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Apartheid -- The Global Itinerary: South African Cultural Formations in Transnational Circulation, 1948-1990

Fact Sheet

Project Information

APARTHEID-STOPS

Grant agreement ID: 615564

Project closed

Start date

1 May 2014

End date

30 April 2019

Funded under

Specific programme: "Ideas" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)

Total cost

€ 1 861 238,00

EU contribution

€ 1 861 238,00

Coordinated by

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

 Israel

Objective

This proposal proceeds from an anomaly. Apartheid routinely breached the separation that it names. Whereas the South African regime was deeply isolationist in international terms, new research links it to the Cold War and decolonization. Yet this

trend does not consider sufficiently that the global contest over the meaning of apartheid and resistance to it occurs on the terrain of culture. My project argues that studying the global circulation of South African cultural formations in the apartheid era provides novel historiographic leverage over Western liberalism during the Cold War. It recasts apartheid as an apparatus of transnational cultural production, turning existing historiography inside out. This study seeks:

- To provide the first systematic account of the deterritorialization of “apartheid”—as political signifier and as apparatus generating circuits of transnational cultural production.
- To analyze these itinerant cultural formations across media and national borders, articulating new intersections.
- To map the itineraries of major South African exiles, where exile is taken to be a system of interlinked circuits of affiliation and cultural production.
- To revise the historiography of states other than South Africa through the lens of deterritorialized apartheid-era formations at their respective destinations.
- To show how apartheid reveals contradictions within Western liberalism during the Cold War, with special reference to racial inequality.

Methodologically, I introduce the model of thick convergence to analyze three periods:

1. Kliptown & Bandung: Novel possibilities, 1948-1960.
2. Sharpeville & Memphis: Drumming up resistance, 1960-1976.
3. From Soweto to Berlin: Spectacle at the barricades, 1976-1990.

Each explores a cultural dominant in the form of texts, soundscapes or photographs. My work stands at the frontier of transnational research, furnishing powerful new insights into why South Africa matters on the stage of global history.

Fields of science (EuroSciVoc)

[social sciences](#) > [sociology](#) > [social issues](#) > [social inequalities](#) > [racial inequality](#)

[humanities](#) > [history and archaeology](#) > [history](#) > [contemporary history](#)



Programme(s)

[FP7-IDEAS-ERC - Specific programme: "Ideas" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities \(2007 to 2013\)](#)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

ERC-2013-CoG

[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

[ERC-CG - ERC Consolidator Grants](#)

Host institution



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

EU contribution

€ 1 861 238,00

Total cost

No data

Address

EDMOND J SAFRA CAMPUS GIVAT RAM

91904 Jerusalem

 **Israel** 

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Principal investigator

Louise Bethlehem (Dr.)

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

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Beneficiaries (1)



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Total cost

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