
Research activities and current outcomes
Principal Investigator Yvette Hutchison conducted initial background research in November 2009. This led to her editing Africa Theatre 9, focusing on how the archive affects memory and approaches to theatre; concepts central to the project. She collated material and interviewed curators of the South Africa-Mali African Renaissance Manuscript Project in November, the basis for a chapter of the current monograph. Her article in Theatre Journal interrogates hegemonies of collaboration, representation and the deconstruction of mythologies predicated on cultural ‘othering’, suggesting how memory may be used in exploring contemporary constructions of identity in South Africa.

Dennis Walder’s monograph Postcolonial Nostalgias (Routledge, 2010) frames important concepts for the project, specifically the various and complex relationships between nostalgia, memory and writing. His article ‘Remembering the Bushmen: nostalgia and postcolonial spiritualities’ introduces the issues of how identity intersects with spirituality and memory, alongside issues of hegemony and postcoloniality. It has also created an important link with Professor Duncan Brown’s research project on postcolonial spiritualities and identities at the University of the Western Cape.

At the end of 2010 the special issue of Contemporary Theatre Review: Making Theatre in Africa: Reflections and Documents (21:1), which Dennis Walder and Yvette Hutchison guest edited, was published.

During 2011 the we have all undertaken primary research in South Africa, including theatregoing, various archives, museums and exhibitions in Pretoria, Johannesburg and the Cape; and interviewing artists, archivists theatre practitioners, critics, oral literature interpreters and historians.

Both PhD researchers have successfully upgraded from M.Phil to PhD.


Fugard Archive: Jenny has been appointed the archivist on this project and begun working through Dennis Walder’s substantial collection of published, unpublished and manuscript material based on
South African theatre amassed over the past thirty years. The long-term aim is to produce a digitized catalogue which will make this material more accessible to researchers; work has begun on a smaller, digital facsimile archive, which represents presenting a cross-section of the materials available in the wider archive.

There has been consultation with colleagues who have expertise and experience with the creation of archives and digital archives.

**Dissemination of research**

**Publications**

Yvette Hutchison

*Monograph*

*Performance and the Archive of memory.* Manchester University Press, (in preparation)

*Edited book*


*Chapter in book*


*Refereed journal articles*


*Edited Journal*


**Dennis Walder**

*Book*


*Book chapters*


**Refereed journal articles**


**Book/Journal articles in preparation**

‘Hysterical Nostalgia and Re-imagining the Nation: District 9’ (commissioned for forthcoming Nostalgia in the 21st century book, ed. Sarah Edwards (Strathclyde)

‘Lost mothers and the trauma of the past’ (on postcolonial ‘life writing’ for Journal of Commonwealth Literature)

**Jenny Doubt**

**Book chapter**


**Awelani Moyo**

‘A Quiet Horror: Reflections on performing traumatic narratives in contemporary South Africa’ in Voicing Trauma & Truth, Oliver & Peter Bray (eds), publication of selected papers from Trauma: Theory and Practice conference, Interdisciplinary Press. (Submitted 2011)

**Research seminars & Conference contributions**

**Yvette Hutchison.**

Leverhulme project outlined at the Africa@Warwick event, hosted by the Institute of Advanced Study to showcase Africa-related research, teaching, collaboration and culture to various funders and stake-holders in Britain, USA and Africa; 15 - 16 January 2010, University of Warwick.

‘Modernism, an engagement with apartheid, and beyond.’ IFTR 2010 Cultures of Modernity, University of Munich, Germany, 26 – 31 July 2010.


Translating Trauma beyond the TRC, at Translating Cultures: Circulation of Events through Performance, Warwick University, 20-21 June 2011.

Dennis Walder


Convened ‘Cultural Crossings’ Research Workshop: ‘Memory, Home Migration’, at Open University on 1 June 2010. Alison Blunt (Professor of Geography, Queen Mary’s, University of London) was guest speaker; Doubt and Moyo presented papers:

- Awelani Moyo. ‘Migrating towards the subject: how landscape informs identity construction in contemporary South Africa’.

Jenny Doubt

Chair for ‘Conflicted Territories: Rural and Urban Conflict’ panel at Reading Conflict Conference, Institute of English Studies (University of London), 19 July 2010.


Chair for ‘Conflicted Territories: Rural and Urban Conflict’ panel at Reading Conflict Conference, Institute of English Studies (University of London), 19 July 2010.


Awelani Moyo

Poster – Warwick postgraduate poster competition, 18th May 2010, Wolfson Research Exchange, Warwick University Library.

‘Migrating towards the subject: how landscape informs identity construction in contemporary South Africa.’ Theatre Studies postgraduate research day 21st June 2010, Milburn House.

‘Feedback’ panel discussion at Infecting the City festival themed Treasure, 24th February 2011.

'A Quiet Horror: Reflections on performing traumatic narratives in contemporary South Africa.' 1st Global Conference - Trauma: Theory and Practice, Prague, Czech Republic, 14-16 March 2011.
