



Cultures of Struggle: Song, Art and Performance in Popular Movements

29-31 May 2015

Song and artistic performance have long been dominant discourses in liberation struggles across the globe. Southern Africa, the United States of America, Ireland, and Latin America are just a few examples of where lyrics of freedom, used as a means of unification and resistance, have entered popular culture and the political imaginary during times of struggle. And, though many of these liberation battles have now been won, the influence of these performances has not declined.

The Centre for Anthropological Research (CfAR) at the University of Johannesburg hopes to encourage a new and emerging transnational conversation amongst these separate but related liberation struggles. The conference will explore questions including, but not limited to:

- What is the relationship between aesthetics and popular movements?
- Can song be considered as an official/serious political form?
- How did song and performance constitute a space of subversion/assertion?
- How have performances of liberation been translated into an expressive tool of those now in power?
- What are the transnational connections between these discourses?
- How has song/performance adjusted to the opening and/or closing of space (temporal, geographical, psychological, symbolic)? What is their relationship?
- How has song/performance been informed by the movement of peoples and demographics?
- How have these discourses been adapted and used by other cultural forums (i.e. sport, media etc.)?
- What is their relationship with nationalism?

Interested researchers should email a 200 word abstract proposal along with five keywords to Tom Penfold (tpenfold@uj.ac.za; t.w.penfold@bham.ac.uk) by 19 January 2015.

The conference will be held at the University of Johannesburg's Auckland Park (Bunting Road) Campus on 29-31 May 2015. Non-speakers are also cordially invited.