

# Botno

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YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



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

## THE INSTITUTE ASSISTS IN SETTING UP A NATIONAL FLAGSHIP PROJECT

In August 2015, the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice (IRSJ) launched its component of the National Flagship Project in the Visual Arts and Social Cohesion, funded by the National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC). The theme of the pilot year project was 'Emancipating the African Voice in the Visual Arts for Social Cohesion Purposes'.

*What is 'social cohesion'? What does it mean to you? Is social cohesion possible in diverse communities with, for example, conflicting personal and communal histories? Why is social cohesion identified as a key determinant to South Africa's growth and development? What is the 'African voice'?*

Following a period of several months of discussion and development, these were just some of the questions that the University of the Free State's Fine Arts and Drama and Theatre Arts students, as well as professional practicing artists in its surrounds continued to ask themselves and also engage the public on from 12 to 19 August 2015 as part of the Arts 4 Social Justice (A4SJ) Week programme.

Unlike the culture and heritage sectors, where consensus, meaning and narrative is processed and hopefully achieved largely through democratically aligned and consultative processes, the visual arts sector operates more within the realm of the individual and, as such, brings to the fore both radical challenges as well as opportunities in terms of social cohesion.

South Africa has witnessed many challenges over the past several years with regards the polarities created through contentious visual arts works. The need to work with and understand how the visual artist grasps and works with concepts such as social cohesion, including which dialogues are exogenous and endogenous to the challenges and opportunities of social cohesion, were considered critical for problematisation at this temporal juncture in the development of democracy in our country.

Accordingly, the NAC granted funds to the IRSJ to assist the Institute in setting up a national flagship project in which the meanings, narratives, conditions and possibilities for social cohesion through

the visual arts could be better understood and worked with over the long term for transformation purposes. Read more about this fascinating project on page 12.



*The Ubuntu Mind by Kara Schoeman*



*Motseokae Klas Thibeletsa explaining his work on unresolved issues from history*

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# News

"Having spent most of my life in public service it is a great pleasure to receive recognition from the University of the Free State for the work that I have done," Dr John Samuel said in his acceptance speech at this year's winter graduation, during which an honorary degree was conferred on him. The renowned educationalist's remarkable merit was recognised by the Faculty of Education in the July 2015 graduation ceremony. Dr Samuel was awarded an honorary doctorate for his enormous role as a national and international strategist in the education system. The early 1960s proved to be a prelude to Dr Samuel's lifelong journey as a teacher, policy analyst, administrator, and advisor. In addition to his work in South Africa, he has served with compassion in various countries including Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria and the USA.

At the dawn of South Africa's democracy, Dr Samuel served as head of the Education Desk and developed new policies in the field of education and training. One of his many pivotal achievements was his appointment as the Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF) chief executive officer. Furthermore, South Africa's Department of Education reaped significant benefits in appointing him as deputy director-general. From 1998 to 2000, Dr Samuel was the senior programme director of the WK Kellogg Foundation in the USA. The chief executive chairman of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls inspired graduates with warm words. "Graduation is a special time for everyone. It is now the time to convert what we have learnt into useful action. We need every pair of hands to help and inspire, and instil hope," he said. Dr Samuel was appointed as interim director of the IRSJ in 2010 and was responsible for setting up a unit that has grown into the well-established Institute it is today.



*Honouring John Samuel*



*Advisory Board – The Institute held its annual Advisory Board meeting on 31 July 2015. From left to right: Choice Makhetha, Relebohile Moletsane, Lucius Botes, Sechaba Mahlomaholo, Shirley Tate, Katinka De Wet, Michalinos Zembylas, Fanie Snyman, Jonathan Jansen (Chairperson) and Caroline Nicholson, with JC van der Merwe and André Keet*

## Appreciating the volunteers

The 2015 IRSJ Volunteer Programme ended off with a bang in October, when a volunteers appreciation ceremony was held to honour the volunteers for exceptional work they had done during the course of the year. This event was combined with the Heritage Day celebration event, which was organised by the volunteers themselves. Prof. Keet gave a compelling keynote address, where he emphasised the important role that the 2015 volunteers played

within the transformation mandate and the human rights advocacy and sensitisation of the Institute. Speeches from JC van der Merwe of the Transformation Desk, Annelie de Man from the Human Rights Desk and Giselle Baillie from the Arts and Social Justice Desk were well received. Appreciation certificates were given out to the volunteers, along with special awards for the volunteers who went the extra mile throughout the course of the programme.





Ambassador Gerards

# Signs of Solidarity: The Dutch **Against** Apartheid

The Institute arranged for the popular travelling exhibition, *Signs of Solidarity: The Dutch Against Apartheid* to be shown at the Bloemfontein campus. In support of the University of the Free State's Human Project, the IRSJ strives to stimulate reflections into South Africa's past, and establish conversations about the significance of our history by bringing this exhibition to the campus. The exhibition is a moving testimony to the massive scale of civil

support the Netherlands has shown to South Africa's liberation struggle. Their support grew to such an extent that it not only became a national agenda, but also one of the greatest protest movements the Netherlands has ever known. The exhibition was opened on 4 August 2015 by the vice-chancellor and rector of the UFS Professor Jonathan Jansen, and the ambassador to South Africa from the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands, *Marisa Gerards*.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

At the launch of Ahmed Kathrada's book *Triumph of the Human Spirit*, on the Bloemfontein campus on 18 August 2015, members of the Student Representative Council presented him with a candle-lit cake – shaped in the number 86 – to celebrate his birthday on 21 August.



