

FOREWORD

This edition of the *Journal for Contemporary History* is dedicated to Prof. Daan Wessels, former head of the Department of Political Science at the University of the Free State (UFS), and currently a research fellow and study supervisor in that department. At national level, he has enjoyed recognition as a respected scholar in Political Science circles. As a member of the Constitutional Committee of CODESA, and as a consultant to the Independent Electoral Commission, he made an important contribution to the process of constitutional reform during the run-up to the 1994 election. He is known for his insightful political comments and analyses during various national and local elections.

Prof. Wessels has made his mark on the UFS, as well as in the Free State community. His extensive knowledge relating to his fields of research, his mentorship qualities and dedication to his students have made him a sought-after study supervisor. With more than 30 doctoral theses, and some 40 masters' dissertations and 20 masters' mini-dissertations to his credit, he is arguably one of the most productive study supervisors ever to be employed at the UFS! His knowledge extends over a wide variety of domains, including, *inter alia*, constitutional theory and international law, classical political philosophy, political parties and interest groups, electoral systems and election politics, and constitutions and political transformation.

Therefore, the authors who have contributed to this edition pay tribute to Prof. Daan Wessels – not only as an academic, but also as a person, for his humility and common humanity. All of the contributors have some or other personal and/or professional ties with Prof. Daan – some as former students, others as colleagues.

The contributions in this volume reflect some of the most important themes that have been addressed by Prof. Wessels in his own research and teaching. Included amongst these contributions are articles pertaining to the domains of political theory, dynamics and tendencies in South African politics (including constitutional development, election politics and ethnic politics, the requisites of sound governance, the relationship between democracy and local and foreign policy, as well as the transformation of the Defence Force). Other authors have provided a closer examination of related aspects of the South African historical context, as well as trends regarding security within the broader framework of the African continent.

Heidi Hudson
Deputy Editor