

Botno

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UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
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YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



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

THE INSTITUTE LAUNCHES ARNSA IN THE FREE STATE

Spearheaded by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Foundation, a group of civil society and academic institutes convened the Anti-Racism Network of South Africa (ARNSA). On 14 November 2015, after months of consultation, the network was officially launched at Museum Africa in Newtown, Johannesburg. A broad base of civil society organisations collaborated to formalise ARNSA and discuss its development. Early in 2016, ARNSA requested the Institute to officially launch the network in the Free State province. The idea behind this national network is to establish itself in all the provinces and regions of South Africa. The Institute partnered with the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJCD), Churches Against Racism in Southern Africa (CARSA) and the Anti-Racism Network in Higher Education (ARNHE) to launch ARNSA on 6 April 2016 in Bloemfontein. At the launch, the executive mayor of the Mangaung Metro Municipality, Honourable Thabo Manyoni, urged South Africans and the people of the local Metro to speak out on issues relevant to racism, saying, "Racism is, and has been, alive among us as the people of South Africa for a long time, and we therefore need organisations such as ARNSA to create spaces for us to speak up on issues of racism". The Bloemfontein launch was followed by the launch of ARNSA in the Eastern Free State on 26



Executive Mayor of the Mangaung Metro Municipality, Honourable Thabo Manyoni at the Bloemfontein launch



National Coordinator of ARNSA, Sean Moodley, at the Qwaqwa launch

May 2016. The event was held on the UFS Qwaqwa campus and the Institute once again partnered with the DoJCD, ARNHE, as well as with the traditional leaders in the region. Read more about the work of the Anti Racism Network of South Africa on page 9.

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News



Jerry Mokoroane

Gateway 2016

The Institute welcomed the 2016 first-years at the Bloemfontein campus during the Gateway Orientation Week on 27 January 2016. The Gateway experience was filled with many exciting information sessions for first-year students, to ensure a smooth transition into the university space. Jerry Mokoroane, Louzanne Coetzee, Dalson Poopedi, Melissa Taljaard, Mlondi Dlodla and Xolile Sizephe introduced the work of the Institute to the new Kovsies, while Annelie de Man spoke about the Centre for Human Rights. In the sessions, the students were probed to answer questions on the meaning of human rights, the Constitution and their understanding of the terms 'dignity' and 'transformation' within the debate on statues. The history, structure and activities of the Institute was presented and the volunteer programme of the Institute was explained; interested students could also sign-

up to become a volunteer at the Institute. The Gateway sessions provided the Institute with an excellent opportunity to reach a large group of students in order to share more about what the Institute does and how the students could be part of the exciting events and programmes in which the Institute is involved. "The Institute is based strategically on this campus – to provide a space for students to critically engage, share ideas and bring different experiences and practices together in order for us to better understand our role within both the university and the broader societal spaces," Jerry Mokoroane commented as he facilitated the contact session with the students. More than 2 000 students attended this year's Gateway session, with more than 3 000 first-years welcomed across all three of the university's campuses.



Mlondi Dlodla and Louzanne Coetzee

You're *Free-dom* to Touch My Hair

The Institute partnered with the NJ van der Merwe residence and the Arts and Culture Office to celebrate Freedom Day on Tuesday 26 April 2016. The human rights ambassador of the residence, Sibongile Mpama, wanted to bring the 'Touch My Hair' campaign to the UFS. The campaign originated in the USA in an attempt to encourage people to celebrate and embrace diversity and to talk about issues that make us uncomfortable, for example, race. During the lunch hour event at the Thakaneng Bridge, students whose hairstyles differed in terms of types and textures, including relaxed, natural and loc'd, walked around inviting people to touch their hair – and in so doing, started conversations about difference. The social experiment was a huge success and the event included an open mic session where students could perform poetry, music and dance items.

Post Shimla Park dialogues

The Institute played a significant role during the protests, especially on the Bloemfontein campus. Institute staff were present at all times, monitoring the situation and providing logistical support where needed (food, bail money, transport etc). Rectorate was notified of developments and student leaders were constantly engaged. In the aftermath of the Shimla park protest, the Institute facilitated student dialogues (12 in total), which culminated in a student colloquium. The Institute held numerous debriefing sessions on request with departments and academic staff, as well as with students in residences (specifically Tswelopele and Armentum). The rector requested JC van der Merwe and Willy Nel to write the initial terms of reference for the investigation into the Tswelopele events, and they consulted with the residence members, residence committees,

residence heads as well as with the UFS security department. On request of Judge Johan van der Westhuizen, who heads up the investigation into the February protest, JC van der Merwe became involved in the work of the commission in an advisory capacity.



JC van der Merwe and Sikhululekile Luwaca

Community-based social cohesion

Giselle Baillie, the project manager and lead researcher in the National Flagship Project in Social Cohesion, assisted Motseokae Klas Thibeletsa to receive funding from the Department of Arts and Culture's Mzansi Golden Economy programme to implement a community-based Social Cohesion programme in Smithfield, Free State over the period of October 2015 to June 2016. This ties into the broader ambit of social cohesion advocacy, professionalization and development work and contributes towards the longer-term National Flagship Project objectives in researching and developing praxes to understand issues of social cohesion as well as the arts in rural areas.



Volunteers



Cebelihle Sokhela (front right) with one of the groups.

