# [Impunity as a moral phenomenon: A review of origins, types and correctives]

**Sharlene Swartz** 

44th Annual Meeting Association for Moral Education, Barcelona, 8-10 November 2018







### The roadmap

- 1. Restitution
- Impunity meaning
- 3. Literature
- **5 Case Studies**
- Research proposal 5.



Social science that makes a difference

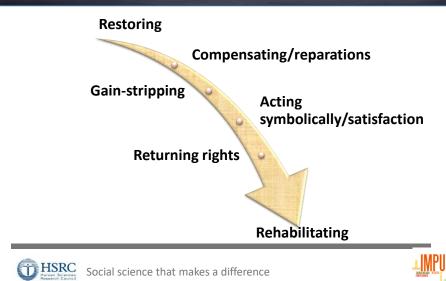


### Tells 5 stories

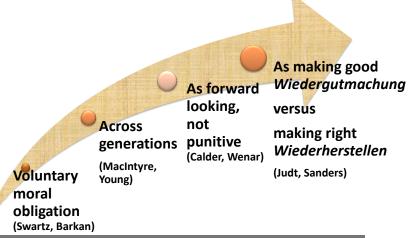
- 1. South Africa's STORY of inequality and injustice
- The STORIES OF 60 Black and White South Africans about the effects of the past on/in the present
- 3. TWO FICTITIOUS STORIES to help people think about and appy the concept (personhood, locating selves, dialogues)
- 4. MY STORY with its cycles of consciousness
- 5. A POTENTIAL NEW STORY based on dialogues and acts of social restitution by individuals and communities



## Legal and historical restitution



## **Everyday SOCIAL restitution**







## **Definitions of Impunity**

### impunity | Im'pju:nIti |

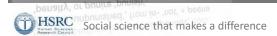
noun [mass noun]

exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action: the impunity enjoyed by military officers implicated in civilian killings | protestors burned flags on the streets with impunity.

ORIGIN

mid 16th century: from Latin *impunitas*, from *impunis* 'unpunished', from *in-* 'not' + *poena* 'penalty' or *punire* 'punish'.

"action characterised by absence of fear of punishment and disregard for the impact on others"







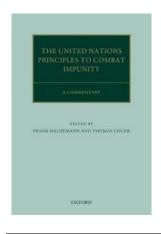




HSRC Social science that makes a difference



## The UN Principles to Combat Impunity



- Analysis of the UN Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of **Human Rights Through Action to** Combat Impunity
- Examines the genesis, normative background, interpretation and practical application of each of the 38 Principles



## Global Impunity Index

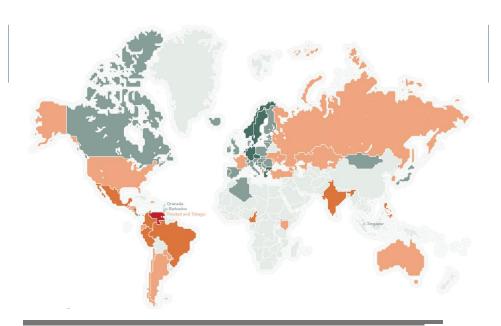


- Crime > report > judgement
- Saudi Arabia, China, Indonesia, and South Africa (members of G20) unable to measure due to statistical impunity.



Social science that makes a difference

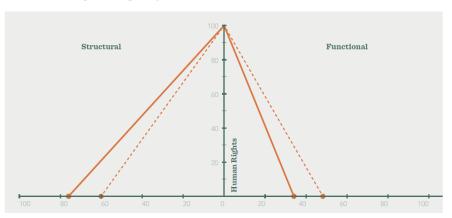






MPUNTY INCOME NAME OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

Graph 1. Prism of global impunity 2017







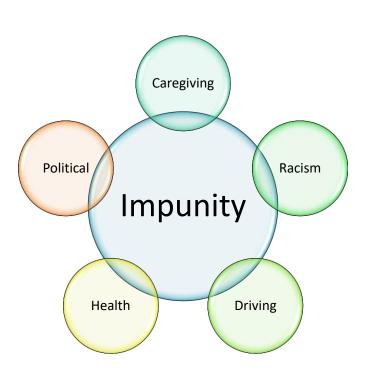
Relative position	Region	Country	GII 2017	Structural		Functional		
				Security system	Justice system	Security system	Justice system	Human Rights
69	Europe	Croatia	36.01	52.34	22.94	39.02	26.21	39.55
68	Europe	Bulgaria	37.19	59.09	0.00	40.03	22.65	64.21
67	Europe	Slovenia	37.23	62.16	21.56	43.71	23.23	35.50
66	Europe	Sweden	39.15	29.67	62.78	33.87	28.10	41.31
65	Europe	Norway	40.90	57.91	76.74	30.64	22.17	17.06
64	Europe	Montenegro	42.13	51.89	30.19	37.17	28.78	62.62
63	Europe	Czech Republic	42.83	58.23	51.26	43.01	23.39	38.25
14	America	United States of America	64.78	72.87	83.35	50.22	37.24	80.24
13	America	El Salvador	65.03	84.45	82.73	45.95	29.81	82.22
12	America	Honduras	65.04	78.04	83.18	40.62	38.23	85.12
11	America	Paraguay	65.38	75.13	81.34	44.23	45.63	80.57
10	Europe	Russian Federation	65.49	56.46	60.64	87.68	25.60	97.09
9	America	Nicaragua	66.34	80.27	100.00	44.22	24.49	82.75
8	America	Colombia	66.57	72.80	84.26	47.24	31.55	96.98
7	America	Brazil	66.72	73.76	88.96	38.93	34.77	97.15
6	America	Venezuela	67.24	73.62	88.96	38.13	46.03	89.47
5	America	Peru	69.04	78.63	97.00	46.13	39.26	84.19
4	America	Mexico	69.21	68.14	94.70	47.51	35.72	100.00
3	Africa	Cameroon	69.39	80.12	93.81	49.18	39.91	83.94
2	Asia	India	70.94	75.70	88.96	48.22	42.86	98.95
1	Asia	Philippines	75.60	94.06	99.07	44.64	42.22	97.99

