

**TEXT 1****To build a future, South Africa must construct a shared past**

- 1 In deeply divided societies emerging from conflict, the issue of reconciliation and how a country approaches its past are critical to its sustained socio-economic progress and unity. Recent events suggest South Africa's challenges in this regard are intensifying. The enmity surrounding the #Rhodesmustfall campaign, the level of racial vitriol across social media, as well as an outbreak of violent xenophobic attacks have represented deep divisions that have not been adequately addressed in post-apartheid South Africa.
- 2 The massive polarisation around core issues, and the alarming inability of South Africans to consider and empathise with different perspectives illustrates a glaring lack of understanding amongst different groups within the country. These vastly different interpretations of events can largely be ascribed to a lack of a shared experience or historical narrative. Many argue that apart from Nelson Mandela and sport (debatable), South Africans do not have anything that truly bonds them together towards a common purpose or national identity.
- 3 Because our view of history is informed by fundamentally different starting points, and has affected our lives in different ways, we often fail to grasp the magnitude of each other's suffering or privilege, and how it has influenced our current circumstances. It is unquestionable that, as South Africans, our world views are blinkered by our own limited experiences, and that our interests and priorities naturally exclude or diminish the priorities of others.
- 4 What this boils down to is the issue of a shared history, its importance in nation building and the question of how it can be practically achieved. To know where we are going, we first need to understand where we are coming from. We will never be able to experience things in the same way if we do not have a shared past, or at least a good understanding of the past of others.
- 5 Parallels in this regard have been drawn with Rwanda, which was also confronted with the challenge of creating a social identity and sense of nationhood from a foundation of deep-seated ethnic rivalries and economic inequalities. Since 1994, the Rwandan government has attempted to remove the division of the population into the 'ethnic' identities and opted for a *meta-narrative*<sup>1</sup> focusing on the shared Rwandan identity.
- 6 In short, the belief is that the Rwandan people reject the 'myth' of ethnicity and, in the words of President Paul Kagame, instead put 'Rwandan citizenship first'. Many in Rwanda feel that limits on ethnicity-driven history and politics are necessary to protect against tragedy. They have thus sought to manufacture a social identity and collective history. This is in contrast to South Africa, which has relied on a more organic approach to creating a harmonious social identity.
- 7 What both South Africa and Rwanda have shown us is that, ultimately, we can only build together if we have experienced together; we can only understand and empathise if we can truly relate.
- 8 As a response, the Department of Basic Education is exploring making history a compulsory subject for pupils in grades 10–12. 'A country that chooses to hide its heritage and historical footprints from its children takes the risk of having them repeat the mistakes of their predecessors,' said Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga. Based on empirical research, history has a number of positive effects such as contributing to nation building, national pride, patriotism, social cohesion and cultural heritage, she argued.

- 9 This raises questions about how one defines the truth and whether it is possible to construct a single, 'true' historical narrative. Even if an 'objective' version of our past could be agreed upon, a further challenge presents itself in making sure that it is communicated accurately, evenly, and fairly.
- 10 In the knowledge that a shared past cannot be created, what we really need is to force ourselves into a type of shared experience in the present that will leave us no option but to find things in common with people we had always perceived to be fundamentally different to us, and to better understand the roots of some of the differences between us that may well just be circumstantial.
- 11 As things stand, we are in no position to create a shared present that will help ensure generations of South Africans to come are able to work collectively and constructively towards goals which are mutually beneficial for all parties within the country. The time has come to solve this problem, which will require the focused and unselfish contributions of the government, business and civil society. The future of our democracy depends on it.

[Adapted from the original written by Sarah Ball and Ronak Gopaldas. *Daily Maverick*, 29 July 2015]

### Glossary

<sup>1</sup>*meta-narrative* – Refer to Question 1.5 for a definition of this term.

**TEXT 2****The Whimsical Artist Behind SuzelleDIY – Find Out Who She is!**

Okay, so we all know and love her as Suzelle, South Africa's DIY goddess with the fabulous upstyle who dishes out tips on how to make a braai pie and fix a plug. But behind the simple 'because anybody can' mantra is a talented and whimsical artist whose real name is Julia Anastasopoulos.

In early 2014 the main project on her agenda was a children's book *Jeff and George* which she was illustrating. But by the end of 2014, she'd not only finished that book but also established her character SuzelleDIY as a household name in South Africa with a successful YouTube channel and Facebook page. And this week she began shooting her first SuzelleDIY 'coffee table book'.

Julia, who owns a small Cape Town design and illustration studio called Knolc, has been drawing all her life. 'My mom is an art teacher and all forms of art were nurtured and encouraged when I was growing up,' she said in an interview last year. In fact Julia's hand drawn artwork can be seen not only in books, but also around Cape Town at MyCiTi bus stations and in the children's section of The Book Lounge...as well as on posters, clothing, stationery and more.

Julia studied Theatre and Performance at the University of Cape Town (UCT) but was drawn to design upon graduating. After creating theatre-related paraphernalia and plush toys called Knolcs, Julia realised her passion was drawing and did a course in graphic design. Her first illustrations were exhibited in Hope Street in 2005.

She maintained an acting career at the same time, in theatre and film. 'I love being busy and stimulated in different ways creatively. I often find that there are many parallels in the two worlds,' she said.

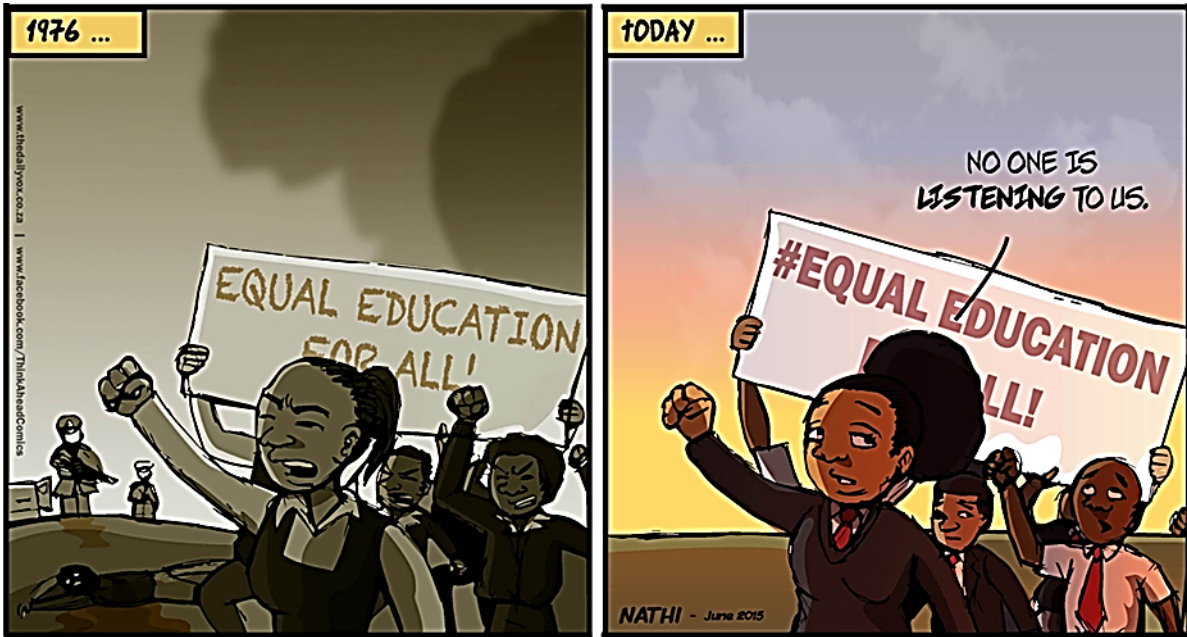
In an early sign of the SuzelleDIY to come, Julia won the Eskom Energy Efficient Lighting Design Competition in 2008. And even back then she was saying 'Any time you can, take an everyday household object and transform it into something else. I find that I do that all the time.'

[Adapted from: <<http://www.sapeople.com>>]

**TEXT 3**

**Frame 1**

**Frame 2**



[Source: <<http://www.thedailyvox.co.za>>]

**TEXT 4**



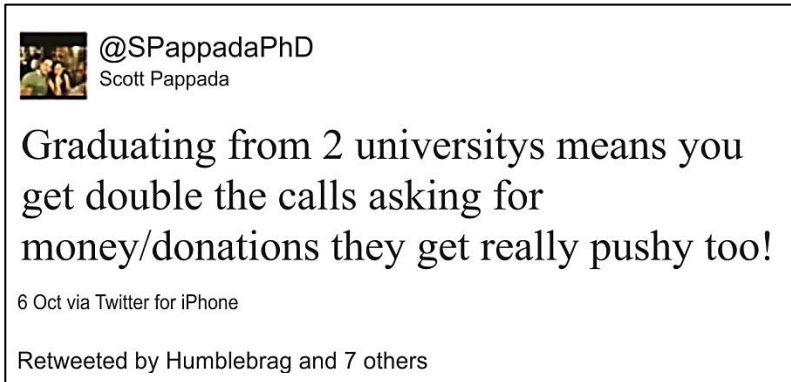
[Source: <<http://radio.uchile.cl>>]

TEXT 5



[Source: <<http://radio.uchile.cl>>]

**TEXT 6A**



A screenshot of a Twitter post. At the top left is a small profile picture of a group of people. To its right is the name '@SPappadaPhD' and the name 'Scott Pappada'. The main text of the tweet reads: 'Graduating from 2 universitys means you get double the calls asking for money/donations they get really pushy too!'. Below the text, it says '6 Oct via Twitter for iPhone' and 'Retweeted by Humblebrag and 7 others'.

[Source: <<http://thoughtcatalog.com>>]

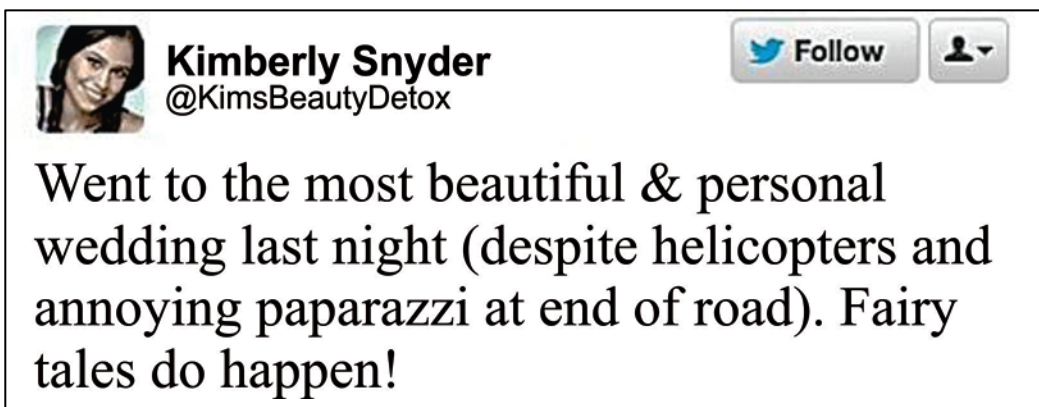
**TEXT 6B**



A screenshot of a Twitter post. The text of the tweet is 'I just stepped on gum. Who spits gum on a red carpet?'. Below the text, it says '5:32 PM Mar 27th via HootSuite' and 'Retweeted by 10 people'. To the right of the text are icons for 'Reply' and 'Retweet'. At the bottom left is a profile picture of a woman, followed by the name 'CarolynFell' and the name 'CarolynFell'.

[Source: <<https://twistedstifer.files.wordpress.com>>]

**TEXT 6C**



A screenshot of a Twitter post. At the top left is a profile picture of a woman. To its right is the name 'Kimberly Snyder' and the name '@KimsBeautyDetox'. To the right of the name is a 'Follow' button with a Twitter bird icon and a dropdown menu icon. The main text of the tweet reads: 'Went to the most beautiful & personal wedding last night (despite helicopters and annoying paparazzi at end of road). Fairy tales do happen!'.

[Source: <<http://thenextweb.com>>]