



SOCIAL RESTITUTION

**A human response to
poverty and inequality**

■ **Sharlene Swartz, PhD**


 22 September 2016, HSRC Conference, Johannesburg
 
HSRC
 Human Sciences
 Research Council

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



Thesis

Ongoing **inequality and injustice** in contexts
 such as South Africa
 can be **addressed** through a programme of
restitution
 and where a sociology of **restitution and**
reparations
 becomes part of every conversation about
a future that must address the past.
 Focus on **social restitution** today.


 HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016
 
HSRC
 Human Sciences
 Research Council

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Outline

1. Injustice and inequality
2. Restitution as a substantial solution
 - Continuity in scholarship
 - (Re)positioning of actors
 - Rehumanising
 - Dialogical redistribution
3. Social restitution as a voluntary moral obligation



HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016




Formal restitution

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and limited reparations


Employment, business ownership and procurement equity

Land redistribution



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016



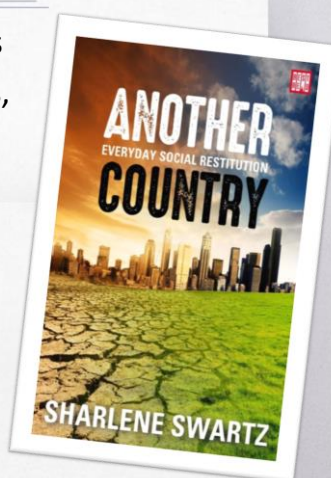
HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council





Methodology

1. Started off with conceptual ideas
2. Invited responses using vignettes, labelling activity
3. In depth interviews
4. 60 interviews, 90 minutes
5. Researching intimates
6. Demographically but not statistically representative
7. Ages 21-72, across class