As part of the volunteer programme of the Institute, we held an Orientation Weekend from 1 to 3 April 2016 at Clarens Backpackers' Inn. The aim of the weekend was to bring together the volunteers from the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses to share ideas regarding the challenges facing both campuses on transformation issues and to discuss the programme for the year. On the Saturday, Xolile Sizephe explained the arts and social justice work of the Institute; Joe Besigye gave an overview of the research programmes and projects and JC van der Merwe talked about the transformation work. Under the leadership of Mlondi Dlodla, and with the assistance of Cebelihle Sokhela from the Qwaqwa campus and Dalson Poopedi from the Bloemfontein campus, the weekend provided the volunteers with an opportunity to get to know one another through a series of team-building exercises, and to plan their programme for the year.

NEW Centre for Human Rights

Since its inception the Institute grew a Human Rights Desk that promotes, protects and monitors human rights across our campuses through advocacy, education, training and complaints handling. The Desk has been frequently requested to support the work of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC); and to provide advice and support to other state agencies. From the beginning of 2016, this function has developed into an independent academic Centre for Human Rights (CHR); an outfit that is hosted between the Law Faculty and the Institute and consists of three divisions:

Research and postgraduate studies: This division develops and offers a postgraduate programme on human rights; and produces high-level and cutting-edge research on topical human rights issues, reflecting the highest international standards of critical scholarship.

Advocacy: This division advocates for the advancement and promotion of human rights institutionally, nationally and internationally; monitors human rights adherence within the UFS and the higher education sector; and advises on policy and reforms.

Human rights investigations/complaints management: This division conducts investigations according to agreed-upon protocols; renders legal advice; executes ombud-related functions, such as mediation; manages human rights-related complaints; and provides an advisory service to university management.

Addressing racism in schools

Upon request, the Institute developed a programme, against the backdrop of celebrations of Youth Week for Universitas Primary School, with a view to sensitise and address all forms of discrimination, including racism. The Institute commissioned Angelo Mockie to write a theatre production accessible to both junior and senior primary school learners. JC van der Merwe and Lianie van Niekerk (UFS Law Faculty) made short presentations regarding constitutional values, the meaning of racism and related forms of discrimination.



Front: Angelo Mockie, Lucan September, Abigail Visagie, Schoeme Grobler, and Lianie van Niekerk. Back: JC van der Merwe, Neels Gunter (teacher) and Michael Coomans (school principal)]

Aboriginal art

Willy Nel, a research associate of the Institute, visited Australia on a two-week assignment (24 April to 6 May 2016) to learn about Aboriginal arts, its dissemination and its relation to connecting First Peoples to contemporary political life. He was supported by a Mellon Foundation grant, the Vrystaat Arts Festival and the Institute to visit Perth, Geraldton, Adelaide and Alice Springs for various interactions with arts managers, artists, elders and academics. The itinerary was arranged by Ms Lee-Ann Buckskin, his Australian collaborator, now attached to the South Australian Film Corporation. The visit to the Yamaji Arts Centre in Geraldton was important for the Shared Sky arts project between South African and Aboriginal artists as a Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope spin-off collaboration between South Africa and Australia. In Adelaide, he visited the South Australian Museum for a valuable overview of Aboriginal culture, past and present. He met with linguists from the University of Adelaide who work on reclamation of the near-extinct Kurna language. The time spent with the Ngarrindjerri elder, a tireless advocate for indigenous communities and recipient of the Order of Australia, Mr Major



At the Yamaji Arts Centre In Geraldton are from the left: Yamaji artist Margaret Whitehurst, Willy Nel, Yamaji artist Barbara Merritt, Yamaji artist Kevin Merritt and Christine Scoggin, manager of Aboriginal Art Centre Hub of Western Australia



Tangentyere artists at work in Alice Springs.

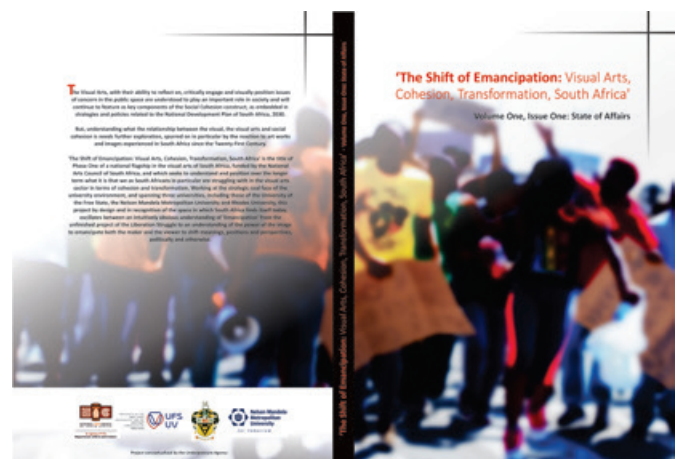
Sumner (the legendary Uncle Moogy) was priceless as he took Willy to the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute and various Aboriginal educational institutions. Willy held extensive consultations at the Carclew Foundation for Youth Arts in Adelaide, plotting the way forward for South African First Nations arts development in relation to the Vrystaat Arts Festival. A most seminal visit was undertaken to Desert regional resource body in Alice Springs where, hosted by the gracious Philip Watkins, Willy was privileged to observe the art-making process, arts management development work sessions, gallery operations and the living conditions of Aboriginal people. If the visit could be summarised in one phrase, it would be: Aboriginal art is only as important as the recognition (political, cultural, indigeneity) also afforded its producers.

