YOU 'C'? AWE!!! IT'S CERT-AINLY WORTH READING!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION RIGHTS AND TRANSFORMATION AND THE SOUTH
AFRICAN RESEARCH CHAIR IN COMMUNITY, ADULT AND WORKER EDUCATION







INTRODUCTION TO THE THIRD EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER

This term, CAWE-CERT members were exceptionally active with many book chapters, journal articles and media interventions published on important issues such as South African elections, the recent changes at the Minister of Basic Education, or solidarity with Palestine. A number of public and internal seminars and training workshops were hosted and facilitated by CERT-CAWE, and our community is growing and becoming more international! Read about it in this third newsletter!

A note on the evolutions of CERT and CAWE by Professor June Bam-Hutchison

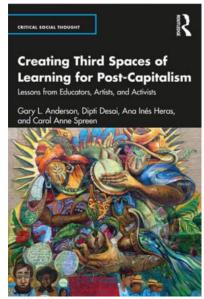
CERT and CAWE are evolving into two separate operational entities, though still sharing the same mission and vision for social and economic justice, through community and worker engagement and partnerships for a transformed and just society. Professor June Bam-Hutchison is director of Centre for Education, Rights and Transformation (CERT) since 2023 and Professor Salim Vally (as founding director of CERT) remains the director of the NRF SARChI chair in Adult, Community and Worker Education (CAWE). Previously, Professor Vally served as both director of CERT and CAWE until 2022. CAWE continues to be served by administrator Nompulelelo Cebekhulu, and CERT is supported by a new administrator Cindy Baatjes.

Both CERT and CAWE have grown in research capacity over the last year.

One of our noteworthy research achievements has been the work of our post-doctoral fellows, Dr Francesco Pontarelli and Dr Jeanne Bouyat. They have both made significant contributions to the scholarship and research trajectory at CAWE and CERT, under the research supervision of Professor Salim Vally. Sadly, we bid them farewell in 2024, as they have come to the end of their impactful stay. They will both be sorely missed for their contributions to doctoral scholarship development at CERT, and facilitation of conferences, research development workshops, and seminars. Jeanne is also founder and editor of this newsletter. We wish them well as they commence with their new exciting careers respectively at University of Venice in Italy, and at Sciences Po Grenoble in France! They have both been prolific in their socially engaged research which is included in this newsletter. Francesco and Jeanne, we wish you well on your activist scholarship journeys ahead, and we look forward to possible research and teaching collaborations in the future. You'll certainly remain part of the CERT/CAWE family!

WHAT HAPPENED IN JANUARY-JUNE 2024?

Book launch of Creating Third Spaces of Learning for Post-Capitalism. Lessons from Educators, Artists, and Activists presented by Prof Carol Anne Spreen and discussed by Prof Enver Motala.





On the 20th of February 2024, CERT-CAWE quick-started the academic year with the book launch of Creating Third Spaces of Learning for Post-Capitalism (Routledge, 2023). We had the joy to have Prof Carol Anne Spreen (New York University), one of the co-authors, presenting it in discussion with Prof. Enver Motala (Nelson Mandela University).

In this book, the authors' post-capitalist approach to change focuses less on what we ne ed to dismantle and more on what educators and activists are building in its place. Studying schools and other social organizations in the Global North and South, the authors identify and examine some of the most interesting counterhegemonic spaces in both formal and informal education today. They view these spaces through a lens of what Gloria Anzaldua and Homi Bhabha call borderlands or "third spaces." These third spaces are created in-between our lived cultural and social identities (first space) and the dominant culture that seeks to define us (second space). This book seeks

to better understand how these third spaces conceive of learning, how they are created, the range of experiences among them, the obstacles they face, how they are sustained over time, and how they have built global networks of solidarity.

Book discussion of Ausi told me: Why Cape Herstoriographies Matter with Prof June Bam and Shihaam Domingo.