## Jerusalem, the East Side Story

The Office of International Affairs hosted the official visit of the ambassador to Palestine, His Excellency Mr Hashem Dajani, to the University of the Free State (UFS) from 16 to 17 November 2015. The rector and vice-chancellor of the UFS, Professor Jonathan Jansen welcomed the ambassador and the Palestinian delegation to the Bloemfontein campus. During the visit, they met with



Ambassador Hashem Dajani and Vice-Chancellor Jansen

senior management of the university, including Dr Karen Lazenby (Registrar: Systems and Administration), Beata Mtyingizana (Director of International Affairs) and JC van der Merwe (Deputy Director at the IRSJ). The visit marked the finalisation of a scholarship initiative that offers placement of Palestinian students to study at the UFS. The new vice-chancellor's International Scholarship programme will recognise academic excellence and merit in undergraduate, postgraduate, as well as doctoral academic disciplines. One of the strategic objectives of the UFS is that of internationalisation, which is strengthened by the scholarship programme. With the focus on Palestine, the university's international footprint in non-traditional regions of the world, such as the Middle East, will therefore be highlighted. To conclude the visit, the IRSJ hosted a film screening featuring *Jerusalem, the East Side Story*. The documentary mainly looks at the past forty years of Israeli military occupation policies in Jerusalem and the subsequent impact on the city and its people. "Peace in Palestine is key to world peace," Ambassador Dajani said. "The issue of self-determination is central to the Palestinian effort, and, through the assistance of the international community, it can be realised."

# Institutional Support



From left to right: Francois Marais, Angelique van Niekerk, Johan Rossouw, Arlys van Wyk, Elias Malete, Munene Mwaniki, Mosa Leteane and Dionne van Reenen

## Language policy

From June to December 2015, the UFS underwent a comprehensive language review process. Earlier in the year, the Transformation Desk of the Institute hosted the University Assembly as part of the No-to-Racism / Yes-to-Equality Campaign and a third of the submissions called for a review of the UFS language policy as a matter of urgency. In June 2015, the University Council mandated the University Management Committee (UMC) to constitute a language committee that was to assess the language situation on all three campuses and make recommendations to the Council. Dionne van Reenen, from the Transformation Desk, chaired the committee which was strongly guided by constitutional principles of practicability, equity and redress. The review process included information, research and discussion panels, staff and student dialogues and consultation, as well as an opinion poll conducted on all three campuses. Further, all members of the university community as well as interested external parties were invited to make written or verbal submissions. Based on all the data and numerous analyses at hand, the committee made its recommendations to Council who, in concurrence with the Senate, accepted the recommendations and mandated a new language policy and implementation plan, with English as the primary medium of instruction and business, to be formulated in 2016 and implemented in 2017.

## SRC Presidential Debate at Qwaqwa

On the 20th of August, a week before the SRC elections, the IRSJ, in collaboration with the UFS Qwaqwa campus Debate Society and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) at Qwaqwa, organised a Presidential Debate. Initially scheduled to be hosted in one of the lecture rooms which could accommodate 250 people, the debate had to be moved to the Mandela Hall due to the overwhelming attendance of over 1 200 students! The IRSJ played a critical facilitating role that included ensuring that all the candidates could

respectfully engage with each other. The Institute also assisted with part-payment for the transport and sound arrangements for the event. The Presidential Debate provided a critical platform for candidates to present their manifesto's and also take questions from the floor. The participating political structures were SADESMO, SASCO, NASMA, EFF and PAC. The Presidential Debate adds a new and interesting dimension to the student life on the campus and the event is certainly looked forward to with great anticipation.

## #FeesMustFall

The second National Higher Education Summit on Transformation took place from 15 to 17 October 2015 in Durban. It was stated that "2015 is a watershed year for the sector, marked by deepening student and staff activism on many university campuses. Students and staff are fundamentally interrogating the nature and pace of transformation at our universities". The following week, students across South Africa embarked on what became known as the 'Fees Must Fall' protests. UFS students joined the national protests against the increases in class and study fees at universities across the country on Tuesday 20 October 2015. All campuses of the UFS were closed down on Wednesday 21 October and reopened on Monday 26 October 2015. The Institute



played a significant role during the protests, especially on the Bloemfontein campus. Institute staff were present at all times – monitoring the protests and providing logistical support where needed (food, legal representation, transport, and so on). Rectorate was notified of developments and student leaders were engaged constantly.

# CONVERSING THE RESEARCH PROJECT

## *Traumatic Conflict and Black Women's Bodies*

In his book, *Emotion and Traumatic Conflict*, Michalinos Zembylas takes us through an ethnographic journey into a specific site of conflict to show how emotions are entangled with educational efforts towards peace building, healing, and reconciliation. While sociologists, anthropologists, historians, and political scientists have long analysed the emotional dynamics of conflict and peace, rarely have educators looked into the emotional complexities of traumatic conflict, the impact of emotion in everyday school interactions and pedagogical practices, and the consequences of the role of emotion in what has become known as 'critical peace education'. Zembylas, not only offers an analysis of the emotional consequences of traumatic conflict in schools, he also develops an innovative, compelling, and cross-disciplinary perspective on the entanglement of emotion, power, politics, trauma, healing, and critical education. Grounded in recent literature on affect and emotion that spans the social sciences, Zembylas's analysis of the emotions of traumatic conflict in education offers a provocative proposal for the role of critical peace education in healing and reconciliation.

In *Black Women's Bodies and the Nation: Race, Gender and Culture*, Shirley Tate develops a decolonial approach to representations of black women's bodies within popular culture in the US, UK and the Caribbean and the racialisation and affective load of muscle, bone, fat and skin through the trope of the subaltern figure of the Sable-Saffron Venus as an 'alter/native'. She argues that enslavement, colonialism and settlement in the



On 28 July 2015 André Keet interviewed Michalinos Zembylas at the launch of his latest books.

metropole created the black woman's body as both other/same and deeply affective whether read as fear, disgust, contempt or fascination. Her body draws attention to the negotiations through which the semblance of consensus on the citizen body is created at the same time as black women's bodies as Sable-Saffron Venus alter/natives rupture the collective body formed through the (re) iteration, (re)interpretation and (re)presentation of the meanings of muscle, bone, fat and skin.

