

Trauma, Memory, and Narrative in the Contemporary South African Novel

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Elleke Boehmer has published four widely praised novels, *Screens against the Sky* (short-listed David Higham Prize, 1990), *An Immaculate Figure* (1993), *Bloodlines* (short-listed Sanlam Prize, 2000), and *Nile Baby* (2008), as well as short stories and memoir sketches. Internationally known for her research in international writing and postcolonial theory, she is the author of the world best-seller *Colonial and Postcolonial Literature: Migrant Metaphors* (1995, 2005), the monographs *Empire, the National and the Postcolonial, 1890-1920* (2002) and *Stories of Women* (2005), and of the creative biography *Nelson Mandela* (2008). She has also produced the acclaimed edition of Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* (2004), and the OUP collection, *Empire Writing* (1998). Her co-edited *JM Coetzee in Context and Theory* appeared in 2009. She is currently a Co-Investigator on the AHRC-funded 'South Asians Making Britain' project (2007-2010). Elleke Boehmer is the Professor of World Literature in English at the University of Oxford.

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Annie Gagiano is a Professor Emerita and research associate in the Department of English of Stellenbosch University. In her published research she has concentrated on African English fiction, writing articles on a wide range of authors and producing two sole-authored books: *Achebe, Head, Marechera: On Power and Change in Africa* (Lynne Rienner, 2000) and *Dealing with Evils: Essays on Writing from Africa* edited by Koray Melikoglu (*ibidem*-Verlag, 2008). She wrote her Master's thesis on "The language of relationship in Shakespeare's Sonnets" and taught literature ranging from

Chaucer to Plath, but at present concentrates on her research and on selective doctoral supervision.

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Cape Town and award-winning author of the book *A Human Being Died That Night: A Story of Forgiveness*. She served on the Human Rights Violations Committee of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Since then she has been engaged in the study of forgiveness in the aftermath of mass atrocity, with a focus on post-apartheid dialogue, encounters between victim/survivor and perpetrators in the South African context. She co-edited *Narrating Our Healing: Perspectives on Healing Trauma* (2007) and *Memory, Narrative and Forgiveness: Perspectives on Unfinished Journeys of the Past* (2009).

Yazier Henry is a Lecturer in Public Policy at Gerald R. Ford School, University of Michigan. He is a writer, political analyst, and professional human rights advocate. He has written and published on the political economy of memory, trauma, identity, sustainable peace, and Truth Commissions. He has in-depth experience in strategic communications, political strategy and tactics. Prior to coming to Michigan he was the founding Director of the Direct Action Centre for Peace and Memory in Cape Town, South Africa. In South Africa he worked to develop social reintegration programs with former combatants, political prisoners, and torture survivors and popular education programs focusing on sustainable peace and social dialogue. His research interest is in how structural and administrative violence comes to be normalized. He is especially interested in how the attainment of political rights after conflict impact civic and indigenous struggles for greater social and economic rights. Henry's current writing explores the historical and material links between political economy and race in post-colonial contexts.

Mandla Langa is an acclaimed novelist and writer of short stories. His works include *Tenderness of Blood* (Zimbabwe Publishing House, 1987), *A Rainbow on a Paper Sky* (Kliptown Books, London, 1989), *The Naked Song and Other Stories* (David Philip Publishers, Cape Town, 1997); *The Memory of Stones* (DPP, 2000). His most recent novel is *The Lost Colours of the Chameleon* (Picador, Africa, October 2008), which won him the Commonwealth Writers Prize for the Africa Region in March 2009.

Ruth Leys is Henry Wiesenfeld Professor of Humanities and History at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. She was trained in the history of science at Harvard University after obtaining her B.A. in physiology and psychology at Oxford University. She works on the history of the human sciences, focusing especially on aspects of the history of the neurosciences and psychoanalysis. Her recent publications include *Trauma: A Genealogy* (2000) and *From Guilt to Shame: Auschwitz and After* (2007). She is now writing a book on the history of theoretical and experimental approaches to the emotions from the post-World War II period to the present.

Sindiwe Magona is an award-winning author, storyteller, motivational speaker, actor, Xhosa teacher and translator. Her works include *Living, Loving, and Lying Awake at Night; Mother to Mother* and her most recent

novel *Beauty's Gift* which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize and won her the White Ribbon Award. She is Anglican Archbishop Ndungane's official biographer and has started making guest appearances on sitcoms (Stokvel; Montana) and films (Themba). *Please, Take Photographs* is her first collection of poetry and was published by Modjaji Books in 2009.

Susan Mann is a writer living in Cape Town, South Africa. Her first novel, *One Tongue Singing* (Secker & Warburg) was translated into French and Swedish. It won a UCT merit award and was short-listed for the Sunday Times Fiction Award. Her second novel, *Quarter Tones* (Harvill Secker), was short-listed for the Commonwealth prize. She has studied and taught in Cape Town and in Paris.

Achille Mbembe is a senior researcher at WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research) in Johannesburg. He has written extensively in African history and politics, including *La naissance du maquis dans le Sud-Cameroun* (Paris, Karthala, 1996). His latest work *On the Postcolony* won the the 2006 Bill Venter/Altron Award.

Michael Meyer is Professor of English Literatures in the Department of Cultural Studies at the University of Koblenz–Landau. He is the author of a phenomenological study of the poetry of Charles Tomlinson (1990), a study of autobiography and intertextuality in Gibbon, Mill, and Ruskin (1998), and an introduction to English and American literature (3rd ed. 2008). He has published a collection on teaching literature (1994), a critical edition of Salman Rushdie's short stories *East, West* (2002), co-edited *Vertrauen und Glaubwürdigkeit* (Trust and Credibility, 2005), and edited *Word & Image in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures* (2009). His current research focuses on short fiction, visual media, colonial and postcolonial literature.

Chris van der Merwe teaches Afrikaans and Dutch Literature at the University of Cape Town, but has also acted as guest lecturer at a number of universities in Western and Central Europe and in the United States. He is the author of various articles and books on literature; his current research focuses on narrative and trauma, and he is the co-author, with Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, of *Narrating our Healing – Perspectives on Working through Trauma* (2007). For his radio talks on South African Literature he received the Book Journalist of the Year award in 1994, and for his contribution to Afrikaans literary criticism the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns* awarded the Gustav Preller Prize to him in 2009.

Anne Whitehead is Senior Lecturer in the School of English at Newcastle University. She has published *Memory* in the Routledge New Critical Idiom series (Routledge, 2008) and *Trauma Fiction* (Edinburgh University Press, 2004). She has also co-edited *W. G. Sebald – A Critical Companion* (Edinburgh University Press, 2004) and *Theories of Memory: A Reader* (Edinburgh University Press, 2007).