June Bam

On the 5th of March 2024, CERT-CAWE hosted a public seminar which took the form of a dialogue between the author Prof June Bam and her ex-high school student of close to 30 years ago, Shihaam Domingo, on the 'afterlives' of the book **Ausi Told Me: Why Cape Herstoriographies Matter** (Jacana, 2021).

Bam and Domingo parted ways close to three decades ago with the dawn of a 'new' South Africa. Domingo went on to become an engaged activist in arts and culture, and a well-known feminist and food sovereignty activist who leads social movements with women in working class communities on the Cape Flats, drawing on the unheard intergenerational archives and facilitating the resurfacing of silenced voices and

marginalised knowledge. The teacher and student reconnected after decades through their ongoing work in recent years through Bam's Ausi Told Me and Shihaam's longstanding community engaged work.





AUSI

The Summer School that Shihaam facilitated in February 2024 was based on Ausi Told Me, and involved veld and sea dream walks at full moon.

Public workshops with visiting Freirean scholar from Brazil Danilo Romeu Streck on Freire, emancipatory education and action research methodologies

In April, we hosted Professor Danilo Streck, UNESCO Chair in Global Citizenship and Environmental Justice, from De Caxias do Sul, Brazil. The visiting professor programme was funded by the NRF's BRICS Mobility Programme. Professor Streck is a prestigious Paulo Freirean scholar who served on the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, was co-founder of the Paulo Freire Forum in South Brazil (24th edition). He has published over 45 books and close to 300 articles and chapters.

During his visit, he was invited by the UNESCO Secretariat to address the UNESCO General Meeting in Pretoria

on the work of the chair and his research collaboration with CERT. The UNESCO meeting was chaired by CERT Professor of Practice, Dr Julie Reddy. The invited talk was significant as it coincided with the hosting of the UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay at the National Education Ministry in Pretoria.

In addition, Prof Streck co-facilitated two important workshops during his stay. On the 4th and 5th of April, "Prof Streck facilitated a workshop entitled "People's Education and Social Justice: Latin American perspectives and African connections". The workshop aimed at providing a historical overview of indigenous educational practices and emancipatory educational movements, drawing on Paulo Freire as a reference liberating/emancipatory educational practices and popular education (people's education) and

PAULO FREIRE Danilo R. Streck

On the 9th of April 2024, CERT-CAWE, together with the board of directors at Funda Community College, facilitated the 40 years Funda Community Education Symposium on the legacy of Es'kia Mphahlele and Paulo Freire for Social Justice, which took place at Funda Community College in Soweto. Prof June Bam-Hutchison and Prof Streck were in conversation with Dr Ali Hlongwane from the Wits History Workshop for a three hour-long workshop, chaired by Dr Tshepo Mvulane Moloi.



participatory research methodologies.



On the left, from the left to the right: June Bam, Tshepo Mvulane Moloi, Danilo Romeu Streck, Hlongwane. On the right: Funda Community members attending.

Public Lecture with John Samuel on 30 years of Education Policy and Practice

In this lecture educationist John Samuel, who has contributed exceptionally to public life and the well-being of society at large as a leader at the heart of South Africa's educational development over his lifetime, reflected on the evolutions and the way forward for Education Policy and Practice in South Africa. He was in discussion with Professors June Bam, Linda Chisholm and Salim Vally.



After being a teacher, education administrator and policy specialist, working in the secondary and post - secondary school systems in Zambia, England, Ghana and Nigeria, John Samuel was appointed as the Executive Director the Southern African Council of Higher Education (SACHED). SACHED developed into one of the most innovative and pioneering independent education organisations in the country in the 1980s. As a result of this work, John Samuel was approached to head up the ANC's Education Department during the transition years, playing a critical role through the establishment of the Centre for Education Policy Development and Constitutional working committee in mobilising education research for change and drafting the education clauses of the Constitution. He was later also appointed to the first Nelson Mandela government Education Department as DDG for Education Policy and Planning, in which capacity he again played a key role in mobilising research forces and crafting new legislation to sweep away the apartheid inheritance. He played also key roles in the work of the Kellogg Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Foundation thereafter.