## Sporting lives *and* 'development' agendas

On 19 October 2015, Tarminder Kaur, presented on sport and 'development' discourses and practices among the farm workers of the Western Cape. In her study she examined farm worker 'development' discourses and agendas of the provincial government and the wine industry, by juxtaposing these with the everyday sporting lives of rural working class people (including farm labourers). Drawing from her ethnographic fieldwork conducted at the commercial wine farms in and around the small rural town of Rawsonville, she shared some of her research observations, conundrums and arguments at the Critical Conversation. The people who work and/or live at the commercial grape and wine farms of the Western Cape are collectively referred to as 'farm workers', and they are identified by the provincial government as a priority group in need of 'development'. Sport is increasingly considered and debated for its role in 'development' work. Situating within this emerging and interdisciplinary theme of research: 'Sport for Development and Peace', Kaur examines the broader agendas, discourses and practices of farm worker 'development' (through sport) in the Western Cape and contrasts these to the everyday sporting lives of farm workers in Rawsonville.

## Race and Identity

On 17 August 2015, the Institute hosted a dialogue on Race and Identity in post-Apartheid South Africa. The Nelson Mandela Foundation's (NMF) position paper on *Race and Identity* was used as the basis of the discussion and the critique against it by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF) followed. Representatives from both Foundations and student leaders attended the event. André Keet facilitated the discussion between Verne Harris (NMF), Sello Hatang (NMF) and Neeshan Bolton (AKF).





# The Power of Speech

On 21 August 2015, the IRSJ in collaboration with a student organisation on the Qwaqwa campus called The Power of Speech, hosted a conversation in celebration of Women's Month. The event sought to fully embrace, inspire and celebrate women and impact students and surrounding communities. The theme for the event was 'How to Be'. The major discussion to emerge focused on how having a voice enables increased self-esteem, therefore ensuring that institutional channels for females to express their views were integral to their growth.

## Native Footprints

Young Free State author, Fezile Sonkwane, launched his debut book *Native Footprints* at the Institute on 14 October 2015. The book speaks to the daily challenges that face our society; from poverty, student organisations, to the education system of South Africa as he paints a cross-narrative of ordinary citizens living in a complex world. "I am delighted to have been given the opportunity presented by the Institute for allowing me to launch this book here", he said. "This book is aimed at opening the space for critical analysis and reflections on the everyday challenges we each face in our country. I am hoping that we will all find meaning and give meaning to this piece of my writing," he added. A panel of student activists and leaders attended this book launch. Ntshala Mahase, who wrote his debut book titled *Life out of the Ordinary*, and was part of the panel that led the discussion of the book launch commented, "I think Fezile did exceptional work in putting together a remarkable book that speaks to us, young people, and it is something worth celebrating". He further alluded that the book does provoke one to think beyond what the flesh witnesses in day-to-day



From left to right: Phiwe Mathe, JC van der Merwe, Fezile Sonkwane, Boitumelo Molelekoa, Jerry Mokoroane and Ntshala Mahase

experiences and contribute critically to the discourse. The other panellists were Phiwe Mathe, Jerry Mokoroane and Boitumelo Molelekoa, who facilitated the discussion.

## Patriarchy

On 15 October 2015, the Human Rights Desk hosted a critical conversation on issues surrounding patriarchy in South Africa, in particular, in higher education institutions. Dr Stephanie Cawood, from the Centre for Africa Studies and Dr Katinka De Wet, from the Department of Sociology gave an overview of patriarchy in South Africa, how it became entrenched, its contemporary, daily, lived manifestations and how it may generally tie into institutions of higher learning. Busisiwe Ntsele facilitated the discussion.



Katinka de Wet, Busisiwe Ntsele and Stephanie Cawood

## Race trouble



What is the compulsion that keeps race and racism in play? In a critical conversation on 'Race Trouble and the Impossibility of Non-racialism' held on 20 October 2015, Professor of Psychology at UKZN Kevin Durrheim discussed how the struggle for non-racialism, colour-blindness and post-racialism can work to keep racism alive. Ironically, ideas about racism are often kept current by attempts to avoid or criticise racism. He defined 'race trouble' as the implicit or explicit use of constructions of 'racism' for accountable conduct and argued that we use ideas about racism to conduct ourselves accountably in racialised worlds. Ideas about what constitutes racism help us to live as decent human beings, criticising racism and avoiding acting like racists. He provided an analysis of the 'Reitz video' as an archetypal incident of racism in post-apartheid South Africa, to show how racism can be perpetuated by anti-racist discourse, thus substantiating the title of this interesting talk.

# Gender equality

On 12 October 2015 the Institute hosted a conversation titled: 'Opening up Conversations around Gender-Equality'. The presenters were Laura-Jane Watkins and Chiara Claassens – two fourth year UFS law students who share a passion for gender rights advocacy and winners of the Millenium Campus Network Equality Prize. Upon reception of this award on the 14th August 2015, they launched their global gender-equality campaign 'In OUR Shoes' at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Learn how you can get involved in the movement on campus and in the greater community, share ideas or experiences on issues of gender-equity. They left the audience with a powerful message;



Chiara Claassens and Laura-Jane Watkins

namely, challenge yourself and your community to change the systemic culture of gender-based discrimination: 'Re-thinking tradition by stepping out of stereotypes'.



## Speaking wounds

"The stories of the Marikana widows are important. It is these stories of silence that live behind the spectacular scenes of the violence," were the words of Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela at the last instalment of the vice-chancellor's lecture series for 2015. The lecture, which took place on Monday 27 July 2015 on the Bloemfontein campus, took the form of a panel discussion on the theme of 'Speaking Wounds: Voices of Marikana Widows

Through Art and Narrative'. The panel consisted of members from the Khulumani Support Group, including Dr Marjorie Jobson (National Director) and Judy Seidman (sociologist and graphic artist), as well as Nomfundo Walaza, former CEO of the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre.

