

Annual Report of Centre for Humanities Research of the University of the Western Cape, 2009

The Centre for Humanities Research reached several milestones in its various research projects and theoretical engagements over the 2009 academic year. Driven by the commitment and research of fellows attached to the Programme on the Study of the Humanities in Africa, the CHR has enabled research on themes such as War and the Everyday, Aesthetics and Politics, Cities in Transition and Historicism and the Humanities. Most of the projects of the CHR delve into the question of the formation of postcolonial subjectivities and their relation to knowledge projects in the humanities. The emphasis of the first component of the CHR's study on the foundational concepts in the humanities and their specific relation to the exercise of power in Africa culminated in a major international conference on the theme "Re-imagining Postcolonial Futures: Knowledge transactions and contests of culture in the African present" in July 2009. The intensity of the discussion at the conference demonstrated the importance of the inaugural research question of the CHR in generating new pathways for postgraduate scholarship at the University of the Western Cape. While this report focuses on the achievements of fellows in 2009, it should be noted that the culmination of our first phase of research has laid a sufficient foundation for developing several new research platforms in the CHR. These platforms are dedicated to the study of theories of change in Africa, Asia and Latin America and to redefining how we might frame the question of race in ways that challenge and displace its instrumental deployments in contemporary society.

Fellowship Awards

In 2009, the CHR granted two masters, six doctoral fellowships, and a three postdoctoral fellowships supported by generous grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Ford Foundation. The Masters fellowships were awarded to Riedwaan Moosage (History) and Mark Espin (English). The doctoral grants were awarded to Ngonizadshe Marongwe (History), Allanah Birch (English), Muthoni Kimani (Women and Gender Studies), Okechukwu Nwafor (History), Vilho Shigweda (History), and Steve Akoth

(Anthropology). Dr. Paolo Israel (Anthropology) was granted a two year postdoctoral fellowship supported by a Mellon Foundation grant for 2009-2010 and Dr. Annachiara Forte (Anthropology) was granted a one year postdoctoral award for 2009. Noeleen Murray (African Studies) was unable to take up the offer of a postdoctoral award in 2009 and was asked to reapply upon completion of her doctoral studies at UCT. The selection of candidates was undertaken by a committee made up of colleagues from across the Arts Faculty and in consultation with the Dean, Professor Duncan Brown, and Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Research in the Arts Faculty, Professor Jide Oliyede. Scholars were selected on grounds of academic merit, the interdisciplinary nature of their respective research projects, and their potential to contribute to the research platforms in the CHR. A central determinant in the selection process was how the respective research projects illuminated the potential to renew the study of the humanities in Africa. The 2009 fellowship awardees brought a diverse range of research interests to bear on the CHR. These were drawn from a broad spectrum of specialist research across the African continent and beyond. Each promised to invigorate our unifying research interest in renewing the study of the humanities in Africa.

As in previous years, the fellows were required to give shape to the lead project of the CHR, the Programme on the Study of the Humanities in Africa (PSHA). The PSHA fellows bring together research on Benin, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Nigeria. The fellows convened in a bi-weekly reading group, a weekly seminar series, colloquia and conferences. From February to June, fellows participated in a reading group on the work of Edward Said co-ordinated by Dr Hermann Wittenberg of the English Department at UWC. In the second semester, fellows have had the opportunity to engage the scholarship of three leading international resident scholars in the Centre for Humanities Research. Professors Jacques Depelchin (Centre for Afro-Oriental Studies, Central University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil) and Brian Raftopoulos (Democracy Peace Trust) were supported by a grant from the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Bharuthram, underwritten by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for senior

mentors. Professor Simona Sawhney was a visiting fellow supported by a grant from the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Global Change at the University of Minnesota. Each in turn dedicated time to reading and commenting on the work of UWC colleagues and presenting their research in the various seminars, colloquia and conferences hosted by the CHR. Professor Raftopolous guided our discussions on the question of nationalism and political society, especially as it pertained to the understanding of contemporary issues in Zimbabwe. He is co-editor of a recent book which seeks to reclaim the narration of history from its particular Zanu-PF appropriation. Professor Raftopolous also contributed his vast knowledge of Southern Africa to the shaping of research proposals of doctoral and masters fellows. The CHR hosted a launch of the book in conjunction with the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation on 23 November 2009 at the District Six Museum which was reported on SABC news and Book Southern Africa's website. Professor Simona Sawhney also helped to develop our understandings of postcolonial theory and its implications for studying nationalism. Her book, *The Modernity of Sanskrit*, generated considerable debate and dialogue on the importance of language in understanding the formations of political subjectivity in India. Finally, Professor Jacques Depelchin joined us for a period of three months to talk about his book, *Silences in African History*. Depelchin guided us through a reading of complex philosophical arguments in the work of Alain Badiou and opened the way for a broader discussion of linking local research to broader themes in African studies. Professor Patricia Hayes of the History Department at UWC convened a reading group on the question of aesthetics with fellows whose research is primarily in the field of visual studies.

