Master’s and PhD Programme in *The Narrative Study of Lives*

Few methods of data collection capture context, meaning, experience, subjectivity, the lifeworld, reflexivity and action as effectively as narratives. When people tell coherent and meaningful stories, embedded in a particular context, they reveal to us as researchers insights into our own as well as other people’s experiences. The very essence of life story research (especially in as far as narrative inquiry, life history and oral history are concerned) provides an epistemological key to a wide scope of knowledge of everyday reality, indigenous knowledge, cultural transmission and community engagement.

Traditional documents of life very often did not incorporate the voices of the majority of South Africa’s people. Apartheid suppressed their voices by relegating entire racial groups to the economic and cultural margins of society. Through political exclusion their experiences were hidden from most historical accounts and their views seldom played a role in representations and reconstructions of reality. In step with new horizons and freedoms, everyday discourses on issues that reflect everyday life as explored by researchers and post graduate students in the programme *The Narrative Study of Lives* contributes to greater inclusivity, and provides more opportunities for political and cultural participation and self-expression.

Since 2013 ten candidates graduated with a Master’s degree in *The Narrative Study of Lives* and a further number of both PhD and Master’s students expect to graduate shortly.

The following honorary staff members contribute to the programme:

As Extraordinary Professor: Professor Liz Stanley from the University of Edinburgh.

As Research Fellow: Dr Florian Elliker of the University of St Gallen, Switzerland.

Research publications in scientific journals by Professor Jan K Coetzee, Senior Professor – who directs the programme – and participating students:

- Mbelekani, N. Yvonne, Young-Hauser, Amanda M. and Coetzee, Jan K. The sangoma


• Kotze, P. Conrad; Coetzee, Jan K.; Elliker, Florian & Eberle, Thomas S. Strangers but for stories: The role of storytelling in the construction of contemporary White Afrikaans-speaking identity in central South Africa. Forum: Qualitative Social Research, 16(1), Art. 20, 2015.


