Igniting Dreams, Confronting Reality:
THE HISTORY OF NURSING IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1960 UNTIL 2012

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DENOSA Brown Bag Lunch

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OVERVIEW AND MOTIVATION

- A part-sequel to *Divided Sisterhood* by Shula Marks
- A book about nurses, for nurses by nurses
- A historical overview of the profession
- The ‘meaning’ of nursing in post-apartheid SA
- The meaning of nursing in the 21st century
- Challenges within the profession
- Lessons from history
THE OUTLINE (1)

- Foreword, Introduction, Ten Chapters and a Conclusion

- Chapter 1: *The sky is the limit*: how democracy has changed the career landscape for women

- Chapter 2: *Undiscussable contestations*: race and class in the SA nursing profession
Chapter 3: *Let us pray*: the impact of religion on nurses and nursing

Chapter 4: *Being a woman and a nurse in society*: feminism, gender dynamics and sexuality within the nursing profession

Chapter 5: *No longer nightingales*: public perceptions of nurses

Chapter 6: *To be a nurse, militant and black*: trade unionism within the nursing profession
Chapter 7: *Peanuts, Matogo & Overtime*: The casualisation & commercialisation of nursing

Chapter 8: *Where have all the nurses gone?*: Shortages and nursing education

Chapter 9: *Confronting realities*: Power, politics & nursing leadership

Chapter 10: *Igniting dreams*: Nursing in a global world
BROAD APPROACH

- Archival material from different sources, e.g. AVUSA (news clippings), DENOSA, SANC, Charlotte Searle library, etc.
- Literature review
- Oral history interviews
- Participant observations
- Triangulation of data from all sources
- Reflective and critical analysis of information
WORK IN PROGRESS (1)

- 09 August 2010: first meeting to discuss book
- December 2011: submitted funding proposal
- Ongoing from Aug 2010 till March 2012: conceptualising approach and chapters, developing list of interviewees, raising interest
- Mid-April 2012: started a Writing Fellowship
- July: employed Mr Joel Munyewende a NRF Research Intern
- NRF intern preparing to conduct a literature review on male nurses
- July: workshop with 10 people, RESON meeting
- August: presented 2 papers at a Nursing History Conference in Denmark
- November: LR presenting at a conference in China
- Ongoing: negotiating access to archives
- Ongoing: archival research at DENOSA Library
Organised a focussed “history lesson” run by a Wits historian, Dr Catherine Burns

Reading articles & books on methodology and theory of historiography

Interviews in progress: 27 completed, 10 transcribed
  - Gauteng, Western Cape and KZN

Narrative responses received: 4
  - Northern Cape, North West Province and KZN

Writing: 2 chapters in progress (Chapters 4 & 7)

Raising Awareness

Networking with nursing historians internationally