In a project initiated by Khulumani, the Marikana widows were encouraged to share their trauma through painting body maps – in which the widows depicted their own bodies immersed in their trauma – narrating their personal stories. Initially silenced and isolated, this group of women has now moved "into a space where they have become connected to each other, and stand up for each other in the most powerful ways," Dr Jobson said. "Our work is conceptualised in terms of giving visibility and voice to the people who know what it takes to change this country; to change this struggle". During her response, Walaza pointed out "how art and narrative can transform traumatic memory and become integrated in the survivors' life story". Co-hosted by Prof. Gobodo-Madikizela and the UFS Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, the lecture series forms part of a five-year research project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## 'Raced' bodies

On 29 July 2015 Shirley Tate gave a Critical Conversation on the Qwaqwa campus on performativity and raced bodies. She drew on her work published in *Caribbean Racisms* in which she identifies and engages with an analysis of racism in the Caribbean region, providing an empirically-based theoretical re-framing of both the racialisation of the globe and an evaluation of the prospects for anti-racism and the post-racial. The thirty

contemporary territories of the Caribbean and their differing colonial and post-colonial contexts provide a highly dynamic setting urging a reassessment of the ways in which contemporary processes of racialisation are working. This book seeks to develop a new account of racialisation in this region, challenging established arguments, propositions and narratives of racial Caribbeanisation. By emphasising that race and 'cultural mixing' are central to any thinking about and theorisation on/of Europe, Tate provided interesting insights that prove relevant to many contexts around the globe, including our own.

## Triumph of the Human Spirit

Ahmed Kathrada, struggle icon and former prisoner on Robben Island, launched his latest book, *Triumph of the Human Spirit*, at the Bloemfontein campus on 18 August 2015. The book details Kathrada's 300-odd visits to the island with guests ranging from heads of state and celebrities to schoolchildren. The photographs give a sense of the bleakness of the island and how, now a World Heritage Site, it has been transformed into a monument celebrating lives of courage. "Why this specific title for the book?" **André Keet**, Director of the institute, asked during the book launch. "Robben Island," Kathrada answered, "should not be remembered only as a place of suffering – that's history. But the message of Robben Island is the message of triumph – triumph of the human spirit over all sorts of adversities".



This triumph was not achieved without a cost, though. "No freedom comes on a platter," Kathrada said. "Freedom was fought for. Freedom was sacrifice. Through the sacrifices of those who did not survive, we are still here to tell the story". And that is exactly what *Triumph of the Human Spirit* does. As Kgalema Motlanthe writes in the foreword, "This book serves as a preservation of history and a symbol of hope".



# Talking Arts and Culture

## Arts 4 Social Justice

Arts 4 Social Justice is an initiative in partnership with *Student Life* through which the Institute's mandate finds expression in the visual, literary and performing arts. Its purpose is to explore new and different ways of understanding social relations through artistic encounters – an endeavour that 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. The annual A4SJ Week took place from 12 to 19 August 2015 and the Bloemfontein campus was alive with artworks placed in various buildings and open spaces. Angelo Mockie is the coordinator of the A4SJ Week, which gives artists a platform to convey their experiences and allows students and the public an opportunity to engage on social issues of national significance. The programme is filled with wonderful theatre productions, exhibitions, film screenings and intellectual encounters.



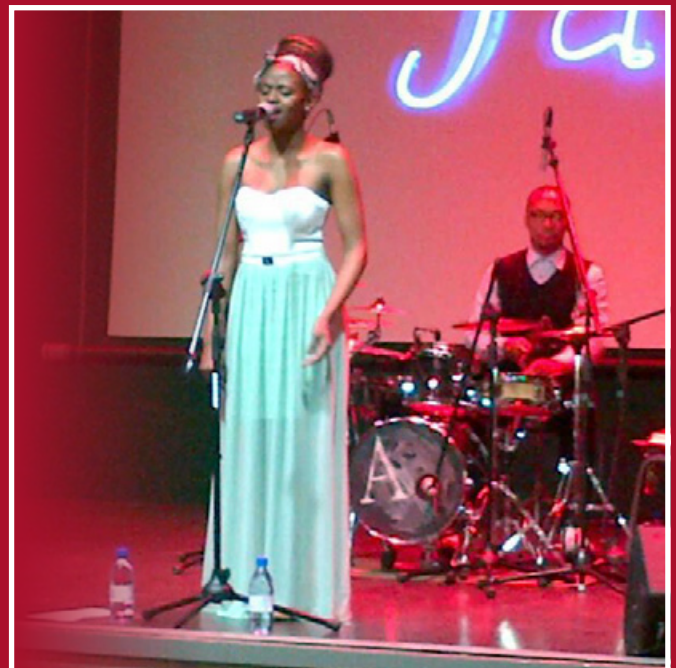
### Film

Each year in South Africa's Cape Flats region, more than 1 000 youths are released from prison on parole. Many of these parolees will return to jail within a few weeks – unable to re-integrate into their communities or to avoid being caught up in vicious cycles of gangs, drugs and crime. *Parole Camp* is a film directed by Maanda Ntsandeni and tells the story of Solomon, a former prison warden, who sets up the Realistic Prisoner Reintegration Programme, motivated by a desire to give parolees a second chance. Set in the rural seclusion of the Eastern Cape, the programme sets out to teach parolees how to draw on their immense strength to leave the attractions of a life of drugs and crime behind them.

In the film *The Shore Break*, the struggle of extremes plays out in Pondoland's Wild Coast. This area is an exquisite backdrop for a high-stakes saga, which casts a new light, and accompanying shadows, across the uneven landscape of our troubled country. An Australian mining company's efforts to win over the local communities of Amadiba pits local tour-guide, Nonhle, against her opportunistic, conniving cousin in a vicious battle for the hearts and minds of their rural neighbours. Through this nuanced drama, Ryley Grunenwald deftly interweaves a parallel story of political intrigue – a plot to oust the Pondo Royal family. A lilting score by local artist Ntombethongo and evocative sand animation interspersed counterpoint the drama. As self-interest clashes with morals and ideals, simple scenarios betray a deeper subtext of subterranean problems, hidden like the contested titanium, biding their time to explode.

