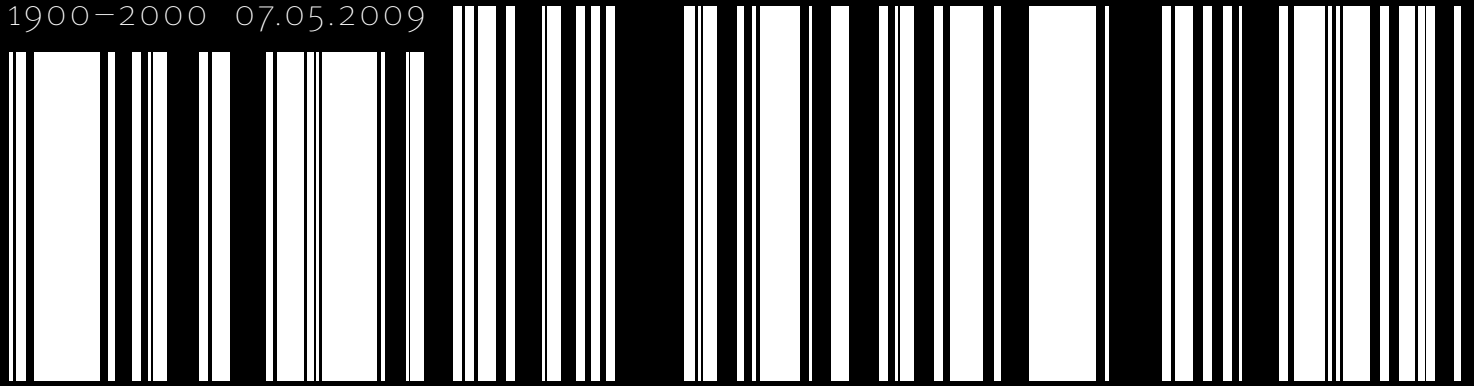


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Race, Consumption and the Idea of Freedom

Revisiting South Africa's Racial History

Professor Deborah Posel

Director, Wits Institute for Social and
Economic Research, Johannesburg

Thursday 7 May 2009

Ethnic and Racial Studies
Annual Lecture 2009

Oliver Thompson Lecture Theatre, City University London, Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0HB
Registration 18.30, Lecture 19.00–20.00, Refreshments 20.00–20.45

Race, Consumption and the Idea of Freedom: Revisiting South Africa's Racial History

"I didn't struggle to be poor" said senior African National Congress member and struggle stalwart Smuts Ngonyama in the midst of public arguments about freedom and acquisition, race, democracy and inequality. The assertion was controversial and for many, confirmation of an ethos of greed and entitlement in post-apartheid South Africa.

That may be, but nevertheless, Ngonyama's position opens up a revealing and largely unexplored line of analysis on the relationship between race, consumption and notions of freedom in South Africa's history.

During this lecture, Professor Posel will revisit the version of race propounded by the apartheid regime and examine its afterlife. She will explore the ways in which apartheid's racial categories were a means of regulating access to the world of 'things', along with the desire for, and pleasure in, consumption and the status attached to it.

Professor Deborah Posel

Professor Deborah Posel is Director of the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa; a position she has held since 2000.

She joined WISER after ten years at the University of Witwatersrand's Department of Sociology. During this time, she spent two years as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Department of Sociology.

Professor Posel completed a D. Phil at Nuffield College, University of Oxford in 1987, where she was also a Gwilyn Gibbon Prize Research Fellow.

Professor Posel has written extensively on the history of apartheid, including *The Making of Apartheid 1948 to 1961: Conflict and Compromise* (Clarendon Press, 1991 & 1997) and *Apartheid's Genesis*, co-edited with P. Bonner and P. Delius (WUP & Ohio, 1994). More recent work focuses on the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has produced a co-edited book on *Commissioning the Truth: the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission*, and the politics of sexuality and death in the midst of HIV/AIDS.

Ethnic and Racial Studies

Ethnic and Racial Studies is published nine times a year by Routledge and covers issues around race, racism, migration, ethnicity and nationalism. It is edited by Professor Martin Bulmer (University of Surrey) and Professor John Solomos (City University London). Each year, the journal stages the *Ethnic and Racial Studies Annual Lecture* to showcase an aspect of the journal's content. To find out more visit www.informaworld.com/ers

School of Social Sciences

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For further information visit www.city.ac.uk/social

Places must be booked in advance. Please register at www.city.ac.uk/whatson or e-mail eventsrspv@city.ac.uk, including your name and the event name in the subject line.