Several fellows presented their research to the South African Contemporary History and Humanities Seminar co-hosted by the History Department and the Centre for Humanities Research. The seminar draws together an average of forty to fifty participants from across the University on a weekly basis. Discussions hinge on a pre-circulated paper and a commentary by a carefully selected discussant.

In October Professor Ivan Karp and Cory Kratz (Emory University, USA) joined the CHR reading groups and Critical Heritage colloquium at the invitation of the project on Heritage Disciplines convened by Professors Leslie Witz and Ciraj Rassool of the History Department. Professor Karp helped us make sense of the intricacies that attend to the field of African philosophy in several reading group sessions as well as offering suggestions for further reading.

In the second half of 2009, we selected to read in two broad areas that intersect with the research of fellows. The first is in the area of epistemology that dealt with themes of ethics, African philosophy, and disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity, while the second is in the area of aesthetics and politics. The reading groups seek to harness critical approaches that will serve as a foundation for a major discussion in the CHR on postcolonial aesthetics in contemporary Africa scheduled for 2010.

Fellows were encouraged to direct their research attention to this overarching set of questions. The results of our weekly meetings revealed interesting new directions for the next phase of our work. Some of these directions point to the need for a closer examination of the disciplinary conditions in the making of racialised subjectivity. Others point more directly to a more sustained study of the historical conditions for the making of African institutions.

Individual Achievements of Fellows

Dr. Jung Ran Forte's has spent her fellowship working on a manuscript titled *Of Journey's and Struggles: Transatlantic Dialogues and Diasporic Imagination in Contemporary Benin*. She has published articles in *Cahiers d'Etudes africaines* and a forthcoming article in *Transforming Anthropology*. A further article is due to appear in an edited collection on global circuits of blackness which is to be published by University of Illinois Press. Dr. Paolo Israel published "The War of the Lions" was published in the *Journal of Southern African Studies*. A subsequent article on the meaning and

interpretation of liberation struggle songs will appear in the forthcoming issue of *Kronos: Southern African Histories*. He has made significant progress on his manuscript which is provisionally titled *Mapiko! Masquerading and Populist Fantasy in Mozambique*. The doctoral fellows research cover themes such as the impact of postcolonial aesthetics on political subjectivities in Africa, the discourses of human rights, trends in literary nationalism in Africa and questions of violence related to the events such as the Cassinga Massacre in Namibia, the Rwandan genocide and the ambiguities of political discourse on “necklacing” in the histories and archives of liberation movements in Southern Africa. While each of the fellows has pursued their respective research projects, the CHR has attempted to draw out common themes for the purposes of activating a broader discussion on the renewal of the study of the humanities in Africa. The work of Steve Akoth, a doctoral fellow in the programme from the Anthropology Department at UWC, has shed some interesting light on the ways in which the politics of race is being re-aligned with the emergence of human rights discourses in the spheres of law, urban planning and migration in contemporary East Africa. Lannie Birch pursued her research on South African modernism in Roy Campbell’s poetry while Mark Espin completed a MA dissertation on representation, affiliation and compassion in the work of Michael Ondaatje. Jill Weintroub has made substantial progress towards completion of her thesis on Dorothea Bleek. Her article based on her extensive archival research recently appeared in *African Studies*. Finally, Natalie Jade Gibson’s article “Making art, making identity: moving beyond racialised perceptions of identity through collaborative exhibition in the new South Africa” has recently been published in the peer reviewed *South African Historical Journal*. Finally, Drs Heidi Grunebaum and Anette Hoffman finalised their respective book projects which they completed while at the Centre for Humanities Research. Dr. Grunebaum’s book will be published by Rutgers University Press.

Conferences, Colloquia and Seminars

The series of academic meetings in the CHR was kick-started with a high profile event on 6 March 2009 in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture and the History Department at UWC on the theme of Critical Heritage Practices in Postapartheid South Africa. The event co-incided with the launch of major national initiatives organised under the auspices of the Department of Arts and Culture about the legacy of Sarah Bartmann. Speakers at the event included Minister Pallo Jordan (National Minister of Arts and Culture), Ciraj Rassool (Department of History, UWC), Siona O'Connell (Department of History, UWC), Priscilla De Wet (National Khoisan Conference Facilitation Agency) Jean Burgess (Sarah Bartmann Reference Group), Andrew Bank (Department of History, UWC), Clifton Crais (Emory University, Atlanta). The event was widely covered in newspapers and on radio, with Professor Rassool featured on several prominent talk shows.

In May 2009, the CHR and the Department of History hosted the War and the Everyday colloquium which featured the research of several Ford fellows. The fellows benefitted further from commentary on their research by Professors Martina Rieker (American University of Cairo), Giorgio Miescher (Basler Africa Bibliographien), Brian Raftopoulos (CHR, UWC), and Patricia Hayes (UWC). This was followed by two subsequent colloquia which featured the work of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows in October 2009.

From 9 July – 11 July 2009, the CHR hosted an international conference in partnership with the Ferguson Centre for the Study of African and Asian Studies, Open University, UK, on the theme “*Re-imagining Postcolonial Futures: Knowledge Transactions and Contests of Culture in the African Present*” [see **appendix 1 for conference report by doctoral candidate in the CHR, Jill Weintraub**]. The conference brought together the work of colleagues in South Africa and several international guests including Professor Dennis Walder, Dave Johnstone, Sabelo Ndlovu and Lotte Hughes (Open University), Udaya Kumar (JNU, Delhi), Simona Sawhney (University of Minnesota), Jose Gatti

(Brazil), Fernando Rosa (Macau University, China), and the keynote speaker, Jacques Depelchin (Centre for Afro-Oriental Studies, Central University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil). Several colleagues from UWC contributed to the conference including Professors Ciraj Rassool, Leslie Witz and Patricia Hayes (History), Mikki Flockeman (English), Diana Gibson, Jide Oloyede and Heike Becker (Anthropology).

This was followed by the second annual Social Theory Colloquium, 19-20 August. The colloquium featured hour-long presentations by ten of South Africa's leading social theorists on key theoretical developments in Social Science Research in South Africa. Participants included Professors Bert Olivier (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University), Michael Neocosmos (Monash University), and John Higgins (University of Cape Town), Premesh Lalu (UWC), Suren Pillay (HSRC), Simona Sawhney (University of Minnesota).

Finally, on 8-9 October 2009 the CHR in conjunction with the NRF funded Heritage Disciplines Research Project and the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies in the History Department hosted its annual critical heritage colloquium. Papers were presented by Professors Gary Minkley (Fort Hare University), Ciraj Rassool, Sipokazi Sambumbu, Uma Mesthrie, Nicky Rousseau and Leslie Witz (UWC), Bonita Bennett (District Six Museum), Cory Kratz and Ivan Karp (Emory University), and Ruth Simbao (Rhodes University). The CHR also convened the first Heritage Conversations with Professor Shamil Jeppie (University of Cape Town) on the Timbuktu Project in conjunction with the Heritage Disciplines research initiative in the History Department on 27 October 2009.

We ended the year with a PSHA colloquium titled "Africa in an interdisciplinary nexus". Following intense discussions on four major articles on the question of disciplines and interdisciplinarity, each of the fellows was invited to speak to the question of how the question of interdisciplinarity was taking form in their own dissertation research. The

articles that guided our discussion were Mowitt, J. 1999. "In/security and the Politics of Disciplinarity." In Raymond Duvall et al. (eds). *Cultures of Insecurity: States, Communities and the Production of Danger*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press: 347-361; Chandler, J. 2009. "Introduction: Doctrines, Disciplines, Discourses, Departments." *Critical Inquiry*, 35(4): 729-746; Butler, J. 2009. "Critique, Dissent, Disciplinarity." *Critical Inquiry*, 35(4): 773-795; and Sahlins, M. 2009. "The Conflicts of the Faculty," *Critical Inquiry*, 35(4): 997-1017.

The seminar series continues to draw together forty to fifty participants on average on a weekly basis. In 2009, the South African Humanities and Contemporary History Seminar hosted a total of twenty-one papers. To date, the series consists of a total of three-hundred and twenty seminar papers. Organised around a pre-circulated paper and prepared comments by a discussant, the seminar continues to attract a very high standard of interdisciplinary scholarly research from both local and international presenters.

