

?s-OE hc. 2812

HUMAN SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL
CENTRE FOR CONFLICT ANALYSIS
Project preposal to the
GOLDSTONE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY/
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND NATIONAL HOUSING

20 August 1992

The dynamics of hostels in South
Africa with specific reference
to the present-day violence

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1.1

THE DYNAMICS OF HOSTELS IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH
SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE PRESENT-DAY VIOLENCE
PRO.) PITT PROPOSAL:

Rationale and motivation for the march:

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fromdnrwoftthemmmity,dwoodi60nsinthehoadsandtheextmsivecmuols
exercised overthem. Funhamorcdscnmbasabobmeondemnedbmusethe
vortex: are not only spanwd for long periods from their families but live in close
proximity with members of the street: in a natural' circumstms. In recent times
have become a focus for violence in certain areas of South Africa. The hostel dwellers
perceive themselves as being unloved and despised by the urban township residents. For
war: they have borne the brunt of social and political turmoil of a hostile urban
environment. The political salient of the decade: until the early 1980's. By 1990
the hostels had become the focus of bloody confrontations. The hostels, being
isolated and prison-like, have become breeding grounds for an aggressive and machismo
culture untrammeled by the stabilizing influence of Emilia. Living in a hostel helps foster
a group identity, firstly, because hostels have historically been run along ethnic lines.
Secondly, for the hostel residents there is a shared daily experience all of which make
them extremely vulnerable to being victimized. As a result, panic: bomb often become
staple food of the township. In the early months which is the period of the hostels.
Often the hostel: were used as a base where where stuck: are planned and initiated. If
hostel residents come under attack from residents of squatter camps or young
men, the hostel is used as a fortress into which they can retreat. In the wake of
the violence in the townships, the community life was shattered. Hatred
and tension: the catchwords from both sides. In urban communities where love
then: v.25 bcmwt migrant men and the residents of the townships in which the hostels
were: situated lay buried in the rubble: of damned shacks and homes. One has only to
look at the township of Maw: in which 39 people were killed by hostel dwellers
which highlighted the problem; and some of the issues surrounding hostel: and
violence. Despite the many failures by the state, few in-depth studies have been
done on the hostels.

Preliminary material on 4:510:13 of the report has already been undertaken by the Centre for
Conflict Analysis - literature study, bibliographical computer web, collection of
material and journal articles; on the subject, newspaper coding of collective action events
involving hostels, an article and a seminar paper have been written by the project leader.
This research has indicated initially that: the relationship poses: problems of control;
that it is difficult to minimize any wading of the hostels since the channels of authority
and lines of communication are blurred and indistinct; the hostels have become ethnically
exclusive; and the problem of reintegration of hostels into community life. As a result
of the violence of the township, the integration of hostels into community life?
trust in normal community life?

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and dwellets. Then: it a definite need for detaiiod infatuation, specifically representat
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survcydata,apcciallyindtnghtofdfmsmrmohtutptwtpolidcaloonniaand

violence Wingttwhntdiswe. Suehrmwewhwillalsoprovidebackgrwnd fora

grate: undennndingofthepmblemmdiminvotved. Anetfmwillalsobenudeto

postulate wlutiuuandreoommduions foeimptcmmmmionbyiutetestedpanies. Such

WwwldalsoiitintotheongoingmmhbcingcatdumedbytheCmUe

ooma-njng collective action,conflictandvioleooein SouthAfrim.

