SOCIAL RESTITUTION

A human response to poverty and inequality

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Thesis

Ongoing inequality and injustice in contexts such as South Africa can be addressed through a programme of restitution and where a sociology of restitution and reparations becomes part of every conversation about a future that must address the past. Focus on social restitution today.
Outline

1. Injustice and inequality
2. Restitution as a substantial solution
   • Continuity in scholarship
   • (Re)positioning of actors
   • Rehumanising
   • Dialogical redistribution
3. Social restitution as a voluntary moral obligation
Formal restitution

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and limited reparations

Employment, business ownership and procurement equity

Land redistribution
Methodology

1. Started off with conceptual ideas
2. Invited responses using vignettes, labelling activity
3. In depth interviews
4. 60 interviews, 90 minutes
5. Researching intimates
6. Demographically but not statistically representative
7. Ages 21-72, across class
Contiguous scholarship

Restoring
Compensating
Gain-stripping
Acting symbolically
Returning rights
Rehabilitating

Restitution historically and legally

Fraser, Bourdieu, Freire, Biko, Gyeke, Smith, Nyamnjoh, Essed, Barker, Hilberg, Young

Social Restitution

Reconceptualising restitution
Critical consciousness
Recognising injustice and symbolic violence
Disrupting unearned privilege
Connection and social solidarity
Locating actors
Personhood and rehumanising
Everyday (in)action
Redistribution
Everyday social restitution

**Broadly**

Voluntary moral obligation
(Swartz, Barkan)

Across generations
(MacIntyre, Young)

As forward looking
(Calder, Wenar)

As making good
Wiedergutmachung
versus
making right
Wiederherstellen
(Judt, Sanders)

Restoring personhood

Demeaned
Dehumanised
Demoralised

Mayaya (34)
Zethu (40)
Luxolo (29)
Welile (24)
Sizwe (23)
Thamsanqa (32)
Haley (42)

The past in the present
The outrage of entrenched racial inequality
(re)Positioning actors

Hilberg’s Triangle

BYSTANDER
- Ostrich
- Silent
- Avoider

VICTIM
- Dishonoured
- Harmed
- Damaged

PERPETRATOR
/ Architect of injustice
Implementer of injustice
Ideas for social restitution

Alongside government
1. A tax/supertax - bucket toilets/free education
2. Paying for suburban upkeep & cross-subsiding townships
3. A salary-increase moratorium for high earners
4. ....

Civil-society initiatives
1. Challenge ‘whingers’
2. Learn language
3. Dialogues about privilege
4. Children’s stories
5. Mentor youth and professionals
6. Share inheritances
7. ....
1. **Discuss** (guide for 10 weeks of conversations on restitution)
2. **Act** (scaled ideas for restitution)
3. **Comments** (read what people have said about these restitution discussions)
4. **Suggest** (new ideas for everyday social restitution)

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**10-10-10 Dialogues**

1. Group of 10, 10 week, 10 conversations
2. Vision of SA
3. Past in present
4. Meaning of restitution
5. Difference between charity & restitution
6. Locate everyone in conversation
7. Ideas to restore our humanity
8. Plan for implementing ideas
9. Attitudes and obstacles
10. Ongoing project

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Conclusion

SOCIAL RESTITUTION
as acts and attitudes for individuals and groups
alongside or independent of government action
in dialogue with those dishonoured by injustice
as a voluntary moral obligation

Read the book

“The dormant volcano built upon South Africa’s twenty-two years of ‘supposed democracy’, fraught with entrenched racism and socio-economic inequalities, has finally erupted. ‘Another Country’ offers a timely, robust, uncomfortable, yet necessary dialogue for White South Africans to partake in fixing our country. Read this book if you are tired of being tired. ...No reconciliation without restitution is the leitmotif” Paballo Chauke, Commonwealth Scholar, University of Oxford