Webinar with Prof Wangui Wa Goro on Pan African Ubuntu centric feminism



On the 7th of May 2024, CERT hosted a webinar with Professor Wangui Wa Goro (SOAS) entitled: "Pan African Ubuntu/Utucentric feminist engagement for equality and humanity". The presentation looked at the contributions of African feminist thinkers of the earlier generations and their impact on the ongoing quests for freedom. The talk was dedicated to the memory and scholarship legacies of African feminist scholars Ama Ata Aidoo and Micere Githae Mugo. The webinar was well attended by CERT-CAWE community and beyond.



Second Shireen Abu Akleh Memorial Lecture in solidarity with Palestine, on the role of Academy in a time of Genocide



On the 8th of May, CERT-CAWE co-hosted the second Shireen Abu Akleh Memorial Lecture, in honour of the renowned Palestinian journalist who was killed by the Israeli armed forces entitled "The Responsibility of the Academy in a time of Genocide". It was an exceptional event that attracted hundreds of people, both in person and online. The lecture was chaired by Prof Salim Vally, and the highly distinguished speakers included Dr Naledi Pandor – Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ronnie Kasrils – former Minister of Intelligence in South Africa, Mr Zane Dangor - Director General of DIRCO, Dr Ala Alazzeh – vice president for Community Affairs Birzeit University, Prof Samia Al-Botmeh – Assistant Professor Economic Faculty Birzeit University Palestine, and Adv Diana Buttu – former spokesperson of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The speakers talked about the role of the academia, including of South African universities, in mobilizing, raising awareness, and organizing international solidarity in the

context of the ongoing genocide in Gaza; and they spoke more broadly about the crucial role and importance of diplomacy and international law in the current global context.







From left to right: Prof Salim Vally, Dr Naledi Pandor and Mr Ronnie Kasrils

Noteworthy, the lecture took place the week that followed the first UJ students-led protest against the

ongoing genocide in Gaza. Many CERT-CAWE members were present.

On the right: pictures of the protest on the 3rd of May at UJ lawns





Public seminar with Prof Gilian Hart on the imperial roots of Israel and Palestine

Still on the Palestine solidarity front, the CAWE chair co-hosted a public discussion on the 14th of May with Prof Gillian Hart, together with the Wits History Workshop, SWOP, UJ Sociology, Wits Sociology and WUPAC, entitled: "South Africa and Palestine in an Imperial Frame: Implications for Praxis?". The talk drew on Gillian Hart's latest paper "Progeny of Empire: Defining Moments of Nation Formation in South Africa and Palestine/Israel". It was chaired by Prof Salim Vally, and Roshan Dadoo – coordinator of the South African BDS coalition and the PSC, and Tara Weinberg – Lecturer in the Wits History Department and member of South African Jews for a Free Palestine and of Wits University Palestine Action Committee (WUPAC).







From left to right: Salim Vally, Gilian Hart, Tara Weinberg and Roshan Dadoo

Public seminar with Dr Adrian Murray on the Financialization of Water Expropriation and Global Solidary Movements for Water Justice.