Ahm of the pmject:

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protraaed violence in certain communities in South Afria and to postulate policy

paw; tu addxuss the issues invotved.

ln 010a tu gain penpeuve on the pxoblem infatuation concerning the following aspects

of hostels needs m be amount in mic: that any significant analysis and

proposalamvmmezulatiw; fur punible solutions an be made. The following research

questions will guide the meta:

i) Mmisthcbiaodcalbackywndmnnmblishmentofmeoompoundand

utigtant labour systems? Political, economic and socio-cultural reasons for the

need fox hosts!!!

ii) How and why did the diffaent kinds of hostels - mining compounds'industrial/
municipal/ayicultura! - develop?

iii) Were thae wly fomts of haste! vioienoe (e5. tubal faction tightts)?

iv) An: then: an) tcgiuut-J difl'aum (in the N'VfDurlmu/W. Cape :cgiutsiOFS
goldflclds)? What exptains these?

v) Is there a relation between the numbezs of inmates, location of hostels, ethnic

cempodtion? Are thet difference between the types of hostels (mines vs

indusuial/municipal; facilities - modem or :undown; Why some have been peaceful

and other: centres of violence?

vi) Vk'bo owns the hostels? (cg. mimHndusuia/municipzlitics/mte mpocations/
provincial authodtia). What we the views of hostel owners, Proud dwellers,

surroanding communities to the mrious 3m to be addressed?

vii) What are the present-day dyumics: wdtruuunic unlitiuu in Ixntcls.

employment panans of Mel dwellers; politiciation of inmates; union affiliations;

ethnic segregation; isolation from sunounding communitia; few: of teddenb fo:

the future; puccived Hunt: to the umtinual existence of batch; surrounding

umununitia attitude; mud: bustd dndkn; futun of uuutml in laud; (cg.

hostel oommitxees. political tueuiads'). who linux13 the unming of them,

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viii) Ancilluy issues such as the effect of muaowding. proposals 1'01 upgrading, the

diffuum between hawk (mine v3 imiuwial or municipal; more 'luxury'

accommodation as opposed to trundoun' type hosteis); the neat fox altematixe

mmmodation or not; why oem'm heads have not experienced any violence will

also be looked at.

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ix)

mprojectwillalsoincludeanmmtofmegmmm'snewpohcy

guidelines for hostels, evaluate their strategy as I uolutioo, end etitially examine whwrerithu,uptothcptwttime, hadanymin resoldngmofthe pblems mmounding the hostel: issue.

'Thereswch willalsocootahta 'futures'omnponmtin oedct toesablsh whatthe puccptions and cpxactations ofhostd mddeats and canmunitics within which they reside have with regard to the future. Furthermom what the pzesmt day needs ate in team of upgrading progrxamma, the prm'ision of altemativc accommodation, mundane! faciilitia, services etc. Recommendations for the 'cteation of humane oodiQons'uillbcposunawdintams ofpossibchwchasamul

formula, futute role of government in managing and financing them or whether they should be privatised; depoliticising the beads, forms of consultation with panic; and formulation of mm ft)! the said) of any head dwellers who are

WNW

The rmch will make use of three integrated and compb'mmting melt nwdnodologies Historian analysis - llterume study. archival resend:

Quantitativ melt - sunny: & questionnaires; event nnalysis - mwspapcr

witliu; and 5131356641 vulpi) ul'cwub. wusultin; scumd'u, sourws - cg. police unnen reports

Qualitative ruwch - consultation and restart!) design: focus group intcn'icws (ftuc-attitude intcniews (at depth inteniews) 6t fxlduox

Work mdhodoioo:

i)

ii)

Udenah: a umprt-hensiw literature study to prvn'de a hiswn'ud background and perspective to the hostel:

Data collection from newspaperx'snxistics from mine companies. pmincial administxation & munidpalhialoutflict monim

Quotionnaire sunty' oh mauve sampie ofhouel (indicts and community inhabitants in the PWV region.

Fieidwork in the dilTacnl legions (PWVIDBNIW Cape") in udet to collect infatuation and data on oodiliws in Much and surrounding communities nuuugh Inter alla inten'icws m'th inhabitants of surrounding communities, hostel dwellers. administmm, employers. political phycn etc.

Communal with the clicm vn'll b: unduukm on an ongoing bags. in particular the client will be consulted in the drawing up of the survey anailc (any speciac questions the dim might like to have asked win he discussed with the client before being included in the qwaionmire)

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goldftdds will also be (csthcd using a qualiuthe htlcnicwmg WWI.

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Amway wouldbeusadtoobtain informdonlmeraHaoonrhinacsas mcmbashipw support for any panieular political party; the role of ethnicity (cg. tut an: attacked pu rely

because we are Zulus'); defining ofa'reumswtcu for the n'oleooe - ethnic. ANC v3 IFP, tumour: Mn; protection by SAP - biased/tn'bbiased/lack of; rumours of upgrading or removal of hostels; how long have they been working on Reef; do they regard the homeland as their permanent 'home'; have they got wives in a homeland etc.

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I MamtofthepmbabilitymmplowiubOthddwdletsUmma

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immediately surroundingwchhoaels;

l Such survey is, houeever, depauden: upon the safety ofthe fieldworken and mbility to an area;

I Savices prodded by MukDan include ftddwoxk, panting of questionnaires, checking of qmtiounaincs and dun wllztiun on computer (inclusist of freqmia & ems: lAbulmjon);

I Analysis of collected sunny data will be done by m of the Centre for Soeio-Politial Monitodng and Analysis.

There is a definite inmdon between quantitatht and qualitative reseach - the surveys themselves will be based on existing qwiutitc mull - thc mftm'natitm gathcwd from the survey will be followed up And funhet tested thxough the qualitative iutenicw: with samples from hostsls 4nd :unuuudiu; unmuunitius in m (' PWVI'Natal/W. Capt (OPS if funds atailablcn.

Thepurposeofmeqtnhudvesecumiswgainmhuigjuinwdnmodntimsfmand circumstances summding thc siola'uee. It is impetativc that a study into iiu'laiu: :huuld address those people directly intolvod in it in a way which will sent: to clzuify llx: is suc3

and avoid a." possible Ambiguity. Thus ue will noed to intehieu all panics C(uweuml namely hostel dwellers, manageis. owaezs, the surrounding unuutunit) and all other parties who may not wem obviously involved at run sight. Free attitude- and tkpth inten-iews allow respondents to clarify statements which may not be as obxious as they seem. Focus group interviews allow the interview to game: the infatuation which exists on an interactions! level and i'hiCh my not my in any other way. Thus both will be necessary if we want to grasp the most impotent fms surrounding the iiokl'ltx.

Fldlitntion of ocean

Consultation has already bum mxlatak with wisdom and other interested panics in ordcxtoaumthccmdibilityofthermdt mdtofaoilitatcam: uutonly to UK:

hostels but also to the communities sum; them. Both the ANC and lulutha luv: bewapproachcdinthisregaxd. Bathhavcindicuednopolitialobjcctimstomcl-ISRC

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of Mines. CAST. mining cumpm'm cm.)

1.7 Committees

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mmadvimry/nwingcommiuecinmdatommmuundwfindmthcirvimas

at" as to solich their ndvioc on when should be mm. In addition a Clicm

Committee made up of n Wizdvds from the Dept. of Local Govcmmwl and

National sting,dmcGoldmCommissimeSRCmmenuinmeafrom ume

tolimeto discuss poliqimhamnjngdtcmch.

2 RESEARCHERS:

2.1 PROJECT LEADER:

Surname: MINNAAR

Firs! names: Dr Anthea); dc Villicrs Age: 38

Occupatkm & rank: Chic! Rm

Employer's addrm: Cam: for Coons: Analylm

Group: Sodd Dymmiu

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Prinz: Bag X41

PRE'IURIA

(ID)

Highest qualification: D. Li! a Phil.

Unlmsit): UNISA Year: 1988

2.2 ADDITIONAL RESEARCHERS:

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M15 C. ngzc (BA Hons) W Centre for Conflict Analysis

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Mr D. Coombc Assistant Rm Centre for Conflict Analysis

2.3

OONSULTANIS:

Ms L. Sega! W

Ms S. Rubinsuin Wlmmt

Ms J. Sega: Rammhe:

Dr 6. Woods Excwtive Director

Expected duration of Med;

3 months (60 working (hp)

Project f0! the My of

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Anduopdugy Dept. Rhoda

Univ., Grahammn

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