

## CURRICULUM VITAE

A. **Name**

Charles van Onselen

B. **Date and Place of Birth**

14 August 1944, Boksburg, South Africa

C. **Present Address and Contact Details**

8 Ennis Road, Parkview, Johannesburg, 2193, South Africa  
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D. **Educational Qualifications**

1. B.Sc., Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.  
Read for degree between 1962 and 1964, majoring in Psychology.
2. University Education Diploma (U.E.D.), Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 1965.
3. BA (Hons.), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
Degree read for 1969 – 1970, majoring in Political Science in the field of Comparative African Government. Degree awarded in the First Class.
4. D. Phil., St Antony's College, Oxford University, 1972-1974.  
Doctoral thesis: 'African Mine Labour in Southern Rhodesia, 1900-1933', supervised by Dr. S. Trapido, University Lecturer in the Politics of New States, later Fellow of Lincoln College.

E. **Current Position**

Research Professor, Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria.  
(01-01-99 – to present)

F. **Awards, Fellowships, Scholarships and Professional Recognition.**

In 1972, the H.J. Raikes Scholarship to continue studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 1972, a British Council Scholarship to undertake post-graduate study in the United Kingdom.

In 1973, research supported by the Beit Trust, Oxford University.

In 1978, elected Visiting Fellow, Southern African Research Program, Yale University, U.S.A.

During the period 1979-1986, awarded several research grants from various bodies including the Human Sciences Research Council, the Ford Foundation and the British Council.

In 1988, Research Fellowship, Joint Committee on African Studies of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Elected as Smuts Visiting Fellow, and Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, 1989-90.

Visiting Professor, Centre D'Etudes Africaines, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France. March-April 1991.

Visiting Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, U.S.A., October 1997.

In 1998 elected Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.

In 2000 elected as a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. (Resigned 2002.)

In December 2002, accorded an ‘A’ rating by the National Research Foundation (N.R.F.) as a social scientist.

In 2005, elected to Visiting Fellowship, Magdalen College, Oxford

In 2008 accorded ‘A’ rating by National Research Foundation, valid until 2013.

In 2012, elected as the Inaugural Oppenheimer Fellow, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African-American Research at Harvard University (Aug. – Dec. 2012)

#### G. **Honours and Prizes**

1. 1984  
Awarded the Trevor Reese Memorial Prize in the field of Commonwealth and Imperial History by the Institute for Commonwealth Studies, London University, for a two volume study entitled Studies in the Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand, 1886-1914.
2. 1988  
Won the P.V. Tobias Essay Prize by the South African Institute for the Study of Man in Africa for a work on the theme of “Accommodation in the Divided Society”.
3. 1997  
Awarded the Sunday Times Alan Paton Prize for non-fiction for The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985.
4. 1997  
Awarded the Herskovits Prize by the African Studies Association of America for The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985.
5. 1998  
Awarded the biennial Bill Venter Literary Award for the best book published in a South African University in the field of

Arts and Social Science for The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985.

6. 2002  
In February 2002, The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894-1985 was voted as one of the 100 best books to emerge from Africa during the 20<sup>th</sup> century by a panel of African scholars chaired by Prof. Njabulo Ndebele, Vice Chancellor University of Cape Town.
7. 2003  
Awarded the Chancellor's Award for Research, University of Pretoria.
8. 2004  
Awarded Doctor of Literature, *Honoris causa* Rhodes University, South Africa.
9. 2008  
The Fox and the Flies were short listed for the Alan Paton Prize for non-fiction and, in 2010, for the Bill Venter Literary Award.

#### H. **Professional Experience**

1. January 1966 – June 1967  
Personnel Officer, Education and Training Division, African Explosives and Chemical Industries Limited. Head Office, 40 Fox Street, Johannesburg. Responsible for administering courses on industrial instruction to shop-floor supervisors.
2. July 1966 – December 1968  
Geography teacher, employed by the Inner London Education Authority first at Woodberry Down, and later Hackney Downs Boys' Comprehensive Schools.
3. January 1971 – October 1971  
Junior Lecturer in African Government, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

4. October 1974 – October 1975  
Junior Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies,  
University of London.
5. November 1975 – September 1976  
Research Officer, Rural-Urban Section, World Employment  
Programme, International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland.
6. October 1976 – March 1979  
Ford Foundation Research Fellow, Centre for International and  
Area Studies, University of London.
7. April 1979 – December 1998  
Director, Institute for Advanced Social Research (formerly  
African Studies Institute), University of the Witwatersrand,  
Johannesburg.
8. January 1999 – 2012  
Research Professor, Faculty of Humanities, University of  
Pretoria.

## I. Publications

### 1. Books

- a) Chibaro: African Mine Labour in Southern Rhodesia, 1900 – 1933 (London 1976 and Johannesburg 1980), 326 pp., ISBN. 0 902818 88 0, [in 2004 the American Council of Learned Societies selected this book as one of 500 for republication in its History E-book Project.]
- b) Studies in the History of African Mine Labour in Colonial Zimbabwe (Gwelo 1978) [with I R Phimister], 150 pp., ISBN. DDC331 7/622/096891.
- c) Studies in the Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand, 1886 – 1914, Vol. I, New Babylon, (London, New York and Johannesburg 1982), 213 pp., ISBN. 0 582 64382 1.

