

HISTORY WORKSHOP

1987 CONFERENCE

THE MAKING OF CLASS

REVISED PROGRAMME

(Subject to change)

Monday 09 February 1987

4.00 - 5.00 pm	Registration	Wits Theatre Foyer
5.00 - 6.30 pm	Cocktail Party	Wits Theatre Foyer

Opening of Conference by  
Prof. K. Tober  
Vice Chancellor of the University

Plus

Opening of Photographic Exhibitions by  
Paul Weinberg, Omar Badsha and Jenny Gordon

Plus

Launching of two books by  
Luli Callinicos and Belinda Bozzoli

Tuesday 10 February 1987

9.00 - 10.30 am CB 38

Plenary Session: Welcome

Session I: TRANSFORMING URBAN CULTURE

Discussant: Prof. P. Bonner (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Mr I. Edwards (Natal)

"Swing the Assegai Peacefully?" "New Africa, M'Kumbane,  
Co-operative Movements and Attempts to Transform Durban  
Society in the late 1940s."







(Tuesday 10 February, continued)

Papers:

Dr R. Edgecombe (Natal)

"The Token System: An Aspect of Labour Control and Stabilisation on the Natal Collieries."

Prof. A. Jeeves and Dr D. Yudelman (Queens University, Canada)

"William Gemmill and the South African Labour Frontier, 1920 - 1950."

Dr B. Hirson (London)

"Whatever did Happen at Jagersfontein? Or; Diamonds are Forever - But Gold is For Now!"

D. Brown (Natal)

"Literacy and Class Formation in the South African Gold Mines."

Session III B:

RURAL SOCIETY PAST  
AND PRESENT

RW 319

Discussant:

Dr J. Peires (Rhodes)

Papers:

Ms D. James (Witwatersrand)

"Land Shortage and Inheritance in a Lebowa Village."

Dr A. Morris (Trac)

"A Peasantry under Siege: A Case Study of the Farms Bloedfontein and Geweerfontein."

Ms K. Reimer (Witwatersrand)

"Changing Technology and the Sexual Division of Labour on the Land: A Case Study."

3.00 - 3.30 pm

T E A

RW Foyer

3.30 - 5.00 pm

SPLIT SESSIONS

Session IV A:

19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
ETHNICITY

RW 319

Discussant:

Ms D. James (Witwatersrand)



(Tuesday 10 February, continued)

Papers:

**Ms C. Hamilton (Witwatersrand)**

"Traditions of Origin and the Ideological Appropriation of the Past in the Early Zulu Kingdom."

**Dr P. Harries (UCT)**

"The Roots of Ethnicity: Discourse and the Politics of Language Construction in South-East Africa."

**Dr P. Delius (Witwatersrand)**

"The Nzundza Ndebele: The Experience of Indenture and the Making of Ethnicity."

**Dr E.A. Mantzaris (Durban - Westville)**

"Class, Community, Language and Struggle: Hebrew against Yiddish in SA, 1900-1914."

Session IVB:

CONTROL OF THE POOR

CB 8

Discussant:

Prof. W. Freund (Natal)

Papers:

**Ms S. Parnell (Witwatersrand)**

"Johannesburg's Backyards: The Slums of New Doornfontein, Bertrams and Prospect, 1934-1939."

**Mr J. Kelly (Natal)**

"The State, Capital, Reproduction and Control: Black Working Class Housing in Durban."

**Ms H. Sapire (Witwatersrand)**

"African Settlement and Segregation in Brakpan, 1920-1927."

**Prof. C. Rogerson (Witwatersrand)**

"Shisha Nyama: The Rise and Fall of the Native Eating House Trade in Johannesburg."

**Mr R.E. Pretorius (Witwatersrand)**

"Banishment: Germiston's Answer to Opposition in Natalspruit Location, 1955-1957."

8.00 pm

OPENING OF GARMENT WORKERS PLAY  
(See separate Programme)

Wits Theatre



Wednesday 11 February 1987

9.00 - 10.30 am            SPLIT SESSIONS

Session VA:                    RURAL STRUGGLES                    CB 8

Discussant:                    Prof. C. van Onselen (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

**Mr T. Clynick (Witwatersrand)**

"Rural Class Formation and Poor Whites, 1910s-20s."

**Dr A. Grundlingh (Unisa)**

"God het ons arm mense die Houtjies gegee: Towards a History of the 'poor white' Woodcutters in the Southern Cape Forest Area, c. 1900-1939."

**Ms S. Newton-King (Unibo)**

"Commerce and Material Culture on the Eastern Cape Frontier, 1764-1812."

