

Is Truth a Woman?

Examining South African novels, poetry and reports of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we will discuss how texts and nations grapple with questions of reparation and memory, law and action, and hope and desire in the context of decolonization. We will examine the extent to which the truth of the nation – its past, present and how it will live on – is figured as woman. We will bring postcolonial responses to state violence in close proximity to aesthetic and legal discourses on gross human rights violations, devoting attention to how the truth of state violence and its redress remains figured as “woman.”

EN 8593: Studies in Postcolonial Literatures: Gender, Reconciliation and South Africa in Transition

Dr. Andrea Spain
Mondays 3:30-6:20
Spring, 2014

Readings will include Antje Krog's *The Country of My Skull*, Zoë Wicomb's *David's Story*, Farida Karodia's *Other Secrets*, Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter* and *The Pick-Up*, Sello Duiker's *13 Cents*, and Lauren Beukes' cyber punk novel, *Moxyland*. Additionally, we will view Fernando Meirelles' film adaptation of *The Constant Gardener*, and John Boorman's *In My Country*.