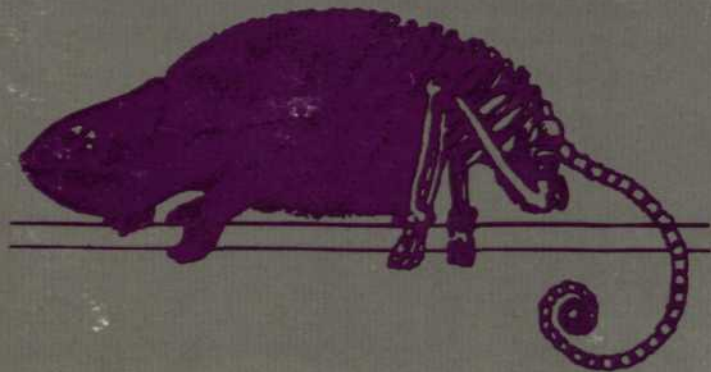


TRANS FORM ATION

critical
perspectives
on
Southern
Africa

22



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Readers will note a new editorial format for *Transformation*. We are now creating two separate
categories, one of editors within the country who can play a supporting task for the journal,
and another, of foreign editors, who will also be able to aid the journal but inevitably at a
greater distance. The present list is still somewhat incomplete as we await correspondence
with nominated individuals.

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PUBLICATION GUIDELINES:

We ask contributors to submit two (2) typed copies, following the format (on such issues as
references and notes) of articles in this issue of **TRANSFORMATION**. Whilst the journal
will cater for work at any level of abstraction, or detail, a number of criteria will guide the editors
in selection of material for inclusion. Articles should aim for academic rigour but also clarify the
political implications of the issues discussed. We are concerned not to compete with other South
African journals that may cover related ground but in different ways - this will govern our selection
principles. All articles will be assessed anonymously by the referees. Contributions should
preferably not exceed the following lengths:

Analytical articles: 7 000 words

Debates and review articles: 3 000 words

The views expressed in **TRANSFORMATION** do not necessarily reflect those of the editors.

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS RATES AND ADDRESS
AT THE BACK OF THIS ISSUE.**

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Articles

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM OF ETHNICITY IN AFRICA? 1

The first articles in this issue of Transformation broach the subject of ethnicity which has become increasingly salient to debates about the future of South Africa. The Nigerian social scientist CLAUDE AKE considers that blanket hostility to expressions of ethnic identity and community in Africa have been misguided. Ethnicity has been a vibrant and legitimate construction of civil society, not simply a manipulated idea from outside. Africa must advance through recognising and working with identities that exist rather than through self-alienation.

BEYOND THE ETHNIC GROUP: ETHNIC GROUPS, NATION-STATE AND DEMOCRACY IN MADAGASCAR 15

Another contribution from elsewhere in Africa on the question of ethnicity, and federalism, is by the Madagascar historian D. TOVORINA RAKOTONDRABE. He argues that ethnicity in Madagascar is partly artificial, partly a colonial creation but that it has an importance in people's lives. So does regional identity, which is not the same as ethnicity. His essay is a critique of two dominant political discourses in Madagascar, one of which insists on bolstering the power of ethnically defined regionalism, simply to enhance the role of local elites and party bosses while the other demands total central control. Unity from the top will not build a nation, he argues; regionalism is an essential developmental building-block but it cannot be based on ethnic claims to exclusive legitimacy.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE AFRICAN CULTURAL TRADITION 30

T.W. BENNETT considers a somewhat related theme, that of tradition and cultural priorities as and when they clash with basic human rights provision. Can the future South African constitution acknowledge African legal precedents as they have been codified as customary law without doing violence to demands for human rights? He especially concerns himself with the rights of women and children.

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**HAVE WE GOT A POLICY FOR YOU? A REJOINDER TO
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MELANIE WALKER takes some issue with Linda Chisholm on the availability and possibilities for bringing together the actual practise of schoolteachers with educational research. She argues that more research into actual practise is available and more needs to be made available in order to formulate policy changes in education.