

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 FIRST EDITION

This is the first edition of the CERT-CAWE newsletter, which will be issued every semester. It gives brief information about the past and upcoming events hosted by the centre and the chair, sheds light on some of the ongoing research projects, academic publications, and media statements of our members, and conveys other exciting news to our community of scholars, students, educators, activists, artists... Enjoy the read!

WHAT HAPPENED IN MARCH-MAY?

CERT post-covid reopening:
Social event & Welcoming of new director J. Bam-Hutchison.
A social and networking event was held at UJ research village, hosted by CERT-CAWE, on the 14th of March to revive the academic life post-covid. We also welcomed the new director of CERT at this occasion, Prof June Bam-Hutchison. UJ vice-dean of research and postgrad studies, Prof Mdu Ndlovu shared the conclusions of the five-year review of the centre, and visuals illustrating key academic publications, community-engaged research and educational projects, and media statements produced by CERT-CAWE were displayed. We had the joy to be entertained by the talented musician Gordon Jackson.



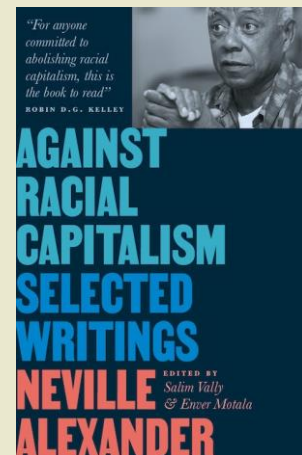
PROF JUNE BAM-HUTCHISON
INTRODUCTORY SPEECH (14/03)



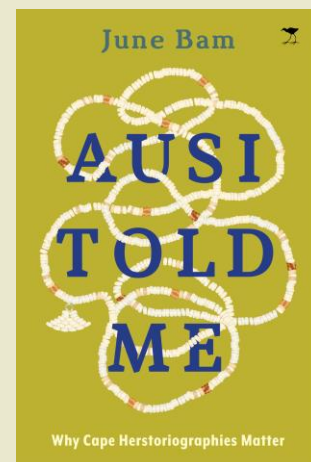
GORDON JACKSON
PERFORMING (14/03)

FRESH FROM THE PRESS

Two important books were recently published by members of the CERT:



Against Racial Capitalism, selected writings by Neville Alexander, edited by Salim Vally and Enver Motala, Pluto Press, 2023.



Ausi told me. Why Cape historiographies matter, by June Bam, Jacana media, 2021.



**PROF SALIM VALLY AND PROF MDU NDLOVU
WELCOMING THE NEW DIRECTOR (14/03)**



A WELL-ATTENDED GATHERING (14/03)



EXHIBITING CERT-CAWE'S WORK (14/03)



**AFRICA DAY WITH EUGENE SKEEF, KHAYA
MAHLANGU & VUYO VUMISA (25/05)**

PhD students training retreat in the Magaliesberg
CERT-CAWE organised a three-day retreat between the 23rd and 25th of May in the Magaliesberg for a cohort of PhD students based at UJ and the University of Cape Town, supervised by CERT members. The programme was put together and facilitated by Prof June Bam-Hutchison and the two postdocs of CERT-CAWE: Jeanne Bouyat and Francesco Pontarelli. It involved presentations and discussions of the doctoral research projects and multiple collective sessions on academic writing, literature searches, and decolonial research methods. It was a great moment of mutual learning for all.



DISCUSSING STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS (24/05)



PHD COHORT AND ORGANISING TEAM UNDER THE OAK TREE (25/05)

Africa Day celebration & tribute to Aziz Choudry
with E. Skeef, K. Mahlangu & V. Vumisa

A unique performance by Eugene Skeef, Khaya Mahlangu, and Vuyo Vumisa mixing water drum and pottery percussion, saxophone, and bass guitar, with poetry dance was held for Africa Day on the 25th and 26th of May. It included a tribute poem entitled *After the song of the rain* dedicated to the memory of the late Prof Aziz Choudry. It was followed by a spiritual song and dance to "call the birds back". The event was also curated with the assistance of Brenda Sisane.