South African Contemporary History and Humanities Seminar

- 297 Virginia Tilley (HSRC) Has Palestine Passed the Tipping Point? Sovereignty and Settler Colonialism in South Africa and Israel-Palestine
- 298 Duncan Brown (UWC) Religion, Spirituality and the Postcolonial: A Perspective from the South
- 299 Ngonidzashe Marongwe (Midlands University, Zimbabwe) Instruments of Political Expedience: Traditional Chiefs and the Central Government in Colonial and Postcolonial Zimbabwe (1969-2006)
- 300 Joeli Pretorius (UWC) The security imaginary: A cultural explanation of military likeness
- 301 Ephias Makaudze (UWC) Opportunities and challenges of bio-fuel production in South Africa from smallholder farmers' perspective
- 302 Giorgio Miescher (Basler Afrika Bibliographien) The Photographic Poster Archive
- 303 Laurence Piper (UWC) Disempowered design and party capture: Why ward committees will not deepen democracy in South Africa
- 304 Dan Yon (Film Screening) (York University, Canada) One hundred Men (NO PAPER)
- 305 Illana Van Wyk (London School of Economics) Trusting socially and believing practically: The case of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (UCKG) in Durban
- 306 Brian Raftopoulos (CHR, UWC) The Hard Road to Becoming National
- 307 Bill Martin (Binghamton University) The rise of the African Studies Enterprise and the Transnational Struggle over the De/Colonisation of African Knowledge Production
- 308 Susann Baller (Humboldt University, Germany) Arenas of Conflict and Joy: Football Fields and the Politics of Youth in Senegal

- 309 Okechukwu Nwafor (UWC) Inertia versus Hysteria: Uche Edochie's Visual Concepts; a Critical Inquiry
- 310 Jacques Depelchin (Central University of Bahia, Brazil) History of Africa/Humanity at a Crossroad: Between Reconciliation and Healing
- 311 Alex Lichtenstein (University of Florida, USA) From Liaison Committees to Trade Unions: The Struggle for Industrial Citizenship in South Africa, 1973-1979
- 312 Baz Lecocq (Ghent University, Belgium) About a cock that scratched the sand and drew its marks: Saharan borders in the late 1950s
- 313 Leslie Witz (UWC) Towards a history of post-apartheid past in South African Museums
- 314 Helen Tiffin (University of Tasmania, Australia) Writing Wrongs: Postcolonialism, Environment and Animals
- 315 John Tosh (School of Arts, Roehampton University, UK) Citizen-Scholars: Towards a Critical Public History in Britain
- 316 Ciraj Rassool/Leslie Witz (Heritage Disciplines, UWC) Ciraj Rassool and Leslie Witz in conversation with Shamil Jeppie (UCT, Historical Studies) about the Timbuktu Manuscripts Project
- 317 Fernando Rosa (Macau University, China) Rethinking Multilingualism in South Africa

Academic Programmes in the CHR

The CHR has committed itself to undertake teaching responsibilities in the Arts Faculty. In 2009, the CHR facilitated the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies (APMHS) which is currently taught by Professors Ciraj Rassool and Leslie Witz. The APMHS is a programme located in the History Department and run in partnership with the Robben Island Museum. In 2009, the partnership was restructured so that all the academic components were located at UWC, with Robben Island providing support in the form of a programme convenor, Olusegun Morakinyo, financial resources for the running of the programme and the recruitment of museum and heritage specialists to convene specific electives. The fellowships were awarded in the areas of curatorship, heritage and collection management, researching and interpreting heritage material, communicating with the public, management in heritage agencies, and heritage conservation.

The CHR also convened the second Global Issues Honours Consortium with the ICGC during June and July 2009. The programme brings together senior undergraduate students from four US universities and a group of UWC students. This year we received nominations from the Departments of English, Linguistics, Women and Gender Studies and History. The programme was convened with colleagues from the Mayibuye Centre and the Robben Island Museum and involved a process of guiding students through a sustained project of research, reading and reflection. Convened by Prof. McCormick (University of Minnesota) and I, there was a feeling in the PSHA advisory committee that this programme falls outside of the brief of the CHR. Another view held that it proved enormously beneficial for the group of UWC students who passed through the programme and that we should seek its continuation in 2010. Due to rising costs

associated with the programme in 2010, it is unlikely to be run in 2010. Given the intensity of the programme and the demands it places on the time of the director, it was agreed to see whether we might invite participation from colleagues in the faculty. Failing this, we might be compelled to ask the office of International Affairs at UWC to host the programme. I would however like to report that the UWC students who participated in the GIHC course have benefitted both intellectually and financially from the programme, with several opting for post-graduate studies at UWC.

