

Race and Restitution

Sharlene Swartz

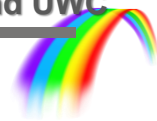
14-17 March 2018

Together for justice: exploring contemporary challenges for churches and civil society in the context of post-colonial Southern African and German partnerships

SACC and UWC



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"THERE IS ONLY ONE
RACE, THE HUMAN
RACE"

ROBERT SOBUKWE

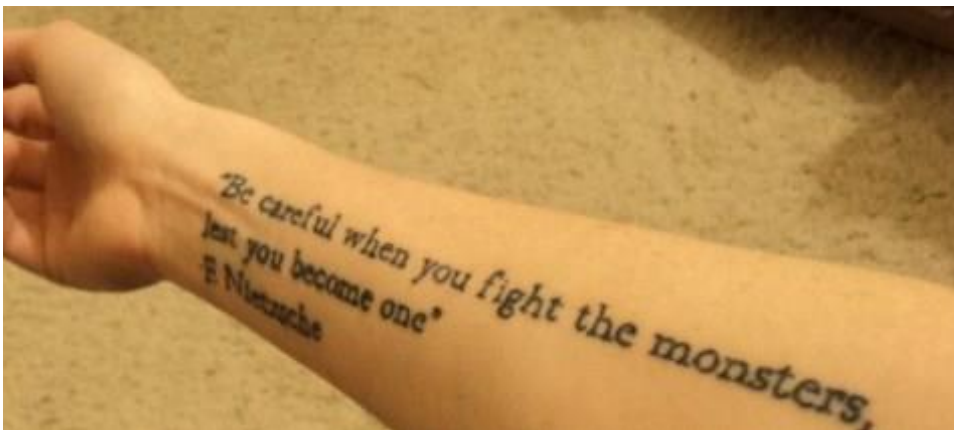
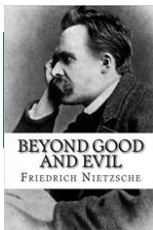
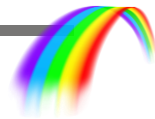


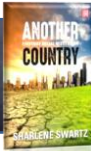
Race

1. A biological construct
2. A theological travesty
3. A key site for perpetrating oppression
4. A social construct
5. A fallacy
6. A scape goat
7. A practical proxy for domination and inequality
8. A means of social exclusion
9. Is just difference



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How has 'race' been shaped?

Premodernity – before the 1800s

1. Shaped by religion
2. 'Reason' - order over disorder; 'science'

Modernity 1900s onwards

1. Move from feudalism to 'equality'
2. Shaped by colonisation, decolonisation, scientific method, industrialisation, democracy

Post-modernity 2000 onwards – depends on location

1. Globalisation, hypercapitalism, post industrialisation



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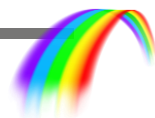


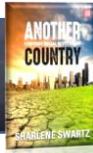
Race and restitution

1. Injustice - colonialism and apartheid – damages our humanity and sense of personhood.
2. Effects seen in widening inequality, deepening poverty, high levels of violence, racism and increasing social distance and social protests.
3. The past remains present and requires attention - critical consciousness, recognition, rehumanising and redistribution for justice to be done.
4. Social restitution as separate to legal notions of restitution but continuous with it



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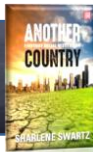
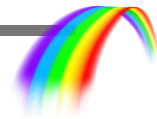


Race and restitution (cont.)

5. Requiring a conscious positioning of actors in past injustice beyond that of victim and perpetrator
6. Aimed at restored personhood and rehumanising the collective
7. Made possible through a process of engaged action-oriented dialogues.
8. Critical role for the church to play – promoting dialogue, interrogating past and current theologies

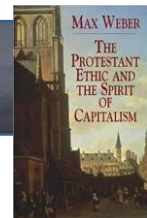


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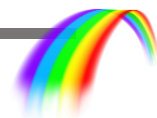


