In the Balance

Marais, Hein

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In the Balance

THE CASE FOR A
UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME
IN SOUTH AFRICA AND BEYOND

HEIN MARAIS
Hein Marais delivers a theoretically powerful, impressively documented, timely and urgent case for radical redistribution and universal income to counter state-sponsored coercion into precarious, poverty-ridden and often lethal jobs as one's sole survival prospect. The book supports a basic income not as a policy fix, but as a far-reaching political and imaginative response to the collapse of a wage-centered social order and to a mounting, worldwide refusal of waged work. This is a book destined to have lasting influence.

— Franco Barchiesi, Ohio State University, author of Precarious Liberation: Workers, the State, and Contested Social Citizenship in Post-apartheid South Africa

If you have been searching for a way to clearly understand the concept of a universal basic income, then this is the book that you have been waiting for.

— Awande Buthelezi, coordinator for the #UBIGNOW Campaign and activist with the Climate Justice Charter Movement

Grounded in a lucid analysis of the long-term prospects of waged work, Marais’ book even-handedly assesses the case for a universal basic income. Clearly written and original in its approach, this is a major contribution to our understanding of the possibilities for policies to achieve more equitable levels of well-being in the contemporary political economy of South Africa and globally.

— Peter B. Evans, Professor Emeritus Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

This is a must-read, narrative-changing book on a universal basic income.

— Ferial Haffajee, Associate Editor, Daily Maverick

By locating the demand for a universal basic income in the context of the crisis of waged work, Marais’ book is an original contribution. His discerning examination of diverse literature and practical evidence enables him to weigh the arguments for and against, and to present well-considered, creative and realistic policy proposals. It is these interconnected features that make this book unlike any other on the basic income debate. Finally, it is his proposed agenda for action that activists, movements, researchers and policy-makers must now respond to with a sense of urgency and purpose.

— Mazibuko Jara, Executive Director, Pathways Institute, and co-founder of Ntinga Ntaba kaNdoda, a community-based rural movement