

EDITORIAL

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What is the field of oral history? What do oral historians research and how do they do that academically? The common objects of their research are politics, religious behaviour, trauma, remembering, and the training of developing oral historians. They research these topics by means of the stories of people.

This issue of the Oral History Journal of South Africa contains articles that deal with a majority of the themes mentioned above, and entertain a variety of oral history methods.

Cecyl Esau is a senior researcher at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation that is situated in Cape Town, South Africa. As the project leader of their Schools' Oral History Project he tells the story of how educators and learners have been trained from 2004 to 2010 in producing inclusive histories through oral history methods. Sekibakiba Lekgoathi, relates the history of Radio Ndebele, which from 1983 to 1994 grew from a radio station established by the apartheid government to promote ethnicity into an instrument for establishing Ndebele as an official and written language.

Joshua Chakawa and VZ Nyawo-Shava invited interviews into their research on the reasons why both the Zimbabwe Peoples' Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) as well as Umkhonto Wesizwe (MK) were not able to successfully engage in guerrilla warfare against the Rhodesian and the South African apartheid regimes. The answer lies in them operating from Zambia from where the natural features of the territory were not conducive to this kind of war.

The next two articles address religious realities, one in Zambia and the other in Mozambique, using interviews on two prominent figures as intertexts. Austin Cheyeka describes the case of a clergyman, Pastor Nevers Mumba, getting involved in party politics in Zambia. Fernando Caldeira da Silva discusses Friar Amara Bernardo Amaral from Mozambique and his translation of the Bible into Gitonga.

The following two articles are from South Africans who address the very difficult question in South Africa at the moment, that is, when to forget and how to remember. Robert Vosloo explores the art of forgetting, and Christina Landman retrieves memories from South Africans on how free they are after twenty years of democracy. Additional to talking about remembering and forgetting, is Dan Whitman's stories of people remembering how they outsmarted apartheid.

Finally comes a story from outside Africa. Michal Louc relates the process through which Antonín Mestecky recovers the story of imprisonment during the Czechoslovak communist dictatorship.

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This issue of the *Oral History Journal of South Africa*, then, contains stories of resilience and the survival of trauma, of projects that not only retrieved but fed the voices of resistance and a new tomorrow, and of the controversies that often surround religious leaders and new religious movements. It tells the stories of wars and of freedom. It responds to methods of remembering and forgetting.

Oral history as an academic discipline is growing fast. Congratulations to all who, through this peer-reviewed journal, became part of this newly founded academic discipline.

This is the OHJSA's second year of publication. It is going from strength to strength and the two issues of 2015 are to be looked forward to. The submission dates are 15 January 2015 for the first issue, and 15 July 2015 for the second.

Kind regards

Christina Landman
Editor: Oral History Journal of South Africa