

REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



April 2013



REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE 2012



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REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE 2012



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Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice

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UFS.UV INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN RACE, RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



A WORD FROM THE **DIRECTOR** OF THE INSTITUTE

Prof. André Keet

This is the second annual report of the Institute covering the 2012 year. The structure and functions of the Institute have been sharpened and its research portfolio is taking shape. During a range of discussions with internal and external roleplayers the need was expressed for an Institute that can both drive innovative and socially-engaged research as well as respond to the human rights and transformation challenges on campus and higher education nationally and internationally. To this, end the Institute, with the endorsement of Council, is establishing a human rights desk and a focus area on higher education transformation.

Some of the most pressing questions relating to reconciliation and social cohesion today are: "How do we build productive, interpretive schemes on the basis of empirical counterparts in reality that can develop practices that grow new solidarities across hierarchies within our social orders?" At the heart of this query is whether there are sufficient pre-theoretical pointers toward 'reconciliation' and 'social cohesion' in social reality that will make an interpretive scheme productive in the sense that it can guide social justice practices. The way in which the Institute is framing its research orientation is precisely to move away from standard conceptions and practices within the spaces of research on reconciliation and social justice. This is evidenced in this report. Actual research outputs are also picking up.

Building a vibrant intellectual culture on campus is one of the key strategic drivers of the Institute and the activities reflected in the report demonstrate this. We have covered an impressive and diverse range of themes, pedagogical styles and delivery platforms. Our contribution to institutional and higher education transformation nationally and internationally is noticeable and our role in public debate is visible. My thanks go to all the staff members and the young people and academics associated with the Institute. We are also grateful for the support from the university's structures and the university's Council. This report represents our responsibility to be accountable to the broader university community.



THE INSTITUTE **REMAINS** RESPONSIVE TO ITS ENVIRONMENT



In September 2012, the UFS council approved and adopted a proposal giving clearer expression to the Institute's mandate, as well as amending its structure and governance. The establishment of the Institute was based on the recognized need to relate the UFS's academic mandate to the complexities arising from a conflicted South African social context. From this point of view, the adopted changes reflect the way in which existing expectations and potentialities might find concrete expression within the operations of the Institute. Most notably, the Institute's name has been changed from the International Institute for Studies in Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice to the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice. These developments reflect our efforts to hone the focus of the Institute's work in response to the range of expectations emanating, not only from our immediate university community, but also, from the South African context at large.

Mandate

Regarding the Institute's mandate, the Institute's work is now divided into two distinct but complimentary legs – one being research and the other institutional transformation and human rights. These two areas work hand in hand, in the sense that the Institute's approach to institutional transformation and human rights is informed by its research framework while its research agenda is responsive to work done in the area of institutional transformation and human rights.

The primary research mandate of the Institute has been retained, with a decisive adjustment of sights towards issues surrounding the concepts of *social justice, reconciliation,* and *equality.* The concept of *social justice,* in particular, has proven to be very productive as an operating and intellectual principal since it more or less captures the multitude of expectations relating to the work of the Institute.

The unfolding tasks of the Institute suggest that it can successfully take on the mandate of *institutional transformation* as an intellectual and operational enterprise. That is, it can monitor institutional transformation and assimilate the multitude of transformative initiatives as an integrated human-academic project within the context of a higher education institution. Therefore, no corresponding functions deriving from other divisions within the university will be shifted to the Institute. One of the main projects of the Institute will be the drafting of a comprehensive report on institutional transformation at the UFS, which will, in turn, form the basis of an Integrated Transformation Plan.

The human rights mandate seeks to honour the commitment made in the post-Reitz settlement agreement 'to set up a centre for human rights'. To avoid policy ambiguity, it was proposed that the centre best be thought of as a 'desk' rather than a centre. The desk will serve a ombuds-function in dealing with complaints made by students and staff relating to human rights violations. The aim of the educational projects of the desk will seek not only to be informative, but also to develop a culture of dignity grounded in human rights. The necessary protocols and agreements which stipulate the desk's mandate and relationship with other UFS offices will be put in place.