External seminars: Prof Salim Vally on activism & academia; and Prof Leon Tikly on decolonising education for sustainable futures

Two external seminars were organised by CERT-CAWE during this first part of the academic year. The first was co-hosted with UJ Division for Teaching excellence, and was held on the 9th of May. Prof Salim Vally, the director of the CAWE chair, gave a presentation on the theme “Pursuing Academia as an activist? The Artificial Divide: Scholarship and Activism”. It was based on a recent article entitled “Reimagining university-community engagement”, published in the *South African Journal of Higher Education* in April 2023, in which Salim reflects on the community engaged research activities of CERT over years and identifies key lessons for South African universities, and for higher education more broadly.

The second external seminar was a presentation by Prof Leon Tikly on the 23rd of May, based at the University of Bristol and associated researcher with CERT, on the theme “Decolonising Education for Sustainable Futures: Some conceptual starting points”. It was based on the introductory chapter in the forthcoming book *Decolonising Education for Sustainable Futures* coedited by Hutchison, Y. Cortez, A. Paulson, J. and Tikly, L., to be published by Bristol University Press. In this chapter, Leon synthesizes dominant approaches to education for sustainable futures, and formulates a stimulating critic of their western-centric nature.



SALIM VALLY (ON THE LEFT) AND LERATO MSIWA (ON THE RIGHT) RESPONDING TO PROF LEON TIKLY'S PRESENTATION (23/05)

Internal seminars: learning from indigenous insights, at church, and through befriending teachers, with V. Ludwig, T. Gamedze, J. Bouyat and N. Robinson.

In addition to these public events, three internal seminars were held among CERT-CAWE members to present work in progress. Firstly, PhD candidate Vanessa Ludwig presented a draft paper entitled “An Oral History of the Two Rivers Urban Park” on the 18th of April. It dealt with foregrounding silenced indigenous perspectives on the history of a contested site in Cape Town, through using oral history as a method.

Then, on the 25th of April, PhD candidate Thandi Gamedze, presented a draft chapter of her doctoral dissertation focused on how an evangelical church in Cape Town is reproducing societal power relations relating to gender, race, and class through its teaching, both overt and covert. Her doctoral research seeks more broadly to explore how the church may be approached as a classroom.

Lastly, on the 16th of May, CERT-CAWE postdoc Jeanne Bouyat co-presented a draft paper cowritten with Natasha Robinson, lecturer at the School of Education of the University of Bristol, entitled “Becoming friends with the teacher: tensions and rewards of ethnographic research in low-income schools in South Africa”. It dealt with the methodological and ethical complexities associated with befriending a teacher in the course of conducting a doctoral research relying on long classroom observations (in the case of Natasha) and on coproduced research and teaching (in the case of Jeanne).

Other events co-organised by CERT-CAWE:

DVV International meeting, DHET training

On the 11-14th of April 2023, DVV International held a partners' meeting in Stellenbosch dedicated to Adult and Community Education in South Africa, with a focus on youth, community colleges, and popular education. The discussions were organised by Ivor Baatjes, Thandi Gamedze, Leonard Gentle, Britt Baatjes and David Harrington. It was attended by Salim Vally, June Bam-Hutchison and Nompumelelo Cebekhulu.

On the 21st of April, Prof Salim Vally gave a keynote address at the College Lecturer Education Project close-out event organised by the Department of Higher Education and Training. He talked in a panel on Adult and Community Education and Training, and his presentation was titled "Community Education: Purpose, Potential and Obstacles".

Palestinian solidarity events

CERT-CAWE co-hosted two Palestinian solidarity events: a conversation with Prof Noor Nieftagodien (Wits University) and Kopaneng Africa member and *Africa is a Country* editor William Shoki on the 13th of March for the Israeli Apartheid Week, and Prof Salim Vally chaired the Shireen Abu Akleh lecture on May the 24th.