#### **Contexts**

- Global power relations
- Political power
- Corruption
- Behaviour of caregiving professionals
- 5. Reckless drivers
- **Exploitative employment practices**
- Economic relationships and unequal salaries
- Advertising
- Gendered and racialised interactions



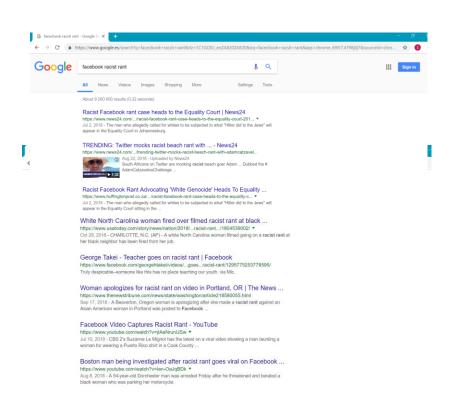










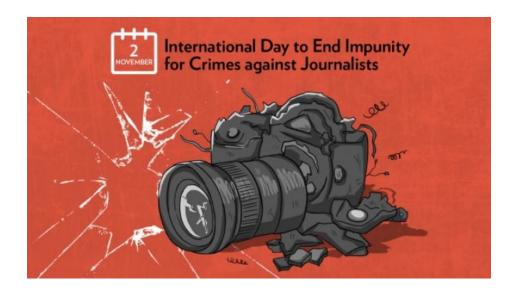


















#### Key questions to ask

- 1. How does impunity arrive?
- What conditions allow it to thrive?
- 3. Can we distinguish between 'impunity from above' (their structural embeddedness) and 'impunity from below' (through varying modes of moral reasoning)?
- 4. How does impunity shape social relations and affect societal life?
- 5. How may it be interrupted and its effects ameliorated?

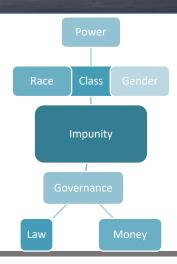


Social science that makes a difference



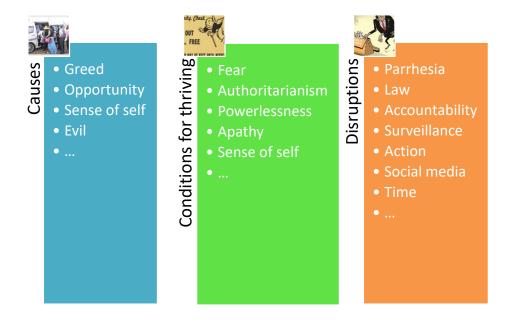
### **Effects of impunity**

- 1. Individual
- 2. Relational
- 3. Structural









#### Research design

- 1. Who should be asked about impunity?
  - Those committing acts of impunity?
  - Those observing them?
  - Those experiencing the consequences of them?
  - Those who facilitate impunity?
- 2. How?
  - Interviews
  - Observations
  - Commissions



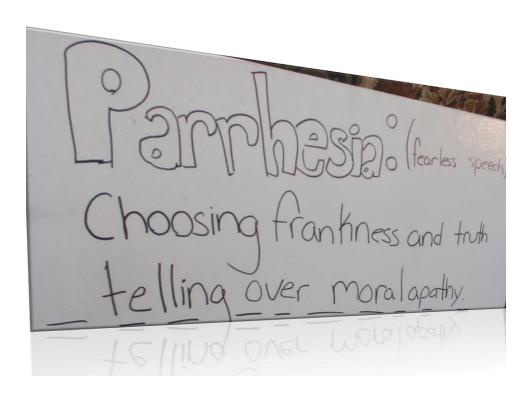


### Moral education responses

- Research
- Parrhesia fearless speaking, speaking truth to power (Foucault)
- 3. Perspective taking
- 4. Accountability
- **Justice**
- 6.







## Moral education responses





Social science that makes a difference



## **Impunity**

- 1. An account of international laws against impunity and their shortcomings
- 2. Case studies of impunity in various locations
- 3. The STORIES OF XX people and how it has affected them - individually and structurally
- 4. Common principles around impunity what causes it to thrive an what can ameliorate it
- 5. A POTENTIAL NEW STORY based on acts of parrhesia in multiple contexts and with varying outcomes