Finances

In 2008 we received two major grants in the CHR. The Ford Foundation awarded a grant of \$170 000, 00 for a period of three years for masters, doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships in the Humanities. The National Heritage Council also awarded the CHR and the History Department R980 000,00 for 2010-2011 for fellowships and support of the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies. The remaining funds in the original grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation needs to be spent by the end of the 2010 academic year.

We continue to benefit financially and intellectually from the partnership with the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Global Change (ICGC) at the University of Minnesota. The ICGC has made available several fellowships for doctoral and faculty writing fellowships to the University of Minnesota and the University of the Western Cape. In 2009, doctoral fellows Mduduzi Xakaza and Charles Kabwete took up fellowships at the University of Minnesota. The ICGC also supported the visit of Professor Simona Sawhney to the CHR for a period of three months. To facilitate a joint teaching initiative using ICTV technology, the ICGC also contributed an amount of \$10 000,00 for the purchase of video-conferencing equipment for the CHR. This was used to support a course on nationalism and African cinema offered by Professors Charlie Sugnet and Premesh Lalu and with the help of documentary filmmaker Francois Verster.

The generous refurbishment grant from the Professional Provident Society and the VLIR Projects on Building a Better Society enabled the completion of the refurbishment of the CHR. This included interior painting of offices and hallways, furnishing of the reception area, creation of new office space, purchase of two new computers for postdoctoral fellows, and the creation of a reading room. There is some work that is outstanding in the way of upgrade but this will have to be held over until funds are available. The amount in our donations entity is at R125 000,00, significantly higher than the R11 000,00 available in 2008.

With the help of the acting CEO of Robben Island Museum, Seelan Naidoo, the CHR and the History Department received a grant of R600 00,00 to support the continuation of the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies. An amount of R100 000,00 was dedicated to funding fellowships for short-term lectureships in the APMHS. The awards were made to Dr. Harriet Deacon, Nicky Rousseau, Bonita Bennett, Seelan Naidoo, and Prof. Andrew Lamprecht. The amount of R500 000,00 was used for the recruitment of twelve students, travel costs, monthly stipends, medical cover, visa applications and costs associated with the internships on Robben Island. Residence costs of R114 000,00 and a further R60 000,00 remaining in the Ford grant of the previous year was applied for and reallocated as a once off payment for the 2009 programme. Although we have saved an amount of R140 000,00 on the Robben Island grant, our request for this to be used to cover the outstanding R80 000,00 in student fees and programme costs for 2010 has been turned down [see appendix 3]. We are in the process of appealing this decision with RIM.

To support APMHS costs in 2010 and 2011, Professor Ciraj Rassool and I submitted a proposal to the National Heritage Council. We were awarded an amount of R980 000,00 for two years to ensure the continuation of the programme.

Future of Partnership with ICGC

In October 2009, I was invited to participate in the ICGC's annual faculty meeting to discuss the future of the collaboration between colleagues at the University of Minnesota and the University of the Western Cape. With the imminent retirement of Prof. Allen Isaacman from the directorship of the ICGC, the possibility of strengthening our

partnership through charting new collaborative projects was raised as a central issue in our discussions. The ICGC committed itself to continuing its collaboration with the University of Minnesota and accepted several proposals emanating from our discussions with UWC faculty

We agreed with the ICGC to pursue three new aspects of the exchange. The first related to an international conference in October 2010 on the legacies of Apartheid in Southern Africa. Themed “**Art Contra Apartheid**”, the conference will be jointly co-hosted by the CHR and ICGC. The conference will be accompanied by an exhibition based on an art collection housed at the Mayibuye Centre at UWC that was originally commissioned by the United Nations in the 1980s. The art collection consists of works by leading artists from around the world and was curated under the title *Art Contra Apartheid*. Opened by the late Jacques Derrida, the exhibition sparked an international debate on the meaning attributed to the word Apartheid. The aim of the project is reflect more deeply on the problem of deracialising Southern African societies and to offer more nuanced points of entry on the debate on race than is currently available in public deliberations internationally.

A second proposal related to the possibility of launching a book series via the CHR on the theme “Postcolonial Transactions of Knowledge”. The hope here is that we would explore possibilities to have the series published by the University of Minnesota Press. Both Professors Allen Isaacman and Eric Sheppard agreed to raise the matter with the University of Minnesota Press.

