

Acknowledgements

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to single-woman-heads in this study, in South Africa (and beyond);

To my mother, Eunice van Driel, for always making us aware of humanity and the world we live in; and

In celebration of the life of James Frederick Van Driel, (1936-2009), an organic intellectual, who first revealed to me the importance and the struggles of the single-woman-headed family; and who never forgot that he himself was raised by woman-heads. Pushed off the land in the 1930s, 'The Three Crowes' - (as he fondly called the three working class women who reared him: his mother, Claire, and her two sisters, Daisy and Alice) - together reared nine children.