Governance

On the level of governance, an advisory board, consisting of a diverse group of people covering a range of expertise in higher education and social justice, was appointed. The constitution of the board is as follows:

- i. Jonathan Jansen (Chairperson) (VC, UFS)
- ii. Lebo Moletsane (UKZN)
- iii. Michalinos Zembylas (Open University of Cyprus)
- iv. Choice Makhetha (DVC, UFS)
- v. Katinka De Wet (UFS)
- vi. John Samuel (Independent consultant)
- vii. Driekie Hay (DVC, UFS)

Proff. Jansen and Hay, and Dr Makhetha, bring a wealth of intellectual, governing and institutional experience to the board; Mr Samuel has vast knowledge and experience in transformation and education; Prof. Moletsane is an astute and

respected academic, and is committed to social justice in South Africa; Dr De Wet represents a new generation of academia, and is a consummate sociologist who is also dedicated to social justice matters; Prof. Zembylas has distinguished himself internationally as a scholar and practitioner in both the experiences and pedagogies of mourning, reconciliation, forgiveness and social justice. We are confident that this board represents a comprehensive amalgamation of experience and competence that will legitimize the Institute's central role in the institutional and intellectual landscape of the university as well as ensure its accountability to senate and council.

Newsletter

In November 2012, the Institute launched the first edition of its official newsletter, *Botho*, published by SUN MeDIA Bloemfontein. *Botho* refers to the notion of "compassionate humanism" as it figures in the philosophy of Mohlomi, the African sage philosopher who traversed Southern Africa on foot spreading his message of peace and tolerance. The newsletter will be published twice a year.

Research

In 2012, the Institute made a concerted effort to consolidate various events and initiatives under its overarching research framework of Shared Complicities and Mutual Vulnerabilities: Democracies of Proximity (Social Cohesion) and the Futures of Justice. Critical conversations seek to engage local and international scholars from all disciplines in public dialogue concerning matters of reconciliation and social justice. Attendance is open to all sectors of the university community in order to encourage fresh and novel ways of understanding the various problematics in this kind of research. Further, in this vein, collaborative research projects are taking us beyond the borders of the University of the Free State and, indeed, beyond the borders of our country. While the primary emphasis remains on addressing issues surrounding the University's academic and human projects, comparative and collaborative work serves to deepen understanding of these issues, as well as tackle them in a broader context to give those associated with the Institute interesting outlets for potential resolutions. The Institute remains wholly committed to the reconciliation process in South Africa and it is hopeful in its pursuit of the shared interest in humanity that transformation will bring.





CONVERSING THE **RESEARCH** PROJECT

In 2012, the Institute embarked on a number of initiatives that feed into the research project. In so doing, the Institute treated UFS students and staff to a continual stream of provocative engagements. The Critical Conversation series in particular has now established the Institute as one of the leading centres for intellectual discussion on the Main campus.

Public lectures

In 2012, the Institute was involved in hosting three high profile public lectures:

• On 17 April, Public Protector Advocate Thuli Madonsela, upon invitation from the Institute, delivered a public lecture on academic freedom and corruption in the context of the Protection of State Information Bill. Students and staff in attendance had the opportunity to engage with her lecture and work. Before delivering her lecture, she also met with various stakeholders that included members of the Free State legislature, UFS senior management, politicians and students.



Public Protector — Advocate Thuli Madonsela

• Through a joint initiative of the UFS Centre for African Studies and the Institute, world-renowned writer and playwright, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, enthralled UFS staff, students and members of the Free State community on Africa Day, 25 May 2012. Africa Day commemorates the founding of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU). This event provided occasion to reflect critically on the many challenges facing the continent and deepen our commitment to the African Renaissance.



World-renowned Writer and Playwright — Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer delivered the inaugural Annual Reconciliation Lecture by invitation from the Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof. Jonathan Jansen on 7 November. Miss Gordimer's visit was managed and coordinated by the Institute. In her speech, Gordimer lauded the UFS for its efforts at reconciliation, but she also expressed deep concern about the prevalent patterns of violence, corruption and poverty that persistently threaten our dream for the new South Africa.



Nobel laureate - Nadine Gordimer

Critical Conversations

The vibrant and very well-received series of Critical Conversations aims to provide a space for rigorous, socially-engaged, intellectual discussion. In 2012, the Institute was host to a number of highly stimulating conversations.



Dr Neville Alexander

One of the indisputable highlights of the year was a conversation lead by the late Dr Neville Alexander, who presented his thoughts on the centrality of the language issue in the new South Africa. Alexander, one of South Africa's foremost intellectuals and a radical participant in the making of South African history, passed away at his home on the 27 August 2012.

Other speakers included...



Joinne Strans



Deborah Meier

Helene Strauss (English Department, UFS) – Zones of awkward engagement: Intimate mediations in Khalo Matabane's *Conversations on a Sunday Afternoon*. Ram Kakarala (Centre for the Study of Culture and Society in Bangalore) – Between a Mirage and a Dream: Reimagining democratic change in a "pluricultural" world. Deborah Meier (American education reform leader) - Democracy and Education. Felisa Tibbitts (Harvard Graduate School of education) - Rationales for human rights education and international trends. Jennifer Fish (Old Dominion University) - Linking public gender victories to higher education: Establishing Rwanda's first gender studies curriculum. Reinhardt Kössler (Arnold Bergstraesser Institute) - Imperial skulduggery and the search for closure after atrocity: Reflections on some Southern African experiences. Stuart Taberner (University of Leeds) - What use is empathy? Some lessons from the recent German experience of comingto-terms with the past. Anja Henebury (Postgraduate fellow, UFS) – Trauma, narrative Authority and Recognition: Working with / through the past. Christi van der Westhuizen (Institute Associate) – 'Ordentlikheid' in the (re) making of Afrikaner femininities.



Stuart Taberner

Courtyard Conversations

The more informal nature of intellectual discussions that characterises the Courtyard Conversations proved to be very popular yet again in 2012.



Lindi Dudu, Beulah van der Westhuizen, Audrey le Fleur and Guido Opperman

Lindi Dudu, Beulah van der Westhuizen, Audrey le Fleur and Guido Opperman are all involved in the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process and shared their insights on the inter-relation between restitution, restorative justice and reconciliation. Leon Wessels (Institute Associate) recounted a number of stories relating to his own experiences of the complexities and paradoxes of reconciliation. Tim Muruthi (Institute for Justice and Reconciliation) argued that South Africans were in need of a radical solution to free them from the race construct still dominating social relations, while Libby Roderick (University of Alaska Anchorage) introduced the concept behind the Difficult Dialogues Project that she initiated at her own university in Alaska. Zubeida Jaffer (UFS) proposed a new national narrative that could run alongside the National Development Plan spelling out clearly what is expected from us as citizens.

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Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and Tim Muruthi

In Conversation with... / Talking books and authors

Award-winning American writer, Anne de Graaf, visited the Institute to discuss her latest research on the role of young people in conflict and peace building. Eusebius McKaiser, author of "There's a Bantu in my Bathroom", participated in a lunch hour conversation on domestic racism and later in the afternoon engaged with students on opposition politics. Prof Willie Esterhuyse was interviewed by Sibusiso Tsabalala on his book "Endgame", while Zubeida Jaffer hosted the film maker, Bridget Thompson (Art Ubuntu Trust) who gave a thoughtprovoking analysis of the life and work of African artist and philosopher Ernest Mancoba.



Willie Esterhuyse and Sibusiso Tsabalala

Co-hosted events

- In May, the Institute hosted an event coordinated by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (JJR) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on the results of the 2011 South-African Reconciliation Barometer Survey. Jan Hofmeyer and Kate Lefko-Everett, both from IJR briefed the audience on the latest survey findings.
- The Institute and The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) co-hosted the *Finding ways to walk together* initiative in South Africa in June to coincide with youth month. The two-day workshop for students and youth in the Free State Province focused on dialogue as a tool for social change.
- The Institute co-hosted a discussion on environmental justice during the Kovsies Green Festival in September organised by SRC member Busi Madikizela. Prof. Phillipe Burger (Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences), Dr Ilze Keevy (Faculty of Law), Prof Gustav Visser (Geography Department) and Thabo Mongale (Students for Law and Social Justice) participated in a panel discussion on "Perspectives on Environmental Justice".

- On 19 October 2012, the Institute co-hosted a seminar with the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) to celebrate Press Freedom Day. The seminar, organised by Zubeida Jaffer, brought together community radio stations from across the Free State province to engage on the theme "How Free Are Our Airwaves?".
- The Institute partnered with Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela's Dialogue between Science & Society to host Oliver Fuchs and Patricia Blake. They spoke on "Re-humanizing Psychological Data: The limits of positivist Research and a case for the use of subjectivity in research" and "Attachment Detachment: Attaining and maintaining integrity in the research process" respectively.



Hon. Buti Manamela-MP,Ms. Sibongisile Masangwane, Dr Somadoda Fikeni, Ms Tsepiso Makwetla and Prof. André Keet.

The Institute, in partnership with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and OXFAM, hosted a public policy discussion on the 13th of December 2012, titled: Mind the Gap: A Public Policy Dialogue on Poverty, Inequality and Economic Policy. The panellists were: Mr Buti Manamela-MP, Prof. Vusi Gumede, Dr Somadoda Fikeni, Ms Sibongisile Masangwane, Prof. Andre Keet. Moderator: Ms Tsepiso Makwetla (SABC Current Affairs Anchor).



On 30 August, the Institute and the Faculty of Theology cohosted a conversation with Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and Dr David Tombs (Trinity College, Dublin) on "The uniqueness of Truth and Reconciliation commissions in the South African and Latin American contexts, respectively".

LGBTIQ week at the UFS

The Institute held a LGBTIQ week during March 2012 to coincide with Human Rights Day. The events included a screening of the film "If these walls could talk II" and a panel discussion on the invisibility of LGBTIQ communities, discrimination and religious intolerance. The week's activities were concluded with a silent march to protest against hate crimes and human rights violations related to sexual orientation.

Global leadership Summit

In July, the UFS hosted a Global Leadership Summit where students from North America, Europe and Japan visited our campus for two weeks as part of the UFS's Leadership for Change Programme. During this time the visitors, together with UFS students and staff, attended seminars and took part in discussions exploring the complex social and political challenges facing the world at large and to ask how students and Higher Education Institutions could take the lead in meeting those challenges.

The Institute was involved in several of these activities. Prof. Keet and the Institute's research assistants presented a seminar in which old and new artworks on campus were analysed in terms of "ghostliness." The presentation was introduced by a theatrical performance – conceptualized and performed by the Institute's research assistants – of the wellknown scene in Hamlet where title character is visited by his father's ghost. Together with Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, the Institute also organized and facilitated a panel discussion on transition and social justice, and Prof Keet delivered a lecture in which he presented an overview of the Institute, its philosophy and drive, and what we mean by reconciliation at a Higher Education Institution.



International Winter School on Pluralism and Development



From 16 July - 10 August 2012, the UFS hosted the International Winter School on Pluralism and Development for a second time. The coordinating team consisted of: JC van der Merwe (Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, UFS); Sitharam Kakarula (Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, India); Caroline Suransky and Henk Manschott (University for Humanistic Studies, The Netherlands). Prior to 2012, the Winter School was held in the Netherlands (2004, 2005 & 2006), India (2007 & 2008), Indonesia (2009 & 2010) and South Africa (2011).

The Winter School on Pluralism and Development involves a 4 week full time program of lectures, excursions, seminars, literature study, discussion, guided individual – and small

group work and mini research assignments. The Winter School brings together an international group of participants from civil society based organisations, activists and graduate students and is taught by an international and interdisciplinary staff. Four candidates from each country (Indonesia, Uganda, India, the Netherlands and South Africa) are selected in cooperation with the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS) in The Hague and partner organisations of the Hivos Pluralism Knowledge Program.

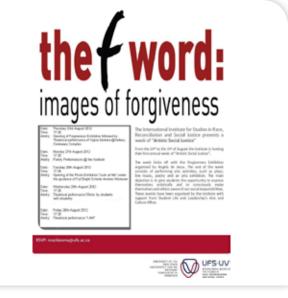


Caroline Suransky

Four students from the UFS (Masabata Mokgesi, Oliver Mutanga, Dot Vermeulen and Mhlanganisi Madlongolwana) received a Kosmopolis/University of Humanistic Studies Certificate in Development and Pluralism after participating in the 2012 Winter School. Drs. Ute Seela from Hivos Head Office (the main funder of the programme) visited the Winter School and commented that it was one of the best organised winter schools over the last 9 years. Next year the winter school will be held in India.