On the 14th of May, Dr Adrian Murray – research fellow with CERT and previously a postdoc at the Centre, and currently manager of Research and Outreach for the Blue Planet Project, a leading global water justice organization – gave a public seminar with the CAWE chair entitled "Water Boundaries: Financialized Expropriation, Trans-local Solidarity and Water Justice." The presentation underlined that despite the ambitious framework of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, over the last decade, the global "community" has struggled to adequately respond to the ongoing pandemic, climate change and growing inequality. In this context,

increased private sector involvement in the governance, financing and delivery of public services like water and sanitation, are promoted as a solution to make up for the apparent lack of available public funds and inefficiency of the public sector. This trend contradicts the experience of Indigenous, peasant and working-class communities around the world that have documented the harmful realities of private participation in the water sector for decades. It also comes up against the Global Water Justice Movement's equally well-evidenced arguments in favour of diverse forms of democratically controlled and publicly owned and operated water services and resources. Adrian Murray's talk dealt with his research with the Blue Planet

Project, which explores labour and social movement opposition to the neoliberal restructuring of public services in the face of ongoing austerity across the global South and North.

Webinar with Dr Babere Kerata Chacha on African Women's History and Higher Education in Africa



On the 21st of May, CERT-CAWE hosted a public seminar with Dr Babere Kerata Chacha (Laikipia University, Kenya) on the topic "Repositioning African Women's History in the University Curriculum: Gains and Gaps." The talk dealt with the importance of centring African Women's History into the curriculum of higher education, and more broadly on its implications for building a more inclusive and comprehensive curriculum in order to better understand and appoach gender dynamics, social justice, and human rights in Africa and beyond.

Internal seminars with postdoc Dr Hans Schildermans, PhD candidates Charlene Houston and Tirivashe Jele and Masters students Kholofelo Bensley Moshobane and Heru Kaselkhem

During this term, CERT-CAWE hosted five internal seminar sessions on ongoing research projects. On the 20th of March, visiting postdoctoral fellow from the University of Vienna Dr Hans Schildermans presented on his project titled "Higher education under the spell of nationalist imaginaries. Political visions and educational reform at the University of South Africa (UNISA), 1946-1997". The presentation focused on the history of UNISA through focusing on moments of institutional reforms between the 40s and 90s, and how these reflect political visions of futures for South Africa. Dr Schildermans was visiting at CERT-CAWE in February and March 2024 while conducting an analysis of the archives of UNISA in Pretoria, as part of an international comparative project including universities in South Africa, the United States of America and Brazil on the relationship between university reforms and broader social, political and cultural trends and development.

On the 20th of March, Kholofelo Bensley Moshobane presented on his Masters research project proposal entitled "Analysis of Transformation and related policies at the University of Johannesburg post-2015 students protests". His project intends to interview both students, transformation unit staff members, and academic admin staff members on the processes of institutional transformation that have occurred at the university since the Fallist mobilisations of 2014-2016 on South African campuses.

On the 2nd of April, CERT-CAWE PhD candidate Charlene Houston gave a presentation entitled "**Reburial of ancestral remains at new moon in July 2018**". It drew on her ongoing doctoral research project focused on processes of reburial of human remains that had previously been displayed in museums of the Western Cape (Bartolomeu Dias Museum in Mossel Bay, Great Brak museum and George Museum). The research grapples with a number of contested questions and debates in the field, such as what would the implications be for the meaning of popular and emancipatory education, relevance of indigenous knowledge systems, and the challenges in rewriting particularly painful and violent histories? Charlene is conducting this reflexive action research based on her previous role as director in the Western Cape Government museum public services.

On the 23rd of April, Heru Kasekhem Musindi presented on his Masters research proposal entitled "Ceremonial Pedagogy and African Matrifocality: The Igbo Society as Case Study." His is conducting historical research on the surviving matriarchal structures of African societies with a focus on the Igbo society. Its aims are to recount the role of African women in the production and preservation of indigenous knowledge systems that inform the maintenance of a culturally stable, ecological and economically independent Afrikan society; and to explore the pedagogical matricentric practice in the development of revolutionary curricula through a focus on ceremonial pedagogy. Heru's research is co-supervised by CERT post-doctoral research fellow who is also from the Igbo society, Dr Hope Nkwanma.

