Case Study: Symbols of Power, Justice and Transformation

The Institute Global Leadership Summit, UFS (10 July 2012)

Ghostly Symbols and Images:

The Time is Out of Joint

WHY HAMLET?

- In discussion with his father's ghost
- Engaged with the past ... With the possibility of revenge?
- Hamlet is linked to his father's 'crimes' ... complicities (one of the overarching themes of Institute's research framework)
- "The time is out of joint" ... Discomfort/ interruption/ disruption
- Hamlet needs others and the ghost to help him to 'set the past right'

WHY THE GHOST METAPHOR?

Some of the 'terms' and 'phrases' used on 1st day of summit:

- Past/ Present/ Future (Jansen)
- Leadership as everyday judgment and action (Lange)
- Home (Jansen)/ strangeness
- State of mind (student)
- Discomfort/ naming discomfort (Smith/ Jansen)
- Interruption (Smith)
- Nobody is in the right place (Makhetha) ... the time is out joint
- •No one has clean hands (Jansen/ Obama)

WHY THE GHOST METAPHOR?

- Ancestry ... The Ghost is SPIRIT ...
 SPIRITUAL and REAL
- The 'commemorative fever' of our times ... Memorials became part of history's reflection on itself
- The 'respectable spirit' ... A domesticated ghost from the past ... not haunting ... but reminding ... a positive spirit



WHY THE GHOST METAPHOR?

 A ghost works in terms of a past-presentfuture connection

• A ghost can be 'absent' and/ or'present'

• A ghost engages both history and memory

 Ghosts are universal ... they are everywhere ... they make SA an 'ordinary' country.



The universality of ghostly symbols and images

Memorials and symbols

• UFS selected symbols

3 open discussion sessions

THE UNIVERSALITY OF GHOSTLY SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

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* Kalisa Antoine Kalisa Callixte Kalisa Christi **Kalisa** Claude Kalisa Elias Kalisa J. Bosdo **Kalisa Justin** Kalisa Kayiran Kalisa Phocas Kamagaju Pas ^{*} Kamagaju Maro Kamali André Kamali Théogèn Kamamagabe J Kamana J.Marie Kamana Mukaga Kamana Nkwaku Kamananga Jose Kamanayo Damy Kamanzi B

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1 day ago

Bosnian Serb ex-military chief Ratko Mladic was faced with a survivor of a 1992 mass execution today as war crimes prosecutors opened their case against the so-called "Butcher of Bosnia".

Three trucks loaded with 520 coffins passed through Sarajevo on their way to the Potocari cemetery near Srebrenica where they will be buried on Wednesday.



4 days ago:
'Wasn't just one or two children': Ex-Argentine dictators jailed for baby thefts'

Question: Why is the photo of the face of the baby on the poster cut in this way?

EVERYDAY ... ALMOST EVERYWHERE ... THE MEMORIALS OF THE FUTURE

Global Poverty guide

Never accept statistics about global poverty at face value and always remember that each household behind the figures has its own human story to tell. Whatever the difference of opinion on the extent of global poverty, one thing is certain: a significant proportion of the world's population is excluded from our prevailing economic system of wealth creation. The symptoms of its inherent instability – recession, volatile food and fuel prices, and climate change – Impact disproportionately on the poor.



updated January 2011 Armstrong

» Poverty Reduction: Country

Hunger Crisis in the Horn of Africa You can save lives.



