

This book features incisive qualitative understandings of key dimensions of the socio-educational pathways and experiences of black students at Stellenbosch University.

About the author:

Aslam Fataar is a Research and Development Professor in Higher Education Transformation affiliated with the Department of Education Policy Studies at Stellenbosch University. He is the Head of the Committee for the Institutional Response to the (Khampepe) Commission's Recommendations at Stellenbosch University. This committee manages the University's response to the Khampepe Report on alleged racism on behalf of its Rector.

In the ever-growing literature on transformation in higher education, or its sister conceptual framework of "diversity and inclusion," this book deserves a special place of honour. Incisive in its analysis of black students' experiences, the authors' contributions probe not only black students' encounters with the discriminatory practices of an unwelcoming institutional culture. The reader is also given a front-row seat to witness how black students reclaim their agency to resist assaults on their human dignity and how they engage in journeys of alliances with their white peers to build a sense of solidarity. Written with clarity and elegance, these chapters give one hope that the journey toward true transformation at Stellenbosch University is in earnest on a new level."

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, South African National Research Foundation Chair (SARChI) in Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma, Stellenbosch University

This is a profound, painful, moving and ultimately inspirational book. Linking the history and structures of apartheid to the daily encounters that black students face unveils the exclusionary cultures that hinders their educational journeys. At the same time, the book highlights the students' pride, their strength and the value of community cultural wealth. The narratives emphasise the need for a transformative shift in institutional culture and mobilises for change. This book is an indispensable resource, not merely for the University of Stellenbosch and South African universities, but for all universities worldwide committed to dismantling the vestiges of racism in higher education and society.

Rajani Naidoo, UNESCO Chair, Co-Director International Centre for Higher Education Management, University of Bath, UK

It is deeply important that we understand the 'entanglements' of our human becoming, their endlessly creative turns, those deliberately crafted by people in power and those imaginatively produced from people in states of subjection. This rich collection of essays helps us see how entanglement plays out in the university – in this case Stellenbosch University. We learn how racialisation, sexualisation and gender formation works in a space struggling to come to a sense of its post-apartheid identity.

Crain Soudien, Honorary Professor Nelson Mandela University and Emeritus Professor University of Cape Town

Not enough of the literature on decolonisation at universities has focused on students. Instead, most studies have generated analysis of curricula, pedagogies, artworks, metrics. This book centres student voices, and first-generation black students in particular, drawing out the misrecognitions they experience, counter and work to dislodge. Toxic legacies of whiteness, class prejudice, patriarchy and cisgenderism at Stellenbosch University are confronted and worked against. The analysis is productive and the gains made in relation to building strong self-worth and structural change are encouraging. There is more to look at in the dark heart of prejudice but this book is an important opening. No doubt it will generate a constructive conversation.

Sarah Nuttall, WISER, University of the Witwatersrand

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