

Annual ASSAf Humanities Lecture

50 - 90 - 100
Commemoration

A Praetorian Sensibility? The Social Sciences and Humanities in Pretoria

Crain Soudien, Human Sciences Research Council

14 August 2019





“A large praetorian
Bureaucracy filled
with ambitious... and
often sycophantic
people makes work
and makes trouble”

Arthur Schlesinger



Does this characterisation of Praetorian – of being on guard –
work for the social science community?

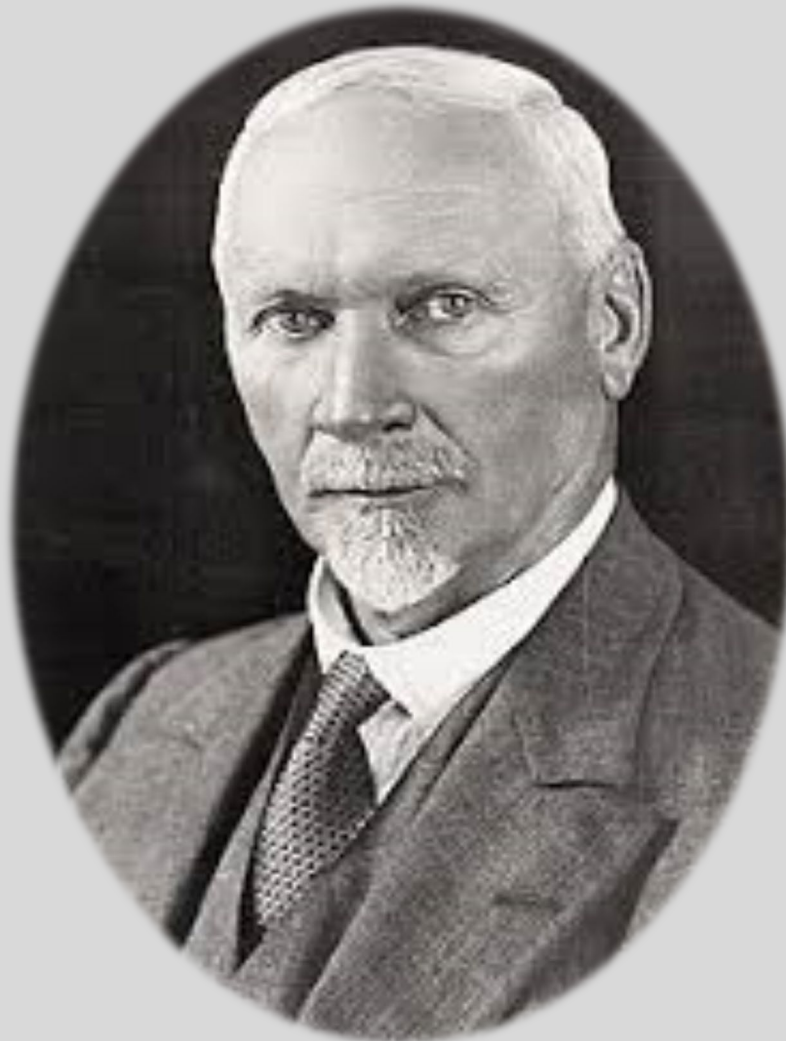


Is this material expression of Pretoria embodied in the disciplines of sociology,
psychology, history, philosophy and theology?