Contiguous scholarship

Restoring

Compensating

Gain-stripping

Acting symbolically

Returning rights

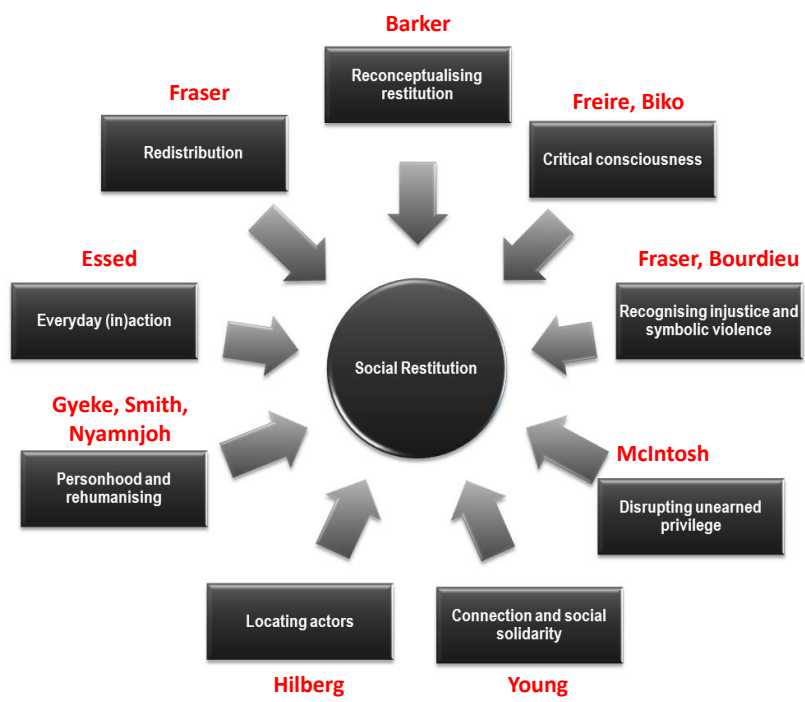
Rehabilitating

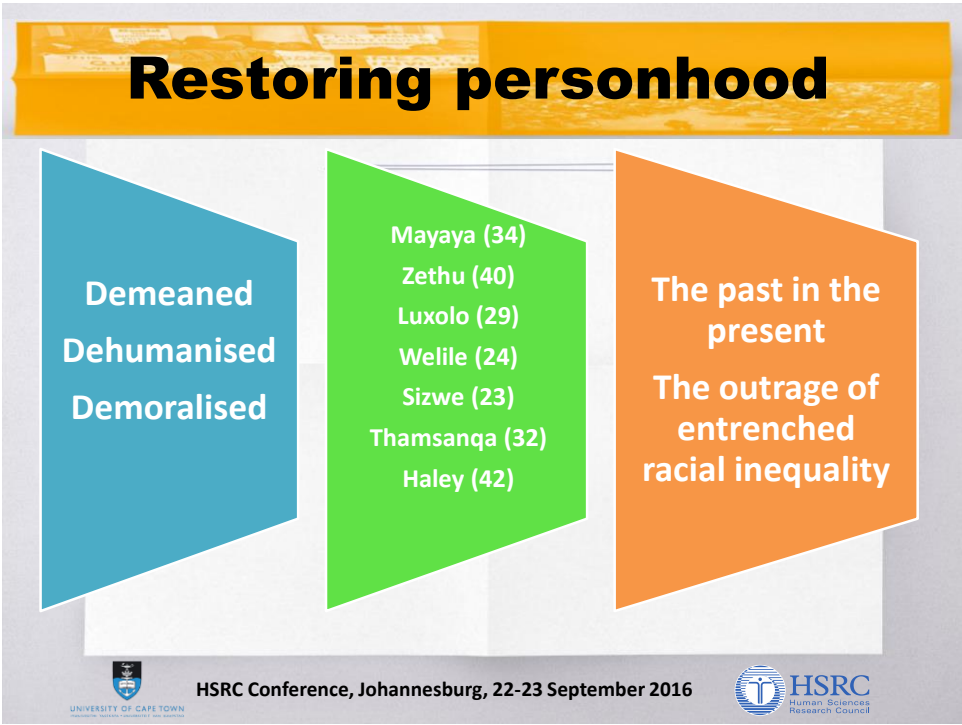
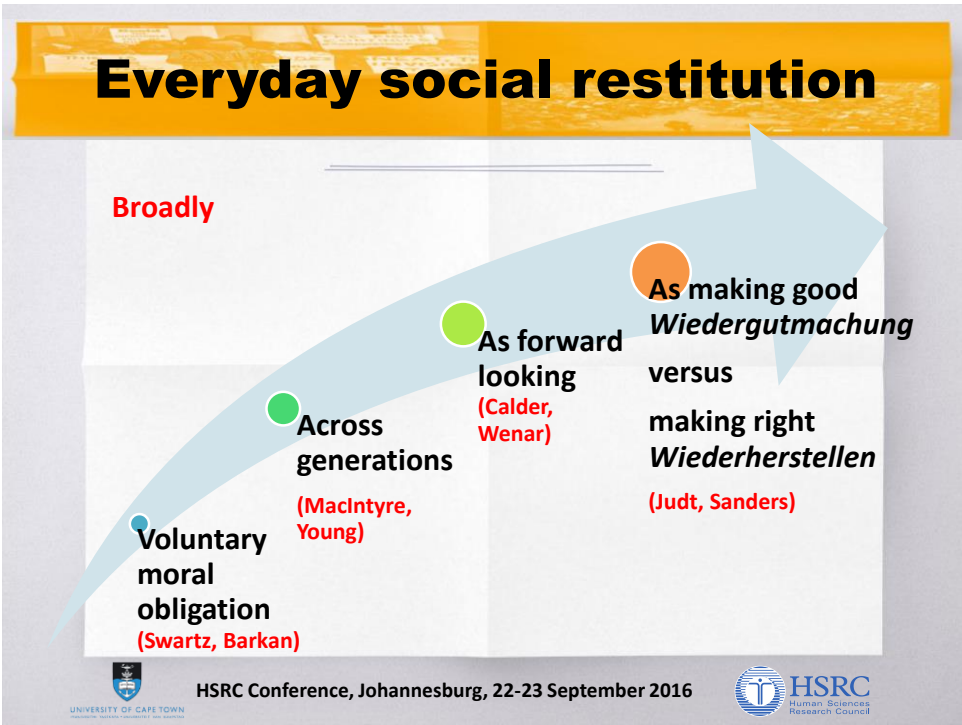
Restitution historically and legally

