

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BOOK AWARD

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting to you  
**Dr Anton Robert Krueger,**  
of the Department of Drama,

for the **Vice-Chancellor's Book Award.**

One of the core purposes of a University is to produce new knowledge that enhances humanity's understanding of the natural and social worlds.

The Vice-Chancellor's Book Award seeks to recognize a recent book published by a staff member, that advances knowledge and understanding, and also brings undoubted credit to the University by virtue of the contribution it makes to scholarly literature, or the discipline within which it is authored.

Dr Krueger's research and creative outputs range across scholarly writing, play scripts, poetry, fiction, music, photography and film. His past works have been nominated for the Olive Schreiner Prize and the FNB Vita Award, and last year he was a runner up for the Dalro Poetry Prize. He holds a DLitt from the Department of English at the University of Pretoria.

In June 2010, Cambridge Scholars Publishing released Krueger's book *Experiments in Freedom: Explorations of Identity in New South African Drama*<sup>1</sup>, a 245 page piece of original research in which the author seeks to systematically assess the progress of South African Theatre since the end of apartheid. Dr Krueger's book examines ways in which identities have been represented in recent South African play texts published in English. It begins by exploring descriptions of identity from various philosophical, psychological and anthropological perspectives, and elaborates ways in which drama is uniquely suited to represent – as well as to effect – transformations of identity. In exploring the fraught terrain of identity studies, the book examines a selection of published play texts in terms of five different discourses of identity – gender, nationalism, ethnicity, syncretism and race.

It usually requires a year or two for reviews to appear in sufficient number and depth to attract the attention of the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award committee, but this book has attracted a range of critical reviews in its first year of publication.

One such review refers to the book as “[W]ell written”, that it “maps an important field of research with intellectual rigour and exemplary fair-mindedness, and negotiates a complicated route through a plethora of contentious artistic manifestoes and critical opinions with sophistication and maturity.”

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<sup>1</sup> Anton Krueger: *Experiments in Freedom: Explorations of Identity in New South African Drama*, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010), ISBN: 1-4438-1425-3.

Another reviewer calls the book “a welcome addition to the field of cultural and performance studies. His [Krueger's] thorough survey of themes in post-apartheid drama provides a multiplicity of approaches to the problematic concept of freedom in a South African context.”

A third reviewer writes that the book “shows Krueger's ability to bring an insightful critical perspective not only towards the play texts that he examines, but to theory itself”.

Yet another indicates that “The writing exudes clarity and the arguments are cogently rehearsed...[It] guides the reader on a journey that is concomitantly innovative, challenging and informative...written eloquently and lucidly”.

For his outstanding writing and broad contribution to the arts and humanities, Dr Krueger is a worthy recipient of this award.

So, Mr Chancellor, I request you to award the **2010 Vice-Chancellor’s Book Award to Dr Anton Robert Krueger.**