On the 30th of April, CERT-CAWE visiting PhD candidate from Chichester University Tirivashe Jele gave a presentation "An African Social History Investigation: A Regional Account of the Jele as subgroup of the Nguni people" drawing on her last fieldwork in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania as part of her PhD research project. The latter consists of a social history of the Jele/Jere people, which revisits in particular the problematic and well-established debated history of the Mfecane through focusing on new and previously marginalised voices in historiography, such as the oral tradition on the 'precolonial' from women from rural communities in the region, predating the creation of colonially defined 'nation states' and 'tribes'.

International talks and academic collaborations by CERT-CAWE members

CERT-CAWE members have become more actively engaged in research collaborations on the continent and global south in 2024, and on the international stage more broadly.

Professor June Bam-Hutchison presented at a number of international universities in January 2024 on her award-winning monograph Ausi Told Me: Why Cape Herstoriographies Matter (Jacana, 2021):



University of Aix Marseille (France), Royal College of Surgeons (Dublin, Republic of Ireland), UCL (London), and St Antony's College (Oxford). She, and her PhD student Charlene Houston, also visited the Musée de l'Homme in Paris to explore possible research collaborations on decolonising African collections held in archives in Europe as part of ongoing research in indigenous African feminist herstoriographies and decolonising the archives.

On the left: Prof June Bam-Hutchison with scholars from Aix Marseille, including her recent PhD graduate in historiography who was admitted to a permanent position at the Sorbonne.

Professor Salim Vally has also been particularly actively involved in international academic engagements in the past months. He gave **a series** of keynotes lectures in March on the continuing relevance of Neville Alexander, Walter Rodney, WEB du Bois, as well as Antonio Gramsci, and Edward Said for education and emancipation: at Florida Atlantic University (together with Professor Michael Burrowoy) and at the University of Bristol



and the University of Cagliari in Sardinia (Italy). In addition, Professor Vally also gave **two keynote lectures in April and May on the burning topic of academic solidarity in a time of genocide:** at the University of Houston, Texas and at the University of Cambridge. He also gave three presentations at the Comparative and International Education Societies Conference in the United States from 10th to 15th March.

Professor Morgan Ndlovu participated as facilitator at Makerere University, Uganda, at the training workshops for doctoral and early career researchers on the theme of "Theorising Identities" in the months of February and March. This research collaboration on the continent involves all the 8 universities under the African Research Universities Association (ARUA) initiative. Professor Ndlovu also serves on the International Advisory Board of ARAU.





Professor Linda Chisholm was invited to present a paper at the "Comparative and International Education Seminar" at Humboldt University in Berlin. Presented on the 13th of June, her paper was entitled "Internal and Diasporic Educational Imagination(s) in the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement, 1976-1994".

Professor Mondli Hlatshwayo was an invited speaker at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Labour Conference in partnership with the ILES (Institute for Labour and Employment Studies) in Botswana on the 20-21 June. He have a talk entitled "Leveraging Technology for innovative initiatives aimed at job creation and improved conditions in the world of work".

On the 28th and 29th of March, Dr Jeanne Bouyat participated in a two-days international conference at Sciences Po Bordeaux (France) dedicated to francophone contemporary research in social sciences on South Africa. Dr Bouyat presented on her recent publications,



including the book she coedited with Dr Lucas Puygrenier and Amandine Le Bellec on Othering and state Institutions, and the book chapter she contributed on in the book on municipal governance in South African cities (see section "fresh from the press" below).

Academic Development and training facilitated by CERT-CAWE members

Straddling January and February this year, forty postgraduate students from countries in Africa, Asia and South America took part in a five-week programme on sustainable development for the United Nations University. The course instructors were the Faculty's Chair of Community, Adult and Workers' Education (CAWE) Professor Salim Vally and Professor Carol Anne



Spreen, CERT's visiting professor based at New York University. Spreen and Vally developed the curriculum for the programme titled "Global Leadership Training Programme (GLTP)" on sustainable development in Africa with Professor Yamaguchi from Tokyo University's Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability. The programme focuses on key concepts related to sustainability, development, leadership and global inequality in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Professor Linda Chisholm continues to make invaluable contributions to the academic and scholarly development of emerging and young researchers in the faculty. In the first semester, she facilitated a number of workshops on "Preparing for your NRF Rating" to non-rated and rated staff for the Faculty of Education at the University of Johannesburg.

