Africans were more distrustful of foreign workers/immigrants than people of another nationality. Interestingly, when assessing interpersonal trust amongst respondents with low and high levels of interpersonal trust, it was found that one cannot assert that respondents with high levels of generalised trust would report high levels of trust of people of another nationality, and foreign workers and immigrants. This finding can thus serve as the motivator for a study which seeks to uncover the factors which distinguish interpersonal trust from generalised trust, and more specifically why trust of people of another nationality and foreign workers/immigrants is so different from that of trust of people in general. Thus, there are questions surrounding what it is about people of another nationality and foreign workers/immigrants that makes them less trustworthy.

### **5.4.3 Employment preference**

The data makes apparent the shift from the belief that South Africans have a greater entitlement to employment opportunities as opposed to foreigners. With the movement away from supporting employment preference being awarded to South Africans has been the increase in support of equality and a more neutral stance on the topic. However this finding proved interesting and challenging to understand within the context of the country's economic conditions and the reasoning behind the xenophobic attacks, i.e. foreigners as competition for scarce and valuable resources such as employment. Further inquiries can thus be made into the importance of economic conditions such as unemployment rates and labour force absorption in shaping orientations towards employment preference.

### **5.4.4 Attitudes towards migration**

The data regarding attitudes toward migration indicated that while more South Africans are fostering positive attitudes towards migration, the greatest percentage of respondents have more negative orientations towards migration. In seeking to understand the shift in the attitudes towards migration, studying the changes in attitudes towards migration in accordance with the amendments in the country's immigration policy may arguably provide insight into the congruency between policy expectations and policy outcomes.

### **5.4.5 Recommendations for future studies**

The conclusions drawn from this study reveal that attitudes are in fact more complex than initially perceived. This point, as argued by Kleemans and Klugman (2009: 1), is mirrored in the finding that while South Africans are becoming more distrustful and intolerant of foreigners, more South Africans are moving to disagree with the drive of employment preference being awarded to native citizens over foreigners, and are also becoming more positive about letting anyone enter the country. The complexities surrounding the direction of these dimensions of attitudes motivate the need for inquiry into what drives the outcomes of these dimensions. Thus, why is it that a South African who is more intolerant and distrusting of a foreigner/immigrant is increasingly becoming open to the idea of openly and fairly competing for the same employment opportunities? Such an inquisition may require further data analysis using inferential statistics in order to test for relationships between the four dimensions, and the attributes of respondents. Furthermore, qualitative techniques, such as focus groups and interviews, can be employed in order to gain in-depth understanding from the perspective of foreigners and South Africans.

## **5.5 Conclusion**

As previously stated, the aim of this study was to undertake the assessment of attitudes towards foreigners in South Africa between 1996 and 2013. This study was motivated by the lack of longitudinal studies focused on attitudes towards foreigners and also by the increase in anti-immigrant and xenophobic sentiments. The findings presented in this study concur with the assertion that attitudes towards foreigners are indeed complex. It is these complexities which motivate the need for further studies on attitudes towards foreigners. The inclusion of the independent variables provides further insight into the impact that economic and non-economic variables have on such attitudes and thus provides a deeper understanding as to who or what fosters the various attitudinal orientations towards foreigners.

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