

# Engagement Colloquium

## *Amabali Ethu Aphilisayo: Our Healing Stories*

By:

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# Background

*Amabali Ethu Aphilisayo* was born from experimenting with tangible ways to decolonise the university curriculum;

The use of “life righting” as pedagogy; and

Education for greater good – critical consciousness towards community action.





# Beneficiaries and Partners

- Teaching partnerships across faculties;
- Bringing in community experts like Ms Rayi to work with students;
- Undergraduate students in the faculty of education;
- Inviting parents and the larger community into our classroom;

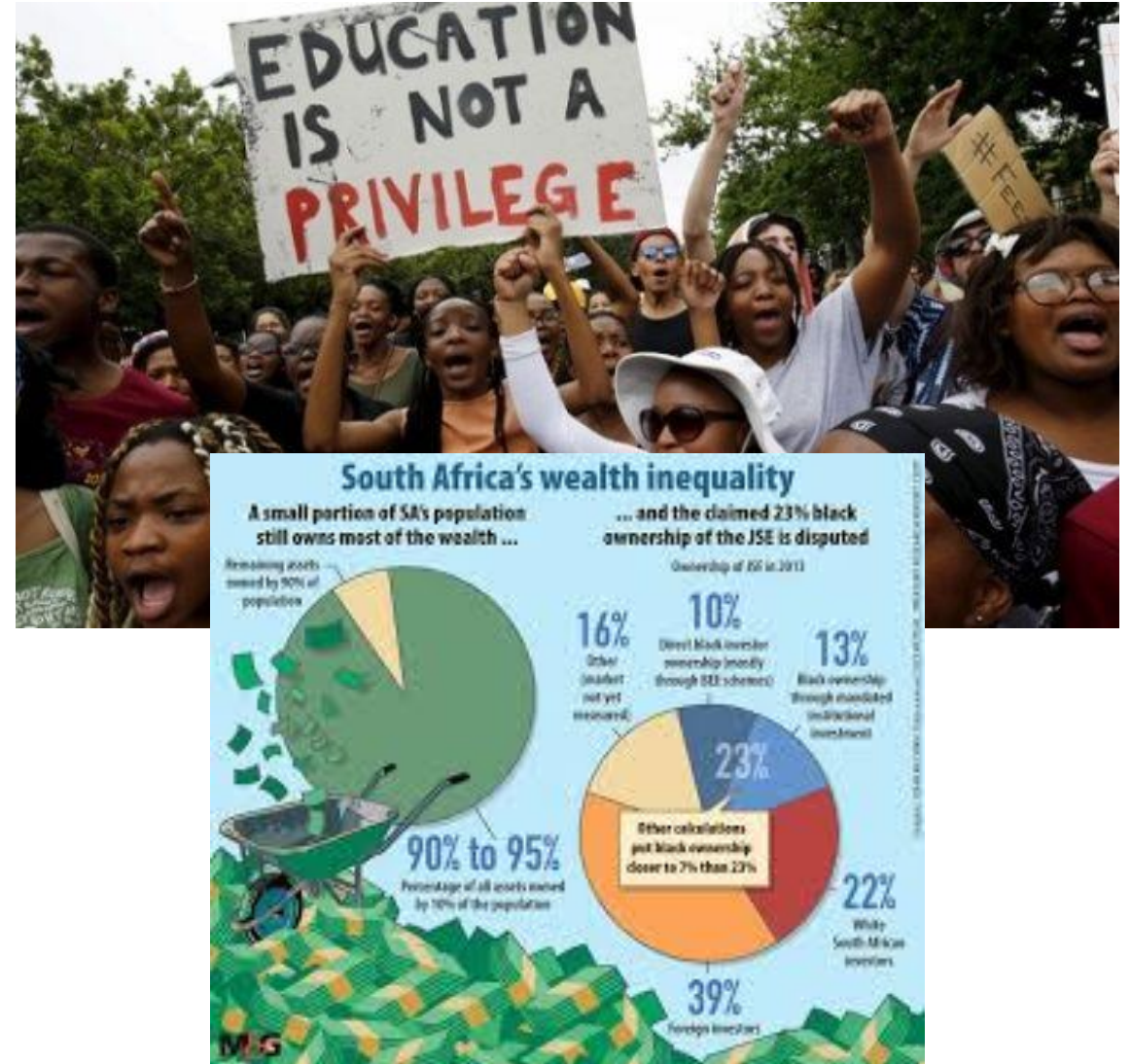


# #FeesMustFall

Higher Education in South Africa is racial and class-based – only 15% of the 60% black students who survive first year eventually complete their studies (Le Grange, 2016)

Blade Nzimande called for the Africanisation of universities. “Universities, all of them, must shed all of the problematic features of their apartheid and colonial past.” (Higher Education Summit, 2015)

“We don’t want to treat the symptoms, we want to decolonise the university – that is the heart of the cause” (Pambo, 2015)



# Decolonisation is not an event but a process...

Dei (2000, p.113) argues that:

- Bodies of knowledge continually influence each other;
- Rendering a false dichotomy is not useful; and that
- There is a need to challenge imperial ideologies and colonial relations of production.





# Seven elements of decolonisation

(Smith, 1999 as cited by Chilisa, 2012)

1. Deconstruction and Reconstruction
2. Self-determination and Social Justice
3. Ethics
4. Language
5. Internationalisation of Indigenous Experiences
6. History
7. Critique



# *Amabali Ethu Aphilisayo* is born

A curriculum pathway with three cycles:

- The formation of ancestral sciences (doing community, learning to learn)
- Western sciences (learning to unlearn and then re-learn)
- Interculturality (from learning to undertaking)



# Nine Themes...

1. *The place which carries my name in the wind*
2. *I am not born in Africa, but Africa is born in me*
3. *Life learning from community intellectuals*
4. *An African way of being (Ubuntu)*
5. *Deeply rooted in who I am*
6. *A child of Africa*
7. *Knowledge of the soil*
8. *Towards cultivating humanity*
9. *Spaces of hope*





# Our Healing Stories – A Story Festival

Video-clip



# Outputs

- Development of audio and e-book on a CD - sold for R200.00 each to raise funds for *Sodla Sonke* – Faculty of Education Student Emergency Fund.
- Two conferences – UNISA decoloniality conference (presented in August 2018) & HELTASA (to be presented in November 2018)
- Two papers as output:

Yassim, K (**under review**) *Amabali ethu Aphilisayo*: Decolonising curriculum and praxis through life-righting. Submitted to *South African Journal of Education*

Yassim, K. & Latolla, N. (**still being written**). Weaving tapestries of knowing: A self-reflexive inquiry on the pedagogy and praxis of teaching life righting. To be submitted to *Education as Change*.

# Next Steps

- Widened the circle, by considering a university-wide story festival for 2019;
- Multi-disciplinary (multiple art forms to tell stories);
- Inviting more partners (other faculties, co-curricular student groups, community groups etc.)
- Inviting local authors and storytellers;
- Approaching the private sector (publishers, book shops, Dept. of arts and culture);
- Producing a story festival website that could be a publishing space;
- Various anthologies (short stories, poetry, photographs etc.)
- Various story productions – Grahamstown National Arts Festival, Ubuntu Story Festival etc.
- Designing a short learning programme for school teachers and community NGOs (based on our learning);
- Increasing the research and output footprint – towards a book that participants may contribute to



# Trans-disciplinary exchanges & Challenges

- Teachers should become students more often 😊
- Teach together – learning from one another
- Community intellectuals
- Buy-in from gate-keepers in the faculty;
- Time constraints;
- Differing priorities; and
- Funding

# References

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