



Lone mothers, social security and dignity in South Africa: About the project

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The research team

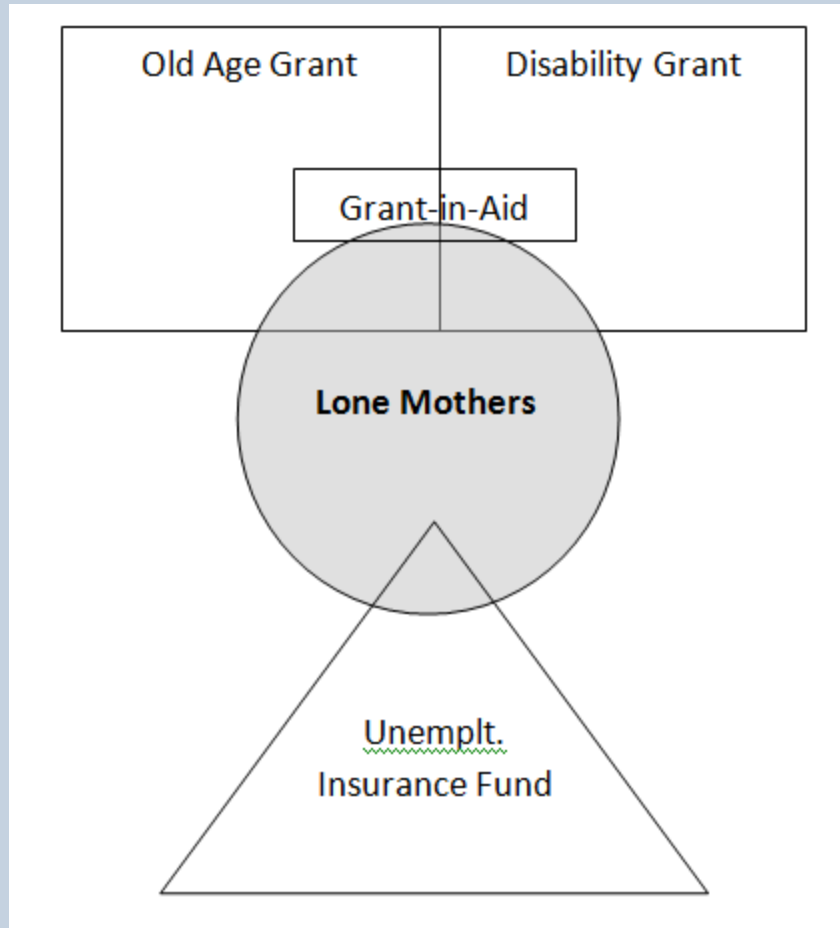
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- Institute for Poverty, Land & Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape, RSA
- Human Sciences Research Council, RSA



Overview of project

- Main question: What is the role of social security in respecting and protecting dignity for lone mothers in South Africa?
- Catalyst: Previous research on attitudes to work and social security in South Africa – the prominence of ‘dignity’
- Hypothesis: if poverty erodes dignity, and social security reduces poverty, then does this mean that social security helps to respect and protect dignity as espoused in the Constitution?
- Focus of enquiry: lone mothers
- Context: loss of the parent component of the State Maintenance Grant when it was de-racialised and converted into the Child Support Grant

Social security for lone mothers



Methods

- Analysis of General Household Survey
- 30 focus groups
- 16 in-depth interviews
- 10 elite interviews with policy makers
- Analysis of modules in South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2006 and 2007
- Design and analysis of module in SASAS 2012

Summary of method of enquiry by research question

Research Questions	Focus groups	In-depth interviews	Elite interviews	Social Attitudes Survey	Other 2ndary data analysis
Q1: Given the importance accorded to dignity in the Constitution and elsewhere, how do lone mothers interpret its meaning in the context of their own lives? [Chapter 4]	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Q2: How do lone mothers' lived experiences of poverty and inequality impact on their dignity? [Chapter 5]	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Q3: To what extent do lone mothers regard social grants as respecting and protecting their dignity? [Chapters 7-10]	✓	✓	-	-	-
Q4: How does the actual experience of claiming CSG intersect with lone mothers' sense of dignity? [Chapter 7]	✓	✓	-	-	-
Q5: To what extent do policy makers take into account people's dignity in the process of social security design and implementation? [Chapter 6]	-	-	✓	-	-
Q6: What is the relationship between dignity, social security and ubuntu? [Chapter 9]	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Context setting e.g. profile of lone mothers (GHS) [Chapter 3]; selection of focus group	-	-	-	✓	✓

This morning

- Lone mothers' portrayals of dignity and the impact of poverty on dignity
- Social security and social solidarity
- Dignity and the CSG: findings from the focus groups
- Policy implications