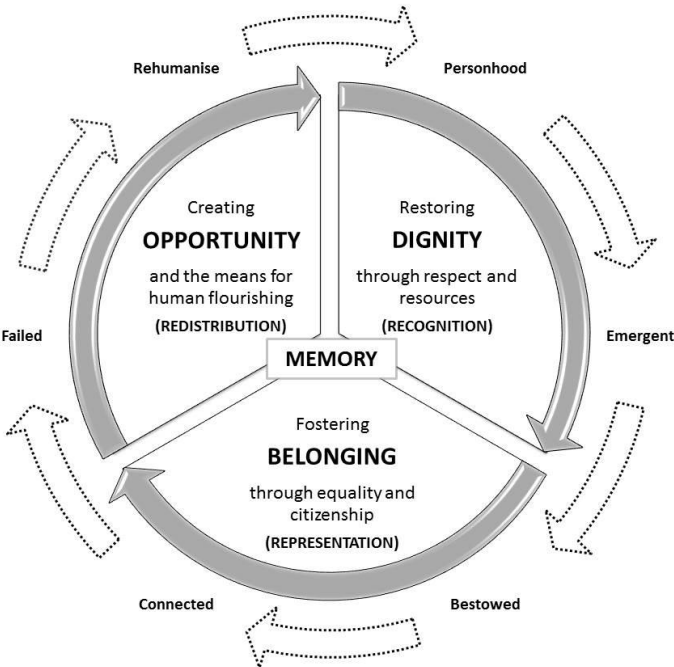
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016