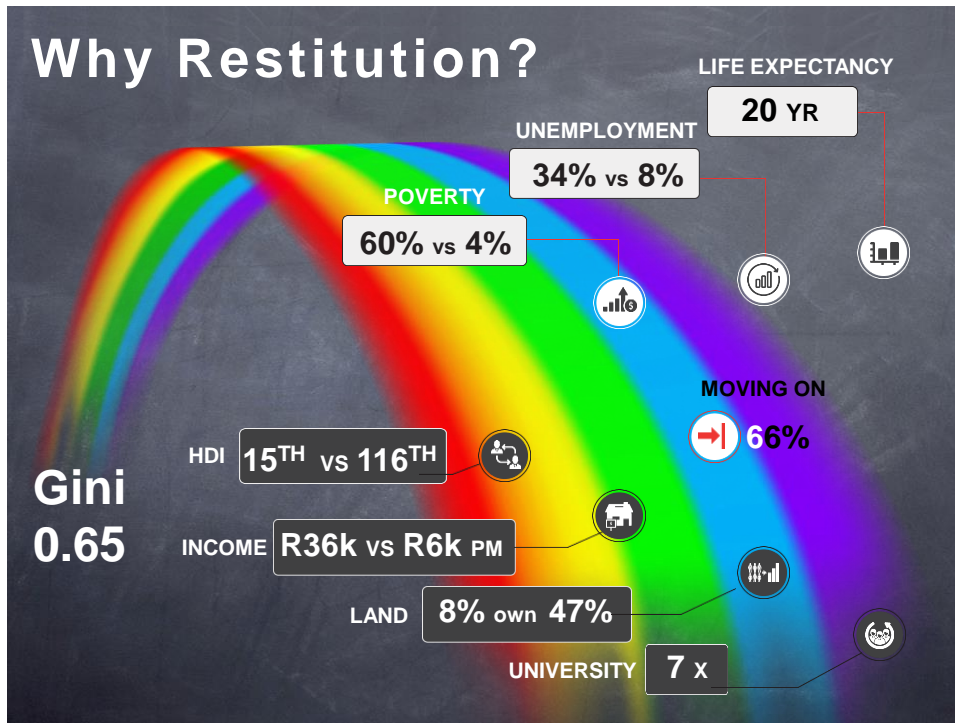
Race and theologies

1. Theologies that impede
 - Descent – Adam and Noah
 - Forgiveness (without repentance)
 - Grace and sola fidei
2. Theologies that help
 - Zacchaeus: restitution more than the hurt; restitution and salvation
 - Equality – Galatians 3:28
 - Christianity, capitalism, greed and power



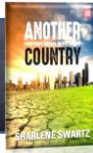
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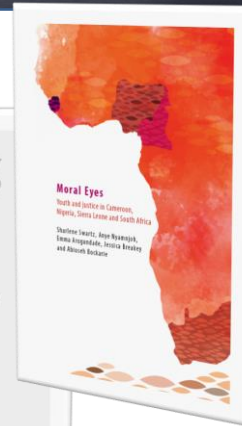
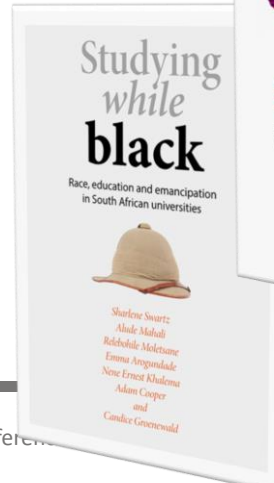
Views on Restitution SASAS 2017

	Agree	
	Black	White
White South Africans must act to repair the past	60%	20%
Black South Africans should demand restitution	54%	13%
Apartheid corruption should be investigated	56%	16%
A restitution fund	54%	14%
A restitution tax	43%	8%
Small group discussions about restitution	56%	22%
Forget the past, move on	51%	76%

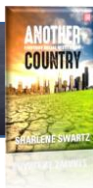
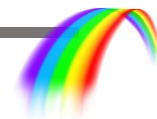


Black pain and rage at racism

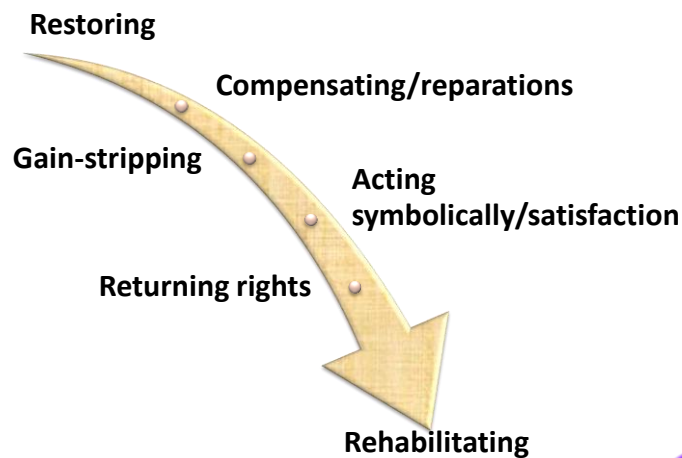
1. Demeaned and dehumanised
2. The outrage of entrenched racial inequality
3. Well-being (mental health)
4. Pervasive racism regardless of class
5. Issues of inferiority and superiority
6. Forget and bury the past
7. Lack of White consciousness



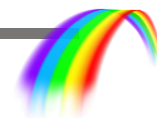
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Legal and historical restitution

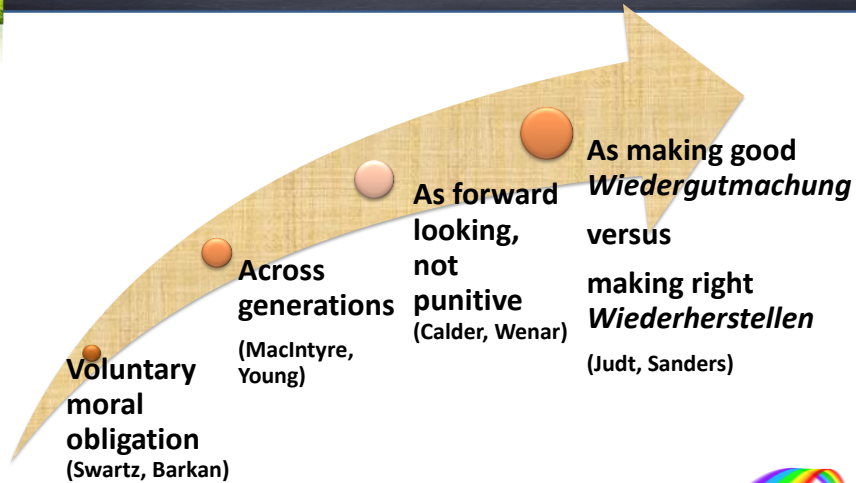


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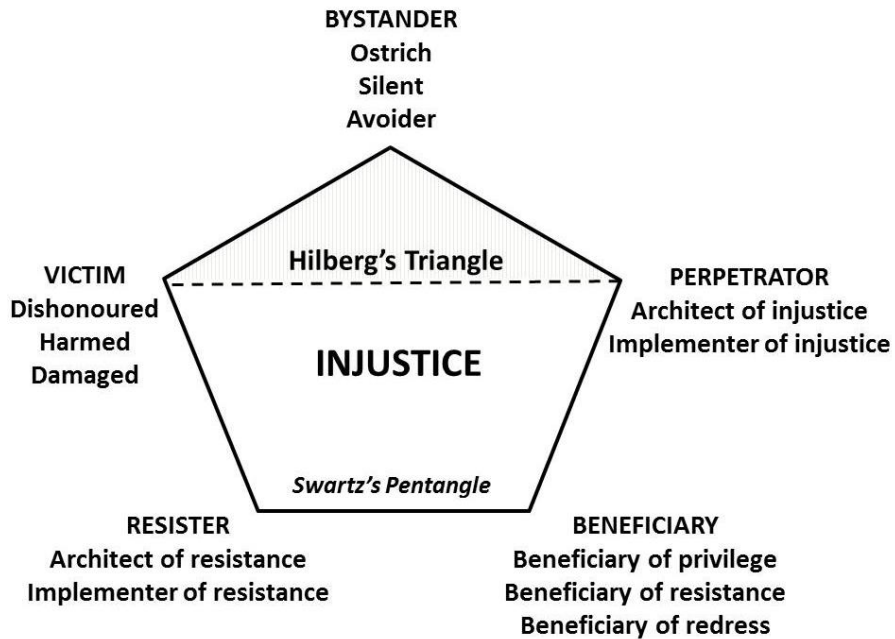
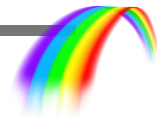




