

Fiona C. Ross

Nomination to the College of Fellows

In the course of two and a half decades, Professor Fiona Ross's anthropological work has been animated by a concern with apartheid and colonialism's enduring effects on the constitution of the social in southern Africa. Part of that concern lies in the question of what we inherit and what we do with inheritances – be they social, generational or epistemological. Her research broadly encompasses four areas: violence and recovery; everyday life; medical anthropology; ethics. Awarded a P rating by the NRF after completion of her PhD, she was subsequently rated B2 (2012 to present). She has published four monographs, two of which have received UCT's Meritorious Book Award; five edited collections; thirty-six journal articles and twenty book chapters. A full Professor since 2012, she currently holds a Mellon-funded Research Chair (2013-22) and a UCT Vice Chancellor's Future Leaders Award (2019-23). According to Google Scholar, Professor Ross's research has accrued 2330 citations. She has an h-index of 21 and an i10 index of 35.

Fiona Ross's work has wide circulation and impact internationally. Two decades after their original publication, her works on voice, violence and recovery are still frequently cited, including increasingly in Latin America, where they inform scholarship concerned about state power, gender-based violence and trauma. Some of her ideas have been translated into Spanish and there has been discussion of a Portuguese translation of *Bearing Witness*. The article 'On Having Voice and Being Heard', published in *Anthropological Theory* in 2003, remained one of the top twenty cited articles from that journal for more than a decade after its publication, and since 2016 has been downloaded more than a thousand times.

Her work on urban life has received significant national and international attention. *Raw Life, New Hope* has been a set text at several universities in South Africa, the USA and UK and continues to be widely cited a full decade after its publication. The chapter 'Sensescapes' has been reprinted four times, twice in Spanish in different formats for Latin American circulation.

The regular citation of these works attests to scholarship that transcends both the local and the immediate. A growing citational universe from scholars in Latin/South America indicates that Ross's work on how structural conditions shape redress and possibility in South Africa is significant for a global audience struggling with legacies of oppression and the contemporary conditions of neoliberalism.

Her current research uses the lens of a newly emergent knowledge field, 'the first thousand days of life,' to develop an anthropological approach to reproduction and early childhood that is attentive to while properly critical of prevailing sciences of life. Her Mellon Research Chair, supported by the VC Future Leaders Grant, houses the project. It focuses on identifying and qualifying young black graduates. Almost all of the graduates who have come through this programme have gone on to further graduate studies and three are now lecturers in other South African universities.

Professor Ross's fields of research have been important in attracting young black graduates and producing research active scholars. And by research active, I mean active: since taking up the Research Chair in 2014, her students have produced 25 journal or chapter publications in peer reviewed processes, with more in the pipeline. Many of these are sole authored. Since 2016, five students have published monographs with international presses and a 6th is forthcoming. She has graduated

14 PhD students, with a 15th currently under examination and two more set to complete in 2021. Fifteen of 22 Master's students have received distinctions in the dissertation. She has hosted four Postdoctoral students since 2018 and is presently supervising 10 PhD students. Some of these are also mentor supervisions, supporting young staff through their first PhD supervision. These sites of active scholarly input are critical in producing the next generation of young black research active scholars on a national and international stage.

Drawing from this expansive research experience and from contemporary questions about knowledge, Professor Ross's attention has recently turned to what our epistemologies bestow; how they shape what we know, how we come to know it and with what effects. While continuing with her work in the four areas described above, she is also working on three collaborative projects; one on botany (a book, forthcoming 2021), one on traditional craft and one that explores developmental origins of health and disease. In bringing an anthropological eye to terrains usually held by scientists and policymakers, Ross thinks through the entanglements of power and history in contemporary knowledge practices.

Fiona Ross is a scholar of luminous intelligence and extraordinary integrity. Her research is simultaneously broad and deep. Her ideas have been pioneering in their fields and she is without question one of South Africa's leading anthropologists, if not the leading figure today. She has a significant international profile and reputation. She combines her scholarly achievements with a form of research practice that is highly responsible and responsive to those whose lives her studies engage with. Her reputation as a teacher and a supervisor is stellar and her investment in students has been enormous. I have no doubt that her admission to the College of Fellows at UCT will add intellectual lustre and weight to the College.

Professor Carolyn Hamilton
South African Research Chair in Archive and Public Culture
Department of Historical Studies

Professor Fiona Report on Summary of Metrics (with thanks to Tamzyn Suleiman, UCT Libraries)

The summary of metrics is sourced from Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, Microsoft Academics and Dimensions. Web of Science and Scopus are standard bibliometric sources for academic publications but are limited to the titles indexed within their databases. This data is supplemented with bibliometric data from Google Scholar, and other databases. Google Scholar usually has the most expansive indexing and provides a better reflection of author productivity and impact for publications types that are not journal articles (e.g., conference proceedings).

Professor Ross has a h-index of 21 in Google Scholar, 8 in Scopus, 6 in Web of Science and i10-index of 35 in Google Scholar. She has a total of 90 publications, with 2329 citations indexed in Google Scholar; 27 publications (3 books, and 19 journal articles, 5 other documents) indexed in Scopus, with 227 total citations cited by 212 documents, and 13 co-authors; 23 publications (13 journal articles and 10 other documents) indexed in Web of Science, cited 93 times; 26 Publications indexed in Dimensions with 189 citations and 23 co-authors; and 37 publications (29 journal articles, 2 books, and 6 other documents) indexed by Microsoft Academics, with a total 1340 citations. Professor Ross has been first author on 70% of the 23 publications, according to Web of Science.

The top five most published journals:

1. ***Anthropology Southern Africa***: impact factor 0.684 (2019)
2. ***Social Dynamics A Journal of the centre for African studies university of Cape Town***: impact factor 0.369 (2019)
3. ***Medical Anthropology***: impact factor 1.23 (2019)
4. ***American Anthropologist***: impact factor 1.788 (2019)
5. ***Current Anthropology***: impact factor 3.293 (2019)

Summary

<p>Web of Science H-Index: 6 Publications: 23 Citations: 93 Document Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal Articles: 13 • Book Review: 2 • Editorial: 7 • Early Access: 1 <p>Web of Science almost 70% of the 23 publications have Fiona Ross as first author.</p>	<p>Scopus H-Index: 8 Publications: 27 Citations: 227 Documents: 212 Co-authors:13 Document Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal Articles: 19 • Books: 3 • Editorial: 3 • Note: 2
<p>Google Scholar H-Index: 21 I10 Index: 35 Documents Publications: 90 Citations: 2329</p>	<p>Microsoft Academics Publications: 37 Citations: 1340 Document Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal Articles: 29 • Books: 2 • Others: 4 • Thesis: 2
<p>Dimensions Publications: 26 Citations: 189 Co-Authors: 23</p>	

Please note: Metrics sourced and checked on 10/03/2021