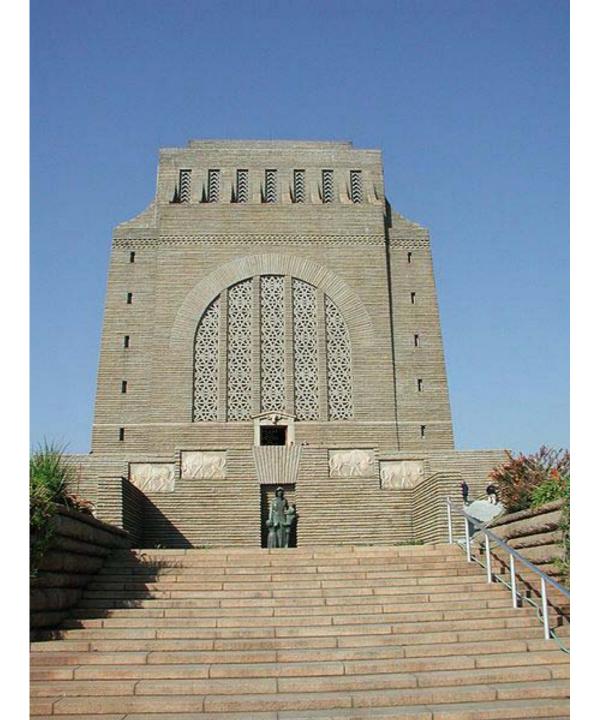


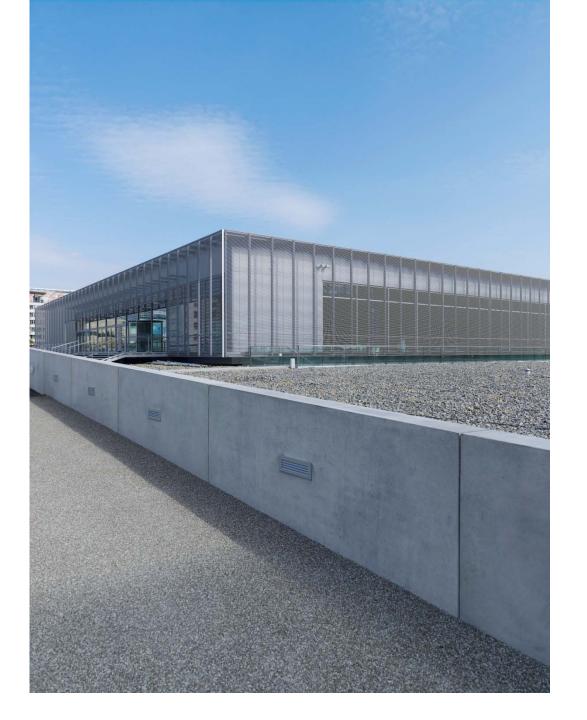
Fighting Hunger Worldwide

DONATE NOW

MORE MEMORIALS AND SYMBOLS







UFS SELECTED SYMBOLS

MONDAY BULLETIN, 8 MARCH 2010 (PROF JANSEN)

 In front of my office stands the impressive statue of President MT Steyn. ... Others believe it is one-sided; that it communicates a symbolism that is partial to the history of the province and the country.

There is a strong view that the statue should not be removed, but that it should be lowered and stand in conversation with a statue of equal size, that of the great King Moshoeshoe of this region. Such a move will signal the reconciliatory stance of the university.

So, here's my question: "Should we keep the statue of President Steyn and rather use other spaces on campus to build and bring in new symbols?"

Talk to me.

"OUT OF JOINT?"

 Marthinus Steyn was the last president of the independent Republic of the Orange Free State, from 1896 - 1902, and one of the founders of the National Party. He is perhaps the most overtly spectral figure on campus, and as such his statue dominates the square right in front of the main building.

• He is not at home, or is he?



"OUT OF JOINT?"

- Is it possible that he might have more meaning for this campus as a ghost, as a lesson in enduring strangeness?
- This might be the meaning of many other sculptures, names and symbols from the past, the way in which they manage to become strangers to this place. Do you agree?



LADY JUSTICE - RELIEF SCULPTURE ON THE C.R. SWART BUILDING (FACULTY OF LAW)

• Lady Justice is situated at the entrance to the building, she guards the entrance to the Faculty of Law, like an angel, or a ghost, she is neither inside, nor outside. Lady justice decides who gains entry to the law, and who remains outside. She haunts the inside of the law, as she haunts the outside of the law ... Do you agree?



"VAN HIER TOT DAAR" BY ANGUS TAYLOR

Libokanyo, whilst taking photos, stopped a random stranger and asked him what his first impression of the head was. He very vividly, and somewhat angrily, said "What is a head of a white man doing here? And why does it not have a body?"

• What is your take on this?



WOMEN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

• The garden reminds us of moments within history that have been silent and invisible, and signify the silence and invisibility of women during the past 107 years of the university's existence. The garden is a space in which ghosts of the past, invisible women, are celebrated and recognized for their contributions.



HIDDEN GEOGRAPHIES?

- The ghosts of past invisibility are uprooted and become visible as a learning space where students, staff and visitors are encouraged to reflect on the position of women in a society beyond the injustices of apartheid.
- The hidden geography of this memorial reminds us of the hidden everyday violence of inequality, much of which remains undocumented.



WHAT IS YOUR TAKE ON THIS?

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES AS 'INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE'

- Legacy is not a static inheritance (Dolf Britz)
- The university as a strange and 'ghostly' place?
- Strangers at 'home'? ... Complicit and Precarious
- 'Nobody is in the right place'? (Dr Choice)
- Can 'strangers' advance justice and equality better in conversation with 'ghosts' and 'themselves'?

Comments