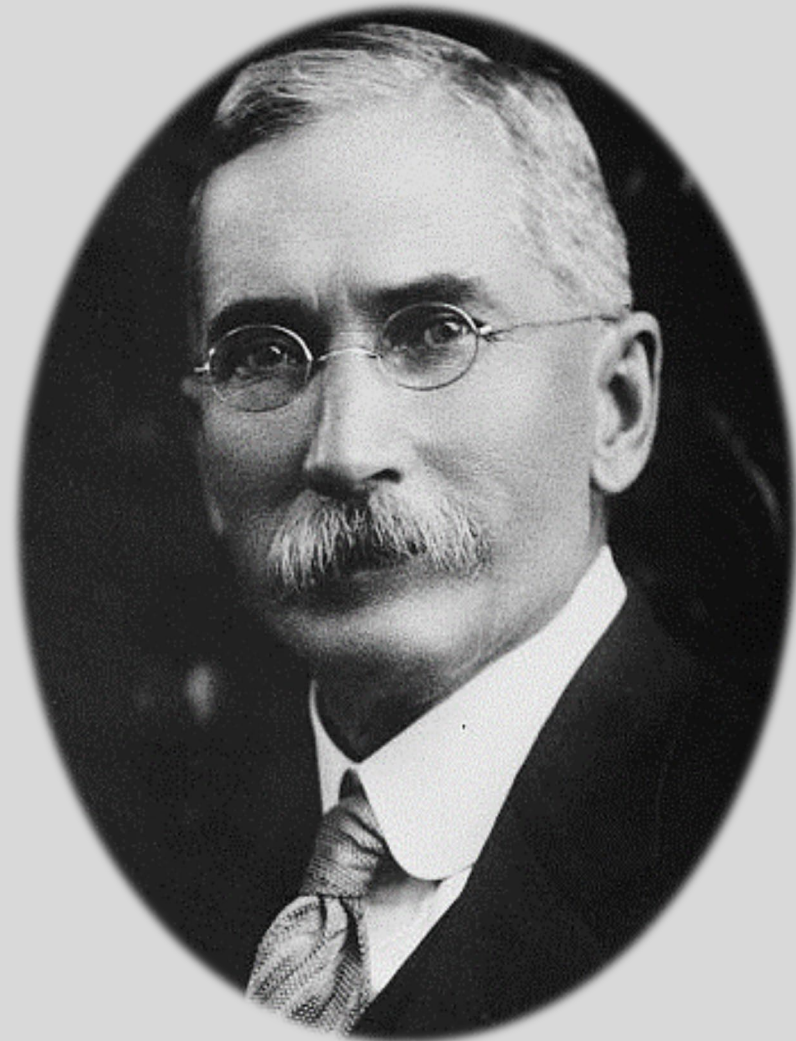
Nation-building 1920 – 1970



General Louis Botha



General Jan Smuts



General Barry Hertzog

Purified
National Party



DF Malan



The Intellectual Landscape

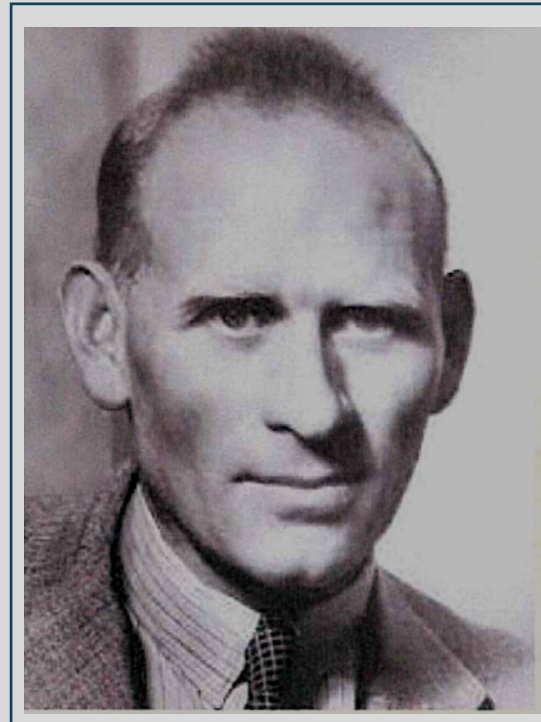
Positivism

“Critical about positivism is that hid within itself, is the ideology of race”