**Dr A. Mabin (Witwatersrand)**

"Class and Power in Outlying Mining Communities."

**Dr J. Bottomley (Unibo)**

"Political Resurgence in the Orange River Colony and the Brandfort Congress of 1904."

Session VB:                    CONTEMPORARY STRUGGLES IN NATAL                    RW 319

Discussant:                    Dr W. James (UCT)

Papers:

**Mr M. De Haas (Natal)**

"Culture, Class and Consciousness in Contemporary Natal."

**Dr H. Hughes (Natal)**

"Violence in Inanda, August 1985."

10.30 - 11.00 am            T E A                    RW Foyer

11.00 - 12.30 pm            SPLIT SESSIONS

Session VIA:                    BLACK INTELLECTUALS BETWEEN                    CB 8  
THE WARS

Discussant:                    Dr W. Nasson (UCT)



(Wednesday 11 February, continued)

Papers:

Mr J. Campbell (Stanford)  
"T.D. Mveli Skota and the Making and Unmaking of a Black Elite."

Ms J. Starfield (Witwatersrand)  
"Not Quite History: The Autobiographical Writings of R.V. Selope Thema and Selby Msimang."

Dr M. Orkin (Witwatersrand)  
"Dhlomo's Plays."

Dr A. Odendaal (Western Cape)  
"Sport and Society before Union."

Mr R. Morrell (Natal)  
"Nipping a Little Game in the Bud", Pixley Ka Izaka Seme, Land Purchase and Rural Differentiation in the Eastern Transvaal, c. 1910-1920."

Session VIB: RACE, CLASS AND REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS RW 319

Discussant: Prof. W. Freund (Natal)

Papers:

Dr B. Hirson (London)  
"The British Seaman's Strike of 1925: Solidarity in South Africa."

Mr O. Crankshaw (Witwatersrand)  
"The Labour Process and Registered Trade Unions in the Building Industry, 1955-1976."

Mr L. Witz (Witwatersrand)  
"Organising for Control: The Garment workers Union, the Indian Tailoring Section and the SA Clothing Workers Union, 1928-1936."

12.20 - 1.30 pm LUNCH Upstairs - Students Union

1.30 - 3.00 pm SPLIT SESSIONS

Session VIIA: YOUTH CULTURE AND ORGANISATION CB 8

Discussant: Prof. B. Bozzoli (Witwatersrand)



(Wednesday 11 February, continued)

Papers:

Prof. P. Bonner (Witwatersrand)

"Family, Crime and Political Consciousness on the East Rand, 1939-1955."

Mr C. Glaser (Witwatersrand)

"Students, Tsotsis and the Congress Youth League: Youth Organisations on the Rand in the 1940s and 1950s."

Mr J. Hyslop (Witwatersrand)

"A Preface to Peoples' Education: Reflections on the 1955-56 School Boycotts."

Session VIIB:

ORGANISED STRUGGLE IN THE  
FORTIES AND FIFTIES

RW 319

Discussant:

Dr D. Innes (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Prof. T.D. Moodie (Hobart and William Smith, New York)

"The 1946 Black Mineworkers Strike."

Dr W. James (UCT)

"Grounds for a Strike: South African Gold Mining in the 1940s."

3.00 - 3.30 pm

T E A

RW Foyer

3.30 - 5.00 pm

SPLIT SESSIONS

Session VIIIA:

WORKING CLASS LEADERSHIP

CB 8

Discussant:

Prof. E. Webster (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Ms D. Bonnin (Natal)

"Two Generations of Worker Leadership in the Natal Midlands, 1940-1986."

Dr A. Sitas, et al, (Natal)

"Ethnicity, Violence and Class Leadership in Durban."

Dr J. Maree (UCT)

"Harnessing Intellectuals: Tensions between Democracy and Leadership in the Independent Trade Unions in the 1970s."



Wednesday 11 February, continued)

Papers:

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Dr J. Maree (UCT)

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Session VIIIIB:           **FAMILY, IDENTITY AND  
CONSCIOUSNESS**

RW 319

Discussant:           Dr J. Cock (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Ms G. Jaffee (Witwatersrand)

"Women Commuter Workers of the Thusanang Sewing Project: Their Group Identity, Households and Consciousness."

Ms E. Brink (Witwatersrand)

"Only Decent Girls get Employed: The Respectability, Decency and Virtues of the Garment Workers on the Witwatersrand during the Thirties."

Ms A. van Niekerk (Witwatersrand)

"Changing Patterns of Worker Accommodation: Zebediela Citrus estate, 1926-1953."

