

# Encouraged, celebrated and never taken for granted

The Inaugural NIHSS Annual Book, Creative Collection and Digital Contribution Awards on Wednesday night, was an exciting and memorable event attended by scholars, artists, poets, playwrights, musicians and thought leaders in the public discourse among other luminaries.

It is said that more than 90 submissions were received of which over 67 were books. 30 judges, including 4 chair judges spent months going over the books.

Winners in the following categories were announced:

Digital Humanities: winners of Best DH tool or suite of tools and Best DH project for community engagement; Creative Collections: winners of Best Public Performances and Best Musical Composition/Arrangement ; Books: Non-Fiction:

winners of Best Monograph and Best Edited Volume; and finally Books Fiction: winners of Best Single Authored and Best Edited Volume.

Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande delivered a key-note address that had the audience cheering and laughing when he joked that "I don't want to bore you with long speeches, typical of politicians".

Nzimande congratulated the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences for the creation of the awards and said "I am delighted that the sector has embraced this important initiative with an overwhelmingly positive response from academics, curators and artists.

"In the 21st century where scholarship and its value are often measured by a commodification logic, the approach by the NIHSS is

refreshing and welcomed. It is important in our country at this critical historical juncture to emancipate the imagination of our people to seek innovative, creative and responsible solutions to the real issues we confront in South Africa today.

"The re-imagining of the humanities and the social sciences in this regard is absolutely vital, and I want to acknowledge the important work of the NIHSS in this regard," he said.

"The role of the humanities and the social sciences in questioning and challenging the dominant notions of development and progress as well as the commodification of knowledge production in our institutions of learning is very important.

"The role of the humanities and social sciences must



Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande and Dr Sarah Moseoetsa Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the inaugural awards ceremony

not only assist us in analyzing and interpreting the world we live in, but must enable us to change the material conditions and lived experiences of those most marginalised and alienated in society.

"The humanities must enable the rural and urban poor; women and young people, the indigenous peoples and the working classes to change the world".

Nzimande also commended

the role played by NIHSS CEO Dr Sarah Moseoetsa saying under her capable leadership since its inception, the NIHSS continues to play an important role in advancing post-graduate

scholarship in the humanities and dynamising research and teaching of the humanities and social sciences at South African universities.

"The NIHSS is a statutory body which seeks to advance and co-ordinate scholarship, research and ethical practice in the humanities and social science field, thus contributing to the transformation of the social sciences at our universities. One of the key objectives of the Institute is to promote equity and social justice in and through the humanities.

"The Institute continues to fulfil this mandate through its doctoral and masters support programmes and has to date awarded more than 300 PhD scholarships, with about 74% awarded to African women. "The #RhodesMustFall movement has again raised sharply the issue of

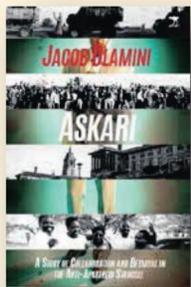
transformation at our universities. The call for the removal of the statue of Cecil John Rhodes from the University of Cape Town dramatically came to symbolize the struggles of black students at previously white universities.

"Transformation in this context must include greater demographic diversity at our universities, both in terms of students and staff".

Dr Moseoetsa thanked the judging panel and the winners for "setting the standard and paving the way for our future NIHSS Book, Creative and Digital Awards participants.

To all the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences Inaugural trailblazers, thank you for the role you play in redefining the humanities and social sciences landscape.

# AND THE WINNERS ARE...



## Best Monograph

Jacob Dlamini  
– *Askari*



## Best Edited Volume

Peter Alexander, Claire Ceruti, Keke Motseke, Mosa Phadi & Kim Wale  
– *Class in Soweto*

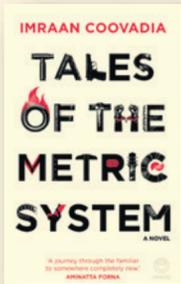
## Best Public Performance

Jay Pather  
– *Live Festival*



## Best Musical Composition / Arrangement

Sazi Dlamini, Neo Muyanga  
Sumangala Damodaran, Ari Sitas;  
produced by Jurgen Brauningner  
– *Insurrections*



## Best Single Authored

Imraan Coovadia  
– *Tales of the metric system*

## Best DH project for community engagement

Shirley Walters & Astrid Von Kotze:  
– *Popular Education*



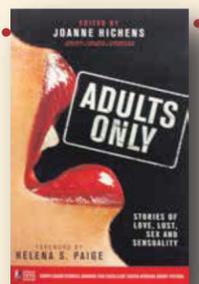
## Best DH tool or suite of tools

Nirma Madhoo – Chippis:  
– *Future Body: Technological Embodiment in Digital Fashion Media*



## Best Edited Volume

Joanne Hichens  
– *Adults Only*



As the NIHSS we are delighted to take on the exciting responsibility of being the voice that lauds the preeminent contributions of HSS scholarly works. With these Awards, we intend to recapture and reignite the true status of the HSS in South Africa so that it occupies its rightful position. It is part of our concerted effort to show value of what has generally been devalued over time.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES