

# Humanities and Social Sciences Award 2017 Finalists

Academics who have sent in numerous entries for the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) Awards have been praised by the organisation. The awards, which are in their second year, have attracted 21 entries from non-fiction; fiction; creative collections and the digital contributions category. The award ceremony will be held on the 29th of March 2017. NIHSS CEO, Professor Sarah Mosoetsa said much work needs to be done to identify, support and promote new South African voices, authors and stories in the Humanities and

Social Sciences. (HSS) "New partnerships will need to be developed to prioritise books and creative collections that promote African languages," she said in

to increase the recognition afforded to HSS book and creative outputs." She added that entrants from new publishers and entrants gave the institute hope that the humanities are

outstanding, innovative and socially responsible scholarship that enhance and advance the fields of Human Social Sciences." The chair judges who also form part of the 30-odd panel of judges and reviewers include Joyce Myeza, Thembinkosi Goniwe, Professor Shireen Hassim and Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola. Mosoetsa said: "As the Institute, the HSS Awards have certainly energised us to carry on with the critical work of supporting outstanding HSS scholars, authors, playwrights, poets, artists, curators and publishers whose collective contributions benefit humanity.

"We remain committed to the cause of advancing the transformation of our HSS community, universities and greater society." Last year's winners include Jacob Dlamini for Askari (Jacana Media); Imraan Coovadia for Tales of the Metric System (Umuzi); the 2014 Short Sharp Stories Award anthology Adults Only, edited by Joanne Hichens; and recent UKZN Press publication Class in Soweto. "We are grateful that entrants to the 2017 HSS Awards continue to toil, helping to shape the new HSS landscape and casting a shining light on our very own South African

stories," Mosoetsa said. "Your superb work and contribution to the HSS scholarship community is

**We remain committed to the cause of advancing the transformation of our HSS community, universities and greater society.**

a breath of fresh air. This is especially so during challenging times in higher education and the publishing world, as well as the declining environment of funding for the HSS."

## BOOK NON-FICTION MONOGRAPH

**Regarding Muslims: From slavery to post-apartheid**  
Baderoon, Gabeza

Drawing on an extensive popular and official archive, Regarding Muslims analyses the role of Muslims from South Africa's founding moments to the contemporary period and points to the resonance of the discussions beyond South Africa. It argues that the 350-year archive of images documenting the presence of Muslims in South Africa is central to understanding the formation of concepts of race, sexuality and belonging. In contrast to the themes of extremism and alienation that dominate Western portrayals of Muslims, Regarding Muslims explores an extensive repertoire of picturesque Muslim figures in South African popular culture, which oscillates with more disquieting images that occasionally burst into prominence during moments of crisis.

**South Africa's Insurgent Citizens: On Dissent and the Possibility of Politics**  
Brown, Julian

South Africa's Insurgent Citizens tells the stories of activists and communities who have forged their own identities through struggles with the state after the end of apartheid. It showcases the agency and activities of the poor, and shows how their stories and the struggles are shaping South Africa's politics – both today, and for the foreseeable future. A new kind of politics is developing on the streets and in the courtrooms of the country. This is a politics made by a new kind of citizen – one that is neither respectful nor passive, but instead insurgent. Brown aims to encourage readers to rethink their understanding of South African politics and to place the insurgent actions of South Africa's citizens at its heart. The book outlines a story of politics founded on the disruption of existing governing structures and habits, and uses this story to describe and explain cases of protest and disruption across South Africa.

**Dominance and Decline: The ANC in the Time of Zuma**  
Booyesen, Susan

As Jacob Zuma moves into the twilight years of his presidencies of both the African National Congress (ANC) and of South Africa, this book takes stock of the Zuma-led administration and its impact on the ANC. Dominance and Decline: The ANC in the Time of Zuma offers a hard-hitting analysis with astute analysis. Susan Booyesen shows how the ANC has become centred on the personage of Zuma, and that its defence of his extremely flawed leadership undermines the party's capacity to govern competently, and to protect its long term future. This is a must-have reference book on the development of the modern ANC. With rigour and incisiveness, Booyesen offers scholars and researchers a coherent framework for considering future patterns in the ANC and its hold on political power.