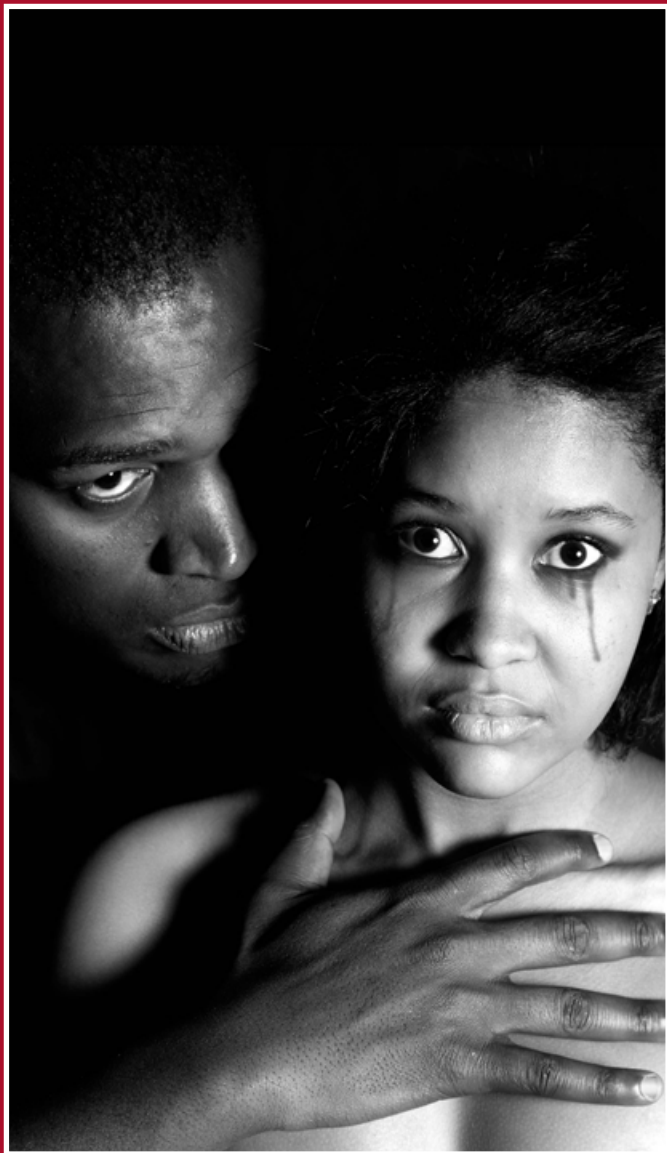
### Music

Much like the elements of the earth work both harmoniously and antagonistically yet are uniquely vital to the flourishing of life on earth. *Truth Stands* is a riveting dance production that recognises the similarities between Mother Nature's uniqueness and human life. It tells the story of how a family of unique origins comes together. Much like the elements they coexist to ensure the continuing existence of the household. Like the restless Earth, the household is troubled. *Truth Stands* also explores many forms of 'hate', which are central to the production. The film is written and directed by UFS students.



*Jazz Interpretations* explored the relationship between formal musical syntax, social interactive processes and cognitive and cultural understandings. It primarily seeks to share a diverse set of experiences with audience members.





## Theatre

*Empty Promises* is a physical theatre production, in the style of a 'happening', with the aim to disrupt behaviour, to disrupt perception, and to disrupt habits. About 20.9 million men, women and children are estimated to be victims of trafficking in the world today. In South Africa, it is said that at least 30 000 children are lured with various empty promises, trafficked and prostituted annually. *Empty Promises* was made possible with the financial support of the NAC and was written and directed by Marijda Kamper and Walter Strydom with choreography by Mark Dobson.

*Sterkstroom* presents the audience with the complex narrative of seven, interlinked characters that reconnect after 15 years at their high school reunion. Each character's story is based on a real-life event taken from contemporary South African newspapers and magazines, but changed to only highlight societal issues and not to function as a vehicle for these individual testimonials that might be recognisable to the audience. Societal issues such as abuse, sexuality and racial tensions are brought to the fore. *Sterkstroom* (the name of a small town in the Eastern Cape directly translated as 'strong stream') is a devised theatre production that showcases the acting and scriptwriting talents of the honours students at the department of Drama and Theatre Arts at the UFS. This production is directed by Gerben Kamper and serves as this year group's primary practice-based training module.

## Exhibition

The *21 Icons: 21 Years of Freedom* collection was specially curated by Angela De Jesus for the UFS and the A4SJ Week. The inspiring collection was opened on 12 August 2015 by Zubeida Jaffer at the Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery. '21 Icons' celebrates a heroic past and inspires a hopeful future. The project was launched in 2013 as an initiative that uses film, photography and written narrative to celebrate the lives of extraordinary South Africans. It highlights people who have been catalysts in shaping society, on a local or global level and across a variety of contexts: in a social, political, environmental or artistic sense. It is the brainchild of internationally renowned photographer and filmmaker Adrian Steirn, whose primary source of inspiration was the life of Nelson Mandela. In one way or another, all of the men and women featured in the project have extended his legacy, making a magnificent impact on South Africa and beyond. *21 Years of Freedom* features 21 icons from the first and second seasons of the project. It includes the last official photographic portrait of Nelson Mandela and many of his friends and fellow struggle heroes.

Behind each portrait lies a carefully planned concept that captures the essence of each icon, capturing their spirit and distinct legacy. Among the other extraordinary South Africans featured in this collection are struggle icons Ahmed Kathrada and Advocate George Bizos, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, human rights and environmental activist Kumi Naidoo, celebrated storyteller Gcina Mhlophe, Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer, activist and musician Yvonne Chaka Chaka, activist and scholar Zubeida Jaffer, gender activist Sophia Williams De Bruyn and satirist Pieter Dirk-Uys.