In addition, in June 2024, CERT participated in a **DVV two-day workshop on Community Education**. CERT and DVV have been involved in community education for many years, and participants included social activists from the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape to develop a strategy for engaging with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) about the role and purposes of Community Colleges and Community Learning Centres.



FRESH FROM THE PRESS

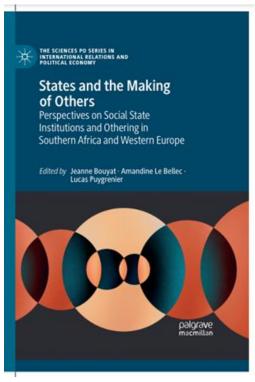
We are proud to announce that the latest research article by **Dr Francesco Pontarelli**, research associate and former postdoc at CERT-CAWE, entitled "An Inquiry into Gramsci's Concept of Passive Revolution in **South Africa: Reclaiming Its Value for Organisational Perspectives**", has been published in July by the *Review of African Political Economy* (ROAPE). The article is freely accessible here: https://www.scienceopen.com/hosted-document?doi=10.62191/ROAPE-2024-0012

South African scholarship has engaged with Antonio Gramsci's category of passive revolution as a historical analytical framework for analysing the transformation of post-apartheid society. Many of these interpretations characterise passive revolution as a top-down process of state formation, capital restructuring and governance mechanisms. This article engages with various interpretations of passive revolution by investigating this concept in Gramsci's Prison Notebooks and exploring three key debates: the scope of passive rev olution, its relation to hegemony, and its dialectic nature. The paper emphases the concept's dialectic nature and reclaims its value for strategic debates for movements and organisations, utilising the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and the #FeesMustFall movement as vantage points from which to demonstrate its



utility. It argues that passive revolution, framed within Gramsci's philosophy of praxis, offers a framework for reflecting on movements' tactics and strategies in specific conjunctures, placing the possibilities for transformations and alternative societies at the centre of analysis.

We are happy to announce that our postdoc Dr Jeanne Bouyat has coedited the following book, with Dr Lucas Puygrenier and Dr Amandine Le Bellec (both Sciences Po Paris): States and the Making of Others. Perspectives on Social State Institutions and Othering in Southern Africa and Western Europe.

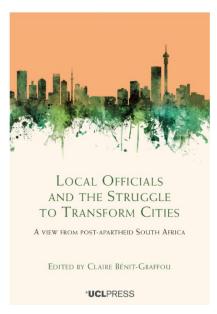


This volume offers a unique interdisciplinary and comparative perspective on contemporary processes of othering by state institutions in relation to dynamics of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homo-transphobia, as well as ethnic- and class-based discriminations. It focuses on eight original case studies empirically grounded in various domains of the "social state" in Southern African and Western European contexts: the education and health care systems, the regulation of work and of procreation rights, and institutions in charge of granting asylum. The authors provide key insights on how states produce Others, and on how othering contributes in turn to the process of state formation and the politicization of public action. Jeanne Bouyat coauthored the theoretical introduction chapter and singleauthored another chapter respectively entitled "States Make Others, Others Make States" and "Gatekeeping the School Against Foreign Others: Three Dimensions of Institutional Xenophobia at School in South Africa".

The book was published in June 2024 in the Sciences Po Series in International Relations and Political Economy with Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr Jeanne Bouyat has also contributed a chapter to an edited volume directed by Prof Claire Bénit-Gbaffou (Aix-Marseille Université and Wits University) entitled: Local Officials and the Struggle to Transform Cities. A view from post-apartheid South Africa.