- d) Studies in the Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand, 1886 – 1914, Vol. II, New Nineveh, (London, New York and Johannesburg 1982), 220 pp., ISBN. 0 582 64384 8.
- e) The Seed is Mine: The Life of Kas Maine, A South African Sharecropper, 1894 – 1985, (David Philip, Cape Town, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York 1996, James Currey, London, 1997), 649 pp., ISBN. 0 8090 9603 X.
- f) New Babylon New Nineveh, Everyday Life on the Witwatersrand, 1886-1914, (Jonathan Ball Publishers, Johannesburg and Cape Town, 2001), 487 pp., [Reprint and consolidated new edition of items c) and d) above.], ISBN. 1 86842 111 2.
- g) The Fox and the Flies: The World of Joseph Silver Racketeer and Psychopath (Jonathan Cape, London, 2007), 646 pp., ISBN. 9780224079297. [Short-listed for Sunday Times Alan Paton Award, 2008]
- h) Masked Raiders: Irish Banditry in Southern African 1880 – 1899 (Random House-Struik, Zebra Press, Cape Town, 2010), 292 pp., ISBN. 978 1 7702 080 5.

## 2. Monographs

- a) The Small Matter of a Horse: The Life of “Nongoloza” Mathebula, 1967 – 1948, (Johannesburg 1984), 69 pp., ISBN. 0 86975 239 1. Reprinted under the same title by Protea Book Publications, Pretoria in 2008.

## 3. Chapters in Books

- a) ‘Worker Consciousness in Black Miners: Southern Rhodesia, 1900 – 1920’ in R. Cohen, P. Gutman and P. Brazier (Eds.), Peasants and the Proletarians, (London 1979), pp. 107 – 127, ISBN. 0 85345 421 3.

- b) 'The Labour Contract, Chibaro: Forced Mine Labour in Southern Rhodesia, 1903 – 1912', in T. Nichols (Ed.), Capital and Labour: A Marxist Primer, (London 1980), pp. 82-102, ISBN. 0 00 635731 8.
- c) 'Paternalism and Violence on the Maize Farms of the Southern Western Transvaal, 1900-1950', in A. Jeeves and J. Crush, (Eds.), White Farms, Black Labor: Agrarian Transition in Southern Africa 1910-1950, (United States, Canada, South Africa, May 1997), pp. 192-213, ISBN. 0 4350 8991 0.
- d) 'The Labour Movement in Zimbabwe: 1900-1945' in B. Raftopoulos and I. Phimister (Eds.), Keep On Knocking: A History of the Labour Movement in Zimbabwe 1900 – 1997, (Baobab Books, Harare, 1997), pp. 1 – 54. [with I. Phimister], ISBN. 1 77909 003 X.
- e) 'Closer to Home: Student Unrest and the Welfare Function' in R.W. Johnson and D. Welsh (Eds.), Ironic Victory: Liberalism in Post-liberation South Africa, Cape Town, 1998, pp. 161- 173.

#### 4. Articles

- a) 'Reactions to Rinderpest in Southern Africa, 1896-1897', Journal of African History, XII, 3 (1972), pp. 473-488.
- b) 'The Role of Collaborators in the Rhodesian Mining Industry, 1900-1935', African Affairs, Vol. 72, No. 289, October 1973, pp. 401-417.
- c) 'Worker Consciousness in Black Miners: Southern Rhodesia, 1900-1920', Journal of African History, XIV, 2 (1973), pp. 237-255.
- d) 'The Wankie Colliery Strike of 1912', Journal of African History, XV, 3 (1974), pp. 275-289.

- e) 'Sex and Social Control in the Rhodesian Mine Compounds, 1900-1933', South African Labour Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 7, November-December 1974, pp.17-30.
- f) 'Black Workers in Central African Industry: A Critical Essay on the Historiography and Sociology of Rhodesia', Journal of Southern African Studies, Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1975, pp. 229-246.
- g) 'Randlords and Rotgut, 1886-1903: An essay on the role of Alcohol in the Development of European Imperialism and Southern African Capitalism, with special reference to black mineworkers in the Transvaal Republic', History Workshop Journal, (London) No. 2, Autumn 1976, pp. 33-89.
- h) 'Umkhosi we Ntaba: South Africa's Lumpenproletariat Army, 1890-1920', Past and Present, No. 80, August 1978, pp. 91-121.
- i) 'The Political Economy of Tribal Animosity: A Case Study of the 1929 Bulawayo Location Faction Fight', Journal of Southern African Studies, Vol. 6, No. 1, October 1979, pp. 1-43 [with I.R. Phimister].
- j) 'The World the Mine owners Made: Social Themes in the Economic Transformation of the Witwatersrand, 1886-1914' Review, (Binghamton, New York) Vol. 3, No. 2, Fall 1979, pp. 289-302.
- k) 'Crime and Total Institutions in the Making of Modern South Africa', History Workshop Journal, (London) No. 19, Spring 1985, pp. 62-81.
- l) 'Race and Class in the South African Countryside: Cultural Osmosis and Social Relations in the Sharecropping Economy of the South Western Transvaal, 1890-1950', American Historical Review, Vol. 95, No. 1, February 1990, pp. 99-123.

- m) ‘The Social and Economic Underpinnings of Paternalism and Violence on the Maize farms of the South-Western Transvaal, 1900-1950’ Annales, (Paris) Vol. 47, Jan-Feb 1992, pp. 5034. [This article also appeared in English and the Journal of Historical Sociology (Oxford), Vol. 5. No. 2, June 1992, pp. 127-160].
- n) ‘The Reconstruction of a Rural Life from Oral Testimony” Critical Notes on the Methodology Employed in the Study of a Black South African Sharecropper’, The Journal of Peasant Studies, Vol. 20, No. 3, April 1993, pp. 494-514.
- o) ‘Jewish Marginality in the Atlantic World: Organised Crime in the Era of the Great Migrations, 1880-1914’, The South African Historical Journal No. 43, November 2000, pp. 96-137.
- p) ‘The Modernisation of the Kruger State: F.E.T. Krause, J.C. Smuts and the contest for control of the Johannesburg Public Prosecutor’s Office, 1898-1899’, Law and History Review, Vol. 21, No. 3, Fall 2003, pp. 483-525, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, USA.
- q) ‘Jewish police informers in the Atlantic world, 1880-1914’, Historical Journal, Vol. 50. No. 1, March 2007, pp. 119-144.
- r) ‘Who Killed Meyer Hasenfus? Organized Crime, Policing and Informing on the Witwatersrand, 1902-8’, History Workshop Journal, Issue 67, 2009, pp. 1-22.

## 5. Literary Journals

Occasional contributor to The London Review of Books.

## J. Editorial Commitments

In 1976, elected as one of two Editors of the Journal of Southern African Studies (Oxford University Press) and served in that capacity until 1979. Served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Marcus

Garvey Papers (African Series) published by the African Studies Centre at the University of California, Los Angeles. Previously a member of the Editorial Board of African Economic History (Boston) 1985-1992. I have also acted as a reader for various international journals at different times. Until 2011 served on the editorial board of Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History (Johns Hopkins University Press)

#### K. **Teaching Experience**

During the period 1971-72, while employed as a Junior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, taught extensively at the undergraduate level on the politics of decolonisation in tropical Africa. After returning to the University of the Witwatersrand in 1979, lectured to undergraduates at the second and third year level in the Departments of Geography, History and Sociology. Offered a course at BA (Hons) level in the History of South African Mining. Lectures covered topics relating to modern South African urban and rural history, as well as methodological issues such as oral history.

Over the past few decades I supervised the post-graduate work of several candidates at MA and PhD levels. Some of this number have taken up positions in teaching departments in leading South African Universities. PhD students include, amongst others, Drs. H. Bradford, L. Chisholm and P. la Hausse.

Lectured at leading universities in Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Currently teaching a course on South African rural history in the Department of History at the University of Pretoria at Honours level. Also convened, with the Department of History, a post-graduate student and staff inter-disciplinary seminar for the humanities that met once a month between 1999-2008.

Examined at the MA and PhD levels for various universities in Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom (Cambridge).

Served as an academic referee for tenure committees at leading American and Canadian universities over the past ten years.

L. **Administrative Experience**

I) UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

a) Faculty of Humanities:

Between March 1983 and March 1988, served as Chairman of the Faculty of Arts Higher Degrees Committee. The Higher Degrees Committee was responsible for the appointment of supervisors, academic progress and appointment of examiners for the three hundred MA and PhD postgraduates students registered in the Faculty of Arts. Served as a member of the Executive of the Faculty of Arts between April 1985 and June 1988.

b) Senate:

University Research Committee 1984 – 1997 (Executive Member as from 1991).

Senate Committee on Salaries and Conditions of Service 1990 – 1995.

Academic Staffing and Promotions 1988 – 1997.

Fellowship Committee 1983 – 1997.

Advisory Committee for Chairs (Humanities) 1987 – 1997.

Senate Academic Freedom Committee 1992 – 1996.

c) Council:

Member of the Council 1993 – 1996.

Senior Appointments Committee 1995 – 1998.

Honorary Degrees Committee 1997.

## II) UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

- a) Faculty of Humanities  
Research Committee 1999 – present.  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme Committee 1999 – present.  
Research Development Programme Committee 1999 – present.  
Postgraduate Committee 1999 – 2001.
  
- b) University  
Chairperson of Mellon Foundation Mentoring Programme 1999 – 2007.
  
- c) Public Service  
  
Trustee of the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust 1997 – 2002.  
Member of the National Research Foundation Assessment Panel for Historical Studies 2002 – 2005.

Charles van Onselen  
Pretoria  
March 2012.