# Public Engagement Initiatives



*The Summer School participants also joined in the barefoot day in Indonesia.*

## #shoesonfeet

On a cloudy day when it seemed that no one would be willing to take off their shoes, Armentum men's residence and Put Foot Foundation supporters stepped out in their numbers to provide shoes for less fortunate schoolchildren. With a R10 donation, supporters could dip their feet in paint in order to make their mark on the blank canvas in support of this good cause. The main aim of barefoot day was to put yourself in the shoes of someone who doesn't have any. The Armentum students kicked off the event on the Red Square at the UFS Bloemfontein campus, where they were partnered by the IRSJ. On the day, Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External

Relations, and Prof. Nicky Morgan, Vice-Rector: Operations, made a contribution of R1 000 for all the footprints made on the canvas. The idea was conceived by the Armentum residents and Residence Committee (Culture) member, Thapelo Makhubalo. "Joining hands with the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice made it possible for us to make it an even bigger event. Since I work at the Institute, and they work with human rights, it was easy to get them on board," said the Prime of Armentum, Eddie de Wet. At the end of the event, the blank canvas was filled with footprints supporting the initiative. The event took place on 29 July 2015.

## Separate Is Not Equal

The need to constantly engage with, and critically analyse, social concerns rooted in difference and plurality within the campus space, necessitated exploring innovative ways to generate conversations on identified social concerns like difference, prejudice and exclusion. In seeking to tackle such issues, the Institute applied to the United States Embassy for the *Separate Is Not Equal: Brown vs Board of Education* arts exhibition to be hosted at the Qwaqwa campus of the UFS from 20 August to 30 September 2015. In hosting the exhibition in Qwaqwa, the IRSJ exercised its mandate of innovatively integrating community engagement, public scholarship and creating critical pathways for exploring complex and challenging issues within the campus space initially, and community-wide thereafter.

The experiences from *Brown vs Board of Education* and the Civil Rights Movement in America are invaluable learning templates for social justice and how reconfiguring social arrangements especially when applied within a campus space can create transformative possibilities. In seeking to broaden the viewership of the exhibition beyond the university space, five schools were each designated a weekend to come and view the exhibition. Multiple residences also came to view the exhibition, at the same time answering a questionnaire on plurality and prejudice. Data and information from the questionnaire is currently being collated.

The exhibition generated conversations about how humanity relates with itself, but also highlights the importance of just

activism and active citizenship. While students, staff and high school learners traversed the history of America, their own history became a potent reality and facilitated critical dialogue embedded in a social conscience of understanding. The funding from the American embassy was an invaluable resource that we could not have done without. The exhibition positively contributed to student life on the campus and enabled increased interactions between the campus (represented by the IRSJ) and surrounding schools. These community engagement spinoffs offer incremental marketing possibilities for the campus as it benefits from increased visibility within the surrounding schools, enabling an altered social imaginary among current students and a cohort of future potential students.





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# Research

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## Research Programmes

The research vision of the Institute is to be a premier interdisciplinary site for intellectual inquiries relating to, but not dogmatically limited to, the following: social cohesion, reconciliation and social justice; critical studies in higher education transformation; and dexterous scholarship on human rights and critical human rights education. Research projects, conferences, publications and post-graduate studies are organised around the following three research programmes:

### Programme 1: Social Cohesion, Reconciliation and Social Justice

This research programme aims at rethinking the term 'social' as an entity with its heterogeneity and studying the social dynamics of disrespect, disaffiliation, precarisation, solidarity, integration and friendship; exploring the structures of social domination and freedom; and crafting possibilities for social justice agency through transformative praxes. As a critical enterprise, students will revisit and redefine current notions of reconciliation, social cohesion, inclusivity, social justice, human rights, diversity and citizenship in a changing world by applying interdisciplinary approaches to its analyses and practice.

### Programme 2: Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation

This research programme focuses on critical analyses of higher education transformation that study inclusion and exclusion in relation to the social structure of the academy; the power-relations embedded within the organisation of knowledge, its disciplines and disciples; the construction of professional and student identities; the regulation of student life and voice; staff and student access and success; the mechanics of authority within knowledge generation processes; research subjects, objects, topics and trends; pedagogical typologies; the interplay between pedagogy, research and institutional culture; and the connectionist dynamics between higher education and the state, private sector, interest groups, pressure formations and broader society.

### Programme 3: Human Rights and Critical Human Rights Education

The objectives of this research programme are: to deepen the study of human rights education and human rights in education; to study human rights and its violations locally and globally; to generate comparative and international research initiatives on the scholarship of human rights education within various socio-political contexts; to engender creative approaches by which human rights can be critically enriched through inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches; and to prompt inquiry into the linkages between human rights and peace, conflict, development, multiculturalism, citizenship and democracy.

### Structured MA in Reconciliation and Social Cohesion

Starting in 2016, the University of the Free State will offer a unique master's degree to advance knowledge, scholarship and practice in the fields of Reconciliation, Social Cohesion and Social Justice. In the MA Reconciliation and Social Cohesion, students will develop, through well-designed modules and research projects, conceptual understandings and competencies that will advance praxes in these fields. This programme responds to various challenges facing contemporary societies internationally, regionally, and nationally – as expressed in the South African National Development Plan (NDP). The aim of the qualification is to educate and train students as researchers, scholars and practitioners in the specialist knowledge required for reconciliation and social cohesion praxes in the contemporary world. It will provide students with a solid foundation for understanding and researching Reconciliation and Social Cohesion from a variety of disciplinary perspectives as well as developing practices to advance social justice within professions, communities, organisations, institutions, movements and the different branches and levels of government.

The programme is open to all students with background studies in the economic, management, natural, social and health sciences as well as students with qualifications in the humanities, law, education and theology. Students and practitioners in the heritage, development, human rights, transitional justice and peace sectors as well as candidates from the cultural and creative industries will also benefit from this degree. This programme is ideally suited for persons working in public and private institutions, community and non-governmental organisations, social movements, regional and transnational structures and those pursuing careers across a variety of social-justice related fields.

For more information on admission requirements, the structure of the degree, costs and how to apply, please visit <http://institute.ufs.ac.za> or contact Joe Besigye at [besigyejb@ufs.ac.za](mailto:besigyejb@ufs.ac.za).



