

SEMINAR SERIES

*Contesting representations of children and youth
in South African social science, fiction, film, drama and popular media*

THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE INVITES YOU TO THE SECOND SEMINAR IN THIS SERIES

12:00 – 13:30, Monday 2 June 2014

Venue: to be announced

A light lunch will be served

PRESENTER

James Collins

(Professor, Department of Anthropology, University at Albany/SUNY)

After Apartheid and Jim Crow:

A framework for comparing language diversity, civil rights and social inequality in contemporary South Africa and the United States: Preliminary findings

CRITICAL DISCUSSANTS

Carolyn McKinney

(School of Education, University of Cape Town)

Shirley Pendlebury

(Emeritus Professor, University of Cape Town)

**For catering purposes, please RSVP to Bee Williams (bee.williams@uct.ac.za)
before 12:00 on Thursday 29 May 2014. .**

We look forward to seeing you at the seminar
Ariane De Lannoy & Shirley Pendlebury

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BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In January this year, Crain Soudien presented a keynote address at the Healthy Cities for Children Colloquium hosted by the Children's Institute and the Africa Centre for Cities. His paper, "Fictions of Childhood: Cape Town's Children in Our Literature", raised some controversial claims that couldn't be discussed in the limited time allocated for audience responses. The seminar series, *Contesting representations of children and youth in South African social science, fiction, film, drama and popular media*, takes Soudien's paper as a springboard for other papers and discussion. The purpose of the seminar series is to open a space for critical, cross-disciplinary discussion of the ways in which children and youth are represented in various kinds of writing, performance and visual forms, and of the theoretical and ethical assumptions that underpin different representations.

ABSTRACT FOR SEMINAR 2 (MONDAY 2 JUNE 2014)

Presenter: Professor James Collins

Title: After Apartheid and Jim Crow: A framework for comparing language diversity, civil rights and social inequality in contemporary South Africa and the United States: Preliminary findings

Abstract: This talk develops the themes indicated in the title. I begin making some basic points about comparison of economic and racial polarization well as language hierarchies in South Africa and the United States. Then I focus on preliminary South African ethnographic data, presenting an analysis of the ways in which language diversity and language hierarchy interact in a linguistically diverse Cape Town primary school. I describe and discuss how classroom lessons reinforce multiple standard language registers, teachers' differing responses to language diversity among learners; and a frequently-encountered discourse of 'language barriers,' that is connected to assessment anxieties among school staff. I conclude by examining assessment regimes in South Africa and the U.S.

A full draft of the paper will be sent only to those who confirm, by Thursday 29 May, their attendance at the seminar.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE SECOND SEMESTER

Provisional dates, times and broad topics are:

Monday 28 July, 11h30-13h30, Andy Dawes on Representations of Children in Policy

Monday 11 August, 10h30-13h30: Panel on Ethical Challenges of Research with Children

Monday 15 September, 11h30-13h30, TBA

Monday 29 September, 11h30-13h30, TBA

Monday 06 October, 11h30-13h30, TBA