Everyday SOCIAL restitution



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Theory of personhood

**CREATED IN THE
IMAGE OF GOD
WITH DIGNITY**

“hunger with dignity is
preferable to **bread**
eaten in slavery”



dignity, sovereignty,
wealth

**Frantz
Fanon**



recognition,
representation,
redistribution

**Nancy
Fraser**



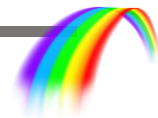
acquired, failure possible,
responsibility towards
others

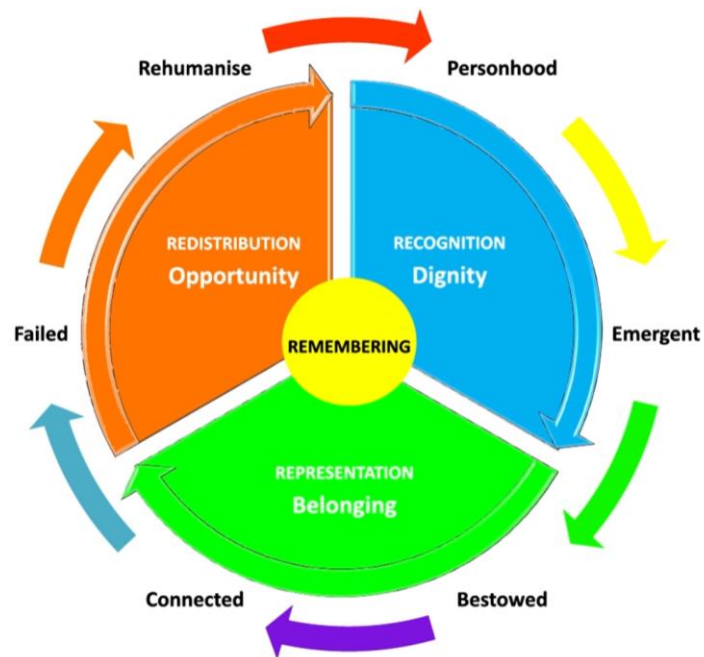
Ifeanyi Menkiti



Menkiti on Personhood (*Person and Community*, 1984)

1. “Personhood is something which has to be achieved” (p. 172)
2. “...Social and ritual transformation [necessary] until it attains the full complement of excellences seen as truly definitive of [humanity]” (p. 172)
3. “something at which individuals could fail... be competent or ineffective, better or worse...hence... rituals of incorporation... learning the social rules” (p. 173)
4. Attained in direct proportion to participation in communal life (p. 176)





Talking and Asking: 2 Samuel
21:6ff God, David, the Gibeonites

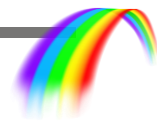


10-10-10 Restitution Dialogues

1. 10 people, 10 weeks, 10 conversations
2. Vision of SA
3. Past in present
4. Meaning of restitution
5. Charity & restitution
6. Locating everyone
7. Ideas to restore our humanity
8. Plans for implementing
9. Attitudes and obstacles
10. Ongoing project



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READ About the book and author of *Another Country*, what people are saying about the book, restitution, and the dialogues

DISCUSS Questions to guide dialogues, with space to comment on the process

ACT Ideas for restitution scaled by time, money, effort needed, and number of people required

SUGGEST Ideas for everyday social restitution; added to scaled ideas under 'act'



A Common Vision

1. Where **race** no longer dominates
2. Where there is equal access to **opportunities**
3. Where we **know** people who are different to us and have them as neighbours
4. A country in which **poverty** and **inequality** are a dim memory of the past.
5. Where '**sorry-ness**' is done, not said



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