Naledi Jan Maribe, standing amongst the wooden sculptures created by himself and other professional Bloemfontein artists.



UFS students and visitors dealing with Jade Hoffman's artwork titled *Canines* and how she feels that social cohesion needs to evolve like the indigenous dogs of Africa.

## Visual arts and social cohesion

Current conceptual frameworks promote the idea of South Africa as a nation still becoming, and as such, as a nation able and in need of working together to find commonality in beliefs, identities and goals to address critical issues including those of poverty, unemployment and inequality (National Development Plan of South Africa, 2030). The arts, culture and heritage sectors are within this conceptual framework identified as key vectors of, and through which, this search and becoming can be imagined, realised and supported. Outcome 14 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (Nation building and social cohesion), falling under the custodianship of the Department of Arts and Culture, subsequently lays out, amongst other interventions, various modalities and interventions for the arts, culture and heritage sectors through which it is promoted that social cohesion can be supported in society. These include the continued emphasis on national days, national symbols, the development of public art in shared spaces, artists-in-schools programmes, a continued and strengthened development and emphasis on indigenous knowledge systems, the transformation as well as the development of museums and heritage infrastructure across the spatial divides. The visual arts sectors, accordingly, are identified to play a significant role in these developments.

Under the leadership of Giselle Baillie, the Institute has assisted in facilitating a national flagship project, with the NAC granting funding for the pilot year. The aim of the project is to investigate and show how the meanings, the narratives, the conditions and the possibilities for social cohesion through the visual arts could be better understood and worked with over the longer term for social transformation purposes.

Incorporating the UFS, Rhodes University (RU) and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), the pilot phase of the intended long-term project has focused on creating platforms from and through which visual artists – both those still emerging as students, and those operating in the surrounds of the university – could explore what the conceptual framework of social cohesion means, or does not mean to them, and what needs to be done going forward to better grapple and work with the concept in society.

With the intended long-term objective being the establishment of interdisciplinary arts, social cohesion and social justice opportunities between universities, the pilot year in 2015 was witness to various visual arts-related events taking place at each of the university campuses. These included:

- professional artists, the UFS Fine Arts and Drama and Theatre Arts departments third-year students as well as students from a range of other disciplines working on the conceptual exploration of social cohesion through arts interventions for exhibiting and engagement with the public during the Arts and Social Justice Week;
- the RU Office for Equity and Institutional Culture as well as the university's Fine Arts School working with a skills and community-development oriented arts intervention programme around concepts of social justice;
- the NMMU School of Music and Design investigating the concept through their first-year students' curriculum and as part of their 'Humanising Pedagogies' process;
- all three universities hosting colloquiums on the project and concept, which involved students, external artists as well as stakeholders in discussing issues with regards the visual arts and social cohesion; and
- the development of a publication that documents and discusses the manner in which each university approached the subject in 2015, what findings are particular to each university, as well as which issues are shared across universities. What we learn about the visual arts and social cohesion from the project will be published in a book to be printed in early 2016, *The Shift of Emancipation: Visual Arts, Cohesion, Transformation, South Africa. Volume 1, Issue 1: State of Affairs*.



*Meaningful Places* by Adelheid von Maltitz



# International Engagements



## Indonesia

The 2015 International Summer School on Pluralism and Development took place in Pondok Remaja PGI, located in the area of Puncak in West Java, some two-hour drive from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta. The Summer School is a joint initiative of the University of Humanistic Studies (Utrecht, the Netherlands) and Hivos as partners in the Dutch Humanist Alliance, together with PUSAD-Paramadina (Jakarta, Indonesia), CRCS Gadjah Mada University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia), the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice at the University of the Free State, (Bloemfontein, South Africa) and Azim Premji University (Bangalore, India). Annelie De Man, Busisiwe Ntsele, Mlondi Dlodla and Cebelihle Sokhela (Qwaqwa) were selected to participate in the Summer School, representing the UFS with JC van der Merwe. The focus is on how national and local communities seek and create ways to live together in situations of differences and conflicts in a globalising world. The programme departs from the daily realities of the participants in Indonesia, India, South Africa, Kenya and the Netherlands and takes actual experiences, questions and dilemmas as its foundation. The participants engaged in comparative dialogue based on theories and practices of pluralism and development.

Besides the course work presented in formal lectures, the participants went on two excursions, the first was on the 'Napak Reformasi' (Remembering Reformasi) – a tour to the sites of several notorious human rights violations committed during the riots that finally triggered Indonesia's Reformasi in May 1998. The

sites visited included Trisakti University in West Jakarta, where the army opened fire on an unarmed student protest, killing four people and wounding many others; Klender Mall in East Jakarta, where a fire killed many hundreds of urban poor; and Pondok Ranggon cemetery, also in East Jakarta, where unknown victims were buried. They also visited sites related to the Chinese involvement in the establishment of Jakarta. First held in 2011, and organised by the National Commission for Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), an institution known as *anak sulung* (first born) of the Reformasi era in Indonesia, the Napak Reformasi is a means of commemorating the events of May 1998 in the form of a memorial tour.

On the second excursion, the participants went to Sarongge, a village located at the foot of Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park, Cianjur District, West Java, Indonesia. It is the location of a successful community based reforestation project from 2009 to 2013 by the Green Initiative Foundation (GIF). This project successfully reforested 38 hectare of the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park and provided 26 percent additional income to participating families over two years. The Summer School participants spent two days and one night in Sarongge and became part of the Adopt-a-Tree-programme. The founder of this initiative, Tosca Santoso, joined the discussion to share his experiences of empowerment of the community of Sarongge, as a conservation project and as part of the resistance against the New Order government of Indonesia. The 2016 Summer School will take place from 7 to 24 July in India.



## Namibia



On 25 August 2015, the Institute hosted students from the United States who were on their way to Windhoek to participate in the Study Abroad programme of the Center for Global Education (CGE). CGE's Southern Africa programme is affiliated with Augsburg College in the US and aims to expose students to different parts of the world and have a strong social justice focus.