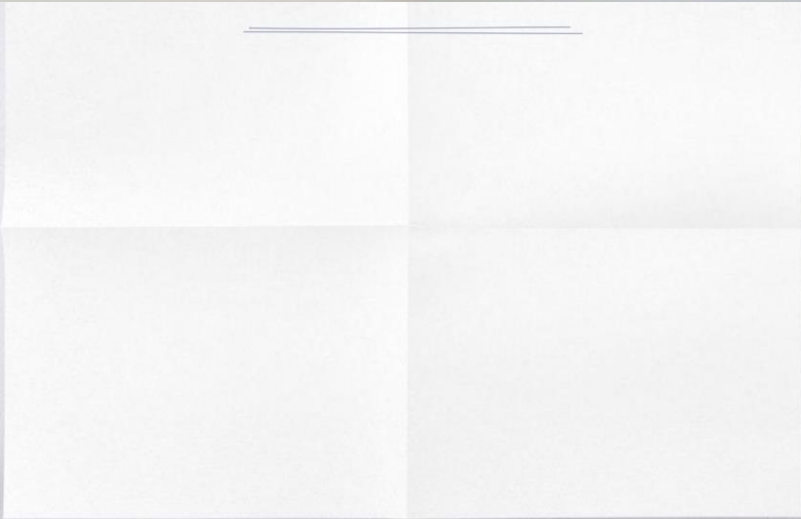
HSRC Human Sciences Research Council



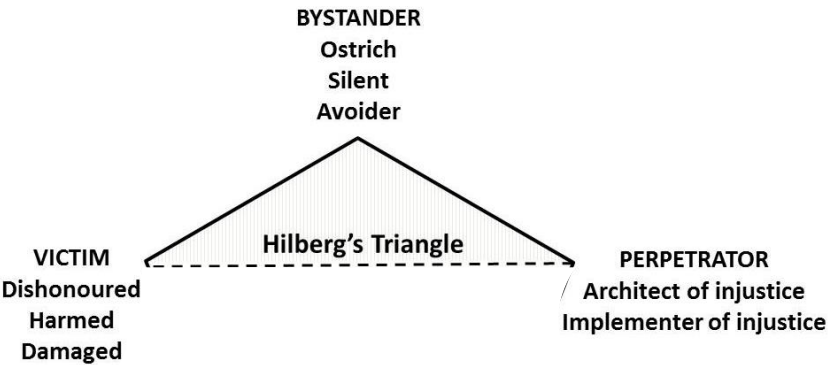


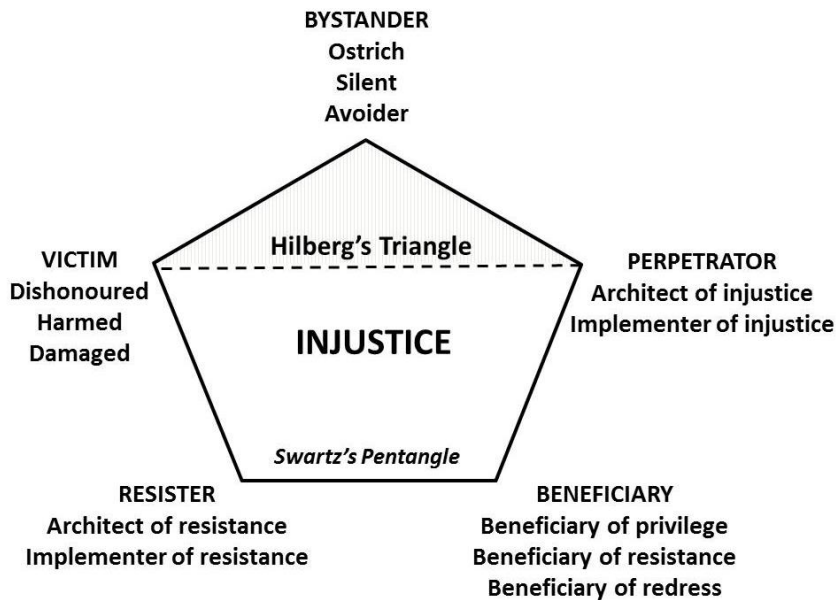


(re)Positioning actors



HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016





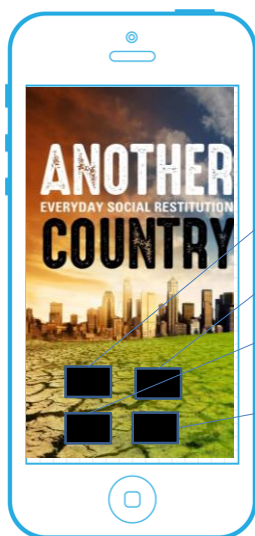
Ideas for social restitution

Alongside government

1. A tax/supertax - bucket toilets/free education
2. Paying for suburban upkeep & cross-subsiding townships
3. A salary-increase moratorium for high earners
4.

Civil-society initiatives

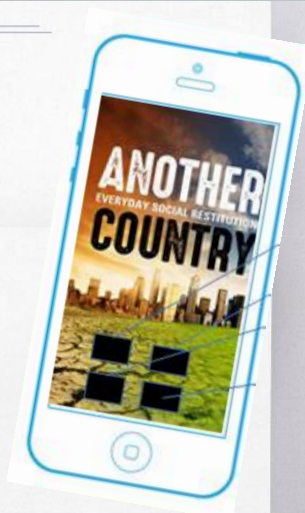
1. Challenge 'whingers'
2. Learn language
3. Dialogues about privilege
4. Children's stories
5. Mentor youth and professionals
6. Share inheritances
7.



1. **Discuss** (guide for 10 weeks of conversations on restitution)
2. **Act** (scaled ideas for restitution)
3. **Comments** (read what people have said about these restitution discussions)
4. **Suggest** (new ideas for everyday social restitution)

10-10-10 Dialogues

1. Group of 10, 10 week, 10 conversations
2. Vision of SA
3. Past in present
4. Meaning of restitution
5. Difference between charity & restitution
6. Locate everyone in conversation
7. Ideas to restore our humanity
8. Plan for implementing ideas
9. Attitudes and obstacles
10. Ongoing project



Conclusion

SOCIAL RESTITUTION

as **acts and attitudes** for **individuals and groups**
alongside or independent of government
action
in dialogue with those dishonoured by
injustice
 as a **voluntary moral obligation**

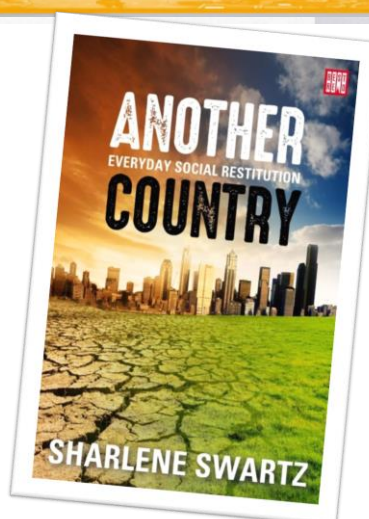


HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016



Read the book

“The dormant volcano built upon South Africa’s twenty-two years of ‘supposed democracy’, fraught with entrenched racism and socio-economic inequalities, has finally erupted. Swartz offers a timely, potent, uncomfortable, yet necessary dialogue for white South Africans to partake in fixing our country. Read this book if you are tired of being tired. ...No reconciliation without restitution is the leitmotif” Paballo Chauke, Commonwealth Scholar, University of Oxford



HSRC Conference, Johannesburg, 22-23 September 2016