Arts and Social Justice Week

The Institute held its first annual week celebrating Arts and Social Justice in August. This event was initiated with the purpose of exploring new and different ways of understanding social relations – an endeavour which is crucial to the Institute's objective of confronting the histories, policies and practices that have shaped and constrained the intellectual and social mandates of higher education institutions. Highlights included a photo exhibition called "the f word: images of forgiveness" and a cabaret, "Vagina Dentata" (co-organized and sponsored by Student Life and Leadership). Other performances included a poetry evening; a performance by the disabled students under the leadership of Galetswane Kumwimbo; a photo exhibition by the UFS LGBTIQ organisation, under the leadership of Andrew Westover and a theatrical performance by UFS students. The events took place at the Institute and at the Eeufees Art Gallery with the assistance of the curator, Angela De Jesus.







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RESEARCH

The Institute's Research work

In 2011, the Institute adopted an innovative research agenda consisting of a variety of conceptual strategies and thematic areas. The overarching framework is *Shared Complicities and Mutual Vulnerabilities: Democrocies of Proximity (Social Cohesion) and the Futures of Justice*. This framework takes its primary focus to be the study of structural inequality, everyday violence and disrespect in human relations. More specifically it is aimed at exploring how human relations across an infinite number of 'divides' can be rethought and reconstituted for democratic arrangements and practices for the advancement of reconciliation and social justice.

Research outputs 2012

Book chapters (peer reviewed)

Keet, A.

Discourse, betrayal, critique. *Safe Spaces: Human Rights Education in Diverse Contexts.* (1st ed.). Roux, C. (Ed.). 7–27. Netherlands, Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.

Keet, A.

Overview: Africa. *Balancing Freedom, Autonomy and Accountability in Education*. Glenn, C. & de Groof, J. (Eds.). 1: 277–286. Nijmegen, Netherlands: Wolf Legal Publishers.

Journal articles (accredited)

Van der Westhuizen, Christi & Blaser, Thomas, M.

Introduction: The Paradox of Post-Apartheid 'Afrikaner' Identity: Deployments of Ethnicity and Neo-Liberalism. Volume 71, No 3 of African Studies, pp. 380 – 390.

Keet, A. & Carolissen, R.

Rethinking Citizenship and Social Justice in Education Volume 30, No 4 of Perspectives in Education, pp. i - ii.

Research Reports

The office of the Executive Mayor of the Dihlabeng Local Municipality has engaged and invited the University of The Free State to partner the municipality in its endeavour of achieving social cohesion. The University of Free State is a strategic partner by virtue of the MOU entered into by the two institutions and the Institute for reconciliation and Social justice agreed to facilitate this process and undertake further research within the community. The first workshop took place on 27 September 2012 in Bethlehem titled "Working together to create a caring and proud community". The Institute submitted a report to the municipality which are considering the appropriate action to sustain the momentum of the process, such as a follow-up workshop on Social Cohesion in 2013 at which current initiatives can be evaluated and new ones introduced. The report was compiled by JC Van der Merwe, Kholisa Rani, Mamokhosi Choane and Prof. Andre Keet.

Journal articles (non-accredited):

Boesak, A.

Religion, Pluralism, the Common Good and Poverty. Volume 53, No 2 of *The Eradication of Poverty, pp.* 193 – 204.

Magazine article:

WESSELS, L.

My voete loop na Worcester, waar versoening lewe kry. VOLKSBLAD (BY), pp. 4-5. 20 October 2012.

Presentations

Keet, A. & Tshabalala, S.

Joint Strategic Planning Workshop of the International Network for Peace and Social Activism. Durban, 31 January 2012.

Keet, A.

Beyond Compliance. Central Employment Equity Committee Workshop, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 24 February 2012.

Keet, A.

Training session for facilitators of Human Rights programs in schools, The Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 25 February 2012.

Keet, A.

The protection, promotion and advocacy for Human Rights as core foundation in the development of our schools. Teachers' training for the Human Rights Campaign, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 23 March, 2012.

Van der Merwe, JC.

Rendering Reconciliation Impotent: Political Programme, Religious Dogma, Moral Principle or (By-)product of Legal Process. 18th Annual conference of the *International Society* of African Philosophy and Studies, The School of Philosophy and Ethics, University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg campus), 16–18 April 2012.

Van der Merwe, JC.

Workshop for UFS staff on Academic Freedom. Difficult Dialogues Project, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 21 May 2012.

Van der Merwe, JC.

Panellist at Colloquium on Innovative Anti-Racism Initiatives/ Interventions in the Classroom hosted by Anti-racism Network in Higher Education, NMMU and Fort Hare, Port Elizabeth, 14 June 2012.

Keet, A.

Regional trends, challenges and opportunities in Africa. Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) Board Meeting, Cambridge, USA. 16 June 2012.

Van der Merwe, JC.

National Social Cohesion Summit: Working together to create a caring and proud society. Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, 4-5 July 2012.

Keet, A.

Ghostly symbols and images: The time is out of joint. Global Leadership Summit, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. 10 July 2012.

Keet, A.

Overview of the Institute, its philosophy and drive, and what we mean by "reconciliation" at a Higher Education institution. Global Leadership Summit, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 12 July 2012.

Keet, A.

Facilitator: In conversation with Yasmin Sooka and Leon Wessels – Justice and Reconciliation. Global Leadership Summit, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 18 July 2012.

Keet, A.

Clean shaven Marx [s]? Rights, Necromancy and conceptions of Feminist Justice. Women's Day Dinner, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 2 August 2012.

Keet, A.

Who am I? Our Identity, Our Culture, Our Heritage.

International Students' Day, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 17 Augustus 2012.

Keet, A.

Race and Reconciliation Matters. Engagement with Kimberley Hospital Staff, Kimberly, 14 September 2012.

Keet, A.

The Intellectual and the State. University of Fort Hare Colloquium, University of Fort Hare, East-London, 19 September 2012.

Van der Merwe, JC.

Presentation on the National Summit on Social Cohesion, Dihlabeng Social Cohesion Summit, Bethlehem, 27 September 2012.

Keet, A.

Democracies of proximity, Wits Club, WITS, 11 October 2012

Keet, A & Van der Merwe, JC.

Joint research project between the Institute and the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process, 13 November Keet, A Mutual Vulnerability Theory, UFS, 16 November 2012

Jansen, J; Keet, A & Prager, J.

Knowledge in the Blood': Breaking Cycles of Intergenerational Transmission of Apartheid's Deeply Rooted Past. Engaging the Other: Breaking Intergenerational Cycles of Repetition. Third International Multidisciplinary Conference. Bloemfontein, 7 December 2012.

Suransky, C & Van der Merwe, JC.

Talking change: Conversations on Reitz, Racism and Institutional change. Engaging the Other: Breaking Intergenerational Cycles of Repetition. Third International Multidisciplinary Conference. Bloemfontein, 7 December 2012.

Current and forthcoming research projects

The Institute is currently working on a number of research projects independently and in collaboration with a number of national and international partners.

Reitz Research Project

The first journal article on this project has been completed and submitted and the digital archive is functional, populated and is continuously developing. An occasional paper on Living with difference: *Mapping 'Reitz', the meaning of 'Reitz' is being finalised.*

Reconciled diversity: Young South Africans in conversation with Allan Boesak

This book publication will be the result of a series of conversations with students from diverse backgrounds under the theme 'Reconciled Diversity.' The conversations took place over a period of six months and were facilitated by Dr Allan Boesak.

Social Cohesion Comparative Study

Inter-disciplinary comparative study on Social Cohesion involving the Dihlabeng Municipality (Eastern Free State) and the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process (Western Cape).

Curriculum as Discourse

NRF-funded inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional national research project committed to the broader project of transformation in higher education, exploring curriculum practices and content as well as the disciplinary traditions in six selected fields of study.

Dignity and Difference

International comparative study on 'Dignity and Difference' in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society in Bangalore, India and the Kosmopolis Institute in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Humanizing Pedagogy

A planned large-scale empirical study on the theme of *Rights, Citizenship and Social Cohesion/Justice* in collaboration with NMMU and partners in the United States.