## USA

During October 2015, Dionne van Reenen was invited to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) to address the university community on 'Institutional Racism in Education'. Dionne was the plenary panellist and was joined by guests Christopher Stuart Taylor (Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario, Canada), Tracy Littlejohn (Ho-Chunk Nation Youth Services), Bethany Brent (UWL School of Education), Laurie Cooper Stoll (UWL Institute of Social Justice), Amanda Goodenough (UWL Campus Climate) and Richard Breaux (UWL Ethnic and Racial Studies). Prof. Breaux also facilitated the event. The panel was sponsored by the university's College of Liberal Studies, the Department of History and the Institute of Social Justice. A very interesting and thought-provoking discussion followed the presentation. Most notably, on both micro- and macro-levels, the similarities far outweighed the differences and some productive, cross-contextual work came out of the process. Dionne also gave three guest lectures in 'Women and Gender Studies' based on her work in body politics.

## Europe

From 14 to 22 November 2015, a cohort of 37 outgoing SRC members underwent study tours and attended seminars in Germany and Poland. The historical education trip was organised jointly by UFS Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jonathan Jansen and the Student Affairs Office. Prof. Keet and Grey Magaiza were part of the team of staff that accompanied the students, the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre supported and facilitated the study. Transformation of the European political, environmental and social landscape took place only when students and the second generation began to challenge the



status quo and lobby for transformation through the erection of memorials and monuments. Owing to the courage of the young generation, those countries were able to take meaningful steps towards transformation through an accurate narration and commemoration of history, which is a key factor in reconciliation. Our students had the opportunity to conduct a comparative study of post-Holocaust Germany and post-Apartheid South Africa in terms of how government and universities dealt with trans-generational trauma. By being exposed to sites such as the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp memorial in Poland, the young leaders were encouraged to continue their attempt at nation building and advance transformation and reconciliation. Mosa Leteane, former SRC president of the Bloemfontein campus, echoed other students' sentiments as they related to the SA experience. "In light of the **Rhodes Must Fall** movement, one of the things that the youth was looking at were the symbols, what symbols mean, how symbols work as part of reparation and redress in a country that has come from a tragic past," she said. Leteane identified similarities between how our country and the two European nations have confronted the issue of trans-generational trauma and the reconciliation process, albeit in significantly differing circumstances. Prof. Keet also visited organisations and institutions in Belgium and the UK afterwards.



## Africa

In December 2015, the UFS Department of English hosted the Association of Cultural Studies Institute on the African continent for the first time. The Institute's visiting professor, Shirley Tate, and Dionne van Reenen attended and presented at the conference as did UFS Rector Jonathan Jansen and a host of scholars from around the world. Themed 'Precarious Futures', the conference explored how cultural studies might contribute in forging more equitable futures by reflecting critically on the cultural, economic, and political trajectories within which precariousness – a state increasingly anticipated around the globe – might be altered. Experts in a diversity of disciplines shared their perspectives in the form of seminars and lectures. Keynote lectures included **Prof. Jean Comaroff** (Harvard University), **Prof. John Erni** (Hong Kong Baptist University), **Dr. Jo Little** (City University London), **Dr. Zethu Matebeni** (University of Cape Town) and **Prof. Handel Kashope Wright** (University of British Columbia). A range of subjects were addressed, including climate change; the politics of everyday life; cross-racial intimacies; ethnography; meritocracy; cultural studies and human rights; China and globalisation; gender, sexuality, and race; and governance, embodiment and the work of care. Prof. Helene Strauss (UFS Department of English Chair) and Prof. Gil Rodman (ACS Chair) organised and hosted this highly engaging and thought-provoking experience.



# General

## About the *Institute*

The Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice is one of the flagship intellectual projects of the University of the Free State. The Institute represents the Human Project of the university, 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 three complimentary legs: research, higher education transformation and human rights. The latter two work hand-in-hand with the research mandate, in the sense that the Institute's approach to transformation in higher education and human rights is informed by its research framework, while its research agenda is responsive to work done in the area of transformation in higher education and human rights.

## Get involved with the *Institute*

The UFS staff, as well as any person or institution outside of the university, locally or internationally, who want to get involved with the work of the Institute 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 various campuses of the university and actively engage with the surrounding communities. For more information visit the website at <http://institute.ufs.ac.za>.

### Director

Prof. André Keet  
Tel: T: +27 (0)51 401 9808  
Email: [keeta@ufs.ac.za](mailto: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](mailto:FerreiraR1@ufs.ac.za)

### Physical address

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

### Postal Address

Internal Box 125  
P.O. Box 339  
Bloemfontein  
9300

<http://institute.ufs.ac.za>



### Staff

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

### Administrative Assistants

Hlonipa Matshamba  
Nokuthula Sithole

### Assistant Researchers

Giselle Baillie  
Annelie de Man  
Busisiwe Ntsele  
Dionne van Reenen

### Research Assistants

Grey Magaiza  
Joseph Besigye  
Moruti Ledwaba  
O'Ryan Heideman  
Eddie de Wet

### Student Assistants

Chris Rawson  
Tarminder Kaur  
Laura-Jane Watkins  
Mlondi Dlodla  
Sinawo Nhlapo  
Thato Nkgapele  
Trevor Shaku  
Bianca de Koning

### Post-Doctoral Fellows

Anja Henebury  
Beryl Botman  
Maroyi Mulumeoderhwa  
Punam Pandey  
Christian Williams

### Research Associates

Izzeldien Abualaish  
Caroline Suransky  
Felisa Tibbitts  
Leon Wessels  
John Samuel  
Shirley-Anne Tate  
Michalinos Zembylas  
Willy Nel

### Advisory Board

Jonathan Jansen (Chairperson)  
Relebohile Moletsane  
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Choice Makhetha  
Katinka De Wet  
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THE HUMAN EMBRACE

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