

# **ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**In collaboration with the**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE**

### **'HIDDEN VOICES, UNTOLD STORIES AND VEILED MEMORIES: ORAL HISTORY, REPRESENTATION AND KNOWLEDGE'**

**Fifth Annual National Oral History Conference**

**East London (Regent Hotel), 7-10 October 2008**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Over the past few years, the Oral History Association of South Africa and the Department of Arts and Culture have convened a number of conferences, which provided discussions and debates regarding the role and position of oral history in post apartheid South Africa. This year we inquire further on how divulgence of 'hidden voices, untold stories and veiled memories' constitutes oral history that also contributes to representation and the production of knowledge. Memories and story telling are critical elements of oral history, but simultaneously are of vital interest beyond this discipline. History does not necessarily belong to professional historians. Understanding past and present experiences is crucial to South African society at large. To what extent does the divulgence of 'hidden voices, untold stories and veiled memories' contribute to new knowledge about our society? Can this foster any form or forms of representation for those people whose voices have been hidden, whose stories have not been told and whose memories have remained veiled?

There is an ongoing debate regarding the location of orality within literacy and knowledge production. The tendency has always been the acceptance and embracement that literacy and knowledge production permeate primarily through writing tradition notwithstanding the long history of orality. Although the latter is not flawless we also acknowledge that knowledge base is not restricted to written words. We therefore seek to provide an open terrain by inviting participants to contribute into our presentations and discussions regarding oral history, representation and knowledge.

The conference looks forward to papers that will look at the listed sub-themes, which are primarily linked to the central theme:

- 1 Hidden Voices and Untold Stories
- 2 When, how and why do memories matter? (Re) Constructing History and Histories, Case Studies, Reports of Research Projects, Family and Community Histories
- 3 Oral History, Representation and Reinterpretations
- 4 Memories and meaning of community struggles
5. Oral history and heritage
6. Oral history: the challenge of education

The envisaged end-product of the conference will be a publication of the proceedings. Interested contributors are encouraged to bring along to the conference papers that are photo-ready for publication.

Proposals are invited for contributions to the 5<sup>th</sup> National Oral History Conference. Academic papers and case studies are welcome. Contributions must be based on **original work** and have a **clear focus on oral history**.

If you are interested, please send us a short proposal including:

1. an abstract of your paper or case study report (100-300 words)
2. the relevant conference sub theme
3. a short biography of yourself (50-100 words)
4. your contact information (name and surname, affiliation, postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers)

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The duration of presentation will not exceed twenty (20) minutes and this will be followed by ten (10) minutes for discussion

It is our intention to publish refereed conference proceedings. The papers shall not be longer than 5000 words.

**Deadline for proposals/abstracts is 30 May 2008**

The conference organizing committee will confirm acceptance or rejection of our proposal by 20 July, 2008

**Send proposal to:**

**Convener:** Fifth National Oral History Conference

NAHECS

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