The shift of emancipation

Under the leadership of Giselle Baillie, the Institute has assisted in facilitating a National Flagship project, with pilot year funding granted by the National Arts Council in 2015. Incorporating the University of the Free State (UFS), Rhodes University (RU) and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), the pilot phase of the intended longer-term project focused on creating platforms from and through which visual artists could explore what needs to be done going forward to better grapple and work with the concept of social cohesion in society. In April 2016, the findings of the research were published in a book titled *The Shift of Emancipation: Visual Arts, Cohesion, Transformation, South Africa. Volume 1, Issue 1: State of Affairs*. This publication is being utilised across a range of transformation platforms at each of the participating universities.

At the NMMU, the book is used by management to grapple with the issues raised by students in terms of transformation. The book is also being utilised within curriculum development processes. At the UFS, on both the Bloemfontein as well as Qwaqwa campuses, the book is being incorporated into a strategic Social Justice and Transformation programme, acting as a platform of engagement around how universities could respond to issues of social justice raised by students. The UFS Fine Arts Department is partnering in this project. Further use

of the book by professional artists within their own teaching and education work is also taking place. At RU, the book is being utilised within curriculum and transformation processes and within community arts development processes.



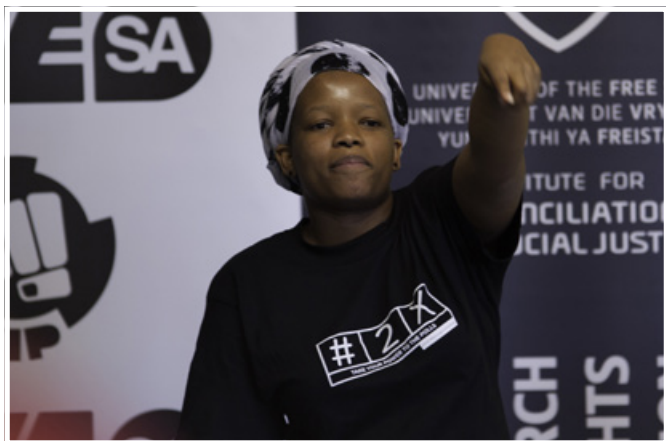
CONVERSING THE RESEARCH PROJECT

Race, democracy and service delivery

Livity Africa is a youth digital media agency that aims to give power and platforms to young people's issues. The Voting is Power (VIP) platform and its current #2X campaign do exactly that. The platform and campaign work together to amplify the voices and political energy of young people across South Africa in both the real world and on social media ahead of the 2016 municipal elections. On 28 April 2016, Livity Africa collaborated with the Institute in hosting a dialogue on 'Race, democracy and service delivery' leading to the local municipal elections in August.

This Critical Conversation aimed at opening the space for young people to engage each other on the importance of voting, the importance of service delivery and also on issues of race and

democracy. One of the statements, which led to a robust debate, was that 'People protest because the government works. We can see the ability of government to deliver certain services in one area so people protest for those same services in other areas'. With Mosa Leteane, Ingrid Wentzel, Thomas Kolathu, Themba Vryman and representatives from the EFF and ANC debating the topic on the night, the central question asked and answered by some came down to: 'If race still plays a role in service delivery, how can we combat racial and economic inequality?' Ziyanda Stuurman, campaign manager at Livity Africa, concluded by saying "I am thrilled at the way in which young people and, in particular, the students at this university, understand the social ills and, also, can make clear indications and contributions on issues of race, democracy and service delivery".



Ziyanda Stuurman



Academic conversations champion transformation in residences

On 16 February 2016, Residence Life, a division of Housing and Residence Affairs hosted the first series of academic conversations with the top 50 academic achievers in each respective college of the Bloemfontein campus. The topic for discussion was 'Globalization and the challenges of social cohesion in South Africa'. The achievers were invited to this exclusive opportunity to engage with renowned scholar and international leader, Carolina Suransky, a lecturer in Globalization and Dialogue Studies at the University for Humanistic Studies in the Netherlands. She is a visiting professor at the Institute and was on a two-month sabbatical when asked to facilitate the first series of conversations.

The discussion entailed increasing interconnectivity and interdependence, which deeply affects our human experiences and practices across the globe. While globally, the nation state seems to be on the decline, South Africa attempts to build a nation, develop a common identity and enhance social cohesion. The question of the meaning of interconnectivity and interdependence in an era of globalisation and in a country full of profound inequalities was unpacked at length. "The recognition of hard work through this platform creates the hope of enriching



Eddie de Wet, Carolina Suransky and Emme-Lancia Faro

academic achievers to become outstanding leaders that can make a significant contribution to society", said Eddie de Wet, academic coordinator at Housing and Residence Affairs. De Wet encouraged students to excel during their examinations and, in so doing, aid in propelling the academic project of our university forward. This might also secure a spot in the new college Top 50 to be invited to the second series of conversations during August 2016.

Universities as agents of transformation



On 12 May 2016, the Institute hosted a Critical Dialogue with Ambassador Lindner, entitled 'Universities as agents of transformation in society—Germany's experience with the student protests of the 1968 movement and the difficulties it has reconciling with its past'. Lindner related his experience of student protests in Germany during the late 1960s, drawing certain parallels with South Africa's own recent protests. According to him it is "the impatient youth that drives forward change", but he cautioned against radicalism as a long-term solution. He urged students to engage in profitable dialogue instead, keeping their values and ideals in mind while changing the system from the inside, saying "Change is facilitated through education, not by means of radicalism, violence, or revolution".

