

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 13 2017

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Farewell Letter from PEN SA President Margie Orford

Dear friends

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to say goodbye and to welcome Nadia Davids as PEN South Africa's newly elected president. She is taking up this position at a critical political and moral moment for South Africa. The transitional month during which Nadia and I worked closely together to ensure that endings were beginnings, saw a court interdict taken out against a newly formed group, Black First

Land First, to defend journalists' safety and their right to freedom of expression. These events took place as the extent of fake news, dangerous spin and outright falsehoods orchestrated by the British public relations company, Bell Pottinger, on behalf of the Gupta family were exposed. There is no need for me to spell out the centrality of President Zuma and his family to these events – the nature and extent of 'state capture' is known to us because of the tenacity of journalists and writers and the independence of South Africa's courts...[read more](#)

PEN Afrikaans and PEN SA's Joint Submission on the Copyright Amendment Bill, No 13 of 2017

PEN Afrikaans and PEN South Africa have made a joint submission commenting on the Copyright Amendment Bill, No 13 of 2017 as we are convinced that many of the changes to the Copyright Act, 98 of 1978 will have a direct and detrimental impact on South African authors, stripping authors of their rights and depriving them of opportunities for earning remuneration...[read more](#)



[PEN SA Panel at ThinkFest!](#)



["'Fuck White People' Court](#)

On Safeguarding Freedom of Expression

On Wednesday 5 July 2017 PEN South Africa hosted a panel at ThinkFest! as part of the annual National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. The Ntsikana Room, where the panel was hosted, is situated on the 2nd floor of the Monument where direct lights entered through the big windows on the corridor such that there was rare warmth in the Grahamstown cold winter. The discussion was hosted by Myolisi Sikupela, PEN SA Centre Co-Ordinator, and the guest speaker was Richard Pithouse...[read more](#)

PEN SA PULSE

PEN South Africa has condemned the Black First, Land First (BLF) protest against Tiso Blackstar editor at large Peter Bruce...[read more](#)

Sanja Bornman has written about why more criminalising of hate speech is a bad idea, Tanzania has banned a newspaper for two years and two Angolan journalists have been charged with insulting the state...[read more](#)

Correct Not to Find the Artwork to be Hate Speech" by Pierre de Vos

Professor Pierre de Vos, who teaches constitutional law at the UCT Law Faculty, has written about the Cape Town Magistrate's Court's ruling that Dean Hutton's artwork, Fuck White People, was not in contravention of South Africa's hate speech laws on his blog, [Constitutionally Speaking](#):

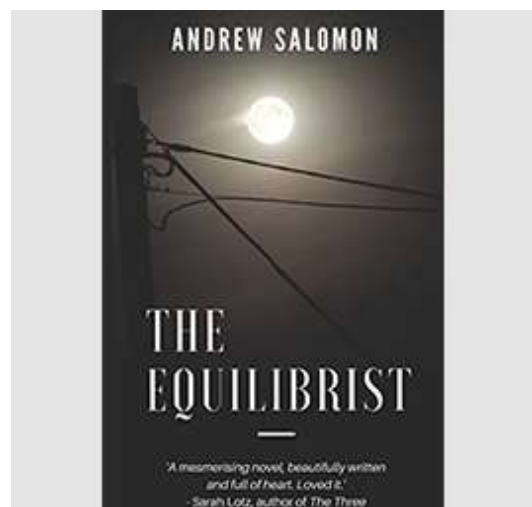
It is not surprising that the Chief Magistrate of Cape Town earlier this week ruled that the work of art by Dean Hutton (which includes a repetition of the phrase "Fuck White People") did not constitute hate speech. The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA) specifically excludes bona fide engagement in artistic creativity from the ambit of the hate speech provision, which means that one is unlikely ever to win a hate speech case against the creator of a work of art...[read more](#)

(Image courtesy of Dean Hutton via [News24](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kenya seeking to restrict political commentary on social media ahead of elections and Sanef was [granted an interdict](#) against Andile Mngxitama and the BLF movement when they returned to court...[read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



New titles by PEN SA members include [The Equilibrist](#) by Andrew Salomon, who has also recently launched [a new website](#) which features his writing as well as a section titled [The Movie Question](#) with contributions from other authors...[read more](#)

Still coming up [this month](#) are the Vrystaat Literature Festival and the Schreiner Karoo Writers Festival as well as book launches for Hedley Twidle and Achille Mbembe. In [August](#) look out for the *Daily Maverick's* The Gathering, UCT Winter School, Lowveld Book Festival and the Jozi Book Fair as well as a book launch for Douglas Reid Skinner.

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Etisalat Prize For Literature...[read more](#)

Sol Plaatje EU Poetry Award & Anthology...[read more](#)

RL Poetry Award...[read more](#)

Imagnary House calling for manuscript submissions...[read more](#)

COAL Literary Magazine Calling for Submissions...[read more](#)

WELCOME

CONGRATULATIONS!

Nakhane Touré won the Best Actor Award at Cinema Jove...[read more](#)

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional member Palesa Deejay Manaleng.

AWARDS NEWS

Bushra al-Fadil has won the 2017 Caine Prize for African Writing...[read more](#)

RECOMMENDED

["10 Great Novels on Freedom of Expression that Aren't 1984"](#) by Jonathan Lee

[Send us your news](#)

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter. Please let us know if your email changes so we can update our mailing list.

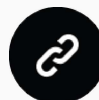
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