**Declassified - Moving beyond the dead-end of race in South Africa**  
Maré, Gerhard

Twenty years after the end of apartheid, race still continues to play a role in South African society. Now, however, it is a black majority government that is demanding and maintaining race thinking, in an effort to redress the discrimination of the past. Both the Employment Equity Act and the Black Economic Empowerment Act, for instance, use the racial categories of apartheid to achieve their ends, but the demand to classify people racially extends beyond business to many other areas of life. Ironically, in a society that is constitutionally committed to non-racism, race thinking and race classification have been carried forward unthinkingly from our past. Not only does the rationale for such continuation not address the real concerns of our society but the system of classifying carries inevitable seeds of conflict within itself. What is more, the classification of fellow human beings into races remains a crime against humanity, no matter what justification is offered.

## BOOK - NON-FICTION EDITED VOLUME

**Changing Space, Changing City: Johannesburg after Apartheid**  
Harrison, Philip; Gotz, Graeme; Todes, Alison and Wray, Chris

This richly illustrated study offers detailed empirical analyses of changes in the city's physical space, as well as a host of chapters on the character of specific neighbourhoods and the social identities being forged within them. Informing all of these is a consideration of underlying economic, social and political processes shaping the wider Gauteng region. A mix of respected academics, practising urban planners and experienced policymakers offer compelling overviews of the rapid and complex spatial developments that have taken place in Johannesburg since the end of apartheid, along with tantalising glimpses into life on the streets and behind the high walls of this diverse city.

**Being At Home: Race, Institutional Culture and Transformation at South African Higher Education Institutions**  
Matthews, Sally, Tabensky, Pedro

Given the context, it is not surprising that the book has been warmly received and much engaged with throughout the country and internationally. We were invited to launch it in four different places: Grahamstown, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Cape Town. At each site, there was heated discussion about how we can transform our universities. At the Johannesburg book launch, Eusebius McKaiser, who chaired the launch, had the following to say: "The reason why I love this book is that the timing is absolutely amazing... It is not just another academic book. This is a book that deserves an audience that looks as diverse as you look, because it is written in such a manner that it is engaging, it's lucid, you do not need a doctorate from Oxford University to understand it, and it affects all of us."

**From Man to Man, or Perhaps Only-Driver, Dorothy**

The novel is of great intrinsic worth: Driver quotes Harmel's (1995) opinion that FMTM "is Schreiner's finest work and the greatest achievement of South African literature" and herself argues (xv) that the novel "attains a maturity beyond Schreiner's powers in African Farm". Driver continues by drawing attention to the novel's "more passionate, searching and ambitious engagement with the possibilities of change [in class, race, and gender relations]". On page xiv of her Introduction, Driver argues: Schreiner longed for a transformed South Africa, and, indeed, a transformed world. Since transformation, for her, meant an "enlarged and expanded humanity" and the "full use of the highest capacities of all its members" (Woman and Labour [1911] 149 and 164) it required radical reform of labour relations, race relations and sexual relations. Perhaps never has the land of Schreiner's birth been more in need of a caritas that transcends all the inherited barriers of the past: Driver's edition of FMTM, read, studied, taken to heart has the potential not only to "develop new understanding of a topic in the Humanities"; it has the capacity to deepen and radicalise our understanding of the very word Humanity itself.