Pointing out the various challenges facing humankind today, such as the lack of natural resources, unbridled climate change and population growth, Mr Lindner stated that politicians (and the youth of today) would do well to focus on these greater issues, rather than focusing on the more mundane issues with which they are faced on a day-to-day basis. Tali Nates, director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre facilitated the subsequent dialogue session. A diverse array of questions and comments, both radical and more conservative, was directed at the ambassador, which he handled with unflappable aplomb.



Eva Ziegert, JC van der Merwe, Lindokuhle Ntuli, Anita Ohl-Meyer, Ambassador Walter Lindner, Tali Nates and Leon Wessels

Maritime labour and identity

In May 2016, the Institute hosted John Grider from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL). John is currently the Chair of History at the College of Liberal Studies at UWL and he joined the Institute at the UFS in November 2015 as a research associate. John teaches, and has published work, in several areas of history and is currently in the process of publishing a manuscript in his main area of research, which is 'Labour identity in the Pacific maritime industry of the nineteenth century'. His first visit to the continent saw him present an interesting and engaging paper at the Qwaqwa campus on 20 May 2016 entitled: 'An Overstrained Sense of Manliness: The Atlantic Origins of Pacific Maritime Identity'. In this paper, John offered a critical historical perspective on the work of Atlantic- and Pacific-based sailors in the nineteenth century focusing specifically on the dangers and discomfort involved, which gave seafarers a sense of identity based on skill, endurance, and what they understood as 'manly courage'. The

presentation constituted the fourth instalment of the PolHisSoc lecture series and formed part of the Gender Forum on the campus. The event was hosted by the Institute and the Faculty of the Humanities and was facilitated by Jared McDonald. From there, John arrived on the Bloemfontein campus and presented a Critical Conversation on 26 May at the Centenary Complex on some work covered in his forthcoming book entitled *A Foreign Voyage: Pacific Maritime Labour Identity, 1840-1890*. Dionne van Reenen facilitated the event and the audience engaged in some stimulating discussion on different understandings of worker identities in rapidly globalising and internationalising workplaces. The focus of the presentation was directed at how technology and racial difference transformed the maritime industry and provided some fascinating insights on the relationships between diversity and transformation in a changing world. The Institute looks forward to ongoing work being done with John and the UWL.



Dionne van Reenen and John Grider



Authors of emancipation

On 26 April, the Institute hosted the launch of the book *Authors of Emancipation*, the fourth anthology to be published by Thuthukani Ndlovu and www.radioactivetuts.blogspot.com. The book focuses on themes of freedom, independence, equality and emancipation. As Thuthukani expressed, “working on the premise that poetry is a powerful communication tool which can be used to spark conversations, inspire young minds and educate the masses”, *Authors of Emancipation* showcased how the different contributors to the anthology thought about, brought light to and worked with amongst others, issues of diversity, plurality, identity, nationalism, racism, stereotyping, oppression, education, power and notions of beauty in emerging democratic spaces of South Africa and how these found reflection and engagement within the African

continent and, as witnessed in this anthology, in India as well. With the underlying motive of encouraging students to read more widely, to invest in books and to respect issues of copyright, the launch proved to be a great success. Thuthukani commented: “We learn from what we read, and others learn from what we write, hence this cycle is one of the keys to creating a generation that is well informed, well educated, and well equipped to tackle the problems we face on a daily basis”. Thuthukani, a third-year BCom Marketing student at the UFS, is also a volunteer at the Institute, and works on publishing a new anthology of poetry every 30 days. He is also involved in the UFS TedX platform team and travels widely in order to participate in as many word platforms and festivals as possible. You can follow his work on www.radioactivetuts.blogspot.com.



Mloni Dlodla, Rea Mokone and Thuthukani Ndlovu



Where is the virgin?

On 16 March 2016, Dionne van Reenen gave a presentation, which formed the second instalment of the PolHisSoc seminar series and launch of the Gender Forum on the Qwaqwa campus. She presented a critical visual analysis of black bodies in hip hop and rap videos entitled, ‘Where is the virgin?’ The presentation addressed the particular ways in which black bodies are sexualized in hip hop videos and lifestyle imaging in popular culture. Popular

culture imaging is flooded with a myriad of representations that suggests that the task of women is somehow to use their bodies to personify a dual complex of virtue and sensuality towards the goal of acquiring the erotic devotion of their male targets which ideally includes both love and sex. However, Van Reenen argued that in commercial hip hop videos, one may discern a notable absence of the traditionally good ‘virgin’ trope (also referred to as the ‘Madonna’, ‘princess’ or ‘good girl’), and a pronounced exhibition of what is now known as ‘raunch culture’. This phenomenon highlights an interesting conflict in a huge, successful industry largely dominated by black males: On one hand, the hip hop industry has been widely celebrated for ‘keeping it real’ with its unapologetic publicisation and mainstreaming of an uncomfortable conversation about the realities of black urban street life. On the other hand, the industry has been regularly criticised for its celebration of an aggressive black masculinity that openly touts lyrics and images considered to be (hetero) sexist, misogynistic, materialistic and violent. In this analysis of racialised, eroticised bodies in hip hop, Van Reenen demonstrated how, at once, these videos both reflect and promote some awkward stereotypes and considers how they may be linked to some problematic sexual conditioning. Students and staff on the campus attended and engaged in some interesting discussion on that which often hides in plain sight – the myriad of images that surround us every day and are so commonplace that they become normative without consumers realising it.