Diversity in Higher Education

Funded project on Higher Education in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles, VU Amsterdam, the UFS and North West University.

MA and Supervision

Under the leadership of the Institute, a steering committee has been set up to develop a Master's Degree in Reconciliation and Social Justice. Straddling the faculties of humanities, law, education, theology and the natural and economic sciences, it explores the social dynamics of human relations as intrinsically linked to development and sustainable democracy. This degree is also closely tied to the university's strategic direction in terms of both the 'academic' and 'human' project. The Master of Reconciliation and Social Justice will be offered from 2014.

In addition to occasional teaching sessions, the Institute presents a number of options for students who wish to pursue post-graduate studies in affiliation with the Institute. Linked to, and located within, a variety of national, regional and international networks, the Institute offers research engagement and supervision with renowned academics and experts in the fields of reconciliation and social justice. Students can also register with a range of departments across faculties for full research Master's and Doctoral degrees associated with the Institute. Currently one Masters and one PhD candidate study under the auspices of the Institute.

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STAFF 2012



Permanent staff

André Keet (Director) J.C. van der Merwe Rochelle Fourie (Office manager)

Research assistants

Talita Calitz Angelo Mockie Galetshwane Kumwimba Rèné Eloff Sibusiso Tshabalala Roxanne van Niekerk Huibrecht Hoffman Georgia Myburgh Libokanyo Mokhadinyana

Administrative assistants

Nthabiseng Moahlodi Nombuso Ndlovu

Research associates

Allan Boesak (Affiliated Professor) Leon Wessels (Affiliated Professor) Izzeldien Abualaish (Visiting Professor) Caroline Suransky (Visiting Professor) Christi van der Westhuizen (Associate) Felisa Tibbets (Associate)

Advisory board













Jonathan Jansen (chairperson)

Michalinos Zembylas

Lebo Moletsane

Choice Makhetha Katinka De Wet

John Samuel

Driekie Hay

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Invitation I Critical Conversation

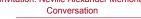


Date: Monday, 28 November 2012 Time: 17:15 gm Place: DF Mahaetoe House (The Institute), University of the Free State RSVF trahabalasta/Bufna cza Ordentlikheld in the (re)making of Afrikaner feminities. Christi van der Westhuizen is auftor of White Rower & the Rise and Fail of the National Party (Zebra Press, 2007) and a regular analytical columnist in the English and Afrikanas press. She holds a Makar's degree in Political Economy and South African Politics (Zum Laude) and is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Cape Torw. She is a Research Associate attached to the Institute and a frequent speaker at seminars and

ferences. der Westhuizen is currently Associate Editor responsible for trade and development (Africa and beop al the global news agency Inter Press Service (<u>www.lpsnews.net</u>), headquartered in Rome. blog can be read at <u>http://www.thouphtleader.co.zaichristivanderwesthuizen</u>. Eu









In honour of the life of Neville Alexander, one of South Africa's foremost intellectuals and activists, the Vice-Chancelior and Rector, Professor Jonathan Jansen and Mr John Samuel (Senior Advisor to the Rector) invite you to a memorial conversition. Dr Kanander (75) passed away on Monday 27 August 2012 at his home in Grassy Park after suffering il health. Tributes to Dr Neville Alexander:

rick.co.za/article/2012-08-28-rememberir http:/ ive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2012/08/30/bona-fide-pro







The full story of the secret meetings between ANC leaders and a select few Afrikaners in the turbulent 1980: the first time by someone who was there himself, Willie Esterhuyse. me recounts how these talks, held behind closed doors in England, not only kicked-started negotia , but also led to an unlikely yet lasting friendship between an Afrikaner insider and a young activist Wille Esterhuyse is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Stellenbosch. Proj extensively over a wide area including philosophical and political issues. He has authored a usa' die and The Road to Reform. The Office of the Presidency awarded him with the Orde contributions to establishing a new democratic and er in South Africa. warded him with the C der in South Africa.









INSTITUTE FOR RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE instituut vir Versoening en SOSIALE GEREGTIGHEID

FREE STATE UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT