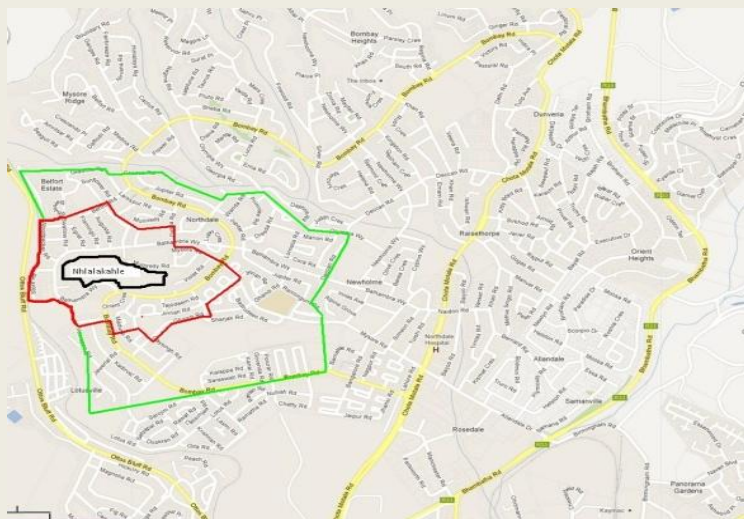




## DIVIDE AND RULE, UNITE AND RESIST

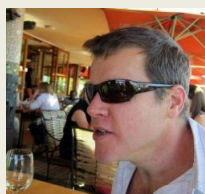
**What are the effects of intergroup contact on the political solidarity of historically disadvantaged groups in Pietermaritzburg (South Africa) ?**



The project explores the role of everyday contact between Northdale residents and residents of a local 'African' informal settlement in shaping (shared) constructions of injustice, political solidarity and collective action.

The research takes the form of a field survey and follow-up interviews conducted with Indian residents of Northdale, a community located in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.

The project is led by John Dixon (Professor of Social Psychology, The Open University, CCIG member) and Kevin Durrheim (Department of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal).



### Power cut-off sparks riot

24 May 2013

Lunga Biyela

ONCE again, angry residents of Nhlalakahle informal settlement protested by burning tyres and throwing rocks at passing cars after their electricity was disconnected yesterday.

Residents living along Bombay Road showed solidarity with those from Nhlalakahle, saying that the municipality was not helping the situation.

When *The Witness* arrived on the scene about an hour after the protests began, calm had already been restored, and police, with municipal security, had left the area.

ANC secretary in the ward Muhammad Khan said the residents of the informal settlement were angered by security personnel who had charged at them with guns.

He added that as long as the people of Nhlalakahle were not provided with electricity, the disorder would continue. "I'm not saying what they're doing is not wrong, but they're forced to do whatever they can do," said Khan.

Theminkosi Majola, a resident of Nhlalakahle and ANC chairperson in the ward, said some residents had lived there for 20 years. He said they had been promised electricity and improved services, but that had never happened.

"I'd like to apologise to the community and to whomever's cars were damaged. It was something uncalled for."

Police spokesperson Lieutenant Joey Jeevan said there had been no injuries during the protest.

*The Witness, 24 May 2013*