



# Reos

## What do you do when the stakes are high and trust is low?

Public dialogue facilitated by Reos Partners

In partnership with the Gordon Institute of Business Science

During 2012, there were over 200 public protests in South Africa over issues including worker wages and poor government service delivery. Many of these protests have ended violently. As the wildcat strikes continue, some analysts predict up to 100 000 jobs will be lost over the next few months. This is in a country with official unemployment sitting at 25.5%.

South Africa isn't alone on these issues. Many other countries are increasingly unable to deal with unemployment and social unrest challenges. What can we learn about the South African story which can reflect lessons into other contexts?

South Africans agree that we want to be a just and equal society, one in which all of our people have access to quality work, education and health care. But we find ourselves on differing sides of a widening gap unsure of how to navigate the divide. How and where can we find better ways of working together to solve these problems in times of high uncertainty? The South African government's National Planning Commission's "South Africa Vision 2030" lays out a long-term strategic plan for South Africa. It states:

*"At present, South Africa has high levels of mistrust between major social partners. A virtuous cycle of building trust and engaging in discussion to confront the most pressing challenges is needed – one that takes a long term view."*

Its ambitious goals include the phasing-in of a national health care system, improvements in education, reduced corruption and increased accountability. How can we, as individuals and organisations, support the implementation of the plan to ensure we meet our goals?

Reos Partners, a global organisation with expertise in working with complex social problems, is drawing together a diverse group of people to share perspectives on what is going on around us in South Africa, to learn what has worked in other countries and times, to remind ourselves about what we already know and how to make it work and to identify focus areas within various sectors to use as starting points for working together.

If you are working with a socio-economic challenge or cross-sectorial challenges, and would like to converge around an issue or approach, this is the ideal opportunity to do it.

## 2013 Reos Public Dialogue

18 – 19 February  
2013

Johannesburg  
South Africa

## This event will be

### Active

- Participants will be contributing to discussion, working on tough problems and making new connections

### Diverse

- Participants will be drawn from a broad spectrum of business, government, community leaders, NGOs, civil society and the youth.

### Provocative

- We will use our differences productively to help us see a range of perspectives and possible solutions.

### Participants will:

- Be exposed to approaches from all over the world on how to deal with stuck social issues and explore how they might be applicable in the South African context.
- Apply some of these new insights to a particular social issue their own organisation is facing and benefit from feedback from peers.
- Come to understand a range of different perspectives on South Africa's current challenges.
- Build relationships and deepen cross-sectorial networks that can help us address our shared challenges.

### Who will be there?

Guests who have influence over a number of sectors or systems in South Africa and from around the world have been invited. These participants include leaders, change agents and “problem owners” from the corporate, non-profit, activist, civil society, youth and government sectors. In particular, intact teams will be included from the Southern African Food Lab, who are working on systemic ways to see and influence the future of food in Southern Africa, and teams from the health sector in South Africa, who will be focusing on the future impact of the government's proposed National Health Insurance scheme.

### Provocations

The event will include a number of provocations from experts in health, education, sustainable food and mining. To date confirmed provocateurs will include:

- Adam Habib, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Johannesburg
- Brian Whittaker, Non Executive Deputy Chairman, the Jobs Fund
- Nick Binedell, Director, Gordon Institute of Business Science

We will also be going on **learning journeys** to visit some examples of South African realities. Participants will have the opportunity to visit one of a number of different sites on the afternoon of the first day of the event.

**Venue**

The event will be held at the Gordon Institute of Business Science in Johannesburg. Visit [www.gibs.co.za](http://www.gibs.co.za) for background on GIBS and directions to the venue.

**International Experience**

Reos Partners is a global organization whose partners from offices in North and Latin America, the United Kingdom, Netherlands and Australia will be both co-facilitating and participating in the dialogue. The event will utilise their experiences from projects such as the Dinokeng Scenarios, Great Zimbabwe Scenarios, Destino Colombia and the North Star Scenarios in the Eastern Cape.

An international audience has been invited to this event and we are likely to have participants who have worked on tough social challenges from a variety of situations and contexts.

**More about Reos Partners**

Reos Partners is a social innovation consultancy that addresses complex, high-stakes challenges around the world.

We have designed and facilitated processes that enable teams of stakeholders—even those who don't understand or trust one another—to work together to make progress on their toughest problems.

We have learnt to do what we do by working on tough, scary complex issues such as employment, health, food, energy, the environment, security and peace. We have partnered with governments, corporations and civil society organisations.

In our work we see ourselves as guides more than advisors. We are experienced at helping diverse groups navigate through uncharted territory to reach their most important goals.

We work both locally and globally. We have offices in Cambridge (Massachusetts), Johannesburg, Melbourne, Oxford, São Paulo, San Francisco and The Hague.

**To register for this event**

Please visit [www.reospartners.com/institute](http://www.reospartners.com/institute)

If you would like more information on the event, booking accommodation or transport please contact:

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# Dialogue Programme

Monday 18 February 2013	
Morning session 1	Participant introductions  Provocations about what is going on in the country: How do we build trust in a high stakes environment?
<i>Morning tea</i>	
Morning session 2	Group discussions following provocations  International examples of innovation in working with tough social challenges
<i>Lunch</i>	
Afternoon session 1	Learning journeys: Visit examples from South African realities
<i>Tea</i>	
Afternoon session 2	Plenary session: Groups feedback from learning journeys. What new things are we noticing about our challenges?  Close at 5pm
Evening	Book launch cocktail event: Adam Kahane's new book 'Transformative Scenario Planning – Working Together to Change the Future.'

Tuesday 19 February 2013	
Recap on yesterday and reflection - what survived the night? Participants to self-organise into teams that reflect areas for possible collaboration.	
<u>Working groups session 1:</u> Mapping the group's social system (who are the key actors, who has influence within this group, where are their opportunities for change) Feedback from groups	
<u>Working groups session 2:</u> Identify specific opportunities the group want to explore together. For example, in the Southern African Food Security system, where are the opportunities to build the capacity of small-scale farmers?	
Plenary session	
Identify what this group want to do together, or individually, after this dialogue	
Set agenda for future dialogues of this nature for 2013	
Close at 5pm	