6.00 pm

TALK BY DAVID GOLDBLATT

Market Theatre

on the Photographic Exhibition  
"The Other 100 Years",  
to mark the publication of the  
book of historical photographs  
"Johannesburg: Images and Continuities"  
by Patrick Pearson and Peter Kallaway,  
(arising from the 1978 History Workshop).

8.00 pm

GARMENT WORKERS PLAY

Wits Theatre

(See separate programme)



Thursday 12 February 1987

9.00 - 10.30 am SPLIT SESSIONS

Session IXA: CAPITAL AND THE STATE RW 319

Discussant: Dr P. Hudson (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Mr P. Hendler (Witwatersrand)  
"The Interweaving of Social Reproduction and Capital Accumulation in the Making of Soweto."

Prof. W. Freund (Natal)  
"Defending Capitalism, A Review of Merle Lipton's 'Capitalism and Apartheid'."

Session IXB: NARRATIVE IN RURAL SETTINGS CB 8

Discussant: Dr S. Clingman (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Mr P. Kohler (HSRC)  
"Freeburghers, the Nama and the Politics of the Frontier Tradition: An Analysis of Social Relations in the Second Narrative of J.M. Coetzee's 'Dusklands'. Towards an Historiography of South African Literature."

Ms I. Hofmeyr (Witwatersrand)  
"Turning Region into Narrative: English Storytelling in the Waterberg."

Dr T.J. Keegan (Witwatersrand)  
"Exploiting the Contradictions: The Life of Ndae Makume."

Ms E. Gunner (SOAS)  
"Power House, Prison House: An Oral Genre and its Use in Isaiah Shambe's Nazareth Baptist Church."

10.30 - 11.00 am T E A RW Foyer

11.00 - 12.30 pm SPLIT SESSIONS

Session XA: ORAL HISTORY METHODOLOGY CB 8

Discussant: Prof. C. Bundy (UCT)



(Thursday 12 February, continued)

Papers:

**Mr R. Lambert (Natal)**

"Oral History and the South African Congress of Trade Unions: Problems of Interpretations in a Politicised Present."

**Dr P. Harries (UCT)**

"Songs as Oral History."

**Dr S. Clingman (Witwatersrand)**

"Biography and Representation: Some Analogies from Fiction."

Session XB:

**LIBERALISM AND SOCIAL REFORM**

**RW 319**

Discussant:

**Prof. A. Jeeves (Queens University, Canada)**

Papers:

**Prof. B. Murray (Witwatersrand)**

"Wits as an Open University."

**Ms L. Chisholm (Witwatersrand)**

"The Politics of Penology: The Case of Jacob de Villiers Roos, 1894-1918."

**Mr J. Krikler (Oxford)**

"William Macmillan and the Working Class."

**Mr J. Hyslop (Witwatersrand)**

"African School Boards, 1955-1976."

**Dr P. Rich (Warwick)**

"Managing Black Leadership: The Joint Councils, Urban Trading and Political Conflict in the Orange Free State, 1925-1942."

12.30 - 1.30 pm **L U N C H**

Upstairs -  
Students Union

1.30 - 3.00 pm SPLIT SESSIONS

Session XIA:

**ORAL HISTORY CASE STUDIES**

**CB 8**

Discussant:

**Ms I. Hofmeyr (Witwatersrand)**



(Thursday 12 February, continued)

Papers:

Dr W. Nasson (UCT)

" 'She Preferred Living in a Cave with Harry the Snake Catcher.' Towards an Oral History of Popular Leisure and Class Expression in District Six, Cape Town, 1920-1950s."

Dr J. Peires (Rhodes)

"Piet Draghoender's Lament."

Session XIB: IMPERIALISM AND THE MAKING  
OF CLASS

RW 319

Discussant: Dr P. Lewsen (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Mr R. Cope (Witwatersrand)

"A Contribution to the Making of the South African Working Class: Native Policy in the 1870s."

Dr G. Campbell (Witwatersrand)

"Labour and the Problem of Class in 19th Century Imerina (Madagascar)."

Dr V. Bickford-Smith (UCT)

"Cape Town at the Advent of the Minerals Revolution, c. 1875."

3.00 - 3.30 pm T E A

RW Foyer

3.30 - 5.00 pm SPLIT SESSIONS

Session XIIA: CHANGING WORKER CULTURE

SHB 3

Discussant: Prof. T.D. Moodie (Hobart and William Smith, New York)

Papers:

Ms A. von Kotze (Natal)

"First World Industry and Third World Workers: The Struggle for Workers Theatre in South Africa."