## CREATIVE COLLECTIONS BEST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

**Heart of Redness**  
Muyanga, Neo and Fleishman, Mark

Those expecting opera the way it is supposed to be done are challenged to incorporate the physical theatre performers. Those expecting physical theatre are confronted with heightened vocal work and choral singing that is reminiscent but not entirely operatic. According to Barry Smith, Opera Magazine January (2016), "this work has made a telling contribution to emerging indigenous South African opera" and in the words of William Fourie in Muziki: Journal of Musical Research in Africa (2015), "In undoing the simplistic representation of South African subjectivity, Muyanga and Fleishman not only captured the essence of Mda's novel, but they unlocked the potential for rethinking the trajectory of South African opera"

**BodyTech**  
Denyschen, Jessica (The Ar(t)chive)

This project is the first of its kind in the country and on the continent specializing the industry in multiple ways. The Ar(t)chive provides highly specialized research support through consultations, access to a vast range of video and archival materials on South African physical performance, networking and industry connecting activities, curriculum support through supplying teaching materials for under and post graduate students and the production of events, interviews and historical discussions. The Archive boasts several impressive collections by contributors such as Robyn Orin, Sylvia Glasser, the late Mercedes Molina and many more. The Archive actively collects, archives and digitizes collections and related data for the purpose of academic and creative research, preservation dance heritage, and creating dance legacy.

## CREATIVE COLLECTIONS BEST MUSICAL COMPOSITION

**American Intersections**  
Schumann, Nina & Magalhães, Luis

American Intersections celebrates the diversity of American music in the 20th century, from the neo-Romanticism of Samuel Barber to that most influential of American art music developments, minimalism. The title points toward one of the most commented-upon facets of American music: the fact that the country is a melting pot of musical cultures, a crossroads of musical traditions, a colourful tapestry of diverse sounds. American Intersections features composers who all worked against the backdrop of an increasing tendency toward modernism in European art music.

**Explorations: South African flute music**  
Stoltz, Liesl

Firstly, the recording contributes to our cultural heritage by immortalising this music so that present and future generations of musicians and music lovers can have access to it. It provides a form of reference to music students and teachers. Most of these works have never been recorded which made students (and teachers) reluctant to study them as they had no reference as to what they sound like. Secondly, a recording of this type is a sort of "business card" and can help to establish a connection between South African and foreign musicians and composers. I wanted to promote the music locally and abroad and a recording was the best way of distributing the music.

## CREATIVE COLLECTIONS VISUAL ARTS

**Beadwork, Art and the Body - Dilo tse Dintshi/Abundance**  
Nettleton, Anitra

South African beadwork has a rich and diverse history and is abundantly represented in the beaded art pieces in the Wit's Art Museum (WAM) collection. Some works date back to the 4th century CE but most date from the 19th to the 21st centuries. Currently numbering over 9 000 items, the three major collecting areas of classical, historical and contemporary African artwork name broad in their geographical range and deep in some local areas of specialisation.

**Seedtime A Omar Badsha Retrospective 1965 – 2014**  
Badsha, Omar

Badsha is a South African artist and photographer who is according to the Iziko South African National Gallery is "one of the country's most celebrated social documentary photographers and cultural activists... a member of the post-Sharpeville generation of activist-artists who... wrestled with the challenges that black artists and academics faced in a period of intensive repression during apartheid." The exhibition has been hailed as the most significant body of work by a artist, photographer and cultural and political activists who has exhibited extensively, published and curated numerous ground-breaking exhibition and books but who has remained since the dawn of Democracy outside the South African commercially driven cultural landscape.

**MaBareBare / Telling Time (2006-)**  
Mahashe, Tebogo George

The series takes Khelobedu, cultural production by and about Balobedu created over the last 400 years, as its main object of interaction. Balobedu who occupy the northeastern Limpopo are constituted by an allegiance to a Rainmaker currently under the dynastic name Modjadji. In 19th century the dynasty of the Rain-Queens sparked a series of rumors and myth of an immortal woman whose power is likened by Europeans to that of Pandora's box, a murderous queen that uses trickery to maintain control over a large part of the then unexplored Transvaal.