UPCOMING EVENTS

In the coming months CERT-CAWE will host several exciting public talks. Prof Hakim Adi from Chichester University will present on the relevance of African Diaspora Studies and Pan Africanism for schools curriculum development. Prof Wangui Wa Goro from SOAS will give a lecture entitled "The future we want is now: Reconfiguring society through education and culture for an African Renaissance". Dr. Sehlaphi Sibanda will present on her recently completed PhD project dedicated to Zimbabwean women working in Johannesburg Restaurant sector. In addition, the centre and chair will organise the launches of the two recently published books *Ausi told me* and *Against Racial Capitalism*.

Moreover, the **2023 Neville Alexander Conference** will take place in August at the UJ.

Lastly, PhD candidates Evan Hendon, Brita Phuti, Tirivashe Jele, Drissa Tangara and Charlene Houston will all present at the CERT-CAWE internal seminar series. Dates for these events will be confirmed soon.

IN THE MEDIA

Salim Vally & Enver Motala on student movements

On the 9th of March, in the wake of a resurgence of student mobilisations on South African university campuses, Prof Salim Vally and Prof Enver Motala wrote an opinion piece for *Mail and Guardian* titled "Why the latest student protests were predictable".

See the piece here:

<https://mg.co.za/thoughtleader/opinion/2023-03-09-why-the-latest-student-protests-were-predictable/>

Sarah Black debunking performance-related pay for teachers

On the 18th of April, Sara Black, Lecturer at SOAS and previously postdoc at CERT-CAWE, wrote a piece published in *Daily Maverick* titled "Performance-related pay for teachers is nothing more than zombie education policy thinking".

See the piece here:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionists/2023-04-18-performance-related-pay-for-teachers-is-nothing-more-than-zombie-education-policy-thinking/>

TV interview of June Bam-Hutchison & Eugene Skeef



On the 3rd of June, Prof June Bam-Hutchison & Eugene Skeef were interviewed on Sub-Saharan TV to talk about the decolonisation of education through using indigenous knowledges. They presented about deep listening and explained how it may be used for pedagogy, artistic and educational performances, and as a research method.

See the full interview here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduation: Congratulations to Dawu!

In March 2023, Sehlaphi Sibanda (Dawu) became a Dokotela. She successfully completed her PhD under the supervision of Prof Mondli Hlatshwayo and Prof Siphelo Ngcwangu. Her doctoral dissertation is titled *Gender as a Central Organising Axis of Power: Zimbabwean Women in the Restaurant Sector in Johannesburg*. The whole CERT-CAWE is very thrilled by this achievement! Dawu will soon present in our public seminar series.

New visiting members

CERT-CAWE are welcoming two visiting PhD candidates this academic year. Tirivashe Jele studies at the University of Chichester and is researching the Jele clan and the Mfecane. She is visiting for two years. She will be conducting her research and working closely with her co-supervisor Prof June Bam-Hutchison. Brita Phuthi is a PhD candidate at the Oslo Metropolitan University and is doing research on the role of teacher educators based at South African universities in promoting sustainable education, through a focus on structural racism and social inequalities. She is visiting for this year, and is co-supervised by Prof Salim Vally.



TIRIVASHE JELE



BRITA PHUTHI

Update of CERT website

A brand new version of the CERT official page is now ready, have a look here:

<https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/education/centres/centre-for-education-rights-and-transformation/>

Award: 2023 NIHSS prize for *Ausi told me!*

CERT-CAWE is very proud to announce that the recently published book *Ausi told me. Why Cape historiographies matter* by Prof June Bam-Hutchison won the 2023 Best Non-Fiction Monograph prize awarded by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences!



CERT-CAWE WITH WIDE OPEN DOORS! (14/03)

Pictures taken by Eshcha Adams, Jeanne Bouyat, Tirivashe Jele, Brita Phuthi. Text and layout by Jeanne Bouyat.

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