Center for *Global* Education

On 2 February 2016, the Institute once again 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 to have a strong social justice focus. JC van der Merwe introduced our visitors to the work of the Institute and Carolina Suransky, one of the Institute's visiting professors, facilitated a Critical Conversation on 'Transformation, discrimination and social cohesion between UFS students and their American counterparts'.



Carolina Suransky and Jerry Mokoroane

Summer School in Indonesia

The 2015 International Summer School on Pluralism and Development took place in Puncak (Indonesia) in August 2015. The 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, Mloni Dladla and Cebelihle Sokhela (Qwaqwa) were selected to participate in the Summer School, representing the UFS with JC van der Merwe. On 22 February 2016, they discussed their experiences in a conversation with students at the Institute. Besides explaining what the course work entailed they also described their experiences of the two excursions. The first was on the 'Napak Reformasi' (Remembering Reformasi) tour where they visited sites of several notorious human rights violations committed during the riots that finally triggered Indonesia's Reformasi in May 1998. On the second excursion, the participants went to Sarongge to visit the successful community-based reforestation project. In the discussion afterwards, information was given about the 2016 Summer School which will take place from 7 to 24 July in India.

Transformation, *HR practices* and the changed condition of critical thinking

The Institute has collaborated with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA) and the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) since 2013 in a project on diversity in higher education. Halleh Ghorashi, Professor in Diversity and Integration at the Sociology Department at VUA and Karen van Oudenhoven-van der Zee, Professor in Intercultural Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at VUA have been active collaborators in that project and formed the contact points for many useful exchanges between the UFS and the VUA. On 29 March 2016, they visited the Qwaqwa campus and participated in a Critical Conversation on the topic of 'Respecting diversity and difference on university campuses'. Since both of them work in the diversity and higher education fields their presentations raised some interesting issues and sparked a lively debate amongst the audience.

On 30 and 31 March 2016, the Institute hosted the two guest professors in Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa for a Critical Conversation series. Van Oudenhoven-van der Zee's presentation was entitled 'Diversity and HR practices at universities: Applying the diversity scan' and it reflected her distinguished scholarly work in diversity management and higher education leadership that seeks to convert intellectual insights into transformation practices within universities. Ghorashi's presentation was entitled 'The changed condition of critical thinking' and, as always, challenged the audience to reflect on innovative and productive forges into engaged scholarship. Both Van Oudenhoven-van der Zee and Ghorashi have been appointed visiting professors with the Institute,

strengthening and extending international collaborations on the research of the Institute, specifically in the areas of critical studies in higher education transformation and human rights education. We look forward to meaningful collaborations that seek to build intellectual diversity at the Institute and feed into practices of social and institutional change for the betterment of our sector and beyond.



Halleh Ghorashi, Karen van Oudenhoven-van der Zee and André Keet at the Qwaqwa campus.

Public Engagement Initiatives



Nokuthula Sithole (programme director) and panellists Danny Titus and Qondile Khedama



Christina Landman

Anti-Racism Network South Africa

On 6 April 2016, the Institute hosted a public dialogue on race in the Mangaung Metro's Bram Fischer building in Bloemfontein, which coincided with the launch of the ARNSA in the Free State. This was the second dialogue in the series funded by the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) and the theme was: 'Redeeming South Africa from the demon of racism'. The Institute partnered with the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, CARSA and ARNHE. Amongst the invited guests were religious leaders from different religious denominations, local government representatives, students from the universities and colleges in Bloemfontein as well as a number of NGOs.

Councillor Thabo Manyoni, the executive mayor of the Mangaung Metro opened the event, after which Sean Moodley, the national coordinator of ARNSA, presented the guiding principles of the network. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development was represented by Elize du Toit, the project manager from the Directorate: Social Justice. Her presentation on the 'Draft National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance' generated a lively discussion. The panel discussion was led by Professor Christina Landman from the Research Institute for Theology and Religion at Unisa, Danny Titus, Executive Director, Culture, of the Afrikaans Language and Cultural Society ATKV and Qondile Khedama, Head of Communications at Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. JC van der Merwe, the deputy director of the IRSJ at the UFS, said that the ARNSA initiative has the potential to unite all South Africans in appreciating and respecting the humanity of all people, as well as to mobilise people to fight against racism. His sentiments were echoed by Sean Moodley, the national ARNSA coordinator. Moodley said that we all have to take on racism; to learn about it, speak out against it, and act to stop it.



Grey Magaiza



Teboho Manchu

The third dialogue in the FHR-funded series of public dialogues was entitled 'A public dialogue on racism and ethnicism' and was held on 26 May 2016 on the Qwaqwa campus of the UFS in the Eastern Free State. On this occasion, the Institute once again partnered with the DoJCD as well as with public schools and traditional leaders in the region. After the successful launch of ARNSA in Bloemfontein, Sean Moodley requested the Institute to launch the network in the Eastern Free State. Amongst the invited guests, were religious leaders from different religious denominations, local government representatives, students from the UFS, school principals, traditional leaders and members of the royal family as well as a number of NGOs. The acting principal of the Qwaqwa campus, Teboho Manchu, opened the dialogue and Sean Moodley introduced ARNSA. The panellists were Lihlumelo Toyana (a documentary photographer and visual artist), Advocate Maconi Seitlheko-Setlogelo (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development) and Leon Wessels (a former SAHRC commissioner and now director of the Centre for Human Rights at the UFS). For more information about the work of ARNSA contact Phiwe Mathe (Prodigy.Mathe@gmail.com).

