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'Renegotiated identities': stories of women who are initiated traditional healers and work in a hospital environment in a different capacity

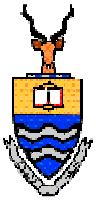
Human, Leoni

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APPENDICES

1. Participant Information Letter:



UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

School of Human and Community Development
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050,
Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: (011) 717-4500. Fax: (011)717-4559
Email: humanl@umthombo.wits.ac.za

My name is ***Leonie Human***, and I am conducting research for the purposes of obtaining a Masters degree at the University of the Witwatersrand. My area of focus is on the experiences of South African women who have completed initiation and training as a traditional healer (*inyanga/igquira/isangoma),* and are presently working in a different occupational capacity to that of a traditional healer. Since you have had this experience, I would appreciate your assistance by permitting me to interview you. Your stories will help me to understand the experiences of African women who work in a western based occupation whilst also having been initiated as a traditional healer. I would like to invite you to participate in this study.

Participation in this research will entail being interviewed by me, at a time and place that is convenient for you. I would like to conduct two interviews with you. Each interview will last for approximately one hour. With your permission these interviews will be recorded in order to ensure accuracy. Participation is voluntary, and no person will be advantaged or disadvantaged in any way by choosing to participate or not participate in the study. All of your responses will be kept confidential, and no information that could identify you would be included in the research report. The interview material (tapes and transcripts) will not be seen or heard by any person in this organisation at any time, and will only be processed by the researcher and the supervisor. You may refuse to answer any questions you would prefer not to, and you may choose to withdraw from the study at any point.

If you choose to participate in the study please fill in your details on the form below. I will contact you within two weeks in order to discuss your participation. Alternatively I can be contacted telephonically at ***084 986 9876*** or ***(011)717-4508*** or via e-mail at *humanl@umthombo.wits.ac.za.*

Your participation in this study would be greatly appreciated. This research will contribute both to a larger body of knowledge, both on the role of traditional initiation and on experiences of South African women in the workplace. This may help to inform development of policies and procedures.

Kind Regards

_____

Leonie Human
(Researcher)

Carol Long
(Research Supervisor)
(011)717-4510

2. Consent form: (participation and interview)

I _____ consent to being interviewed by *Leonie Human* for her study on _____.

I understand that:

- Participation in this interview is voluntary.
- That I may refuse to answer any questions I would prefer not to.
- I may withdraw from the study at any time.
- No information that may identify me will be included in the research report, and my responses will remain confidential and private.
- Transcriptions of interviews will only be viewed by the researcher and supervisor.

Signed _____

3. Consent form (tape recording of interview)

I _____ consent to my interview with *Leonie Human for* her study on _____ being tape-recorded.

I understand that:

- The tapes and transcripts will not be seen or heard by any person in this organisation at any time, and will only be processed by the researcher.
- All tape recordings will be destroyed after the research is complete.
- No identifying information will be used in the transcripts or the research report.
- Transcriptions of interviews will only be viewed by the researcher and supervisor.

Signed _____

4. Interview Guide

First Interview

Researcher-participant Introductions, followed by open-ended interview questions:

1. **How did you become a traditional healer?**
   - What type of healer are you?
   - How long did your initiation training take to complete and could you describe the events that led up to you finding a teacher and becoming a student-healer?
   - How has your life been influenced by completing your initiation as a traditional healer?
   - How would you describe your roles within your family and the community in which you live?
   - How would you describe yourself at the time you began your initiation? (or ended it)
   - How would you describe your life at the time you were called to traditional healing and how would you say it is different now?

2. **How did you come to practice your current profession?**
   - Could you describe the events that led up to you working in your current job?
   - How would you describe your daily life and work at present? *(How you go about a typical day, what you do?)*
   - Could you tell me about your experiences (thoughts and feelings) at work when you started working in this field for the first time?
   - How do you describe the differences and similarities between practising as a traditional healer and your current work?
   - How does your chosen profession relate to your personal values and cultural understanding or background?
   - How would you consider your experiences at work to be different from others who work with you?
   - How would you describe the influence of traditional initiation on your experiences at work?
   - How do you experience your current profession as a woman and how do you feel this is influenced by your training and initiation into traditional healing?
   - What do you feel contributes mostly to your choice to follow a career other than full time practice of traditional healing.

3. **How do you experience living and working as a woman in South Africa at present?**
   - How would you describe the person you are now?
   - As you look back on your experiences, are there any other events that stand out in your mind? Could you describe some of these and how they affected you?
   - How do you understand your role as working professional and initiated traditional healer in the context of social transformation in South Africa?
   - How do you view your role as a woman in the current South African context?
   - Is there anything that occurred to you during this interview, which you had not thought of before?
   - Is there anything you would like to ask me?

5. Interview Guide

Second Interview

Researcher-participant Introductions, followed by open-ended interview questions:

1. **How did you come to practice your current profession?** *(Reviewed focus)*
   - Could you describe the events that led up to you working in your current job?
   - Could you tell me a bit about your experiences (thoughts and feelings) at work when you started working in this field for the first time?
   - How do you describe the differences and similarities between practicing as a traditional healer and your current work?
   - What does your work show about your strengths and weaknesses?
   - How would you describe the influence of traditional initiation on your work?
   - What do you feel contributes mostly to your choice to follow a career other than full time practice of traditional healing?

2. **How do you experience working in your current profession?**
   - As you look back on your experiences of working in the hospital, are there any other events that stand out in your mind? Could you describe some of these and how they affected you?
   - What is it like working as a traditional healer in a western profession?
   - What about this work do you like the most?
   - What about this work do you like the least?
   - What about this work fits with being a traditional healer?
   - What about this work does not fit with being a traditional healer?
   - What do you think it would be like if you had never worked in a hospital?
   - What about working in a hospital has been good for you?
   - What do the other people you work with think of your traditional healing in the work?

3. **Closing questions for interview:**
   - Is there anything you would like to ask me?