**Penny Siopis Time and Again**  
Olivier, Gerrit & Siopis, Penny

A conversation between the artist and the editor, Gerrit Olivier, unfolds throughout the book, giving the reader fascinating insights into her working methods, her strong interest in form and different genres, her theoretical concerns and her views on the position of art in a socio-political context. The elegant design of the book showcases what Alessandra De Angelis calls the "incredible beauty" of Siopis's work. The vibrant imagery is testimony to Siopis's ability to combine profound ideas with forms that have a visceral impact on the viewer. As suggested by the title, this book is a stitching together of memory and the promise of return, of loss and creation in a process of perpetual renewal.

## BOOK FICTION- SINGLE AUTHORED

**Hunger eats a man**  
Sithole, Nkosinathi

Hunger eats a man is a literary novel which deals with relevant issues in the post-apartheid South Africa including poverty, corruption, violence and women and children abuse. It takes the stand for the marginalized and questions the status quo. It is set in a rural area and not only re-centers farm-life, but presents it in a new way.

**What Will People Say**  
Rossouw, Rehana

In What Will People Say the setting is everything, and the author doesn't stint on the details of the world her characters inhabit. Readers who have never set foot in Hanover Park will feel they are there, and those who know the place will nod in recognition of the sensory details the author casts into her writing. Nor does the author shy away from the difficult issues faced by those living in this marginalised and disadvantaged community, which came into being as a result of the forced removals from Cape Town. How these issues affect the members of a particular family and their relationships with one another are the focus of the author's close-up lens.

**Sweet Medicine**  
Chigumadzi, Panashe

Sweet Medicine takes place in Harare at the height of Zimbabwe's economic woes in 2008. Tseti, a young woman, raised by her strict, devout Catholic mother believes that hard work, prayer and an education will ensure a prosperous and happy future. She does well at her mission boarding school and goes on to obtain a scholarship to attend university, but the change in the economic situation in Zimbabwe destroys the old system where hard work and a degree guaranteed a good life. Out of university, Tseti finds herself in a position much lower than she had set her sights on, working as a clerk in the office of the local politician, Zvobgo. With a salary that barely provides her a means to survive, she finds herself increasingly compromising her Christian values to negotiate ways to get ahead.

**A Half Century Thing**  
Rampolokeng, Lesego

A new book by Rampolokeng is thus an equally important scholarly event, as it is a literary one. Half Century Thing doesn't disappoint. It is a devoted heresy, a sermon on the word, on politics and aesthetics that challenges what poetry does, what it can do, even what it is willing to address as a form. Both lyric and polemic, it adds new depth to our understanding of South African history and enriches our appreciation of poetry today.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES CONTRIBUTIONS

**Byderhand 2015**  
Multiple Contributors  
Greyling, Franci

For the purposes of the production creation, an interdisciplinary space was created, characterised by creativity and experimentation, and by a participatory, accommodating, dynamic and exploratory spirit. Established and emerging writers and artists were invited to participate, creating original, site-specific work. The digital processing of the texts included audio recordings of poets reading their work, typographical animations and musical settings of poems, the creation of accompanying visual artwork and film material, and programming. The multimodal text productions were published on a customized platform, with user friendly interfaces designed for the different sub-projects. In total, more than 80 people were involved, either as writers, artists, designers, programmers, researchers or assistants – all of whom have attachments to the city of Potchefstroom.

**South African History Online Website**  
Badsha, Omar

South African History Online (SAHO) is a non-partisan people's history project. It was founded by Omar Badsha and registered as a non-profit Section 21 organisation in June 2000. The organisation was founded to address the biased way in which South Africa's history and heritage, as well as the that of Africa is represented in the country's educational, cultural and heritage institutions. SAHO set out to write and promote a new history through the building of a comprehensive online popular history website which is an open source platform and to establish a multi-faceted and integrated educational programme that serves to promote research, strengthen the teaching and learning of history and the telling of the stories of ordinary people.