Research

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: 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 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

At the beginning of 2016, the Institute welcomed the first cohort of students that enrolled for the new MA degree in Reconciliation and Social Cohesion. In this post graduate qualification, 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 develop 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.

Critical knowledges and liberation

This sixth edition of the international conference, 'Global Dialogues on Critical Knowledges and Liberation in Community Psychology', was held for the first time on African soil after being hosted in South America and Europe. Nokuthula Sithole and Willy Nel attended as delegates of the Institute. Nokuthula was sent as part of the development aims of the Institute. Willy presented a paper, '#TraditionsMustFall: Transformation in Proximity in Residence Life', as part of an invited symposium. The UFS was left reeling at the sudden change of tide from white solidarity with #UFSFeesMustFall (October 2015) to white aggression at the Shimla Park incident of February 2016. Jansen's concept of nearness (2016) and Honneth's recognition theory (1995) were suggested as interpretive schemes to read more carefully the results of

Housing and Residence Affairs surveys, which consistently indicated good progress in race relations and appreciation of diversity. The interpretive schemes uncover the assumption flaws of the surveys and the superficial nature of the supposed changes. The double rejection that black residence members can experience: of their contribution not being recognised, and when their non-participation in archaic traditions is not understood, are also findings to which the theories of nearness and recognition can lead one to. Suggestions for deepened staff involvement in transformation efforts include resisting the temptations of concentrating on own victimhood, activating the power of office and appointment, and anticipating new institutional directions by attending as many dialogue activities as possible.



6th International Conference on Community Psychology
ICCP2016

27 - 30 May 2016
International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa
Global Dialogues on Critical Knowledges, Liberation and Community

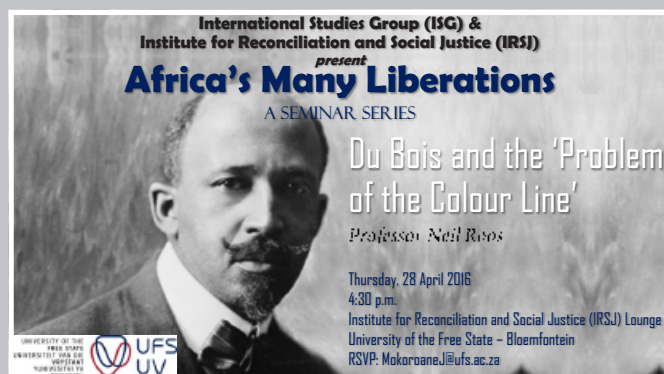
Hosted by the University of South Africa, the South African Medical Research Council and the Psychological Society of South Africa

saMRC, PsySSA, UNISA

Africa's many liberations

In partnership with the International Studies Group (ISG), the Institute formally launched the 'Africa's Many Liberations' (AFL) seminar series in April 2016. The series is a direct response to the constant refrain amongst activists in the #MustFall campaigns that the curriculum must be 'decolonised', and that it should have stronger foundations in African experiences. The series was conceived to deepen students' knowledge of African (including South African) and other regional (Asian, Caribbean, European, Latin American, North American and Oceanic) histories, and to help them to engage with ideas from the diaspora and anti-colonial struggles elsewhere. 'Africa's Many Liberations' was planned as a popular seminar series for students within and across all faculties. For this reason, the series strives to avoid language or literature that might exclude students from disciplines outside of historical, sociological, political, and cultural studies. The first seminar, presented by Neil Roos on 28 April 2015, was 'Du Bois and the Problem of the Colour Line'. The second seminar by Tinashe

Nyamunda, 'Fanon and the Relevance of Personal and Collective Decolonisation in Today's South Africa' took place on 12 May. The remainder of the eight-part series will recommence in July 2016, aligning with the beginning of the second semester and will be presented by Rachel Hatcher (postdoc in the IRSJ), Sahar Sattarzadeh (postdoc in the IRSJ), Ivo Mhike (postdoc in ISG), Busi Ntsele (lecturer in sociology), Leigh-Ann Naidoo (doctoral student, University of the Witwatersrand) and Richard Pithouse (associate professor in Politics, Rhodes University).



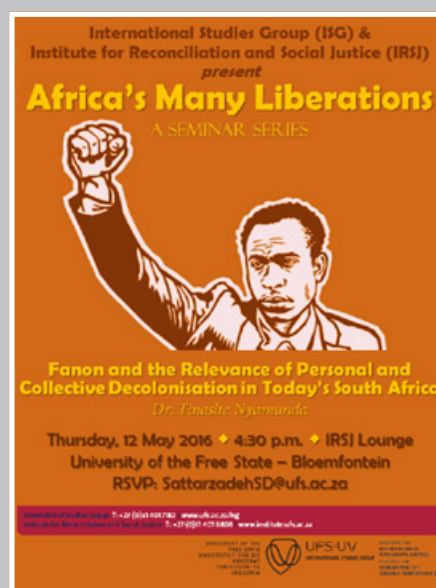
International Studies Group (ISG) & Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice (IRSI) present

Africa's Many Liberations
A SEMINAR SERIES

Du Bois and the 'Problem of the Colour Line'
Professor Neil Roos

Thursday, 28 April 2016
4:30 p.m.
Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice (IRSI) Lounge
University of the Free State – Bloemfontein
RSVP: MokoroaneJ@ufs.ac.za

UFS, IRSJ



International Studies Group (ISG) & Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice (IRSI) present

Africa's Many Liberations
A SEMINAR SERIES

Fanon and the Relevance of Personal and Collective Decolonisation in Today's South Africa
Dr. Tinashe Nyamunda

Thursday, 12 May 2016 ♦ 4:30 p.m. ♦ IRSJ Lounge
University of the Free State – Bloemfontein
RSVP: SattarzadehSD@ufs.ac.za

ISG, IRSJ, UFS, IRSJ

PolHiSoc

On 18 February 2016, the Departments of Politics, History and Sociology hosted the first of a series of colloquia at the Qwaqwa campus of the UFS under the banner of PolHiSoc. These seminars, presented by some of the best local and international scholars in their respective fields, seek to foster interdisciplinary dialogue around issues of academic and social value. They also seek to foster a network of critical scholars who are committed to exploring innovations in research, developing a community of practice, and advancing evidence-oriented approaches in the social sciences. The PolHiSoc colloquia operate under the broad theme: 'Conversations Towards Critical Citizenship: Interdisciplinary Engagements Around Issues of Sociality, Political Futures and Historical Consciousness'.

Generously supported by the Qwaqwa campus Faculty of Humanities and the Institute, PolHiSoc is proud to have hosted four successful seminars thus far. Starting off the series, Professor Caroline Suransky from the University of Humanistic Studies (Utrecht, Netherlands) presented a thought-provoking seminar on the challenges of sustainable development for rural communities, and the value of indigenous knowledge as an alternative response to these challenges. On 16 March, Ms Dionne van Reenen (IRSJ) addressed Qwaqwa students and staff on gendered stereotyping in commercial hip-hop videos, sparking a lively debate after asking the question 'Where is the virgin?'



Carolina Suransky

This event coincided with the official launch of the Qwaqwa campus Gender Forum, and was attended by experts from two local, community based organizations – Sekwele and Thusanang Advice Centre. Always topical, sabbatical visitor Professor David Dickenson (University of the Witwatersrand) presented research on precarious work and workers in South Africa. Focusing specifically on the South African Post Office, this seminar on 13 April presented fresh perspectives on the outsourcing debate in South African universities. The last speaker to be hosted by PolHiSoc before the June examinations, was Professor John Grider (University of Wisconsin), who spoke on issues of labour identity and masculinity among sailors in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean seafaring worlds.

Aiming to address issues of relevance to the surrounding communities, and particularly those issues that affect students



David Dickenson

and staff of the Qwaqwa campus, PolHiSoc will be partnering with the Qwaqwa campus Gender Forum and the Department of Health to coordinate a month-long campaign against gender violence, rape and sexual assault, and gender-based discrimination throughout August 2016. As part of this 'Month of activism', PolHiSoc will host Dr Chet Fransch (University of Stellenbosch), who will address students and faculty on the history of rape in South Africa. This address will be complimented by a dialogue on rape and gender-based violence, where the aim will be to share stories and lessons as a means of creating awareness around topics that are still considered social taboos.

PolHiSoc will be launched officially in Qwaqwa on 28 October 2016. For more information on the PolHiSoc initiative, or to propose a speaker, contact one of the colloquia organisers: Dr Jared McDonald, Department of History (McDonaldJR@ufs.ac.za); Mr Grey Magaiza, Department of Sociology (MagaizaG@ufs.ac.za); or Ms Bianca Naude, Department of Politics (NaudeB@ufs.ac.za).



Jared McDonald, Cebelihle Sokhela, Grey Magaiza, John Grider and Bianca Naude

Educators, Praxis and Hope

Beryl Botman, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute, presented a seminar series under the theme of 'Educators, Praxis and Hope'. The seminars which took place on 18 March, 15 April and 13 May 2016 were co-hosted by the Institute and the Faculty of Education.

In the first seminar, Botman discussed the impact and legacy of Paulo Freirean education philosophy on South African education. She demonstrated how Freire's biography assisted in his development of seminal theoretical constructs. Freire's connection to exiled South African political and education figures impacted the revising of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* which led to the development of a new and quite different *Pedagogy of Hope*. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion on the impact of Freire on post-1994 South African education. The second seminar focused on a Freirean perspective of South African teacher education policy development. Botman explained that the contribution that education and teacher education can make to transforming South African society led her to the choice of Paulo Freire as interlocutor. According to Freire, one needs to engage in acts of studying, teaching, learning, knowing, knowledge creation and entertainment in order to become a teacher. Botman analysed policy on restructuring teacher education of the four democratic administrations that culminated in policy. The analysis of the Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications included the goals, principles, outputs and outcome, philosophy and pedagogy as well as participatory structures. In the final seminar, Botman introduced the concept of hope as an educational construct for teacher education in South Africa. According to Botman, hope is a vision for a tomorrow that is different, and vital for a transformative education system. To get out of a state of despair, people need to educate their hope. Lately, the issue of white privilege has been brought to the fore. You need to educate your hope, so that you understand the reality of others but, more importantly, of yourself. She added that teacher education therefore needs to adopt a Freirean pedagogy with a strong philosophy based on hope. The agency of teachers can either be hopeful or without hope. It is vital that education promotes hope. Dr Botman concluded by mentioning that rethinking ontological and epistemological aspects of education is important, and should be a pivotal point of teacher education. A renewed vision of hope-orientated philosophy and pedagogy needs to be adopted by educational institutions.

