

## EDITORIAL NOTE

This publication is a special issue dedicated to a collaborative project undertaken in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences between 2007 and 2010. In an NRF-funded RNA programme titled *Transitions and translations: language, culture and identity in developing societies*, ten different sub-projects that each addressed the central theme from the perspective of their particular discipline, were undertaken. Addressing social concerns related to cultural diversity, ethnic affiliation and minority rights, and considering multiple identities of language, ethnicity, sexuality, occupation, contemporary music, religious affiliation and leisure activities, members of the research collaboration attended to some of the heterogeneous material conditions in which individual lives of many South Africans are embedded. The papers collected here represent some, but by no means all of the topics that form part of this project. Particularly, this selection represents papers that consider sociolinguistic, applied linguistic and literary themes that reflect on transitions and translations of identity in South African, but also in African context and beyond. It intends to contribute to an ongoing discourse on the ways in which language and culture change and are changed in a context where remarkable social change is in progress.

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