The third proposal related to the establishment of a Research Chair in the Humanities tied to the overarching interests of the CHR in the humanities, postcolonial studies and aesthetics. The aim of the Chair is to forge an international discussion on postcolonial transactions of knowledge.

Personal achievements

Following the publication of my book, *The Deaths of Hintsa: Postapartheid South Africa and the Shape of Recurring Pasts* (Cape Town: HSRC Press, 2009), I contributed a chapter to an edited collection on social theory in South Africa, *Re-imagining the Social: Critique, Theory and Post-apartheid Society* (Durban: UKZN Press, 2009) edited by Peter Vale and Heather Jacklin. The article details a critical reflection on the work of the PSHA and proposes ways of thinking about the reconstitution of the study of the humanities in Africa.

I have also had the opportunity of presenting lectures and conference papers at the American University of Cairo, the University of the Western Cape, Utrecht University and the University of Minnesota. These presentations were related both to my monograph as well as a new project on a history of sadness. I have participated in most of the colloquia at the CHR and served as discussant on several occasions.

In 2009, I continued my role as supervisor in of Masters and Doctoral candidates. This year, I oversaw the successful completion of Virgil Slades research thesis, “Producing Sarhili: The colonial archive and the biographical limits of writing a history of a nineteenth-century Xhosa king”. The thesis was externally examined by Professors Jacob Tropp (Middlebury College, USA) and Alan Kirkaldy (Rhodes University, Grahamstown). The joint supervision of Riedwaan Moosage’s Masters thesis is ongoing and should reach completion by the June 2010. I continue supervising Thozama April’s doctoral dissertation on Charlotte Maxeke. I currently serve as examining committee member for Jesse Bucher and Isaac Kamo’s doctoral dissertations at the University of Minnesota’s History and Political Science Departments respectively. I have also offered several guest lectures to first-year undergraduate students in the History Department and have regularly participated in the lecture-debates that form a major part of the curriculum. During the first semester, I co-taught the History core course, History after apartheid, at Honours level with Nicky Rousseau. Finally, I have continued my role as an active board

member of the District Six Museum, held the position of acting Deputy Dean for Research, Arts Faculty, UWC for a brief period in 2009, served on UWC's senate and the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, and chaired the review of the Geography Department's tourism studies programme.

In my position as director, I have found much less time to conduct my own research. I am hoping that this situation will be alleviated with the senior researcher search on offer in the CHR. However, the research convened under the auspices of the CHR has been profoundly rewarding, especially as I think of a second project on the nostalgic constructions of agency in nationalist discourse in South Africa. The downside of an expansive and regular programme resulted in difficulty in always following through on the more substantive projects in the CHR. The attempt to draw together our research in a published manuscript and the desire to collate papers from the conference in July as well as the numerous colloquia has not come to fruition. It is also a source of major frustration on the part of fellows. Dr Paolo Israel and Dr Annachiara Forte have agreed to take the matter of the publication forward in 2010.

We made some progress towards reconstructing the website of the CHR with the help of Dane Davis, Aidan Erasmus and Luyanda Mtyeku, both employed as undergraduate assistants through the work-study office. We hope that the revisions will be posted with the availability of a new UWC website. In the meantime, we have approached JSTOR to serve as a platform of *Kronos: Southern African Histories*. We are also exploring the possibilities for an independent web design for the CHR.

In October 2009, Professors Patricia Hayes and Duncan Brown met with representatives from the Ford Foundation to discuss ongoing programmes and research projects at UWC. I am following up with local foundations to support the work of the CHR. I would like to acknowledge the work by Professors Helena Pohlandt-McCormick and Fernando Arena's

in drafting the proposal for our collaboration with the University of Minnesota to this end.

While the funding situation seems strained, we are nevertheless committed to the intellectual project of the CHR and will strive to ensure that its formative questions are taken forward in ways that enhance the research standing of our faculty and the University as a whole.

For the 2010 academic year we selected fellows from an impressive applicant pool. The first fellows on the African Humanities Programme of the American Council for Learned Societies are due to arrive from Ghana and Nigeria by February 2010. Professor Bud Duvall from the University of Minnesota Political Studies Department is due to visit the CHR from June to September 2010 as an ICGC fellow. And we will be joined by an outstanding group of doctoral and postdoctoral fellows in the CHR covering research on Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Namibia, South Africa, and Mozambique. The stage is set for another year of cutting-edge research, discussion and debate on the questions that have come to define the CHR as a major research initiative in South Africa.

Premesh Lalu (Prof.)

Director