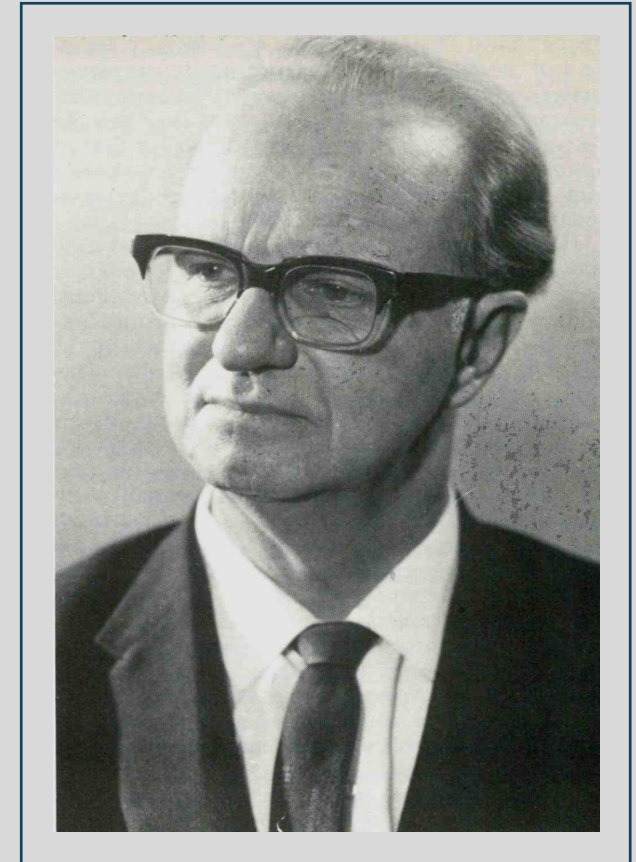
Ethno-communitarianism

The ‘native’ question

The ‘poor white’ problem



Ernst Malherbe



Geoffrey Cronjé

The Carnegie Commission Inquiry into 'Poor Whites'



Carnegie Corporation of New York and Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University

The Afrikaner Broederbond

“


...(f)or more than half a century no major new idea in Afrikaner politics was expressed in public without first being pondered, analysed, and intensely debated by this dedicated ‘band of brothers...

(Sparks Mooney, 2006)



Professor A.E. du Toit Rector, 1929 - 1934

T.U.C. NOW UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA



The anniversary of the birth of the University of Pretoria is celebrated on the 22nd of October. From modest Training School to Fully-Fledged University Institution That Has Stood the Test of 22 Years.

Madness Gift from General Smuts

£1000 for Endowment Fund

Keen Pretoria Educationist

By Professor J. B. S. HALL

Mr H. D. Coen Meekins

The University of Pretoria is celebrating its 22nd anniversary on the 22nd of October. The institution has grown from a modest training school to a fully-fledged university. It has stood the test of 22 years and has become one of the leading universities in South Africa. The university has received a large gift from General Smuts, which will be used to endow a fund for the benefit of the university. The university is also celebrating the anniversary of the death of the late Professor J. B. S. Hall, who was a leading educationist in Pretoria. Mr H. D. Coen Meekins, the rector of the university, has expressed his appreciation of the gift from General Smuts and has said that it is a great honor for the university to receive such a large gift. He has also said that the university is proud to have received the gift and that it will be used to the best advantage for the benefit of the university.

The only University UPA in



ONS STEUN MOEDERTAALONDERWYS

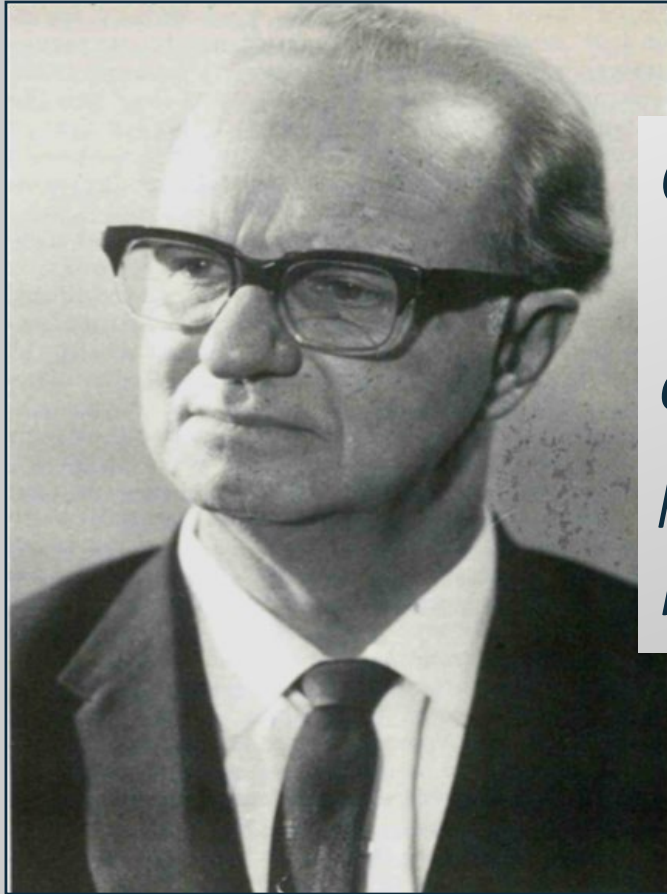
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Professor C.H. Rautenbach Rector, 1948 - 1970