The seminar series was attended by a combination of staff, postgraduates and undergraduates. In all the seminars, Beryl argued that South African teacher education and development policy lacks an explicit philosophy of education and a responding pedagogy that would promote transformation. She suggested that an opportunity was lost during the policy development phase for South African education when Freire's educational philosophy was not featured explicitly in the policy drafts.



She also teased out the value that reflexive praxis may have on the autonomy of teacher educators, teachers and learners. A pedagogy of hope constitutes the unleashing of the emancipatory potential of a teacher as an agent of democratic change, authority and reflexivity. In line with the National Development Plan and its Vision 2030, she suggested an agenda for mass-based dialogue for the re-orientation of current teacher education policy.



Beryl Botman and Willy Nel



International Engagements



University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA)

From 4 to 6 February 2016, André Keet, Willy Nel, Shirley Tate, Dionne van Reenen, Nokuthula Sithole and Busisiwe Ntsele attended the fourth Diversity Research Colloquium at UCLA. The joint-colloquium takes place annually for invited scholars from UCLA, the UFS and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA). This year, the colloquium continued to examine projected demographics and its heterogeneity; emerging socio-economic imperatives; and increasingly turbulent political and legal challenges that have converged to an extent that, according to most higher education scholars, inclusion and diversity will be among the most critical issues facing higher education in the twenty-first century. Against this backdrop, the colloquium is designed to contribute to critical studies on diversity in higher education that pursue insightful and innovative interpretive schemes within which socially just academic policies and praxes can emerge. Keynote addresses included those from André Keet, Jerry Kang, Karen van Oudenhoven-van der Zee. Willy Nel, Shirley Tate and Dionne van Reenen from the Institute presented research papers. As always, the colloquium proved to be an excellent site for collaborative learning and research.

Transformation and legitimization

From 7 to 13 February 2016, Dionne van Reenen visited Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) for the second time. She presented at the first annual Communication and Philosophy Undergraduate Student Scholars (CAPUSS) conference on a manuscript co-written with JC van der Merwe entitled *Transformation and Legitimation in Post-Apartheid Universities: Reading Discourses From 'Reitz*. The joint staff and student conference addressed themes in the evolution of civil rights histories and was fittingly placed in Black History Month. The remarkable similarities in liberation movements in the United States and South Africa formed an interesting point of departure for a compelling week of shared scholarship. The Communications Department and Philosophy Department teamed up in organising the conference and Billy Huff, Mohamad Al-Hakim and John Braddy did an excellent job in hosting. Dionne also presented guest lectures in classes of Rhetoric of Social Movements, Queer Studies

and Communications on her work in body politics and body representation in popular culture. Once again, Dionne's visit was most productive and she looks forward to continuing links between the Institute and FGCU in the future.



Exploring the erotic

From 11 to 13 May 2016, John Grider and Dionne van Reenen joined scholars from around the world in attending the tenth Inter-Disciplinary.Net global conference on 'Exploring the Erotic: Bodies and Practices' in Prague, Czech Republic. Dionne and John co-edited the conference volume from the 2014 conference. Criss-crossing areas of body politics and sexuality studies, the conference explored various aspects of the erotic embodied in literatures, images, music, advertising, narratives, inter-personal interactions, dreams and desires. Whether expressed in symbolic or literal form, the erotic has captured human imagination across time and cultures, shaping our understanding and experience of pleasure and intimacy along the way. While there is no denying that the erotic has an irresistible appeal, it is also viewed as a taboo to be suppressed or hidden. The focus of this year's meeting centred on bodies, desires and practices. In order to ensure a fully inter-disciplinary conversation, the organisers arranged a diverse meeting of academics, clinicians and medical practitioners, business people, educators, civil servants, representatives from the volunteer sector and NGOs, creative practitioners (artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers) and lawyers. Once again, the conference was a great success and successful international collaborations have emerged from the 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. 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.

Over the past five years the Institute developed into a critical space that brings different voices, ideas and practices together to advance the human and academic projects of the university. Students, staff and community members meet here to find ways to engage with diverse views, realities and aspirations. We cultivate humanity on the basis of deep scholarly work for the pursuit of social justice to be expressed in our everyday lives and the work we do on our campuses and within the national and global higher education system. The Institute has four major streams of work, namely higher education transformation, human rights, arts and social justice and research.

The Institute contributes to institutional and national higher education change by doing transformation work and the development of intellectual cultures in support of it. The function of the Human Rights Desk has developed into an independent academic Centre for Human Rights (CHR) – a body that provides human rights advocacy, human rights protection, and human rights scholarly work through research and an interdisciplinary master's and doctoral programme. The CHR is hosted between the Law Faculty and the Institute. The momentum around arts and social justice has resulted in a full-blown programme in its own right with national and international collaborations; a close working relationship with state departments, public agencies and non-governmental initiatives; and a productive community engagement function. The research vision of the Institute is to be a premier interdisciplinary site for intellectual inquiries relating, but not limited to: social cohesion, reconciliation and social justice; critical studies in higher education transformation; and scholarship on human rights and critical human rights education. For more information visit the website at <http://institute.ufs.ac.za>.

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