Dr A. Sitas (Natal)

"The Flight of the Gwala Gwala Bird: Class and Populism in the Natal Worker Cultural Locals."



(Thursday 12 February, continued)

Dr V. Erlmann (Witwatersrand)

"Singing Brings Joy to the Distressed: The Social History of Zulu Migrant Workers' Choral Competitions."

Session XIIB: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ORGANISATION

RW 319

Discussant: Dr T. Lodge (Witwatersrand)

Papers:

Prof. C. Bundy (UCT)

"Street Sociology and Pavement Politics: Youth Politics in Cape Town in 1985."

Mr M. Swilling (Witwatersrand)

"The UDF and Township Revolt in South Africa."

Mr M. Chaskalson, Mr S. Jeremy and Ms K. Jochelson (Witwatersrand)

"Rent Boycotts in the Transvaal and the Northern Free State, September 1984 - January 1987."

Mr S. Jeremy (Witwatersrand)

"The Origin of Political Mobilisation in PWV Townships, 1980-1984."

5.30 - 6.30 pm SHOWING OF THE HISTORY WORKSHOP SLIDE SHOW  
"Fight Where We Stand"  
with discussion

SHB 3

Drinks and snacks will be served

8.00 pm GARMENT WORKERS PLAY  
(See separate programme)

Wits Theatre

Friday 13 February 1987

All Day EXHIBITIONS

SH Foyers



(Friday 13 February, continued)

9.00 - 10.30 am

SH 6

Session XIII: LEARNING AND TEACHING  
PEOPLE'S HISTORY

Chairperson: Ms L. Callinicos

Discussant: Mr Leslie Witz (SACHED / History Workshop)

Papers:

Dr N. Parsons (Botswana)  
"Notes from the Other Side: Teaching History  
in the Frontline States."

Ms C. Kros (JCE)  
"Beyond Model Curricula."

Ms Melanie Walker (University of the Western Cape)  
"An Introduction to the History Commission."

Dr M. Gardiner (JCE)  
"The Possibilities of People's English for People's Power."

Ms S. Krige (SACHED)  
"History Textbook Writing."

10.30 - 11.00 am T E A

SH 6 Foyer

11.00 - 1.00 pm SPLIT SESSIONS

Session XIVA: PEOPLE'S HISTORY ON THE STAGE

SHB 3

Chairperson: Prof. I. Steadman (Witwatersrand)

Presentations by:

Dr A. von Kotze (Natal)

Mr M. Purkey (Witwatersrand)

Session XIVB: THE VISUAL IMAGE IN POPULAR  
HISTORY

SHB 4

Chairperson: Mrs L. Callinicos (Witwatersrand)

Presentations by:

Mr J. Brown (American Social History Project)

Mr S. Rothenberg (Learn and Teach Publications)



Friday 13 February, continued)

Session XIVC: WRITE YOUR OWN HISTORY CB 8

Chairperson: Ms H. Perold (SACHED)

Presentations by:

Mr L. Witz (SACHED / Witwatersrand Council of Churches Project)

Dr M. Lacey (Rhodes / Oral History Workshop, Grahamstown)

1.00 - 2.00 pm LUNCH Upstairs - Students Union

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Session XV: POPULARISING THE PRECOLONIAL PAST SHB 4

Chairperson: Prof. P. Bonner (Witwatersrand)

Discussant: Dr N. Parsons (Botswana)

Papers:

Prof. J. Wright (Natal)  
"Popularising the Precolonial Past."

Ms C. Hamilton and Ms H. Webster (Swaziland Oral History Project)  
"The Struggle for Control over the Voices of the Past and the Socialising Role of Precolonial History: Perspectives on the Production of Precolonial Education Material."

Mr A. Mazel and Mr P. Stewart (Natal Museum)  
"Perpetual Poisoning of the Mind: A Consideration of the Treatment of the San and the Origins of South Africa's Black Population in South African School History Textbooks."

Mr M. Thabane (Roma)  
"Africanist Historiography, Personal Reminiscences and Romanticisation of the Past."

Prof. R. Mason (Witwatersrand)  
"The Role of Archaeology in Popular History."

3.30 - 4.00 pm TEA SHB Foyer



(Friday 13 February, continued)

4.00 - 5.30 pm

Session XVI:            PANEL DISCUSSION

SH 6

THE POLITICS OF PEOPLE'S  
HISTORY

Chairperson:            Prof. Eddie Webster (Witwatersrand)

Saturday 14 February 1987

All Day

OPEN DAY

See separate  
programme

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