“Rautenbach was proud to stand at the helm of what he affectionately called the Volksuniversiteit, and as a staunch supporter of the National Party and its republican ideals, and member of the Afrikaner Broederbond... he had the necessary influence and contacts that could benefit the university on a financial level.”

(Van der Merwe, 2008)





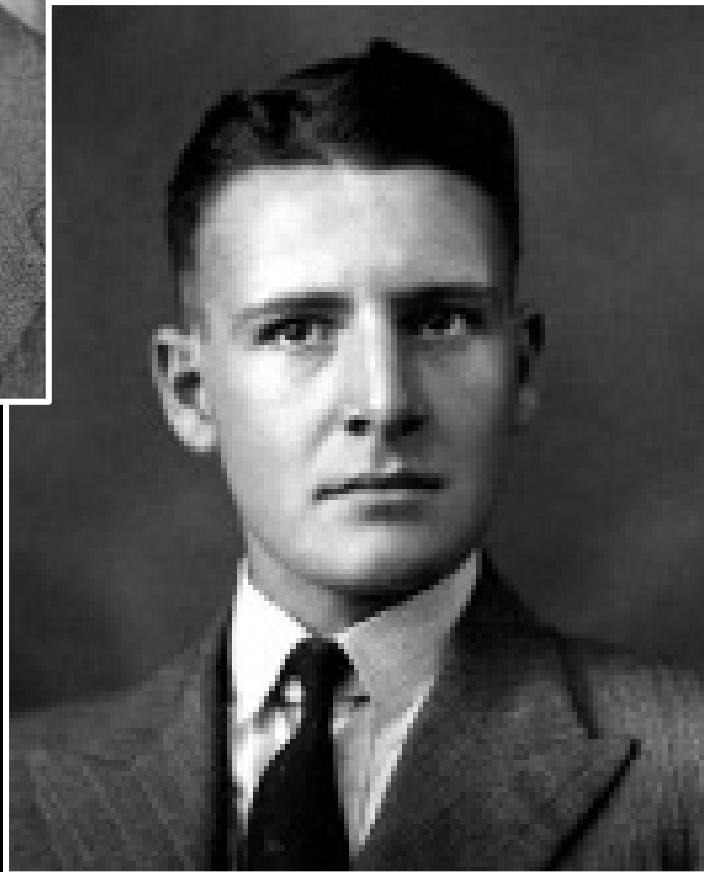
Geoff Cronjé...

*organic intellectual, Chief Praetorian,
progenitor of the Human Sciences
Research Council*

Academic rigour held the
growing nationalistic
mood in check



Prof S.P. Engelbrecht



Prof A.S. Geyser



Prof Floors van Jaarsveld

**The South African Society:
Realities and
Future Prospects**



**Main Committee:
HSRC Investigation Into
Intergroup Relations**

... the political ordering of intergroup relations according to the original apartheid model has reached an impasse and that constructive relations cannot be developed further along these lines.... Delays in addressing the issue could have catastrophic consequences”

“

Beyond Benchmarks

What twenty years of TIMSS data tell us
about South African education



V Reddy, TL Zuze, M Visser, L Winnaar, A Juan, CH Prinsloo, F Arends, S Rogers

