

# Botno

Newsletter of the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice

Issue : 3  
December 2013

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



INSTITUTE FOR  
RECONCILIATION  
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE  
INSTITUUT VIR  
VERSOENING EN  
SOSIALE GERECHTIGHEID

## THE INSTITUTE EXPLORES THE FUSION BETWEEN **ART AND ACADEMIA**

The Institute hosted the second Annual Arts and Social Justice Week from 19 to 31 August 2013. Extended from last year's one-week run, the festival celebrated freedom of expression through drama, dance, music, poetry, film, public lectures and art exhibitions. This year's programme was packed with exciting productions, exhibitions and academic presentations with the aim to create an environment where creativity and academia can join hands and inspire the UFS community. The main objective of the Arts and Social Justice Week is to address current social justice issues within the South African society in ways that would encourage dialogue surrounding our responsibilities as South African citizens.

Speaking at the opening of the festival, Prof. André Keet, Director of the Institute, explained that the purpose of the two-week programme is to explore new and different ways of understanding social relations through artistic encounters. It is 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 universities across the country and the world.' said Prof. Keet.

Highlights of the programme included film screenings of the documentaries *Dear Mandela* and Mark Frederick's *Injury Time*; the drama production *Adjusted*; the *Empty Promises* dance production; and a public lecture by Prof. Ntongela Desmond Masilela on 'The Contribution of Women to Intellectual Thought About Modernity Within the Context of the New African Movement.' Read more about the Arts and Social Justice Week on pages 10-11.

**Arts and Social Justice Week**  
19-31 August 2013

**Music productions**  
Lectures  
Poetry  
Art exhibitions  
Dance productions

**Films**  
Dialogue sessions

**Open your mind!**  
New possibilities  
Challenge  
Be informed  
Take action  
Question the facts

T: +27(0)51 401 9303 | E: MockieSMA@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za  
f UFSUV | UFSweb | UFSweb

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

UFS UV

News **2**

Conversing the Research Project **6**

Talking Arts and Culture **10**

About the Institute **15**

# News

## New initiatives: *Launching the Human Rights Desk*



From left are: Leon Wessels (Patron of the Human Rights Desk), Breggie Hoffman (coordinator the desk) and Jonathan Jansen at the launch of the Human Rights Desk



André Keet, the driving force behind the establishment of the Human Rights Desk, at the opening ceremony

'When I got here in 2009, this university was a very angry place following the Reitz video incident. Today the signs are pointing in the right direction and for this I would like to thank the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice.' These were the opening remarks of the Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, at the launch of the Human Rights Desk on 15 October 2013.

The Human Rights Desk has been established in response to the binding agreement reached with the South African Human Rights Commission as part of the 'Reitz' settlement, and the general demand to contribute to developing a culture of human rights at the UFS. The Desk aims to create an environment of renewed awareness and active participation in human rights advocacy work in all spheres of the university's institutional make-up. This will be done through topical seminars and short-courses in human rights advocacy.

The Human Rights Desk will also act as an ombudsman with regards to issues of human rights violations. A helpdesk will investigate reported violations and channel these appropriately through the existing processes at the University. Regarding research, the Desk

will generate comparative and international research initiatives on the scholarship of human rights education within various socio-political contexts. It will pursue a niche research agenda to foster and promote a culture of renewed human rights education and advocacy through curricular interventions and practical applications (praxis).

Prof. André Keet, Director of the Institute, also encouraged the university to utilise the Desk. He iterated that the task of the Desk is to do human rights assessments and find new ways in which to advance the project of human rights through knowledge generation: 'Our task is to build a new form of productivity into the language of rights; to build the culture of human rights with our students and to do various things that serve the university's project including our national and international imperatives as far as human rights is concerned.'

The Human Rights Desk is situated at DF Malherbe House and is coordinated by Breggie Hoffman. More details regarding the Desk can be obtained at 051 401 7554 or at [HuRidesk@ufs.ac.za](mailto:HuRidesk@ufs.ac.za).

## Digging deeper into *critical theory*

The Student Critical Theory Group involves the students and research assistants who are currently working at the Institute. The group came together in the second semester of 2013 and will continue with quarterly meetings in 2014. The students will cover the research framework of the Institute (2012-2016) - *Shared complicities: Collective futures*. Within this framework, students have in-depth, interdisciplinary discussions about the techniques of academic argumentation, Discourse Archaeology frameworks for analysis and evaluation, and Key theoretical approaches to diagnostic reading. Current successes or conflicts in matters of reconciliation and social justice are used as exemplars through which theoretical approaches can be used for understanding and informing practices.

## On the move: *Hosting ARNHE from 2013–2016*

The Anti-Racism Network in Higher Education (ARNHE) is an organic structure that began operating in June 2008 in response to the events that happened at the Reitz Residence as well as the overall challenges of racism in higher education institutions in South Africa. ARNHE facilitates the coordination of events to provide a space for sustained critical dialogue amongst academics, higher education administrators, students and staff, on the impact of racism and the intersections between race and other social asymmetries such as gender, xenophobia, class, and differentiated ability within the higher education sector.



The Institute will be the administrative home of ARNHE for a three-year period commencing in June 2013 (NMMU hosted

the last three years). Since the UFS has been involved with ARNHE from its first colloquium, locating ARNHE within the Transformation Desk at the Institute affords us the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to, and solidarity with, the work of ARNHE. Furthermore, the founding of the Institute coincides with the birth of ARNHE as the impetus for both was ignited by the 'Reitz incident'. As a consequence, this is of special significance for the Institute.

ARNHE co-hosts two colloquia per year, the most recent being 'New Geographies of Race: Student Experiences in Higher Education' (University of Stellenbosch, 2 October 2013). So far, ARNHE has co-hosted colloquia with nine higher education institutions in South Africa and the University of Pretoria will be the site of the next engagement. The prospect is to include all institutions of higher education in the country. The Executive Committee of ARNHE is constituted as follows: Chair: Melissa Steyn (WITS), Xoliswa Mtose (UNIZULU), Allan Zinn (NMMU), JC Van de Merwe (UFS), Ronelle Carolissen (SU) and Tammy Shefer (UWC). For more information on ARNHE initiatives contact JC van der Merwe (vdmjc@ufs.ac.za).

## Remembering *Dr Neville Alexander*

Angelo Mockie and Tessa Ndlovu took a drama and poetry production to the Neville Alexander Commemorative Conference held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth on 6–8 July 2013. The conference was intended to stimulate critical reflection, debate and discussion on the life and work of Neville Alexander and his relevance to contemporary, local and global issues focusing on both the intellectual and practical challenges facing society today. Those present enjoyed a group of diverse presenters and theatrical performers from all walks of life who were gathered to remember and honour a well-loved and respected member of the academic community. Dr Neville Alexander was a prolific writer and anti-apartheid activist who spent a decade on Robben Island alongside president Nelson Mandela. He will always be remembered for his ceaseless commitment to liberation in a non-racial society.



## Advisory board *meeting*

The advisory board of the Institute held its annual meeting on 19 November 2013. Front: John Samuel, Michalinos Zembylas, Jonathan Jansen, Lebo Moletsane, Choice Makhetha. Back: Rochelle Ferreira, André Keet, Driekie Hay, JC Van der Merwe.

## UFS unplugged: *Youth Forum encounters*



*Phiwe Mathe and Dionne Van Reenen*

Within the dynamic landscape of higher education at the University of the Free State, it remains an interest of the Institute to foster student-centred research and engagement. This serves to enhance the contribution of the student voice to the essential culture and value systems of the University. The Institute quickly established itself as a space for all members of the University to come together and engage in dialogues regarding many aspects of the learning process. However, there was an acknowledgement that students are often reticent when it comes to being vociferous and proactive in more difficult discussions regarding their own institutional experiences.

The Youth Forum was formed at the end of the first semester in May 2013. It is an informal forum intended to initiate dialogue between interested students and their representatives, as well as staff members involved in specific issues pertaining to the

academic and human projects of the UFS. Students are encouraged to speak openly about whatever issues are concerning them on campus with the aim of expanding explanation and understanding of the problems. Sharing ideas and formulating them in the broader contexts of society and humanity assists the group in coming to terms with more general stimuli for transformation. The deeper motivation is that in getting down to business on the micro-level of the university, we will work with interpretive schemas that point toward collective futures in a deliberative democracy. We look forward to a semester filled with provocative discussions and mindful reflection. In our pursuit of goals and ideals, it is imperative that we make ourselves plainly aware of our conceptions and misconceptions since they contour the way we think, speak and act. For more information contact Dionne van Reenen ([dionnev@sparta.co.za](mailto:dionnev@sparta.co.za))

## Introducing the landscape of *Human Rights* to students



*Victoria Maloka and André Keet with some of the workshop participants*

Following global trends in higher education, the Institute has taken active steps to introduce the concepts and materialities of Human Rights Education at the UFS. Most human rights concepts are easily comprehended and applied in everyday life, but in the more complex contexts of balancing particular, opposing goals and interests, a deeper knowledge of the field is required.

For this reason, it was considered prudent to recruit an expert in the field to assist in providing members of the Human Rights Desk, and the student and research assistants at the Institute, with human rights training. The training (24-26 July 2013) was presented by Victoria Maloka from Source of the Nile Consultants and focused on national, regional and international human rights instruments that are vital to the optimal functioning of the Human Rights Desk. Participants were given the wherewithal to provide more knowledgeable feedback on human rights related topics and Ms Maloka also gave advice on how to link up with relevant United Nations divisions and other international organisations.

In step with the mandates of the Institute, human rights awareness is part of a larger commitment to developing active citizenship and receptivity to each other's rights in the endeavours of both university and national projects. This workshop provided staff and students the opportunity to reflect on arcane human rights concepts and on different ways in which human rights education can be put into practice in the broader community.

# Conferences & Colloquia

## Mass violence



Choice Makhetha at the opening of the seminar



On 26 September 2013, the Institute and Prof. Ian Phimister hosted a colloquium on mass violence and genocide in Africa. The colloquium brought together a number of experts who analysed

individual trauma, mass violence and genocide in Africa from a colonial and post-colonial perspective. Some of the panel members included Heidi Hudson, from the Centre for Africa Studies, Mohamed Adhikari, Jan-Bart Gewald and Giacoma Macola.

Panel members discussed a range of topics relating to mass violence and genocide in Africa. Some of the topics discussed included the benefits of using a feminist approach in entrenching an anti-genocide regime; the particularities of 'the' State in Africa and its role in mass violence; analyses of the British and American newspaper coverage of the Rwandan genocide; as well as the varied ways in which genocide and mass killings are remembered and represented, and often denied and dismissed.

In addition, some panel members focused on the causes and effects of instances of mass violence and genocide. Attention was also given to the non-physical impacts of massacres which included a study of the phenomena of genocidal anxieties and how this is influenced by political phenomenon such as nationalism, regime transformation, conflict resolution, and political theology. Through the different panel sessions, participants were given the opportunity to interact with the panel members and exchange their views and opinions based on various fields of study that were represented. Moreover, with the attendance of several international guests and participants, the Institute was able to expand its global reputation.

## Contested Knowledges



The Institute in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and the Centre for Teaching and Learning hosted a seminar themed *Pedagogies of contested knowledges* on 19 November 2013. Michalinos Zembylas, an associate professor of Education at the Open University of Cyprus, gave a keynote address titled *Contested knowledges in post traumatic context in which critical pedagogy should pay attention to emotion*. Prof. Zembylas analytically observed ways in which space for pedagogical differences can be created in higher education. He also paid attention to the role played by discomfort and trauma in the discourse of teaching and learning as well as ways in which hegemonic patterns such as racism, oppression, social injustice and the position of privilege can be dismantled.

Prof. Zembylas' address was followed by a commentary from Prof. Relebohile Moletsane from University of KwaZulu-Natal, Faculty of Education who was a respondent at the seminar. Other

speakers including Hetsie Veitch, Director of the Unit for Students with Disability, Tania Van der Merwe, Department of Occupational Therapy, Anneline Keet, Department of Social Work and Willy Nel, School of Education Studies, who also engaged in critical dialogue of unsettling hegemonic patterns in higher learning.

Speakers' critical engagement with different pedagogies challenged various trends in higher education including medical discourses that label students with special medical needs as 'disabled', the patterns of inclusion and exclusion and the competing racial agendas in higher education. Critical pedagogy was introduced as a transformative pedagogical praxis with the potential of challenging hegemony.



Front: Rita Niemann, Tania van der Merwe, Hetsie Veitch. Back: Willy Nel, Relebohile Moletsane, Anneline Keet, Michalinos Zembylas, Melanie Walker

# CONVERSING THE RESEARCH PROJECT

From 2009, the Institute embarked on a number of activities that feed into its research areas. Central among these activities is the Critical Conversation series. At least once a month, the UFS community is invited to take part in a conversation with an invited scholar on a particular theme. The objective of these conversations is to interrogate social and political issues by means of intellectual rigour, allowing for the emergence of new theoretical and practical approaches. Read more about the conversations of the past few months on pages 6-9.

## The *architecture of fear*



'In 2012, I moved from Johannesburg to what is considered "fly-over" country in South Africa: the City of Bloemfontein. After living in Bloemfontein for a little over a year, I was recently asked to describe in a single sentence what my lived experience in Bloemfontein was. My answer surprised even myself, I unconsciously replied FEAR.' These were the opening remarks of Phillipa Tumubweinee, a senior lecturer at the Department of Architecture, during her presentation entitled 'The Architecture of Fear' on 29 October 2013.

Ms Tumubweinee explained her fear as a 'fear of being' that is neither a category, an event, a moment, nor an image that aligns itself with any of the numerous socio-cultural and economic enclaves in Bloemfontein. She related the question of fear against the layout of the city of Bloemfontein which is a result of her response to the physical and architectural environment that promotes a series of isolated events, moments and images. The debate moved away from a socio-cultural configuration of separation to a physical one that examines the role of space in society's constructed reality. How residents of the city negotiate their way through these spaces provides a thought provoking departure point from which to reconsider social encounters.

## Rape and the state



The Institute was invited by Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela to co-host a seminar with Dialogue between Science and Society and the Centre for Africa Studies on 25 July 2013. The seminar titled 'Rape and the State' was presented by German scholar and veteran journalist, Dr Sabine Hirschauer.

Dr Hirschauer linked rape and the state by referring to President Jacob Zuma's rape trial. She said the Zuma rape trial was politically brushed aside and therefore left a moral scar on the discourse of sexual violence in South Africa. According to her, rape has received a socially destructive character in South Africa and, as a result, it has gradually become a norm. 'It started with baby rapes then migrated to lesbian rapes and now grandmother rapes.' she said.

Dr Hirschauer said rape causes women insecurities, 'Even me, I navigate differently in South Africa than when I am in New York, South Africans must therefore ask what does rape do to the country's viability,' she added. She urged South Africans to go beyond rape as neither a political discussion nor a domestic issue and suggested that rape has to be seen as a public matter and not a private issue.



## Why women in leadership?

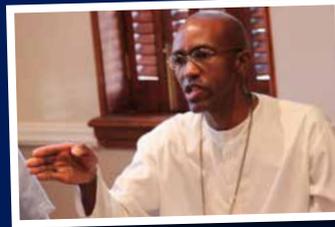
The Institute, in collaboration with Centre for Africa Studies and Dialogue between Science and Society, co-hosted a conversation that was presented by Dr Kedibone Letlaka-Rennert, senior personnel manager at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Dr Letlaka-Rennert delivered a presentation entitled 'Why Women in Leadership?' (21 November 2013).

Her conversation dealt with women's leadership challenges, women's participation in leadership and research-based evidence that women in leadership provide better workplaces that ultimately lead to a stronger global economy. She argued that women's participation in leadership enables better organisational performance, innovation, better governance and better economics. Dr Letlaka-Rennert is a Fulbright Scholar and the founder of her own human resources management consultancy in South Africa.

## Racism and religion

During a conversation initiated by the Human Rights Desk themed *Racism, religion and belief*, a panel of three speakers, Jan Lubbe (Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Free State), Anlené Taljaard (Faculty of Theology) and Fezile Kona (Vedanta Scholar), responded to a perceived, problematic correlation between the racist dispositions displayed in societies and the religions with which they engage.

The three speakers discussed different perspectives regarding the link between religion and racism and arrived at a somewhat intersecting assertion that true faith should not foster racism *per se*. Rather, the problem seems to lie in the practice of particular individuals and movements within different religious circles. The lively debate that followed the presentations roused a number of interesting responses from the audience on a topic that strikes a chord with scholars and practitioners alike. This conversation took place on 13 November 2013.



## Youth leadership

Loyiso Makapela is a junior Lecturer at the Law Faculty at the UFS. She holds a Masters in International Economic Law from the UFS and embarked on her second Masters in International Comparative Commercial Law at the University of London in 2013. Hosting the Human Rights Desk's first Student Critical Conversation (5 September 2013) with her as a guest speaker, culminated in an engaging event involving significant student participation. Ms Makapela's experiences in various UFS and provincial leadership positions provided much critical reflection on contemporary leadership culture and focused on what is expected from people occupying leadership roles.



## The Dance of Reconciliation



On 10 October 2013 Dr Riville Nussey gave a lecture on a topic themed 'Dance of Reconciliation: Steps Towards a Reconciliatory Pedagogy.' Her lecture focused on the important role played by 'truth telling' as well as the consequences of having different versions of 'truth' when trying to reconcile. She stated that truth needs to be told in order for reconciliation to happen.

Dr Nussey made reference to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) concerning the case of Ms Phila Portia Ndwandwe, an Umkhonto we sizwe (MK) commander, who was abducted from Swaziland, tortured and killed by the apartheid government security forces. Dr Nussey argues that the revelation of the truth behind Ms Ndwandwe's tragic fate led to reconciliatory outcomes for the family of the victim precisely because the men who killed her were able to disclose the details surrounding her death in exchange for amnesty.

Dr Nussey confronted the numerous complexities surrounding truth and reconciliation, recollecting the PEBCO 3 killing, where three men were murdered by the apartheid security police. Dr Nussey highlighted significantly different accounts of how the men died. Consequently, the TRC was unable to rule on who was telling the 'truth' and amnesty was therefore rejected. 'These dancers are connected to the Dancers of Peace and Hope and in a broader society, stories of reconciliation like that of Ms Ndwandwe have helped to foster peace in the sense that South Africa has not descended into a bloodbath' said Dr Nussey. She concluded that the issues raised by the Dancers of Truth, Justice, Mercy, Peace and Hope cannot be resolved in the lecture room but by engaging with a reconciliatory pedagogy, a process which includes a 'head and heart' approach in the form of scrutiny and empathy.

# Capabilities for *Higher Education*

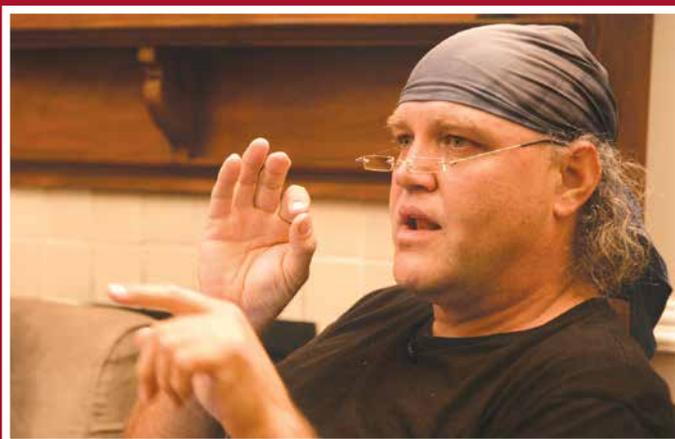


Dr Merridy Wilson-Strydom (Directorate for Institutional Research and Academic Planning), spoke on 'Capabilities for Higher Education: Students' Experiences of the Transition to University' at a critical conversation on 9 October 2013. Dr Wilson-Strydom argued that the analysis of success at universities cannot be based solely on quantifiable indicators. Her multi-faceted study focuses on first-year student's experiences of the transition from school to university. From her analysis of the various data gathered, she offered some telling insights regarding students' experiences of higher education within the complex spheres of access, transition and success within a capabilities approach. The capabilities approach is associated with well-known scholars Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, and has been applied and further developed by various scholars in different disciplines.

According to Dr Wilson-Strydom, in order to meaningfully understand student's success at universities, variables such as resilience and agency that students have shown during their transition to the university should also be considered. 'This emphasis on agency is important in the context of higher education because we very quickly slip into deficit language when we talk about our students. We talk about previously disadvantaged, at risk, under-preparedness and we tend not to recognise the enormous resilience and agency that the students have shown just to get to the university given the structural constraints that they face in their lives'.

In the specific context of access, Dr Wilson-Strydom iterated that the capabilities approach reminds us that we need to move beyond measurable statistics. She emphasised: 'When we think about readiness for university, we think about academic preparation...Readiness in this context could also mean, for example, whether students are ready to be a part of a diversified environment or not...Although we are, in the interest of social justice, broadening access we are actually creating new forms of injustice, where we have students entering the university and leaving with no qualifications, debts and as a result with damage to their confidence'.

## Who is Eugene de Kock *today*?



Marcia Khoza was only five when her mother, Portia Shabangu, was killed in 1989 in Swaziland by Eugene de Kock and his men when he was head of the notorious covert operations unit under the apartheid government's security police. In February last year, on the anniversary of her mother's killing, Khoza visited De Kock in prison. She gave him a book in which she had written the following words for De Kock: 'I have been hurt and had a rough childhood without my mother, since 12 February 1989. I am healed and free of bitterness and hatred. I freely and fully forgive you, and I am ready to help others to heal...You're totally forgiven.'

On Monday 2 December 2013, the Institute, and the Dialogue between Science and Society initiative of Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, co-hosted a conversation between Marcia Khoza and Dr Piet Croucamp. Dr Croucamp is a political scientist at the University of Johannesburg and is in regular contact with Eugene de Kock. The conversation provided valuable insight into the processes of restorative justice and reconciliation.

## We also talked to ...



### Shaun Viljoen

Compositions of biographies are in most cases predominantly about ordinary individuals whose lives have had an extraordinary impact on the life of the general public. Richard Rive's life is a case in point as Shaun Viljoen (Associate Professor, English department, Stellenbosch University) depicts in *Richard Rive: A Partial Biography*. Viljoen presents this larger-than-life sportsman, activist, teacher and writer in his fascinating new book.

On 3 September 2013 Prof. Jonathan Jansen led a conversation with Shaun Viljoen at the Institute and commended him on the way in which he brought Richard Rive to life as amongst the most influential writers South Africa has ever produced. Rive is widely celebrated for his key contributions to the development of literary work in South Africa. He is best known for his second novel *Buckingham Palace, District Six*, in which he gives a poignant account of the living conditions of the people in this iconic area during forced removal of so many people to the Cape Flats under the apartheid government. Ironically, out of such sadness, emerged great creativity, originality and quality.



### Pat Fahrenfort

The Institute also hosted an entertaining conversation between Prof. Jonathan Jansen, André Keet and Pat Fahrenfort, author of *Spanner in the Works: One Woman's Journey from Factory Floor to the Corridors of Power* (23 Augustus 2013). This straight-shooting, personal account of Pat's wide-ranging employment experiences span her working life from when she is removed from school by her mother and accepts a factory job to her experiences in working with a number of intriguing characters in all sorts of challenging environments. She joined the Constitutional Assembly to work on South Africa's new Constitution and subsequently took up a position as Deputy Director in the Ministry of Labour. With great gusto, Pat also recounted her writing process under the assistance of Antjie Krog, who, Prof. Jansen pointed out, was a graduate of the UFS, and a well-known South African writer. Her absorbing narrative of a woman's direction-finding in the world of work was both compelling and thought-provoking.

## We also talked about ...

### Living wills – Gert van Zyl



#### Critical Conversation | Professor Gert van Zyl

#### Your living will as a patient: What does it mean?

Prof. Gert van Zyl discussed the background of a living will, how it impacts on patient care, what it means to the society at large, the implications drawn from the constitution as well as some of the permutations that arise from a living will. The conversation on living wills took place on 3 September 2013.

Prof Van Zyl is currently the dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

### H.F. Verwoerd – Christoph Marx



#### Critical Conversation | Professor Christoph Marx

#### H.F. Verwoerd: Everything you wanted to ask but couldn't.

Prof. Christoph Marx is Chair of the History Department at the University of Essen-Duisburg. He is the author of the definitive work on the Ossewabrandwag and is currently writing a biography on H.F. Verwoerd. He is an internationally recognised authority on Afrikaner nationalism and has published on numerous other subjects as well. On 11 September 2013 he led a fascinating conversation on H.F. Verwoerd.

# Talking Arts and Culture

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Arts and Social Justice Week

The Annual Arts and Social Justice Week is an initiative within which the Institute's mandate finds expression in the visual, literary and performing arts. The week of activities and performances are designed to engage students and staff, as well as the broader community of Mangaung. With a specific focus on social justice, we are hoping to inspire audiences toward developing engaged citizenship and cohesive communities.

The 2013 Arts and Social Justice Week took place from 19 to 31 August and, during the official opening, Prof. André Keet emphasised the importance of such an initiative as follows: 'The role of art and literature in reflecting on society, has overtaken – in terms of substance, quality and relevance – the function of critical commentators, political analysts, sociologists and philosophers. Artists are, simply put, better political commentators than political commentators themselves; better political commentators than philosophers; better political commentators than political analysts. Uniquely positioned to engage with social reality, art and literature demand that we experience artistic work as political acts.'

Although this project is initiated and driven by the Institute, we were delighted to present different events in partnership with the Performing Arts Centre of the Free State (PACOFs), Kopsie Health and Wellness (Estelle Heideman), UFS Arts and Culture (Tonderai Chiyindiko), Marijda Kamper and Walter Strydom, National Freedom Network (Prof. Beatri Kruger), UFS Student Life (Cornelia Faasen) and the UFS Art Gallery (Angela De Jesus).



Angelo Mockie, executive producer of the Arts and Social Justice Week

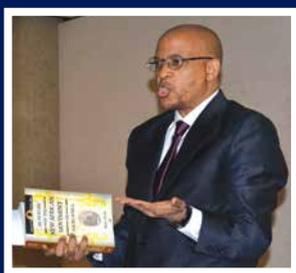


André Keet speaking at the official opening of the Arts and Social Justice Week



## Adjusted

Rapists walk freely while society and the government turns a blind eye. 'I don't want to see it.' 'I don't want to hear about it.' 'I don't want to talk about it.' – these are the mind-sets that lead to the number of rape victims rising uncontrollably every 17 seconds. South Africa is a deeply wounded nation. Rape seldom holds the nation's gaze, even though it deserves a measure of serious, watchful attentiveness and responsiveness from all sectors of society. This drama production (19-20 August 2013) took audiences on a journey with three women who, at some point in their lives, have been victimised. What kind of person was she before and how is she now? Adjusted I am!



## Women and the New African Movement

On Wednesday 21 August Prof. Ntongela Desmond Masilela delivered a public lecture on 'The Contribution of Women to Intellectual Thought About Modernity Within the Context of the New African Movement.' Prof. Masilela is professor emeritus of English and World Literature and of Creative Studies at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. From 1995 to 2008 he was adjunct professor of American Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). He now resides in Bangkok, Thailand as an independent scholar. In July 2013, he published this recent book in New York entitled *An Outline of the New African Movement in South Africa*.

## Injury Time

On Monday 26 August, film producer Mark Fredericks presented a screening of *Injury Time* after which the audience had an opportunity to engage with him in a lively discussion on issues such as: Who really benefited from the post-1994 democratic dispensation in the sports arena? What happened to the heroes of non-racial sport? Did the 1992 transition to unification wipe out an entire history of black participation in rugby and replace it with a sanitised version of the sport?

Since 2001, Mark Fredericks has devoted himself to video capturing, editing and photography, focusing on community and oral histories and how they relate to sport and general community life. *Injury Time* explores the question of who really benefited from the post-1994 democratic dispensation in the sporting arena. It relates a damning tale of betrayal and deceit as an entire history of non-racial sport is written out of South African history.

## Poetry sessions

Tessa Ndlovu performing at one of the poetry sessions



## Dear Mandela

This film follows the journey of three young people from their shacks to the highest court in the land as they invoke Nelson Mandela's example and become leaders in a growing social movement. At points inspiring, devastating and comical, the film offers a new perspective on the role that young people can play in political change and it is a fascinating portrait of South Africa's coming of age. *Dear Mandela* was screened on Friday 30 August 2013.

## Uhuru as 'We' Know It



The play has its origins in Steve Biko's famous quote: 'The most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.' Everyday life is characterised by conscious purposiveness. From reaching for food to designing an experiment, our actions are directed at goals. This purposiveness reveals itself partly in our conscious awareness and partly in the organisation of our thought and action. With South Africa almost twenty years into democracy, the writer seeks to tap into zones of awkward conversations by exploring in-depth conscious purposiveness of an everyday South African citizen... *Uhuru as "we" know it!* This drama production was written and directed by Gali Malebo and took place on 29 August 2013.

## Empty Promises

This event comprised a physical theatre production using movement, dance and music (27 and 31 August 2013). It is an entertaining, energetic and powerful look at the dangers of falling victim to modern-day slavery. With an international human trafficking crisis that is on the increase and showing itself to be pervasive across cultures, geographies and communities, we must recognise that this kind of theatre can make a difference while being artistically enthralling. Directed by Marijda Kamper and Walter Strydom, choreographed by Claudette Collins, and narrated by Crystal Donna Roberts.

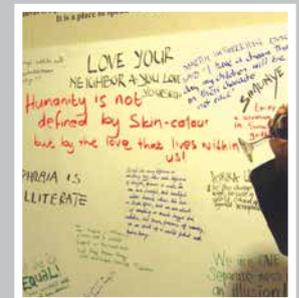


## Candle Light Memorial

We are inspired by the influence of women on a daily basis. This happens through a poem, a song, an article, a documentary or a movie. August is Women's month, so the *Candle Light Memorial* paid tribute to the myriad of women who inspire us, but also influence the world with their courage, boldness and tenacity. These are women who openly testify about their personal journeys pertaining to issues of sexuality, drugs and HIV/AIDS. No matter what the medium might be, we love to see women hone their crafts, especially while living openly and authentically. This production featured 28 live performances and was directed by Jefferson Dirks-Korkee (22-23 August 2013).

## Tell Them We Are From Here

A dialogue session on 'Migration and Xenophobia' took place on 23 August 2013 under the banner of the 'Tell Them We Are From Here' exhibition. 'Tell Them We Are From Here' (TTWAFH) is an anti-xenophobia, non-governmental organisation that was established in 2011. It was created in order to encourage community dialogue and action on the issue of xenophobia. In an effort to understand why the riots of 2008 broke out. The organisation went into the most riot-affected townships and interviewed the people. In their research they came across a young, foreign-national man who, when asked what he would say to his attackers were he to meet them again, he responded with: 'Tell them we are from here.' *here* being planet earth.



## Freedom and social media

On 29 August a panel discussion took place on: 'Freedom of Expression and Social Media: Your Rights and Responsibilities.' The panellist were from left to right: Rudi Buys, Lacea Loader, Keabetswe Magano, Christopher Rawson, Phive Mathe. Facilitator: Willy Nel

# Public Engagement Initiatives

## Dialogue boxes



The 2013 Murray & Roberts Des Baker Architecture Student Design Competition took place on the Bloemfontein campus during the National Architecture Student Congress (27-29 August 2013). The aim of the competition is to create a better understanding between architects and contractors, and to recognise and reward students for their achievements in the competition. Third-year students from all Architectural Learning Sites across the country were challenged to design, build and install a full-scale Dialogue Box, as a kit-of-parts, measuring 2.5m (x 3). The brief called for an architectural installation that could promote interaction between



students on campuses around South Africa. The Institute served as the hypothetical 'client' and we requested that the structure should be transportable and should focus on the creation of dialogue around issues of reconciliation and social justice. Through the Dialogue Box, a place was constructed where individuals could come together to speak, to dialogue and to share their stories in a way that strengthens, rather than weakens, the possibility for active citizenship. The judges were Ora Joubert (Pretoria), Doung Jahangeer (Durban) and JC Van der Merwe (Institute).

## Mandela day

The Institute joined The Association for Persons with Disabilities (APD) in hosting an event on the 18 of July to celebrate Madiba's altruistic nature and dedication to humanity. Angelo Mockie volunteered to put together a choir for the event. Audiences were treated to a day of music, drama, poetry, food and friendship. Mandela Day was used by the APD as a platform to reach out to the public and showcase their diversity and talents in work and recreation.

APD generously offered its grounds to host the event which was enjoyed by all. The involvement of the project included our community projects and fellow organisations dedicated to disability empowerment such as the Kopano Sheltered Workshop and the Jean Webber Home as well as the University of the Free State Arts and Culture Department.

## Getting street wise about *Street Law*



Street Law is a national initiative bringing the law, which is often perceived as privilege to a few, to the doorstep of those who need it most. The program was started as a way to educate school learners in their human rights and to increase their access to justice. During the second semester of 2013, The Human Rights Desk visited Bainsvlei Combined School and Lekhulong Secondary School in Mangaung respectively. The purpose of these excursions was to inform the learners about their constitutional rights while placing a high emphasis on the responsibilities that come with those rights.

The learners participated actively in the discussion on constitutional democracy and the practical day-to-day scenarios surrounding human rights enforcement. Relevant information was shared concerning the protection of their rights as well as what to do when they feel that their rights have been violated.

---

# Research

---

## Research *framework*

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: Democracies 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. The research framework of the Institute is aimed at exploring how human relations across an infinite number of 'divides' can be re-thought and reconstituted for democratic arrangements and practices to advance reconciliation and social justice.

## Research *projects*

### Human rights and citizenship framings in HEI

This research project will explore: how students and staff frame the notions of human rights and citizenship pre-theoretically and theoretically; how such framings impact on the university's transformation agenda; and in which ways can citizenship and human rights activism be reconstituted within university spaces. This exploration will assist the research team to inquire into intuitive human rights and citizenship expressions within social reality.

According to the project leader, Prof. André Keet, an analysis of these intuitive understandings will better link the abstracted notions of rights and citizenship with an activism that may already be rooted in pre-theoretical experiences. Apart from its broader intellectual contribution, such systematised observations will serve the strategies and activities that the university will employ in its pursuit to develop a culture of human rights and inclusive citizenship.

### Curriculum as discourse

A 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 elected fields of study.

### Reitz Research Project

A series of monographs will be launched in 2014 under the title *The Rupture of Reitz* and the first two monographs will be published in 2014. The digital archive is functional, populated and is continuously developing. The first journal article on this project has been submitted to an international journal for publication.

### Humanising Pedagogies

A large-scale empirical study on the theme of 'Rights, Citizenship and Social Cohesion/Justice' in collaboration with the Open University of Cyprus (Michalinos Zembylas) and Columbia University (Felisa Tibbitts).

### Dignity and Difference

An international comparative study on *Dignity and difference* in collaboration with Centre for the study of culture and society in Bangalore, India and the Kosmopolis Institute in Utrecht, Netherlands.

### Pedagogies to advance capabilities

In March 2013, Prof. Melanie Walker and André Keet invited eight UFS academics to participate in a two-year (2013-2014) collaborative, three-country (SA – UFS and UWC, Netherlands, Cyprus) research project on 'Universities as "Spaces for Social Justice": Pedagogies to Advance Capabilities.' The project's aim is to work with university practitioner-researchers to investigate the University as a 'space of justice' that advances the capabilities and valuable functioning of all students through curriculum and pedagogical arrangements.

The project is on-going and also includes an advocacy dimension aiming at raising awareness about the need to continuously reflect on, and improve, pedagogical practices as one of the major leverage points for real transformation. Students and staff are welcome to share their practices and concerns with us. Please feel free to contact Prof. Walker (WalkerMJ@ufs.ac.za) and Prof. Keet for any inquiries (KeetA@ufs.ac.za).

# Postgraduate studies at the Institute

A number of options exist 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 Masters and Doctoral programmes associated with the Institute.

## MA (Reconciliation and Social Cohesion)

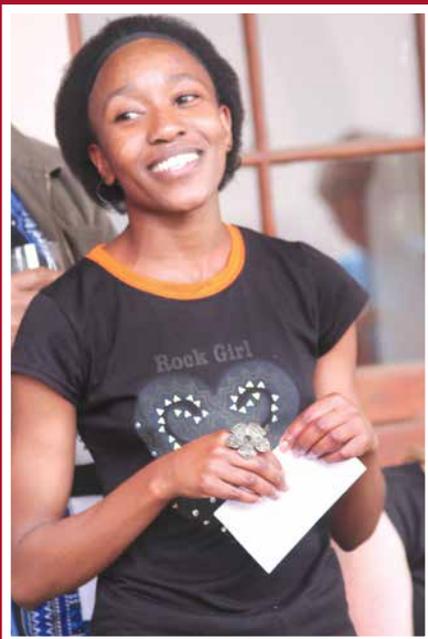
Under the leadership of the Institute, a steering committee has been developing an MA degree in Reconciliation and Social Cohesion. The purpose, outcomes and curriculum of the Master of Reconciliation and Social Cohesion is closely tied to the university's strategic direction both in terms of the *Academic and Human Project*.

This programme develops an inter-disciplinary research approach to the social, ethical, political and theological aspects of reconciliation and social cohesion. In the first semester students enrol for two compulsory modules that focus on research, namely Theoretical and epistemological frames (Discourse and Disruptions) and Researching reconciliation and social cohesion. In the second semester students choose three modules out of four available electives: (1) Dignity and difference; (2) Justice, democracy and wellness; (3) Mourning, forgiveness, trauma and memory and (4) Public theology and liberating justice **OR** The liturgies of a life together. In the second year, students will complete a 90 credit research dissertation.

The Master of Reconciliation and Social Cohesion will be coordinated by the Institute and be administered through the faculty of Theology. For any inquires contact Dr Willy Nel (NelWN@ufs.ac.za). The MA (Reconciliation and Social Cohesion) will commence in January 2015.

## Forthcoming Colloquia

- 30-31 January 2014 - Diversity and the politics of engaged scholarship: A comparative study in higher education (Partner with VU Amsterdam, UCLA)
- 18 March 2014 - 'WHOSE YOUR MOMMY?' - A seminar on the (ab)uses of the Mother of the Nation / Volksmoeder' in Southern African nationalisms
- 22-23 May 2014 - Silence after violence (Partner with Holocaust Studies Center, The University of Vermont)
- 18 July 2014 - Cohesions and Disruptions: Art as a Key to Transformation



## Saying farewell

At the end of 2013, the Institute bid a heartfelt farewell to Nthabiseng Moahlodi one of its longest serving staff members. Nthabiseng was appointed in 2010 by the then interim director, Mr John Samuel, and has been an integral part of the work of the Institute since its very beginning. Her charming personality made her a well-known and loved person all over campus. Arriving at the Institute in November 2010 saw her beginning a journey to educational development: 'I never wanted to study further because I felt tired of school, but working at the Institute, opened doors to my intellectual and personal proficiency.' According to Ntabiseng, respecting her fellow citizens irrespective of their histories and background is the most valuable lesson she has learnt at the Institute and for this, she thanked all the Institute's staff members for their contribution to her learning experiences. Nthabiseng left Bloemfontein for Pretoria where she is studying auxiliary nursing.

Libokanyo Mokhadinyana, who was the research assistant for Ms Jubeida Jaffer, left the Institute at the end of 2013 after completing her studies.

We also said goodbye to Angelo Mockie who accepted a position as senior officer in Student Affairs. Angelo was the inspiration behind the artistic events at the Institute since 2012. Not only did he conceptualise the Annual Arts and Social Justice Week, but also established it as a highlight on the UFS calendar within the space of two years. The Institute is very grateful for the fact that Angelo will still coordinate our Annual Social Justice Week even though he won't be involved with the Institute on a fulltime basis.

# General

## About the *Institute*

The Institute is one of the flagship intellectual projects of the University of the Free State. The Institute, more than any other academic initiative, represents the University's *Human Project*, which rests on cultivating humanity as a counter-strategy to the disrespect and violence that pervades human relations. Following the 'Reitz incident' in February 2008, and within the context of a worldwide intensification of racism and social conflict, a collective vision took shape to set up a research outfit that would exemplify the scholarship and practice of reconciliation, forgiveness and social justice. After an incubation period of consultations and discussions lasting almost three years, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu launched the Institute on 27 January 2011.

The Institute's mandate is 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.

## Get involved with the *Institute's* work

UFS staff, as well any person or institution outside of the university, locally or internationally, who want to get involved with the Institute's work are welcome to approach us with project proposals. The Institute has also initiated a *Student Volunteer Programme* for interested undergraduate and post-graduate students registered at the UFS. Participants will be given the opportunity to independently develop and drive projects that link up with the Institute's mandate. Students who wish to participate will be required to show a keen interest in social justice issues, identify and interpret issues of concern on the university's various campuses and actively engage with the surrounding communities. Interested students should contact Pinky Mokemane (Pinky.Mokemane@gmail.com).

### Director

Prof. André Keet  
Tel: T: +27 (0)51 401 9808  
E:mail: keeta@ufs.ac.za

### Office manager

Rochelle Ferreira  
Tel: +27 (0)51 401 9808  
Fax: +27 (0)51 401 9006  
Email: FerreiraR1@ufs.ac.za

### Physical address

DF Malherbe House  
Graduandi Lane  
University of the Free State (Main campus)  
Bloemfontein

### Postal Address

Internal Box 125  
P.O. Box 339  
Bloemfontein  
9300

<http://institute.ufs.ac.za> •  UFS.IRSJ |  UFSweb |  UFSweb

## Staff

### Permanent staff

André Keet (Director)  
J.C. Van der Merwe  
Rochelle Ferreira (Office Manager)

### Administrative assistants

Nthabiseng Moahlodi  
Malatia Nengomasha

### Human Rights Desk

Huibrecht Hoffman (Coordinator)  
Annelie De Man (Research Assistant)  
Geraldine Phakedi (Research Assistant)  
Chris Rawson (Student Assistant)  
Evelina Nailenge (Student Assistant)  
Marika Smuts (Student Assistant)

### Institutional and Higher education transformation

Dionne van Reenen  
Thabo Motsoane (Research Assistant)

### Arts and Social Justice

Angelo Mockie (Research Assistant)

### Critical Conversations

Lien Vanneste (Research Assistant)

### Documenting and archiving

Nomithe Mkhazazi (Student Assistant)

### Newsletter

Libokanyo Mokhadinyana (Research Assistant)

### Volunteer Group

Fezile Kona  
Pinky Mokemane (Student Assistant)

### Research associates

Leon Wessels (Affiliated Professor)  
Izzeldien Abualish (Visiting Professor)  
Caroline Suransky (Visiting Professor)  
Christi van der Westhuizen (Associate)  
Felisa Tibbitts (Associate)

### Advisory board

Jonathan Jansen (Chairperson) (VC, UFS)  
Lebo Moletsane (UKZN)  
Michalinos Zembylas (Open University of Cyprus)  
Choice Makhetha (DVC, UFS)  
Katinka De Wet (UFS)  
John Samuel (Independent consultant)  
Driekie Hay (DVC, UFS)

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



INSTITUTE FOR  
RECONCILIATION  
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE  
INSTITUUT VIR  
VERSOENING EN  
SOSIALE GERECHTIGHEID

# Botno

THE HUMAN EMBRACE

Newsletter of the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice