



Permanent members of staff

Strauss, H

Article	2014	Spectacles of promise and disappointment: Political emotion and quotidian aesthetics in video installations by Berni Searle and Zanele Muholi.	<i>Safundi: Journal of South African and American Studies.</i>	15(4): 471-495.
<p>Selected abstract:</p> <p>This paper reframes post-apartheid everyday life against the backdrop of the spectacles of promise and disappointment that have characterized South African public culture in the transitional and post-transitional periods. Inspired by recent work in the field of affect theory that reads negative affect as a potential political resource, I consider iconographies of struggle and difficult emotions in an effort to study disappointment as a form of politics. I suggest that works of quotidian esthetic mediation such as the video installations “Black Smoke Rising” by Berni Searle and “what don’t you see when you look at me?” by Zanele Muholi might help to recast disappointment as a resistant political emotion that disrupts the fantasies upheld by the spectacle of the unfulfilled promise.</p>				
Conference presentations	2014	“I am Mzansi”: Packaged feelings and popular youth cultures in contemporary South African documentary film.	John Douglas Taylor Conference: Contemporary Orientations in African Cultural Studies.	
Conference presentations	2014	Feeling from the South.	Crossroads in Cultural Studies.	
Conference presentations	2014	Aspirational attachments: Ambivalent youth publics in contemporary South African documentary film.	Crossroads in Cultural Studies.	

Brokensha, SI

Book with Senekal, BA	2014	<i>Surfers of the Tsumani – Navorsing en Inligtingstegnologie binne die Geesteswetenskappe.</i>	SUN MeDIA	Bloemfontein
<p>Selected abstract:</p> <p>Die tyd toe ‘n groot deel van navorsing behels het dat die navorser na ‘n biblioteek sou gaan en daar gedrukte artikels sou lees en/of fotostateer, is verby. Hierdie oudmodiese werkswyse is nie alleen onnodig tydrowend nie, maar beteken in die Inligtingsera ook dat daar nie tred gehou kan word met internasionale navorsers nie, omdat daar bloed nie tyd is om so ‘n wye verskeidenheid onlangse bronne te raadpleeg as diegene wat wel inligtingstegnologie (IT) inspan nie. As hy nie sy navorsingsmetodes by die 21ste eeu aanpas nie, loop die navorser die gevaar dat hy</p>				



agterweë kan bly, wat beide sy loopbaangeleenthede en die kwaliteit van student se onderrig direk kan beïnvloed.

Du Plessis, CL

Article	2014	Issues of validity and generalisability in the grade 12 English home language examination.	<i>Per Linguam: A Journal of Language Learning.</i>	30(2): 1-19.
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Selected abstract:

Very little research has been devoted to evaluating the national English Home Language (HL) curriculum and assessment system. Not only is there a lack of clarity on whether the language subject is being offered at an adequately high level to meet the declared objectives of the curriculum, but the reliability of the results obtained by Grade 12 learners in the exit-level examination has been placed under suspicion. To shed some light on the issue, this study takes a close look at the language component of the school-leaving examination covering the period 2008-2012, to see whether evidence of high language ability can be generated through the current selection of task types and whether the inferred ability can be generalised to non-examination contexts. Of primary interest here are the validity of the construct on which the examination is built and the sub-abilities that are being measured, as well as the validity of the scoring. One of the key findings of the study is that the language papers cannot be considered indicators of advanced and differential language ability, only of basic and general proficiency. The lack of specifications in the design of the examination items and construction of the marking memoranda undermine the validity and reliability of the assessment. As a consequence hereof, the inferences made on the basis of the scores obtained by examinees are highly subjective and cannot be generalised to other domains of language use. The study hopes to draw attention to the importance of the format and design of the examination papers in maintaining educational standards.

Manase, II

Article	2014	Everyday experiences and aspirations in selected lower class townships of Johannesburg.	<i>Journal of Human Ecology.</i>	47(1): 65-72.
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Selected abstract:

This paper examines the journalese narratives by Dibetle and Harber and Vladislavic's fictional depiction of a selected Johannesburg lower class township experiences. The paper draws on concepts about walking in the city, everyday city cultures and imaginaries of city and township life discussed by critics such as De Certeau, Mbembe, Dlamini and Nuttall. It examines the nature and presence, in the selected townships, of the intersection between the colonial and apartheid social, spatial and historical influences, and that of the post-apartheid multiracial transformation agenda in



determining the township residents' everyday practices, sense of belonging and identities constituted as they make meaning of their specific township experiences. The paper examines the residual effects of colonial and apartheid discrimination on the city and how its opening to multi-racial democracy has mapped the lower class townships as a bleak and marginalized space, which nevertheless is paradoxically constituted by some residents into a radiant and liveable space.

Raftery, MM

Conference presentations	2014	Conscience and Consciousness: The morality play and its audience.	21 st International Medieval Congress.
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Ngara, KM

Article	2014	Unstable orders: Dislocation as metaphor and allegory of post-apartheid transition in Ivan Vladislavić's <i>The Restless Supermarket</i> .	<i>Études Littéraires Africaines</i> .	38: 55-68.
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Selected abstract:

Le roman de Ivan Vladislavić *The Restless Supermarket* a pour cadre Johannesburg, une ville qui subit aujourd'hui de profondes transformations sociales et politiques. En premier lieu, cet article évalue comment le personnage principal, Aubrey Tearle, homme aux vues rétrogrades et conservatrices, négocie la transition politique, en se concentrant sur les rapports qu'il entretient avec l'infrastructure sociale et physique dynamique de la ville, et les stratégies qu'il déploie pour se chercher une identité dans un contexte de fluidité. Dans ces circonstances, les notions de définition de soi sont d'abord examinées en interrogeant comment Johannesburg, et le quartier de Hillbrow en particulier, en tant que zones urbaines en voie de démocratisation, se définissent de manière opposée aux idées que Tearle se fait de l'ordre et des conventions en ayant recours au bizarre ou à l'incongru. En second lieu, je propose que l'invention, par Tearle, d'une ville imaginaire comme Alibia constitue une métaphore et une allégorie de l'ordre linguistique qui se délite rapidement au fur et à mesure que la ville se transforme. Cette fantaisie utopique est conçue pour contrecarrer l'impression de descente vers un chaos dystopique que l'émergence d'une ville post-apartheid représente pour lui. Mais Tearle comprend bientôt que, même dans ce monde allégorique, il est en définitive incapable d'imposer l'ordre qu'il souhaite ; il lui faut plutôt apprendre à découvrir comment entretenir des liens nouveaux avec la ville comme espace que l'on habite.

Conradie, MS

Article with van Niekerk, A.	2014	Literary genres as points of interest in print advertising.	<i>Journal of New Generation Sciences</i> .	12(2): 126-146.
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Article with Brokensha, SI	2014	“I was amazed that there were still people like this”: First-year students’ reflections on experiences of racial discrimination at the University of the Free State.	<i>Transformation : Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa.</i>	84: 81-105.
Article	2014	We get you: Combining proximation and the coordinated management of meaning approach to analyse legitimisation in a text on HIV and Aids.	<i>African Identities.</i>	12(2): 196-210.
<p>Selected abstract: The article focuses on the interplay between print advertisements and literary genres such as poetry, drama, folklore, etc. This interplay may be used to develop an advertisement’s point of interest to attract attention from a specific target audience. Based on previous research we hypothesise that literary genres are exploited as a means to engage audiences. The study aims to give a description of the typical genre characteristics of modern literary genres in SA print advertising. It also endeavours to do a pragmatic analysis of these advertisements against the background of the specific literary genre category and the genre qualities of advertisements to identify the implied marketing message.</p>				
Conference presentations	2014	New South Africa speak: Race talk in an undergraduate debate on racialisation in post-apartheid South Africa.	John Douglas Taylor Conference John Douglas Taylor Conference: Contemporary Orientations in African Cultural Studies.	

Research associates

Jesse Arseneault

Conference presentations	2014	Beyond the human: Animality in contemporary African contexts.	John Douglas Taylor Conference John Douglas Taylor Conference: Contemporary Orientations in African Cultural Studies.	
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Jesse Forsyth



Conference presentations	2014	Africanist and indigenous scholarship: A case for reconfiguring collaborations.	John Douglas Taylor Conference John Douglas Taylor Conference: Contemporary Orientations in African Cultural Studies.
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Mackey, AA

Conference presentations	2014	Community/connection2.0: African youth, social media and the re-orientation of affective belonging.	John Douglas Taylor Conference John Douglas Taylor Conference: Contemporary Orientations in African Cultural Studies.
Conference presentations	2014	E/motional connection 2.0: Social media and trans-hemispheric renegotiations of affective belonging.	ACCUTE Conference.

Geldenhuis, KL

Book	2014	Un-Caging Meaning in Capgrave's <i>Life of St Katherine of Alexandria</i> .	Scholar Press.	Saarbrücken.
<p>Selected abstract: Katherine of Alexandria, one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages, was acclaimed for her great learning. This investigation focuses on the fraught relationship between knowledge, the feminine and the idea of the body in the predominantly Catholic society of late medieval England as it is revealed in John Capgrave's fifteenth century <i>Life of Saint Katherine of Alexandria</i>. Although Capgrave does not shy away from the issues of gender power-relations that were pertinent to his society and appears to be unique among his peers in allowing for quite a balanced debate of these issues in his text, he includes aspects which subtly undercut Katherine's strident independence as a woman. In this way he is able to honour the saint while simultaneously confirming the 'proper' position of women in medieval patriarchal society by equating it to the position of humanity in the Church vis-à-vis Christ. Consequently, Capgrave is able to openly consider challenges to, and yet subtly affirm, the status quo of his society in this multivalent saint's legend.</p>				

Hlongwane, GG



Article	2014	Contextualizing South Africa's freedom songs: A critical appropriation of Lee Hirsch's <i>Amandla!: A Resolution in Four-Part Harmony</i> .	<i>Journal of Black studies</i> .	45(6): 507-527.
<p>Selected abstract: This article offers an examination of Lee Hirsch's <i>Amandla!: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony</i>. Beginning with the liberation songs that gained salience during the National Party's implementation of apartheid policy in 1948 and ending with the struggle songs of a post-1994 democratic South Africa, the documentary's aim is to retrieve and recount the role of freedom songs in antiapartheid struggle. Using the writings of Ernesto Laclau, John Mbiti, Paul Ricoeur, and Alfred Schutz, this essay will argue that liberation songs are ancestral text that were partly used by antiapartheid activists to create their collective identities. This essay will further argue that <i>Amandla!</i> set itself the task of retrieving South Africa's liberation songs and liberation's praise singers from the ancestral region John Mbiti calls Zamani to a region he calls Sasa. However, this essay will assert that the ancestral retrieval task of this documentary is compromised by the documentary's privileging of the hegemonic groups within the African National Congress (ANC), the documentary's presentation of the ANC as a monolithic and univocal organization, and the producer's snowball sampling method. Arguing that this documentary relegates some of the South African struggle experiences into Zamani, this essay will attempt to correct these omissions and broaden the context of liberation songs.</p>				

Snell, H

Article	2014	Outward bound: Adventures in cross-cultural reading and global citizenship in North America.	<i>Children's Literature Association Quarterly</i> .	39(2): 252-274.
Article	2014	Toward "a giving and a receiving": Teaching Djibril Diop Mambéty's <i>Touki Bouki</i> .	<i>Journal of African Cultural Studies</i> .	26(2): 127-139.
<p>Selected abstract: There has been a spate of YA novels in North America that mobilize discourses of cosmopolitanism to construct static, "worlded" sites where adventures in cross-cultural reading and global citizenship can be staged for the benefit of young readers largely coded as white and middle class. As analyses of two such novels show, the adventures staged tend to rely on a rhetoric of deflection in their writings of the "other," in turn engendering constructions of white subjects as givers of aid in relation to "Third World Others." The essay concludes with analysis of a text that avoids this kind of rhetoric.</p>				
Conference presentations	2014	"Slumming it" in the postcolony: New exoticisms for the Twenty-First Century.	Crossroads in Cultural Studies.	

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