

# **CONTRIVANCE WITH PURPOSE? INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL**

**Paul Bischoff**

**Professor and Head of the Department of Political  
and International Studies,  
Rhodes University**

In observing and plotting the dialectics of how our present world works, fragmenting as it integrates we struggle in wanting to pin down a moving target. Unlike the world of science with its physical laws, the social nature of the world and its relations across borders keep changing course with social and transnational relations constantly mutating. This makes it rather difficult to plot the complexity of human relations, also those across borders. As the late Nobel Laureate Herbert Simon once said, the social sciences are, after all, the really 'hard' sciences. They are so hard because they are so hard to explain.