Why are even progressive local authorities with the "will to improve" seldom able to change cities? Why does it seem almost impossible to redress spatial inequalities, deliver and maintain basic services, elevate impoverished areas and protect the marginalised communities? The book analyses these challenges in South African cities, where the brief post-apartheid moment opened a window for progressive city government and made research into state practices both possible and necessary. In debate with other "progressive moments" in large cities in Brazil, the USA and India, the book interrogates City officials' practices. It considers the instruments they invent and negotiate to implement urban policies, the agency they develop and the constraints they navigate in governing unequal cities. This focus on actual officials' practices is captured through firsthand experience, state ethnographies and engaged research. These reveal day-to-day practice that question generalised explanations of state failure in complex urban societies as essential malevolence, contextual weakness, corruption and inefficiency. Jeanne Bouyat's chapter is entitled: "Identifying learners in Johannesburg schools: how state rationalities converge to construct institutional xenophobia."



It was published in February 2024 with University College of London Press in open access. Here is the link to download the book: https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/223299.

We are thrilled to announce the two latest publications by Professor Linda Chisholm. The first is a peer-reviewed journal article cowritten with Dr Adelino Chissale and entitled "BRICS, sub-imperialism and education in Mozambique", that will be published in the prestigious journal Comparative Education.

Are changing geo-political dynamics, and an increasingly multi-polar world, significant for education? This article explores this question by engaging a debate on whether BRICS can be considered as a form of sub-imperialism or not. It uses a limited form of the concept and focus on connections between the BRICS countries and education in southern Africa - specifically South Africa and Mozambique. Drawing on selected secondary and primary sources, it argues that while South Africa fulfils some of the criteria of a "dependent regional sub-centre with influence", relationships in education between BRICS members and Mozambique are not extensive, although displaying similar characteristics to the "aid colonialism" of traditional donors. The article explores modalities of involvement and shows that even in the case of South Africa educational relationships do not yet appear to extend to policy. However, policy accommodation is a key dimension of these relationships.



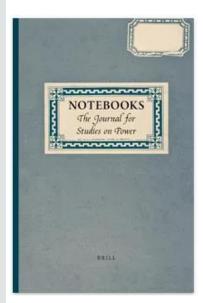


The second is a **review of the book authored by Max Price Statues and Storms: Leading through Change** (Cape Town: Tafelberg, 2023), published in the peer-reviewed journal South Africa Journal of Social and Economic Policy (issue 93 of 2024).

The book review can be accessed here:

https://ifaaza.org/book-review-statues-and-storms-leading-through-change/





Finally, we are particularly proud to announce a publication that came out of a collaboration with two of our members: An interview with Professor Salim Vally, conducted by Dr Francesco Pontarelli, exploring the historical roots of South Africa-Palestine solidarity, has been published in July in the latest issue of the international academic journal Notebooks: The Journal for Studies on Power, published by Brill. The interview is entitled: "Rooted in Resistance: Historical Perspectives on South Africa-Palestine Solidarity – a Conversation with Professor Salim Vally".

It is freely available here: https://brill.com/view/journals/powr/4/1/article-p129_009.xml?ebody=full%20html-copy1

MEDIA INTERVENTIONS

CERT-CAWE members have contributed extensively to public debates in the past months, through multiple media interventions.

Dr Jeanne Bouyat has given two radio interviews in French on the South African elections for one of the main public radio broadcasting services in France (France Culture). The first was a live interview for the international news radio programme "Soft Power". Dr Bouyat answered general questions about the 30 years of democracy in South Africa ahead of the general elections, on the 25th of February. The second interview was more focused on educational matters, and Dr Bouyat was invited to complement a field report on educational issues in the Eastern Cape



for the radio programme "Grand Reportage", and to comment on the educational issues associated with the elections and the post-apartheid years more broadly, and it was aired on the 26th of April. The podcast are both available here:

https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/soft-power/en-afrique-du-sud-l-anc-de-mandela-peut-elle-perdre-sa-majorite-2313618

https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/le-grand-reportage/trente-ans-apres-l-avenement-de-lademocratie-sud-africaine-quel-bilan-pour-l-ecole-8466600

Professor Linda Chisholm wrote an op-ed for the Daily Maverick on the appointment of the new Minister of Basic Education Siviwe Gwarube, as the portfolio shifted to the



main opposition party the Democratic Alliance. It was published on the 1st of Jul and elaborates on the central challenge of navigating a relationship with the unions, especially SADTU, or running the risk of being "disciplined" by the unions.

The editorial can be read here: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-07-01-confronting-sadtus-grip-on-education-power-will-be-make-or-break-for-gwarube-and-sadtu/

In addition, **Dr Jeanne Bouyat gave an interview on the French legislative snap elections** that contributed to a written article in Afrikaans for the online publication LitNet, which was published on the 5th of July. It is available here: https://www.litnet.co.za/macron-speel-russian-roulette-is-7-julie-2024-die-belangrikste-dag-in-moderne-franse-geskiedenis/



CERT-CAWE community welcomes new members...

During this term, the CERT-CAWE community had the privilege to welcome five new members: two new postdoctoral research fellows from Nigeria and Uganda, one visiting PhD candidate from Japan, and two new interns. We are very proud to see the centre and the chair becoming more international, more pan-African and we are recruiting more young female scholars!



Shunki Oketani studies at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and is exploring the collective creativity of shack dwellers through an ethnographic research of construction practices at the peri-urban shack settlements in Johannesburg. He is visiting for this academic year at CERT-CAWE (until December) and is hosted by

Prof June Bam-Hutchison and co-supervised by Prof Mondli Hlathwayo.

Dr Titilope Rachael Opesemowo is a new postdoctoral research fellow at CERT-CAWE. She earned her PhD in Tests and Measurement from Obafemi Awolowo University Ile Ife in Nigeria in 2021,

and her thesis was entitled "Aberrant Response Behavior in Mathematics Tests and Secondary School Students in Southwest Nigeria". Dr. Opesemowo's current research focuses on mathematics literacy in existent feminist indigenous knowledges among high school students in Nigeria and South Africa.





Dr Jacob Katamusiime recently completed his PhD under the research supervision of Professor Mahmood Mamdani at Makerere University on the construction of African religious identities in Uganda. His post-doctoral research at CERT will be under supervision of Professor Morgan Ndlovu.

In addition, CERT is also expanding its young student research and scholarly development and capacities. Prof Hlatshwayo (whose research areas are in 4IR and community / worker education) has successfully recruited two young female interns through the South African Youth Commission, officially appointed and

funded by the MERSETA (Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education Training Authority): Ms. Nokwanda Mngometulu (on the left) and Ms. Amanda Happiness Ntaka (on the right). Both are post-graduates and Amanda is a qualified schoolteacher. Of their roles at CERT include as research assistants on various projects and setting up the CERT library catalogue for visiting scholars. They will serve their internship at CERT for two years (January 2024- December 2025).





... and congratulates its former postdocs for obtaining new academic positions!

CERT-CAWE is also congratulating our former postdoctoral fellows Dr Francesco Pontarelli and Dr Jeanne Bouyat for obtaining positions respectively at the University of Venice in Italy, and at Sciences Po Grenoble in France! Although they are no longer with us in Johannesburg, they stay part of the CERT-CAWE community as associate researchers. We wish them all the best for their academic careers!

Pictures shared by the presenters, taken by Jeanne Bouyat and Maryam Chinasa Adewunmi and from the online recordings of the seminars.

Text and layout by Jeanne Bouyat.





On the 11th of June, we reunited around tea and cakes to celebrate the many "June babies" at CERT-CAWE!

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